



## **SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

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### **External Communications: Media Release**

To all media houses, News Editors & Journalists

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

#### **Sedibeng Commemorates the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Zone 7 Sebokeng Night Vigil Massacre**

The Sedibeng District Municipality commemorates the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Zone 7 Sebokeng Night Vigil Massacre, commonly known as the Nangalembe Massacre of the 12 January 1991. It is on this day when the people of Sedibeng bow their heads in honour and of the fallen heroines and heroes of this atrocious massacre which left many people as orphans, homeless, dead and many others maimed.

It was on this day when the people of Sedibeng and the nation at large look back to remember the sudden invasion by a gang of armed men which seemed strange for the dozens of people crammed in and around the overflowing night vigil tent when suddenly, a hand grenade was thrown, and as it went off the attackers began to shoot randomly into the crowd.

As a result, more than thirty eight mourners lost their lives that night, and over forty were injured at the hands on the faceless attackers. This happened at a peaceful night vigil of the late Chris Nangalembe, a member of the ANC, as well as the Sebokeng Crime Prevention Unit on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 1991, where weeping mourners gathered to pay their final respects to their comrade and community leader.

The Zone 7 Sebokeng Night Vigil Massacre will go a long way into the books of our history as it heralded an undefined and unresolved period of brutal attacks against the community of Sebokeng and the province as a whole. It is with the blood of all those who have perished in such cowardly acts that the history and Constitution of the Country is written on, said Executive Mayor Mahole Mofokeng.

“It is as we remember such brutal massacres and the sacrifices made by those before us that we get inspirations to continue in our efforts of fight against unemployment and crime in our communities as this was the late Chris Nagalembe’s struggle efforts which led to his death. I call on all the people of Sedibeng to observe this day, which coincides with the 101th anniversary of the birth of the ANC and remind ourselves of our common vision of ensuring that we live in a safe and secure environment where everybody feels at home”, said the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng in remembrance of this historic day.

**Details of the event are as follows: Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

- **Part One of the Programme:** Wreath Laying Service at the Avalon Cemetery (Soweto) - At the grave of the late Chris Nangalembe **at 06:30;**
- **Part Two of the Programme:** Wreath Laying Service at the **Evaton Cemetery at 08:00;**
- **Part Three of the Programme:** Wreath Laying Service at the victims’ monument in Zone 7 Sebokeng. The monument was built by the people of Sebokeng in honour of the victims, inscribed with the names of all victims and was unveiled in 1996 by then-President Nelson Mandela on the 21st of March, South Africa's Human Rights Day.

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Sedibeng District Municipality**