



STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS (SoDA, 2017)

02 June 2017

**Cllr Busisiwe Modisakeng
Executive Mayor**

Deputy Minister of CoGTA, Hon., Andries Carl Nel
Minister of Home Affairs, Hon., Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize
Member of Parliament, Hon., Pulane Mogotsi
Member of Parliament, Hon., Girley Nobanda
Member of Parliament, Hon., Dr Patrick Maesela
Member of Parliament, Hon., Dikeledi Tsotetsi
Gauteng Legislature, Speaker, Hon., Helen Mekgwe
MEC for Community Safety, Gauteng Province, Hon., Sizakele Emelda Nkosi-Malebane
Members of South African Local Government Association, PEC present

Our constituent municipalities' Executive Mayors

- Hon. Cllr, Simon Mofokeng
- Hon. Cllr , Lerato Maloka
- Hon. Cllr, Bongani Baloyi (in absentia)

Honourable Members of Mayoral Committees,

Our Honourable Speakers of Councils in our district,

- Cllr Melina Gomba
- Cllr Maipato Tsokolibane
- Cllr Mululeki Nkosi
- Cllr Freddy Peter (in absentia)

Our Honourable Chief Whips of Councils;

- Cllr Assistance Mshudulu
- Cllr Christina Sale
- Cllr Motsoenyane
- Cllr Phil Pretorius (In absentia)

Our African National Congress leadership in Sedibeng, led by Cde Ngobese,

Our Alliance partners - the SACP, SANCO and COSATU

Our banking sector representatives from:

- Standard bank,
- Absa

Our sponsor and CSI partner – Coca Cola Beverages South Africa representatives

Distinguished guests and the academia,

Our business community leaders and entrepreneurs,

Our community leaders, religious leaders, political leaders, social partners and civic organisations leaders present

Ladies and gentlemen,

The people of the Sedibeng, listening and watching the proceeding live on our community radio stations and Gauteng TV

Sedibeng District Municipality is honoured today, to share this important day with you. Truth be told, this day is not about councillors or politicians. It is a day about our freedom, our young people, our women, our children, our elderly and people with disability, our people both black and white. We are not excluding our counterpart – men in our society. This is a day to lay out the aspirations, ambitious, fears and challenges of our people. A day to share, reflect and commit to our social compact – our State of the District Address.

Greetings and salutations to our distinguished

Dumelang, Goeie More, Sanibonani nonke egameni lalowo owasifela uJesu Krestu Inkosi yethu. Mangithathe lethuba ngibonge ngokuthi ngithole lethuba lokuthi ngithule inkulumo ngesimo sentuthuko sendawo yase-Sedibeng. Khotsong

May I extend a special word of welcome to our newly appointed Municipal Manager Mr. Stanley Khanyile who is in attendance today.

The President of our Country, earlier this year provided an update on the implementation of the Programme of Action based on the National Development Plan (NPD). Consequently, the Hon. Premier David Makhura reiterated the commitment to do more work to revitalise the economies of two districts in Gauteng, namely Westrand and Sedibeng District Municipality and be integrated into the metropolitan economy of Gauteng City Region.

We express our sincere collective gratitude and tribute to the late Comrade Ahmed Khathrada, his family, his generation as well as the Rivonia Treason Trialists for their outstanding contribution towards attainment of freedom and democracy in our land. We are honoured as the District municipality to have bestowed “Uncle Kathy” and Ntate Andrew Mlangeni and Dennis Goldberg the Freedom of the District in 2016.

Honourable Members and Compatriots

Tsatsing lena le bohlokwa, re lebisa tlotla le hlomphe ho baholo barona ba re siele e leng Ntate Oliver Reginal Tambo, Ntate Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, Ntate Walter Sisulu, Ntate Obed Mthombeni Nkosi le Ntate Duma Nokwe.

It is with sadness to learn of the passing of former Regional Chairperson and member of the Provincial Legislature, co-founder of Vapto, Sadtu predecessor Cde Kaiser Klaas.

Lemong sena Ntate OR Tambo a kabe a le dilemo tse hundred, moetapele ya ikgethileng ha ra baetapele ba maAfrika Borwa. Ke ka hoo lemong sena re ketekang le ho hoopla bophelo le mesebetsi ya hae.

