



**Address by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on  
the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Council held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January  
2011 in Sedibeng, Sedibeng Council Chamber**

---

Honourable Madam Speaker;

Esteemed Members of the Mayoral Committee;

The leaders of Sedibeng, our respectable Councillors;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Distinguished Guests

I welcome all of you once again to the 52nd seating of this august body representing the collective leadership of Sedibeng District Municipality. This is being the first such seating in the New Year. I wish you all the blessings of the New Season and may all our wishes come true.

Earlier today in the meeting of the Mayoral Committee, I had the opportunity to lead them through a very important report which will be made public soon as reported in the weekend newspapers.

The City Press over the weekend carried a report on service delivery over the 13 year period from 1996-2009. Leading the charge, the report says in bold letters “**Service Delivery failure a myth-Survey**. The **South African Institute of Race Relations** has the following statistics to show:

- The number of households living in brick houses has increased from 5.7million to 10.4 million, an 80% hike between 1996-2009
- The number of households using electricity increased by 120% over the same period
- At least 130% more households were using electricity to cook in 2009 than in 1996
- In the same period, the number of households with access to piped water rose by 71%

According to the institute deputy CEO, Frans Cronje, the research seriously challenges the “**refrain that is repeated week in and week out in South Africa that service delivery has failed**”

Over the same period, the number of households in South Africa increased from more than 9 million to 13.8 million, or by 52%. This figure above is significant if viewed in the light of the neglect brought about by the apartheid era backlogs. The development of our country in leaps and

bounds could not have been possible without the people centred agenda of the ruling party, the **ANC**.

I have deliberately chosen to lead with these findings this morning. My choice was informed by the manner in which we beat ourselves up, believing the lies and propaganda which is leveled against us that we have failed in the provision of service delivery.

Our record speaks volumes and can stand serious scrutiny as **Sedibeng District Municipality**.

We have provided more low cost housing in Sedibeng District than any other area in the entire country and we continue to do so. Had it not been of the challenge posed by the Sewer Works, which stifled our rapid growth, our housing provision would have been way beyond the rest to even think of challenging.

It is with pleasure that I look to the eminent resolution of the Sewer challenge in Sedibeng. The resolution of this matter will unleash our ability to provide services to our communities on a scale never before seen in this country.

We have grown the former townships beyond recognition. In 1984, Sharpeville as a whole had no more than 3 120 households, which was far less than Zone 13 in Sebokeng with 3 734 households. Tshepong has by and large more households today than Sharpeville was then.

Boipatong and Bophelong at the time had less than 3 500 households combined. At the moment, Muvhango has more than three times the number of households which Boipatong and Bophelong had at that time.

Our contribution as the Sedibeng District Municipality to the figures found by the survey must be very impressive indeed, yet we tend to fall victim to popular sentiment of lack of service delivery in the face of real evidence to the contrary.

We have almost singularly eradicated the bucket system in our District, the figure in Emfuleni Local Municipality stands at less than 7000 households which is receiving attention as we speak.

Access to flush or chemical lavatories nationally stood at 8.2 million in 2009 and 4.5 million in 1996, an improvement of 80.5%. It is in the light of the national figures, with Sedibeng District Municipality having almost a million citizens that our contribution must be viewed.

I am looking forward to our own report being developed before the end of March, which will show how we as Sedibeng District Municipality have done in pursuit of the 2006 Local Government Elections Manifesto.

I have no doubt that we have done exceedingly well. Our communities cannot be wrong. They have said and are continuing to say it: Sedibeng is changing and has changed for the better.

Sharpeville and Boipatong are virtually new towns, as is Evaton and Sebokeng, Ratanda has grown in quantum leaps into what will soon be a metropolis. The services which are provided in all our communities certainly validate the report in the **City Press** to the effect that indeed: Service Delivery failure a myth.

It is this vein that I invite all the MMC's and councillors here present to join me and the MEC Humphrey Mmemezi in the hand-over of houses in Tshepong Ward 21 on the 31<sup>st</sup> January next week.

I note with interest the new crack unit created by Police Commissioner Bheki Cele to investigate the murder of politicians in Mpumalanga as a run-off to 2011 Local Government Elections, I hope and know that this trend will not gain ground here in Sedibeng.

On a lighter note, I realize that Orlando Pirates have at last toppled Mamelodi Sundowns from the top of the league, with Kaizer Chiefs hoping to go to the top after their game with Bloemfontein Celtics tonight. For all Bucs fans, I am sure this came as a relief after trailing 2-0 going into half time only to win 3-2 in their game against Wits University.

By the same token, we thank the Proteas, our cricket team for winning the series for the Captain on his last stint on South African soil as the ODI captain before the World Cup. Lonwabo Tsotsobe continues to show that he can and will fill Makhaya Ntini's big shoes.

With powers vested in me, I take this opportunity to present for your attention the following:

- Adjustment Budget: 2010/11 Financial Year
- Human Rights Month: 2010/11 Financial Year
- Annual Report: 2009/10

I Thank You All