



SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

SEDIBENG DISTRICT-WIDE MAYORAL IMBIZO

Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the District-wide Mayoral Imbizo held at the Ratanda Multipurpose Centre, on the 28th July 2010, Lesedi Local Municipality, Sedibeng

Madam Speaker, SDM: Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi

Executive Mayor, Lesedi Local Municipality, Cllr. Busisiwe Modisakeng

Executive Mayor, Emfuleni Local Municipality, Cllr. Assistance Mshudulu

Executive Mayor, Midvaal Local Municipality, Cllr. Timothy Nast

Members of the Mayoral Committees, here present

Members of the Mayoral Committee here present

All Councilors here present

Members of the Religious Fraternity

Members of the Media Fraternity

Our distinguished Guests

Setjhaba sa Sedibeng se kwano Lesedi

I take this opportunity to greet you all here present. This District-wide Mayoral Imbizo takes place after great things have happened in our country and our Region. A week ago, on the 18th July 2010 we were celebrating together with the entire world, the first International Mandela Day, in honour of the best statesman the world has ever seen.

On the 11th of July 2010, we all sat at the various corners of Sedibeng, in our homes and most of us at the Public Viewing Areas, to witness the crowning of Spain for the first time, on the African soil, more significantly in South Africa, as the FIFA World Cup Champions.

We have heard in the last two weeks, the entire world singing us praises for the best World Cup ever. This spectacle was concluded without any bloodletting, no wholesale rape of the visitors and the many negative things prophets of the doom spoke about prior the World Cup.

The period was so peaceful, that some of the foreign visitors felt right at home. They felt so welcome that they even started building homes for communities in KZN. Our country put its best foot forward and the entire world appreciates.

The entire world knows for sure that South Africa is a country of winners; our can-do attitude was there for all to see.

You may know by now that we as Sedibeng District Municipality hosted Ivory Coast and Switzerland. We had our stadiums ready well within the allocated time. Our guests were happy with what we had to offer. They were so happy in fact, that they brought their businessmen from Switzerland to come and see the good things we are doing, and they are prepared to invest in the entire Sedibeng region.

As part of our Adopt-a-Tavern Campaign, we had live Jazz Band playing at the Bishop's Tavern here in Ratanda on the 12th June 2010 as part of the Sedibeng World Cup Experience. On the 11th July we had another live Jazz Band at the Oupa Lebusa's Tavern to mark the closing of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

The benefit of these events is still being felt to this day. The Jazz Bands that were playing have become very busy dealing with bookings. The taverns are becoming the centre for many patrons.

Setjhaba sa Sedibeng, lapeng kwano Lesedi, the landscape of the entire District has changed. As we look out in the long distances that used to divide the community of **Ratanda** from their friends and relatives in **Evaton and Sebokeng**, we drive on smooth and tarred roads that make the distance shorter and bearable. This was not possible five years ago.

These roads were made possible by your trust and belief in your Municipalities, both Local and District. You said to your municipalities, you wanted roads and infrastructure. They did exactly that. We are now able to move from one part of our District to the next with relative ease.

The potholes that used to mark our roads with monotony are now history. You, our communities, wanted it, you deserved it, we delivered it and now you have it.

Anybody who went away from **Lesedi** and the entire District five years ago will not be able to recognize this place. We have well established townships where the land used to lie fallow and unattended. The fruit trees in these areas are just about to burst into flowers next month as a signal of community renewal and growth here in **Ratanda**.

The stadium and community hall here is indicative of a community that takes a lot of pride in its development. We are seeing vibrant activity in town here in **Heidelberg**, which indicates a revived community. The township has grown bigger, the community is beginning to gel, and everything is working for the better. *“Together with our Communities-A final push to speedy service delivery”*

The streets in Sharpeville have been tarred and we are continuing to do some. The community in Sharpeville is very happy with these developments.

We commemorated the **50th Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre** in relative calm and peace despite the rumblings of a misled few. **George Thabe Stadium**, which was the centerfold of those who were opposed to the good things we are doing, played host to **Didier Drogba and Ivory Coast**.

During their stay there during the World Cup, young and old, were very happy that the **Sedibeng District Municipality** together with **Emfuleni Local Municipality** made it possible for them to witness their preparations. In spite of the fact that we did not host a single game for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, our communities were not left behind. They felt and became part of the entire spectacle.

On Shack fire in Sicelo

On behalf of the entire communities of Sedibeng District Municipality, I take this opportunity to pass our condolences to the family who died in a shack fire in Sicelo on the night of the 18th July. The

Municipality is doing the best it can to assist the two children who have been orphaned. My office is in consultation with the community members and some assistance has been provided.

