



**Welcoming remarks by Cllr Nkosenhle Madlala
At the Female Entrepreneurs Awards 15 August 2017**

Programme Director,

First Lady of Republic Of South Africa

Inkosi Phd Chiliza,

Ms. Nomagugu Simelane Zulu-Portfolio Chairperson,

Cllr. Ma Chiliza- Mayor Ugu District,

MEC's Special Guest Ms. Thubelihle Khoza,

Office of the Premier,

Sponsors,

Previous Winners

Other Stakeholders

Ladies and gentlemen,

All protocol observed,

Sithanda ukuthatha lelithuba ukunamukela kulomcimbi omkhulukazi wokuqhelisa labo abenze kahle kulumkhakha ikakhulukazi kwabesifazane.

Siyabonga kakhulu kunqonqoshe nomnyango ngokuhlela lelithuba lokuthi sixoxisane ngohlelo esilesekayo sonke, ikakhulukazi njengoMkhandlu weTheku.

These awards takes place during the women's month, 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.

The women's month also takes place against a backdrop of a poor performing economy in general. Invariably, women will be most affected by the economic decline and bear the brunt of its resultant negative economic and social effects.

Entrepreneurs are a rare breed of humans who choose to innovate and forge their ideas into successful business from the ground up. They're fearless and believe that what they are creating is going to change the world forever.

Programme Director,

Through ANC government policies we are ensuring the full participation of women in the economy and driving an inclusive economy. The Mayor

has launched the Radical Economic transformation framework that will cater for women in business and professionals.

The Empowerment of women is everyone's business and needs the support of government, business, labour and civil society.

Let us all work to remove the barriers which prevent women from entering and thriving in the labour market.

Over the last 23 years of democracy great strides have been made to ensure that women enjoy the same rights as their male counterparts in education, employment, property, inheritance and justice.

It includes greater representation in politics, the judiciary, corporate boards and an overall improvements in livelihoods for women and mothers in our rural areas.

In closing,

I must say to you that we are very passionate about Agriculture and the RASET project which is a radical program aimed at turning around the situation.

In our ready to govern document – we noted that the dispossession and denial of rights to land have resulted in the present unequal division of land and landlessness, which will require radical intervention far beyond the mere repeal of apartheid land laws.

The development of a productive agricultural sector and a viable rural economy is necessary for economic growth and the well-being of all South Africans. The productive potential of the land and the people living on it should be effectively harnessed, for the benefit of the entire nation.

As this ANC government, we are ready to work with women to ensure that the dividend of freedom and democracy can be enjoyed by women in the country, especially the poor and the working class.