

Remarks by Cllr Sqi Shezi during the Parliamentary Hearing

17 August 2017, Durban

Programme Director,

Members of the Parliament,

Stakeholders,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

We would like to take this opportunity and welcome you to this important public hearing. It is an important process that was established by the ANC government of ensuring that people govern. The Freedom Charter said that people would be part of decision making and this process allows such to happen. We hope that our views will be considered in the final process. We don't want to crack our heads and make brilliant suggestion only to find out that they have been totally disregarded.

We thank you for coming here during the month of women where we celebrate the 61st anniversary of the Union March. We continue to be inspired by women and we will continue to recognise their role moving forward. We are glad to be led by a woman mayor and her leadership has ensured that we become the most caring and liveable city in Africa.

Programme Director,

This hearing is important for the City of Durban because we are a coastal city. We pride ourselves of having a biggest and busiest port. The activities of the port must have visible economic impacts on the ordinary citizens of eThekweni. Our people must directly benefit from all the ocean activities through business, jobs, research, sports and recreation, tourism, science and technology and so forth.

Maritime industry is a jaguar vein for the EThekweni's economy. A major part of our economy is based on sea borne trade, therefore, it is one of our key priority sector due to its high magnitude in investments, job creation, and enterprise and skills developments.

The ocean has become an attractive economic expansion opportunity as land resources are under increased pressure. As a result, there is much more intensive multiple sector usage which may lead to conflict situations. Individual sector planning in the ocean is no longer viable and there is a need to coordinate planning in South Africa's ocean space and optimise sustainable economic growth.

In August 2014, the President established the first Operation Phakisa for the Ocean Economy, led by the Department of Environmental Affairs, to focus on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's ocean. We believe that this hearing will help us to unlock this important economy for the benefit of the locals and the nation at large.

Durban's biggest mine is the ocean however this doesn't mean we should not share because we are a nation.

Programme Director,

We believe that economic activities should continue without disruption of the environment. We have a duty to protect the nature and the environment from all the harm. We coexist and therefore all species are important in our lives.

With those few words, you are welcome.