



Opening Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the World AIDS Day held on the 01st December 2010, in Sedibeng

Programme Director: MMC Maipato Tsokolibane;

MEC for Health: Gauteng Province: Ms N Mekgwe;

Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr SA Mshudulu;

Gauteng AIDS Council: Reverend Gift Moerane;

ACUMDA;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Setjhaba sa Gauteng

I take this opportunity to bring you the warm greetings from Sedibeng District Municipality. Together with the entire world, **Gauteng Government** took the time out to mark and observe the **World AIDS** day. It is through this event that we wish to bring our focus and attention to the role we all can play in ensuring an **AIDS** free society in the future.

The little steps which each of us can take today will make a great difference in the future of this country and indeed the world. This year, the president of the Republic Of South Africa, Comrade Jacob Zuma, launched HCT (**HIV Counselling and Testing**).

Through this programme we should have tested **15 million** people by 2011. It is also our duty to check our HIV-status by going for counseling and HIV testing. The **Campaign** is moving well and I hope that all of us here present have undergone the testing.

Good nutrition in conjunction with healthy life style such as regular exercises, stress management will assist all of us to live positively with HIV. As government, we will continue to strengthen our response to HIV&AIDS. So, young people need to abstain from sex for as long as possible. We have to be faithful to our partners or use a condom. Condoms are available free of charge in all our clinics.

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to say that our ward-based **AIDS Strategy** which we in **Sedibeng District** launched in **2007** is beginning to bear fruits. This is illustrated and confirmed by the significant reduction of the HIV-prevalence from **(35%) in 2006** to **(28.9%) in 2009**.

I must commend all role players in spending sleepless nights to ensure that we indeed reduce new HIV-infections and prevalence among the people of Sedibeng and neighboring areas.

This was made possible through the tireless efforts of our **MMC Maipato Tsokolibane** and the change in behaviour from our communities. Suffice it to mention that all **Local AIDS Councils**, including the **District**, have been launched and are fully functional.

Let me not take more of your time and welcome everybody present here today to commemorate this event. I hope that we will have a great time as we deal and grapple with the serious business of bringing **HIV-AIDS** to its knees for the sake of our children.

I Thank You