



**Speaking Notes by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng
on the occasion of the Emfuleni Local Municipality Lekgotla held on
the 23rd June, 2011 in Magaliesburg**

Honourable Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr. Nomadlozi
Greta Hlongwane;

Speaker of Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr. Msebenzi Qceloshe;

Chief Whip: Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr. Eric Tshabalala;

The Members of the Mayoral Committee;

Dear Councilors;

Municipal Manager & Your Team

I take this opportunity to greet you all and pass the greetings of all at the Sedibeng District Municipality. The entire Sedibeng is looking at this Lekgotla with great expectations. These expectations are borne out of great belief that greater things are about to emerge out of Emfuleni in particular and Sedibeng in general.

Comrades & Colleagues, this important Mayoral Committee Lekgotla today, comes at the time when the world mourns the passing of one of the

ANC stalwarts, Comrade Kader Asmal who passed on yesterday at around 4pm at the Constantia Medi Clinic in Cape Town.

We are surely deeply saddened by news of the passing of one of the movement`s foremost intellectual giants, Comrade Kader Asmal - former Cabinet Minister and ANC veteran. Comrade Kader`s passing on has come as a shock to all of us.

We will remember Comrade Kader`s immeasurable contribution in the liberation of South Africa which ensured that the ANC earned respect from the international community and some progressive foreign governments. During his years of exile in Europe, Comrade Kader who was professor in institutions of higher learning, continued to raise the ANC flag high - deepening the understanding of the international community about the ANC and the South African struggle for freedom. May his soul rest in peace.

Honourable Executive Mayor of Emfuleni, when our communities went out to vote in their numbers on the 18th May this year, they signaled their trust and belief in our ability to deliver. In their multitudes they gave us a mandate to lead them to a better future by ***“Building better Sedibeng communities together”***.

It is with this trust the electorate had in us that we are placed in a very challenging position of having to vindicate their confidence.

Faced with this challenge, we had to find a new way of providing a foundation for their vision and aspirations. We cannot afford to have a situation where we do the same thing on different days and hope that our communities will not realize that we have not moved an inch.

Colleagues, 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 that end, we are called upon to Consolidate Governance.

The thrust toward Consolidating Governance will be our rallying call from today until such time that all of us inclusive of our constituent Local Municipalities, with Emfuleni playing its part, 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 idea, which is enjoying 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.

Let me clarify with sharpness, we are not consolidating governance at the Sedibeng District level, we are all collectively elevating key decision making

processes to a structure collectively agreed upon and above all of us. For now we are calling that structure the Sedibeng Regional Authority or SRA.

It will become reality when we begin to build it into programmes and projects we lead in our various departments. The transition will be made smooth if we begin to engage with you as our counterparts in all local municipalities in departments we lead.

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.

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.

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 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.

I take this opportunity to present the work which has been done to accelerate the move towards the SRA and a Sedibeng Metropolitan Council by the year 2025. I will be looking towards you to assist in making the dreams and aspirations of our communities a reality.

All of us as Sedibeng and Emfuleni as well as all our constituent Local Municipalities, working side by side, as equal partners towards a common vision for the provision of better services to our communities.

I Thank You