



**Speaking Notes by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng  
on the occasion of the Sedibeng SDBIP Workshop held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
June, 2011 at the Riviera On Vaal Hotel**

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Honourable Members of the Sedibeng District Municipality' Mayoral Committee, the Speaker and the Chief Whip, welcome once again to what will set the tone for the next twelve months of our political term.

We meet today after very successful commemoration of the Boipatong Massacre following on the heels of highly successful Inaugural Address. If the attendance at these events is anything to go by, it is clear that our communities are right behind us and are urging us to deliver. We will not fail to deliver on their mandate.

We may have noticed that in the past events such as the SoDa and the Inaugural Address, we are seeing quiet a sizable number of white community members taking active part. This needs to be encouraged and embraced. It is as we go about building better communities together that we hope to see more of them coming through.

In this vein, I hope that we will see more of them going forward. It is with this in mind that we will be observing the signing of the Vereeniging Treaty in May next year to mark its 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

This will ensure that we do not deal with our collective heritage selectively to the exclusion of components of our community here in Sedibeng. This will ensure that the necessary building blocks for a non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic South Africa as enshrined in the Freedom Charter finds ample expression.

We dare not fail them. The foundation which has been set for us is firm. It calls on us to put our shoulders to the wheel, mix our bricks and mortar to build a legacy the people of Sedibeng will be very proud of.

In doing so, they will provide us with the necessary support and take ownership of everything we do, black and white as equals in pursuit of their common heritage, in a united nation. We look forward to another high profile Nelson Mandela Day, to the level and above the standard set by the SoDa and the Inaugural Address.

**Dear Colleagues,** you will find in your workshop packages the following documents which I felt will assist us going forward:

- The 2011 State of the District Address

- The ANC 2011 Elections Manifesto
- The Regional Manifesto, hereinafter referred to as the Mayoral Vision
- The Inaugural Address

There is a common thread in all these documents, in the main, they pick up from what was done in the last five years, what the ANC, our glorious movement seeks to see happening. They provide a line of march for us here in Sedibeng and finally they paint a picture of what Sedibeng will look like when we arrive at our finishing point five years from now, in 2016 and 2025.

It is in view of disparities in the service delivery to our communities that we can no longer afford to stand by and watch this issue going on. To respond to this challenge, we are called upon to Consolidate Governance.

The thrust toward Consolidating Governance will be our clarion call from today until such time that all of us inclusive of our constituent Local Municipalities are singing from the same hymn book, the same verse and in tune with one another.

To do otherwise in the face of ever dwindling resources will be suicidal. Our communities will be better served by pooling of resources, both human and financial towards improved and focused service delivery.

In pursuit of this ideal, which enjoys the support of the Province, we have to pull out all the stops, work throughout the night to deliver on a vehicle which offers salvation to the entire people of Sedibeng.

This will be driven forward by the Collective Dream we all subscribe to. Our communities are looking to us with great expectations.

Let me clarify with sharpness, we are not consolidating governance at the Sedibeng District level, we are all collectively elevating key decision making to a structure collectively agreed upon and above all of us. For now we are calling that structure the Sedibeng Regional Authority or SRA.

This will be made viable only when all of us here present as the Cabinet of Sedibeng District Municipality are able to internalize this vision, from the MMC's, the MM, the ED's and all our managers. It will become reality when we begin to build it into programs and projects we lead in our various departments.

The transition will be made smooth if we begin to engage our counterparts in all local municipalities in departments we lead. We will be undertaking a trip together as the PMT to Umtata to study how they did it.

I cannot see why even at an informal level, why our MMC for Transport and Infrastructure here in Sedibeng cannot venture out with the MMC of Transport and Infrastructure in Emfuleni Local Municipality just to touch base to find out how things are working out. This will serve to smooth out things when challenges present themselves.

There is no reason why our MMC for Finance cannot assist our constituent Local Municipalities to improve their Audit Reports.

To make it crystal clear, I look forward to all of you as MMC's and Executive Directors here present, engaging your counterparts in our constituent local municipalities in strategic programs and projects.

I hope that we will be developing working IGR communities so that we are seen to be operating as one. The need to accelerate a green economy cannot be left to us as Sedibeng only as our local municipalities must be hands on.

