

# YEAR-END MESSAGE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, THE HONOURABLE COUNCILLOR MAHOLE SIMON MOFOKENG



## *Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela*

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

*18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013*



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Good people of Sedibeng, as we all know, this year's Festive Season will be unlike any other, because of the passing of our international icon, the inimitable President Nelson Mandela. Although this moment was not unexpected, it still shook the whole world!

On behalf of the Sedibeng District Municipality and all its people, I hereby join millions and millions of people from around the globe and humbly extend our sincerest condolences to the Mandela family and his organisation, the African National Congress (ANC). We call upon all our people to wipe the tears from their faces, remain calm and to use this opportunity to pause and reflect on the legacy that Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela has left behind. All South Africans have an obligation to protect and promote the values he ingrained in our society and the world which centres around unity of the people, love, respect, peace, justice, democracy and equality for all.

### FESTIVE MOOD

The significance of the passing of our stalwart means that the South African national flags fly at half mast presently. The nation is in mourning. Although Madiba will be buried on the 15th December 2013, all of us are expected to grieve well beyond the day of his burial.

Therefore, the festive mood we were looking forward to, may have to be toned down a bit as a token of our respect for the huge loss we have sustained. Let there be peace and harmony during this Christmas period. We owe it to our hero to be restrained and dignified. We are not banning parties per se. We pray for orderliness and maturity.

### VOTER REGISTRATION

The departure of our leader furthermore imposes a big responsibility on our sagging shoulders to ensure that the democratic state that he almost single-handedly created and inaugurated back in 1994, is sustained and defended.

The perpetual sceptics and pessimists expect the country to register low figures at the elections next year due to apparent apathy caused by Madiba's passing.

### SIGNING OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION

The significance of the 10th December 2013, being the date for the Memorial service and the 17th Anniversary of the signing of the South African Constitution by the then President of the Republic, Tata Mandela in Sharpeville in 1996, is no coincidence, this is an indication to the Sedibeng region on how providential we have been to have lived during the times of this noble Leader. This anniversary must inspire us to defend the gains made thus far in the liberation struggle.

Madiba is no more. From 2013 onwards we will have to commemorate this important event without him. It will be difficult. Nevertheless, our loneliness must urge and inspire us to work twice as much to ensure that our democratic Constitution is respected and not violated in any way. We must moreover strive for the protection of the rights of women and children, who continue to be subjected to the worst forms of abuse by animals which masquerade as men.

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

On 27 April 1994 South Africa held the first democratic elections in the country's history. This was a major paradigm shift in the polity of the country. Next year marks the 20th anniversary of our democratic state. As we approach this date, we must be conscious of the sacrifices made by the stalwarts of our movement. We must remain humble, respectful and compassionate. The unity of our people is supreme. Our diversity is a friend that we must defend by all means.

### COOPERATION

Through cooperation and tolerance, we were able to develop our District and communities throughout the year. The Sedibeng District Municipality welcomed the announcement of the Metro with a firm focus on the enormous task ahead in managing the migration process and establishing sound systems of governance and above all, service delivery for the new Vaal Metro.

Another momentous milestone was reached on 3rd December 2013, when the Auditor General of South Africa released its 2012/2013 Audit Opinions on Gauteng Municipalities. This District Municipality became the first municipality in Gauteng to reach the 2014 target of Operation Clean Audit.

We thank all Stakeholders such as business, the religious community, other government agencies and the sporting community for contributing towards a successful year.

This cooperation must grow in the New Year, so that we can achieve more.

### CONCLUSION

We conclude by reiterating our plea for a peaceful festive season. Let us share with our neighbours, the few goodies that we shall be fortunate to acquire during the Xmas period. **Madiba was in love with humanity.** One of the core values he taught us is that of sharing. To those who are employed, we need the rest so that we may be refreshed in the new year and be more productive. May the passing of Madiba inspire us to do more henceforth and to be circumspect in the contemplation of the future. I wish you a happy Christmas and more prosperous new year.

Thank you.

**ROBALA KA KGOTSO, SEAPARANKWE,  
IT IS THROUGH YOUR SELFLESS  
LEADERSHIP THAT SOUTH AFRICA  
IS A BETTER PLACE TODAY!**

*The Executive Mayor of  
Sedibeng District Municipality,  
Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng*