On the Seven police officers who died in a aircraft crash

It was with sadness that we heard of the tragic helicopter incident which took the lives of 7 cops in the line of duty. This happens when the police force throughout the entire country had just completed a sterling job in securing the well being of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Their efforts to fight against crime and corruption will never be eroded by any string of imagination and will never be forgotten. As they rest in peace, they must know that many of their colleagues and the entire South African population will continue to fight against the scourge of crime and corruption.

We know and are confident that the police will still do us proud in the future by ridding our street of these criminals and thugs. Our prayers go out to their families and colleagues at this hour of sorrow.

Streets are being tarred in Sebokeng and Evaton as we speak. Paving of side roads is going full steam ahead. The communities are doing the work. We have set aside a 30% of all our projects for local contractors.

We are creating much needed jobs for our communities. We are looking forward to create much more jobs as we relax our supply chain requirements in favour of our local communities.

We are doing this in spite of the global recession that hit during the middle of the five year term. Sedibeng District Municipality been adjudged, to have had four consecutive clean audits. We have been awarded the honour of being ***“The Ambassador of Clean Audits”***.

This is as a result of using the money entrusted to us for the purposes for which it was intended. The misled rowdy minority would love to make us believe that there is corruption in our councils.

The Auditor General is not a fool. He counts every single pen and the small pennies that were used to buy the pens with. If you have any doubts, ask the 70% or more of the Municipalities that are failing to get a clean audit.

In partnership with our constituent Local Municipalities, we have gone a long way in meeting the commitments we made to our communities last year, and we will speed up the delivery of services this year as it will be evident in my report.

On Electrification

From as far back as the financial year 2007/08, together with Emfuleni Local Municipality, Free Basic Electricity was provided to more than 9 000 households. An amount of R 18 million was spent on the electricity network, whilst an additional amount of more than R 3 million was spent for public lighting.

These projects were completed in the 2009/10 financial year. This has gone a long way in the reduction of crime in the entire district as my report on Public Safety will show later. There has been new electricity connections created and the upgrading of rural electricity networks.

High mast lighting is fast becoming the order of the day in the entire District as we continue to install it throughout the entire Region. We take the safety of our communities very seriously. I can safely say that there is no backlog in the provision of electricity service connections to all proclaimed and developed areas.

Applications for electricity connections are attended promptly as they are received upon payment of prescribed fees. Indeed, “Together with our Communities-A final push to speedy service delivery” is the order of the day.

The community of Tshepong will be happy to be informed today that an amount of R20 million has been set aside to electrify their area. This will go a long way in improving community safety.

I am happy to report that as we speak now, between May this year until now, over 1 000 houses have been connected to electricity in Tima Lebone, Ward 6 of Midvaal.

We now definitely need to find a new name for this area. I hope the people of “Tima Lebone” will understand. This is in the light of the fact that “*Siyakhanyisa Manje*”. I can assure you that by the end of this year, all of the houses will be connected to the electricity grid.

On Roads and Storm-water Drainage

Our roads are serious need of upgrading, with the passage of the winter season, we have noticed that our rainy seasons is characterized by heavy rains and downpours. We would be failing in our duty if we do not address this matter.

Together with our local constituent local Municipalities, we intend to tar and provide storm-water drainage in more than 39 streets throughout the entire region. The money for these projects is there and budgeted for the financial year 2010/11. In total, more than 14km of roads will be tarred in the townships for an amount of R 59.9million.

Here in Lesedi Local Municipality, 14 streets were tarred during the 2009/10 financial year. These streets are spread to cover Ratanda Extension 1, Extension 5, Extension 6 and 7. The streets I am referring to are: Thusi Crescent Street; Makhaya Crescent; Makhathini Crescent; Makhubo Crescent; Yika Crescent; Maseka Crescent; Mbatha Street; Masipa Street amongst others.

An amount of R 1.5 million was used by the Municipality for the resealing of roads in Heidelberg last year. There is no question about it, a lot of work has gone into the development of this part of our District. To that we have my colleague, the longest serving Executive Mayor in the whole country, Cllr Busisiwe Modisakeng.

Four other streets were tarred in Heidelberg Extension 23. These streets are: Motaung street; Jikeyazo Steet; Makhuma Streets amongst others.

