



**Welcome Address by Her Worship, the Mayor
Cllr Zandile Gumede on the Occasion of the China
(Guangdong) – South Africa Economic and Trade
Cooperation Conference**

30 August 2016 – 10h00

Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre

Welcome Address by Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede at the China (Guangdong) – South Africa
Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference, 30 August 2016

- Programme Director,
- Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Willies Mchunu,
- MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Sihle Zikalala,
- Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Jianzhou,
- Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Zhu Xiaodan,
- Vice Mayor of Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, Ms Li Ming,
- Chief Director of Export and Promotion Marketing at the Department of Trade and Industry, Ms Zanele Mkhize,
- Chief Executive Officer of Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Zamo Gwala,

Welcome Address by Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede at the China (Guangdong) – South Africa
Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference, 30 August 2016

- Chief Executive Officer of Huawei Technologies South Africa, Mr Wu Congcheng,
- Representatives from DEFY Corporation,
- Captains of Industry,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Chinese delegation,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Our international friends,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Welcome Address by Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede at the China (Guangdong) – South Africa
Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference, 30 August 2016

Good morning!

On behalf of the people of the eThekweni municipality I wish to welcome all our international friends and partners from the great Chinese province of Guandong and the city of Guangzhou, and our provincial leadership.

Welcome to our award-winning City of Durban. The Kwazulu-Natal provincial government in partnership our municipality are proud to host this important gathering that will explore trade and investment opportunities between our two provinces.

Welcome Address by Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede at the China (Guandong) – South Africa
Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference, 30 August 2016

As the new leadership of eThekweni Municipality we wish to extend our gratitude to the Governor of Guangdong, The Honourable, Mr Zhu Xiaodan for visiting us and strengthening ties between our provinces.

We thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to lead this high-powered delegation to the City of Durban and our province of KwaZulu-Natal. Importantly, your visit to our city has brought hope to millions of our residents and will result in contributing to economic growth and development in our respective provinces and cities.

I feel a strong spirit of optimism that has been generated by the presence of our colleagues and comrades from our sister-city of Guangzhou. We are excited to host you once again in our warm city and revitalise the sister city partnership.

I want to take this opportunity and reiterate our commitment to strengthening socio-economic relations between the two cities and support the vision of our premier and the governor in driving economic growth and development.

Our commitment is informed by the dedication of our leadership – starting from the President of the Republic of South Africa His Excellency J.G Zuma and our Premier Mr Willies Mchunu.

The two leaders have guided all of us who are in positions of leadership to put the interests of our people first. As a result we are doubling our efforts to ensure that we create a prosperous future for our city and the province as a whole.

A partnership with the governor of Guandong and the mayor of Gaungzou will make a great contribution to that prosperous future.

We envision a future where every young person in Durban will be armed with a skill, a trade, a qualification and knowledge that they can apply to grow the economy of the city.

In this regard we are committed to creating exchange programmes focusing on skills development and transfer of skills.

We see a future where, as a result of being skilled, in a wide variety of fields, young people will become entrepreneurs of note, competing with the best in the world, and in line with global trends.

We are confident that your visit to our city we make it possible for us to usher in a new era of economic growth, enhanced development and shared value. We want to work with you to train our civil servants and elected public representatives to be better equipped to improve service delivery.

Critically, during this term of office we want to inject speed, innovation and commitment to quality service delivery that will make Durban and Kwazulu-Natal a leading economic hub in South Africa and Africa as a whole.

We are looking forward to partnerships that will drive investments in infrastructure projects to ensure a steady supply of energy, ICT and transport networks. We will work with you all to enhance the vision of BRICS and ensure that the benefit of all cooperation projects improves the lives of all our people.

We believe that the success of the City of Durban will benefit many people who have been previously excluded from the mainstream economy.

Your Excellency, we have encouraged representatives from some companies to attend Business Conference tomorrow. There are entrepreneurs that are energetic who are willing to be partners and hosts of foreign direct investments.

There are opportunities for investments in agriculture, maritime, tourism and many sub-sectors in manufacturing.

Today we celebrate strong relations between South Africa and the People's Republic of China through your visit to our province and City.

Thank you!