



Opening and Welcoming Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Launch of the Women Month Programme held at the Riviera Hotel on the 22nd July 2010, in Vereeniging, Sedibeng

Programme Director, Madame Speaker, Cllr. Greta Hlongwane;
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

Mine is a very simple task, to open this noble occasion, comprising of very capable and strong women and men, we in Sedibeng District Municipality find as our eternal source of pride, made complex by the arsenal of talents here represented, which talents when let loose, would really put to serious challenge and shame any group of males of similar numbers in the district.

Programme Director, present here in this auditorium, is the pride and joy of Sedibeng District Municipality and its constituent local municipalities, Lesedi Local Municipality, Emfuleni Local Municipality as well as Midvaal Local Municipality together with our visitors.

The women councillors here present, are indicative of our commitment as Sedibeng District Municipality to gender equality and mainstreaming as captured in our gender policy. That we are just 3% adrift of total gender equality in the number of female councillors, at the beginning of the *“Decade for African Women”*, simply says there is no turning back.

The fact that Sedibeng District Municipality has exceeded the gender quotas within its Mayoral Committee, says we have indeed gone beyond mere tokenism to women empowerment.

The talent represented in both Lesedi Local Municipality and Emfuleni Local Municipality, says that we are committed to the retention of Women Talent and *“Delivering on the Promise of Equality for All”* in our district.

We look with pride at the achievements of the women talent we have been able to retain. Councillors Maipato Tsokolibane, Greta Hlongwane, Jacqui Duncan, Nkapu Ranake, and the list goes on, not forgetting the stalwarts in Councillor Busisiwe Modisakeng, the longest serving Executive Mayor in the country, and our own Councilor Kedibone Mogotsi.

In conclusion, I wish this launch of the Women Month Programme, a programme Sedibeng District Municipality is and has been receiving accolades, fruitful deliberations. I welcome all the delegates from far and wide to this conference and aptly declare this esteemed conference open as we begin to grapple with the theme *“A Decade for African Women: 2010-2020 Delivering on the Promise of Equality for All”*

I THANK YOU