

The Programme Director, and renowned TV personality, Mr. Bongani Bingwa.

Please allow me to recognise:

Members of the newly-elected Council of the Sedibeng District Municipality,
and the Members of the Sedibeng Mayoral Committee.

I also recognise and welcome:

The Executive Mayor of the Emfuleni Local Municipality, Cllr. Greta Hlongwane;
The Executive Mayor of the Midvaal Local Municipality, Cllr. Tomothy Nast, and;
The Executive Mayor of the Lesedi Local Municipality, Cllr. Lerato Maloka.

My Lovely wife, three daughters and son;

My mother, father, the in-laws and the relatives; My Special Guest, Rakgadi Modiehi

On an occasion when I am once again honoured with the responsibility to lead a municipality in government, I cannot fail to recognise the African National Congress, who has, over the course of so many years now, shown faith in me to assume leadership. I therefore recognise the Regional Secretary of the ANC in this region, my leader and Comrade, Mr Bheki Ngobese.

I also acknowledge members of our Administration who are here today.

Honoured Guests;

Representatives from the media;

The people of Sedibeng;

Ladies & Gentlemen.

This event here at the Vereeniging City Hall is being broadcast live to four venues around Sedibeng and I must therefore welcome our guests at these satellite venues.

- Allow me welcome the audience in Ratanda once again as they join us under the directorship of Cllr. Lindy Batshege.
- Allow me to welcome the audience in Sicelo at the Meyerton Community Centre who are being coordinated by Cllr. Prace Boland.

- Allow me to welcome the audience in Bophelong with their Programme Director there, Cllr. Mabuti Bikitsha.
- Allow me to welcome the audience in Mphatlalatsane Hall in Sebokeng with their Programme Director there, Bennet Jantjies.

We are also joined by an audience of viewers watching the broadcast on DSTV Channel 901 and I want to welcome them as well, to this live broadcast.

I have based my address to you today on the subject of **DREAMS**. It was T. E. Lawrence who said:

“All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act on their dreams with open eyes, to make them possible.”

Programme Director, fellow councillors, ladies and gentlemen, today I hope to gather a harvest of men and women who are, for the next five years, going to be dreamers in the day, with their eyes wide-open. Yet, it is not about the individual dream that I will speak of today, but instead, it is about the idea of a **COLLECTIVE DREAM**.

Whereas each and every one of us harbours within us an individual dreams, dreams which are often about achievements and successes. They are about what we want and desire for ourselves. It is however, through an appreciation of our inter-dependence on each other, that the idea of a **COLLECTIVE DREAM** is born.

When we realise how life is inter-connected and how our efforts to better the lives of others, comes around to better our own, then the idea of a **COLLECTIVE DREAM** becomes much clearer. I ask you all today, what is our **COLLECTIVE DREAM**?

How did we come to be filled with the **COLLECTIVE DREAM** we hold so dear today?

If one thinks about it deeply, you realise that many strands come together to weave this dream.

As a nation we arrived at 1994, divided by a bitter and unjust past. But the day Madiba became our first democratically-elected President, all of us were inspired to dream of a united, non-sexists, non-racial and democratic South Africa. With our rich diversity, all of us, black and white, rich and poor, young and old, were ready to build our dream on the vision of Chief Albert Luthuli, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Yusuf Dadoo, Joe Slovo, Charlotte Maxeke, Ruth First, Saul Tsotetsi, Livy Mbatha, Chris Namgalembe, Esther Mazibuko, Alinah Rantsolase and so many others who conceived and toiled away to deliver us our freedom.

We are meeting today, three days after the funeral of the late stalwart, Mother of the Nation, Mme Albertinah Sisulu, who will now be able to report to the late Ntate Walter Sisulu - what a birthday present he had from the community of Sedibeng, who voted for the ANC on that day, his birth day May 18. In her honour, we will ensure that the Albertinah Sisulu Clinic here in Zone 11 Sebokeng, will enjoy a much needed facelift, together with other buildings and centres named after our heroes and heroines here in Sedibeng.

We also remember Arthur Goldreich, an anti-apartheid activist who provided secret refuge to ANC members at his farm in Rivonia, who passed away last month, at the age of 82

Today, we still cherish the vision of our inspired leaders. Their dream continues to live in our hearts.

