

I extend this warm greeting to you all on behalf of the Sedibeng District Municipality, I feel quite honoured to be part of this Commemoration.

Distinguished Guests

It has been 28 years since our country was shocked by the gruesome events that took place on the 17th of June 1992, where 49 lives were taken. This gruesome massacre should act as a remembrance of how far we have come and how much has been achieved in our 25 years of democracy, which was championed by the African National Congress. Boipatong painted a picture to the world of the injustices and the far reaching manipulation of the black majority by the Apartheid system, and more particularly, provided a lever for change towards fruitful outcomes of the CODESA 2 negotiations. Our newly elected President, his Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa stated during those negotiations that *“There must be no more Boipatongs. This must be the last time.”*

Honourable MEC

As today is the day after June 16 Youth Day, which is also a day that acts as a scar from our brutal history. I urge the youth of Boipatong to listen to the stories and remember the pain so that they may become the bridge to the healing of the community of Boipatong. Us as Sedibeng District Municipality, the Provincial government of Gauteng and other government stakeholders extend a helping hand towards the youth of Boipatong, we say, *we are here with you, we are a caring and unrelenting government* however, it is in your hands to champion the change towards a better Boipatong. Through our ongoing public participation

programmes, we will continue to engage tirelessly with the community of Boipatong in order to establish and implement working solutions for all. I further encourage our youth to participate in various programme within the District that are meant to educate and enhance economic opportunities for our youth. Visit our website and social media pages to keep in touch with the various programmes.

In conclusion Programme Director allow me to once again welcome all your guests, victims and families of Boipatong Massacre.

Ladies and gentlemen

It has come to the time where I have the wonderful honour to introduce our newly appointed MEC for Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture Honourable Mbali Hlophe. We wish her all the best in her new position and hope to further deepen our partnership with her department, may she prosper and flourish in her acts.

Honourable guests

Please give a round of applause to MEC Mbali Hlophe.