

SEDIBENG 2014

SODA

STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

“Celebrating 20 Years of Democracy”



Sedibeng Executive Mayor - MS Mofokeng
Delivers his State of the District Address

On the 28 May 2014, the Sedibeng District Municipality held the State of The District Address at the Vereeniging Civic Theatre, as is tradition, this momentous occasion is followed by the Mayoral Awards which is one of the most prestigious events in the Sedibeng region.

Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng took this opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Premier of Gauteng: Mr. David Makhura: the election of such an esteemed

individual in a position of this magnitude is an expression of the government's dedication on moving the Gauteng province into a Global City Region.

The Mayor alluded to the bold decisions that were made in order to help improve the living standards of the people. “We must always muster the courage to take bold decisions to bring about meaningful change” said the Executive Mayor. Although it goes without saying that many households face a high cost of living, a 20-year review of the Gauteng province since 1994 shows a significant transformation in the majority of people of this region when compared to the past.

With this year marking the 20th celebration of our democracy it becomes imperative that we make mention of the past ills of our country, that is the geographic separation that was imposed by the apartheid regime. In his speech the Mayor spoke about Spatial Developments which surfaced in 1994 linking black communities to towns and work places, one example for these developmnets is the K-55 route which joins Steelpark via Boipatong and Sharpeville to Vanderbijlpark. Although there's still a substantial divide amongst our people; these divisions are not due to race, gender or religion. They are instead caused by financial limits, which form part of the current struggle: The

struggle for economic development.

In efforts to eradicate poverty and lessen the gap between Life Standard Measures there are many developments in the district that have helped curb the economic scourge by creating jobs and ensuring a steady growth with regards to general economy of the country. Savannah City in Midvaal for instances: which has the potential to bring 18 000 new houses in a mixed housing development, this development will attract more investors into the region. Other developments in the District include: The Klipriver Business Park along the R59; Shopping Centers along the R57 are being developed into fully fledged Malls; The development Zone between Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark is constantly developing into a business centre and Lesedi's Zone of opportunity. These are some of the developments that have helped the district's unemployment rate drop by 12% as per StatsSA in its 2011 Census.

The aforementioned economical aspects of the district are an expression of how Sedibeng has evolved from an economy that was monopolized by manufacturing companies and our economy is not solely dependent on metal companies such as Mittal; but we have rather, reinvented our economy and branched to other sources of income that have helped classify the District as

diverse and adaptable.

One aspect of our diversification that should be highlighted is the flourishing tourism industry that has proved to be a force to be reckoned with. The Sedibeng District Municipality is therefore considering various ways that will help with the steady growth of our tourism industry. “Our Tourism Sector continues to grow steadily and we will launch an innovative project which we have dubbed the Passport Project.” Said the Executive Mayor.

In the build up to the Vaal Metro, it is important that such developments are recognised and highlighted. It is these expressions that justify the decision to merge our locals and these developments are necessary for the sustainability of a Metropolitan City.

The State of the District Address is a report back to the people on past achievements and future plans of the District and the information that was relayed by the Mayor: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng, was relevant and appealing in the sense that all the necessary points were highlighted: The past infused with a prosperous future which has been a lingering vision for all the Mayors of the District since 1994. Sedibeng District Municipality continuous to mend the past and is ready for the transition into a Metropolitan.