Honourable Ministers, Members of the Executive Council, leaders of the civic organisation, Over the number of years, we have spoken, debated and written about the triple challenges of our country, the triple challenges of our region – unemployment, poverty and growing inequality. At times these triple challenges of our time and this generation, are code-named the “the ticking time bomb”.

Madam Speaker, fellow South Africans

Without mincing my words, these challenges - lack of jobs, lack of food and the richer getting richer and the poorer getting poorer are the greatest challenges in dismantling the legacy of apartheid. Sedibeng District Municipality as part of Gauteng City Region stand at highest percentage (36%) of the unemployed, the highest percentage of people living in poverty and inequality remains a challenge.

Honourable Councillors and our community at large,

Today, allow me to add to the triplets, *crime and violence in our communities*. In the recent weeks South Africa have been experiencing the brutal and violent attack and killing of women. The reported cases are not only in Soweto and other place, violence is also happening in our own backyard, to name but few:

- Two week ago in Evaton, a 22 year old man was arrested for the murder of a 16 year old girl by the police,
- In 2015, more than three female students have been murdered and killed in and around the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), and
- A 27-year-old daughter, Ché Rudelle Fox (Kester), was murdered in her home in Rust-ter-Vaal in 2014 by her husband, and over 60 % of women in the month of April, and majority of them have been victims of this brutal women abuse, raping and killing of our sisters, mothers and young girls.
- On Monday, a decomposed body of a 29 year old female “ Thembisile Yende”an Eskom employee was found under her desk wrapped in black plastic refuse bag in her office.

Violence, or say “ Crime” is the fourth challenge of our community. Violence undermines our best efforts and collaboration to tackle the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

And the painful realities of the victims of the quadruple (the triplets plus one) are the marginalised of our society – the youth, women, elderly and children.

MEC – Hon., Sizakele Nkosi Malebane, Madam Speaker

May we kindly stand and observe a moment of silence in unity of heart and respect for the countless lives we lost in the brutal scourge of women killings and abuse.

Thank you.

South Africans across race, religion and locations join hands in protests, campaigns such as hashtag (#MenAreTrash), Stop Violence against Women, Not In our Name, Enough is Enough and I say – hashtag (#WhereWereYou), when women and children were brutally killed and abuse; where were you when women were scared to use public transport, take their children to school or go to a park – (Where were you). South Africa, our people of the Vaal, Meyerton and Ratanda; lets us rise up and be there for every abused woman and every child never to go unheard, unnoticed and without a place of safety. Let us protect all protect children to move South Africa forward, not all during Child Protection Week.

To our men and women in blue – we know that police visibility and response time increases our sense of safety. And when perpetrators are arrested, meticulously investigated with successful prosecution, that serves as a deterrent to violence. All of us, men and women, churches and nongovernment organisations we need to rebuild our social capital, our level of trust amongst each other- to create a safe and successful environment to live, play and work. Drugs are seen as motivation for commission of crime. Therefore, our Community Safety and South African Police Service (SAPS) are to vigorously patrol for drugs (nyaope or unga) trafficking, substance abuse and use need to be rooted out. And this call is not for some of us, but every one of us, as member of the South African family, the Sedibeng family to do their part in crime prevention.

Hon. Premier, David Makhura

We are proud to have amongst us in Sedibeng community a young person; we are aspiring to be like; Mr. Masemela Khubeka, commonly known as “Baba” who plays a critical role in crime prevention initiatives.

Within two consecutive months, February and March 2017, he was awarded “Outstanding Individual in Service Excellence” and “Gauteng Youth Excellence in Community Safety”.

All of us can be “Baba” in our wards, township, Gauteng Province, even our beloved South Africa. Let us never forget that June is a very important milestone in the liberation, youth development and democracy of South Africa. Mr Khubeka’s commitment and bravado is like the

unflinching spirit and solidarity of the young people that was displayed in 16 June 1976. We remember the pioneering spirit of the young men and women in 1976.

Madam Speaker, Distinguished guests

The current socio-economic realities are rattling our communities - our "rainbow nation's credit rating has been downgraded to "junk status". Furthermore, the 2017 Sanlam Benchmark Survey states that 73% of the professional and the middle class are experiencing financial stress. Which is also called a "financial flu".

