



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor,
Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Public
Participation Stakeholder engagement with Business and the
Labour Fraternity held at the Vereeniging City Hall, Sedibeng,
on the 18th March 2011.**

Programme Director

Our Business Community at large;

Our Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you greetings from the Sedibeng District Municipality. It is as we enter the month of March 2011, the month which defines who we are as **Sedibeng District Municipality**. The month in which 51 years ago, the community of Sharpeville stood up to say to the entire world: **Enough is enough, Africans in particular and South Africans in general can no longer stand the separation of brother from brother.**

This led to the massacre of our people which heralded the **Sharpeville Massacre**. This act of selflessness has bestowed on us as **Sedibeng**

District, the honour of being the **Cradle of Human Rights Struggles of South Africa** as well as the **Constitutional home of South Africa**.

The contributions made by our community to the liberation of **South Africa** and the sacrifices they have made bring pride to the community of **Sedibeng** in particular and the **South African** nation in general. It is not an error of judgment that the **21st March** is determined as the **Human Rights Day in South Africa**.

As we move to commemorate the **51st Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, Sedibeng District Municipality** once again looks forward to your support as we once again look to host the entire nation to spend time in your honour here in **Sedibeng**. As the gracious hosts, I know that we can expect your warm hearts, hands and embrace to make our guests welcome.

I do not intend to long but to provide the feedback to you as our important stakeholder as to what happened to your inputs you all made last year in October. Through the various IDP Public Participation process last year, we listened as you told us that which you wanted.

We heard and recorded everything you wanted to be done by your Municipality.

A lot of our communities still have to be convinced that these stakeholder engagements work. I am here today to provide an answer so that all of you present here today may provide independent proof. We as **Sedibeng District Municipality**, your willing servants, value your inputs. We are only as good as the quality of inputs we receive from you.

Last year in October, you our important stakeholder raised the issue of the Integrated Transport Plan which links to Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni. I can safely say that our Sedibeng Integrated Transport Plan has in it the said integration and find ample expression thereof.

You the business sector raised the issue of the establishment of the SMME for dressmaking, candle making and selling of sacrament and wine. I can inform that the Emfuleni Local Municipality will run an incubation programme for these issues.

An important matter was raised by you regarding the creation of a help desk in all Municipalities to raise the concerns of the SMME's. I can confirm that all the Multi-Purpose Centres in the District and our libraries can be accessed to address this matter. As a matter of fact, I know that they have been used extensively by the young and aspirant entrepreneurs.

We have in our plans, a proposed establishment of a One-Stop Shop for SMME's in Houtkop and other local Municipalities which will be set up soon. The matter of lack of Informal trade strategy in Sedibeng has been addressed through the approval by Council. We are looking forward to the implementation thereof by the Local Municipalities.

Lastly, you asked for a clear and proper consultation and information to the broader community during the development of the IDP. I can assure you that the IDP office and the Speaker's Office have developed a comprehensive Public Participation Program to ensure maximum input from all relevant stakeholders when developing this current IDP.

Suffice it to mention that together with the many other issues you raised last year, on the 03rd and 04th of February last week, a Strategic session was held in Sedibeng to develop plans to deal with these matters.

All the outstanding matters will receive our attention and will find expression in our planning.

In conclusion, I wish to inform you that this current IDP for 2011/2012 is a bridging IDP. This is unlike the other five year IDP's, is only for the next financial year. This is made so with a view to allow the new political leadership which will be elected in May, the space to develop their own priorities with you.

It is my hope and wish that you will be there to walk the long road with the Council which will be elected then. I have no doubt in my mind that you have indeed registered to vote and I know for sure that you are going to vote. Your presence here today is greatly appreciated.

I Thank You.