



**Address by Her Worship, the Mayor, Cllr Zandile
Gumede on the Occasion of the Umhlanga County Club
Opening**

**26 August 2016 – 14h00
Umhlanga Country Club - Prestondale**

- Programme Director,
- Chairman of Oceans Umhlanga Development, Mr Vivian Reddy,
- Director of Oceans Umhlanga Development, Mr Rob Alexander,
- Captains of industry,
- Businesspeople,
- Stakeholder and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to be part of the opening of Umhlanga Country Club. As we gather here this evening for the prestigious event, I can assure you that eThekweni Municipality fully supports private sector initiatives that are drivers of economic transformation.

Our government works closely with its stakeholders from the private sector because together, the two contribute enormously to the economic growth and prosperity of our Municipality while working towards job creation to alleviate poverty in our communities.

Programme Director, I have been informed that this major investment project dates back to 2007. At the time, both our City and Mr Vivian Reddy had undertaken to provide an exciting and new sport and recreation facility for the Umhlanga Country Club to replace the old Club premises at the Oceans Development Site.

Despite challenges of doubled costs since the original undertaking of these facilities, the project managed to take off the ground successfully. On that note, I wish that we give the public-private partnership between the City and the Developers a resounding round of applause for delivery.

((PAUSE AS AUDIENCE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE))

Programme Director, cities are engines of economic growth. Using our strengths as a dynamic growth node with our partners, we will maximise opportunities in our key economic

sectors including manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, property development, infrastructure development and information technology. These sectors place our City on a sustainable growth path, with projected growth excess of 4 percent per annum between 2013 and 2018.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been informed that this project will create more than 15 thousand direct and indirect jobs during construction and a few thousand permanent jobs on completion.

I am glad that the vision of the Developers and stakeholders is in line with our Municipality's Economic Development and Job Creation Strategy. Through this Strategy, we are determined to respond to the issue of increasing the number of jobs whilst at the same time propelling the City's economy to greater heights.

Ladies and gentlemen, a strategy on its own will not achieve the desired outcomes. Government and the private sector must work together. I am pleased that in eThekweni we work closely with our stakeholders from the private sector.

It must be noted that this Oceans Project has helped fly our City's flag high after receiving two international awards for the Best Mixed Use Architecture and the Best Mixed-use Development.

Our City is looking forward to working with Oceans Umhlanga Development in job creation and economic growth. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Developers for their commitment and execution of this major project. I wish you all the best on your new venture.

Umhlanga Country Club is ready for business!

Thank you!