



WELCOMING REMARKS BY MAYOR ZRT GUMEDE at Opening of DUBE IDZ COLD STORAGE

**Programme Director,
MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environment
Affairs – Hon Zilalala,
Board members,
Members present,
Councilors,**

We want to take this opportunity and thank you for inviting us to witness this wonderful project. I have an easy task this morning, which is to welcome you and introduce a man that needs no introduction.

You chose a best month, a women's month to open officially this cold storage. We hope this will give more opportunities for women in terms of economic participation. In the month of women, I would like to congratulate Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize, the first woman to be appointed to the position of Director-General of the Province. We also inspired by the fact that the HOD of this department is also a young woman. We are proud and would like to see more women climbing the ladder of success. We thank the ANC for deploying women mayors, speakers, ministers and premiers – what we want to see now moving forward is a woman president. We trust the ANC to grant us our wishes.

Program Director,

When we appointed our City manager as the City, we searched for a person that understands the Green and Blue economy. Somebody who will be able to link the City to the opportunities that are at the port and in our ocean. We understand that the port and our airport are critical for the growth of our eThekweni GDP. We really value the port and all the important economic development zones.

This place is very strategic for us given strategic location within the port and between Durban and Richards Bay port. It links two municipalities which is KwaDukuza of Ilembe District and eThekweni Metro and our residents. It is within a strong economic region and logistics hub, and is in close proximity to vital road, air, rail and ports linkages.

When he opened this project in 2014, President Zuma described the Dube TradePort Industrial Development Zone as yet another good story to tell. It reflects our willingness to create partnerships between government, private sector and other social partners to work together towards a prosperous economy that benefits all citizens and residents.

This place takes our industrialisation and development goals forward and it has huge potential for economic growth in this region.

The completion of the R99.2 million iDube Cold Storage is yet another biggest opportunity. We are grateful to witness this opening of such a storage which is part of the legacy of President Zuma. At the time when he is under so much attack, we will continue to pray and wish him strength. We remain confident in him and his leadership.

Programme Director,

Let me welcome Mr Zikalala who recently celebrated his birthday. He is young, energetic and vibrant. He has led in youth structures and was once a councillor. He is currently a provincial chairperson of the ANC and former Provincial Secretary. He is married to his lovely wife and they have beautiful kids.

