



Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality, Executive Mayor Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Farewell Function of Cllr Busisiswe Modisakeng, the Executive Mayor of Lesedi Local Municipality held at the Heidelberg own Hall, on Friday, 13th May, 2011 in Sedibeng.

Programme Director: Cllr. Simon Moremi;
Executive Mayor of Lesedi Local Municipality: Cllr. Busi Modisakeng;
The ANC Sedibeng Regional Secretary: Cde. Bheki Ngobese;
Members of Mayoral Committees present;
Councillors present;
All Political Parties Present
Reverend TS Makgale;
Fellow Farewell Wishers

With a great sense of loss, we look at the time we all had under the sterling leadership of Cllr. Busi Modisakeng. Funny enough we took for granted the time we had with her as the Executive Mayor of Lesedi Local Municipality. Little did we realize how time flew by day in day out as we grappled with the business of providing services to the communities they so much deserved.

This sadness is however replaced by the joy when we look back to what we have achieved under her leadership. Cllr. Modisakeng, take a bow and stand tall, your achievements are there for all to see.

You ran the race and victory is all yours. Ask the community of Lesedi to list or table what has been done during your long service to this community and the collective community of Sedibeng.

Rathanda township was just another run of the mill township on the fringes of beyond. When you started out, one could drive through all the dusty streets of Ratanda within a period of 30 minutes. Today, one would need a day and a half to traverse the many extensions and tarred roads which criss cross what is today a bustling township which has served to restore the human dignity of all who call Ratanda home.

The youth of Lesedi were not left behind during your watch. There are community halls and the multi-purpose sport center. The youth are kept busy and off the streets and influences which are foreign. During your illustrious career and period, Lesedi is the proud home of the Olympian Long Jump, Kgotso Mokoena.

Through his influence, we saw an increase of young boys from the township taking long jump as a glamour sport.

Your sterling leadership has seen stability being the order of the day throughout your term of office. You provided a framework for peace and development for the provision of services to our communities.

It is through this guidance, working in tandem with the councilors and your Mayoral Committee you went about your work with great distinction which believed the great work you were doing.

It is therefore not surprising that you remain the longest serving Executive Mayor in the Gauteng Province and the entire country. You have inspired a lot of us. Your ability to ride the storm gives us great courage.

Your support to the programmes which were developed from Sedibeng District Municipality made our lives much easier. Your commitment to the needs of the community leaves a great legacy for those who will be inducted after the 2011 Local Government Elections. Your big shoes will indeed be difficult to fill.

The confidence of the community of Lesedi was not misplaced, the confidence the ruling party, our Glorious Movement, the ANC was confirmed over and over again, elections after elections as they called on you to lead Lesedi into the Promised Land.

In your own way, you went about it with your head held high, with calm and clarity of purpose which disproved the challenges which faced the community which was crying for leadership. You did all this without complaint or missing a step. You are a great inspiration to all of us who have had the pleasure of working with you.

I know that I speak for all of us here today and the many thousands of the happy community members of Lesedi who take great pride in the beautiful home Lesedi has become, a place they can raise their children with pride. It is my belief and hope that you will not be lost to us.

I know that your achievements will propel you to greater heights in your future projects. I look forward to your deployment in one capacity or other in the service of our communities. It will be a sad day indeed if we were to be denied your guidance and support as you go on to other ventures.

In conclusion, we look in pride of your achievements. We hope that the incoming leadership follows in your step to escalate the great work which you started. The community of Lesedi had a mother, a sister, a nurse and a mentor in you. We had a remarkable support system.

We will all be looking with great interest and anticipation to your next deployment so that we all can tap into your wealth of wisdom. Farewell Comrade, Counselor, Executive Mayor, Councillor Busi Modisakeng.

Like David to his Goliath, we are defined by our victories. Like Samson to his Philistines, we look back to the ruins of the challenges which were thrown at us.

Our communities as our witnesses, the great changes over the beautiful face of Lesedi as testimony to the work you executed, we stand in awe of what Lesedi Local Municipality as a collective was able to accomplish.

I Thank You.