



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Thanking of Police at the Trinity Community Church on the 25th July 2010, in Sedibeng

Pastor Vincent Jones

Pastor Isaac Mahanke

Pastor Maduna

Coordinator Machone Marumo

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to greet you all at this historic occasion. On a day like this, one is always reminded of two stories from the Good Book. The first of the stories comes from the **Old Testament**, a tragic story about **Cain and Abel**.

Just after **Cain** had killed his brother **Abel**, their father, **Adam asks Cain** where his brother is. **Cain**, who had killed his brother in jealous rage answers, " **I am not my brother's keeper**".

The second story that comes to mind is the story of the shepherd, who had one hundred sheep. One of the sheep got lost. The shepherd then left the 99 sheep, went out of his way to look for the lost sheep. Upon finding the lost sheep, he called on his neighbours and community to come and rejoice with him.

Pastor Jones, a question now arises about the relevance of these stories today. My answer is, **Everything**. Today, as we gather here to thank the sterling work done by our policemen and police women, together with the traffic officers of **Sedibeng District**, one is taken aback by the lack of appreciation by all of us of the difficult tasks they do.

I am humbled by the honour the **Trinity Community Church** has bestowed on me to come and give our collective appreciation of the good work they have done. From the beginning of this year, our men and women in blue, the police, together with the traffic officers have been there for us. They work at very difficult times.

We can rely on them, day and night, come rain or shine, to help marshal us lost sheep to safety. Like good shepherds, they go out of their way to ensure our safety both on the roads and in our homes. They are so ever present in our lives to the extent that we have come to take our safety and security for granted.

We thank them for the thankless tasks they carry out without complaining. Our children are safe on the roads, our mothers, brothers and sisters are safe in the streets and their homes, our communities are safe, day in and day out. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our officers.

Unlike **Cain**, our officers, both police and traffic, when called to do the thankless, when asked where their brother **Abel** was, they answered” **We are our brother’s keeper, and our communities, our Abel is safe”**.

It was at the time when the whole world was told that there will be blood flowing in the streets of South Africa during the 2010 FIFA World Cup, our police said “No ways, it is not going to happen during our watch”.

It is at the time when the non-believers were saying that our transport system will be and is chaotic for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, that our traffic officers stood firm and said, “**Never in a million years, not even in a month of Sundays will there be chaos”** .

It is now history that we had the best World Cup ever. The visitors were so safe that some of them have even extended their stay and are still in the country as we speak. There was no chaos on our roads, no blood on the

streets. The whole world and the community of South Africa in general and the community of Sedibeng in particular were and are still safe.

We had 17 Public Viewing Areas for the entire 2010 FIFA World Cup. The support of these PVA's by the community was overwhelming. The situation as it was lent itself to chaos and mayhem.

Through the sterling work that was performed by the traffic officers and the police during that time, the operations went very smoothly. The communities throughout Sedibeng enjoyed themselves in peace and calm. Without you, the community would not have had the **Sedibeng Experience**.

In conclusion, I take my hat off to the good officers. **Sedibeng District** as a whole has enjoyed relative calm and peace, from the beginning of the year until now. Our crime statistics shows that we have a huge reduction in crime in our **Region**. We have no doubt in our minds that this great work will continue for the rest of the year.

We thank them for the job well done. It was at the time when security marshals went on strike at the stadiums during the world cup, that our

good shepherds came to the rescue to say, “**Not a single sheep will get lost during our watch**”. **We are our brother’s keeper.**

To the Generals and the officers here present, please inform the brave women and men who are absent here today that **Sedibeng District Municipality**, and the safe communities throughout the length and breadth of the Region, truly appreciates their noble efforts.

I Thank You