According to Statistic South Africa, food prices dropped to 5.3% last month, from 6.1% in March. On the other hand, the South African Reserve Bank has kept the interest rate unchanged at 7 % and in volatile exchange rates. Surely, every cloud have a silver lining, however that maybe short-lived. The unemployment rate is reported to be 27.7 % from 26.5 % the highest in 13 years.

The cocktail of our socio-economic realities present us with:

- Decreasing revenue collection for our local municipalities, the difficulty of our communities to pay for municipal services and repay their debts
- Potential decrease of our communities quality of life
- Possible increased dissatisfaction of services delivered in the region and increase of indigency.
- Difficulty to raise funds for entrepreneurs as well as for municipalities

Therefore, we are called upon to remember the words of Confucius; I quote

"he who will not economize will have to agonize". Close quote.

Surely, the bitter medicine of our economic challenges; we are to economize than the latter.

Madam Speaker, Cllr Gomba

I am reminded, open quote:

"The fight for freedom must go on until it is won; until our country is free and happy and peaceful as part of the community of man, we cannot rest. We have a vision of South Africa in which black and white shall live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity. We seek to create a united democratic and non-racial society." Close quote.

Those are the insightful words of Oliver Reginald Tambo - our liberation stalwart, a teacher and a lawyer.

Surely, while the triple plus one challenge of our society remains – unemployment, poverty, inequality and violence. We stand united and to be guided the *"legacy and the values of OR Tambo"*.

- Our fight for freedom must go on until is won and our region is free, happy and peaceful.

- Racial discrimination undermines our vision to live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity and
- We shall not rest.

We are not merely defined by our circumstances, our challenges and pain. We stand together today as part of community of man, and we cannot rest until we achieve the aspirations of our region, our people.

We thank our social partners, the business community, youth -, religious and government stakeholders for their painstaking effort and time in participating in our consultative meeting to realise these (5) five year Integrated Development Plan (2016/17 -2020/21) and programme of action to tackle our triple plus one challenges of our Sedibeng region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In 2016, the African National Congress in our region was given an opportunity to tackle the scourge unemployment, poverty, inequality and violence. We have engaged our communities and achieved 54.66% of the district election results. It is in the spirit, unity and honour of the “legacy and values of OR Tambo” that we will get basics right. As a result we will have effective and efficient local governance.

We will improve service delivery; promote economic growth and development in our local municipalities – Midvaal Local Municipality, Lesedi Local Municipality and Emfuleni Local Municipality.

Distinguished guests, community leaders

In 1977, Thomas Bertram was quoted saying, open quote:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Close quote

And he explained that – open quote: "That's the trouble with government: Fixing things that aren't broken and not fixing things that are broken." Close quote

In the same vein, we have re-affirmed our key pillars of Growth and Development strategy (GDS) for our region – the five (5) Rs plus 2 for the next five years. The key pillars are:

1. Reinventing the Economy
2. Renewing our communities
3. Reviving a Sustainable Environment
4. Reintegrating the region
5. Releasing Human Potential
6. Good and Financially Sustainable Governance

7. Vibrant Democracy

The key pillars of Growth and Development Strategy, the five (5) Rs plus 2, don't need fixing. What needs fixing is our broken social fabric, our community's pool of opportunity to have a *better life for all, live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity*. More so, it is very important to mention that as Gauteng City Region, we have ensured alignment to Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialization Programme (TMR) jointly with its ten pillar game changers.

Fellow South Africans,

Sedibeng District Municipality is a three leg pot “ ‘n potjie” on a crackling fire ready to prepare mouth-watering, healthy and sumptuous dishes for its community, for the people of the Vaal, Sicelo, Ratanda and Impumelelo. Surely, its people wait with hopeful and shining eyes and salivating to aroma and the food thereof. And indeed, the African National Congress (ANC) guided by the legacy and the values of OR Tambo will deliver on the promise. Each leg represents each local municipality. And, we are the heart and soul of local economic growth and development in our region. And the cooks are the elected councillors and staff that are to be prepared and trained to deal with the challenges and opportunities of the 4th Industrial Revolution, to ensure that the dish is just what the our communities have ordered. We call upon, all trade unions that now is the time for – an integrated call not for only decent work and decent wages; but for skills transformation and uptake in all our various sectors of the economy.

