



Acceptance Address by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the First Council Seating held at the Mayoral Parlor on the 26th May, 2011 in Sedibeng

Madame Speaker: Cllr. Busisiswe Modisakeng;
Executive Mayor: Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr. Gretta Hlongwane;
Executive Mayor: Lesedi Local Municipality, Cllr. Lerato Maloka;
Executive Mayor: Midvaal Local Municipality, Cllr. Timoty Nast;
Fellow Councillors;
Distinguished Guests;
Setjhaba Sa Sedibeng;
Members of the Media here present

It is not often that one is thrust into the thick of things immediately after a protracted battle. For indeed the recent successful completion of the 2011 Local Government Election was such a battle. The war was fought on just about every front imaginable.

The battle raged from the lampposts, street corners, in the churches, the synagogues and the mosques. It raged in the kitchens, the bars and the garages. It was an all out war, fought by adversaries sitting together as one today. It was fought fairly and within the rules.

We sit here today as a reflection of the will of the people of Sedibeng. As the day dawned on the 18th of May, the people of Sedibeng, imbued with a wish to give a fitting tribute to the late veteran Walter Sisulu, voted in great number for the ANC as a gesture to the Sisulu family that his birthday is not forgotten.

It is as we sit here today that one was hoping that this moment will be delayed by at least another week so that we all should gather our wits. Be that as it may, our communities, the people of Sedibeng cannot be denied, they want the services provided yesterday and they deserve to be given those services. To that end, our wish to have this day delayed for another week counts for nothing for indeed:

The People have spoken,

Ours is not to ask the reason why, ours is but to do and die

Into the valley of Service delivery to our people

Rides the Sedibeng District Municipality.

It is with the above as the rallying call, the demands of our communities as our goals, their wish our commands, that the choice made by this esteemed Council, the leadership of Sedibeng, in different shades and hue, women and men of substance entrusted by the multitudes, must be considered.

The decision this Council constituted thus today, was not taken lightly, must not be taken lightly. It is with the onerous task ahead that I, Mahole Simon Mofokeng, being of sound mind and body, under no duress or influence, accept your decision for being nominated and voted to take the responsibility of being the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality.

My father and mother, toiling as they did in my formative years, could not in their wildest imagination have thought that today I would be entrusted with leading over a million people, black and white, who constituted the citizens of Sedibeng.

I take this opportunity first to thank the ANC and its alliance partners in endorsing my appointment and nomination. I hope that I will be equal to the task. Secondly I would like to thank my family, for their considerate agreement to have me assume this onerous task of leading Sedibeng District Municipality once again.

The responsibility you thrust upon me as your leader was not taken lightly, the road ahead of us is winding and thorny. Together with your support and your efforts, we will build better communities.

We will straighten and flatten the road and we will build bridges for our communities to cross troubled waters.

I take this responsibility, convinced of the unwavering support provided to me by my team and colleagues, who stood by me in the trenches in the previous term. They have proven to be great task masters indeed.

The previous Council, under the then Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng, created a firm foundation and delivered on its mandate. It did more for the communities of Sedibeng. They did it faster, they did it with pride and they left an indelible mark in the hearts and minds of the people of Sedibeng.

We delivered the 100 Days Service Delivery Programme together with the people of Sedibeng. We delivered the 50th Anniversary of the Commemoration of the Sharpeville Massacre and we restored pride to Sedibeng by finding the final resting place of Chris Nangalembe on the 20th Anniversary of the Sebokeng Nangalembe Massacre.

Our efforts, in bringing to fruition the first generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy will stand testimony as we achieve the great things which are expected from us.

Under my watch, as the new Executive Mayor of Sedibeng, taking full cognizance of the great work and firm foundation laid by some of the great leaders before me, together with your unwavering support and guidance,

I look forward to developing the second generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy.

Together with you, a team which is taking form today, I look forward to the day, three years from now, when our communities will be embracing each other across the picket fences as brothers and sisters without regard to race, social standing and the balance in their bank accounts.

With powers vested in me, esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to announce the following Councillors as Members of the Mayoral Committee:

1. Cllr. Johny Tsotetsi, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Finance;
2. Cllr. Busisiwe Mncube, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Corporate Services;
3. Cllr. Zaza Raikane, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Sport, Recreation, Arts, Culture, Heritage and Public Safety;
4. Cllr. Maipato Tsokolibane, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Local Economic Development, Tourism and Planning;
5. Cllr. Yusuf Mahomed, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Environment and Clean Energy;
6. Cllr. Fetty Mnguni, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Health and Social Development;

7. Cllr. Simon Maphalla, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Transport Infrastructure; and,
8. Cllr. Assistance Mshudulu, as a Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Human Settlement.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you all on your appointments. The Mayoral Committee which came before you have set up very high standards in their quest for service delivery. On behalf of this Council, I wish to thank the previous Members of the Mayoral Committee, the Speaker and Chief Whip of Council and their families for the great legacy they have left for us.

I have no doubt that you will fill their shoes and set standards much higher in view of the firm foundation which they laid - with you on my side, a winning team based on a firm foundation and footing.

I look forward to a new Sedibeng Metropolitan Council in 2014. A Metro Council or a Category "B" Municipality unlike any other before, with links traversing deep into the provinces which are our neighbours whilst at the same time being the destination of choice for new investments. In three years time, together with you,

I look forward to a migration of jobs into the Region, with all the best brains in the country and Gauteng province clamoring for attention and relocating into Sedibeng.

The will of our communities will only be realized when the open spaces which dots our Region are filled with companies offering job opportunities.

When housing developments are providing decent human settlements and the Vaal River, which is accessible to all people in Sedibeng, as well as Sedibeng Historical Precincts are the destinations of choice for millions of weary travelers, then and only then shall the wishes of our communities be met.

The fact that this historic sitting happens a day after the 48th Anniversary of the Africa Liberation Day is not lost on me. That we as South Africa, the last country to find its liberation on the continent, has just gone through a peaceful election is quite remarkable. This goes on to show that we have succeeded in deepening democracy in our country.

We also note with interest that Ethiopia, the only African country which was never under colonial rule is currently enjoying a marked stability and peace.

I wish to thank the opposition parties for their efforts in the elections. In spite of all the antagonistic postures we assumed during the canvassing, I know that we are today united as one, the Sedibeng District Municipality, joined together in our quest to serve the people of Sedibeng.

We will and are committed to provide services to the entire communities of Sedibeng, including to all those who neither voted the ruling party, or took the pain to vote or those who may be perceived to have voted for parties not represented in the Council today.

In conclusion, I accept your nomination and resolution to become the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality. A beautiful place we all call home. Your confidence and trust in me is not lost on me. Together with you we carry the hopes and aspirations of millions of people made proud by the achievements of the previous Council.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to Sedibeng District Council which will instill hope and a sense of belonging to these millions. Let their mandate rest heavily on our conscience. I know that we will deliver a series of 100 Days Service Delivery Programme in the execution of our Constitutional mandate. Working together as a Team – we will deliver Sedibeng and its people to become an integral part of a Competitive Global City Region. Our path moving forward is clear and wide open for all of us to position and galvanise our resources toward consolidating governance in the entire Region for the benefit of all the people of Sedibeng irrespective of their political persuasions, race and creed.

We are ready and willing to serve.

I Thank You.