



**Welcome Address by Her Worship, the Mayor
Cllr Zandile Gumede on the Occasion of the Govan
Mbeki Awards 2016**

**25 August 2016 – 17h00
Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre**

- Programme Directors,
- MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Ravi Pillay
- Members of eThekweni Executive Committee,
- Mayors of other Municipalities,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Business Representatives,
- Captains of industry,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Welcome Address by Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede at the Govan Mbeki Awards 2016,
25 August 2016

In welcoming you this evening ladies and gentlemen, I wish to do so with the pertinent words etched in our Freedom Charter adopted at Kliptown 61 years ago. These words are:

“There shall be Houses, Security and Comfort.”

The South African Constitution, 1996 promotes the right to have access to adequate housing. It makes it mandatory upon the state to take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.

Programme Director, in response to this Constitutional imperative, Government has in terms of the Housing Act, 1997 (Act No 107 of 1997) introduced a variety of programmes which provide the poor households access to adequate housing. The policy principles set out in the White Paper on Housing aim to provide poor households with houses as well as basic services such as potable water and sanitation on an equitable basis.

As government of the people, the ultimate aim is to ensure that all the people of South Africa can live in dignity.

The aim of the Govan Mbeki Award is to recognise the contribution made by all sector role-players and all stakeholders towards the accelerated delivery of housing. The awards are open to municipalities, contractors, developers and community resource organisations.

Ladies and gentlemen, transforming lives and restoring dignity is a priority for our Municipality. Therefore, we believe that through the delivery of housing, we can achieve this goal.

Programme Director, the under: **“Together advancing people’s power in eThekweni”**, Council adopted the 2016/17

Budget. With this R41.6 billion budget, we are determined to deliver services, develop infrastructure and provide social services as part of our commitment to creating a sustainable, prosperous and equitable society.

Despite challenges, our Municipality has been honoured at the 2013, 2014 and 2015 Govan Mbeki Awards for our consistent housing delivery. Since 2011 to date, eThekweni's housing delivery is as follows:

- Over 20 888 Breaking New Ground (RDP) houses constructed,

- 4 944 houses built pre-1994 have been upgraded,
- 1 432 Social housing units facilitated,
- 746 new Community Residential Units have been constructed,
- 153 Gap houses have been facilitated,
- 2 677 rental stock has been transferred to tenants.

While the Municipality has a proud record in delivering housing opportunity, much is still to be done to address the current backlogs. The R25 billion Human Settlements Presidential Project undertaken by eThekweni Municipality, in partnership with other spheres of Government and Tongaat-Hulett, in

Cornubia, is aimed at significantly reducing the backlog. This project has not only created employment opportunities to 40 000 people but will also produce 25 000 houses over 15 to 20 years catering for a wide range of income levels.

This development demonstrates that this democratic government does not just build houses, but we also look at achieving other goals, such as building united, non-racial settlements, to reverse the apartheid legacy which sought to divide our residents.

Ladies and gentlemen, eThekweni has a good service delivery track record and has received many accolades. Despite these accolades we cannot live on past achievements.

Moving forward, our City pledges to accelerate service delivery. For the next three years, a block sum of R3 billion has been set aside for the provision of infrastructure and basic services. We target to build 15 500 houses, provide 1 090 gap market housing opportunities and upgrade 1 400 housing stock.

As part of our priority areas for the 2016/17 financial year, we have identified the need to accelerate service delivery with a strong focus on housing. We will work with all stakeholders to contribute to the growth and prosperity of our Municipality.

I wish to congratulate in advance the winners of the 2016 Govan Mbeki Awards on your achievements.

Ngiyabonga!