

**KEY-NOTE ADDRESS BY THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,  
CLLR. MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG AT THE OCCASION OF THE  
SEDIBENG DISTRICT-WIDE MAYORAL LEKGOTLA HELD IN  
TSHWANE ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup>-21 SEPTEMBER 2011.**

29 September 2011

Chairperson of the session of this Lekgotla, Cllr. Gretta Hlongwane, the Executive Mayor of the Emfuleni Local Municipality, Deputy Minister of the Department of Co-operate Government and Traditional Affairs, Comrade Yunus Carrim, the Executive Mayor of Lesedi Local Municipality, Cllr Lerato Maloka, esteemed Councillors, Distinguished guests, Senior Executive Directors, comrades, ladies and gentlemen.

The Sedibeng District and its Local Municipalities have all developed to become what they are today. This is a tribute to the steadfast commitment to purpose and the wisdom of the Leaders of our political parties and Councils who are gathered here today and those who came before us. This is a tribute to all of us and the legacy which we have inherited.

We say this from the perspective of municipalities which not so long ago suffered periods which were characterized by political turmoil and uncertainties about their future.

Today our people in Devon, Mamello, Sicelo, Fischkuil, Boiketlong, Sonderwater, Leeuhof, Vanderbijlpark as well as the centurion Evaton, which will be turning 104 years next year, and many other areas within our jurisdiction are indeed looking forward to our municipalities in particular, and government in general to lead the way to a brighter future.

Now seventeen years into democracy, our people are fortunate to enjoy your Leadership and are looking forward for your guidance as they aspire for better life in their lifetime – turning vision into reality. Their aspiration will best be served by a Common Dream, which seeks to provide the basis for their common salvation in One Region, One People with destiny.

We are very much happy to report the changes which have been made to our communities since the inception of the 1st generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy. As servants of community sentiments in our various Municipalities, we have responsibilities to use the enormous resources of government to transform the living conditions of the people of Sedibeng.

### ***From Bela-Bela to Tshwane***

You know that one of the signs of maturing of or democracy is that fewer and fewer occasions can be described as “first”, and so is this highly important meeting which leads us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy.

## **One Region, One people with one Destiny**

“I am confident that we shall pull together on the firm foundation that has been laid”, former President Nelson Mandela said and I concur.

I think it is appropriate to thank all the councillors and all the officials collectively for their presence here today for giving their time to what will prove to be a lively exchange of views on matters pertinent to the lives of our citizens in Sedibeng.

With each engagement, the consensus we share as custodians of the aspirations of our communities, our democracy becomes clearer; and the areas of divergence of views on many issues are essentially about matters of detail and the process of implementation.

So obvious are the advances that we are making as a District, and so clear the challenge that we face, that even if we hail from diverse backgrounds. Even if we have disparate constituencies, even if our interpretation of the interests of those constituencies might differ, we all cannot but acknowledge that for each to succeed all must succeed. We are one community, one district with one destiny.

A few of weeks ago, we had the opportunity to engage stakeholders from the Afrikaner community in preparation for the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Vereeniging Peace Treaty. And more intensely than before,

as the District; it is important that we must work together with all communities in celebration of our common heritage.

This Lekgotla must take the time to apply its mind to the manner in which we celebrate, mark and commemorate our common heritage here in Sedibeng. Are we going to continue to mark these events as separate entities or are we to use them to build on the richness of this rich heritage for nation building in the same manner that we engage with Khulumani Support Group to heal the nation of our painful past.

The message that we are getting is that the District is on the right track; there is cause to be optimistic about the future; there are a great many opportunities that beckon.

Opportunities that we need to seize firmly with both hands. We need to work together as diverse communities to reach our common destiny.

This is not because the Sedibeng District Municipality and its local Municipalities seeks to be all things to all people; neither is it because we are afraid to take sides among conflicting interests.

It is because even in the context of these conflicting interest, there are certain basic issues that are matters of course in the current era; economic growth and job-creation; speedy implementation of service

delivery programs and decisive actions for the provision of services to our citizens.

This is the foundation of our Regional consensus; our Regional commitment with destiny which we should redeem together in action. That is the mood out there; this desire to get down working for the benefit of each one of us as separate Municipal entities but bound in one indivisible geographical area to serve the people of Sedibeng, for the benefit of our families and for the benefit of citizens as a whole.

Indeed, this august body would not be worth its salt if it were to be unaffected by those sections of our society who are in dire need. Not of their own making; but because of the legacy of the previous system for their subjugation, their humiliation, their poverty and their continued homelessness and joblessness.

The task of rectifying this historical injustice is not that of the ruling party alone here in Sedibeng. It calls all of us to join hands to build a united, just and prosperous Region.