The District and all its locals are being asked to make submissions towards what we believe are our key programs - that is projects and services to be coordinated at the level of the SRA.

The process will also involve consolidating and ring-fencing some services into business units to increase their efficiency and cost effectiveness. We

commend the call by the administration to source funding where funding is not available.

The SRA gives us no excuse not to deliver and hide behind others, we have no reason to slacken the pace of service delivery in Sedibeng. No hurdle will be high enough for us to jump, where there is no way, we will make one as Chairman Mao Tse Tung said.

The responsibility for consolidating governance does not lie in a single department; won't be allocated to a single political office bearer; won't be driven by a single official; instead, every single Councilor and every single official in the Sedibeng District Municipality, and in each of its Local Municipalities, will carry the responsibility of making this model of collective governance to work.

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to provoke discussion in the Emfuleni Mayoral Lekgotla. My intentions were very clear, to ensure that we begin to work in tandem for the realization of our collective dream in Consolidating Governance. The need to have synergy with our counterparts is upon us.

We cannot afford to operate in silos any longer. Your SDBIP's will be a toil in futility if they do not speak to the SDBIP,s of our constituent Local Municipalities, the Manifesto of the ruling party as well as key priority areas of both the national and the provincial governments.

Following on the above, I look forward to the Mayoral Committee sponsoring a resolution on adopting the Manifesto of the Ruling Party as our clarion call for this term of office. This will ensure that we operate within the mandate given by our communities.

It is with the above in mind that I hope that necessary alignment of our IDP going forward will reflect our Collective Dream. While it may prove to be a challenge now, we have a one year bridging IDP. The fact that we will be developing a four year IDP later this year gives us ample time to align all our IDP's in partnership with our Local Municipalities to give expression to this vision.

This year gives an opportunity to build the necessary synergy towards alignment of the IDP's for next year. This is only possible when we act as equal partners in the interest of all.

The provision of the documents in your workshop package, is aimed at ensuring that we are all abreast and are able to dovetail all our efforts towards a common vision, that we are all marching to the same beat of the drum.

I am convinced that as we go about in tackling the SBIP's developed to carry us forward, we will tease out and identify those projects which will serve to accelerate the vision in the documents provided. The program to

rejuvenate both Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark must enjoy our collective effort in giving expression to our Collective Dream..

One is hereby reminded of the need to build better communities, the need to create jobs, the need to provide services to our communities, the call to move towards green energy in the light of Climate Change, a topic which will be thrashed out by the entire world this year in Durban.

It is in shock that I read in the Vaal Vision that we are going to create 5 million jobs. We do not even have 5 million residents in the entire Sedibeng. In truth, I said that we have to make our contribution in creating jobs to make our mark on the target set out by the Honourable President Jacob Zuma. I hope this will be corrected to avoid creating unnecessary expectations on us.

Speaking of expectations, I notice with interest the failure by the DA run Cape Town Municipality to spend R 1.8b despite screaming from the roof tops that they are the best Municipality in the country. I hope the press will be able to provide the necessary coverage to unravel issues.

It is as we prepare to interrogate the various key documents before us, that I hope that by the end of the time we shall have spent here, we will be able to tease out from the SDBIP's, projects that will form the basis for the first 100 Days in Office programme. The time for ceremonial events is over. We are

expected to deliver on the mandates given by our communities. If there was indeed a honeymoon period, we must consider it over.

In my one-on-one session with all of you as the Members of the Mayoral Committee, you assured me that you all are ready to hit the ground running and I believe that the time has come to deliver on that assurance.

I have instructed my Office to set up schedules with you to look at monthly progress reports, to monitor and evaluate progress made by all MMC's and the MM. I take this time to wish fruitful deliberations in pursuit of **“Building better communities together”**

In conclusion, it is with sadness that we were informed of the passing of the ANC stalwart, and struggle veteran, the former Minister of Education and former Minister of Water Affairs, Comrade Kadar Asmal. Our movement is losing some of its luminaries and the challenge is placed squarely on us to take up the challenge to lead this country with wisdom. Our condolences go out to his family at this time of sorrow.

I Thank You