



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Christmas Lunch with the Elderly held on the 21st December 2010, in Sedibeng

Programme Director:

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

Local Municipalities Executive Mayors present;

Council Speakers present;

Members of Mayoral Committees responsible for Social Services;

Members of Mayoral Committees present;

Fellow Councillors;

boNkgono le BoNtatemoholo;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I take this opportunity to bring you the warm greetings from **Sedibeng District Municipality**. The greatest honour expected of us as the young and all of us, is to honour our parents. The Good Bible puts it very clearly where it says, *“Honour your mother and your father so that your days may*

be increased on earth". As the Sedibeng District Municipality, we are today reminded of this gospel.

Programme Director, allow me to follow on my opening to say that a nation that cares will only be seen as caring by the manner in which it cares for its aged and vulnerable.

Our commitment to the cause of the aged and those of our communities who are vulnerable forms the backbone of our planning going forward. This is evident in the manner in which we have developed and built into all the departments, the advent of cross-cutting issues.

We spent two days at a workshop to make sure that all the clusters and departments in the Municipality include programmes on cross-cutting issues.

Programme Director, a question arises, "What are cross-cutting issues? Cross-cutting issues are issues that have to deal with designated groups. The designated groups are the elderly, the youth, women and people living with disabilities. All our plans, in all the departments and clusters of the Municipality, there is a programme or project that addresses itself to the designated groups in one way or another.

This lunch here today, serves to show our commitment in honouring our elderly. We take this time to thank your ever presence in our lives and the

lives of our communities. We wish to thank you all for the counsel of the years which you provided.

We are because you are. Basotho ba ye ba re, *“Bohlale ba phala bo etswa phalaneng”*. *Re motlotlo haholo ka bohlale boo re bo unneng ho lona.*

We are a proud nation, and proud District, thanks to the wisdom we acquired from you.

What would this nation have been without the wisdom of Ntate Nelson Mandela, who today stands as a world beacon and idol of all that is great in South Africa? We take the time out to acknowledge the role that each and everyone here present has played in raising sons and daughters, children and grand children here in Sedibeng.

We know that some of you are looking after your grand children while their parents have since gone astray. We know that some of you here today, cherish and treasure the pension grant that our good government is offering you every month because you have these grand children to look after.

We stand as a proud District of the role you have played and continue to play in making Sedibeng a truly historical Region. Your removal from Top Location to the historic deeds in Sharpeville makes great reading.

Your role in the Azikhwelwa Bus Boycotts in Evaton is a staff of legends, your resilience in the face of Operation Palmiet and the two State of Emergencies is very heroic. Your children and grand-children, who took part during those difficult times had giants on whose shoulders they could climb to see further.

Programme Director, I feel honoured to be among you today, more especially when we will be sharing meal with 120 years old and a couple of about 44 years. This is surely an honour to be with you all today. I am referring here to Ntatemoholo (105 years) le Nkgono Molamu (101 years).

Ka mantswe amang, ba nyalane ka bo 1966, an extra ordinary situation indeed, something that needs to be applauded.

It is as we come to the end of yet another year which was blessed by God, that we thank him for keeping you until this day. We thank God Almighty for his mercy and grace he has abundantly provided in our lives.

We thank Him for the gift of life and protection he provides to our children and loved ones, but most of all, we thank God for the gift of long life he

has provided to all of you here present so that we can share this time with you.

Our meeting with you here today is in line with the many commitments we made to you in terms of the Elections Manifesto of the ruling party, the African National Congress to ensuring a duty to respect and serve our people. The ruling party has a code of conduct, which all of us must swear to uphold. The code requires all of us to work hard and to listen to you, the people.

Every minute spent with you is a gift. Just last month I had the pleasure of enjoying the 105th birthday party of Nkgono Anna Ramothibe of Tshepiso Phase 04. I was hoping she would be here today, but God in his eternal wisdom called her for greater work in heaven last week.

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

We hope that you will enjoy your Christmas Lunch prepared in your honour here today. We hope to see many of you again in years to come. Please take the time out to tell your stories and the stories of our beautiful nation, country, region and heroes to our grandchildren. In this manner

they will not forget that Sedibeng is a District of the brave and great heroes.

Enjoy your day and God bless you for indeed we are blessed to be with you.

I thank you