

Welcome address at the Ministerial Imbizo with Maskandi Artists held at Durban Playhouse, 31 August 2018

Programme Director,
Minister Nathi Mthethwa,
Distinguished Guests,
Izingwazi zomcalo kaMaskandi,
Abezindaba,
Izikhulu nezichukuthwane zethu,
Abahlonishwa,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Sanibonani,

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Mayor and People of eThekweni and welcome everyone who is with us today. Unfortunately, the Mayor would have loved to be here, but there is a planned Premier Lekgotla and she had to attend to it.

We would like to thank our Minister for bringing this Imbizo to Durban where all things began. IDolobha nendawo yeTheku ilapho sikhiqiza khona amaciko besesiwadlulisela kwezinye izifunda ezifana neGoli ziqhubeka zivele kumabonakude. Abantu bakwaZulu-Natal bayawuthanda umculo wabo futhi bayaziqhenya ngabaculi bethu. Siziqhubeka nokubeseka kuzozonke izinhlobo zomculo.

Thina njengeTheku siyaziqhenya ngokusungula umculo kaMasikandi, futhi asigcinanga ngawo, sinomculo wethu obizwa ngeDKM okuyiDurban

Kwaito Music eyakhqiza abaculi abafana noLvovo, BIG NUZ, nabanye abaningi. Kumanje sesinents ebizwa NgeQgomu Music futhi nayo idle ngabaculi abafana no-Babes Wodumo, Tipcee, kumanje yiwona oshisa izikhotha. Angifuni ukuyiphatha eHip-Pop ngoba nayo sinomfana omncane odume ngisho phesheya uNasty Cee.

This clearly proves that Durban is home of talent when it comes to art and culture. This event comes at the time when Durban University of Technology will be honouring Dr Esther Mahlangu, Mr Welcome "Bhodloza" Nzimande, Mr Sipho Mchunu and Mr Johnny Clegg for their contribution in the arts industry.

We as the city will continue to support old, new and current artists. We want to create a platform for them to grow and get world recognition. We want to produce more people who are like our Grammy award winners that is Ladysmith Black Mambazo. When we invest in arts and music we are not wasting our money.

Last month our full council meeting resolved to sponsor Impucuzeko Maskandi with additional R1,5million. This event provides an opportunity for upcoming Masakandi artists to perform with fully-fledged artists. There will be workshops that will be conducted for all new artists to assist them to grow in the industry and to be made aware of the opportunities available.

The ANC voted in support of Impucuzeko, a non-profit organisation to cover venue hire, related infrastructure, sound, and stage and artist's payment.

The ANC government loves and cares about the artists. Siyangxusa ukuthi ziphele izingxushungxushu nokungcofana esifunda ngakho kumaphephandaba ethu, akubekhona ukuthula nokuzwana kumaskandi.

We thank the Minister for coming here and we are looking forward to more engagements with all stakeholders. When an artist dies, their children must be able to have money. They must be able to live and not beg.

UMculo kaMaskandi owethu siyawuthanda futhi sifuna ukuwubona ukhula. Siyabonga Nqonqoshe nethimba lakho, siyethemba ukuthi leMbizo izoba yimpumelelo.

Namukelekile nonke kwelikabhanana zizweni niseKhaya.

I thank you