

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MOGOBO DAVID MAGABE ON THE OCCASION OF SEDA SEKHUKHUNE BRANCH BREAKFAST SESSION, FETAKGOMO MUNICIPALITY 22 JULY 2010.

Program Director

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Mayor of Fetakgomo Cllr Coleman Marota and other Mayors present here

Executive Members of Fetakgomo Local Council

Speakers and Chief Whips

Traditional Leaders present here

District Manager of SEDA Mr. Mathabatha

Managers of other Government Agencies

Officials from the District and Local Municipalities

Business Community

Our Friends from the Media

Friends and Collogues

Good Morning, Thobela

It is with great pleasure to be with you this morning on this breakfast session organized by SEDA Sekhukhune Branch. I am particularly privilege to have been given this platform to interact and exchange ideas with the business community and also to get updated on the work done by Seda in our District, Sekhukhune.

Program Director

The Hall we are meeting in this morning is named after Cde Moses Mabotha, a selfless cadre who dedicated his life for the cause of freedom. Let me therefore join the chorus in congratulating Mayor Marota and his colleagues for having taken such a progressive move of renaming this beautiful Hall after our own freedom fighter.

Program Director

This SEDA breakfast session is taking place four days after the whole world celebrated the 92nd birthday of the 1st democratically elected President of South Africa, the one and the only Icon of the World, Nelson Mandela.

In 2009, the South African Government supported the call made by Mandela Foundation to have 18th July declared Mandela Day. Such a move was endorsed by United Nations Organization in its General Assembly meeting. And the 18th July has been declared an International Nelson Mandela Day.

The significance of the event is 67 minutes dedicated to community work, this is because the man himself, utata Nelson Mandela dedicated 67 years fighting for freedom, peace, justice and equality.

And the past Sunday 18th July, the whole world united around the theme "everyday is Mandela day". People from all walks of life engaged in various community work, the Sekhukhune District Municipality choose to spend the day renovating the Leeufontein old age centre.

I hope you too did something on that day. The 92nd birthday of Nelson Mandela came just few days after we wrapped up the spectacular 2010 FIFA World Cup. The first time staged on African soil.

We are indeed a privilege country, never has it happen in the entire human history that 192 countries of the world will agree to celebrate one man, Nelson Mandela.

Program Director

Since we are talking business this morning, let us try to look at what have we inherited from a business point of view in so far as 2010 world cup is concerned. The 2010 World Cup benefited our country in terms of massive infrastructural development injected as part of the tournament; approximately 40 billion rand was spent on preparations for the world cup.

We need to ask ourselves how we benefit out of this. Offcourse every economics student will tell you that good infrastructure is a pre-requisite for investment. But how about the rural areas?

Well, the Minister of Finance Honourable Pravin Gordan announced that an amount of 700 billion rand will be spent on infrastructural development over the next three years.

Ours as rural municipalities and voters is to demand that such spending be biased to less developed and historical marginalised areas such as Sekhukhune District. We need politicians, business people, ordinary civilians and all and sundry to speak in one voice, demanding a massive rural development public investment.

Program Director

As part of our economic vision, we have as District Municipality established the Sekhukhune Development Agency. One of our key developmental priority as a district is maximization of economic growth and development through developing local economic opportunities and facilitating community empowerment.

Sekhukhune Development Agency will have to come with concrete and practical steps on how to leverage opportunities from our three economic pillars as identified in our LED Strategy and Limpopo Employment, Growth and Development Programme which are;

- Agriculture,
- Mining, and
- Tourism.

Government agencies which are created to ensure economic development such as SEDA, LIBSA AND LIMDEVE should take keen interest on the Sekhukhune Development Agency.

We need close cooperation, sharing of knowledge and expertise, maximization of resources and programmatic partnership, in particular amongst government Institutions in order to fulfill our shared responsibility of fighting poverty and creating jobs.

For this reason, I urge our LED Unit in the District and SDA to forge strong and effective working relations with Business Agencies such as SEDA, LIBSA AND LIMDEV. If such relationship exists, then let us strengthen it and make it more responsive and effective.

Program Director

Our democratic Government ushered by the 1994 breakthrough has brought about significant changes in the lives of our people geared towards poverty alleviation and job creation.

However, our dual economic system continues to pose a challenge for us, economic systems divided into the first and second economy. The first economy is generally advanced and benefits the few whereas the second economy is generally undeveloped and most of our people rely on it.

The 52nd ANC National Conference mandate us to come with interventions eliminating the economic dualism, these interventions include;

- Public Education and critical skills development
- Comprehensive economic support to SMME's
- Access to basic services and basic infrastructure
- Deal with effect of spatial challenges

Sekhukhune as a rural municipality should preoccupy itself with critical question of how to improve and build the second economy.

We will have to come up with creative and innovative ways of increasing our competitive and comparative economic potentials without necessarily being copy cuts of big metros and other municipalities.

Program Director

One important aspect which need some serious attention is development and support of cooperatives. This collective form of business ownership has huge potential of creating jobs and sustaining families.

We also know that historically, cooperatives have played an important role in our own areas. We should be concerned about the collapse of many cooperatives in our communities.

Let us in our endeavor to fight poverty ensure that we support cooperatives to run a sustainable manner.

As the core business of today has already being aluded to by speakers before me, allow me programme director to say "I wish this gathering will not result in a talk shop, but rather yield positive results for the people of our District".

As you enter into questions time, take note that the provincial government led by Premier Cassel Mathale is observing us. President Jacob Zuma has already told us that this is a year of Action.

And all this oppotunities depends on what we make use of them.

I thank you

Ke a Leboga

Thobela.