



SEDIBENG 2012



STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

**“Towards a Metropolitan River City for a
seamless Service Delivery in the Vaal Region”**

**ADDRESS OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR,
COUNCILLOR MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG AT
THE STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS – 2012 AT
THE VEREENIGING CIVIC THEATRE ON THE 23
MAY 2012.**

PART A - OPENING & GREETINGS

Madam Speaker, honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Our State of the District Address takes place two days before Africa Day - a day that reminds us of the importance of promoting and embracing our unity in diversity as Africans.

I want to address you today with a key message that will underpin this 2012 State of the District Address.

The anchor message, upon which I base this address, is four simple words:

“Inspire, and be inspired”

Before I weave these four simple words into my address, it is only befitting that I welcome all of those who have joined us today for this State of the District Address. Through our now customary and far reaching satellite broadcast program, this audience at the Vereeniging Civic Theatre is joined by five other satellite venues across our District.

Firstly, let me acknowledge a community who have joined us via satellite from a beautiful little town, that was once the capital of the South African Republic under Paul Kruger, and which is also the hometown of the famous Afrikaner poet and well-loved medical doctor, A.G. Visser, and that town is Heidelberg in Lesedi. At the Heidelberg City Hall we acknowledge the Programme Director, Comrade Tshepo Moloi, and his audience and welcome them to this State of the District Address (SoDA 2012).

Our second satellite audience joins us from a place that was one of the only pieces of land in which African people enjoyed freehold tenure since its establishment in 1904 and that is our historical and much loved community who joins us from the Community Centre in Evaton. Programme Director, Comrade Ndade Mokoena, we trust that you and your enthusiastic

audience are comfortable in your venue and ready to receive the SoDA 2012.

A few kilometres from here at the Cradle of Human Rights, from the community that bled in 1960, but that rose to become the home of our Constitution in 1996, we welcome Councillor Bobby Taetae and his audience at the recently renovated and rebuilt Sharpeville Community Hall.

24 days ago, South Africa lost a man with a long and proud tradition of championing the cause of students, workers and communities. A former MEC of Local Government and a former Minister of COGTA, we were all saddened by the passing of Cde. Sicelo Shiceka.

In this Region, Cde. Shiceka's legacy will live on in the community settlement named after him and at the Meyerton Salvation Ministry in Sicelo, one of our satellite venues today. We welcome Councillor Ace Boland and his audience there.

From our most populace community, from the heart of Sebokeng, we are joined at the Mphatlalatsane Theatre by Councillor Calvin Mooko and a large audience that have been drawn from surrounding areas. We greet you Sebokeng, welcome to the State of the District Address.

There are also viewers from all over the country who have joined us on DSTV channel 109. So wherever you may be, welcome and thank you for taking time to view this 2012 State of the District Address.

To all of those who have taken the time, and who have made the effort to travel to our satellite venues, and also to this audience here at the Civic Theatre, it is people like you who show interest, who care to know and be informed and be knowledgeable about the affairs of the community, who make public representatives like me, feel inspired and energetic to wake up each day to fight-the-fights for a better life for all our people.

We are inspired by you.

There is also a collective of people, who will need to inspire us and who need huge inspiration in the next few years as a result of the huge responsibility that has descended on their shoulders. Less than 120 hours ago, at the Saint George Hotel in Kempton Park, the

African National Congress Sedibeng Region elected the new Regional Leadership.

Allow me to acknowledge and recognise the new Regional Office Bearers led by the very man standing before you, Mahole Simon Mofokeng, as the Chairperson; the Deputy Chairperson in Cde. Greta Hlongwane; the Regional Secretary in Cde. Bob Mthembu; the Regional Deputy Secretary in Cde. Lerato Maloka; and the Regional Treasurer in Cde. Melina Langa.

I hope that these Office Bearers will be strict and demanding in holding the Executive Mayors and other public representatives of Emfuleni, Lesedi and Sedibeng accountable and to deliver on the ANC mandate.

I trust that the mandate of the branches has motivated you, and over your term of office I trust that you will motivate others to work hard and tirelessly to deliver to the people.

Therefore, I ask you to inspire, and be inspired.

