

## EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S FOREWORD, CLLR. BUSISIWE MODISAKENG



Sedibeng District Municipality is situated on the Southern South of Gauteng, on the banks of Vaal Dam and Vaal River. It comprises of three Local B Municipalities which is (Lesedi, Midvaal and Emfuleni). Emfuleni is the only biggest local B Municipality in the Country which is situated on the banks of Vaal Dam and Vaal River.

Sedibeng has a rich historical background backdated from 1902 during the signing of the Anglo Boer War Peace Treaty between the Boers and British and Africans in particular who also participated on either side of the war, the treaty that led to the formation of the Union of South Africa which excluded the participation of blacks, Africans in particular. The Heidelberg Camp was used as a base during the Anglo Boer War.

The Heidelberg Black & White Concentration Camp was one of the largest camps with over 2000 detainees for the greater part of the Anglo Boer / South African war (1899 – 1902). Living conditions in the camp were very poor. The mortality rate for the camp was + 400 men, women and children. The camp was located near Heidelberg on the Farm Klippoortje. Camp was closed on 25 October 1902

The stone was unveiled by the then Member of the Executive Council, Sport Recreation, Arts & culture of Gauteng, Honorable Mondli Gungubele on 04 May 2001 at Heidelberg as a Monument.

Sedibeng also made its ultimate sacrifice to the struggle for the liberation of African People starting from the 1960's through a series of nation-wide anti-pass campaign on 31 March 1960 in Sharpeville which culminated to deaths of sixty-nine people and more than 180 injured. In hiding its brutality, the nationalist government banned the ANC and the PAC.

There was a prominent woman in Ratanda also popularly known as "Anti-Pass" by the community of both Magogogweni (currently known as Rensburg) and Ratanda due to her participation in the 1956 Women's march to the Union Building. Anti-Pass came about when she overheard from the radio about women's march against the carrying of pass. She took it upon herself to go house to house to mobilize women to join the march that was organized by women in Pretoria. She was a strong and prominent leader of ANC, operating underground, highly secretive and very suspicious. She contributed immensely for the Anti-pass campaign. She died on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1985.

In the 1990's a dark cloud also visited Sedibeng during the Nangalembe Night Vigil on the 12 January 1992 where thirty-nine mourners were viciously murdered and over forty were injured. On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1992 Boipatong was raided by a group of heavily armed vigilantes killing forty-six people and the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 765 in July the same year urging full investigation into the Boipatong incident.

During the Second World War, Blacks and Whites who were at the concentration camps their remains are buried at Kloof Cemetery in Heidelberg including children who died on those camps.

Sedibeng District Municipality in accordance with the provisions of the laws that govern the businesses of the municipality has embarked upon a process of consultation with the stakeholders with a view to present the IDP and Budget for the 2018/19 Financial year Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 makes community participation in the affairs, programmes and activities of the municipality a legal obligation. This IDP is therefore the culmination of a lengthy process of consultation with the key stakeholders across the district.

Consequently, this IDP carries the aspirations of the masses of our people which the 2017/18 Budget seeks to finance. Therefore, this IDP must be seen as a beacon of hope that will continue to guide us over



the next financial year in our collective endeavors of building a better life for all our communities.

Critical to this is the question of compliance with the laws of the Republic. For an example, before the end of May 2018 we must have presented to Council the final budget for the forthcoming financial year.

In this regard, section 24 of Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 prescribes that "...the final budget must be tabled 30 days before the start of the budget year."

We remain committed to the realization of the National Development Plan vision 2030 and Gauteng TMR approach and will be arranged through the **5 Rs plus 2**, being the following:

**Reinventing the Economy** from an old to a new by consolidating existing sectors and; Exploring new sectors of growth and in this way build local economies to create. more employment and sustainable livelihoods.

**Renewing our communities** from low to high quality through the provision of basic services, improving local public services and broadening access to them, and regenerating property development to improve the quality of living.

**Reviving a Sustainable Environment** from waste dumps to a green region, by increasing the focus on improving air, water and soil quality and moving from being a producer and receiver of waste to a green city.

**Reintegrating the region** with the rest of Gauteng, South and Southern Africa to move from an edge to a frontier region, through improving connectivity and transport links.

**Releasing Human Potential** from low to high skills and build social capital through building united, non-racial, integrated and safer communities.

**Good and Financially Sustainable Governance** through building accountable, effective and clean government, with sound financial management, functional and effective Councils, and strong, visionary leadership. It is about compliance and competence.

**Vibrant Democracy** through enabling all South Africans to progressively exercise their constitutional rights and enjoy the full dignity of freedom. To promote more active community participation in local government, including further strengthening the voice of communities and making sure that community based structures such as ward committees, police forums, school governing bodies are functional.

## **Conclusion**

Sedibeng has a reach history and heritage whose insights could only be achieved in our journey of building a united society and sustainable communities using our five R's + 2 as a vehicle for transformation, modernization and social cohesion. Our 2018/2019 plans contained in these IDP's are our vehicle to reach our desired destination.

The sacrifices made by our region in many struggles paid off when the then President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela signed the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa into law at the Constitutional Square on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1996.

We may not bring their souls back to life, ours is to embrace their ultimate sacrifices for bringing the dawn of a new democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa. Our IDP and 2018/19 Budget will go

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a long way in improving the quality of life of our communities by broadening accessibility and alleviating poverty.

I urge all our communities and social partners to join us on this journey. As the captain of this ship I urge you to join me to keep this ship afloat.

Thank you

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**CLLR. BUSISIWE MODISAKENG**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR: SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**