Since 1994, our dream of the future Nation, lay deeply rooted in the noble principles of the African National Congress. Those founding principles were enshrined in the Freedom Charter and given life in our Constitution, a Constitution signed into law in Sharpeville, which is just few kilometres from here. Our dream therefore is embedded in the wishes of our people.

We have, through so many engagements over the years listened to our people; from our stakeholder engagement meetings, Izimbizo and other community outreach programs and in our socialising and in our policy deliberations.

We know the hopes, fears, frustrations, aspirations and wishes of our people. They all underpin our dreams, which are driven by what we strive for, and what I will present as I spell out our plans for the term of the political Office ahead of us.

Before we even dare to give final form to our dreams, let us not forget the dreams of our children – the youngest members of our society, in everything we do. They may be too young to speak, or too small to shout, but every child in Sedibeng deserves to be given a chance to:

- live a life of safety,
- enjoy domestic security,
- have access to education,
- be granted work opportunity,
- pursue happiness, and
- live a fulfilled life here in Sedibeng.

We must embrace the dream of our children with all our strength. In 2 days time we will be commemorating the events of June 16th, 1976. Let us pay tribute to the youth of our country who have sacrificed so much; who have suffered so harshly: who were so cruelly marginalised and who fought so valiantly for equality and justice, to give momentum to the vision of freedom and democracy we so richly deserved. In honour of the 1976 generation of the youth, the vibrant ANC Youth League will be holding its Elective National Conference on June 16 this year. We wish them a successful conference and deliberations.

On the 17th June, a day after the Youth Day Commemoration, we will be holding the 19th Anniversary of the Boipatong Massacre, which led to the setting of the date for the first democratic elections in our country. I take this opportunity to invite all of you to join us as we give a befitting tribute to our heroes and heroines here in Sedibeng. The event will be held at the Boipatong Stadium.

[SODA 2011]

I had the privilege to address the people of Sedibeng on the 20 April, this year, when as the former Executive Mayor of Sedibeng, I presented our State of the District Address to a considerable audience.

It is by the mandate from the people of Sedibeng, and by the deployment of the African National Congress, that the former Executive Mayor of Sedibeng who delivered the 2011 State of the District Address, and the Executive Mayor who is now delivering this Inaugural Address both share the same name, Mahole Simon Mofokeng. In fact, I think they know each other quite well.

In that address, I gave a comprehensive account of what was achieved in the previous term of office. I also took the opportunity to tease out some elements of our future plans.

Today, I will expand on these ideas even further. Since that SoDA, much has happened. The people of South Africa went to the polls to renew the mandate of political representatives.

Here in Sedibeng, our elections were hotly contested, but free and fair, with no incident of foulplay, a tribute to our maturing democracy.

The electorate has once again mandated the African National Congress to lead the Sedibeng District Municipality and two of its Local Municipalities – Emfuleni and Lesedi Local Municipalities.

We take this opportunity to thank all parties for contesting the political terrain. We congratulate them for the support they have garnered, and we invite and look forward to working with all of them in our **COLLECTIVE DREAM**.

The ANC Manifesto for this past elections, the one that has been endorsed by the people of Sedibeng, said quite frankly and boldly:

“ Working together we have achieved much – but there is more to be done.”

Today, I want to spell out, at times at a high conceptual level, and at times in specific details, what more has to be done.

At this point, let us remind ourselves of the **COLLECTIVE DREAM** of the electorate. It was articulated in the slogan *“Together We Can Build Better Communities”*. That **COLLECTIVE DREAM** is spelt out in the Manifesto of the ruling party and was supported on the basis of the following:

- Building local economies to create more employment and sustainable livelihoods.
- Improving local public services and broadening access to them.
- Building more united, non-racial, integrated and safer communities.
- Promoting more active community participation in local government.
- More effective, accountable and clean local government, working together with provincial and national government.

[MAYORAL COMMITTEE]

As the newly elected Executive Mayor, the task falls upon me to deliver this inaugural address on behalf of the collective, comprising of all political parties represented in our Council, under the leadership of the ANC. Earlier in our programme you were introduced to the full Council of our 48 public representatives on whose behalf I deliver this address.

