



Opening Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Taking Back the Night on the 27th November 2010, in Sedibeng.

Programme Director: Cllr. Greta Hlongwane;

Executive Mayor of Emfuleni: Cllr. SA Mshudulu;

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

Members of Mayoral Committees;

Fellow Councillors;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Setjhaba sa Sedibeng

It is as we enter the festive season and community members are about to enjoy their well earned rest that the excessive intake of alcohol becomes the order of the day.

This excessive drinking unfortunately ends up with a set of behaviour which impacts negatively on the moral fibre of our communities. Violence against the vulnerable members of our community increases. It is on this

sobering note that I bring you greetings from Sedibeng District Municipality.

During this period to mark the Campaign for the “No violence against women and children” I am encouraged by the theme which our counterparts in Emfuleni has adopted, namely, “Take back the Night”.

This theme signals a commitment by all of us to ensure that our children, mothers and sisters are safe at night. That they can walk the streets of our communities in relative calm and peace at all times. We cannot allow a situation where the night brings out all sorts of dangerous creatures.

Earlier this year during the International Nelson Mandela Day Celebrations, inspired by the various roles that Tata played in our lives as a Nation I said” The entire world calls him all sorts of names, all of these names referring to the good things he has done.

Some call him “the defender of the weak”, “Firebrand” Shining light”, “Reconciler”, “Peacemaker”, “Moral leader” and “Icon”, but none have the luxury of calling him father, like we do as the South African Nation. For indeed he is the only father this nation knows.

In honour of all that he is, and will always and ever be to all of us, I challenge the entire community of Sedibeng to each his own, pick up one

role that Nelson Mandela played and make it your own. To all fathers, be peacemakers in your own homes and domestic violence will be done away with. It is with the above in mind that I hope that our communities will be safe once again this year.

I have noticed with interest that the streets in Zone 13 have become relatively safe over the past festive season. I hope that the community keeps them safe again this year. Let us all remember that “We are all responsible for our safety-Crime does not pay”.

We cannot allow men and the youth in our communities to prey on our sisters, children and mothers. We cannot allow our families to live in fear from our misguided tendencies after abusing alcohol. One child or woman abused and molested is in one child too many.

It is with these few words, that I take this opportunity to welcome all our guests and the caring community of Sedibeng District to this important occasion.

I know that our communities will be a safer place for all our children to grow and play in.

Our families will be safe to walk to their various errands at night and throughout the day. With powers vested in me, I declare this event officially open. **I thank you!**