



**Keynote Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the 2011 Local Government Prayer, in Midvaal, Sedibeng on the Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

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Programme Director,  
Executive Mayors present;  
Council Speakers;  
Members of Mayoral Committees;  
Members of Mayoral Committee;  
Fellow Councillors;  
Various churches present;  
People of Sedibeng;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
Distinguished Guests;

I bring you greetings from the Sedibeng District Municipality, the community of Emfuleni Local Municipality, as well as Lesedi Local Municipality. These greetings are sent in the spirit in which Paul sent his letters to the Corinthians to encourage them to stay strong for the grace of God is with them.

I come here with the message of encouragement. This is the same message which was given to Joshua before he took the final steps in the journey to the Promised Land. The message is short and sweet, "You have travelled through from bondage in Egypt and you will soon arrive at the Promised Land"

It is in the light of the impending 2011 Local Government Elections, whilst all the other communities in the entire Gauteng Province in general and Sedibeng communities in particular, have tasted the fruits of freedom in South Africa which you have been denied.

The time has come for you to become part of the community of South Africa who have had sixteen years of freedom. The greetings from the various communities of Sedibeng are in that light. They are waiting for you here in Midvaal to come across to the land of the free.

The communities of Emfuleni and Lesedi are waiting with their fires burning and the pots on the boil for a welcoming feast the likes of which have never been seen. Their warm embrace of welcome is waiting across the threshold to a table fit for a king. Your counterparts have been making up stories about how beautiful it will be to be reunited again into the family of friends.

They all agree that they cannot afford to sit at the throne or have dinner at night while their own brother and sister are denied a chance to even sleep

under a roof. The communities of Emfuleni and Lesedi are provided with housing and communities are being built. Just this Monday on the 07<sup>th</sup> of February, together with the MEC of Local Government and Housing, Mr Humphrey Mmezi, we were handing out 108 houses which were completed in Tshepong Phase Two.

It is also pleasing to say that in December last year we handed out 219 houses in Tshepong Phase Two. I need to tell you a little bit about Tshepong. Five years ago, this area was still dealing with how many houses will be built. There were trenches all over.

They only had a few show houses in the area and there were no trees, nor the green lawns which I saw there on Monday. At the time, there was not even a decent gravel road let alone a tarred road.

Five years ago in Tshepong, electricity in the homes and for the streets was a pipe dream. It was even difficult to imagine that Tshepong will have the community cohesion which we saw on Monday. At the time they were all strangers which like ships in the ocean, passing each other in the night.

Five years later, we now have a fully integrated community in Tshepong. They know each other well to attend each other's birthdays and the funerals of their respective parents from as far away as the Free State and Limpopo.

Tshepong has become a melting pot of African cultures, a sign of the beautiful nation which South Africa is to the entire world.

It is we look at these advances we have made in the last five years we must jump in joy because five years ago we had Tshepong born. Today we have Tshepong Phase One and Phase Two is now a home to new arrivals into that community. Despite the debilitating world-wide recession, we have been able to continue unabated with the provision of housing here in Sedibeng.

I am telling you the story of Tshepong because it is possible to do the same here in Midvaal. I have heard the issues of the community of Mamello. This is the community which is denied access to housing because some people are refusing to release the land.

As matter of interest, Midvaal has more land available than any other local municipality here in Sedibeng. We can build two Sowetos, another Botshabelo and Kempton Park as well as Sandton here in Midvaal without feeling crowded. The question is why are we not doing it?

The Emfuleni Local Municipality together with Sedibeng District Municipality is committed to the provision of housing to our communities. Where we find land available, we are quick to do the necessary tests and provide the infrastructure. Ha re kgethe Nku ka Pere. Lesedi Local Municipality is also

very quick to act. We all know that our people want houses and want to be given the necessary respect. Our people are just as human as those people living in Meyerton and Gholfpark.

We will not rest until our communities are housed. We are looking forward to the communities in Mamello and Sicelo being housed. For us to be able to do that, we need to see all of you here present and those who were not able to come here to vote in your numbers.

We want you to register to vote. We want to see you come out to declare to the whole country and the world, "Midvaal will not be denied anymore, Enough is enough". You have the power, use it.

Let us all be reminded of the saying during the dark days of apartheid which goes thus: We are only oppressed to the extent to which we allow it. We have had enough, we want to join the community of the free, anything is better than this.

We cannot allow our houses to be repossessed and sold to agents because you owe R 70.00. We cannot allow ourselves to be denied water because somebody somewhere does not want us. We cannot have our community members evicted out of their dwellings during the heavy cold of winter.

It is with this in mind that I pray and hope that the 2011 Local Government Elections will usher in the much needed freedom to the community of Midvaal. We can hardly wait for you to join us on the throne here in Sedibeng.

In conclusion, pass the message to the young and the old, the fir and the fickle, the dark and the light, the short and the tall: Victory is certain, every vote counts and we will together make it count.

I Thank You