It is that political body of elected public office bearers that I represent in this address. Let me also acknowledge Members of my Mayoral Committee - MMCs. These are the foot-soldiers who will champion all of the day-to-day work that needs to be done to achieve our dream.

It was Mia Hamm who said:

“I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion.”

This is how I see myself as a part of the Mayoral Committee and this is how I aim to make it succeed as a collective.

[CONSOLIDATING GOVERNANCE]

One of the over-riding lessons that the past years of governance has taught us, is that when resources are scarce and precious, when there is much to achieve with far too few tools, when scattered rain drops don't make a wheat field flourish, it makes good sense to consolidate. A new working ethos has already been introduced between the Sedibeng District and its local Municipalities.

I flagged the term “Consolidating Governance in Sedibeng” in my 20 April SoDA address, and today, as I promised, I will spell out how this new and unique system of governance will function.

In spelling out our plans for Consolidating Governance, let me begin at an important point of departure: That of the future plans for the Province of Gauteng.

Under the leadership of our Provincial Government over the last few years the vision for a Gauteng Global City Region has started to unfold.

In appreciating the concept of a Global City Region it is important to note that Gauteng is geographically small (that is, 1.4% of the total land area of the country), economically it is a giant (it contributes 33% to the national economy), it is highly urbanised (with a population of over 11 million)

Gauteng contributes a staggering 10% to the GDP of the entire African continent. International trends indicate that all over the world large urban concentrations are combining their resources, their planning, their governance and their economies to improve global competitiveness, to create jobs and manage urbanisation challenges.

In keeping with these trends, the idea of a Gauteng global City Region was born. The steps outlined for the move towards a global city region was to reconfigure Gauteng to be Province of only Metropolitan Councils. What then are we as the people of Sedibeng saying about our place in a Gauteng of Metro’s only?

In answering that question, we have been overly cautious and overly territorial in providing a response. We have arrived at that moment in our history, that if we fail to provide a response, a response will be imposed upon us. It may be one that does not best suit our own long term ambitions and one that does not do justice to our historical past.

We can now report that we have already started with a vigorous engagement with the Gauteng Provincial Government regarding our plans and vision towards a Metro.

Engagement with experts in the field, and those who have actually seen the transition to Metros in their own areas, has provided us with some valuable principles to underpin our strategy.

The idea of an attempt to jump from our current status of a District Municipality to a Metro in one single leap is highly risky and a little unrealistic. We cannot scale a divide that is too wide and in which failure and frustration is the most likely outcome.

Instead, we are embracing the idea of a 'Stepping Stone' approach in which we are targeting Single City status by 2016 and Metro status by 2025. This is an incremental approach, it has lower risk, has a more likely chance of success and is realistic and attainable.

However, to achieve even our first step we have to convince the powers that be, such as National and Provincial Government, the Demarcation Board, and most importantly, the people of Sedibeng that we are ready to work together as a District and three locals. That we are visionary and forward looking as we voluntarily agree to Consolidate Governance to a decision making structure above all of us – there will be no big brother, small brother approach.

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.

The District and all its locals are being asked to make submissions towards what we believe are our key programmes - that is projects and services to be coordinated at the level of an SRA. The process will also involve consolidating and ring-fencing some services into business units to increase their efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Newly elected Councillors probably have an advantage over us who have been in local government for a long time in that they are more likely to adapt to new ways of working and collaborating. We must break old habits of territorial mind-sets. The people of Sedibeng cannot be denied their rightful place in the future Gauteng simply because we as politicians and officials are unrelenting in defending our small patch of turf.

Getting synergy and cooperation between District and its constituent Locals in the past has not been easy. The following quote says it all.

"We may not have it all together, but together we have it all."

The author of that quote is unknown, but whoever he or she may be, he or she knew a thing or two about a **COLLECTIVE DREAM**. 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 Councillor 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.

[PLANNING]

The first 12 months of the new term of political office will be characterised by some vital planning initiatives that require public participation and stakeholder engagement.

As we prepare for our Second Generation Growth and Development Strategy, or GDS-2 as will refer to it, we must do a critical review of how well has our Generation GDS served us? What are its strong elements, what are its weaknesses, how does it align with the seven (7) National Key Priorities, and in particular, with OUTCOME 9 of the nationally prioritised outcomes of government?

