

**External Communications Unit  
Press / Media Release**

To : All media  
Attention : News Editors & Journalists  
Date : Friday, 5 August 2011

***For the attention of all media houses***

**Sedibeng District Municipality hands over 15 houses to women beneficiaries at the launch of the Sedibeng Women's Month Programme 2011**

It is that time of the year when the Sedibeng District Municipality and the country observe and celebrate the gains and present opportunities for the women of South Africa. This is the period during which the Sedibeng District Municipality highlights the work done towards developing, improving and empowering women in our Region.

The massive demonstration of women in Pretoria on 9 August 1956 was the culmination of months of meticulous work. Almost 20 000 women drawn from all racial groups managed to reach the Union Buildings in what was one of the biggest mass demonstrations of that decade. An unknown number did not reach Pretoria because their buses were turned back, detained and were otherwise harassed by a government that was deaf to the demands of the ordinary South African. It took three more decades of struggle to have these intolerable laws struck from statute books.

It is through these programmes and campaigns that the Sedibeng District Municipality commits itself not to forget the massive demonstration of women in Pretoria on 9 August 1956 which played a major role in ensuring the attainment of the freedom which we enjoy today.

Since its inception, the democratic government has introduced a number of policies and programmes which have contributed to the development of women and empowered them to play a more meaningful role in society. This period will serve as a platform and opportunity to assess this assertion in our Region.

"It is interesting to note that this year's programme will be paying tribute to our revolutionary mothers who may have since joined our ancestors and while others are still alive in the name of Maletanta and MaLefiedi, not forgetting Theresa Ramashamole, a member of the Sharpeville Six respectively", said the Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng

The Sedibeng District Municipality recognises that while women have made important gains, there is a lot more work to be done before we can say that we have truly achieved gender equality in our country. Women are still faced with challenges of poverty, unemployment, abuse and violence.

During the media launch of the Women's Month Programme which is scheduled for **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at 10:00, at the New Village [Next to Zone 10 Sebokeng, Lengweleng]**, the



Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng and the Gauteng MEC for Local Government & Housing, Mr Humphrey Mmemezi will hand over 15 houses to women beneficiaries in the area. Among these women beneficiaries are the two women who were born in 1918 and one born in 1924. This will be in commemoration, celebration and recognition of the participation of women in the struggle for freedom that we enjoy today.

A wide range of Sedibeng District Municipality campaigns and programmes have been lined up to pay a special attention to the needs of women. Priority has been given to promoting women's access to economic opportunities.

This year women's month is observed in a special way to give it meaning, context and relevance. Women's month will not only be marked by linking the struggles and achievements of South African women with all the women of Sedibeng who contributed towards the struggle for liberation but also to launch a yearlong programme of commemorating and celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the women's anti-pass march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria in 1956.

*This year's commemorations will be held under the theme: **"Working Together to Enhance Women's Opportunities to Economic Empowerment"***

The observation of the Women's Month Programme by the Sedibeng District Municipality serves as a continuation of government's commitment to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which include reducing extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality rates, to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, and developing a global partnership for development.

The detailed programme is attached for further information.

**Ends!**

**Issued by the External Communications Department  
Sedibeng District Municipality**

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