We are also joined here at the Vereeniging Civic Theatre by inspirational leadership and representatives of our communities, non-governmental organizations, and some of the people who made it to our event and which I welcome and recognise:

- Fellow Executive Mayors
- Members of the Mayoral Committees;
- It would be the greatest mistake not to acknowledge the presence of the most important people in my life. I recognise the presence of my lovely wife, Matsie Mofokeng. My father Ntjheme Mofokeng, my mother Madisebo Mofokeng, my father-in-law Mbuti Motsoeneng, and my mother-in-law Makaketsi Motsoeneng, including my beautiful children in the audience;
- All Councillors and other public representatives;
- Members of the Sedibeng Mayoral Investment Council;
- Members of the Sedibeng Audit Committee;
- The Auditor-General;
- Municipal Managers;
- Officials from the District and our Local Municipalities, and the people of Sedibeng.
- Also within our midst, we have a Drie Riviere Hoer Skool, Grade 12 Learner, Ms. Tru-Hande, the

provincial winner of the Annual State of the Nations Address, which is organised by Presidency.

PART B – SERVICE DELIVERY INITIATIVES

Today the Sedibeng District Municipality adopted its Second Generation Growth and Development Strategy called GDS-02 which charts our pathway in the next 5 years. The theme of this State of the District Address is drawn from the long term vision embodied in that Strategy and is entitled:

“Towards a Metropolitan River City for a Seamless Service Delivery in the Vaal Region.”

Madam Speaker, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen, the emphasis on 'a seamless service delivery' is very much central to our reasons for aspiring towards becoming a Metro system of governance.

In reviewing GDS-01 which was adopted in 2007, and in looking at the socio-economic analysis of our region, the GDS Summit held in November 2011 provided us with the now well-known and enduring 7 Key Priority Areas, our 5R's plus 2.

Our service delivery focus is always channelled via these focus areas which are always worth repeating. They are:

- Reinventing our economy
- Renewing our communities
- Reviving sustainable environment
- Reintegrating our region
- Releasing human potential
- Good and financial sustainable governance
- Vibrant democracy

Service Delivery Initiatives

While GDS-02 looks ahead, you may be asking what are some of the areas of progress to date that are worth noting.

Due to the continued efforts and cooperation of the District and its three locals, the stability which has characterized Sedibeng in the past three years, has been able to leverage support both internally and from the province for a basket of meaningful services and infrastructure spending.

We have an obligation to create a sustainable and stable environment which lends itself to investor confidence with a view to improve the lives of our communities in Sedibeng. The completion of projects, in an incremental manner, will stand us in good stead as we arrive at our promised land, the Vaal Metropolitan River City.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of our service delivery initiatives not only at the level of the Sedibeng District, but also at the level of our three local municipalities.

The following projects are worth noting and make a very good success story:

INTHE LESEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The following service delivery projects are worth noting:

- Road Construction of 1,6km in Impumelelo and Devon,
- In Ratanda roads that have just been completed are:
- Extension 8 (1.74 kilometers),
- Extension 23 and 26 (2,8 kilometers)
- Extension 7 (,92 kilometers)
- Extension 3 (1,73 kilometers)
- Extension 6 (,750 kilometers)
- For construction in the 2012/2013 financial year are 6.3kms in extension 7 and 3,7kms in Extension 23 and 26, are planned.
- Construction of 300 houses in Obed Nkosi will be undertaken in this financial year.
- Upgrading of Hostels in the Nkitsing (CRU) will be completed as roofing is completed
- The Protea Hostel (CRU) will move from the first phase to the second phase.
- A variety of electricity, sewer and water upgrade projects have also been completed and are on-going.

INTHE EMFULENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The following service delivery projects are worth noting:

- Significant improvement in public lighting with energy efficient lighting. Electrification of Tshepong and Tshepong Extension 3
- Currently upgrades to the electrical network across Emfuleni to the value of R86m is underway

with an average of 25% completion

- Repairs to several high mast lights, traffic lights, have been undertaken and the project already initiated that has seen over 10, 000 fittings replaced
- Electricity losses are being reduced with monitors in the higher risk areas with disconnections of defaulters
- The quality of drinking water in the area has received Blue Drop Status, and this will be enhanced with further upgrades to the Vaal over water purification plant. Further improvements are to be made to water quality compliance at all three Waste Water Treatment Works.
- An Amount of R178,5m will be spent on 17,640 sqm of tar road rehabilitation. A further 50kms of roads will be resealed. The target for pothole repairs is 50 000.00 in the next financial year. 352 road signs are being replaced
- The weekly refuse removal has been extended beyond the 174 083 households that currently enjoy this basic service
- A total of 7,690 ha of public open spaces is being maintained.

INTHE MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

- The R59 corridor continues to flourish and attract investment all the time. The District has engaged Pick-N-Pay with regard to their plans for a new national distribution warehouse.
- Savannah City, alongside Orange Farms and straddling Doornkuil will become a flagship housing project that will be unique and ground breaking in many ways. Over a period of time, this housing development will provide 18,000 new houses for the people of Sedibeng,
- Housing Projects in Mamello will gain momentum in the next few years as will further developments in Sicelo.

