



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Sedibeng Council Sitting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Mayor's Parlour, Vereeniging.**

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Madam Speaker: Cllr. Kedibone Mogotsi;

Members of the Mayoral Committee;

Fellow Councillors;

Officials;

People of Sedibeng

**Comrade Speaker**, our Council Sitting today comes few days after a very successful hosting of the historic 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, which unlike the one held last year was without the tensions from our communities. You will recall that this year, our Human Rights Month is observed under the theme: ***“Working Together To Protect Human Dignity For All”***.

**Colleagues,** this is our second last Council sitting in the current political term of our office and we must work together to ensure that we close it with a high note. The high note I am referring to here is the message of hope that we must continue to present to our communities.

We pride ourselves with the progress made with regard to the commitment which we made this time last year and in our term. This year's Commemoration was marked by reporting back to our communities on progress made. Looking at what was achieved through the *100 Days of Service Delivery programme*, I have no doubt that if we were to have another 200 days, we could certainly move a few mountains.

The Human Rights Day this year we observed with significant activities taking place as part of progress made in preserving our heritage and the dignity of our fallen heroines and heroes. We unveiled the plaque at the cemetery officially opening memorial / graveside of our fallen heroines and heroes and later of the Sharpeville Memorial and Exhibition Centre declaring it a Provincial Heritage Site by the Gauteng Premier.

We however, were disappointed by the disruption caused by some participants who were later reported to have really made it impossible for the people of Sedibeng and Gauteng to enjoy the Human Rights Day programme to its entirety at the Cricket Pitch. Some of them had earlier

stormed into the cricket pitch at the George Thabe Stadium, refusing to be searched by designated security personnel.

We condemn with the strongest terms the conduct of the mob at the Human Rights Day celebrations in Sharpeville on this historic day which is supposed to be observed with dignity and respect.

I take this moment and echo the call already made by the Gauteng MEC for Sports, Arts, Recreation & Culture, Honourable Lebogang Maile and call on the leadership of the PAC to distance itself from, and strongly condemn such conduct. This conduct goes against some of the PAC slogans such as "***High morale and high discipline***".

**Colleagues**, this Council sitting today is geared towards the 2011/12 IDP. I notice with interest how we had very few stakeholders attending the various public participation review sessions. This is something that I have since raised with the Mayoral Committee and would like us to collectively ensure that we address this situation by ensuring that when the notices for these engagements processes are issued, all of us have a responsibility of mobilizing for them.

I must however, once again applaud the efforts which went into the Breakfast Meeting. Much more could have been done save for the fact

that it did not turn out to be a disaster. I hope we will double our efforts going forward.

The issues which we have to grapple with, is to ensure that the 2011/12 IDP seals the fate of our detractors. This is only possible if this IDP was to provide answers to those issues which are close to the hearts of our communities.

For the sake of our communities, this IDP must in the outset, align itself with the national priorities as outlined by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Jacob Zuma, namely the creation of sustainable jobs here in Sedibeng. This will assist in setting the tone for the next five year IDP to be developed after this one.

**Comrade Speaker,** I must commend all of you for a job well done during the challenging times we went through. Your support and commitment to the course is there for all to see. The communities we serve are going around with a smile on their faces and a spring in their step as they look at the developments in the areas they live in.

It is very encouraging to note that all this happened in spite of the debilitating recession which had an impact in the manner of the provision of services in the entire country.

We hit the ground running and emerged victorious, with a few scratches and bruises, yet emerged victorious. I could not have wished for a better team. If I was to be thrown into battle in the middle of the night, with the odds stacked against me, I would not bat an eyelid in the knowledge that I have, had and always can count on your support.

I take this opportunity once again thank you for the great support you have always given me.

We will be having our State of the District Address 2011 on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011. We will this time be having our SoDA 2011 been viewed live by our communities throughout the District through satellite screens. I am told that preparations in this regard are at an advanced stage and we will be receiving a detailed report in this regard together with that of the buildup programmes in due course.

**In conclusion,** I would like to take this moment to inform the Council of the changes made in the administration in an attempt to ensure efficiency in our quest for seamless service delivery commitments.

The Community Services Cluster has been split into two.

- Community Safety **and** SRAC & H which will include the departments of SRAC & H **and** Community Safety with its Executive Director being Ms M Mazibuko; and
- Social Development which will include the departments of Health, EMS, Disaster Management **and** HIV & AIDS with its Executive Director being Adv M Petlane

The Corporate Services will be led by the Acting Executive Director: Ms M Kgaole-Phiri. Staff members have been advised to adjust their reporting lines accordingly.

I wish to thank the support we received from all and sundry during the hosting of a very successful Premier's Coordinating Forum and all other previous programmes in our District, more especially the Human Rights Month Programmes. It is with powers vested in me, I take this opportunity to present the Draft IDP for your consideration.

**Find herewith other reports for your consideration:**

- Draft Operating and Capital Budget: 2011/12 to 2013/2014 Financial Year
- Ring-fencing Sedibeng District Municipality's Funding and reserves

**I thank You All**