



Closing Remarks 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 14 May 2010, Centurion, in Tshwane

- **Executive Mayor, Emfuleni Local Municipality, Cllr Assistance Mshudulu**
- **Executive Mayor, Lesedi Local Municipality, Cllr Busisiwe Modisakeng**
- **Executive Mayor, Midvaal Local Municipality, Cllr Timothy Nast**
- **MMC's from SDM, LLM, MLM, ELM**
- **Municipal Managers and Support Staff from Sedibeng District and our Local Municipalities**

I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude and thanks to all my comrades, colleagues and staff from all the constituent Local

Municipalities and Sedibeng District. It has been a long time since we last had a Joint Mayoral Committee session.

It was fast beginning to dawn on me that maybe we will go into the 2011 Local Government without having had a single session.

It turned out that perhaps I was a bit pessimistic. It has been a great pleasure for me to come here. It stirs a great sense of pride, to realize that my colleagues value this Joint Mayoral Session as much as I do. It has been an eye-opener, to realize that we do indeed are able to find one another when we choose to do. Therefore, colleagues and comrades, it is going to be crucial for all of us that excuses and apologies which have in the past caused lot of opportunities not to me are going to be a thing of the past. I know that we could not meet because attempts were always frustrated as proposed dates will not suit some of the colleagues.

I hope that as we move forward to provide a seamless service to our people, this august meeting and coming together will fast become our custom and habit. That should be a challenge to our Municipal Managers. We owe it to our communities to work in unison. There is no question about it, the legal framework for our work, provides us with no doubts and

ambiguities, it prescribes how best we must do it. I believe that as we move forward, we will not work together in malicious compliance, rather in a manner that fosters friendship and co-operation.

In our work as political practitioners, just as in any democratic political environment, communication is very essential as it is a powerful tool - never to be under-utilized.

My observations since the beginning of our Joint Mayoral Committee Meeting and which were now not only confirmed by our deliberations in the last two days but our sitting arrangement over dinner, have left me convinced of a dire need to urgently improve and jerk-up our communications work.

All forward-thinking Institutions, progressive and autocratic alike, will always take communication very much seriously. There should never be any confusion, misunderstanding and lack of information, especially amongst us as an advanced detachment of the leadership crop in Sedibeng.

It is my wish that this Joint Mayoral Committee Meeting has indeed buried all misunderstandings once and for all.

However and on a very positive note, we must commend ourselves for the good work which we are continuing to do and the plans we have put in place which must revitalize and heighten service delivery in our areas of work. Failure to do that is a disservice to our people.

The level of robust discussions and the amount of enthusiasm which proceeded this meeting have left me with much hope that indeed we are on track.

In addition to the impressive programmatic issues we have agreed that will be at the centre of our programmes moving forward, I suggest that we also in our various clusters and Municipalities consider the following;

- On situational analysis and audit - evaluation of the communities to establish relevant activities that are appealing to the immediate affected communities. We must intensify the matrix project management approach to improve service delivery. Nothing must stand in the way of our 100 days and 90 days of service delivery programs.
- We must continue to build and consolidate our integrated support systems to realize sustainable Intergovernmental relations system;

- We must continue to find the best possible ways to structure and formalize our stakeholders' relations.

It might be greatly appreciated if in our forward-march we also consider the following;

- Capacitate our communities and linked to that should be the creation of a centralized activity database;
- Find creative ways to intensify the involvement of civil society in our plans;

In line with the anticipated management process, it will also be appreciated if we are to find space outside this meeting to further discuss:

- Alignment of our structures to support service delivery.
- Location of functions to enhance integration.

After careful analysis, robust engagements and conclusions on our IDPs, we should leave here with much clearer direction to ensure that our plans do not become one of those grand plans without effect, implementation and change to the lives of our people:

I have a particular interest in realizing the effective implementation of the special projects of the Emfuleni and Sedibeng Districts, all the challenges

implied and raised here, we must ensure that we revisit such and correct them.

Our programs moving forward must assist our Municipalities to

- Built sustainable partnerships through effective partnering and collaboration, thus resulting in integrated and diversified service delivery;
- Effective, appropriate and optimal usage of existing facilities and resources;
- Target specific implementation, thus maximizing impact
- Create opportunities for working together;
- To encourage communities to participate in, and contribute towards our plans;
- Integrated activities are essential for improving the quality of life of all our people as they also contribute towards:
 - Building communities;
 - Developing a common culture;

Our Meeting made me to realized that there is a need to revisit our organizational structure:

- to ensure proper alignment, coordination of our programme implementation;
- Ensure quick responses and turnaround times;
- To bring about cohesion and speed in service delivery;
- Cooperation is also a critical ingredient for us to meet our developmental agenda, and thus ensuring that we act in a unified and strategic fashion in pursuit of excellence in service delivery;
- The One Public Service concept and the strategic direction towards a City Region within Gauteng also lend it support towards effective and efficient cooperation;
- In order to build a strong and stable co-operative governance framework, it is critical that structures and agreements be established and entered into that will create and maintain an enabling environment. Such structures and agreements should focus on:
 - providing strong and visible political oversight that will enhance accountability (and performance) amongst officials in both spheres

- facilitating a common, unified and collective articulation of strategic political guidance, direction and interventions, as and when required
- It is important that such direction and oversight filter down to operational / implementation level. Mechanisms for this includes:
 - Within a targeted and integrated operational service delivery context;
 - The alignment of IDP's and Provincial strategic plans; Consultation in terms of policy development and funding allocations

Comrades and colleagues, we like it or not, we must go and work. I see from all of you a recharged unit ready for combat.

If there is anyone amongst us who have a different agenda, we should be made aware so that we can make the necessary interventions. The patience of our people cannot forever be over-stretched and taken for granted. Nothing but service delivery.

I thank you