



**Speech by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sithole Assistance Mshudulu at ACSA  
Mambatha House Handover, Boipatong  
12 August 2008**

Cllr. Mlungisi Hlongwane-Executive Mayor of Sedibeng  
Speakers and Chief whips  
Members of Mayoral Committee  
Councillors

Mrs. Nonhla Hlahla: Chief Executive Officer of Airports Company of South Africa  
and you entourage  
Mambatha and family  
People of Boipatong

Freedom, democracy and the rights that we enjoy today came at a heavy price. The period prior 1994 is a one that the country suffered heavy casualties. This is a history written in blood.

Amidst these trying and difficult and painful times, through the collective wisdom and leadership of the African National Congress, our strive towards the attainment of a true democratic state was *fait accompli*. This was so for a number reasons.

Firstly, a negotiated political settlement could not continue in an environment not conducive for negotiations.

Secondly we could not allow FW De Klerk and the National Party to derail the process of negotiations to perpetuate minority rule by reversing the gains of the National Democratic Revolution.

Thirdly, we could not negotiate when the apartheid state machinery continued to maim our people ruthlessly with impunity.

Fourthly, FW De Klerk and the nationalist knew that they were losers and to regain the lost ground they had to resort to dirty tricks and Boipatong was to become one of the indelible marks the nationalist will leave.

On a sad cold day of the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1992, the people of Boipatong were mercilessly attacked and maimed and killed in cold blood. It was however the day that the National Party will rue as it heralded the death of the NATS and the end of minority rule.

It is the events of that fateful day that will determine the path for a true democratic state and which led to the announcement of the election date.

This was preceded by the CODESA deadlock. The ANC was not sulking. It was part of its key strategies to lay a foundation for a new political dispensation. As if that was not enough,

Brigadier Jushua Qozo committed one of the most heinous crimes against the ANC.

The East Rand was burning and our people were killed. The entire country was bleeding and the liberation movement suffered many setbacks. In a year to come we lost Chris Hani and later Oliver Reginald Tambo. The tide was against us

Freedom comes at price. Through determination and valour, we fought to the bitter end and emerged victorious. The history of South Africa will be incomplete without Boipatong. It is actually Boipatong that freed us from the chains of bondage.

In recognizing this sterling contribution and those who laid down their lives, the preamble of the Constitution of the Republic states in part “ that we adopt this constitution as the supreme law of the republic so as to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights”.

It goes on to say to “improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person”.

By delivering and handing this house to Mrs. Mbatha and wheelchairs to our people, ACSA is living up to the letter and spirit of the constitution. It is playing an important role as a corporate citizen to uplift and to improve the lives of our people. It is healing the scars inflicted upon the people of Boipatong as required by the constitution.

Our failure on our part to execute a mandate bestowed upon us amounts to a breach and violation of the constitution. This is tantamount to treason.

Honourable Cllr. Hlongwane, I want to make pact with you. A pact based on common vision and purpose. A pact to accelerate service delivery to change the lives of our people for the better. Through this pact, Boipatong will never be same

again. You and me have been mandated by the people to build a society based of quality life devoid of social ills, unemployment and poverty.

There is currently development taking place within Boipatong. This confirms our commitment to deliver to our people and to ensure that Boipatong is no longer dusty and that all roads should be tarred. That no person shall live under shacks. That no person shall sleep on a hungry stomach.

I call upon all corporate citizens, to take leaf from the leadership of ACSA under the stewardship of Mrs. Hlahla to invest in communities and to play a meaningful role in improving the living conditions of our people.

It is therefore incumbent and critical for us to create a collective with a vision to build a South Africa based on the values of ubuntu as ACSA is doing today. Through this partnership, our millenium goals become achievable. It will be through a collective effort to transform Sedibeng into a world class region.

I would like to thank the leadership of ACSA for this immense contribution. Mrs. Hlahla you are healing the wounds inflicted upon the people of Boipatong.

Mmabatha izingane zakho zikhona ukukupha indlu nokubonga inkuleko esinayo. Se basishiya esibathandayo oSolomon Mahlangu, owayekade athanda ukusho ukuthi igazi labo lizonothisa isihlahla esizasipha inkuleko.

Thank you