



**Address by the Sedibeng Executive Mayor: Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on the 05th October 2011 in Sedibeng.**

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Honourable Members of the Council, I take this opportunity to welcome to the second Ordinary meeting of Council, in the new political term of office. We have had to hit the ground running in setting the tone for this term of office. In this regard, we have set a very solid foundation for the road ahead.

**Colleagues,** I am happy to report on progress made with regard to our work on the Single Regional Authority. After a Study Tour to Buffalo City to benchmark on their route to a Metro System of Governance, we had the distinct opportunity to hold the historic Sedibeng District Wide Mayoral Lekgotla which was held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 in Kiviets Kroon.

The Lekgotla has set the tone towards the establishment of the Regional Single Authority here in Sedibeng. In this regard, I hope to see all of the

stakeholders, namely the three local Municipalities here in Sedibeng playing their part.

We meet here today, at the beginning of the Transport Month. It is in sadness though that we also have to deal with the grief of the loss of life of four learners from Soweto who died in an accident while on a study tour yesterday. We hope that this will not become a common occurrence as we prepare ourselves for the festive season.

On the other hand we take pride as the Sedibeng District Municipality in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Roads & Transport in co-hosting Road Safety Awareness Campaigns every year in October as part of government's initiatives and consultation processes that affords government and stakeholders a platform to engage and develop informed decisions on best possible way to tackle the challenges our people face on our roads.

In addition to this month the Transport Month, in Gauteng, this month has also been declared **Social Development and Children's Month**. I therefore urge and invite all of you to participate in this campaign in an attempt to assist in conveying government's message in this regard.

We are in the countdown to the start of the National Census, twelve days to be exact. If all South Africans were to embrace this Census and the countdown in the manner we did for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, I am convinced that we are well on our way to a great country and nation.

Statistics South Africa will conduct the country's third population and housing census from 10th to 31st October under the leadership of our Chief Statistician General Padi Lehohla .

Enumerators will go from house to house in their bright yellow resource packs, to spend about 40 minutes at each household asking about 75 questions contained in the Census 2011 questionnaire. Let us play our part in encouraging our communities to participate.

Census determines demographic data, the statistics on number, the distribution, and characteristics of people living within the borders of South Africa. Their outcome will go a long way in giving us a firm foundation on which to base our planning for the future of Sedibeng in particular and the country in general.

Census 2011 comes 10 years after Census 2001 and the data collected will track how far South Africa progressed in terms of service delivery. For instance whilst in 1996 access to electricity was 58% by 2001 70% of South African households had access to electricity

We will be going to our communities in October to report on our 100 Days in Office Programme later this month. I look forward to your support.

As part of our agenda, I have a very keen interest in having this august body adopting the 2011 Local Government Manifesto of the Ruling Party. This will greatly assist in the alignment of our efforts towards greater service delivery to our communities.

I wish also to inform this august body of the need to extend the employment contract of the Municipal Manager as we get to grips with the interviews to fill this post as a result of the previous contract coming to an end.

In conclusion, our condolences go out to the family which lost their loved one, and the 166 community members who were injured in the tornado which hit Duduza in Ekurhuleni. We hope that they will be assisted to get back on their feet again soon.

With powers vested in me, I take this opportunity to present the agenda items in your minutes for your attention:

I Thank You.