



**Opening and Welcoming Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Gala Dinner for the Knowledge Exchange Programme held at the Riviera Hotel on the 21st July 2010, in Vereeniging, Sedibeng**

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Programme Director, Madame Speaker, Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;  
Speakers from our Local Municipalities;  
Speaker from the Capricorn District Municipality: Cllr. NM Lekganyane;  
Speaker from the Aganang Local Municipality: Cllr. L Ntsewa;  
Speaker from the Blouberg Local Municipality: Cllr. M Thamaga;  
Speaker from the Molemole Local Municipality: Cllr. W Manthata;  
Speaker from the Lepelle-Nkupi Local Municipality: Cllr. N Sibanda;  
Speaker from the Polokwane Local Municipality: Cllr. L Hardy;  
Speaker from the Joe Gqabi District Municipality, Cllr. X Solani;  
Speaker from the OR Tambo Municipality: Cllr. Nandipha Matiwane;  
Acting Executive Mayor from the Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr. MJ Matsaung;  
Chief-whip from the Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr. C Malebana;  
Members of the Mayoral Committee;

## Our Distinguished Guests

I rise to greet and welcome all of our distinguished guests from all over the country. It is not every day that we have guests here in Sedibeng, but when we do, we go the extra mile in giving them the Sedibeng Experience. This includes the run about on the only navigable part of the great river Vaal in Gauteng province, which gives our District a lot of prominence.

If there were any doubts, Colleagues from Capricorn District Municipality, OR Tambo District Municipality, Joe Gqabi District Municipality as well as the constituent Local Municipalities here present, are welcome to ask Didier Drogba, the Ivory Coast Football Team and the Switzerland Football Team, who had the pleasure of camping here for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

For fear that we may be bragging, I am prepared, with the approval of Madam Speaker, Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi of course, to provide you with their contact details.

Without letting the cat out of the bag, Madam Speaker, I hope and know that you will inform our colleagues of the good things we are doing here in Sedibeng and our constituent local Municipalities in respect of Women

Empowerment. This is so in the light of the Women Month Programme which is upon us. A programme we are very proud of.

This Speakers Forum, based on the noble intentions of the District Learning Network, namely” The development and use of frameworks of good practice and benchmarks to promote comparative learning along with the use of awards to encourage performance improvements”, I believe will set the tone for greater improvements in the life of communities we profess to lead.

**In conclusion,** I take this opportunity to welcome you all to our neck of the woods, the beautiful place we all call our home. I believe that all of you will find the time to come visit us at your leisure and pleasure to fully enjoy our hospitality. Madam Speaker, kindly remind our guests to take the time out to visit their South African Constitutional Square, the pleasure of hosting it in our region, brings us a lot of joy.

I thank you