



Speech by Councillor Ntombifuthi Maluleka obo Her Worship the Mayor of eThekweni Municipality at the 16th Annual Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) Conference and World Cup Civic Reception at uShaka Marine World – 12 August 2018

- Sage Global CEO & COO,
- Sage SA,
- Sage Continental Coordinator: Africa,
- South African and International Sponsors & Government officials,
- SAGE Country coordinators,

- SAGE World Cup Creative Director
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening

On behalf of the people of our city I wish to formally welcome you all to Durban. You arrive in our city at the beginning of women's month – a time when we remember and celebrate the contributions that women have made and continue to make to our liberation, democracy and development. Please join me in celebrating and appreciating the women in our society.

This year we also celebrate the centenary of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu – two of South Africa's icons that fought for our liberation and democracy. Today we all enjoy democracy, human rights and freedom from racial discrimination because of them and many other men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

In addition, there were many young men and women like you all that played an important role in the liberation of our country and the reconstruction and development of our country after 1994.

It is my wish that your time here in Durban will serve to inspire and reenergise you to become ambassadors for entrepreneurship and development in your countries and communities.

I am pleased that you have chosen the following goals to guide your mission and work of SAGE;

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere – as the municipality we wish to support your initiatives in this goal.
- We will support your goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. The municipality has set up a special unit to address agriculture development within the municipality.
- In your efforts to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages we are happy to share knowledge and experience in the field, particularly in the fight against HIV, TB and other chronic illnesses’.
- We must all strive to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
- It is critical that we work towards and achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. We must ensure that there are equal opportunities for women and

girls and all education opportunities at all levels must be made available to women and girls.

- The municipality is willing to share ideas to ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
- We must all ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. We must constantly look at innovations and opportunities for green energy solutions.
- All cities must promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. This creates prospering and stable communities.
- We must build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. This will enable us to tackle unemployment and create a future based on hope and stability.
- We must all work extra hard to reduce inequality within and among countries to ensure that we create a safer and productive future.

- We must join our collective wisdom to make our cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Safety is important for economic growth and eradication of those things that trigger war and violence.
- We must all take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The challenges posed by climate change can be managed through unity and commitment to recycling, proper waste management, education and advocacy for the use of green energy.
- We must strive and work together to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. The ocean is important for life and regulating our climate.
- We must all develop strategies to sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
- The journey to Promote justice, peaceful and inclusive societies must remain one of important goals and never forget that must work in partnership for sustainable development.

In conclusion, I wish you all a successful and inspiring awards ceremony and conference. It is hoped that you will also take time out from the programme to enjoy the great tastes, sights and sounds of Durban.

I thank you.