



Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the IDP Review consultation with the Religious & Senior Citizens Sectors held on Friday, 8 October 2010, at the Saul Tsotetsi Sports Complex, Sebokeng in Sedibeng

Programme Director

Madam Speaker: Sedibeng District Municipality: Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;

MMC: Cllr. Maipato Tsokolibane;

MMC: Cllr. Johnny Tsotetsi;

The Senior Citizens;

Members of the Religious Fraternity in Sedibeng;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to meet with you at this important consultative meeting. I am aware that you may not find it sufficient, however, we are trying our best to ensure that we meet with you regularly and are working on improving such.

In my experience since working here at the District and the local Municipalities, I know that year after year, we have had consultations like this one to call for your inputs and active participation in the processes that development our Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

We are meeting here today to do exactly that. We are looking forward to you today as Senior Citizens and Members of the Religious Community to give us your outlook into the IDP which has been approved by the Municipality.

This will serve as our blueprint for the year to come. We look to you to provide us with the benefit of your wisdom which is drawn from your contact with your various constituencies.

We may believe that this IDP represents what the communities want and it could be that some of the issues may have been omitted or rather been deemphasized, it is for that reason that we call for your inputs to assist the Sedibeng District Municipality to provide focus in light of what our communities may wish for.

Our IDP for the financial year 2010/11 refers to the following which I hope that you as our very important sector will assist in. These aspects are based on our first generation Sedibeng Growth and Development strategy.

The successful implementation and execution of these aspects will ensure that twenty one years from now and beyond, a large chunk of these challenges would have been resolved. It is for that reason therefore that these projects and interventions are targeted at designated groups, namely:

- Women
- The Youth
- People living with disabilities
- Children
- The aged
- Ex-combatants

These groups are well represented in churches and congregations across the entire Sedibeng District. The fact that they have been so designated, suggests that special attention must be provided to deal with the challenges which they face.

Facilitation of the formation of Agricultural Co-ops for Designated Groups

In order to ensure the economic development of the designated groups, the Sedibeng District Municipality is committed to facilitate the formation

of these cooperatives. To that end, the enthusiastic participation of our communities will go a very long way to ensuring that this matter is a success.

I know for a fact, that most women and youth, unemployed fathers and people living with disabilities and the elderly are looking for ways and means to engage in sustainable food production. Some of the citizens that are in your various congregations week in week out, have very specialized skills. It is with these in mind that we as Sedibeng District Municipality are calling to the Religious fraternity to assist us in mobilizing this resource, to bring about very successful cooperatives in the Region.

Facilitate the Ring-Fencing of Housing Delivery for child headed households, the elderly, ex-combatants and people living with disabilities.

It is as our country is faced with the challenge of HIV and Aids, as well as the rising numbers of child headed households that we are called upon as government to provide solutions.

We are committed as the Sedibeng District Municipality to seeing to it that the provision of housing to designated groups is treated as a priority and they are not treated in the same manner as all the other groups on the housing waiting lists.

Train and utilize more women, youth and ex-combatants in Community Policing project.

It is as we in Sedibeng District continue to reduce crime within our communities that we are looking forward to a situation where we shall have seen the end of criminal activities in the area that the designated groups come into sharp focus.

To that end, we as the District are committed to including more women, the youth and ex-combatants in all Community Policing projects. This will assist in the reduction of crime as well providing jobs to these designated groups. It is for that reason therefore that we look forward to partnering with you in this regard.

Ensure benefit and involvement of designated groups in all programmes and projects procured within Sedibeng through Political Management Team offices.

My office, together with the offices of both the Speaker and the Chief Whip comprise the PMT. These offices are responsible for many projects. These projects and programmes do lend themselves to a sizable chunk of Municipal resources.

To that end, we are committed as the Sedibeng District Municipality to reserve the benefit of these resources for the economic development of designated groups. It is for that reason that we call on you as the Religious Sector to ensure that our communities, your constituency takes advantage of these opportunities.

It is as you deal with and interact with vulnerable members in your congregations that we look up to you to point them in the right direction, Sedibeng District Municipality. I challenge you to look through the entire IDP to identify any such projects. I know that there are any.

In conclusion Programme Director, I am aware that there are challenges and we have put in place some processes to ensuring that we improve on those.

I am pleased to inform you all that we have agreed among other on the following in our attempt of improving our interface with our communities and various stakeholders in this regard:

- That the Office of the Speaker in Sedibeng would have continuous monthly or quarterly stakeholders meetings with all the sectors of the community to ensure continuous engagement with all the sectors;

- That to ensure proper processing and coordination of issues raised in these meetings, all our Cluster Departments must attend the IDP review analysis;
- That our IDP presentations should be structured in a manner that is simple and speaking to your clear service delivery matters in each sector;
- That copies of today's presentation will be given to all sectors present in today's meeting and period for submission will also be opened even after the meeting till the month end of October to allow written submissions;
- That our Stakeholders Database must be regularly updated to maximize our community participation

In the main, this is to ensure that your concerns such as the following are sufficiently addressed:

- A concern regarding the effectiveness of the stakeholder participation processes and the consideration of issues you raise for IDP;
- The lack of regular and continuous engagement with yourselves;

- The alleged insufficient access by yourselves to the political principals, particularly the Speaker and Executive Mayor;
- That the Clustering of the Religious Sector and the Senior citizen was not strategic and be relooked;
- Traditional Healers' issues be addressed in the IDP.

I commit myself and the Sedibeng District Municipality to ensuring that by that we meet again next time, majority if not all of these issues would have been addressed.

I take this opportunity to thank you for the efforts you took from your busy schedules to come and provide us with the benefit of your wisdom.

I Thank You