It is expected that the following streets will be tarred for the financial year 2010/11, here in Lesedi:

- Daisy Avenue and Jeppe Avenue in Jameson Park
- Mathole, Vilakazi, Pitso and Gxowa Street in Heidelberg Extension 23.
- Road 25 and Road 16 in Impumelelo.
- An amount of R 24.9 million is set aside for building of roads and storm water system here in Lesedi. A request for proposal was advertised in the Sowetan of Friday, 23rd July, last week. This clearly indicates a commitment to carry out these projects.

The amount set aside for these capital projects is set at more than R 61million. It is expected that not less than 300 sustainable jobs will be created as a result. In the last five years, an amount of R 44 million was spent on providing 22.5 kilometers of tarred roads in Lesedi. It is expected that with these projects, the Municipality will assist the emerging contractors by making it possible for them to draw some benefits.

This 2010/11 financial year alone, more than 140% of the money spent in five years will be spent. It is clear to all of us that indeed, “Together with our communities, a final push to speedy service delivery” will bring about desired changes.

An amount of R 80million will be made available for the Evaton Renewal Project. Much needed jobs will be created as a result. Through the Evaton Renewal Projects, 7 streets will be paved in the area, and 8 different contractors have already been appointed.

The sites will be handed over to the contractors on the 11th August, a week from today. Local sub-contractors will benefit greatly from these projects, as 30% of the total value is set aside for them. This project is valued at R 15 million.

On Water and Sanitation

As a result of the growth of the community of Lesedi Local Municipality, care should and must be taken for the increase in the supply of bulk services.

To that end, the water pipeline in Heidelberg was upgraded last year to the tune of R 2.5million; installation of bulk supply of water to Obed Nkosi Township was completed to the tune of R 8million as well as the water reservoir. Our counterparts here in Lesedi will be spending another R 2million to upgrade water reservoirs this year.

On Primary Health

The health of our communities is key to our service delivery. We cannot stand idle in the face of opportunistic diseases such as H1N1 virus and Congo Fever. Our primary health facilities must reflect our commitment to fighting these outbreaks.

Together with Emfuleni Local Municipality, an amount of more than R 2.2million has been set aside for the 2010/11 financial year for the upgrading of 5 clinics and the training of staff as well as the installation of the Wide Area Network for all these clinics. It is expected that a further R 2million will be sourced for the rehabilitation of Sebokeng Hospital.

I take note of the intensive HIV and Aids strategy from our constituent Local Municipality, Lesedi. The project is visionary and must be applauded. The fact that 8 community based organizations are at the forefront of the strategy deserves my praise.

My colleague, the Executive Mayor Busisiwe Modisakeng, my praises and the appreciation of the entire community of Sedibeng goes out to you. The fact that these organizations are funded says that indeed there is a lot the entire Sedibeng District has to learn from here.

On 100 Days Deliverables

As part of our commitment to speedy service delivery in partnership with our communities, we as Sedibeng District Municipality undertook various projects. I am proud to report progress on these as follows:

On Phelindaba Cemetery Upgrade in Sharpeville

A contractor has been appointed and the site has been handed over to him. Project Steering Committee is established and a Safety Officer has been appointed. The site has been established. Earthworks, excavation as well as the foundations have been laid. 30% of new roads are complete. It is clear that we will complete this project on time.

On Constitution Walk

The contractor has been appointed and the Project Steering Committee has been established. All the other formalities leading up to the Site establishment will take place before the end of this month.

On Craft Hub at the Old Sharpeville Police Station

This is the Police Station from which the shots were fired that caused the Sharpeville Massacre. Phase One of renovations are complete and the second phase will be completed by the end of August, next month. 40 Craft artists are already at the centre and have started with their work.

On Exhibition Centre

A contractor has been appointed and the site was handed over on the 15th June this year. The Project Steering Committee has been established and work is progressing well. The project will be completed by the 15th December this year.

On Sharpeville Hall

A contractor has been appointed and 30% of the project cost of over R 10million has been set aside for local contractors. A group of 40 youths and women who will be working on the project, will be sent to school for training at an accredited training provider.

They will be trained in various aspects of construction. It is expected that training will start at the beginning of August, this year.

On Dickenson Park Development

Phase One of the River front development has been completed, we are currently grappling with Phase Two, and a contractor has been appointed. Work is progressing well at this stage. The cost of this phase is budgeted to the tune of more than R 27 million.

On CCTV Sharpeville Heritage and Sports Precincts

In preparation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, 16 Closed Circuit TV's were installed throughout the District and at Public Viewing Areas. These assisted a great deal to curb crime at these sites. 40 Community members were employed for this work. The contract was valued at R 35.4million. 42 CCTV's will be installed by December this year, 10 of these will be in Ratanda and Heidelberg

21 CCTV's will be installed at the Licensing Service Centre in Heidelberg before the end of this year, 29 will be installed in Meyerton, whilst 32 and 39 will be installed in Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark respectively. We are committed to crime free and corruption free operations in Sedibeng District in partnership with our constituent Local Municipalities.

