



**Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Visit to the Groenpunt Correctional Facility on the 29 October 2010**

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Programme Director: Ntate Kau;  
Leadership of Seikokotlelo sa Bophelo;  
Prison Management;  
Reverend Mokoena;  
Our Distinguished Guest

It is as our country is taking its rightful place in the world, that we are reminded of the need to have our anchors firmly grounded. Ha lefatshe le Bophelo bo ja sitsi, mathata a ehlwa manolo hodimo, lerato la Modimo ditjhabeng tsa lefatshe le iponahatsa ka mekgwa e makatsang. Ditumediso tsaka ho lona bohle ba tlileng kwano.

**Programme Director**, selemong sena re keteka dilemo tse mashome a mabedi a tokollo ya our first State President Nelson Mandela. He came out of a facility like this one to change the whole world. In his honour the world as a whole was able to celebrate the International Nelson Mandela

Day, the first person in our recent recorded history to be honoured in this manner.

Batswadi le baetapele ba mokgatlo oona wa Seikokotlelo sa Bophelo, tlotla yohle e lebiswe ho lona. Boitelo le matsapa a lona a ho retlisa kwano mona ha a roriswe.

Ha Setjhaba sa rantsho se bile le sebaka sa ho keteka diketsahalo tsa 2010 FIFA World Cup, batshwaruwa barona, eleng bana le balekane barona, ba fetilweng ke monyetla wa ho keteka lerona, re sa boetse re ba hopola.

Ke ka hona re nkang sebaka sena ho kgothaletsa mosebetsi o matla o etswang ke balebedi ba ditjhankana ho thusa ka tlihabollo ya maphelo a bahlankana ba kwano. Ho lona bana beso, re kopa hore le inkele ho Bophelo ba Nelson Mandela.

Mohale ya tswileng ditlamong ho ya fetola maphelo a bohle naheng ya rona. Ka tshehetso ya setjhaba, boitelo ba hae, ka tumelo e tletseng ya hore: *“I am the change I want to see in the world”* tokoloho ya Setjhaba sa rantsho ke eena re ya e bona.

If you choose to be the positive change you want to see in the world you live, the world will embrace you as one of its own. I hope that you will take

up this challenge. South Africa as a whole needs every one of us to make an impact.

Your talents could have and will still make a great difference to our country and the world as a whole. The nation is waiting for you to help with your talents for the development of our lives. Your stay here does not help anybody.

Your brothers, sisters, children and parents are looking forward to the day that you will be released. The community is waiting for the day that you will be released. Your parents and sisters are praying for the day that you will come home.

Their faith is based on the hope that you will come back as better and greater people to make a positive impact on their lives. They know that you can, they believe that you can, Seikokotlelo sa Bophelo know that you can, I believe that you will make the positive impact, the community of Sedibeng trust that you will change.

**Programme Director**, I know that last year Xoli Nosenga was engaged in a programme to record some of the inmates in this facility. I hope that some of you will take advantage of that programme.

I know for a fact that some of you have stories to tell. Your story may turn out to be the best seller in the same way that Nelson Mandela's latest book "Conversations with myself" is doing now.

There are a lot of young men and women with computers out there waiting to write your stories. Your communities are waiting to hear how you have changed and how you intend to change the world you live in.

I cannot wait to hear about the positive impact you hope to bring to the nation. The young boys and girls are waiting for your motivations as to why they should not do crime.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the positive impact that some of you are doing to change the lives of our communities out there. Martin Sibanda and your organization, "**Paying back to the Community**" really made a difference. We are already seeing the positive change you want to be when you are released.

It is the nature of these efforts that gives us great hope and faith that great things are yet to come from you. The community of Sedibeng cannot wait for your release in the same manner that we waited for the release of Nelson Mandela twenty year ago.

I know that the Brothers in music unite for Rehabilitation Jazz festival is upon us. Take this opportunity to see what a beautiful world awaits you out there.

Enjoy the music to catch a glimpse of what the communities' are doing. Prepare yourself for great things and the community will embrace you.

I am told that the purpose of this visit to you today to afford our grandparents who are part of the entourage an opportunity to understand prison environment so as to be able for them to reprimand and warn their grandchildren of the live in here.

They will be conveying these messages through public meetings which they will be holding immediately after this visit. I wish them all the best.

**In conclusion**, to the facility officials, I thank you for the sterling work you are doing here. To Seikokotlelo sa Bophelo, Sedibeng District Municipality thanks you for the opportunity you afforded us to be here.

To the inmates, I am looking forward to your release which will herald the release of talents that have been lying dormant while you were here.

I thank you.