



**Address by Cllr N B Chamane on the Occasion of the
Women's Day Celebration**

30 August 2016

- Programme Director,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Sanibonani Mbokodo Sanibonani!

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I address you at a time when our country is celebrating the role played by women in the struggle 60 years ago.

Our women are the pillars of our society and eThekweni Municipality recognises the important role they play in their communities, in government and in the business sector.

The march to the Union Buildings by 20 000 South African women from different races on 9 August 1956 against apartheid pass laws, was proof that women cannot be silenced. They made sure that their voices were heard and demonstrated that they were determined to bring about change.

Inequality has been a challenge for a very long time. Therefore, our City has doubled its efforts towards women inclusion to the mainstream of the economy in order to break the trend that male are more capable than women. Our government has taken steps to empower women to change their economic situations.

Programme Director, eThekweni aims to empower women so that they become independent, become businesswomen and have the necessary skills to position themselves for opportunities. Women, if given the opportunity and relevant training, can emerge as powerful drivers of change and contributors to the economy.

When President Jacob Zuma launched the Status of Women in the South Africa Economy report in 2015, he said the inclusion of women in the economy must take centre stage.

Ladies and gentlemen, I agree with this approach that puts women at the centre of our economic development strategy. Allow me to welcome you to eThekweni and to this important occasion. In our City, we are committed to creating the space for women to succeed economically.

In the past three financial years from 2013 to 2015 alone, eThekweni Municipality has awarded over 2000 contracts to Women Owned Business Enterprises worth over R4 billion across different fields such as construction and engineering.

Programme Director, to ensure the continuity of women contributing to the economic development of eThekweni, the Women Empowerment Programme was initiated in eThekweni almost 10 years ago.

I am proud that the programme has provided a sizeable number of women in business with opportunities to participate and contribute meaningfully to the City's economy and that of the country.

Since its inception, more than 620 women owned small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) have benefitted through training and mentorship. Some have received millions of rands worth of business opportunities resulting in the creation of hundreds of jobs.

Some of these women have gone on to trade internationally while others have seen their businesses expand.

Going forward, to continue driving skills development, our City will provide three months information and communications technology training for 120 women starting from this month. This will offer computer skills lessons in order to initiate innovation and growth among businesses.

Furthermore, our City, working with strategic corporate partners will be launching a Women in Business mentorship programme this month targeting 15 women who will be provided guidance on their businesses for the next six months.

We understand that the full participation of women is necessary to long-term, sustainable economic growth and social progression in the City.

I can therefore confidently say that our Municipality will continue to support and invest in women empowerment programmes and provide them with the relevant skills and support. We believe that this will allow women to position themselves for even greater opportunities thus contributing positively to the economic development of eThekweni.

"Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi. Wathinta abafazi wathinta Imbokodo!"

"Halala ntsika yezwe halala!"

Thank you!