



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Sedibeng Joint Mayoral Committee Lekgotla held at the Velmore Banquet & Conference on the 12 May 2010, Centurion, in Tshwane

Executive Mayors from our constituent municipalities;

Members of Mayoral Committee;

Municipal Managers;

Support staff from Sedibeng District and our Local Municipalities;

Comrades & colleagues

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to greet you all in the name of the community of Sedibeng, which holds us responsible for providing guidance and leadership. I take this opportunity to thank the presence of all of us here today.

It has been difficult to find a date on which we could all be present at the same time as a result of pressing and often clashing time tables. It is

indeed a rare pleasure to find the time to engage and interact with colleagues in this constructive manner.

Dear Colleagues, we meet at the time when the community of Naledi Local Municipality in the Free State, are mourning the death of their Executive Mayor, Cllr. Motlatsi Motloi. He met his death at the hands of an assailant who remains unknown at this stage. I believe and hope that I speak for all of us when I say, *“Our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Comrade Motlatsi Motloi, May his Soul rest in Peace”*

The manner of Comrade Motloi’s death cannot be allowed to go unnoticed. We need to take some lessons from his untimely death. No amount of political disagreements must drive us to wishing each other away. We hope that this deplorable behavior of which seeks to paint bull’s eyes on the backs of councillors and mayors does not take root in our country, in the manner in which copy-cat “Service Delivery Protests” did.

This Joint Mayoral Committee session, takes place just a few days after the Provincial Conference of the ANC. This conference of the ruling party in the Province and the country will in the main serve to provide guidance towards the speedy service delivery in Gauteng. It is for this reason, that I take this opportunity, to congratulate Comrade Paul Mashatile, the Deputy

Minister of Arts and Culture and his team in the Provincial Executive Committee of the ANC.

This session of the Joint Mayoral Committee comes only 29 days before the kick-off of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. I hope we all have secured tickets and vuvuzelas, to provide support for the Bafana-Bafana team, led by our own Captain Fantastic, Aaron Mokoena. He will be playing on the hallowed turf at Wembley Stadium, this weekend in the FA Cup Final against Chelsea this weekend. I am sure we all wish him well.

I also take this time to convey our condolences to the Regional Secretary of the ANC, Comrade Bheki Ngobese, who have just lost his cousin, Emmanuel “Scara” Ngobese, the former Kaizer Chiefs middle field maestro. His untimely death is a great loss to the country and the football fraternity as a whole. The talent that was evident for all to see is no more. May his soul rest in peace.

On that sporting note, may we also wish that the Proteas Cricket Team, good luck before they leave for their test series in Pakistan. May they break the T20 bogey of Pakistan, who has just beaten us again, thereby making it impossible for us to reach the semi-final in the West Indies.

On a serious note, Colleagues, we meet today and for the next days to deal with matters of Intergovernmental Relations. The matter finds

expression in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in Section 41, Subsection 1(h) a chapter which deals with ***Principles of co-operative government and intergovernmental Relations***. This section reads thus, “All spheres of government and all organs of state within each sphere must: Co-operate with one another in mutual trust and good faith by:

1. Fostering friendly relations;
2. Assisting and supporting one another
3. Informing one another of, and consulting one another on, matters of common interest;
4. Co-ordinating their actions and legislation with one another;
5. Adhering to agreed procedures; and
6. Avoiding legal proceedings against one another.

This Constitutional framework, then begs the question, “Are we as Sedibeng and our constituent Local Municipalities in compliance with this legislation? If not, why not? How do we begin to comply with this law?”

Dear Colleagues, we have ample evidence to show how we fail to comply. One has only to look at the manner in which we communicate in the District. The fact that we have failed to meet in this manner for a long time, in itself suggest that there is very little if any communication between all the spheres of government comprising Sedibeng District Municipality.

An impression is created that we have Councils at war with each other fighting over turf. The truth of the matter is that, we all represent the indivisible entity which makes up the community of Sedibeng.

This lack of cohesion is best amplified in role confusion. As a result of lack of role definition, we have seen a tendency by others to define our roles. It is only until we define our roles, setting clear parameters, defined by a common vision of a better future for all our citizens, we will have roles imposed on us. This will in itself go a long way in creating further divisions and tensions where none ought to exist.

Our communities are not concerned with the fictitious geographical or political divisions. They consider themselves as one. The community of Sharpeville and Sebokeng, have a historical and biological ties with the community of Meyerton and Sicelo, the community of Evaton, have ties with the community of Ratanda.

If we as public servants of this one big family, which constitutes the community of Sedibeng, indivisible and united, seek to create false division, what right do we have to represent their mandate? They did not and do not ask to be divided.

We have only to look at the 1st Generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy. Our GDS transcends the narrow and fictitious political and geographical divides.