INTHE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The following service delivery projects are worth noting:

- The commencement of upgrading to the Vereeniging Station and Taxido Taxi rank. The project is in partnership between Gauteng DRT, PRASA and the Sedibeng District Municipality. The project value is R100m and will make a huge improvement to public transport convenience in

this area

- The implementation of the Sedibeng Regional Sewer Scheme has commenced in this financial year. The project will increase the Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) capacity from 100megalitres/day to 200megalitres/day. The capacity of the Meyerton works will also double from 10ml/day to 20ml/day. A new WWTW with a capacity of 147megalitres/day will also be eventually constructed. The project is a joint partnership between the Sedibeng District and its local Municipalities of Emfuleni and Lesedi, the Gauteng Provincial Government and National Department of Water Affairs.
- Following the successful implementation of the Precinct Development Projects in Sharpeville, with the use of funding from the NDPG, Sedibeng will commence with a cultural precinct in Zone 14, Sebokeng. The initial investment will be R4m. In Sharpeville the Cemetery upgrades project was completed as was the extension to the Exhibition Centre and finally Constitution Walk has been completed.
- The Sedibeng District together with Lesedi local municipality has completed the planning of and will now begin with construction of a Multi-purpose Sports centre in Lesedi. Funding of R6,03m is from the Lotto Fund
- Sedibeng will continue to roll-out the installation of fibre-optic cables for improved connectivity all over the District. The completed project will see 80kms of fibre optic laid. 30,5kms has already been laid and in the next financial year R9m will be spent to further the project. I will talk a little more about this in my synopsis of GDS-02 Flagship Projects
- The Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport has begun construction of improvements to the R82 in Walkerville and De Deur (Midvaal) and will also build a connecting link to Evaton (Emfuleni)
- The Sedibeng District will oversee the implementation of a solar geyser installation project of 200,000 units in all three local Municipalities. The project is funded by Eskom and we have now been informed that funding will be released as from July 2012.

The above does not include smaller projects for improved operations and institutional capacity building, and several smaller service delivery projects.

Often we must not ignore what may appear to be small projects. You never know which small initiatives can grow into having a huge impact on the lives of the people of Sedibeng.

I discovered this inspirational story of what, at the time, may have appeared like a small and insignificant achievement. Two brothers, one named Wilbur and the other named Orville, looked at the birds in the sky and dreamed of man flying someday.

In the 1880's in America, these brothers made bicycles. Despite their modest professions, they were inspired with the idea of flight. After many, many failed attempts to build a glider that could fly, on 17 December 1903, for a mere 12 seconds, their 700 pounds propeller driven plane called the Flyer at Kitty Hawk, undertook the first successful, powered, piloted flight in history.

12 seconds, that's all they managed.

Count with me One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, Eleven, Twelve. That's it. That was the length of the first flight.

That first flight inspired longer and faster flight. In 1930, the propeller engine was succeeded by a jet engine, in 1957 the Soviet Union launched a satellite called Sputnik, America followed up with the Explorer in 1958. In 1969, man went to the moon and in recent years space shuttles have taken off and safely returned to earth.

If you look at and advert from Virgin Galactic you will be amazed. You can now, for a cost of two hundred thousand US Dollars, book a flight into space. And where did it all begin with 12 seconds of flight.

I call on every parent in Sedibeng, every teacher in Sedibeng, every caregiver in Sedibeng to inspire our children especially and to be inspired by their creativity and imagination.

When you're on your next 12 hour flight to the Far East, or America or Europe, remember that it all started with just 12 seconds.

It was the prolific author Neil Gaiman who said:

“Sometimes you wake up. Sometimes the fall kills you. And sometimes, when you fall, you fly.”

Every resident of Sedibeng must be encouraged to Release their Human Potential, and be inspired to fly.

PART C – SECOND GENERATION GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

In the next twelve months, the Sedibeng District and its Local Municipalities, will take the vision of the GDS to all the corners of our communities into boardrooms, into churches, into clubs and societies, into classrooms and lecture rooms, onto the shop floor and, dare I say it, into the bars, taverns and chesanyamas too.

During the 2011 State of the District Address we presented a comprehensive list of feedback on progress on several key projects linked to our 5Rs-Plus-2 focus areas.

During that Address, we also gave some insights on what we hoped the Second Generation DGS, or GDS-02, would contain. Today in our Council meeting that preceded this occasion, we adopted our GDS-02 and therefore we can now use this opportunity to make some comments about the process, contents, challenges and more importantly, about the huge effort that is needed to embed GD-02 into the life of our communities and into the developmental plans of all spheres of government and of our private sector.

