



**Welcoming Remarks by Mayor of eThekweni Municipality Cllr
Zandile Gumede on the occasion of the SALGA Council of
Speakers
Durban
16 August 2017**

- **Programme Director - Cllr William Mapena,**
- **SALGA NEC Member & Speaker - Cllr Mxolisi Koyo**
- **Minister of COGTA - Hon. Des Van Rooyen,**
- **MEC COGTA - Hon. Nomusa Dube-Ncube**
- **UCLG and SALGA President - Cllr Parks Tau,**
- **All Speakers present**
- **Director of Dullar Omar Institute at University of Western
Cape - Prof. Jaap de Visser,**
- **Other Stakeholders**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**
- **All protocol observed,**

I would like to take this opportunity and welcome you to this warm and wonderful city of ours. Durban is the most elegant city, mature and ambitious. It is a trendsetter in offering great lifestyle, speckled with adventure activities, blessed with natural beauty and is an astonishingly liveable city.

Whether you here as a business delegate or a tourist there is a warm African flavor that will capture your heart forever. Our people are warm and so is our weather which will make you sing – tholukuthi kumnandi eDurban.

Honourable Speakers,

We want thank you for bringing this important inaugural council meeting to this beautiful city which belongs to all. You brought this conference during the month of August which is dedicated to women.

The meeting serves as a forum through which Municipality Speakers can consult one another in matters of common interest to improve governance and service delivery within Local Government.

The focus of the conference is to attend to the following:

- Act as a consultative forum for the development of local government positions on policies and legislation impacting on local government;
- Identify policy and legislative matters that SALGA needs to include in its advocacy, lobbying and strategic engagements in a pro-active manner;
- Identifying particular challenges faced by the executive in municipalities and propose solutions and approaches to address such;
- Share good practices with regard to the role of the executive in the municipality

Programme Director,

We wish this gathering will further acknowledge the role and challenges of women councillors especially those who are speakers. We must do it in order to reaffirm our commitment to total emancipation of woman.

It is important to acknowledge that a lot has been done and there is still more that can be achieved. The world and our country has progressed significantly, most especially in the past 22 years.

We have made much progress since the coming into being of a democratic government.

Before the dawn of democracy in 1994, women in parliament accounted for a mere 2,7 percent. But under the ANC , this has changed significantly and it could have been better if all parties had adopted 50/50 policy.

Currently women ministers comprise 41% of the cabinet. Women deputy ministers make up 47% of the total number of deputy ministers.

There is a 41% representation of women in the National Assembly.

According to UN Women, in absolute numbers, South Africa has the largest number of women ministers at 15.

Of course, the UN Women is headed by one of our very own, the former Deputy President, **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**.

South Africa has produced a number of outstanding women leaders for the world:

1. **Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma** was appointed as the first woman to chair the African Union Commission;
2. **Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**, a former minister, is the African Development Bank's Special Gender Envoy;
3. **Professor Rashida Manjoo** is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences; and
4. **Judge Navi Pillay** is the High Commissioner for Human Rights and formerly a judge in the International Criminal Court (ICC).

This is an indication of the impact that women in decision-making have in winning the trust and confidence of citizens in South Africa, on the continent and internationally.

Without wasting your time, I have been asked to introduce our next speaker who needs no introduction:

- He has been appointed to the United Nations (UN) High-Level independent panel to oversee the effectiveness of the UN-Habitat – a programme that promotes socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities
- He is the President of the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)
- He is our President of this organisation called SALGA –
- Programme Director let us welcome Cllr Parks Tau