



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the International Nelson Mandela Day held at the Lakeside Sports Complex in Evaton West on the 18th July 2010, in Sedibeng**

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Programme Director

Madam Speaker, SDM: Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;

Comrade Ahmed Kathrada;

Members of the Mayoral Committee here present;

The Ward Councilor Mosia;

All Councilors present;

Setjhaba sa Sedibeng

It is not every day that we take the time to honour our leaders, nor is it every day that we honour our First State President Nelson Mandela with the rest of the world. We never ever give honour to those of our leaders during their lifetime. We are used to making tribute only after they have left us.

Father Nelson Mandela is a great leader. A leader the whole world has come to embrace as their leader. We as South Africans have come to take the fact that he belongs to us and is still with us for granted. It is perhaps fitting therefore that we should take a leaf out of his long journey and walk besides him in doing those things he would be happy to do. In this way, his legacy will still be with us long after we may choose to forget him.

The entire world calls him all sorts of names, all of these names referring to the good things he has done. Some call him “the defender of the weak”, “Firebrand & a Shining light”, “Reconciler”, “Peacemaker”, “Moral leader” and “Icon”, but none have the luxury of calling him father, like we do as the South African Nation. For indeed he is the only father this nation knows.

In honour of all that he is, and will always and ever be to all of us, I challenge the entire community of Sedibeng to each his own, pick up one role that Nelson Mandela played and make it your own. To all fathers, be peacemakers in your own homes and domestic violence will be done away with.

To all communities, I challenge you to take the role of “Defender of the Weak” and immediately any threats of xenophobic violence will disappear.

To the youth, mothers and teachers, take Nelson Mandela's role as a "Moral Leader", our whole nation's future will be in good hands. It is as we take up these challenges, to each his own, in the footsteps of the Greatest Son of the African Soil, that we will begin to realize how blessed we are to have Nelson Mandela as our own. The whole world can only wish they had one leader like Madiba.

As we stand here today, to celebrate 20 years of his release from prison, taking the time out to mark his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, a life well lived, with sacrifice for those less fortunate, in the service of those in need of salvation in a world gone mad, we salute Nelson Mandela.

It is we take up the various tools and these implements to clean up Block 6, in service to those less able than ourselves, that we are thankful of the broad shoulders of the giant of Nelson Mandela's caliber, that way we are able to see long and far into the future.

For it is the same with Madiba, long ago, as a young man, he saw the future of a free and democratic South Africa, the fruits of which we enjoy today.

**In conclusion**, I call on all of you, to take up your challenges in your own way, take small steps in following the big footsteps taken by Nelson Mandela, in that way, we will make this country of ours a better place to live in. Let us take the time to clean this place up.

Lets us give the community of Block 6 the same pride we feel for the brilliant 2010 FIFA World Cup we have just completed. Let them feel that they also belong to this beautiful country we all call home, and most of all, let them feel that we care.

I thank you