On Boipatong Gravesite

The erection of the tombstones for the victims of Boipatong Massacre at the Vuka Cemetery was completed on time and officially handed over to the families of our fallen heroes who were buried at this graveyard.

Family members were employed for this project, and the entire work was valued at R 185 000.00. This goes on to show that our commitment to, “Together with our Communities, A final push to speedy service delivery” is not a shallow slogan.

On Mitta Molete’s Home

Mitta Molete is one of the victims of Boipatong Massacre. She was paralyzed as a result of the attacks on that night. The Council has committed funding for the renovations on the house so that she can be able to move freely as she is wheelchair bound. Contractors have been appointed, and we have secured a sponsor from the community for the building materials. Work will begin in earnest soon.

On Extension of Precincts to other areas

Feasibility studies are ongoing in Devon, Impumelelo and Ratanda to set up and establish other precincts and hubs in these areas. These studies will be extended to include Sicelo in Midvaal and Bophelong, Sebokeng and Boipatong in Emfuleni. On completion of these studies, I am convinced that Lesedi will benefit from these projects.

On Normalization of Electricity in Lesedi Local Municipality

Our counterparts in Lesedi Local Municipality are set to improve the electricity network in the area. The notion of power black outs will not be an issue here. An amount of R600 000 was used to upgrade the Low Tension network in Heidelberg last year, an extra R 300 000 was used for the upgrade in Jameson Park, whilst R 600 000 was used for the installation of protective meter kiosks in Ratanda.

Another amount of R 35million to upgrade the bulk electrical supply in Heidelberg, Ratanda and Jameson Park was completed last year as well as the installation of a new electrical substation in Impumelelo to the tune of R 2.5million.

On Economic Development

The growth and economic development of the entire region must be escalated to meet the needs of the ever increasing population. The entire population of Sedibeng District Municipality stands at around a million at this stage. The young members of our community must be guaranteed jobs upon school leaving. We can no longer stand by and watch the best that Sedibeng can offer been taken away by other areas in the province.

On Informal Trading

The Lesedi Local Municipality is currently involved in efforts to provide an enabling environment to informal traders by providing infrastructure. With limited funds the Council is doing this strategy in phases. The ShallimarRidge, Ratanda, Heidelberg and Devon CBDs are areas where this intervention should be intensified to :

- Bring the informal traders into the mainstream of the economy
- Regulate informal trading
- Create partnerships with established business
- Provide capacity for income generation and job creation

Field work has been done to identify land owned by the Municipality to accommodate informal traders. The Heidelberg CBD design study will be the focal point. Revamping the whole CBD as recommended by the said study will do a great deal to LED.

Emfuleni Local Municipality intends to source an amount of not less than R 8 million to develop economic hubs in Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Boipatong and Bophelong. These hubs are earmarked at unleashing the economic potential of the area. It is also expected that we will develop informal trading areas throughout the region.

On The Zone of Opportunity

Two developers have already been identified and appointed by the Lesedi Local Municipality to develop the Zone of Opportunity. Sixteen and thirteen hectares have been subdivided respectively. At this point

focus is on meeting the conditions of the Record of Decision from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment and the Township establishment process.

In order to define the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment component of the development, a service provider has been appointed to draw terms thereof. The funds were made available by the World Bank.

As soon as all the planning matters have been concluded, site development and establishment will begin and this is anticipated to take place in before the end of the current financial year. Many jobs are expected.

On the Transnet Pipe line

The Transnet Limited's division, Transnet Pipelines, has received a licence from the National Energy Regulator of South Africa, subject to environmental authorisation, to construct and operate the New Multi-Products Pipeline (NMPP) Project.

The NMPP is designed to efficiently transport diesel, petrol and jet aviation fuel to the inland of South Africa (Gauteng region). It will consist of:

- A new – 525 km multi-products liquid fuel pipeline including up to nine pumps stations, running from Durban, KZN to Jameson Park near Heidelberg in Gauteng.
- An Inland fuel terminal at Jameson Park, to accumulate the fuels delivered by the pipeline, prior to distribution into the inland pipeline network.

This project will create more than 500 sustainable jobs for local people here in Lesedi. An area measuring 27 hectares within the Commonage property in Jameson Park is being proposed for this project. Transnet completed the Environmental Impact Assessment in October 2008. Transnet has started the construction of the bulk liquid terminal in Jameson Park.