We will therefore examine our 5 + 2 Focus areas which are:

- Reinventing our economy
- Renewing our communities
- Reviving sustainable environment
- Reintegrating our region
- Releasing human potential
- Good and financial sustainable governance
- Vibrant democracy

That review will become the departure point for us as we begin, together with all our stakeholders, to craft GDS-2. This, we will need to undertake by the end of this year.

In addition to reviewing what currently exists in GDS-1, the following has been identified as necessary additions to the Growth and Development Strategy:

- Some of our townships remain underdeveloped. We must evaluate the extent of this underdevelopment, which in return will reveal to us the priority needs for specific areas? We also need to evaluate the impact of programmes like the NDPG in Sharpeville? We need a plan to consolidate the data and analysis that has emerged from the feasibility studies that we have conducted into almost all of our townships. We therefore require a chapter or section that deals with a **TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**.
- With constantly changing migration patterns and rapid urbanisation, GDS-2 will require an **URBAN RENEWAL STRATEGY** that identifies areas that are experiencing urban decay through aging or over usage due to population densities. The renewal of Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark Central Business Districts are examples of these areas that require renewal. The strategy will also examine early interventions that will arrest decay and prevent the need for massive spending in the future on renewal work.
- A large percentage of the people of Sedibeng, mostly in Lesedi and Midvaal, but also in Emfuleni live in rural or semi-rural areas. GDS-2 will bring together a section on a **RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY** that looks at the specific needs and challenges of our Rural Communities. Unless we give this matter dedicated attention, the many national and provincial government programmes available to us won't be adequately accessed.
- While the world is buzzing with interest in clean energy, a section with a **CLEAN ENERGY STRATEGY** would help identify the way Sedibeng uses and abuses energy. From alternative electrical energy sources like solar energy, to cleaner emissions in our industries, to more efficient ways for

lighting, heating, cooling and cooking. We need to have our ducks all in a row if we are to access the funding that's available locally and globally.

- In GDS-1, some mention was made of ICT connectivity and we translated that into significant projects which have led to the installation of extensive fibre-optic cables in parts of our region. GDS has to bring all the elements together in an **ICT**
- **CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY** which allows us to get maximum benefit from this investment and to integrate it with the infrastructure of the private sector and with role players like Telkom, Vodacom, MTN, Cell-C and others.
- As we embrace the idea of building **HUMAN SETTLEMENTS** and not just houses, GDS-2 will take a detailed look at our spatial planning and aim to get better connections between infrastructure and new developments, between residential areas and facilities, between how people live, work, learn and relax.

GDS-2 will add these new aspects in addition to what is already contained in GDS-1.

We need to have GDS-2 completed by December 2011, as the early part of 2012 will require us to develop our 4-Year IDP.

This year we adopted a 1 year bridging Integrated Development Plan, so as to allow members of our newly elected Council to have their say in the IDP that will serve us in the next 4 years of our stay in Office.

We have learnt much from the strengths and weaknesses of the previous 5-Year IDP. The Urban Renewal Plans, the use of the 5-Rs to focus our priority work, the identification of nodes and corridors has been very useful.

However, not having laid-out our 5-year programme into annual targets with a clear starting baseline has meant that we spent too much time and energy reinventing our baselines and measuring our annual performance. We will improve on that in our 4-Year IDP to be adopted by March 2012.

[ECONOMY]

The Sedibeng economy is the life-blood for our survival. As we continue to strive for a diverse economy that is not overly dependent on the manufacturing sector, we must take advantage of the opportunities that are presented at this moment in time.

All of our Councillors, led by our MMC for Strategic Planning, Tourism and Economic Development, Cllr. MaipatoTsokolibane, will need to get up to speed with government's programme entitled "The New Growth Path".

South Africa and Sedibeng cannot sustain the patterns of economic growth in which unemployment and inequality remains high. The New Growth Path as it is called, aims to create 5 million jobs in the next 5 years. Here in Sedibeng, we need to define our part and contribution to that overall plan.

Central to these job targets is the establishment of a Jobs Fund of R9 billion. Added to this is the Industrial Development Corporations' R10 billion investment in job creating economic activities and the R800 billion investment in infrastructure through large scale projects and Expanded Public Works Programme, and our local programmes begin to have some hope of success.

