



**EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE 49<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF SHARPERVILLE MASSACRE  
21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009**

**Honourable Premier of Gauteng; Paul Mashatile  
Honourable MEC: Barbara Creesy  
Executive Mayors  
Speakers  
Members of the Mayoral Committee  
Dignatories  
Community leaders  
Community members  
Friends from the media  
Ladies and gentlemen**

**Good morning**

On this occasion of the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, ours is to stand with pride. We do so in recognition of the gallant warriors who fell in the line duty in defence of our cause for a non-racial, non sexist and democratic South Africa.

It is through the preamble of the Constitution of the Republic, and through our deeds that:

***“We, the people of South Africa, recognize the injustices of our past, honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land, respect those who have worked to build and develop our country, believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity, heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights, lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based upon the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected***

***by law and improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person”.***

The tragic events of the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 contributed immensely towards the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic. Intrinsic to our constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, is the Bill of Rights. This is based on the values of human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms.

Ours as government is to ensure that in honouring these fallen warriors, we improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person. At the heart of our vision to create a better society, rests job creation and poverty eradication. This is to ensure that we restore the dignity of our people.

As part of our initiatives to attain these objectives, the Sharpeville Precinct and Vaal 21, flagship projects and government’s millennium goals are vehicles that strive to improve the lives of our people for the better. It is through these Reconstruction and Development Programs that the face of Sharpeville will not be the same.

Honourable Premier, the Sharpeville Dam is a sleeping giant whose potential has not been tapped. Through the Vaal 21, we committed ourselves that primary beneficiaries of the projects to unleash the potential of Vaal River are people of Sharpeville. This will free the potential of our people and restore their dignity as decent jobs will be created and poverty eradicated.

It through our social transformation agenda that we will provide quality health care, houses, security and comfort, free education, access to sanitation, water and electricity. It is through our programs that we care for the elderly, the frail, people with disabilities, youth children and women.

The scourge of HIV/AIDS ravaging society demands a collective approach and effort and should be fought at all fronts.

In paying tribute to those who fell in the life of duty the lifespan of our economic and social transformation agenda cannot be interrupted.

We have invested in our people to ensure that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 this life-span is prolonged by voting for the African National Congress. Our failure to do so will be a betrayal of the valiant struggles of those who, on this day on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1960, fell in the line of duty.

In laying wreaths, we pay homage and tribute to the sons and daughters of Emfuleni. This signals our recognition of the role they played in achieving a democratic state. Ours is to consolidate on our achievements by accelerating service delivery to change the lives of our people for the better.

On behalf of the leadership collective of Emfuleni and its residents, I welcome you.

Enjoy the serenity of the Vaal River and let us re-affirm and confirm our declaration that South Africa is one, sovereign and democratic state based on human values.

***Nkosi Sikelel iAfrica***

END

Cllr. SA Mshudulu  
Executive Mayor: Emfuleni Local Municipality  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2009: Sharpeville