On the Coca-Cola Valpré Water Plant.

The Coca-cola South Africa's latest investment, the Valpre Water Bottling is currently under construction in Heidelberg. The project will inject more than R 400 million into the local economy.

With over 500 jobs already created and the completion date set for September this year and 850 more jobs will be created. Local suppliers will be given first priority on the distribution of the products from this plant, thus providing a boost in the growth of our economy.

On the Southern Gateway Logistic Hub.

The proposed development is located in between the N3 and R103 corridors (Tamboekiesfontein). The IDC has offered to avail funding to assist the Lesedi Local Municipality with feasibility studies as well as other facilitation costs that may be necessary to speed up the establishment of the Township.

A minimum of 13 000 new (direct and indirect) jobs will be created by the new development. The development will cost a minimum of R3 billion. GEDA, Gauteng Provincial Government, Gautrans and DED have all identified this project as of provincial and national strategic importance and they are in full support of it. The envisaged project is comprised of the following establishments:

- Warehouses and Container Depot
- Commercial Offices
- Trucking stop, refueling station and Light Commercial Industries

On Housing

The continued growth of our communities cannot be left to reach critical mass before we do anything about it. In the last five years, of the total 240 houses planned for KwaZenzele, only 49 were built. Whilst housing is not our competency as a Municipality, Lesedi Local Municipality has just received a commitment to complete the outstanding houses.

This commitment covers the outstanding houses in Impumelelo, where about 1 259 were planned but only 928 houses were built in the last five years. Another 158 houses were built in and around Ratanda in the last five years.

I am proud to report that 1254 houses in an area called Tima Lebone, Lakeside Estates in Ward 6 of Midvaal, were completed last year in 2009. This project provided over 600 much needed jobs in the area.

On Youth Development

In the year 2007 the District identified the demand of our young people which included programmes that relates to the Economic Participation and Empowerment which also led to the establishment of the Youth Advisory Centre's in the District.

During 2009/10 financial year, a total number of 32 750 young people have to-date accessed various programmes from both the private sector and government programmes through Youth Advisory Centre walk – ins and outreach.

This includes a total number of 234 young people who have gained job placement within Government and Private Sector, whilst 297 have accessed bursaries from the District Municipality and other Sectors. In the light of the output realized through these centers, the District will further expand the Youth Centre services to the areas of Midvaal and Evaton.

The District together with its local Municipalities has taken an initiative to conduct a Youth Situational analysis across the District including our Local Rural Areas in the interest to measure and identify the impact and other interventions that could be put in place in order to ensure the effective implementation of our Youth Development.

It is with great pleasure to acknowledge that a total of 100 young people were recruited by the District as Fieldworkers in this research project.

These young people were trained by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the Vaal University of Technology on skills required in pursuing a quality analysis of the research.

The District in partnership with the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform are the process of recruiting a total of 300 young people. They will participate in the National Rural Youth Service Corps with an objective to enhance skills development amongst our youth.

Of the total, 130 youths will be drawn from Vischskuil, Devon, and Impumelelo. Interviews are being concluded as I speak. They will be paid a monthly stipend, to study at an institution for two years.

It is after they complete their studies that we hope that they will provide the skills necessary for the development of their communities.

Through the National Youth Service and the Global Youth Service programmes, a programme that seeks to bring about the Vibe towards our 2010 World Cup was implemented and it proved to be a great success. The District has just held a successful Inaugural Youth Leadership Award on the 4th June as a significant part of the Youth Month.

The programme was implemented in partnership with various Local Private Sector Companies such as ArcelorMittal Steel. Who can forget the resounding Youth Open Day held on the 26th June at the Constitutional Square? These events will be held annually going forward.

In conclusion, I can safely say that we will deliver on all that we said we will. Our Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy remains our guiding light. We will not falter. All of the commitments which I spoke about can be found in our IDP as Sedibeng District Municipality and the IDP of Lesedi Local Municipality.

I believe that in partnership with our communities, we will indeed do more for the development of this beautiful Region we all are proud to call our home. Our theme for this year, “Together with our Communities-A final push to speedy service delivery” will and is fast becoming a reality.

On a matter that is close to my heart and personal, I had the opportunity to meet with Ntate Du Toit from Extension 23. Ntate Du Toit used to receive his pension monthly. The pension payout was for some reason stopped.

He had to apply for another ID document which is not forthcoming. My office has taken it upon itself to assist Ntate Du Toit to get his ID document. Ntate Du Toit is here today, and I can assure you that we will ensure that he receives his ID very soon.

I thank you