



**Message of Condolences by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole
Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the burial of the late Nkgono
Ramothibe, Saturday, 18th December 2010**

Programme Director;

Lelapa la Nkgono Ramothibe;

Metswalle le leloko la Nkgono Ramothibe;

Baruti ba Dikereke tse fapaneng;

ANC Leadership and other local leadership present;

Fellow Councillors;

Community Structures Present;

People of Tshepiso and Sedibeng in general;

We are gathered here today to bid Nkgono Ramothibe farewell. I bring you the message of condolences from the people of Sedibeng District Municipality and its people.

This is the message that we believe is of hope. We were shocked and saddened by the news of the untimely death of Nkgono Ramothibe.

I, on behalf of the people of Sedibeng take this opportunity to express our most profound and sincere condolences to the bereaved family of the late Nkgono Ramothibe for the loss of their loved one. We also wish to extend similar condolences to all her friends and neighbours in Tshepiso Phase 4.

You will recall that I only knew Nkgono Ramothibe personally few weeks ago when I was here for a report back meeting with the community of Tshepiso Phase 4. This is when I was formally introduced to her by the local leaders.

I took some time to chat with her, took some pictures with her, some of those you may have seen on the local newspapers. This to me meant the beginning of many good things which were to come in our relationship.

As I sat and spoke with her, listening to her wishes, I felt that I had found another mother. It is with great sadness in my heart that we give her a final farewell today. The community of Tshepiso has lost a great mother and ambassador.

Just for that moment and subsequently when she was at our last Council sitting in the beginning of this month, I had the pleasure of enjoying her presence. I was hoping she would be here today and on Monday, 21st December 2010 when I will be hosting elderly people like her through a

luncheon, but God in his eternal wisdom called her for greater work in heaven.

We always are told that there will come a time in the life of every human being when the sun must set. And when it does, the remaining fellow neighbours, friends and comrades should not be at a loss for words to describe the life and times of one of theirs.

As Africans, this we do in many ways. We sing, we dance, we clap our hands, we cry, we mourn and so on. We are gathered here today to show this many ways we celebrate the life of a sister, mother and a grandmother to some of us.

The passing of Nkgono Ramothibe comes at the period when there are visible challenges in the area. It is in the spirit of remembering her that we have to reflect on our culture and traditions as Africans and ask ourselves as to whether we are doing our bit in the leadership and guidance of the community of Tshepiso Phase 4.

We must be able at to ask ourselves at one stage whether our presence in this community is assisting in transforming the lives of our people to the better ones.

Her burial today must instill in us a sense of improved unity, the culture of sacrifice, dedication and commitment, a culture of putting the interests of our people and their needs above our personal interests and ambitions.

I urge you all to find a way of allowing this understanding into your inner selves and all remain committed to good course of our presence in this community. The squabbles and conflicts must come to end. All of us must find a way of addressing our differences in the manner that will benefit this community is looking up to us for direction and guidance.

I felt that I needed to reiterate this informed by the period in which we are now, the electioneering period which is bound to presenting itself as a challenge within our communities. I am aware of the fact that the ruling party, African National Congress and other political parties have already set up structures for this purpose.

As the Executive Mayor of the ruling and as our collective efforts towards realizing a better Tshepiso and Sedibeng, I urge you all to subscribe and adhere to the rules and regulations governing this process as outlined in various processes by the ruling party.

Comrades & friends, as we bid Nkgono Ramothibe farewell today, I have no doubt that as she joins our ancestors, she will do so peacefully realizing that we are steering our District Municipality in the right direction.

Out of this burial today, we must produce community leaders who are up to the task of our current challenges. These are the type of cadres that our Communities need. We need the breed of leaders who know deep down in their hearts that our people deserve much better.

These are the people who will assist our government in taking forward and realising our commitment to a *“Better life for all”* as a serious commitment is not just a phrase used to deceive the poor and the working class in particular but a statement of intent based on sound strategic initiatives and programmes.

In Conclusion Programme Director, may the Lord Jesus Christ look with favour to the family of Nkgono Ramothibe at this time of need, grant this family comfort during this difficult time.

For God indeed knew all of us long before we were an image in our mothers' womb, predetermined days of our lives before there were any days. It is also in the words of the Lord's Prayer that we say ***“May His will be done on earth as it is in heaven”*** God willed it, we can only **confirm and say**: “Holokile, holokile, Morena Modimo O ne a re adimile, mme o boetse o latile”

“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted” Ho lehlohonolo ba llang ho bane batla thodiswa”. May we be comforted, for He has promised.

I once again extend our heartfelt condolences to Nkgono Ramothibe’s family, neighbours, friends and comrades during this difficult time. May her death serve to remind all of us to strive for unity and to put the well-being of our Region and the people above all our personal and sectarian considerations.

Nkgono Ramothibe will surely be solely missed by all of us. May her soul rest in peace! You are welcomed

Ha moya wa hae o phomole ka kgotso, pula!

Ke a leboha!