



Address by the Sedibeng Executive Mayor: Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the 194th Meeting of the Mayoral Committee held on the 22nd August 2011 in Sedibeng.

Honourable Members of the Mayoral Committee, I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the 194th Meeting of the Mayoral Committee in what will prove to be a very hectic and pivotal political term of office. We have just come back from a highly strategic District Wide Mayoral Lekgotla in Tshwane. This Lekgotla has clearly set the tone for our roadmap going forward.

Before I even go into the matters for this Mayoral Committee, allow me to bring to our attention the sad news which came to our attention on the morning of Sunday as we were preparing ourselves to go to Kievitskroon. It is with great sadness in my heart that I have to inform you officially of the untimely passing of comrade Carlos Diutlwileng, one of our staff member.

His passing has left an emptiness in our lives. Carlos Diutlwileng being the young man who had become a symbol of our visionary Ex-combatant Policy at work. He threw his weight behind the vision Sedibeng had. At the time of his death, he was enrolled with Unisa for his law degree.

I have no doubt in my mind that he would have succeeded in his studies in the same way he succeeded in endeavours he applied his mind to. In his honour, I wish to call this Mayoral Committee to observe a moment of silence. We hope that we will give him a fitting farewell and tribute at the Memorial service later today and funeral tomorrow.

It is as we have just completed the 100 days in office that we were able to complete the business of the District Wide Lekgotla yesterday. I do hope that our report of the 100 Days will be as successful as the Lekgotla. What the Lekgotla did in fact was to indicate the amount of work we have to deal apart from our core business of service delivery.

It is in the light of the need to strengthen our IGR structures going forward that the question arises, “Will our current IGR staff component cope with the work ahead? If the answer is no, what are we going to do about this? I hope that this Mayoral Committee will find the answer to this matter as we continue to grapple with other IGR forums which are dictated by the path we have chosen to take.

The Lekgotla came on the backdrop of a very successful Study Tour of Buffalo City Metropolitan. The visit to Buffalo City was very informative and we learned quite a lot from it. In the main it also served to consolidate our commitment to the need to move with speed towards a Metro. The road for Consolidating Governance here in Sedibeng was placed into greater focus as a result of this visit.

We are on the right track, we will succeed for to do otherwise will prove too difficult to contemplate. Our communities will support us in this path, support from the province is there. All that we need now is to put our shoulder to the wheel and lead the charge. This will only be possible if we monitor and track the implementation of the decisions taken at the Lekgotla.

First and foremost we have to ensure that the Lekgotla Declaration is signed. Upon signing, I hope that we will ensure compliance by tracking the implementation thereof through the four year IDP's which are being developed. I will also be watching how various departments here in Sedibeng interface with their counterparts in our local Municipalities. I want the Municipal Manager to ensure that decisions taken at the Lekgotla is widely circulated to all concerned.

It is as we begin to take bold steps toward a Vaal Metropolitan River City that we will undertake another study tour of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality next week. This is to ensure that we are able to track and benchmark our steps towards a Metro.

We have a spring in our step as we go there because surely the vision or transition of a Metro will not be forced on us. We are steps ahead and we remain the champions of our own course.

In this way, we will not be surprised of the outcome of the vision we have set for ourselves in Kievitskroon.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all those who were involved in bringing about the successful Lekgotla, and the same thanks is extended to my office for the study tour to Buffalo City as well as the much anticipated tour of Mangaung. It is this application to detail which I hope will characterize our move forward to Vaal Metropolitan River City.

It is as we move with speed towards our vision for a Single Regional Authority that we will in a few weeks time conclude the business of appointing the Municipal Manager for the Sedibeng District Municipality. A report on this matter will be available by the time we go to the Council Sitting on the 7th of December 2011.

In light of this being our Heritage Month, we salute the gallant efforts of the heroes and heroines of our struggle. These efforts have seen to our enjoying our much deserved liberation. Today marks the death of King Shaka, the founder of the Zulu Nation who sought to unite the entire tribes of South Africa to deal with the colonialisation of our country.

I wish to inform this Mayoral Committee that we are privileged to receive a presentation from SALGA on Waste Management which will assist us going forward. I hope that we will give them our attention. I would urge that we deal with this matter first so that we can then pay attention to our agenda items.

With powers vested in me, I take this opportunity to present the 40 agenda items for your attention, a very long agenda if I might add.

I Thank You.