As most of us will acknowledge and attest, Sedibeng has laid the firm foundation for speedier movement to a better life through the attainment of the objectives we have set ourselves in the first generation GDS .

By means of the IDPs and attention to detail of what our communities needed; through the beginnings of service delivery; by means of prudent and appropriate financial management policies; and through strategies and firm actions against decaying infrastructure and housing, we have begun to change the lives of our people here in Sedibeng for the better.

Proceeding from this firm foundation of the first generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy, we have outlined the concrete targets for the previous years in all areas, targets which we were committed to, and on the basis of which we were judged.

We also dealt with the many challenges and weaknesses which were there in the machinery.

Of course there are limits to the kind of detail that can be contained in the State of the District Address as it sought to place the issue of Coordinating Governance in Sedibeng on the agenda.

At this historic Lekgotla, colleagues will elaborate on the issues that have been identified and many others.

They will give more detail and where applicable, blow by blow steps towards meeting the targets we set for ourselves in the road to the second generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy. A vision which

will lay down our path to the development of Sedibeng which has cleared the hurdles and challenges posed by the first generation GDS.

In bringing to closure of the first generation SGDS, we transcended the provision of housing on a large scale for our communities. We beat the challenge of adverse remarks from the Auditor General on our handling of finances.

We have moved from Project Consolidate to a firm series of Clean Audits. We have tarred roads and created Precincts which have given a sense of pride to our communities.

We therefore worked in partnership with our society, with members of the opposition and members of the ruling party itself, in monitoring the implementation of the objectives of the first generation GDS.

Hold us as the Executive Mayors responsible, hold the Mayoral committees responsible, hold the councillors responsible to account. Judge the Sedibeng District Municipality by its ability to meet the objectives we have set ourselves.

If it is not building on the foundation that has been laid out then you can challenge our right to lead and govern, otherwise then the successes should be acknowledged.

We cannot claim to have realized everything we wish to achieve. But no one can question our commitment to deal with root causes of the problem. Our vision and decisions which this Lekgotla have to take, is that as the leadership these decisions mean more than the articulation of the perceived self interest of a constituency.

It means avoiding as much as possible the temptation to arouse the base feelings of sections of society that was for a long time separate and apart. Leadership means leadership: It implies sometime moving ahead of one's constituency and not be afraid to take unpopular decisions in the interest of the entire Sedibeng Region and its entire people.

In the end, our narrow constituencies and the Region as a whole will respect our integrity if we act honestly and with vision. I am confident that we have in all the parties, leaders who are able to rise above the narrow mindset of one section of the society.

Indeed, I feel strengthened in my conviction that there are good men and women among all parties and sections of our society; men and women who can identify weakness and dangers; and who are able to see the low road towards the cliff, but men and women who do not lose sight of the opportunities that beckon; men and women who are able to concentrate their minds on the high roads towards a Single Regional Authority.

This route will be informed by our Common Dream, the aspirations of our community to see the growth of our District which find expression in our State of the District Address and the Inaugural Address to provide a brighter future for the entire community of Sedibeng.

The future is guaranteed in the mixture of youthful and new, as well as seasoned leadership we find in this Lekgotla. We have in our midst, long serving Members as well as the youth deployed in various portfolios.

This will ensure that this vision will be carried forward long after Mahole Simon Mofokeng is no longer an Executive Mayor of Sedibeng. I am not and will not be the Executive Mayor for life.

Fellow Councilors and Senior Managers, the nature of our work demands that we never look at our work in the context our own personal tenure in office, or in our own contractual time-frames.

The work of government flows from one individual to another. It is passed on from one collective to another and it moves from one generation to the next. In the same manner that the first generation Sedibeng Growth and Development to the second generation.

The basis of our democracy was laid in the liberation movement before 1994 and it was given a voice in the elections of 1994. President Mandela

took up the challenge and addressed the needs of the day. Reconciliation and nation building dominated the national agenda.

The task passed on to President Mbeki who established sound systems and effective institutions for governance and now President Zuma is translating the spirit of the constitution and using the vehicle of state machinery to meet the needs of all South Africans. Such is the nature of our work.

If we are locked into our time in office only and not prepared to look beyond our own personal recognition, we will be robbed of a vision and courage to create a better Sedibeng beyond the few years that is our time.

Just as we are gathered here at Kievitskroon on 19 September 2011, so did another collective that preceded us gather at Bela-Bela on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006 to plan and agree on the work schedule for the term of office that lay ahead, “From Bela-Bela to Tshwane”

At Bela-Bela looked at three things amongst other things:

1. The Challenges facing Sedibeng
2. Policy Statement, Outcomes and Deliverables, and
3. Governance and Leadership

It is worth taking just a few minutes to reflect on what was discussed and addressed at Bela-Bela in 2006. Four major areas were identified as the challenges facing Sedibeng.

