



**Welcome Address by Her Worship, the Mayor
Cllr Zandile Gumede on the Occasion of the Launch of
eThekweni Public Service Volunteer Week**

**29 August 2016 – 09h00
Durban City Hall**

Welcome Address by Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede at the Launch of eThekweni Public Service
Volunteer Week, 29 August 2016

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- Programme Director, Dr F Ndlovu,
- MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal and eThekweni Operation Sukuma Sakhe Champion, Mrs Nomusa Dube-Ncube,
- MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwane,
- Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature,
- Members of the eThekweni Executive Committee,

- Education District Directors, Ms Shonana Mandraj and Mr Bheki Ntuli,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Government and Municipal officials,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Sanibonani!

Ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you this morning with a quote significant to this occasion.

"We need to go back to basics. We need to put our people first, treat them with respect and address their needs."

These are the words of Deputy President, the Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa at the launch of Public Service Month in Soweto in 2014.

As Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, I fully support this statement. It is fitting of today's occasion as we launch the eThekweni Public Service Volunteer Week. I am glad that we launch this week with great emphasis on the Matric Class of 2016 who will write their final exams soon.

Ladies and gentlemen, the focus is on Curriculum Coverage and improving learner performance. Education remains important to the growth of our country. Therefore, we are committed to working with other spheres of government to achieve this goal.

The KwaZulu-Natal Matric Class of 2015 achieved a 60.7 percent pass rate, a decline from 69.7 percent from 2014. In 2013, our province achieved 77.4 percent, up from 73.1 percent in 2012.

The 2012 and 2013 pass rates prove that we can achieve higher results. As public servants in eThekweni, we commit to working hard towards an increased pass rate from 60.7 percent achieved by our province last year.

Ladies and gentlemen, being a public servant at Local Government level means being in touch with the people. Therefore, we are the first line of service in the communities we serve.

Being a public servant is not a job, it is a calling. When we serve, we must do it from the heart and do it with pride. As public servants, we must have a personal relationship with our City. Don't go to work just to do your duties, go to work to touch lives and be an agent of change.

Let's change the public perception about us. Indeed it is time we go back to the basics and get them right. As public servants, we must be champions of Batho Pele Principles. Our government developed a service delivery culture that is meant to put people first. That is important to build a caring government and a caring society.

So, let us work together to touch lives and improve the matric pass rate in KwaZulu-Natal. Being a dedicated public servant does not end this week. It is a lifetime commitment.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Durban. We are proud to launch the eThekweni Public Service Volunteer Week.

As public servants, we are the foot soldiers of government and the backbone of service delivery!

Ngiyabonga!