In light of the move towards the Metro system of governance, the coordination role of the District Municipality is becoming more crucial. It is incumbent upon the District Municipality to coordinate District-wide infrastructure planning, spatial planning and environmental management activities.

This has also been explicitly mentioned in the Comments of the MEC on the 2011/2012 IDP.

For the purposes of clarity and summary, in Chapter 9 of GDS-02, the following 10 Flagship Projects are noted as the key drivers of a vibrant and dynamic economy for the immediate future. It is worth spending a little time to note what these projects are and why they are considered catalytic projects in GDS-02.

ONE –The Establishment of the Sedibeng

Development Agency

The SDA will be a municipal entity that is established to initiate, coordinate, manage and implement economic development projects in Sedibeng. The establishment of the Sedibeng Development Agency is a mechanism to realize that development initiatives should be coordinated effectively in order to make meaningful impact in the region.

It is important that the Municipality brings to finality the process of setting up the Sedibeng Economic Development Agency so as to guide and coordinate economic development initiatives.

The Sedibeng Economic Development Agency is going to be an Independent body with its own Accounting Authority (Board of Directors) and its own staff establishment to run its own affairs to achieve its mandate.

It is important to set up this Agency to coordinate economic development and to get effective partnership between Government, Business and the Community to facilitate economic and Investment Growth.

The Agency will act as a One Stop shop for Investment and business or enterprise development in which all applications for development and re-zoning, assistance with administrative red tape and incentives will be coordinated.

As a pre-cursor to the establishment of the SDA, an urgent need now exists to facilitate the corporatization of the Vereeniging Airport, the Heidelberg Airport and the Fresh Produce Market.

TWO –The Creation of a Logistics Hub in Emfuleni

This is a Special Economic Zone to facilitate inland port for freight and logistics, and facilitate movement of goods from manufacturing and other sectors for domestic, national and International destinations since Vaal is one of the largest industrial hubs in Southern Africa and its proximity to Gauteng markets and its excellent rail and road transport networks make it a natural location for a logistics hub.

The project seeks to designate certain infrastructure to support rail and road travel to and from Sedibeng to the

domestic, national and International destinations.

What are some of the impacts that this project will generate?

1. A reduction in congestion and traffic on the road to deliver goods on time
2. A reduction in cost for road maintenance.
3. Shifting road to rail intermodal facilities to address major issues of lowering inland transport costs and improve track and trace capacities.
4. To realize economic development potential of the area through warehousing facilities, efficient loading, off-loading and freight transfer handling
5. An improvement in ICT and Connectivity through data interchange, electronic trading and consignment tracking and tracing.

THREE –The Completion of the Regional Sewer Scheme

This is a high impact project that is critical to South Africa as it directly impacts on the national GDP. The estimated budget for the total solution is R4billion.

It is aimed at addressing the following problems:

- Spillage of raw sewage into the Vaal River.
- Discharge of non-compliant effluent into the Vaal River.
- Negative environmental and health impact.
- Restricting the potential of socio economic growth and its impediment to investment potential of the Province.
- The sanitation infrastructure within the Sedibeng Regional Municipality is old, resulting in high maintenance costs and frequent performance failures.
- The demand exceeds the design capacity of all Waste Water Treatment Works.

The proposed solution is holistic in nature and broken down into 3 phases: short, medium and long term.

These terms are phased to address the identified challenges as per their priorities.

The solution proposes the expansion of existing waste water treatment plants i.e. Sebokeng from 100Ml/day to 200Ml/day, Meyerton from about 10ml/day to 20Ml/day and construction of outfall sewers, mega pumps station and a new Waste water treatment plant with a capacity of 147Ml/day.

The main objectives of the project are:

- To deliver an effective solution that will eradicate the pollution into the Vaal River and its tributaries.
- To create bulk sanitation infrastructure for the Southern Gauteng Region.
- To institute interim measures to address immediate/emergency problems.
- To facilitate local economic development and job creation
- To eradicate water & sanitation service delivery challenges, thus improving both social & economic development in the region
- To create institutional capacity to provide water services sustainable in the Region.
- To create project management capacity to deliver the project successfully (Governance, Procurement, IGR, Funding, expertise and systems)

FOUR –The Implementation of the Rural Development Programme with development of the Maize Triangle Project and with the acceleration of Cooperatives

To provide the technical and infrastructure, as well as logistical support to small and emerging farmers and cooperatives in Agriculture.

