

Speaking Notes for the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor: Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the Joint PMT Forum meeting held on the 26th October 2011 in Sedibeng.

- **Honourable Executive Mayors, Speakers and Chief Whips of our Municipalities in the Sedibeng District**
- **Municipal Managers**
- **Support staff**

Dear Esteemed colleagues, we meet today in this manner after a hectic period of various study tours a successful District-wide Mayoral Committee and Whippery.

Our Makgotla programs have set the tone for the development of the roadmap for the years to come here in Sedibeng. The success of these programs will only become evident when twenty years and beyond, the communities of Sedibeng will be looking back to where it all started. Without doubt they will find that it all started this year, by this very leadership.

The District-wide Joint Mayoral Lekgotla placed in the center of our future development the 5 R's as the pillars upon which to build the second generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy.

This second generation SGDS finds its firm foundation on the great work which has been achieved in the five years of the first generation SGDS. Of great significance is the development of the Declaration Statement which identified our common destiny here in Sedibeng.

I hope that all our constituent Local Municipalities will find it possible to authorize their Executive Mayors to sign this declaration soon.

It is as good students that embarked on the study tours to Buffalo City and Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality. Our trips have taught us a lot as we prepare ourselves for the journey to establish the Vaal Metropolitan River City.

We have learned that to reach this status, it is not about numbers nor is it about the size of the budget. We have identified the need to develop our own roadmap so that we are not surprised by the Municipality Demarcation Board.

In the New Age of the 20th September this year, the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Yunus Carrim gives his approval, though tacit of the need to move towards a Metro System."The two tier system has been too costly and rather than being complimentary, has often resulted in duplication of structures and personnel" He said.

It is out of our own lessons that we identified the need to strengthen our IGR. This Joint PMT today is a move towards such consolidation. It is with the successes of various IGR forums being convened and taking crucial decisions that we will move forward.

I hope that we will have fewer if any absenteeism at these forums going forward. I have noticed with interest the number of absence of members who are central to these forums.

I wish to remind all of us that it is no longer about us, it was never about us, but these forums were created for the advancement of Sedibeng communities.

I have no doubt that we are all looking forward to the development and finalization of the second generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy. I cannot wait either. I believe that we will be able to complete this part of our future before the end of this year.

It is after it shall have been completed that I look forward to all our local Municipalities to adopt it. In this way we will all be singing from the same hymn book in the development and finalizing our four year IDP's. It is with this enthusiasm that I look forward to the year 2012 with great expectations.

Great expectations indeed for then we will be setting the tone for Consolidation of Government here in Sedibeng. Together we will be building our communities for a better future. The pillars for the creation of the Vaal Metropolitan River City will be cast in stone.

The work of building various facets of this vision will start in earnest. To that end, the appointment of the Municipal Manager in Sedibeng will be concluded by the 09th of November and the appointment of Executive Directors will follow shortly. I believe that this will go a long way in accelerating our vision.

Despite the fact that we are our own worst critics, the country is awakening to the fact that a lot of good work is happening here in Sedibeng. The New Age daily newspaper of yesterday makes very good reading. It correctly identified that the entire Gauteng Province is moving south. This is as a result of the developments and the good work we continue to do.

The issue of the Sedibeng Regional Sewer Scheme was identified as the lynchpin for greater development in the area. It as we begin to grapple with this development that greater things are indeed up ahead. I know that this great review by the New Age will spur us on to new heights.

As if the above is not enough, I am happy to inform that the good work we do here in Sedibeng has not gone unnoticed. SAGA has seen the type of leadership we develop here in Sedibeng.

It is therefore not surprising that three of our current cadres have since been co-opted to serve in the higher structures of SALGA.

We are proud of the co-option of Cllr Busi Modisakeng into the Governance and IGR working group and the election of Cllr Johnny Tsotetsi as the representative to the Provincial Legislature as well the Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality, Cllr Greta Hlongwane as the Cluster Chairperson and former Cllr Kedibone Mogotsi has been deployed in the Office of the MEC for Housing, Mr Humphrey Mmemezi.

It is as South Africa prepares to host the summit on climate change and the current heat wave we are suffering from that the issue of renewable energy comes into sharp focus. We can no longer sit back and hope that the National government will do everything.

The time has come for all of us to address the issue of renewable energy with robustness. We must go forward with speed towards the installation of Solar Water Heaters. We must find a solution which will ensure that we use less and less energy from our electricity grid.

One wonders how much electricity would have been generated and returned to the grid in the past three days if we were ready.

In the light of the Medium Term Budget Framework presented yesterday, I hope that we will find a way in which we can accelerate delivery to our communities. I know that we will find a way after studying the Framework.

In conclusion, I hope that the Cabinet changes announced by the President of the Republic of South Africa will go a long way in inspiring confidence in the people of this country. It is through decisive actions by the President that we draw courage in doing what we do, bringing community aspirations to reality.

I wish to take this opportunity to invite all our constituent Local Municipalities to join us as we mark the 15th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution on the 10th of December. I know that I can rely on your support for this project for indeed on that day fifteen years ago, everybody was made human.

I Thank You.