



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality, Executive Mayor
Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the mass
burial of the Mngomezulu and Thuwe Families in
Sebokeng, on the 17th September 2011.**

The Programme Director;
Thuwe & Mngomezulu Families;
Comrades & friends;
Fellow Mourners

Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you today not only as the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality, but also as a father, uncle, affected citizen and resident of Sedibeng.

We are today gathered here to sadly bid farewell to the four different family members who died as a result of a car accident. Gathering of this nature, especially when our young people are involved, is certainly the saddest and most difficult moment for all us.

I am told that the accident that brings us together today happened at about 17h40 on Friday, 9th September 2011 when the victims were on the

N1 towards Johannesburg, between De Barrage & Potchefstroom Off ramps while on their way home. They stopped alongside the road assisting a friend whose car had a puncture and that's when they were hit by a truck and they unfortunately died on the scene.

The shock of this terrible accident which led to the death of the four victims whom we are today laying to rest, has shaken the whole Region and in particular the Zone 14 Sebokeng community and I come with condolences from the people of the Sedibeng District Municipality at our tragic loss.

This tragedy is the next after the one we experienced earlier this year when the entire family from here in Sebokeng in Zone 3 was lost in a car accident. Though slightly different from this one, it is a car accident after all.

This is one example of many road crashes that are claiming innocent lives every weekend on our roads throughout the country. We must continuously work together to move forward together to respond to this challenge.

The Gauteng Department of Transport and the Sedibeng District Municipality regularly host Road Safety campaigns as part of our consultative process that allows both the department, municipality and our

stakeholders to make informed decisions on how best to tackle the challenges our people face on our roads, especially those that compromise their safety.

Incidents like these open our eyes to the reality of death on our roads. It is in this regard that I utilise this incident as a platform from which we can call upon our people and in particular the youth to join our road safety campaigns which start in next month in October to ensure that we continuously educate and remind ourselves of the good safety tips while on the roads.

Let this incident help galvanise all of us gathered here today to play a role in curbing carnage on our roads. I therefore take this opportunity to personally invite each one of you to show your commitment to road safety by supporting this campaign.

My ultimate advice to all of us here today is to give priority to the concept of self-policing to ensure that all of you as road users take the responsibility for safer roads because road safety is everybody's business. We must do this by finding a way of reducing the conditions which give rise to road carnages.

Standing here on behalf of the people of the Sedibeng District Municipality and the people of South Africa, we want to convey our condolences to the

families and relatives of the four (4) passengers who died as a result of the accident in Heilbron, Free State Province.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, the families and friends who lost your loved ones in this accident. We convey our sincere appreciation to the paramedics who did their best to save their lives to no avail. May the Lord God bless them and may they never tire in their service to humanity.

A car accident is always a nightmare of your worst expectations coming true, we all fear being involved in car accidents and it could happen to any one of us.

It is not and will never be okay and acceptable for one or four lives to be ended. It is tragic events such as these which remind us of the fragility of life and the value of every single day.

We are always told that there will come a time in the life of every human being, when the sun must set. And when it does, the remaining fellow human beings should not be at a loss for words to describe the life and times of the fallen human beings.

As Africans, this we do in many ways. We sing, we dance, we clap our hands, we cry, we mourn and so on. We are gathered here today to show

this many ways we celebrate the life of a revolutionary and hero of our struggle.

We do not have to speak softly, as some of us stayed and lived with them, did many things with them.

Fellow mourners, I hope and trust that the family, community and friends will find solace in the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour at this hour of need.

In his teachings, Jesus Christ teaches us that: There are many rooms in His Father's house, if it were not so, why would he say so: In this teaching, he seeks to tell us that there is still space and room in our Father's mercy and love.

God's love for all of us is without end. He loved and loves us so much that he gave his only begotten son so that we all can come to Him. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, we have been given the Light, the Way and the truth.

Ha meya ya bona e phomole ka kgotso