The envisaged impact of the project is to directly address the problems of start up by small scale and emerging farmers:

- To provide food security and address rural poverty and create jobs;
- To reduce the outflow of the rural poor into urban areas to seek alternative livelihoods;
- To avoid congestion into urban centres and create economic migrants thereby causing problems for urban development;
- To create sustainability in Agriculture and food security in rural communities
- To create and improve infrastructure in rural communities to attract investments and economic development thus job creation.

The Rural Cooperatives are intended:

- To develop infra-structures in and around Vaal Marine/Bantu Bonke areas;
- To increase number of tunnels and create more job opportunities in an area;
- To change the mind-set that rural development is

all about agricultural development only. Many people have successfully used the spaces on their large plots for small scale manufacturing and for a variety of commercial activities.

FIVE –an Alternative Energy Programme

At a household level, the project is about the conversion of the solar energy (sunlight) into electricity for heating up of water for domestic use.

This project is in line with the Government drive to reduce the dependence on fossil fuel for the generation of electricity. It is the drive towards clean and green energy production. The project will effectively cut out the need to use the current conventionally produced electricity for heating up water for household use. The project can easily be extended to cover the need for heating up water for use in offices, small businesses, sports and recreation centres, etc.

SIX –the Implementation of the Integrated Transport Model

The project looks into the feasibility of developing a long term integrated public transport plan that looks into the integration of modes of transport into the public transport system operating as a single seamless system. This means an Integration of the current independently operating modes of public transport into an integrated public transportsystem.

The project's feasibility will be dissected into phases, the Bus Rapid Transport, the Intercity (inter-municipal) Bus Transport, the Intercity (inter-municipal) Speed Train.

Experiences and best practices will be sourced from the Johannesburg Metro and the GDRT and other examples of the model. The feasibility of these projects is depended on the land use plan, the spatialdevelopment framework, and the local economic development plan. The development of these plans will ensure that the framework and foundations are laid for a feasible integrated public transport system.

SEVEN – The Implementing a Comprehensive

Heritage Programme

The Sedibeng District has for many years now had a very strong focus on heritage projects. Why is this so?

It is our contention that one of the best inspirations for unlocking human potential lies in the heritage of our past. This project will focus on Heritage Resources Preservation and Commemoration of Identified National, Provincial and Regional Events.

SDM has initiated the Sharpeville Heritage Precinct Legacy Project including significant heritage related events to preserve, promote and commemorate our local history, to promote social cohesion and nation building as well as contributing to the economic development of our region.

EIGHT –the Establishment of the Single Regional Authority

Some would argue that this is a process and not a project. Our visits to places that have become Metros in the recent past, Mangaung and Buffalo City in particular, have shown that unless this transition is treated like a project, events will unfold randomly rather than in a deliberate way.

NINE - Expanding Fibre Optic Connectivity across the Region

The installation of fibre in Sedibeng is being installed and is informed by the objectives that seek to create data connectivity to every municipal office, library, clinic and youth centres across the district. This will, amongst otherthings, lower the cost of doing business for vital economic players and increase economic participation by the broader society. In the long run, this will contribute towards reshaping the district's economy to be more inclusiveand broad-based by opening up new opportunities for the marginalised communities.

This strategy also takes into account being environmentally sensitive and can reduce Council's carbon footprint through electronic transfer of working information, hence minimising actual travel costs and reduced paper consumption.

- The project aims to provide connectivity to all council buildings to ensure access to systems and solutions to assist the citizens.

- It aims to build the network infrastructure and information super-highway to encourage the development of an advanced workforce with better ICT silks.

- The project will also enhance economic productivity through ICT infrastructure development in order to lower the cost of doing business and increase connectivity for companies especially SMMEs.

- The project will increase the ICT skills capacity within the public and the private sectors to create a pool of ICT practitioners and entrepreneurs.

- It will improve service delivery by providing high quality ICT services through e-government.

- It will build an economic and industrial sector with a focus on ICT.

- It will ensure that innovation becomes part of the economic network in Gauteng Province in relation to ICT.

- The project will create employment in the ICT sector and the District.

- It will also contribute to create a safe and healthy environment for the citizens of the District.

It would be premature at this stage to disclose some significant developments that are taking place behind the scenes to place the Vaal on the map in terms of improved wireless connectivity using the fibre-optic as the backbone.

Just keep in mind that the highly desirable wireless communication protocol of 3G will soon be superseded by 4G.

TEN – advancing the Vaal 21 initiative

While this project is quietly brewing away as a low-key marketing and branding tool, its potential remains huge.

This project as a GDS flagship project, is valued as the dynamic cross-border initiative with our neighbours, that it was always intended to be.

GDS-02 embodies our vision of the future. We must make the changes necessary to deliver that promising future.

