



Opening & Welcome Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Launch of the Green Door Campaign: 16 Days of Activism on No Violence Against Women & Children held on Sunday, 05th December 2010, at Sicelo Stadium, Midvaal in Sedibeng

Programme Director:

Deputy Minister of Social Development: Mrs Bongi Maria Ntuli;

Premier of Gauteng Province: Ms Nomvula Mokonyane

Gauteng MEC for Health and Social Development: Ms Ntombi Mekgwe;

MECs here present;

Executive Mayor of Midvaal Local Municipality: Cllr Timothy Nast;

Members of Mayoral Committees;

Fellow Councillors;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to bring you the warm greetings from **Sedibeng District Municipality**. It is as we enter the festive season and members

of our communities are having some spare money to indulge that we are faced with the unintended consequences of happiness.

We go overboard and get out of hand. We do this by turning our loved ones into victims of our misplaced enjoyment.

Programme Director, it is not uncommon to see children and women becoming very uncomfortable when the man and husband starts taking alcohol. It is not uncommon to see women and children cringe at the prospect of a father coming back from work. As a man, I am greatly saddened by sharing these traits with people who do these things to their loved ones.

I am disturbed that the eleven year old campaign has not yielded the necessary results in the reduction of violence and abuse directed at women and children. This has to stop. Abuse of one child or one woman is one child and one woman too much.

We can no longer afford to have children and women running around at night looking for a place to hide. We can no longer afford to have women and children failing to report abuse for fear that the husband will withhold support to the family and children.

Enough is enough. I call on all the communities of Sedibeng and every citizen to stand up and be counted. We could not have come up with a

more fitting slogan, *“Don’t look away-Act against abuse”*. We need to remember that that child who is abused by your neighbor may turn to become an abuser in the future who may come to haunt you.

The woman who cries for help in the middle of the night and you choose to shut your ears may turn out to be your dead neighbor’s wife, heaven forbid, *“Don’t look away-Act against abuse”*. Ka Sesotho re ye rere *“Motse hotjha e mabapi”*. Your neighbor’s problem is your problem. Let us act now to stop this scourge.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to welcome our distinguished guest, the Premier of Gauteng, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, the MEC for Health in Gauteng, Ms Ntombi Mekgwe and the entire community of Sedibeng and Gauteng Province. Welcome to Sedibeng, the beautiful place we all call our home.

I thank you