



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Funeral Service of Nana Coyote Motijoane held at the Mphatlalatsane Theatre in Sebokeng on the 18th July 2010, in Sedibeng**

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Programme Director;

Motijoane family;

Comrades & friends

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

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.

With his God given talent, he transcended the false geographical barriers that made Sharpeville seem invisible. At 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.

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.

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.

It is at the time when our cultural icons are buried as paupers, that one is reminded of a programme by our government through the Transport, Hospitality and Entertainment Training Authority, a SETA responsible for artist and players alike, through which the government sought to train these artists to best manage their finances.

I take this opportunity to remind our cultural activists, to embrace this opportunity, lest we be viewed as an uncaring nation. In Nana's honour, I call on and challenge the artists we have in Sedibeng and Gauteng province as a whole, to give us music that best reflect the true values of our nation.

We need to direct our efforts in dealing with social commentary, that indicates the willing and winning nature of the country and nation we have become. Our commitment to winning the battle against HIV and AIDS, our resolve at doing away with crime, must be reflected in our music. Our warmth at welcoming Africans from all over the continent, our gratitude at the gracious hosts Africa was during the dark days of repression.

These are the type of songs we want to hear. Let us leave the perversion to the others in the manner of the song "He loves the way I ride him" by Ciarra featuring Ludacris. Our young are singing this song, jiving with glee to this type of song, caught in trance. They bump and grind to the song, as they put it in their youth-speak. Heaven forbid, we need more **Nana Motijoanes** now, more than ever before. We must deal with this level of mind control.

Our nation cares, our artists are a reflection of our heritage, and our heritage is our future. One more artist buried in poverty will be a serious indictment on our part. We dare not forget the encouragement given to us

by **Nana Motijoane** in tandem with **Ray Chikapa Phiri**, during the dark days of apartheid, in their inimitable harmony, when they belted “**Ninga Jindi Majita**”.

**Programme Director**, as we alluded to at the memorial service on Thursday, we in Sedibeng are doing our best 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.

This song, tongue in cheek, served to spur us all on as we threw our weight behind the slogan “***Freedom in our Lifetime***”. This song heralded to all of us that indeed freedom is just around the corner. How prophetic it proved to be. Thank you **Nana Motijoane**, for giving us hope when we as a nation needed it.

Our condolences go out to the families and friends at this hour of need. May God extend his hand of comfort in warm embrace. 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