I won't analyze each one, but as I state them, I ask each of you to reflect on how we have addressed these challenges and what progress we have made and where we have fallen short. This will assist us in shaping the second generation Growth and Development Strategy, for we need a strong connection to the firm foundation laid.

Firstly, Bella-Bella looked at **SERVICE DELIVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** under the following sub categories:

- Service delivery compromised due to lack of adequate funds.
- No full implementation of free basic services.
- Inadequate infrastructure, especially transport.
- Inadequate services in out-lying areas.
- Increase in number of informal settlements

Secondly it examined **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** under the following sub-categories:

- No single growth and development strategy.
- High levels of poverty and unemployment.
- High levels of pollution of air, land and water including from sewage spillages, industry in the area and use of coal for energy.

The third area that was considered was **FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY** under the following sub-section:

- Low collection rate leading to dependence on grants and sale of assets for funds.
- Uncertainty on future funding for district council.
- Unfunded mandates.

The fourth and last area under discussion was, **DEEPENING DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE** with emphasis on the following:

- Need for a shared vision.
- Critical governance lapses manifested in high numbers of suspensions and dismissals.
- Lack of regional approaches and region wide co-ordination and planning.

- Inability to attract national and provincial support to support our objectives.
- Lack of adequate skills and capacity building.

If we are to make Kievitskroon-2011 meaningful, we must know that some years from now, another leadership, both political and administrative, will inherit the work we are going to do over the next 3 days and analyze our vision, inventiveness, political will, administrative coordination, determination, courage, commitment and application to what we create over the next three days. How will we be judged?

## **GDS-1 to GDS-2**

It is also significant that as we go into our commissions to look at GDS-2 as well as our next 4-Year IDPs, the move towards a single regional authority and the strengthening of our IGR work, we must also keep in mind all the issues that I have just mentioned emanating from the Bella-Bella 2006 outcomes.

This retreat will also lay the basis for our Second Generation Growth and Development Strategy which we must complete by November or December 2011 and adopt at our Councils by January 2012 and by that time, Sedibeng District Municipality will have adopted the 2011 Local Government Manifesto as is the case with the National Parliament.

The Sedibeng District and its local Municipalities cannot venture into the next 4-Year IDPs without a review of GDS-1 and confirmation of GDS-2. As we know our Projects Phase of our IDPs must be completed in January 2012 to enable us to fit in with the IDP cycle.

As we go about our deliberations as to how we would like to shape GDS-2, let us remind ourselves of the commitments we made in GDS-1.

Under **REINVENT THE ECONOMY**, GDS-1 committed itself to the following:

***For the Minerals and Steel sector we said the following***

- Establish Task Team with industry players.
- Improve information and knowledge of industry plans and role of government.
- Identify long and short term levers for growth.

***For the Tourism & Leisure sector we said***

- Enhance tourism forums and work with relevant agencies.
- Use 2010 service provider to develop medium term plan.

- Link marketing plan with tourism plan.

### ***Agriculture:***

- Consolidate Task Teams with GDACE, DLA, Sedi-chem, etc.
- Do feasibility for emerging farmers.
- Analyze preferred agricultural activity.
- Explore bio-fuels.

### ***Residential Property Development***

- Revise SDF in line with GDS.
- Revise LUM
- Roll out master plan for infrastructure.
- Implement inclusionary Housing Policy

Under **RENEW OUR COMMUNITIES** from low to high quality of life this is what we decided:

### ***Change the nature of housing delivery by:***

- Realign current policy with new trends.
- Identify Flagship projects to promote new policies.

## ***Making Sedibeng Attractive***

- Locals to implement focused maintenance programmes including infrastructure repair, greening, sports and recreation etc)
- Identify flagship renewal projects.
- Explore viability of a single roads agency.
- Investigate an ‘Aesthetics Committee’.

## ***Precincts & Nodes***

- Complete and implement Development Plans for:
- Heidelberg CBD
- Heidelberg Show-grounds
- Vereeniging CBD (including Constitution Square)
- Vanderbijlpark CBD
- Meyerton CBD
- Blue Rose City
- Sharpeville Dam, Monument and Stadium.
- Zone 14, Sebokeng
- Boipatong Peace Garden
- Bophelong Taxi rank
- Vaal Marina / Mamello
- Evaton Renewal Precincts

Under **REVIVE THE ENVIRONMENT** the following was confirmed:

***Partnerships to Manage the Environment:***

- Coordinated and consulted EMF
- Develop implementation plans with regional and local activities.

