

**External Communications Unit
Press / Media Release**

To : All media
Attention : News Editors & Journalists
Date : 01 August 2011

For the attention of all media houses

Sedibeng District Municipality hosted a successful Nelson Mandela International Day 2011

The Sedibeng District and the world were abuzz with people and various institutions celebrating the Nelson Mandela International Day on Monday, 18th July 2011. This day being the birthday of President Nelson Mandela, has since been declared an annual day to celebrate Nelson Mandela's life, and his legacy and a global call to action for people to recognize their individual power to make an imprint in assisting to change the world around them. A global movement for positive change begins with small actions.

These programmes of activities saw public representatives, leaders of organs of civil society and interest groups collaborating in advancing the cause of helping to improve other people's lives, especially the poorest of the poor. The purpose of the programme is to make a difference by ensuring a sustained and lasting impact on social development programmes and initiatives in our province, both now and in the long-term.

This year's celebrations were under the theme: ***'Take action, inspire change, make everyday a Mandela Day'***. In Sedibeng, the focus this year was specifically on creating and bringing about **social inclusion and cohesion**.

The Sedibeng programme was a partnership between the Sedibeng District Municipality; COSATU and the Emerald Casino & Resort. The programme kick started with a visit to a child headed family in Evaton. This is a family of six, headed by a 24 year old boy where they received clothes, blankets and food from COSATU and the Sedibeng Executive Mayor's entourage as part of celebrating the contributions made by the international icon, Nelson Mandela to human rights struggles fought in the world.

"I am deeply touched by this family's circumstances. It is my wish that next year this time when we come back to this family, we must have done our best to ensure that it has been provided with a proper shelter", said the Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng responding to poor living condition of the child headed family.

The Executive Mayor further committed the Municipality to looking into the possibility of rebuilding the shack and assisting the family to benefit from the government social development services as interim relief measures.



The Executive Mayor and his entourage proceeded to the KwaMasiza Hostel to donate five double bio fuel stoves to the five families. Two of which being the victims of fire and the three being needy families. While at the KwaMasiza Hostel, the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng took the moment and reported back to the community about the refurbishment and upgrading of the hostel.

“The process of improving your living conditions is at an advanced stage. The contractor who is responsible for this work has been appointed and was supposed to have started already. They would probably be starting in September 2011.

The entourage proceeded to the Matsie Steyn Primary School in Sharpeville, to join a group of young and old people who helped clean the school yard. At the school, the Executive Mayor joined the pupils in singing the happy birthday song to President Mandela and later addressed the volunteers on the importance of the day and thanked the people who volunteered their time to do good on the day.

At the Busy Bee Orphanage Home, groceries were donated and gardening and house cleaning work was done at a hospice known as the Emfuleni Shelter in Vanderbijlpark. The Executive proceeded to the Sicelo Shiceka settlement in Midvaal to join the National Rural Youth Service Corps and the Serapeng Agricultural Project from Waterdal in assisting the community of Sicelo in soil preparations and proper ways of planting.

On arrival at Sicelo, the Executive Mayor was welcomed by elderly people showcasing their skills in aerobics and sang a happy birthday song to President Nelson Mandela. The Executive Mayor participated in the planting of seeds, addressed the National Rural Youth Service Corps on the importance of the day and thanked the more than 53 young people who participated in the National Rural Youth Service Corps programme

Ends!

**Issued by the External Communications Department
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