



**Speaking Notes by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the 51<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held in the Chamber in the Mayoral Parlour in Vereeniging on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, in Sedibeng**

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Madam Speaker: Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;

Fellow Councillors;

Officials present;

Distinguished guests;

People of Sedibeng,

Allow me to greet this esteemed body of the leadership of Sedibeng District Municipality hereby constituted as the Council. Today marks the World AIDS Day. It pleases me a great deal to notice that the World rate of infection is going down.

My pleasure is amplified by the reports that show that even here in the District, the rate of infection and the incidents of HIV-AIDS are on a downward spiral.

I take my hat off to the Sedibeng District Municipality AIDS Directorate on the good work that they are doing. This goes on to show that with concerted effort we definitely can do more for our communities.

The good work we are doing is indicative of our solidarity in support of those infected and affected by the socio-economic impacts of HIV&AIDS, we join thousands of people across Gauteng Province and of every persuasion; we encourage candles should be lit in schools, hospitals and casinos, in prisons, malls and bars, on the soccer field, at taxi ranks and in our homes.

We are symbolizing the grief we all feel for lives lost to HIV-related illnesses. We are celebrating those who live positively with infection, and commit ourselves to action - to reaching out to anyone affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to offering care and understanding, and to preventing the spread of HIV.

It is as we commemorate this day, we must be fully proud to declare that HIV & AIDS has lost its stigma; the neighbors are there to help and support those who are affected by it. Everybody from all walks of life is committed to support the affected and continue to educate those who are not affected.

We must embrace ourselves on noting the partnership of working together as one to tackle this scourge. As the flame of hope is shining; it resembles the future of our nation.

Our focus is to ensure a strong coordinated response from all sectors of the community in educating, prevention and management of HIV as well as caring for vulnerable children. Our support for the NGO's in HIV AIDS bears this commitment out.

On a more somber note, I am worried about the abhorrent behaviour of people stealing the ARV treatment to convert them into a recreational drug. Woonga as it is called must not be allowed to take root in our communities. It appears to have spread like wildfire in KwaZulu-Natal.

Let us take to the streets to mobilize our communities, especially our youth about networks that are out to create backyard laboratories to manufacture this scourge. I know that we can and believe that we will.

We had the opportunity to go back to Tshepiso Phase 4 a few days ago. The report back presented to the community went a long way in appeasing the concerns which were raised in their Memorandum.

The reception from the community was very positive and as a result I was invited to the birthday party of 105 year old Nkgono Anna Ramothibe on

the 04<sup>th</sup> November this weekend. It is evident that we are indeed making a difference in the lives of our communities.

In the same light, I will be taking to the road again this week on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, to report back to the community of Sharpeville on the progress made on the 100 Days Service Delivery Programme announced in March this year.

If the report is anything to go by, I can safely say that we have outdone ourselves this time. The reports on all the projects show very significant progress and the communities are very happy. The fact that we have ensured significant benefit to the emerging contractors, have proven to be a stroke of genius.

Comrade Speaker, we are today joined by the Molete family and they are somewhere in the gallery. I will be handing over the keys to Mitta Molete today to symbolize the milestone reached in completing her house as part of the commitments we made as I earlier indicated. An occasion to officially hand over the house to the family will be in order.

I take this opportunity to invite all of us here present to provide your support at the report back meeting to be held at the Cricket Pitch in Sharpeville on Thursday afternoon. I believe that your invitations will reach you today still. I am looking forward to your support.

I am looking forward to the Year End Function together with the Employee Day Celebrations which will be held on the 03<sup>rd</sup> December this week. I hope that you will join me as we share the time with employees who continue to do good work here with us.

I notice with grave concern that our communities continue to be victimized and evicted in Midvaal. This happens at the time when we are preparing ourselves for the 2011 Local Government Elections. I urge our MMC responsible for Development Planning, Housing & Land, Cllr. Manana Kubheka to work together her counterpart in Midvaal find solution to these challenges.

By so doing, we will be strengthening our IGR matters and thereby as it has become a norm, avoid a protest march being directed to Sedibeng District Municipality on matters we had nothing to do with.

In the last Council Meeting I raised the issue of centralizing the Communication Unit by placing it in the Office of the Executive Mayor and I hope to see the report soon. This is made critical in view of the 2011 Local Government Elections. We cannot be speaking from different ends of the Municipality at this critical period.

I have the distinct pleasure of informing the house that just yesterday I received good news from the Auditor General that we are once again in

line to receive another unqualified audit report. You will all agree with me when I say that this news could not have come at a better time.

**Comrade Speaker**, the Sedibeng District Municipality has had the pleasure of being invited to London for the occasion of Aaron Mokoena being conferred with the Freedom of the City of London. Suffice it to mention that we were received as royalty, and once again our Captain Fantastic continues to make us proud.

Contrary to popular belief that Lucas Radebe is the best South African soccer export, this event shows that Aaron Mokoena is the best. Our slogan and banner that proclaimed *“Nelson Mandela then-Aaron Mokoena now: Sedibeng applauds the second recipient of the Freedom of London in our Lifetime”* proved to be the buzzword. It is sitting proudly in the archives of the City of London.

Madam Speaker and the honourable members, I place the following reports for your consideration:

- Progress Report: Sedibeng External Bursary Fund-2009/2010 Financial Year
- Reviewed Donation Policy
- Crime Prevention Strategic Measures: Sedibeng Region

- Final Report: Executive Summary: 2010 FIFA World Cup
- Turn-Around Strategy: Sedibeng Museums
- Review of the Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedures
- Regulation of Absenteeism Policy in the Workplace
- Policy: Termination of Service for Employees
- Arbitration Award on Interpretation and Application of Salary and Wage Collective Agreement: 2009/2010 Financial Year
- Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill 2010
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance Policy of the Sedibeng District Municipality
- Peer Review Report: Archives and Records Management Applications, Evaluation and Legal Compliance-2009/2010 Financial Year
- Revised Records Management Policy: Sedibeng District Municipality: 2010/2011 Financial Year
- Sedibeng Batho Pele Policy
- Revised Fleet Management Policy
- Internal Security Policy and the Standard Operating Procedures: Sedibeng District Municipality
- Disciplinary Procedures Policy: Sedibeng District Municipality
- Outcomes of Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Audits at Selected Municipal Buildings
- Implementation of Solar Water Heating(Geysers) for Low income Households

- Upgrading of the Bophelong Intermodal Transport Facility
- Establishment of the Gauteng Passenger Rail Steering Committee
- Establishment of the Gauteng Freight Logistics Forum( GFLF)
- Salary Increase for Section 57 Employees and for Fixed Term Contract Employees: 2009/2010 Financial Year
- Sedibeng District Municipality/ Mr T.L Mkaza: Dispute Settlement
- Handling of Arbitration Awards

**In conclusion**, let me take this opportunity to remind and invite you all to our report back public meeting which is scheduled to take place tomorrow, the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 at the Cricket Pitch, Sharpeville.

Our message of condolences goes to our veteran struggle heroine the late Mama Bertha Gxowa, our General Worker, Mme Matlakala Cecilia Mokhele and all others who may have passed on. May their soul rest in peace!

I hope that we will enjoy our well earned and deserved rest over the Festive Season to come back refreshed as we prepare ourselves for a renewal of our mandate by the 2011 Local Government Elections next year.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

I thank you