In Sedibeng District we remember Sharpeville and Boipatong Massacre, the brutal and inhuman loss of life. In the face of the triple plus one challenge of our community; the greatest massacre will be our failure to put energies, talents, passion and skill of our people, mainly the young and women, the unemployed graduates to greater use for advancing our local economic development, enterprise development and solving our social problems. We would have missed to harvest on our demographic dividend.

Because the priceless sacrifice, of those men and women would appear to have meant nothing for their struggle to self-determination, freedom and human freedoms. We need to provide skill based training and development of our young people to match our local economic development trajectories. VUT and North West University are to be primary drivers to bumper skills development in this regard.

Madam Speaker,

The Gauteng City Region (GCRO)Economic Development Plan finds its expression within the five year Growth and Development Strategy of which outlines the competitive areas in line with

comparative advantages and strengths. In order to drive local economic growth and development a corridor development approach was applied. The development approach of our region and within the Gauteng City Region is called the Southern Corridor, as are we located on the southern part of Gauteng City Region. Sedibeng District Municipality embraces some of the “South African’s big five: South African’s bold priorities to inclusive growth” according to McKinsey Global Institute.

Our developmental priorities are:

- the establishment of business incubation and innovation centres,
- tourism and entertainment development,
- Agriculture and agro-processing opportunities,
- Green economy opportunities;
- the establishment of a logistical hub, and
- Advanced manufacturing.

Honourable Ministers, Members of National Assembly, Members of the Executive Council

In order to exploit this development priorities jointly with our local municipalities they inclusively represent capital investment opportunity in excess R20 billion.

In the previous financial year 2016/17, the district had agriculture driven capital expenditure in excess of R 3 million rand on:

- The feasibility study for Emfuleni Milling Plant, Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market refurbishment, mechanization and mega agri-parks. We commit to increase our role in the agricultural sector for the upcoming years. The South African agricultural fresh produce sector is R31.2 billion in value, and we see a huge potential of economic development turn around for our region.

This sector presents us with enormous space to invest, grow and develop.

In the next 5 years, we plan to Upgrade the Fresh Produce Market, develop the Vaal Logistic Hub (next to Arcelor Mittal along N1, R57 and R553), and re-industrialise agriculture sector via agri-hubs and agro-processing and alternative energy sector development. We have just seen the upgrade and expansion of Vaal Mall to a tune of R420 million from 2014 and have just completed a construction of a 1.13MWp (1.13 Mega Watt) solar carport solution by Solareff, a specialist provider of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) solutions. Climate change, and environmental risks are real and current, and it is one of the 2017 Global Risks. We all remember cyclone Dineo.

- Furthermore, Gauteng Department of Economic Development, Sedibeng District Municipality and Vaal University of Technology, Southern Gauteng Science and Technology Park partnered to establish Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) at an annual operational costs of R2.3 million rand for digital manufacturing and to act as business incubator and innovation hub. The FabLab

have benefitted just over 74 individuals to date, mainly the youth, the unemployed, students and entrepreneurs.

These are but just few programmes in reinventing our economies and releasing human potential. More young unemployed people await opportunities like this, and with increased resources, we will reach more women, more families and young people in our district. More programmes are needed in both the formal and informal economy, and many are to unfold.

Ladies and gentlemen

It is true that working together we can do more. During the week, we had investment on infrastructure for informal traders – “Informal Vender Development Programme” by Coca-Cola Beverages of South Africa. More so, we thank Coca Cola for sponsoring today's event. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to work closely with Coca-Cola to strengthen the capacity of our local entrepreneurs, to eradicate poverty, empower small businesses and create job opportunities.

- If we are to seriously make a dent to challenges confronting our society, the economy, education and health initiatives are to work seamlessly. In the current financial year, we have spent seven hundred and seventy five thousands (R775 000) for staff development and training and four hundred and fourteen thousand (R414 000) spent on external bursary for students in our region,

Hon., Deputy Minister Andries Nel, the people of the Sedibeng

- We have also spent R7.6 million rand in AIDS/HIV programmes across the region.
- The District Health currently have enrolled 67 417 adults and 97 children on Antiretroviral therapy (ART), due to intergovernmental relations in fighting this AIDS/HIV scourge, the relationships are yielding positive results in reducing stigma and discrimination, as more people are encouraged to know their status, three hundred and seventy five thousands, three hundred and twenty eight (375 328) in total in 2016 alone tested for HIV within the District, while six thousand and hundred and twenty four (6 124) men undergone voluntary male medical circumcision.
- We have created 200 work opportunities in our community, through the implementation of ward-based programme to mitigate AIDS /HIV. Ward-based programme is a programme to continuously educate our people about AIDS & HIV in our region.
- To date, these dedicated men and women educators have reached one hundred and sixty eight thousand, five hundred (168 500) households and educated two hundred and

seventy five thousand, two hundred and thirty two (275 232) people and referred six hundred and seventy three (673) people with various social needs to relevant institutions.

