

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEDIBENG DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY**

CLLR. BUSISIWE MODISAKENG

17 JUNE 2016

Programme Director;

Let me take this opportunity to welcome our,

- Distinguished Guest; MEC of SRAC Ms. Faith Mazibuko
- Our local Municipalities Honourable Executive Mayor's : -
- Cllr Simon Mofokeng – Emfuleni Local Municipality
- Cllr Bongani Baloyi – Midvaal Local Municipality
- Cllr Lerato Maloka – Lesedi Local Municipality
- Speakers of Council
- Chief whips

- Fellow councilors
- Members of Khulumani Support Group
- Victims and members of the families
- Distinguished guests

It indeed gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm greeting and welcome on behalf of Sedibeng District Municipality, the CRADLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I feel exceptionally privileged to be part of this commemoration.

It's been 26 years since the country was shocked to its core by the tragic events in Boipatong, which claimed the lives of 46 victims.

Boipatong massacre was a turning point in the history of south africa.

“More particularly, the Boipatong massacre was widely regarded as evidence of a third force, which comprised elements within the state security system working secretly and illegally to destabilise the ANC and its allies.”

It happened at a time when Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiations towards the end of apartheid in South Africa were in progress, and it was one of the reasons that led to the suspension of the talks.

The African National Congress National Working Committee released a statement that they could not negotiate in condition where majority of the poor were killed in a state sponsored violence.

It's going to take a long time for the families and friends of those involved to get over such a tragedy, today, 26 years later, the pain can still be felt, but it has been uplifting to see the way the people have rallied to provide support.

There are times when we are at a loss for words. The pain is far more than what we can express. We can't bring back what we lost but we can make sure we do not lose any more.

I salute the victims and their brave families for the terrible loss they have sustained, and for the grief they continue to endure to this day.

Today, in the presence of the families, friends and colleagues, we honour the memory of forty six courageous men and women who died for the liberation of our country.

We will never forget their names or their sacrifices, which we also remember with sadness and gratitude today. None of us ever want to see a single other name added to this Memorial because, the struggle that we are facing today is not for liberation but for the fight against poverty and unemployment.

In conclusion Programme Director allow me to once again welcome all your guests, victims and families of Boipatong Massacre.

I THANK YOU