While these national figures are not dedicated to Sedibeng, we will begin to work energetically to access equitable portions for our local economic development programmes. These include:

- The Regional Sewer Scheme which qualifies as a large scale project and has attracted much interest from various interested parties. The vital ingredient is to maximise public sector investment in the project and reduce private sector investment, so as to keep full control of tariffs. With the soaring cost of electricity and other services, the last thing our communities need is added hikes in the cost of water.
- The street paving projects undertaken in Evaton could be extended to other communities especially if we can link this initiative to the *S'Hamba Sonke* programme. This programme uses labour intensive methods of road construction and maintenance.

- With the support of the National Youth Development Agency, a great deal of the focus of these projects will be to employ young people.
- Sedibeng also looks forward to the merging of various funding agencies like Khula and the IDC's small business funding into a single enterprise fund. We welcome any structural change that gives easier and faster access to our people for small enterprise and cooperative establishments.

All these initiatives must be harnessed so that we continue to develop our five major nodal points, which are:

- The R59 Corridor; and the
- The Vaal Marina Waterfront in the area of Midvaal Local Municipality;
- The Vaal River Waterfront in the Emfuleni Local Municipality;
- The Empty Industrial Sites in Emfuleni Local Municipality, and;
- The Zone of Opportunity or N3 Corridor for the Lesedi Local Municipality.

The funding envelope of R250m provided by the NDPG or Neighbourhood Partnership Development Grant is gradually released based on our ability to implement projects.

The successful completion of the Sharpeville Cemetery Project and the extension to the Exhibition Centre, the commencement of the Constitution Walk and the progress made on the Sharpeville Hall renovations, should inspire confidence in our ability to deliver on our identified projects. This will enhance our ability to access more funding for our Collective Dream

The following crucial question occupies our thinking immediately as we take move on with our developmental agenda. That is, do we crowd in investments into a single area or spread what we have over a wide area and risk making no impact?. I'm more inclined to propagate for a focussed development with greater impact.

Sedibeng has great potential, with its vast open spaces and ample water supply, for rural development and the development of the agricultural sector.

In Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi there are rural communities that require support. This has to be provided through:

- Seeds and tractors,
- Storage facilities,

- Rural cooperatives,
- Access to water infrastructure, and,
- The establishment of community and village markets.

The turnaround strategy for the Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market will include an increased support for small scale farmers to have trading options at the market.

[VAAL 21]

Often a great idea can lay dormant for a very long time, until its moment to thrive arrives. Could this coming term of political Office be the time for the Vaal 21 initiative to take-off and find its place in history? Can we cross the theoretical threshold and initiate some cross-border projects that would give the Vaal 21 programme the lift-off that it so much requires.

The interest shown by the MECs for Local Government and Housing is very positive and if we can get the endorsement of the Premiers of the two Provinces, the Vaal 21 project can go beyond the marketing and branding value that it currently holds for Sedibeng. We are confident that the time for Vaal 21 is now. Watch this space.

[ENVIRONMENT]

Matters of clean energy will dominate the vocabulary of governments, green activists and industry for a few years to come.

Led by our new MMC for Environment and Clean Energy, Councillor Yusuf Mohamed, we hope to take advantage of the global trends in promoting clean energy. It is important that in this discipline that we are familiar with the best practices around the world.

We further intend to take advantage of the polluters in the world who by means of carbon credits are willing to replenish oxygen into the atmosphere with green projects. Sedibeng could certainly benefit by greening projects in dusty townships.

Extension of projects like the solar geysers will be extended to cover as many homes as possible.

Sedibeng with its many industries has great potential for waste exchange. The IWEX project that was started by Sedibeng will now move towards making matches in waste outputs and required inputs industries so that waste can be minimised and turned into job opportunities.

[Health & Social Welfare & Emergency Medical Services]

This year marks a critical juncture in the migration of our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) back to the province.

The shortfall between the subsidy received, and the cost incurred, for this function has placed a heavy burden on the finances of the Sedibeng District Municipality.

We trust that the high standards we have set in relation to our response times and quality of emergency care, which has surpassed the norms and standards for this service, will continue to be available to our people. We have even started rolling out these services to far away rural communities in Midvaal and Lesedi.

