



**Keynote Address by Her Worship, Mayor: Councillor
Zandile Gumede**

19 April 2017

Durban Country Club

- The Chairperson of the SmartXchange Board, Ms Precious Lugayeni,
- Board Members present,
- the CEO of SmartXchange, Mr Jonathan Naidoo,
- Acting Deputy City Manager of Economic Development and Planning within the EtheKwini Municipality, Mr Phillip Sithole,
- Head of Economic Development, Mr Shunon Tulsiram,
- Honoured guests,
- Key stakeholder,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- Good morning, Sanibonani.

Ngithanda ukuthatha lelithuba ngizibongele kumdali ngokusigcina siphipephile emumva kwempelasonto yamaholidi ePhasika. Sithanda ukudlisa amazwi enduduzo kubobonke abashiywe izihlobo zabo ngesikhathi sephasika, sithi iNkosi izowapholisa amangxeba.

We will continue to pray for those who lost their love ones during the Easter weekend. During the Easter weekend, I visited different denominations from different religions to pray

and worship with them. I would have loved to visit all churches and religious groups, unfortunately the time was limited. Our visit was inspired by our vision of social cohesion. We want to see a united city, we encourage that our people should learn to live together and tolerate each other.

The Easter weekend reminded us once again that we are a truly democratic country. We are allowed to practise our religion without fear.

As we celebrate the month of April, which is the month of freedom in our calendar we must always remember that freedom was not free. Freedom came at the price. People died for us to be free. People received political freedom in 1994 and now we must move them to economic freedom. This is the reason we fully support the Radical Economic Transformation agenda.

Programme Director,

Our support for Smart Exchange is mainly for us to produce black and African business people will run this ICT industry. We are very proud that this incubator produced a JSE listed company, Adapt-IT led by Mr Sbu Shabalala. We want to see more black owned and listed companies coming out of this incubator. This incubator was started by the Ethekwini Municipality and we have over the years observed the progress and achievements of this institution. The incubator plays a very important role in the growth and development of small businesses and start-ups in the information, communication and technology sector.

Programme Director,

As the Municipality we are delighted that the support we give to the institution does bear fruits. We will continue to support SmartXchange in any form in their ICT SMME development endeavour. Programmes and initiatives offered by the institution talks to the development agenda of current government and they play a significant role in the economy of our city. They must now start talking to Radical Economic Transformation agenda.

Our partnership that we have had over the last 12 years has made a significant contribution towards enterprise development and job creation in our city. We all know that ICT is the backbone of the economy, therefore unceasing developing and nurturing small companies with cutting edge information will put our city on the map, improves service delivery and contributes enormously to South African economy.

Programme Director,

We believe that ICT should be one of the drivers in our programme of Radical Economic transformation. Moreover we need to see an ICT revolution if are to a smart city because this is the direction we are taking as the world changes. We embrace technology and innovation, and they are key in this phase of socio-economic transition.

We applaud SmartXchange as empowerment initiative that ensures that new generation of ICT businesses truly reflects the demographic make-up of our region. I want to see more people from Umlazi, Umbumbulu, KwaMashu, Wentworth and Verulm being incubated. I want us discuss how best we can develop a programme that will accommodate the youth from townships and rural areas within the Metro. This is part of the radical economic development agenda that you must drive.

In closing, Smart Exchange remains central to eThekweni Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for local economic development in the ICT sector and also supports Municipality's Smart City initiative.

I would like to congratulate SmartXchange for their dedication in delivering world class incubation programmes, and also would like to wish SmartXchange the best of luck in pursuing their vision to be the technology hub of Africa.

I thank you.