

Programme Director,
Sunday Times and other sponsors,
Kendra Gardens board,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Brides and grooms present,
Sanibonani,

Good evening, this is one of those prestigious events that brings about 10 000 people to this beautiful and wonderful city. What is important about this event is that it has an element of community responsibility. We encourage organisers to learn from such events who always donate to the needy.

The Sunday Times Eastern Bridal Fair is a fund-raising event for the Kendra Gardens Retirement Home for the needy situated here in Durban. This home was opened in 2011 and houses 90 seniors at a modest cost. Planning is moving ahead to build more rooms to house 11 more seniors. All funds raised from this event is directed to this registered Public Benefit Organisation. None of the over 100 volunteers are paid for their services at this event.

What is important is that this event takes place during the women's month. Our message is clear that women are capable to lead this country and its economy. It is high time that we have women leading in each and every sector of our society. It is time that we support women with skills and capacity. We must encourage women to excel instead of criticizing them and making them feel little or as failures.

The women's month takes place against a backdrop of a poor performing economy. Invariably, women will be most affected by the economic decline and bear the brunt of its resultant negative economic and social effects.

We want to use this month of women to build on the announcements made by President Zuma with regard to women economic emancipation; addressing issues of gender based violence and give more impetus to government and society's efforts in this regard.

We are focusing our energies on issues of violence against women and call on society to protect women and children. We will not wait for 16 days of activism to start with mobilization of women but we will start now. The struggle for women continues and it is an everyday struggle that we need to redouble our efforts in order to win.

With those few words, thank you for inviting us and have a wonderful and blessed Friday. I invite you to enjoy the beauty and warmth of Durban. We have so much to offer and a lot to enjoy after the events of today. There is so much to see, we have our tourism offices around which will help you with every information you need. Let us celebrate women's month and Durban. Wathinta Abafazi wathinta imbokodo!!!
God bless you!!