***Clean Air, Water & Land Initiatives***

- Drive Regional Sewer Works project.
- Extend into 'Clean Rivers Initiative' with Rand Water.
- SDM and stakeholders to continue Air-Quality Management Plan.
- Promote industrial waste exchange programme.

***Waste & Recycling:***

- Review of Sedibeng Waste Management Plan.
- Support projects for significant recycling initiatives in paper, tyres, glass, oil for bio-fuels etc.
- Strive for carbon credits and reinvest these into projects for increased credits

Under the focus area of **REINTEGRATE OUR REGION** we noted the following:

## ***Road & Rail Corridors***

- Corridor development plans for each of the following corridors supported by LUM and economic integration:
- R59 (Industrial Corridor)
- R82 (Cultural Corridor)
- Golden Highway (Public Transport Corridor)
- N1 (Long Distance Transport Corridor)
- Establish East-West transport links
- Review rail links on existing and dormant lines.
- Establish task teams with SANRAL, Gautrans, Transnet etc.

## ***Logistics Support to Industry***

- Support and direct private sector plans for logistics hub served by rail, road and air access.

## ***ICT Connectivity***

- Develop a comprehensive connectivity plan for coverage, access and integration of technologies.
- Expand CCTV coverage across region.

- Identify pilot projects for wireless hotspots and for connected communities.

#### Cross Border Development

- Create synergies across boundaries with Metsimaholo, Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg.

The focus area **RELEASE HUMAN POTENTIAL** from low to high skills we said the following in GDS-1

#### ***Local Partnerships for Education & Training:***

- Establish broad based education and training forum to include local government, Department of labor, Department of Education

#### ***Building Social Capital***

- Focus supporting initiatives around the Gauteng Social Development Strategy.
- Improve statistical Database on social profile of Sedibeng.

#### ***Promote BBBEE***

- Align procurement procedures (District and Locals) to champion BBBEE.
- Host BBBEE summit to localize Charters
- Enhance Database of SMME's.

- Explore support to GEP to encourage cooperatives.

Both the recollection of the contents of Bella-Bella and GDS-1 may feel like a tedious list, but it is the fine details that matter to our communities as these very details is what impacts on their daily lives.

As we move towards GDS-2 we have already identified some glaring omissions and gaps in our current GDS. These include, amongst others, the following:

- Township Development Strategy
- Urban Renewal Strategy
- Rural Development Strategy
- Human Settlements Strategy
- Clean Energy Strategy
- ICT Connectivity Strategy

We also must ensure that GDS-2 takes into account the 7 key priorities of government with a particular emphasis on Outcome 9, which has been circulated in your agenda packs. If there is nothing wrong with the five R's in the first generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy, why do we have to change it?

GDS-2 can also not ignore the mandate of the voters of Sedibeng who went to the polls on May 18<sup>th</sup>. We hope that our municipalities adopt the

same mandate. The spirit, deliverables and commitments of the 2011 mandate given by our communities must find expression in our second generation Growth and Development Strategy.

In conclusion, I hope that this Lekgotla will give expression to the vision which has been articulated to lead Sedibeng District to a brighter future for its entire communities.

This we will do without any fear or favour that it seeks to assert the profile of any particular individual, party, groupings or community.

We congratulate the organizers of this pace-setting meeting and wish you success in your work. Our common victory is certain.

It is with the above in mind that I call on this Lekgotla to address itself to the matter of the Sedibeng Development Agency. We need to provide guidance and vision as to whether this still forms part of the vehicles we must have to what constitutes our vision.

A lot of work has gone into it, do we throw out the baby with the bath water, or do we structure it in such a way that it responds to the new vision we hold in our path to the second generation Growth and Development Strategy?

The country will be going on a National Census in October. This will assist us in determining the foundation for future planning in the entire Sedibeng. The growth of the population and its various aspects, the age differentiation, women headed households and child headed households, will have a serious impact on our Regional Planning.

The matter of the awarding of bursaries will go a long way in addressing the development of communities who are in need. The consolidation of the awarding of bursaries will assist us in making serious impacts in the alleviation of poverty in Sedibeng.

We need to find synergy in the manner in which we carry out programs that improves the life of our communities. The issue of which aspects we migrate to the single authority becomes central.

How do we then ensure that we have common planning and the development of our four year IDP in line with our common destiny?

The above issues must translate themselves into common planning of all clusters flowing from the Sedibeng District Municipality and all constituent local Municipalities.

Our Municipality Managers have to be singing from the same hymn book, from the same verse. The same holds true for our Executive Directors, all

the way to all employees of the Municipalities, local or district notwithstanding.

Let us get down to work!

I thank you.