

**Welcoming Remarks by Mayor of eThekweni Municipality Cllr
Zandile Gumede on the occasion of the visit by the Vice
Chairman Mr Fu Dehui of Hubei Provincial Committee of
People's Congress
14 August 2017**

**Programme Director;
Premier of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal Mr Willies Mchunu;
Vice Chairman Mr Fu Dehui of Hubei Provincial Committee of
People's Congress;
The rest of the Delegation from Hubei Province;
Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Business community from KZN;
Members of the media;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good Evening

First, let me take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the City of Durban.

We wish to extend our gratitude to Vice Chairman Mr Fu Dehui of Hubei Provincial Committee of People's Congress.

We thank you for setting side time to lead this high-powered delegation to the City of Durban. Importantly, your visit to our city has brought hope to millions of our residents especially in areas where you will be investing. These are the areas that were neglected by the government of apartheid. I believe that Premier Willies Mchunu will elaborate more in his address.

I want to take this opportunity and reiterate our commitment to strengthening socio-economic relations between the City of Durban and cities in Hubei Province.

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

The two leaders have guided all of us who are in position 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.

We see 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. We want to create employment opportunities for millions of our people.

At the same time we want 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 inject speed that will make Durban a leading economic hub in South Africa and Africa as a whole.

We are looking forward to a partnerships that will drive investments in infrastructure projects to ensure a steady supply of energy, ICT and transport networks.

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 are looking forward to creating partnerships between our very own entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from cities in Hubei Province.

Durban has the largest port and an international airport. We also have industries representing different sectors of our economy.

It is for these reasons we are inviting more entrepreneurs from cities in Hubei to consider investing here in Durban in sectors such as agriculture, maritime, tourism and many sub-sectors in manufacturing.

We are also focusing on investments in real estates and other property development.

As the city, we are aware that the richness of Africa is being undermined by the shortage of capital, investments, competitive technology and human capacity.

We are however hopeful that all this will change because of the strong relations between South Africa and the Peoples Republic of China.

I thank you.