



Address by the Sedibeng Executive Mayor: Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the 196th Meeting of the Mayoral Committee held on the 8th November 2011 in Sedibeng.

Honourable Members of the Mayoral Committee, I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the 196th Meeting of the Mayoral Committee.

We are meeting after a vigorous process of meetings with all Members of the Mayoral Committee and Executive Directors. These sessions have helped to allay my fears and served to confirm that we are on the right track.

I call on all our MMCs and EDs to redouble their efforts, work together with their counterparts in our Locals to maximize our wisdom and efforts. In the next few days I will be entering into a contract with all MMCs whereby we will sign performance agreements. This will assist us to monitor and evaluate our work from time-to-time.

This meeting also comes few days after some critical political developments in our country.

The President has reshuffled his Cabinet – in a move which resulted to the Ministers of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs and of Public Works being relived off their parliamentary duties.

I therefore wish to congratulate both Minister Richard Baloyi and Minister Thembelani Nxesi to their new portfolios. These moves have also affected Chairpersons of various Parliamentary Portfolio and Standing Committees, which also included the suspension of the National Commissioner of Policy, General Bheki Cele, in whose position now we have Nhlanhla Mazibuko acting commissioner.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Cde. Jeff Radebe announced the details of the Commission of Inquiry into allegations of fraud, corruption, impropriety or irregularity in the Strategic Defence Procurement Packages, commonly known as the Arms Deal.

We hope and trust that this development as announced by the Minister will bring to an end the years of speculation and skepticism on the processes leading towards the appointment of a preferred bidder to supplier our Country with Arms.

Furthermore, the terms of the Commission will help us to determine the number of job opportunities created through this important State procurement process; it will further provide answers as to whether any

persons within and or outside our government improperly influenced the award or conclusion of any of the contracts awarded and concluded in the SDPP procurement process.

Ultimately, the process will allow us to answer questions of whether there has been or not any act of fraud or corruption committed during this procurement process.

Echoing the sentiments of the ruling party, the ANC and in the spirit of continuing in our endeavor for clean and good governance, I would like to invite you all to recommit yourselves to the fight against any forms of crime and corruption.

Saturday, 6th October marked Children's Day, as first Saturday in November each year is South Africa's National Children's Day. We must continue our hard work each day to make Sedibeng and South Africa a more prosperous region and country for our children and future generations. You will agree with me when I say that many children, like the majority of our people, still find themselves in dire situations of poverty.

This reminds me of the situation we found in Evaton during our Nelson Mandela International Day, of a child headed family which we committed to assist.

I hope and trust that MMC responsible in this regard, Cde. Mshudulu is managing the process as we are gradually approaching another Nelson Mandela International Day.

We must work together with other government departments to ensure that this commitment is achieved to avoid being labeled conveyers of empty promises.

MMC Tsokolibane will agree with me when echoing the words of the President of the ANC and the country when I say that the governments can never be the principal providers of jobs. Instead, jobs are created by successful and well-managed private sector enterprises. The role of government is to create an enabling environment through progressive policies and programmes.

It is in this regard that we continuously urge business to do more to increase levels of investments, training and above all employment creation.

We recently witnessed a historic signing of an accord by the State, business and labour movement to increase local procurement by 75%. This is surely a step in the right direction in relation to curbing job losses and the eradication of abject poverty in the region and the country.

MMC Tsokolibane, it is therefore our responsibility to ensure we sing from the same hymn book with our local business stakeholders in our Region in interpreting the contents of this important arrangement. It is now our task and responsibility to chase the PRASA program and bring it to Sedibeng. I rely on your capable hands to lead in this regard.

The signing of this accord will in the main support and rebuild our country's manufacturing sectors. We welcome the ongoing discussions and partnerships between business, labour and government on job creation and other matters within the ambit of NEDLAC.

The accords that have been signed by business, labour and government on local procurement, basic education and skills development indicate unity in dealing with matters affecting the country.

Colleagues, this month reminds us of some important struggle lessons of the past, which we should not forget as we continue in our attempt to consolidate governance in Sedibeng.

They include among other, the **6 November 1964** which reminds us of Cde. Vuyisile Mini, a trade unionist and Mkhonto we Sizwe (MK) activist who was hanged for his role in the MK and anti-apartheid resistance.

