



Opening & Welcoming Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Launch of the National Archives Week in Gauteng held at the Heidelberg Town Hall, on the 12 May 2010, in Lesedi Local Municipality.

Programme Director: Adv Mosotho Petlane;

Executive Mayor: Lesedi Local Municipality, Cllr. Busisiwe Modisakeng

MMC Jacky Duncan;

MMC Simon Moremi;

MMC Mluleki Nkosi;

Gauteng Provincial Archives, Mr Malebo Motswenyane;

Director: Library and Archival Services, Mrs Koekie Meyer;

Deputy Director: Library and Archival Services, Mrs Elizbeth Mbatha;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

People of Lesedi Local Municipality

Programme Director, I rise to bring greetings from Sedibeng District Municipality, the communities of this beautiful District we all call our home. We are back again to launch the National Archives Week this year, here in Gauteng Province.

It is well worth noting, that in the absence of properly kept records and archives, the history of this country, and that of its nation, will be lost forever. Our children and their children will not know why certain things were done in the manner in which we did them.

The need for properly kept records and well managed archives cannot be left to chance. Fifty years from now, in 2060, a question may arise as to the wisdom of putting this town hall where it is now, a question about why we extended Ratanda in the direction we did, may also arise. The wisdom of erecting the main road where it is, and the direction of the traffic flow, may arise.

It is for that reason therefore, that the proper maintenance and management of the Archives, which will assist in providing resolutions of the various decisions taken by the Municipalities in particular, and the government in general, must be stored in a manner that will help to record what and why things were done in a particular manner.

It is for this reason therefore, as the custodian of the Award of Archives Management, that I take this opportunity to thank the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation and the Gauteng Provincial Archives, for bringing this auspicious event to our District.

I hope and believe, that at the end of the week, we will have enjoyed fruitful engagements, which will go a long way, in the preservation of the history and legacy of this beautiful nation and country.

It is in the light of the kick-off of the historical 2010 FIFA World Cup in 24 days, that the future generation, needs to be kept abreast to the greatest infrastructure spend by this country in the preparation of what will become the greatest sporting spectacle on the African continent.

The future leaders of this country will want to know, how we were able to do it in the face of the greatest financial recession of all time. They will want to learn of the greatest character of this nation, *“The ability to rise to the occasion against great odds”*

Our proper archives management and proper records management will give a proper insight into the good work that went into it. History will absolve us.

I take this opportunity to welcome you all who saw it important to grace this informative and educational launch of the National Archives Week here in Heidelberg, Lesedi Local Municipality. Let us continue spreading the gospel. *“Let us share our stories”*

I Thank You