We must not be disheartened by conditions that seem impossible. In our vision of:

A Metropolitan River City for Seamless Service Delivery in the Vaal Region

We must remain steadfast in our goal.

It was the female, American civil rights poet, Maya Angelou who said:

“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.”

Like the metamorphosis of a butterfly, that starts as a little egg, then become a caterpillar, and just when you think this is its final form, it changes from inside and out of the Pupa pops a beautiful butterfly.

Four Stages Like a collection of Municipalities in pre-1994, to a Leko-Vaal Metro, to a Sedibeng District and its locals, and finally, someday soon, to a fully-fledged Metropolitan River City. That is our inspirational dream which remains our collective vision.

The theory is much closer to the mechanics that you may think. Tomorrow in fact, across the path at the Banquet Hall, the Municipal Demarcation Board is convening to continue its engagements on the Municipal Demarcation for the next elections. The Metro debate is squarely on the agenda.

Madam Speaker, as we continue to build on the focus area of 'Releasing Human Potential', the Sedibeng District has been in earnest consultation with many academic experts and community leaders with regard to the significance of the Anglo Boer War and the subsequent Treaty of Vereeniging.

I want to pause to extend an invitation to all of you to join us on the 31st of May at an event organised to mark this South African war and its significant influence in shaping our political landscape. The event will be observed at the Constitutional Square, outside this venue. This event will also mark the arrival of the 6-day stay of the Flame in our Region. This Flame symbolises the 100 years of the selfless struggle waged by the ANC, the oldest liberation movement in the continent.

This Friday that passed, 18 May 2012, marked another important Centenary. If Walter Max Ulyate Sisulu had still been with us, he would have been 100yrs old. It is most appropriate that the year in which the ANC was born, was also the year in which Tata Walter Sisulu was

born. If ever there was a life story to inspire a nation, it would be the story of Walter Sisulu.

Speaking last Friday on the occasion of his birth date, Cyril Ramaphosa had this to say about Tata Sisulu:

“As Walter Sisulu is thrown into the thick of the struggle, one hears of him reflecting on the roles he assumed and the values that he admired: a unifier, tolerance, seeking to keep the bigger picture in mind, a distaste for doctrinaire flamboyance and an admiration for measured calm. But above all, an absolute determination to get the job done. Walter Sisulu became the first full time Secretary General of the ANC and was promised the princely sum of 5 pounds per month. That this was rarely paid did not stop the NEC from discussing an increase to 10pounds at some point later! Mama Albertina was in reality subsidizing the ANC through ensuring that Walter Sisulu had travel money and she was to provide for the family and household.”

In those few words of Cyril Ramaphosa, we are exposed to an inspirational man of great values.

He hardly ever got paid for his work and yet, that never stopped him. We are exposed to a legendary and gracious romance with his wife Albertina, who hails from our own Top Location here in Sedibeng. Albertina, in her own right inspires a nation of men and women, to live a life of courage and dignity. We are exposed to a hardworking, determined, principled and disciplined leader who preferred modesty above boastfulness, who quietly made absolutely sure that the job was done.

Every politician, every civil servant, every South African should aspire to these values. Study the life of this couple and you will be inspired, and if you imitate their life, you will inspire others.

PART D - FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As we look to the end of this Financial Year, and prepare ourselves for the next, we are under no illusion about the many challenges ahead that face us.

The sternest test is most likely to emanate from the financial challenges facing our Municipalities.

The Financial Viability of the Sedibeng District has

been driven by three key factors:

1. The inability of the equitable share to keep pace with the actual growth in operational and salary costs. (3-4% growth in grants in relation to 7-8% actual operational and salary increases) This has squeezed out capital programs and now threatens maintenance and operations. Cost cutting measures and staff reduction is the mitigating strategy
2. The accumulative negative impact of EMS underfunding and accumulated debt, over the last few years has depleted our Capital Reserves and affects our cash flows.
3. Being mainly grant dependent is highly restrictive and SDM has to seek alternate sources of revenue. These can be from 2 main sources. Firstly, there is a huge potential utilities has in our Fresh produce Market, Airports and Hall and Theatres. The implementation of the turnaround strategy requires urgent implementation with a dedicated Project manager. Secondly, SDM needs to maximize funding from Government Departments and from external donor or agency funding.

On Financial matters the following are the key areas of progress:

REVENUE COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL MOBILIZATION.

- The Donor funding framework has been approved by Council in November 2011. The panel of transaction advisors have also been appointed. The Panel is actively pursuing donor funding as part of financial mobilisation and revenue enhancement strategy.
- The District is in the process of concluding drafting a tariff-&-funding-model in conjunction with all 3 local municipalities as part of revenue collection, improvement & management program.