Any major shift of functions comes with its own share of anxieties. We will continue to work with our labour unions to facilitate a smooth and seamless transfer back to the Gauteng Provincial Government.

Cllr. Fetty Mnguni, MMC for Health and Social Development, will oversee this crucial transfer together with the respective officials from Sedibeng and the Gauteng Provincial Health Department.

Our Ex-combatants programme, which has been lauded and commended in writing, has set a benchmark for many other municipalities across the country.

The internal programme will continue to develop and train those who have entered our services so that they too enjoy a bright future as civil servants.

Our staffing costs do not allow for any further intake of ex-combatants, as we urge the private sector to take this programme seriously. We want to dispel the myth that all ex-combatants are unruly and ill-disciplined when absorbed into the workplace.

Yes they require dedicated support for historical reasons, but it's worth making that effort when you consider the valuable role that they played in the liberation of our country. We ignore them at our peril.

As we approach the Youth Day and soon we will enter into Women's Month, our mainstreaming programmes will be accelerated to ensure that both Women and Youth benefit from our procurement and our programmes.

TRANSPORT & ROADS]

With the finalisation and adoption of the Sedibeng Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) we are confident that greater alignment will be achieved between our traffic flow, passenger needs, mixed modal integration and most importantly meeting our future transport needs. Our success in developing Sedibeng will come with matching challenges.

For people from Sedibeng, 10 cars a traffic light or a stop street is a traffic jam. As economic activity increases and residential housing projects roll-out, we could be heading to Midrand type of traffic congestion in the future. Future planning is therefore crucial to meet the needs of the future. The relatively quiet and peaceful lifestyle here in southern Gauteng is our big attraction. Developments such as the Eye-of-Africa are viable because they offer a relaxed quiet lifestyle. Striving for a balance will be crucial.

Cllr. Simon Maphalla, MMC for Transport and Infrastructure has become a seasoned campaigner in dealing with matters of Roads and Infrastructure. We all have the confidence in his ability to manage these issues.

[SPORTS, RECREATION, ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & PUBLIC SAFETY]

The past five years has seen Sedibeng elevate so many important historical events back to their rightful place in our local history. We must continue to play that crucial role of being an important player, together with academic institutions and other spheres of government, in preserving of history and culture.

Within the next 12 months we require a summit of community historians, academics, government departments, specialized agencies and surviving leaders,

to scan our historical database and to advise on what our historical gaps are and who will undertake which projects to build on our repository of history and culture.

Cllr. Zaza Raikane is very well placed to drive this project as she moves into her portfolio of Sports Recreation Arts, Culture, Heritage and Public safety. The legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Tournament cannot be lost and forgotten as attention turns to Brazil 2014.

- We must still pursue building a premier team to play in the top level of football.
- The CCTV installations are being expanded as community safety is extended to more and more areas.
- Grassroots participation remains an imperative for the good health of the game in this area. Every community should have at the very least, an open space or kick about for children to play the game.

While mainstream sports like soccer, cricket and rugby continue to receive attention, we must also consider the less fashionable sport and the ones where the majority of people have not has access before.

Golf, power-boating, swimming, netball, basketball, recreational flying and motorsports are all potentially areas that many more people could participate in and enjoy success.

[HOUSING]

With growing urbanisation, the needs for housing in our area continue to grow.

The demand for alternative typologies, aesthetically pleasing community environments, safe play areas, greenery, good roads, efficient lighting, and places located close to economic activity, places huge demands on our planning and coordination skills with our local municipalities and with provincial and national government.

We have been privileged to have on our Mayoral team Cllr. Assistance Mshudulu, our MMC for Human Settlement, who has vast experience at national and local level to champion these projects for us.

In the next few years, we will be part of the following efforts:

- The launch of Savannah City as a residential development;
- Continued upgrade of former hostels;
- Accelerated developments that facilitate urban infill in the central nodes between Vereeniging, Sharpeville, Vanderbijlpark;
- Extensions of housing at Impumelelo, Jameson Park, Sicelo, Vaal Marina and several other developments.

[SERVICE DELIVERY]

Most communities in Sedibeng care passionately about basic services. As the Sedibeng District, our new governance model will place the Sedibeng District at the heart of monitoring and supporting its Locals to meet their basic service delivery needs.