As a member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), he was responsible for the organisation of metal workers at a time when the apartheid government had increased its repressive measures against black trade unions. He became the first African National Congress (ANC) member to be executed by the apartheid regime. He was hanged together with comrades Wilson Khayinga and Zinakile Mkaba. They have died for our freedom.

With these in mind, it is clear that our freedom did not come cheap, although there is now light at the end of a tunnel for all of us to see. We thank the people who paid the ultimate prize with their own lives so that we can all vote as equals in the country of our birth.

We took our concept of Consolidating Governance in Sedibeng a step forward yesterday when I addressed the Mayoral Lekgotla of the Emfuleni Local Municipality.

It was interesting because as we presented our case, the SGDS and the IDPs played a critical role in that the three topics: Consolidation of Governance in Sedibeng, SDGS and IDPs are associated.

We must continue our work in partnership with our counterparts in our three constituent local Municipalities to find synergy in all these programmes to realize success.

Dear Members of the Mayoral Committee and officials, we further meet today just few days after having concluded a similarly important month on which we observed what we have come to refer to as the Transport Month.

Cde. Maphalla, as we enter the festive period, I hope that we will re-emphasize the need for proper and accident free road usage. It is regrettable that the festive season that should be a time of joy, family reunion and much needed end of the year relaxation should turn into a period of sadness as a result of road accidents for the majority of people in our region and the country.

We must find a way of having one or two awareness programmes just before December.

The national census has come and gone. In my interaction with the Statistician General, Ntate Pali Lehohla at my house when he and his team came to count my family, he informed me that even though their work would have come to an end on the 31st October, they would be doing what he referred to as mopping up process.

This is the process among other, allocated for those who may have not been counted within the provided period. Let us work together with the

Stats SA in ensuring that our people in Sedibeng are all counted as we all know and understand the benefits thereof.

In that spirit, let me take this opportunity to thank the good work done by the enumerators in and around Sedibeng who went from house to house in their bright yellow resource packs ensuring that all our people are counted.

In our previous Mayco, I announced that we would be going to our communities in October to report on our 100 Days in Office Programme. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this could not materialize and would be advising you in due course on a new date for this important meeting.

Much work lies ahead. In wishing the Grade 12s good luck in their exams and our communities a very good and joyous festive season, I would like to advise that the Municipality will be engaged in the following high profile events:

- The Launch of the Sedibeng United Business Chambers Forum on the 15th November 2011 at the Stonehaven on Vaal, Vanderbijlpark at 16:30;
- Sedibeng AIDS Council meeting to be held on the 25th November 2011 at the Sedibeng District Council Chambers, Vereeniging at 09:00;

- Inaugural Sedibeng Mayoral Awards to be held on the 5th December 2011 at the Vereeniging City Hall at 18:00. I hope that this time around there won't be any postponement;
- The Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in Sharpeville on the 10th December 2011;
- The Sedibeng Growth & Development Summit to be held on the 30 November 2011 and the 1 December 2011 at the Emerald;

In conclusion

- In few hours time, as you might be aware that the contract of our Municipal Manager, Mr. Yunus Chamda is coming to end soon, I will be performing interviews for that position. From the 4 applicants who have been screened and assessed by Assessment Toolbox, we might have an MM;
- It is after the appointment of the MM that we will start a process of recruiting Executive Directors whose contracts are also coming to an end.
- I am happy to announce that I do have a Personal Assistant at last, Ms Carol Venter has been appointed as a PA in my office after a long and hard process of selection.
- I am however, disappointed by our showing as Sedibeng at the OR Tambo games. When other teams were marching under their

banners, in honour of the great leader this country has ever seen, our participants were coming in bits and pieces.

As if that was not enough, some had to use their own clothing because the tracksuits were not provided. I do not even want to talk about the catering. I hope that I will get a full report on this matter.

- I have looked with great pride on the Solar Water geysers in the various areas in our District. I hope that we will extend the installation of these geysers to as many households as possible to reduce our carbon footprint.
- It is with the good work we are doing in the installation of the fibre optic cables that Sedibeng will jump into the future with confidence. My only issue with this is that our communities do not have a sense as to what this whole thing is all about. It is with this in mind that I look forward to a pamphlet to be issued out to our communities, in a language they will understand, showing and illustrating the gains of this fibre optic cable. I have called for this sometime ago now.
- In celebration of the good work we continue to do here in Sedibeng, I look forward to us having a farewell function for our former Madam Speaker, Kedibone Mogotsi who has been deployed to the Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing.

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

I Thank You.