



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Walk for Hope held in Sebokeng on the 04th October 2010, in Sedibeng.

Programme Director: Nyembezi Kunene;

SABE Productions & the Team;

Our Distinguished Guest;

Councillors present;

Bishop Zondo;

Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Re tla bua re sa kgaotse “Sedibeng is the region of heroes and has a very rich history”. It is at the departure of this historic walk that we are again reminded of this. The heroes in the making, the young men who are about to embark on this historic walk, are getting into the shoes of the many heroes and heroines from Sedibeng.

We are referring here to the likes of Mme Charlotte Maxeke, the fallen heroes of the Sharpeville Massacre who fifty years ago said enough is enough. They will be walking in the footsteps of the heroes of Boipatong, who were instrumental in setting the date for our first democratic elections in this country when CODESA was at a stalemate. These young men and women will walk the talk of the heroes of the Asinamali Campaign that led to the Delmas Treason Trial.

It is therefore fitting and proper that this journey begins at the plague that marks the Nangalembe Massacre where 45 community members were shot and killed by vigilantes who had come to bury their fallen hero, Chris Nangalembe.

Sedibeng District Municipality, which is the custodian of this rich history, supports this initiative. We take great pride in the heritage of our beautiful area. We have been consistent in this regard. Last year we declared for the entire world and country that “Our Heroes, Our Legacy-Lest we forget”.

This year during the September month we said as our theme “Together with our Communities-A final push towards reclaiming our Heritage”.

As part of our commitment to the themes that I have just alluded to, we have just arrived back from a successful trip to Lesotho with the survivors and families of the victims of the Nangalembe Massacre.

We were received with warmth and treated with honour befitting heroes. The people of Lesotho knows today of the Nangalembe Massacre. They know about Sebokeng. They will be looking at this historic walk with renewed enthusiasm and understanding.

It is therefore evident for all to see that these themes were not just slogans. Our partnership with these heroes in the making is a clear indication of that commitment. We therefore call to all our communities, the private sector to throw their support behind this project.

The history of Sebokeng has and will be told. We cannot hope that it will be passed by word of mouth alone. Our programme of Imbawula Story-Telling while capturing a cultural practice that gave our communities character in the past, may not be enough.

We need a film to capture the essence of Sebokeng in particular and Sedibeng in general for future generations. The rich history and heritage of Sedibeng is bound to the history of the liberation of this country.

To the young men from Sabe Productions, I know that I speak on behalf of the entire community of Sedibeng when I say “Farewell” Go out there and make us proud.

Tell the entire country and the world that Sedibeng is ready to take the centre stage in the history of this country as it has done in the past. We will be tracking your progress with great interest. We hope you will take a strong message to the youth of our country that there is more to life and greater purpose than parties and fun.

I know that the youth in Parys and all the way to Bloemfontein will be looking forward to meet with you and to be inspired by you. You are a symbol of inspiration already to the youth of Sedibeng. Go well and assist in unlocking great ideas in the communities that you will touch. You have and will continue to make us proud.

Programme Director, having realised the importance and significance of this campaign, the Sedibeng District Municipality pledged about R 90 000. 00 towards the realization of this project. This will cover the catering that we have today, the facilities from which we are sending off this brave Team and for the marketing thereof.

I have as well decided to pledge R 20 000. 00 from my personal account with the hope that all others will follow me.

When you arrive in Bloemfontein, pass my regards to the community of Mangaung. Give our regards to the honourable Premier Ace Magashule. We are indeed very proud of you.

I Thank You