

**External Communications Unit
Press / Media Release**

To : All media
Attention : News Editors & Journalists
Date : 07 July 2012

For the attention of all media houses

Sedibeng donates a house in celebration of the Nelson Mandela International Day

Following the successful 90th birthday celebrations of the former President Nelson Mandela in London's Hyde Park in June 2008, it was decided that there could be nothing more fitting than to celebrate Mr Mandela's birthday each year with a day dedicated to his life and work in order to ensure that his legacy continues forever.

The following year in 2009, the United Nations General Assembly also declared the 18th of July as the International Nelson Mandela Day which was to be celebrated annually aimed at inspiring individuals all over the world to take action and help change the world for the better, and in so doing build a global movement for good to inspire communities everywhere to take action, inspire change and make every day a Mandela Day.

It is in this regard that the Sedibeng District Municipality, its Local Municipalities and other partners will be joining the world on the 18th July 2012 in celebrating the life and times of the stalwart of the struggle for peace and democracy and international icon, a greatest statesman – a man who sacrificed all he had, his future, freedom and family to fight for a free South Africa.

Among the activities which the Sedibeng District Municipality has lined up for this day, the District Executive Mayor: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng and the Gauteng Acting MEC for Local Government & Housing: Mr. Bheki Nkosi will hand over a house to a child-headed family in Tshepiso North Extension / Phase 4 – keeping to the promise he have made in 2011 when on a visit to the same family.

The Nelson Mandela International Day campaign calls on all the people of the world to contribute 67 minutes of their time for charitable work. This will be an act which is seen to symbolise the 67 years of Madiba's selfless service to the people of South Africa and the world. The 67 minutes may be in the form of supporting a chosen charity work or serving a local community.

The celebration of the Nelson Mandela International Day further recognises and honours our former President's commitment to the objective of building a National Democratic Society; that is united, non racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous in nature. It also honours his contributions to the reconstruction and development of our country and to the equally important task of building a better Africa and a better World.



On this day, and indeed during the entire month of July, citizens of the world and in particular all South Africans – the home country of Madiba, are encouraged to dedicate at least 67 minutes of their time to do community work in celebration of the values and principles that our first democratic President stood for.

“I encourage the people of Sedibeng, young and old to participate actively and whole-heartedly in these campaigns. It is in this regard that the people recognize their individual power to make a mark and impact in changing the world around them”, said the Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng.

Stemming from the *Vuk'uzenzele campaign*, the Executive Mayor called on the people of Sedibeng to embrace a culture of doing things for themselves and the less privileged within our communities. In this way, we will become the agents of change in the real sense.

Madiba will once again reach another milestone, celebrating his 94th birthday on 18th July and the Sedibeng District Municipality has the following programmes lined up in his honour and in celebration of his birthday:

- Sedibeng District Municipality employees will start the day by singing happy birthday song for Nelson Mandela at 08h30 on Wednesday, 18 July 2012 in front of the Municipal Offices, Vereeniging;
- The entourage led by the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality and the Gauteng Acting MEC for Local Government & Housing will then leave for Tshepiso North Extension 4 where a child-headed family would be handed over a house;
- Other entourages led by Members of Mayoral Committees will leave for various identified site for the 67 minutes contribution such as the following:
 - Home for the abounded HIV Positive Babies and mentally challenged **and** Non-profit organization (Bethesda Centre Waterdal) - Cllr. Fatty Mnguni and Cllr. Yusuf Mohammed from **09:00-12:30**;
 - Masoheng Old Age Home **and** Lehae la Maqheku in Sebokeng Zone **10** - Cllr. Maipato Tsokolibane and Cllr. Mmakgomo Raikane from **09:00-12:30**;
 - Hand in Children's Centre, Sebokeng Zone 12 **and** Visit to Banbanani Disabled Centre in Ratanda - Cllr. Simon Maphalla and Cllr. Johny Tsotetsi from **09:00-12:30**;
 - Hand-over of a house to child headed family in Tshepiso phase 5 number 7935 **and** Shange child headed family in Sicelo - Cllr. Mshudulu and Cllr. Busi Mncube from **09:00-12:30**

Ends!



Issued by the External Communications Department
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