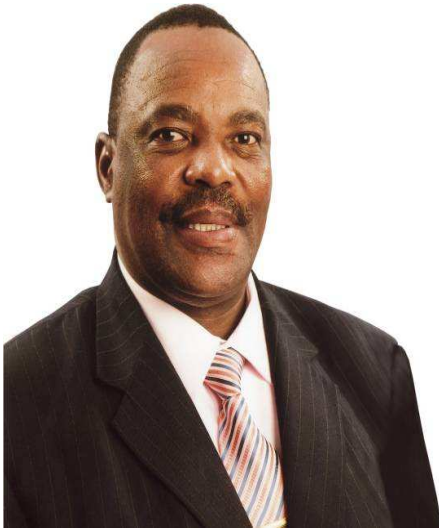


EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S FOREWORD: Clr. Mahole Mofokeng



The 2006 Local Government Elections thrust upon us the mandate as Sedibeng District Municipality to: ***Plan to make Local Government to work Better*** “for our people. Faced and tasked with these objectives, we developed our five year plans which were adopted by Council in the form of the Integrated Development Plan and the generational Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy in 2007, with a view to make the lives of our people and communities better. This 2011 Integrated Development Plan and Budget review presents us with an opportunity to stamp our commitment to the objectives set out in 2007 to take the final steps in completion of the journey we started together 5 years ago. The time to account to all and sundry is upon us as we are faced with presenting a balance sheet and accounting for how far we have come to realize the commitments we have made to our communities through the IDP.

This 2011 IDP review accounts for the Sedibeng District Municipality in its entirety, the political, administrative as well as the institutional arrangements as we wind the clock to the 2011 Local Government Elections which will usher in another term of office with its own mandate and political leadership.

It is as we take the final lap in 2011 that we come back to you, our communities and citizens of beautiful Sedibeng to present our priorities, programmes and projects for this final year in the five year IDP.

The overarching theme for 2011 in all spheres of Government is job creation. With this in mind, this IDP review puts a lot of emphasis on the Infrastructure development projects and revitalization of economic and social infrastructure to grow labour intensive job opportunities.

The Premier of Gauteng Province, Mrs. Nomvula Mokonyane, in her State of the Province Address highlighted a need to raise the profile of incentives and other related programmes to revitalize Vereeniging Central Business District, as a Development Zone.

To this extent, the primary objective of this initiative is to capitalize on the potential and strategic location of Vereeniging to leverage investments with a view to grow the regional economy with Vereeniging being our anchor linking Heidelberg/ Vereeniging/ Vanderbijlpark as Axis of regeneration for Regional economic development.

Regional Sewer Scheme project, factored to clear the stranglehold on the development of the entire Region, is beginning to take shape. The project timelines and phases thereof are well defined. The successful execution of this project will undoubtedly unleash unprecedented development in the South of Gauteng here in Sedibeng.

This year offers and presents a real partnership in action through the launch of the Regional Tourism Organization, one of the first in the country, in which stakeholders in tourism drawn from Government, Private Sector and Community will assume the collective responsibility to place Sedibeng on the forefront as a pre-eminent destination of choice of leisure, business, water-based sport, and heritage tourism.

The Rural Development Strategy will take the centre stage characterised by focusing on Agro-processing infrastructure development and high level of services to underpin our commitment to changing face of Rural and peri urban areas in Sedibeng region. The National Government and the Provincial Government will be launching the National Rural Development Strategy in our region to consolidate on the current support Sedibeng District Municipality provided to Lesedi Local Municipality for Cooperatives building on the launch of maize triangle project in this region late last year.

The economic development of the District cannot be left to chance. It cannot be that our contact with the Business Fraternity is reduced to a one half day event in a year. To that end, Sedibeng has finally realized its long held objective through the launch of the Mayoral Investment Council. This will ensure that a firm platform and the necessary time map out the strategic economic trajectory of this region. Hot on the heels of the Mayoral Investment Council will be the finalizing and establishment of the Sedibeng Reconstruction and Development Agency this year.

The Sedibeng District Municipality' five (5) year IDP and Budget being is concluded through this 2011 review is based on the first generation Sedibeng Growth and Development Strategy, and consistent with this drive, the next 5 year Integrated Development Plan will be characterized by the accelerated execution of flagship and catalytic projects to give effect to our overall objective of Infrastructure development and job creation.

The 2011/12 IDP is premised on the facilitation of investment for potential investor in our region. This is guaranteed by the regular review and update of the Spatial Development Framework and Geographic Information System to ensure that vacant land designated for development by investor is not superimposed on existing infrastructure thus avoiding costly delays.

Sedibeng District Municipality is now an Air Quality Licensing Authority, and this comes with a serious responsibility of monitoring and work with industry to maintain high level of air quality in our region. This places us on the world map as a major player in the fight against global warming and the reduction of the South African Carbon footprint.

We will work without any let or hindrance to build on the successes we have registered in the building and maintenance of our road infrastructure and more of these road projects are planned for the next financial year.

The social programmes will also receive our deliberation and attention in the next financial year. We would like to build on the successes we have achieved in the fight against HIV and AIDS but also related to this work, we will intensify our commitment to stop drug and alcohol abuse as well as teenage pregnancies, amongst the youth.

The Precinct programme is gaining momentum and its impact is stretching beyond the Sport and Heritage sites in Sharpeville and now work is crystallizing for other precincts projects targeted for Sebokeng, Boipatong, Bophelong, Evaton, Ratanda, and Mamello in Midvaal.

In the Recreation Precinct and other identified spots in the rest of the district, we will be rolling out sport mass participation programme to encourage positive living and lifestyle.

Our commitment to local economic empowerment and local procurement is unwavering and more of these developments will be benefitting local people as consumers of services but even more importantly, as

entrepreneurs. Since the beginning of the current term of office, my commitment to local empowerment has been unwavering, it is my wish and desire to see local contractors who have been doing work with CIDB 1 or 2 to be in the region of level 6 or 7 within the next 5 years.

The Heritage work will continue in the next financial year, to demonstrate that, all the work we did this financial year was not a 'hit or miss phenomenon' but a consistent programme of recognizing and celebrating triumph of human spirit as part of consolidation of tourism, educational and historical offerings of Sedibeng region.

It is notable that Sedibeng has, despite the many challenges related to its implementation, become a leading municipality in its support and empowerment of Ex-Combatants. Women, youth and people with disabilities have also been targeted for special attention and some success has been achieved.

The financial management of our District deserves a special mention in that, in the last four (4) years, Sedibeng District Municipality has achieved consecutive unqualified audit reports and this tells something about this municipality's ability in good governance both in financial and non financial terms. We have become an envy of all other Municipalities in the country.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all political parties well in their campaigns for the Local Government Elections and let us all engage in constructive electioneering and avoid expediency and grand standing because after the elections are done and dusted, we are all citizens of this region who want the best for this region which we all call home.

Thank you.

Executive Mayor: Clr. Mahole Mofokeng