In 2015, the Quality of Life Survey indicated that our community in Sedibeng region is satisfied with services delivery, however they are still looking for more from their local government. Our communities want economic development, jobs, better frontline treatment, and less corruption.

Hon., Executive Mayors, Members of Mayoral Committees

We will invite various stakeholders; business, investors and academic institutions – VUT and North West University to partner with us to unlock various economic opportunities in the innovative repositioning of Suikerbosrand Rand Nature Reserve. Furthermore, our cultural and heritage tourism, boasts a newly declared National heritage site – Sharpeville Heritage Precinct.

We commit and look forward to roll out massive mega-project to revive our Aero-dromes and other precinct development, such as Government Precinct, Constitutional Square and the completion of Sebokeng Precinct. We will earnestly engage our various partners on the progress and development of the Vaal River City and the upgrading of the all Sewer Plant in the Region. We need to give our Central Business Districts (CBDs) a special focus for renewal, such as the seat of the district council, Vereeniging CBD and its nearby areas.

Madam Speaker,

In the short term to medium term, the district with its local municipalities will focus on key productive infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and sanitation – expansion of sewer capacities, mixed residential housing, community services facilities – potential hospital around Savannah City, education and workforce development and sport facilities and waste management capital expenditure. The large expected capital expenditure in key productive infrastructure will help unlock the tourism and agricultural value chain, therefore contributing to tackling the quadruple challenges of our people of the Vaal, Ratanda and Siculo.

In Savannah City jointly with Gauteng Department of Human Settlement have already approved 4600 applications out of the targeted 7000, and 497 fully subsidized housing were allocated to date. This includes an allocation of a 100 year old woman

The MEC of CoGTA, Hon., and Paul Mashatile will be launching a pilot project on the Ablution facilities in Siculo informal Settlements by the end of June 2017.

We have budgeted R2.5 million for Extended Public Works Program (EPWP), which serves as a cushion for the unemployed to enter productive work and a provision skills development and training across the region.

Honourable Councillors, the people of the Sedibeng

The role of the district is to support, coordinate and integrate the region; therefore the role of Sedibeng District Municipality should be understood in the same spirit. Our district municipality does not have basic service delivery obligations such as water, sanitation; refuse removal and electricity like its local municipalities.

Therefore, the district have a very low revenue generation potential of R365 million, of which government's grants and subsidies amounts to (74%) percentage of the total revenue. As a result these municipalities are under severe financial stress due to this limited revenue source, and the current fiscal model has not been transformed to deal with these realities. Declining revenue presents a major challenge with short term obligations towards operations and programmes of the District.

- Our equitable share allocation from National Treasury is shrinking on a yearly basis, while our financial obligations keep on ballooning. The provisional equitable share allocation has only grown by 1,55%, whereas the employee-related costs have grown by 7.4 % in the same period. Furthermore, the new funding model for district municipalities has reduced equitable share allocation for 2017/2018.
- On the other hand, due to the intergovernmental relations, understanding that local government is at the coalface of service delivery; Sedibeng District Municipality finds itself performing and funding some functions such as Emergency Medical Services (EMS), disaster management and museums, resulting in zero recovery of used funds from limited district budget
- At times needed infrastructure project takes place without allocation for maintenance during lifespan of the infrastructure

Honourable Councillors,

As we serve our people and communities, we are to always remember the words of Amilcar Cabral, I quote:

"Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories. ." Close quote

Rest assured, we are not puffing and huffing about service delivery to our people. When we meet challenges we engage at all spheres of government, and we are

hopeful that soon we will reap positive outcomes from our engagements in relation to the current funding model (equitable share allocation) for our district.

Madam Speaker,

As I move towards the end of my address,

A combined R110 million have been budgeted for contracted services, repairs and maintenance and general expenses; which presents potential procurement opportunities for the local businesses.