Together with our three Local municipalities of Lesedi, Midvaal and Emfuleniwe will be working together to:

- Ensure access to water for all communities;
- Accelerate electrification in areas that do have electricity. Eskom will be a part of this programme;
- While the new Regional Sewer Works comes online, in areas where sanitation standards are below accepted norms and standards, we will strive to attain the minimum requirements and surpass them where possible;
- Provincial programmes for road construction are envisaged in our areas, but we need to find ways of supplementing these programmes;
- A lack of road maintenance has been a source of great unhappiness by our communities. Government has the programmes, we need the will and energy to step up our road maintenance;

Dialogue with our Communities

In pursuit of accountability, with a view to enhance our contact and contract with the communities we serve, it is necessary that we close all the gaps between ourselves and the people of Sedibeng. It is with this in mind that for this current term of Office, the following communication platforms will be used:

- Sedibeng Newsletter: "*The Sedi News*"

A newsletter will be launched soon by the Sedibeng District Municipality which will serve to inform our communities of progress on projects and programmes which are to be part of the first 100 Days in Office programmes and such other programmes and projects which the Municipality will bring into the public domain. This will surely assist the communities to keep track of what is happening in their respective areas thereby ensuring accountability.

- Social Networking

There is no doubt that the youth of our Region are very techno-savvy. If we are to reach them and improve their interest in what is happening in the Sedibeng District Municipality, we have to get into their world. With a view to latch on to the sizable number of the youth in Sedibeng, I will be available on Facebook and Twitter to take part in the many topical issues the youth of Sedibeng are engaged in.

In this manner, I may just invite them to take part in applying their minds to matters affecting us all here in Sedibeng.

Speaking of reaching out to the community and the youth in Sedibeng, I recently had the distinct pleasure of receiving input from one of them. Last week, after an in-depth interview on Khaya FM, I received an e-mail from one Ms. Alinah Makau of Zone 14, Sebokeng and she wrote: As a resident of Sebokeng, I was so proud to listen to my Executive Mayor and the plans which he is currently working on. This was a blessing as Khaya FM is the station I listen to when I drive to work, about 80km from Sebokeng to Midrand Vodacom. A single mother and a student at Unisa at the same time.

What the Mayor was sharing was an eye opener for me, quoting the unemployment rate, our youth, Abramsrus incident, it is so painful to see what the young generation is going through.

She continued to say "I will like to be part of your committee regarding the youth. I will also like to bring my knowledge to board to serve the community.

I am sure we will meet a lot of Alina Makaas as we begin to interact with the youth and the community in these various media platforms.

- Mayoral Awards

In view of the good things which our community members are doing out there throughout Sedibeng, I intend to launch the Sedibeng Mayoral Awards in September, during the Heritage Month this year.

It is in honouring ordinary members of the communities, who go out of their way to make Sedibeng a better place to live by going to extreme lengths in service to our communities. I hope that all of you will take the time out to play their part in making these awards a success.

[FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT]

The unqualified Audit opinions of the last 5 years have become the minimum standards that we set for ourselves.

The huge challenge facing Sedibeng is that as salary costs increases and the equitable share lags behind, coupled with unfunded mandates in Emergency Services, money that is used for capital programmes is shrinking.

Instead of lamenting this situation we are proactively embarking on cost containment exercises as well as in a staff reduction strategy.

Yet, if we are able to increase revenue, we could do so much more with the personnel that we have. In this regard we have identified a two-legged approach.

Firstly, we have tasked all senior managers, supported by their MMC's, to actively seek out government programmes that exist in the various ministries and provincial departments that fit our work and programmes. Sourcing this funding is imperative as it simply makes us access that which other spheres of government have already made available.

Secondly we are close to adopting a Donor Funding Policy that will regulate how we access funding from non-government sources both locally and internationally. The policy will regulate the potential donor that walks through the door, but will also allow for a panel of service providers who will actively chase down funding for programmes that we have in our GDS and IDP's.

Under the leadership of MMC for Finance, Councillor Johnny Tsotetsi, our Financial Department is in the hands of a most capable and competent public representative. While each department will drive its own funding initiatives, the Finance Department will oversee management thereof.

[ADMINISTRATION]

With an institution that employs 950 staff members, the challenges of human resource management are always daunting.

