



Media Statement by Mayor ZRT Gumede

19 April 2017

uShaka Marine World, Moyo

- Chairperson of the Session,
- DCM and Senior Managers present,
- Municipal Officials,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- Sanibonani.

Introduction:

Sithanda ukubonga uNkulunkulu esigcinile, inyama ihlangene nomphfumulo sabuya siphephile kulamaholidi wePhasika. Siyethemba nilidle kahle iPhasika nemindeni yenu, siyazi ukuthi abanye benu bebesebenza. Siyawuthanda umsebenzi wenu njengabantu bezindaba ngoba uyasiza ukwazisa umphakathi ngezinhlelo esinazo Kanye nokwenzakalayo ezweni sakhile.

Road Safety

We started our Easter holidays with number Road Safety awareness campaigns. Our theme was simple – **Ngizoba Road Safe!** This campaign was launched before the Easter Weekend and we held a prayer as well across the city in all regions.

We visited cross roads, malls and taxi ranks preaching the gospel of road safety, encouraging the public to respect the rules of our roads. Mayor launched a Road Safety awareness prior to Easter weekend. We

mobilised the community to obey the rules of the road and our traffic law enforcement fraternity were more ready and prepared.

Road Fatalities:

I would like to send my deepest condolences to the families that lost their loved ones during the Easter weekend. We wish them hope and strength as they go through this painful period. Sithi alehlanga lungehlanga, duduzekani nilale ngenxeba uthixo anibophe ngebhande lomoyo.

In Dumisa, towards uMbumbulu we lost about 12 people during head-on collision between the truck and bus. We will get details of the course of the accident. We wish their families hope as they go through this difficult period.

GOOD Friday events

It was indeed a hectic period for all of us, in Durban alone there were about 22 organised events. As the Mayor, I visited different denominations from different religions to pray and worship with them. I started with Diakona walk from Durban Exhibition to Durban City Hall with multi-party leaders. I visited the UCCSA, the church of President JL Dube in Inanda, Methodist church, Temple, Festival of Chariots and other denominations. 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.

STATISTICS

I would like to commend all our security and emergency services for doing a wonderful job over the weekend managing this hectic weekend.

Our metro police (Response Team) arrested a gang of seven (7) responsible for harassing the communities of Westville area and Reservoir Hills hijacking, house breaking and arm robberies. They were arrested in Clermont and already they have appeared before the Pinetown court. They are linked in more 20 cases of crime.

No major road accidents noted over the past weekend.

Various law enforcement roadblocks were conducted in all parts of the City.

Roadblocks were held to reduce traffic accidents, injuries on the road and of deaths on the roads. We held these road blocks to ensure the well-being of the public and tourists visiting our City.

Traffic volume was moving smoothly as people were driving in and out of the city after the holiday.

Metro Police were in full force to ensure safety of the road users.

There was no zero tolerance for motorists who failed to abide by the rules of the road.

Close to 200 people were arrested for drunk and driving.

While we welcome the reduction in fatalities this Easter, we do however believe that we still have a long way to go. A big milestone reached but our task is not done yet.

For as long as there are people dying on the roads, work must and will continue. Road safety is everyone's responsibility.

We appeal to all motorists to exercise extreme caution while travelling on the road, fasten your seatbelts, do not drive under the influence of alcohol, ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy and be patient with other road users.

Tourism

The Easter holidays continue to generate billions of into our economy. Our estimates were sitting at above 360 000 visitors to Durban. These

are 340 000 domestic visitors, 20 000 foreign visitors, bringing in a total of 360 000 overnight visitor to our shores. A further 100 000 day visitors are expected to the City over the Easter Holiday period which incorporates the April School Holiday and late April/early May public holidays.

This has assisted us in job creation and also sustaining jobs of more than 3100 people.

Our hotel occupancy rate were sitting at an average 80% and we will be getting an updated statistics.

There were number of events that were held around the city and most of them were religious. Most of the signature events that were held in partnership with Durban Tourism were sold out. People came out in numbers to attend festivals and shows.

There were no incident reported in our beaches and parks. They were buzy until Monday, family day holiday.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for attending – Tourism department and Mr Steve Middleton are here to take some of the technical questions if you have.

I thank you.