



**Introduction of MEC for Local Government & Housing by the
Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon
Mofokeng on the occasion of the Emfuleni Annual People's
Assembly, at the Emfuleni Local Municipality's Main Building,
Emfuleni, Saturday, 20 November 2010, Sedibeng**

Programme Director & Emfuleni Speaker: Cllr. Greta Hlongwane;
Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr. S.A Mshudulu;
MEC for Local Government & Housing: Hon Humphrey Mmemezi;
Emfuleni Members of Mayoral Committee here present;
Fellow Councillors;
The Municipal Manager & Deputy Municipal Managers;
Representatives from Government Departments present;
Members of Ward Committees in Emfuleni;
Community Development Workers;
The people of Emfuleni;
Ladies & Gentlemen

Dumelang, Abusheni, Molweni, Good day, Goie Dag, Sanibonani.

It is indeed my pleasure to have been invited to speak and take part in the important proceedings of our Assembly of the people of Emfuleni, in Sedibeng.

This platform affords our Municipality with its fundamental obligation of interacting with its communities allowing us a platform to report back and listen to our constituency on service delivery and other important matters which affect them in their day to day lives. We congratulate Emfuleni for its continuing efforts on their part to taking government to the people – where it belongs!

My task this afternoon is to introduce to you, one of our own, our Honourable MEC responsible for Local Government & Housing in our Province, MEC Humphrey Mmemezi.

However, I am tempted to go astray from the task at hand by taking this opportunity to also convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our sports ambassadors from our Region for the work well done.

Mr. Executive Mayor, I am here referring to our Jet Nteo Secondary School and Aaron “Mbazo” Mokoena. They have confirmed our long standing notion that we are history makers.

Aaron “Mbazo” Mokoena, our Bafana Bafana captain has been bestowed with the freedom of the City of London on the 10th November 2010 and the Jet Nteo Secondary School, coincidentally also located in Boipatong, where Aaron Mokoena comes from, being named the champions and winners of the Sanlam Kay Motsepe Schools Cup the month before. I am sure that you will agree with me when I say to them, *Pele ya Pele, re itlotla le ho ikgantsha ka bona!*

I have felt that it would be fundamentally incorrect for me to take stage and not allude to the important developments within our very Region.

Back to my task today, you will all recall that in his league, MEC Mmemezi is a fairly new kid on the block. He was inaugurated as the new MEC responsible for Local Government & Housing earlier this month replacing Mr. Kgaogelo Lekgoro who has been redeployed to head the Provincial Planning Commission in the Office of the Premier.

Looking at the MEC’s profile, one is tempted to say it loud that he is actually a learned person and activist in both the ANC Structures and the Mass Democratic Movement. He is quite a versatile leader and volunteer who has worked in a number of areas of deployment dating from during the unbanning of the ANC to date.

Prior to his appointment as the MEC for Local Government & Housing in Gauteng earlier this month and being the current serving ANC Gauteng Provincial Deputy Secretary, he was among the first ANC Councillors to be elected in 1994 in the pre-interim phase of local government in Krugersdorp and was later in November 1995 appointed an ANC party representative Councillor.

He went on to be appointed the Member of the Mayoral Committee in the West Rand District Municipality.

As a unionist then, Ntate Mmemezi was one of the 1st mine workers to be unionized under NUM in his area. He organized workers and established Lindum Reefs Mine branch of the National Union of Mineworkers. He was also a volunteer regional organizer of NUM in Witbank.

His employment as a mineworker played a very important role in shaping his political consciousness. After unbanning of the ANC, he founded and led several ANC branches around the West Rand Region. He served in the ANC West Rand Regional Executive Committee (REC) from 1995 to 2000, and served as a Regional Chairperson for four (4) terms, what a leader!

He once worked as Human Resources Manager for the Mogale City. He championed the process of housing for the people of Sinqobile Township,

Tudor Shaft, Soul City and Makhulu Gama, something that we hope and trust that he will now do for all our informal settlements which are still to be formalized and properly housed, more especially in the Sedibeng area.

Something that many of you may not be aware of as well about MEC Mmemezi is that he is also the traditional head of both eNkwezeni and AmaNgcwangule clans in the Eastern Cape. He is juggling his traditional leadership skills and principles with those of the ruling party which subscribes to principles of organisational democracy

I am informed that MEC Mmemezi singlehandedly established Mathambo Primary School in the Lusikisiki area and was also instrumental in the exhumation of the remains of the heroes of the 1960 Pondoland Revolt at the Ngcuza Hill, who were then buried properly in their home ground

Most importantly for those who are aspiring MECs and our future leaders, it is important for me to share with you today that MEC Mmemezi holds certain qualifications so that all of us here would understand that it is not just political deployment or payback as some of us would like you to believe. It is coupled with some form of strong educational background indeed.

MEC Mmemezi holds the following qualifications:

- National Diploma in Transportation Management from University of Johannesburg (formerly RAU),
- Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Public Administration from UNISA,
- Certificate on Local Government Capacity Building from University of Potchefstroom,
- Certificate on Housing Policy Development and Management from Wits Business School
- Certificate on Project Management from University of Potchefstroom,
- Certificate on Municipal Management Development Programme from University of Pretoria.

Honourable MEC, I hope and trust I was not sounding like as if I was reading your obituary but your biography, living and exciting profile that resembles a character of a leader.

In conclusion, programme director, let me take this opportunity to invite all people gathered here today to the ***Sedibeng 100 Days Projects Report back public meeting*** which will be held in Sharpeville on Thursday, 2 December 2010 at the time which will be announced at the later stage.

Comrade Mmemezi, I am taking this opportunity to invite you as well.

Honourable MEC, this is one of our many ways of keeping to our traditions of ensuring that local government is accountable and responsible.

Ladies & Gentlemen, I present to you, MEC for Local Government & Housing, Honourable Humphrey Mmemezi

Ke a leboha!