



**Speech delivered by her worship, Mayor ZRT Gumede at the
INAUGURATION OF WARD COUNCILLORS**

8 April 2017

Durban City Hall

Programme director,

Speaker of the city council, Cllr Mapena,

DCM Cele and Snr Managers,

Ward and PR Councillors,

Ward Committee members,

All stakeholders,

Leadership,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

Sithanda ukunibonga ngokunibona niphelele ngaloluhlobo ukuzobungaza nokwethulwa kwamaWard Committee okuluhlaka olubalulekile ekuletheni intuthuko emphakathini. Sithanda ukubonga Ikhomishana Yokhetho ngokuqinisekisa ukuthi sibamba ukhetho ngempumelelo emphakathini wonkana.

Siyazi ukuthi ukhetho lunjani, kuphakama imimoya umangabe kunokhetho kodwa ngeke sikhethwe sonke. Umangabe kukhona obefisa

ukungena akehlise umoya azame ukusebenzisana nalaba abakhethiweyo ukuze kusentshenzwe kulungiswe imiphakathi.

The inauguration marked the beginning of work for the ward committees, and we confident that the newly elected ward committee members will work collectively with us in fast tracking the service delivery.

We want to congratulate you that you are being inaugurated in the year of OR Tambo and the year of deepening unity within society. Your first mandate is to ensure that as these committee you don't divide communities according and create factions. You must unite the community and don't use your position to fight the democratically elected councillors. Your job is not to compete with councillors but to complement the councillors. You are not junior councillors, so don't use these position for political reasons.

Section 152 of the Constitution places the participation of communities at the centre of service delivery and other matters of Local Government. I want to thank all residents who participated in ward committee elections.

The Municipal Structures Act of 1998 and the Municipal Systems Act of 2000 provides the legislative framework for the establishment of Ward Committees.

As the City we recognises that Ward committees are an important mobilising agent for community action and play an important part in mobilising partnerships in order to develop local projects.

Ward Committees are another important aspect of local government system as they ensure inclusivity of residents in the matters of local government. This is perfect for us as local government is answerable to the people of its locality. Sifuna ukubona ukubambisana phakathi kwamakomidi nemiphakathi ukuze, ningabi imintshingo ibethwa ubani.

Ward Committees are meant to strengthen community participation and directly give residents a platform to express their views in respect to ward developmental issues and to address concerns of residents.

It is important to highlight that ward committees are a structures that work closely with Councillors. They assist to complement the work of

councillors. I am confident that the two structures will work as jointly to realise the vision of our city. Sinikhethele ukuthi nisebenzisane namakhansela hhayi ukuthi nizibone ningcono kunamaKhansela.

Programme Director,

As this city, we have an agenda for radical economic transformation. We want to ensure that communities benefits. You must not use this position so that you and your relatives benefit from municipality projects. You must use this position to advance and develop communities. As we implement radical economic transformation, we will be watching those who will be greedy. We want all people to benefit from the little we have as the city.

We view socio-economic transformation as an opportunity to include citizens in projects taking place at Ward level resulting in the improvement of their economic and social wellbeing.

Ward Committees give communities the opportunity to express their needs, their opinions on issues that affect their lives and to have them heard at Municipal level through the Ward councillor. As ward committees, you are an advisory bodies created to assist the ward councillor in carrying out his or her mandate in the most democratic manner possible.

More importantly by working together with all our structures at Ward level like NGO's which serve as an extended arm as well as ordinary citizens we can achieve a lot. Sifisa ukunibona nibambisene namakhosi, izinduna, amasonto, abezenkolo, nezinhlaka ezikhona emiphakathini.

Through ward committees and Operation Sukuma Sakhe we want to deal with issues safety, TB, HIV and Aids, and all other social ills.

Programme Director,

President Jacob has called on us to push for radical socio-economic transformation in local government.

This requires that apartheid's settlement geography must be confronted and a new and more cohesive society must be born.

Apartheid geography and centralised spatial planning ensured that the majority of our people were housed and located in marginal areas from

the city centres, far away from the economic hub and opportunities, as well as from services.

President Zuma has called on us to better manage municipal spaces for Radical Social and Economic Transformation requires municipalities to do a few things.

They must radically transform the residential areas by connecting and integrating places of work and human settlements to build an inclusive economy and sustainable human settlements. This we will do through projects such as Go! Durban and Cornubia development.

We want an effective public transport infrastructure development, as well as new integrated and sustainable human settlements and post-apartheid cities that are more connected, liveable, smart and green.

Programme Director,

The renewal of old towns, inner-city regeneration as well as township renewal are our key focus. We are looking at renewing the inner city and revitalising towns like Verulam and Isipingo with a hope of building new towns or cities in areas like the WEST.

We want to revitalise and mainstream township economies by supporting the development of township enterprises, co-operatives and SMMEs that will produce goods and services that meet the needs of township residents.

Our people will see a difference in their lives and the fruits of freedom will become visible to all.

In closing, we want to repeat our message of the support of the recent cabinet reshuffle. We support the new minister of finance that he will do a great job. We want to see stability in the country. We want to see the radical economic transformation.

I would like to wish you well in your new term of office as volunteers and workers. Please make us proud. We want to see unity between you and councillors. Siyabonga!