



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Member of the
Mayoral Committee for Sports, Recreation, Arts, Culture & Heritage:
Cllr. Mluleki Nkosi on the occasion of the Memorial Service of Nana
Coyote Motijoane held in Johannesburg on the 15th July 2010, in
Sedibeng**

Programme Directors: Bob Mabena & Sbu Leope;
Family & friends of the late Nana Coyote Motijoane;
Comrade Mabutho 'Kid' Sithole: President of CWUSA;
Deputy Minister for Arts & Culture: Mr. Paul Mashatile;
MEC for Sports, Arts, Recreation & Culture: Ms Nelisiwe Moerane;
MMC for Social Development: Cllr. Bafana Sithole;
Comrade Zwelinzima Vavi: COSATU General Secretary;
Comrades & Friends

I take this opportunity to greet you all at occasion to mark and commemorate the passing of a father, a brother, a pioneer and a pathfinder to the community of Sedibeng, Nana Motijoane was to the community of Sedibeng a great visionary.

It is in this regard that I take this opportunity to express our most profound and sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Nana Motijoane for the loss of their family member. We also wish to extend similar condolences to all his comrades, friends and colleagues

Sharpeville is a lot of things to a lot of people. The First State President, Nelson Mandela calls it the *Cradle of Human Rights Struggles of South Africa*. Others look to it as a small township on the fringes of beyond. To Nana, Sharpeville was home, a place to raise a family and a place to raise his daughters in peace.

To the community of Sharpeville in particular and Sedibeng in general, he was a pioneer, breaking new ground every step of the way.

With his God given talent, he transcended the false geographical barriers that made Sharpeville seem invisible. The time when musical groups were identified and restricted by the area they came from, he was, through his unique voice and style of rendition, able to create melodies in the manner only he knew how.

We in Sedibeng in our attempt to ensure that the arts and culture within our communities is alive and honour icons of Nana Coyote Motijoane's caliber, have come up with a programme which we call, ***arts to the people. It has four developmental pillars.***

- This is first to create a platform for people to express and showcase their talents in terms of arts & culture;
- It secondly allows audience development;
- It markets and exposes performers with specific talents;
- It fourthly allows us to identify and nurture the best potential arts practitioners for future development in the proposed Sedibeng School of Arts, where we hope to position creative industry as a new economic driver in partnership with CWUSA as our strategic partner

The fact that the portrayal of the musical and the personal Journey of Brenda Fassie, "*Mabrrr comes alive*" was last week launched in Sedibeng is one of these initiatives.

It is therefore our plan to ensure that the School of Arts is established as defined in our Integrated Development Plan. This School will contribute in repositioning Gauteng as the capital for creative industry.

It with these assertions that we hope our musicians will come on board to impart and share their specialised creative arts skills to our young, aspiring and upcoming artists.

What a great loss to the Nation as a whole, a much greater loss to the community of Sedibeng in general, and Sharpeville in particular. This is

so in view of the type of music that is in today and gone tomorrow. This loss is made greater by the amount of foreign music our children are exposed to.

His daughters are at a much greater loss. Who amongst us will be the advisor he was to his daughters, who will be there to counsel and comfort them, who will be the grandfather, a loving guardian to his grandchildren.

Sedibeng District Municipality, mourns the passing of an unheralded hero, a father to one of our employee, a brother to all those who had the opportunity to know him, an ever shining star to the community of Phelandaba in Sharpeville.

Once again, our condolences go out to the families and friends at this hour of need. May God extend his hand of comfort to embrace us. For God through Jesus Christ our Saviour says "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted". May his children and grandchildren find comfort in the Lord. May his soul rest in Peace.

I thank you