



## Message

from the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality

The year 2011 offers us new offerings in our march to commemorate the 51st Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre. The 50th Anniversary last year left us a long lasting legacy in Sedibeng. The Jubilee Commemoration gave us a chance to offer the world the 2010 Heritage Projects such as the revamped George Thabe and the Isak Steyl Stadia for the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup.

This year, being the first anniversary after the earth shattering fifty (50) years, offers us an opportunity to start afresh in preparations for the centenary celebration in forty nine (49) years to come.

If 2010 offered the great beginnings of the Sharpeville Precinct, the 21st March 2011 Commemorations give us completed Heritage Projects which the Sharpeville generation will be proud to call home in fifty years (50) years on. This will be a Sharpeville which bears fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by heroes and heroines we dare not forget. All these we do in commemoration of the Human Rights Day, a day which came to be popularly known as the Sharpeville Shooting.

This is the period that was followed by massive repression, mass detentions and the banning of organizations fighting for freedom and democracy such as the ANC and PAC. This signaled the beginning of a difficult and painful period in the history of our country – an era in which repression, racism, conflict and division reached their peak.

In memory and honour of the heroes and heroines of that fateful day, the 21st March 1960, the area of Sedibeng was declared to be the Cradle of Human Rights by the first president of the democratic South Africa, the Honourable Mr. Nelson Mandela. This was in recognition of the role that the people of Sedibeng played in the struggle for Human Rights..

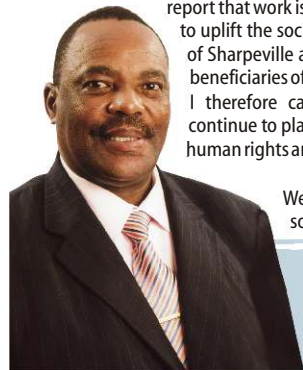
As we march into the year 2011, may we once again declare our commitment and shared zero-tolerance to crime in our region. In this regard we are continuously improving and upgrading our CCTV street surveillance system in Sharpeville; that the Sharpeville Precinct Developments benefit the people of Sharpeville.

As per commitments made on massive precincts developments in and around Sharpeville through the 100 Days Service Delivery Projects, I am pleased to report that work is underway in various parts of Sharpeville to uplift the socio-economic development of the people of Sharpeville and the people of Sedibeng who remain beneficiaries of these projects in one way or the other.

I therefore call upon all residents of Sedibeng to continue to play a role in the promotion and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in South Africa.

We must all ensure a human rights centered society.

**Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng**  
Executive Mayor,  
Sedibeng District Municipality



## human rights festival 2011



## Background

On 21 March 1960, events were planned for many parts of the country, for people to protest against the Pass Laws. These laws required all Africans living or working in and around towns to carry a document (known as a pass) with them at all times. Failure to carry this document would lead to arrest by the police and to people being sent away from the towns in which they lived.

On this day people decided to go to police stations without their passes and to demand that the police arrest them. The idea was that so many people would be arrested and the jails would become so full that the country would not be able to function properly. It was hoped that this would lead to the Pass Laws being scrapped.

At Sharpeville in Gauteng, thousands of people gathered at the police station demanding to be arrested. They were met by 300 police officers. After a scuffle broke out, the police opened fire on the crowd. Sixty-nine people were killed and 180 injured by the shooting.

Shortly after this the ANC and PAC were banned and the ANC decided to launch the armed struggle. After a period of darkness during the 1960's, the 1970's saw increasing resistance and struggle culminating in the end of apartheid and birth of our democracy in 1994.

The new democratic government declared March 21 Human Rights Day not only to commemorate the struggle of the people in Sharpeville, but all struggles across South Africa for freedom and democracy.

We commemorate this day annually in partnership with Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture to:

- Remind us of the great suffering and loss of life that accompanied the struggle for human rights;
- Celebrate our new Constitution and Bill of Rights; and
- Raise awareness on our Human Rights and our struggle for human rights, especially amongst young people.

This year marks the 51st Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre. "Lest we forget"



## human rights festival 2011



**THE CRADLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**Sedibeng District Municipality**

15 Mar to 31 Mar



## Imbawula Story Telling 17 & 25 March

The survivors of the Sharpeville and Sebokeng massacres will sit around imbawulas and tell stories about the events and how they unfolded on those fateful days. The stories of how the families of the victims were effected and how the community at large struggled to get justice till this day. The Khulumani Support Group which represents the survivors of these and other massacres will partner the Municipalities in bringing these stories to life.

**Sharpeville:** at Seeiso street on the 17 March.

**Sebokeng:** at the Post Office in Zone 11 on the 25 March.

Date: 17 March                      Date: 25 March  
Venue: Seeiso Street, Sharpeville      Venue: Sebokeng Post Office, Zone 11  
Time: 18:30 for 19:00                      Time: 18:30 for 19:00  
Contact: Siphokhumalo 082 672 8962 / 016 450 3380  
siphok@sedibeng.gov.za

## Puisano Live Jazz 19 March

The promotion and development of local musicians is seen as one of the key functions of the Puisano Jazz Festival. The wealth of talent and their obvious potential to develop into world class performers needs to be nurtured.