MUNICIPAL DEBT

- The Department of Health is now the largest debtor in the books of the District with an amount of (R3,9m for HIV/Aids grants and R44m for accumulated arrears) remain outstanding as at May 2012.
- With no rates or taxable income, and the long phased out RSC Levies, no public debt exists.

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES

All compliance and regulatory reporting up-to-date and on continually monitored as part of financial governance with National & Provincial Treasury.

Sedibeng District Municipality received its 6th consecutive unqualified audit opinion in 10/11 with only 3 matters of emphasis.

It must be noted that the incomplete publicity around the R88m "Unauthorized" Expenditure by SDM, has had an undesired negative impact on the municipality. Despite efforts to clarify this aspect in the media, the misinformation remains active.

The Audit Committee is fully functional and has played a diligent oversight role over the municipality. It has received reports on Financial matters, Risk Matters, Performance Reports and also on the Fraud and Corruption register. AG quarterly key controls review together with audit action plan tabled quarterly to Audit Committee and Portfolio Committee for oversight and monitoring.

SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Councillors and staff training are being continually undertaken on financial procedures, and a procedure manual was developed for the Municipality.

SDM employs 6 interns as part of the National Treasury Financial Management Program; and it coordinates and performs oversight function on the roll-out of the SAICA/ AAT program.

BUDGETING AND PLANNING MUNICIPAL FINANCES

SDM has developed a long term financial plan for the entire region and it has been incorporated into the GDS-2 as well as the integrated IDP.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

SDM has developed a preferential procurement strategy for the region that is in alignment with the new legislation. Furthermore in order to expand on economies of scale it is in the process of concluding an integrated SCM framework in conjunction with the LMs to stimulate economic retention within the region.

FINANCIAL COSTS OVERVIEW

R367,5million will be required to fund the District's operating expenses for the 12/13 financial year.

The three largest cash utilisers are employee related costs (67%), general expenses (26,6%) and repairs & maintenance (1,3%).

While employee related costs growth is determined at national collective bargaining level, Council has installed strict austerity and cost-reducing measures to ensure we can provide quality service delivery at lower cost.

We have shown drastic reductions in operating line items such as contracted services, workshops, catering, office refreshments and entertainment.

Council will be investing R70 000 of their own internal funds into capital projects while R2,508million will be provided for from grants received from the National Neighbourhood Development Programme – (Transferable to the local municipalities).

In addition assets such as computers and printers, office furniture and the network optic fibre expansion amounts to R 11,6 million.

The total capital investment of own assets will be R11,670 million for the 2012/13 financial year.

Council is furthermore actively pursuing external sources of funding for other IDP projects and this has primarily emanated from the district-wide lekgotla that was held to integrate the region's IDPs.

This has resulted in the District packaging all flagship projects from the four municipalities into a single comprehensive package that is aligned to the National Priorities.

We now stand united as one, locals and district combined, in our approach to source external funding from donors and grant-organs as we adopt and apply our integrated approach.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

For good governance, austerity measures have been implemented as cost containment strategy to

eliminate and save costs towards cash flow measure. The MEC for Local Government noted this in our pervious IDP and Budget and encouraged us to share this initiative with our local municipalities.

The Sedibeng District must, therefore, find ways and means of increasing its revenue.

The Turn-around Strategy as alternative revenue source must be implemented for the Market, Airports& Theatres, as a matter of urgency.

Financial challenges cannot be ignored, they must be actively addressed. Looking after the rands and cents, can become overbearing.

Whenever I feel a sense of hopelessness or negativity overcoming me I turn to the story of the inspirational life of the co-founder of the Apple Corporation, Steve Jobs.

Steve Jobs was an amazing entrepreneur, and a gifted human being. Much has been written about his life and following his death in October 2011, a comprehensive biography has just been published.

However, I would urge all of you to find a 15 minute video clip on YouTube, entitled 'How to Live Before You Die'

It could well be the most profound 15 minutes of inspiration that you will ever be exposed to.

In this 15 minute clip of a graduation speech that Steve Jobs delivered to a Graduating Class at Stanford University, he tells of his amazing life.

Born to a single unwedded mother who was determined to give her son a better life, she made an incredible sacrifice and gave him up for adoption. Steve's biological Mother was determined that he should go to college, and his adoptive parents made sure he did.

He never graduated, he dropped out. But his passion for electronics drove him to invent the Apple Macintosh Computer.

Later he got fired from his own company. He started a new one called Next and Pixar, which made the first full length animated film, Toy Story.

Apple bought Next and Steve was back at Apple.

