



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the 183rd Meeting of the Mayoral Committee held at the Sedibeng Mayor's Parlour on the 13th January 2011, in Sedibeng

Colleagues & Officials

I take this opportunity to welcome you into the New Year, a special welcome to our new Executive Director for SPED, Mr. Herman Sekoto.

The year 2010 was a very eventful year for the entire South African Nation. I wish to thank you all for being here to attend the first meeting of the Mayoral Committee in the New Year.

It is in sadness that I note the passing of Cllr. Simon Maphalla's mother, Mme Florina Mosele Maphalla this week on Tuesday. I know that I speak on behalf of all of us in passing our heartfelt sympathies and condolences at this challenging time in his life. I pledge our support for him and his family at this time.

It is also with shock that I heard of the murder of the Chief Whip of Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Cllr. Johan Holme Ndlovu. Dedicated comrades are very difficult to come by, to lose one as dedicated as comrade Johan is a great loss indeed. We mourn with his family and colleagues during these trying times. We are however encouraged by the swift action of the police in apprehending suspects in this case.

We also notice the mayhem that is being caused by the seasonal rains which led to flooding in various parts of our District. The Vaal Dam spilled over and the resultant flow caused havoc in low lying areas.

It is the vigilance of our constituent Local Municipality in Emfuleni, together with our Sedibeng Emergency Services which ensured that there was no loss of life. We must applaud the continuous flow of information regarding the opening of sluices which was provided throughout that period.

This Mayoral Committee comes a few days after the January 8th Statement delivered by President Jacob Zuma in Polokwane over the weekend. The President and the NEC committed us to “The year of Consolidating people’s power for the National Democratic Society”.

Ladies and Gentlemen, honourable Members of the Mayoral Committee of Sedibeng, this is only possible if we operate in singularity of purpose,

driven by our commitment to provide the best services to the communities we lead.

I know that I speak for all of us when I say “We have faced the storm and sailed through troubled waters together and came out strong. Our resolve to serve the community of Sedibeng is without equal, we will climb mountains again in the belief that we will once again emerge victorious”.

We are looking forward to the State of the Nation Address and the Budget Speech as we prepare ourselves for the 2011 Local Government Elections. These will spur us on as we once again gear ourselves for the battle for a new mandate.

These processes will be informed by the ANC’s Makgotla starting with a three day National Executive Committee Lekgotla held at the Gallagher Estate in Midrand, which commenced on the 12th - 14th January 2011.

This NEC Lekgotla outcomes will inform deliberations of the Cabinet Lekgotla which will also be held this January, it will also inform the State of the Nation Address to be delivered by President Jacob Zuma during the opening of the Parliament in February this year as I earlier indicated.

The NEC Lekgotle will then be followed by our Gauteng PEC Lekgotle scheduled to take place from the 21st o 23rd January 2011.

Colleagues, I had the opportunity to host the families of the victims of the various historical Massacres and the Ex-combatants on the 01st of January this year. The event was well attended and organized. I take this opportunity to applaud the staff in my Office for the job well done.

As if that was not enough, yesterday we had one of the best attended 20th Anniversary of the Sebokeng Zone 7 Nangalembe Night Vigil Massacre. We had over 3 000 community members at the event planned for 1000 present, with you, MP's, MPL's and the MEC for Sports, Arts, Recreation & Culture, Comrade Lebohang Maile gracing the occasion.

Not to be outdone, present also were senior community leaders in attendance. This goes on to show that a lot can be achieved with hard work. Once again, staff in my office deserves the accolades.

I hope that in preparation of the 21st Anniversary, the Department of SRAC&H will work in tandem with my office and the Nangalembe Family with a view to exhume Chris Nangalembe's remains from Avalon to be reburied here in Sedibeng.

I want thank you all for ensuring that this commemorative event became a success. This is what I would like to see with all events and programmes going forward.

I take this opportunity once again to call for speeded up progress in the integration of the Communications Unit into my office. If the extent of publicity generated before and during the Nangalembe Anniversary is anything to go by, we have no reason to be begging for our good stories to be published by the media.

The need for maximum publicity cannot be overemphasized and I believe that the integration of Communications Unit will assist greatly.

In conclusion, with the powers vested in me, I present the following reports for your attention:

- Annual Report: 2009/2010 Financial Year
- First Quarterly Report: 2010/11

I thank you.