Human nature being what it is, our staff component needs to be constantly managed, as is the case in any organisation. However, they also require continuous motivation, assessment, reward and development.

Under the watchful eye of Cllr. Busi Mncube, MMC for Corporate Services, we know that our administration will enjoy strong oversight and considered development.

[100 DAYS PROGRAMME]

While many of the programmes and projects that I have noted are long term deliverables over the period of this term of political office, we have decided to kick-start the term with a clear set of targets to be delivered within the first 100 days in office - specific targets which include amongst others:

- Various governance systems for IGR and accelerated service delivery monitoring and implementation;
- Ensuring that our newly elected Councillors are fully capacitated, orientated, inducted and supported to be exemplary public servants, and,

- The completion of a variety of projects that are at the tail end of their delivery cycle such as the Evaton paving projects and the completion of the Sharpeville Exhibition Centre.

A variety of events will be delivered during this period that includes Youth and Women's Month Programmes, launch of the Youth Sustainable Energy Project and the hosting of our annual Sedibeng Tourism Awards.

The complete list of our 100 Days Deliverables which includes clear targets by the end of September 2001, are available on our website.

[INNOVATION]

This term of office must encourage us to think 'out of the box', to be creative, to be inventive, to be innovative.

Let us for a moment consider the following?

Sedibeng, with its rich cultural history, its emphasis on human rights issues and its tourism potential, should be the host of an annual conference on human rights. Why can't we combine these ingredients to make it happen?.

Can't we interest the United Nations to bring an annual conference with human rights as a theme to Sedibeng? The Regional Tourism Organisations we have established and the industry players surely can make this happen. We need not over-reach. If have 400-500 beds available, then that's the target size we should set.

Why would a water sports indaba be held in a city that does not even have significant water body? Is the Vaal not the natural location for such an Indaba. We can call it the Splish-Splash-Indaba.

In our waterfront development plans, the possibility for a waterfront conference centre remains intact. We must pursue this ideal, for surely in time we can deliver such a facility.

When we undertook a trip to Monaco recently we saw the massive financial investment in the sport. Can we stage a world class Power boating event in the Vaal within the next few years?

As we see the roll-out of new housing projects like Savannah City and others, can't we vigorously engage with developers to create unique housing projects? Why don't we make energy efficiency one of our key unique feature. We need to build these features into the initial design and layouts.

Developers don't like these things sometimes, it reduces profit margins. But small features, like orientating living areas north-facing, a few extra centimetres of overhanging roofs, better selection of insulating materials, can save residents thousands of rand on energy bills. Why not make the effort now? A few thousand saved could go a long way to improving the quality of life of our people.

Lastly fellow residents of Sedibeng, today I stand on behalf of the Sedibeng District Council, indicating our support of Census 2011,, that will be conducted from 9th to 31st October 2011. We support the initiative, as we require the data for planning our future. Being counted will help improve the social and material condition of our people. The results of the Census will contribute to a better and more prosperous District and Province. I appeal to all our communities in the District to ***stand up and be counted!***

[CONCLUSION]

Programme Director, as I conclude this address I hope that I have allowed but a glimpse of the **COLLECTIVE DREAM.**

We should not be apologetic for dreaming big. It was Wolfgang Goethe (Gerter) that said:

“Dream no small dreams, for they have no power to move the hearts of men.”

If our dreams can move the hearts of men, surely we will contract their efforts, their support, their resources and their goodwill.

I trust that we will all share in giving substance and meaning to this dream.

I trust that each and every one of us will carry our fair share of the load to make the dream a reality.

I trust that our partners in business and industry will buy a share into this dream.

This dream is made possible by the support and sterling leadership of the previous Madam Speaker, Clr Kedibone Mogotsi, who did so much to bring us where we are today.

By the same token, our former Chief Whip, Clr Khulu Malindi, in no small part kept us on our toes to deliver on a firm platform from which to launch our Collective Dream. Its success, will rely heavily on the legacy he has left us. We wish them well and success in their current posts.

Those of us tasked with this great responsibility must appreciate the weight and magnitude of this responsibility.

When someone places their dreams in your hands, you need to be very, very careful how you manage it.

No one said it better than William Butler Yeats when he said:

*“I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly, because you tread on my dreams.”*

I thank you and yes, we are ready to deliver on the mandate.