The Jazz Festival will feature several Jazz bands that have been selected from preliminary rounds and so the crowds are guaranteed to be entertained by some of the best the Jazz world has to offer.

Bring along your camping chairs and enjoy a pick-nick with family and friends. Listen to bands like Up Beat, Sharpeville Swing Starts, Live Rhythms, Mac Jays and more.

Venue: Kwa-Dhlomo Dam, Sharpeville  
Time: 11:00  
Contact: Bonny Tsetetsi 082 672 9086      Titus Motlomelo 079 063 8916  
bonnyt@sedibeng.gov.za      titus.motlomelo@gauteng.gov.za

## Kathrada Exhibition 21 March to 30 June

An exhibition titled "Kathy" The Man Behind the Public Figure" will go on display at the Sharpeville Memorial Centre from the 21 March until the end of June 2011.

This exhibition will be held in partnership with the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation which was established to deepen non-racialism.

The exhibition includes photographs and letters from the days that Ahmed Kathrada spent on Robin Island. The exhibition will move to Sharpeville from the Hector Pieterse Museum in Soweto where it is currently on display.

Venue: Sharpeville Exhibition Centre  
Time: 09:00  
Contact: Siphokhumalo 082 672 8962 / 016 450 3380  
siphok@sedibeng.gov.za

## Pan African Craft Exhibition 17-31 March

In an effort to promote cultural tourism and diversity the Sedibeng District Municipality has partnered with artists and different ethnic communities to showcase their art and crafts.

This event will also encourage networking and social cohesion amongst people of different ethnic backgrounds and will provide a platform for these artisans to showcase their work.

Lovers of African art & crafts and bargain hunters should not miss this opportunity and visit the Sharpeville Exhibition Centre on these days.

Venue: Sharpeville Exhibition Centre  
Time: 09:00  
Contact: David Sila 082 672 9052      Mthunzi Ndimande  
davids@sedibeng.gov.za      mthunzi.ndimande@gauteng.gov.za

## Candle Light 20 March

Sedibeng District Municipality in partnership with the Khulumani Support group and other religious groups from Sedibeng and the surrounding areas, invite you to this ceremonial Candle Lighting procession where they will be remembering the night before the 21 March 1960.

An address by the political leadership of Sedibeng will be followed by a prayer service hosted in memory of the fallen heroes and heroines of the Sharpeville massacre.

This prayer is an annual event initiated by the community with the support of its Municipalities.

Venue: Bophelong Stadium  
Time: 16:00  
Contact: Mabel Morontse 082 610 6099      Lebo Mofokeng 079 510 7324  
mabelm@emfuleni.gov.za      lebom@sedibeng.gov.za

## Choral Music Festival 26 - 27 March

A partnership between the Sedibeng District Municipality and the Sedibeng Arts Initiative, under the direction and guidance of Mr. Fako Mokoena, a well-known and experienced choral leader in the Sedibeng community. The Sedibeng Choral Music Festival is entering its 9th successful year.

Sedibeng District Municipality is proud to be part of this prestigious event which promotes and develops arts and culture in the area, as well as to establish Sedibeng as one of the foremost choral music regions in the country.

Venue: Mphatlalatsane Theatre, Zone 14, Sebokeng  
Time: 10:00  
Contact: Bonny Tsetetsi 082 672 9086  
bonnyt@sedibeng.gov.za

## Cleaning of Graves 18 March

This is an annual event where victims and or survivors of the 1960 massacres along with local leadership get together to perform a ceremonial cleaning of graves.

The ceremony is always blessed by the attendance of priests and religious leaders from Sharpeville as well the families of the survivors of the Sharpeville Massacre.

A short prayer service is followed by an acknowledgment of the victims and their sacrifices by the Executive Mayor.

Venue: Phelandaba Cemetery  
Time: 10:00  
Contact: Eva Baardman 082 829 4189 / 016 950 5452  
evab@emfuleni.gov.za

## Human Rights Rally 21 March

Human Rights Day is commemorated on 21st March each year to honour our fallen heroes and heroines and celebrate the Human Rights and fundamental values for which they fought.

The official rally hosted by the Gauteng Province will include a mix of events ranging from live music and entertainment to speeches by local and provincial leadership.

This National Day of commemoration promises to be of great value to those who attend the event that will be staged at the Cricket Pitch next to George Thabe Stadium in Sharpeville.

Venue: Cricket Pitch, Sharpeville  
Contact: Dan Manoeli 082 672 8780 / 016 450 3015  
danm@sedibeng.gov.za

## Memorial Lecture 31 March

A Human Rights hero will deliver the keynote address with the objective of sharing the memories and interpretations as well as the political significance of the Sharpeville Massacre and the struggle for human rights.

The importance of understanding and propagating the concept of human rights will be a central theme in this event.

The event will also honour and remember heroes and heroines of the Sharpeville massacre and their contribution to the struggle against apartheid.

Venue: VUT Desmond Tutu Hall  
Time: 17h00  
Contact: Dan Manoeli 082 672 8780 / 016 450 3015  
danm@sedibeng.gov.za