He developed a rare form of cancer, but fought it off for many years. Steve Jobs died in October 2011, but when you look at your iPad and iPhone, spare a thought for the man, who overcame such incredible odds to create such innovative products.

If you are open to the great lives of great men and women, you too will be inspired.

During the early part of this year our local municipality of Lesedi was in the news for all the wrong reasons. Community protests had erupted and the once stable and pleasant township of Ratanda became a zone of conflict and strife.

After calm had been restored, the law intervened and investigations were undertaken to get to the root causes of the conflict. While some legitimate reasons for unhappiness amongst residents was uncovered, it was also found that many individuals, for their own ambitions and for personal gain had instigated a community to erupt. While the law processes its investigation, political parties have also acted decisively.

In the context of my speech, I also strike a cautionary note that says Be very selective of who you are inspired by and who you choose to inspire and with what motive.

PART E - PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT

The Sedibeng District Municipality has always been committed to supporting young people with bursaries and support for worthy educational initiatives. We are pleased to recognise the presence of a young group of students from Sedibeng who went on to compete in the USA in a robotics challenge.

The outcome of their brave effort was that they won the competition and brought pride and honour to our region. Let us recognise them and applaud them.

It has not only been our youth talent that has made us proud. Last week the national media carried an article that the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) CEO, Commander Tsietsi Mokhele has been named this year's "Top Public Sector Executive."

The announcement was made at the prestigious 2012 Oliver Empowerment Awards Ceremony, organized by Topco Media to honour and recognize excellence, good leadership and innovation in empowerment. SAMSA, under the leadership of Commander Mokhele received the Top Public Service award.

Some of you may ask, so who is Commander Tsietsie Mokhele? He is none other than the very first Chairperson of the ANC Vaal-Sub Region that was elected after the unbanning of the ANC. Commander Mokhele is from amongst us and worked with us. His achievement no doubt inspires us to feel proud and to feel honoured.

PART F - CONCLUSION

After this address we are going to proceed to the Vereeniging City Hall where we will make our first Mayoral Awards to recognise outstanding men and women from amongst us here in Sedibeng. Once again, it will be inspirational people that will be at the centre of our occasion.

Before I conclude, I want to pay respect to the late Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku.

The former member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature was a true friend of the Sedibeng District Municipality. For those who may not know, she was one of the leaders of the historic 20,000 women's march against apartheid era laws on the 9th of August 1956.

The honourable Motlalepula Chabaku passed on after confirming her attendance to this State of the District Address, and without shadow of doubt she would be amongst guests sitting in this hall. It is for that reason that we are indebted to her for her utmost long term commitment to our Region.

On hearing of her passing away last week, I started looking frantically for a hand-written letter that she wrote to me recently, which deserves to be framed and displayed on a wall. I am distraught that, for now, I am unable to find this treasured page given to me by the late Reverend Chabaku, but the search continues.

ANC veteran Winnie Madikizela-Mandela said last week that the late ANC stalwart Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku deserved a better appreciation. Madikizela-Mandela made these remarks during her visit to Chabaku's house. We in Sedibeng must take

consolation from the fact that we gave her the recognition that she rightfully deserved.

Madam Speaker, this address has been about people, it has been about inspirational people.

Walter Sisulu, the Wright Brothers, Mama Chabaku, Steve Jobs, The new ANC Regional Leadership, The 100 years of inspirational leaders of the ANC, the heroes of the Anglo-Boer War, young people who have won awards, GDS-02 and the future of the peoples of the Sedibeng in a Metropolitan River City.

From here we will proceed to the Mayoral Awards and recognise our people for their achievements and for their successes.

It's all about our people.

We are but servants of our people, it is they who inspire us, and it is those great men and women who have gone before that serve as our inspiration.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will continue to draw inspirations from community members like Mr. Jan Jooste from the Vaal Foundry Initiative, who wrote to us on the 26th April 2012 at 5:48am; this after he attended a breakfast meeting where the Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy was presented. He wrote to us applauding the draft GDS and pledged business commitment to the whole Strategy.

The utmost inspiration is from our own Champions, amongst us today. The team, under the guardianship of Mme Mamorobi, struggle veteran and former ANC Member of Parliament, won the Lego Robotics World Championship held at Unisa last December. The team from Pinedene Primary school in Vanderbijlpark won the championship award at the nationals, becoming the first development team to ever win a robotics event in South Africa.

The local team represented SA at the World Robotics Championship in St. Louis (USA), in April, and received one of the Judges Awards at this prestigious international event.

As I said at the very beginning of this address:

**Inspire, and, be inspired!
I thank you. - Kea Leboha.**

Sedibeng 2012

State of the District Address



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