The district will in the spirit of OR Tambo engage with other government and non-governmental stakeholders for future long term funding for:

- Sharpeville Heritage Precinct and Boipatong Memorial
- Regional Tourism Organisation
- Disaster Management function
- Refurbishing the taxi ranks;
- Refurbishing licensing service centres;
- Museums;
- Theatres; and municipal administrative buildings.

I am proud to announce that Sedibeng District Municipality will partner with SANTAM through a “Business Adopt A Municipality” (BAAM) to assist and capacitate in Disaster Management and Emergency Services.

Programme Director,

In order to propel our economic engine, the district needs to take its primary mandate to support, coordinate and integrate the region. Key focus development areas that will receive immediate attention are:

- The Economic Sector Development Strategies in Tourism, Agriculture and Agro-processing and others,
- The Investment, Skills and Private Public Partnership Strategy,
- Strengthening of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy

Distinguished guests,

We stand together to transform, modernise and re-industrialise our region and always focus at getting the basics right. And we are never to settle while the quadruple challenges of our society remain. At the centre of getting the basics right is the pillar of “good governance and vibrant democracy”. In 2015/16 financial year, the district received the unqualified audit outcome from

the Auditor General. Our district is on schedule to ensure alignment with the mSCOA (municipal Standard Chart of Accounts).

We will tirelessly work on our shortcomings in order to reclaim the 3 consecutive clean audit, we had received prior to 2015/16.

Honourable Premier,

Secondly, we look forward to strengthening our intergovernmental relations via Ntirhisano Service Delivery Outreach Programme. It is a joint programme with our local municipalities to create a one stop-service delivery opportunity for our communities to listen; to resolve their complaints and concerns within our region. To date we have held five (5) outreach programme in the region. Our people come first. We are a caring and responsive organisation, rooted in the batho-pele principles, which guides us on how we serve, interact and respond to our communities. We take our people serious in attending to their interests and to serve them.

On the other hand, to the technological savvy – the district will be leveraging on internet and communication technology (ICT) to increase access to Vehicle Licensing Centres online for all of its functions. To date we have 93 km stretch of fibre optic in our region and more future investment is planned.

ICT infrastructure development, increasing access and decreasing costs are key enablers to faster economic growth and development.

Honourable Speaker,

One day I saw and ask some chaps *“What are they doing, waiting for such a long time around the library and others sitting around the City Hall? ”*.

Their answer was in a passionate but slow voice *“Wifi”*..

and with shock in my eyes I said again – “you say are here for?”

“ Wifi hotspot”.

And I had almost thought they said a *“Wife”*.

Every single day, our Constitutional Square is filled with young people sitting and they all have two identifying posture their eyes glued to a (1) a smartphone and/or (2) laptop with headphones. The 4th Industrial revolution is at our doorstep, we need to partner and provide the necessary ICT infrastructure at a fast pace, mainly the Wifi roll-out.

Sedibeng District Municipality is aplenty with tourism, agriculture and agro-processing, logistic, hard infrastructure (road and transport, sanitation, electricity, waste management) and soft

infrastructure (community services facilities) investment opportunities. We have vast tracts of unused land, two national roads (N1 and N3) and the regional road (R57) and huge number of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs) as well as graduate or post matric youth without jobs.

We will together with our local municipalities, people, business, government and the investors both domestic and international join hands - bound by the spirit of “ legacy and the values of OR Tambo” to promote economic growth and development. Then we will rest only when – our region is free and happy and peaceful. Then we will rest only when – we live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity, united and non-racial democracy.

Madam Speaker,

Our revolutionary, the freedom fighter – I love and respect his courage and benevolence, when he punched above the rest and said, I quote:

“The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future.”

Therefore, we must always keep in mind that the scourge of unemployment, poverty, inequality and violence is more dehumanizing for our youth, women and children.

Honourable Members of Parliament, Honourable Member of Gauteng Legislature, Honourable Councillors, our Executive Mayors, Religious Leaders, and our municipal officials.

We have a lot to do – to increase the size of the cake than to only ration it out. We are to deliver on the legacy and values of OR Tambo – for the youth, women and children of our region. Indeed, local government is everyone’s business.

Maqabane, bantu bakithi, isikhathi sokukhuluma siphelile. Masithatheni izandla zethu sixoveni udaka, Amade anginawo.

Madam Speaker, The people of Sedibeng

I thank you