

Remarks by Mayor Zandile Gumedde at Environmental stakeholders' forum launch

Programme Director,

Councillors,

Amakhosi,

Abefundisi,

Officials,

Ladies and gentlemen,

All protocol observed,

Sanibonani,

I would like to specially greet women who are here today after celebrating a woman's day holiday yesterday. This year we are celebrating and commemorating the role played by women of struggle under the theme: "The Year of OR Tambo: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward". This year's celebration coincides with the centenary of struggle icon OR Tambo.

The year 2017 marks the 61st anniversary of the Women's March to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956. On that day up to 20 000 women of all races, class and religious persuasions protested against the extension of Pass Laws. The march was a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom and our society at large.

We salute generations of women leaders, Charlotte Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Sophie Williams-De Bruyn, Lillian Diedericks, Dorothy Nyembe, Albertina Sisulu, Ruth Mompati, Bertha Gxowa, Sister Bernard Ncube, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and many. We salute our very own Florence Mkhize, Dorothy Nyembe, Mam Mboxela, Margareth Mncadi,

and many female leaders including Mama Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and late Manto Shabalala Msimang.

As we celebrate women in the year of President OR Tambo and he is one of the greatest sons and leaders of our country. President Tambo was a leading champion of women's emancipation within the liberation movement.

During the Conference of the Women in Luanda in 1981, he said: "The mobilisation of women is the task, not only of women alone, or of men alone, but of all of us, men and women alike, comrades in struggle. The mobilisation of the people into active resistance and struggle for liberation demands the energies of women no less than of men."

Programme Director,

Cleanliness is very important in our life from all the aspects. We should take care of it all through the life. Practice of cleanliness starts from the home and school from the very little age. It affects us very badly when we do not maintain cleanliness.

In November last year, I said that ***the future of eThekweni and the realization of its vision to be the Africa's most caring and liveable City by 2030 hinges on building a holistically and sustainable healthy City'***. Umbono wami ngeTheku ngifisa ukubona kushaya umoya, kukhucululwe iTheku lihlanzeke. Ngithi akusikwe utshani, kuhlanzwe imihosha, abantu bakwazi ukuhamba kuPixley kaSeme ngokukhululeka. I believe this could be achieved by working together with business, informal traders, transport associations, NGOs and all the departments of the city.

Cleaning-up the environment does not only creates a more pleasant place to live, but also creates a good impression on prospective employers, investors, professionals, and tourists who visit our areas.

Additionally, clean-up efforts may provide community health benefits such as the elimination of breeding sites for mosquitoes and other dangerous pests – kuphele amagundwane namakokoroshe noma amaphela. Ucwangingo luveza ukuthi umangabe sihlala endaweni ehlanzekile kubakhona umthelela omuhle kwezempilo futhi ngisho nezigebengu ziyabaleka kunye namaPhara. Research indicates that keeping a neighborhood clean can reduce crime, fear, and feelings of helplessness in communities. There are many positive links between a clean environment and how we feel about ourselves.

In comparing neighborhoods with varying levels of environmental cleanliness, researchers found the following positive trends amongst people living in clean environments:

- Reduced symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in children,
- Greater effectiveness and less procrastination in dealing with major life issues,
- Reduced acts of domestic violence,
- Reduced occurrences of crime against people and property and
- Increased feelings of safety, self-confidence and pride amongst members of the community.

It has also been argued that the healthy city concept goes far beyond the state of physical health of an individual. It includes human and infrastructure development, empowerment, environment, safety, social cohesion, finances, food security and accessibility.

In our elections manifesto we promised to clean iTheku and make it one of the cleanest cities with clean environment not only our beaches but where people live. We want to ensure that cleaning happens from eMjondolo to Suburbs.

This is the reason that a few weeks I will be establishing an Environmental Stakeholders Forum to ensure that we work as a collective.

We will establish consultative forums or dialogues to collectively deal with health, safety and environmental challenges facing our city. Here is what we hope to achieve with the Environmental Stakeholders Forum:

- To mobilize Council departments in partnership with various partners and stakeholders to establish a Consultative Forum to look at Health, Safety, Enforcement of the bylaws and Environmental issues.
- To support existing services and various efforts aimed at maintaining and improving our living conditions
- Strengthen the partnership between Council departments and various stakeholders
- Empowering partners to act constructively and responsibly including the provision of relevant and up to date information and educational materials.
- To encourage good working relations among partners and to have a spirit of cooperation as opposed to competition.
- Develop strategies for implementation and monitoring

We want to urge the media to be a partner and use its platform to educate our people to do well. We want the involvement of schools and universities who have residents across the city. We want political parties and business to play a meaningful role because we all stand to benefit from a clean environment. We want NGOs and civic movement to be part of this. We want taxi associations to be part of this movement for a clean environment.

I must say that we will be enforcing our bylaws and Metro Police will act on those who break the law. However we will not start by enforcement, we want to educate you first and encourage people to do right things without force. It must come from people's hearts to comply with the bylaws of the city.

I hope that by establishing this forum of eThekweni Municipality coordinated department networks on Health, safety, enforcement of By-laws and environmental matters, we will begin to play a more constructive

role in rising to the socio-environmental challenges facing our beautiful city today.

Let's us keep Durban clean this is not a dump but a city for future generations. Cleanliness doesn't only belong in certain areas but it belongs in the CBD, at the Market, at the Taxi ranks, eMjondolo and everywhere.

Working together we can build a clean and healthy city.