The seven strategies therein, provides a solid framework, from which all municipalities can develop their own IDP, thereby creating seamless service delivery system, which takes into account local conditions.

Colleagues, allow me to briefly place these strategies referred to above into focus, and these are:

- **Reinventing our Economy**

Unless if I am otherwise mistaken, the need to create an economy, which will create jobs, cuts across any divide, geographical or otherwise.

As Municipalities, we must be seen to be aligning our activities in a manner that seeks to retain jobs, provide sustainable jobs, and let us look into the possibility of creating an environment which will continue to provide these jobs into the future.

This strategy is based on the following pillars:

- Support the Consolidation and Expansion of the Metal, Energy and Construction Sectors
- Promote and Develop Tourism and Leisure Sectors
- Promote and Develop the Agriculture Sector
- Promote Opportunities for Increased Inclusivity in the Economy
- Ensure Integrated Economic Development and Investment through the Vaal 21 Initiative
- Consolidate, Review and Monitor the Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy
- **Renewing our Communities**

The pillars on which this strategy is based are:

- Ensure Integrated Spatial Development Planning and Promote Good Land Use Management
- Promote Residential Development and Urban Renewal
- Plan for Effective, Efficient and Sustainable Infrastructure for Water and Sanitation Services, and Provision of Electricity

A look at the first two strategies in our GDS, creates enough area of co-operation for all of us to begin to work together, in tandem to provide a

better life for all of our communities seamlessly. We can do all of the above, without any tensions, nor contesting over resources or turf.

We only have to look at the other strategies, to find areas of possible future co-operation, to see how we have missed the opportunity to provide services to the people of Sedibeng, which we profess to lead, and these strategies are:

- Reviving a Sustainable Environment
- Reintegrating our Region
- Releasing Human Potential
- Good and Financial Sustainable Governance
- Vibrant Democracy

It is for that reason therefore, that we must as a matter of urgency, be seen in deed and words, to be working together as one. Our service delivery must be seen to be seamless.

Just as much as there is a seamless flow of traffic between the geographical spread that constitutes Sedibeng and its constituent local municipalities, our execution of the electoral mandate of our communities, must be seen to be seamless.

Allegations, yet to be proven, of Sedibeng District Municipality, having the so-called Big Brother Syndrome, has been doing rounds for a number of years. In my experience, I have still to put my finger on this issue. Does it manifest itself in the Political exchanges? Does it rear its ugly head during administrative contacts? Is it obvious in the contest over resources?

Programme Director, the flip side of the coin of Big Brother Syndrome, is the Perpetual Victim Mentality. Hypothetically speaking, if our colleagues in our Constituent Local Municipalities are going to cry wolf, retreating into a dark corner for fear of victimization by the Big Brother every time we engage, I have serious problem with that conduct.

The answer to the questions above, lie with our ability or inability to communicate. Were we to interact, engage, and foster friendly relations, I am convinced that this notion of Big Brother Syndrome would be done away with.

I commit Sedibeng District Municipality, my council, to cease and desist from any activity, perceived or real, that seeks to suggest, infer and create the impression that we are above the Constituent Local Municipalities that makes us who we are. We have the Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy to provide us with a framework from which to find each other.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in section 152, Act 108 of 1996, lists the objects of local government as:

- To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;
- To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- To promote social and economic development;
- To promote a safe and healthy environment;
- To encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in matters of local government; and that
- The municipality should strive, within its financial and administrative capacity, to achieve these afore-mentioned objects.

To give further thrust to the functioning of Local Government, the cabinet has approved the Municipal Systems Amendment Bill. This legislation will upon adoption, seek to depolitize municipalities and ensure that provincial and local government appoints skilled people.

This is an expression of President Zuma's promise to rid the Public Service of lazy and incompetent employees. We look forward to this piece of important legislation.

We cannot be found wanting, particularly when communities are up in arms, demanding speedy service delivery. Laziness and incompetency will not be tolerated. I am sure we can also find common ground in Section 152 of the Constitution for service delivery which is seamless.

I will be presenting the State of the District Address on the 26th May 2010, and take this opportunity to thank Midvaal Local Municipality for providing Siculo Stadium for the venue.

Dear Colleagues, I hope that at the end of these deliberations here, we will find that there are more things that bring us together than those that divide us. I believe we will find ways to “**Inform one another of, and consulting one another on, matters of common interest**”. These matters are our Community, Our Region, and Our District.

In conclusion, I take this time to welcome all of our colleagues from Emfuleni Local Municipality under the leadership of Executive Mayor Clr Assistance Mshudulu, our colleagues from Lesedi Local Municipality, under the leadership of Executive Mayor, Clr Busisiwe Modisakeng, and our colleagues from Midvaal Local Municipality, under the leadership of Clr Timothy Nast.

I thank you