

COGTA AWARDS

Welcome to the City of Durban, we are proud to be the only metro in the province of KwaZulu-Natal that makes a significant contribution to the GDP of KZN and South Africa.

We would like to thank the MEC and her team for bringing this event here and we hope it is going to be a great evening. Durban is not only a city that is known for its beauty at night and during the day but it is also a city that wins awards. Since the beginning of the year we have collected numerous accolades both at home and abroad. This also includes our employees, councillors, entities and some of our residents.

Just to name the few:

- We have won a Mercer award for being the most liveable city in South Africa and recognition by Brand SA for improving our image despite negative efforts by some in the media;
- Our Mayor has recently received a Dr Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award in the United Kingdom. The award is dedicated to respective Mayors, personally and by work that they do in their Cities. Mayor Gumede was acknowledged for her work in the community, her foundation that touch lives of her people;
- Our CFO Dr Krish Kumar, has been named the Best Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in the Public Sector;
- CEO of Ushaka Marine, Dr Stella Khumalo for winning a SHERO award at Gagasi FM news function;
- Last but not least, our ICC has received a world best place for meetings and conferences in Africa at the World Travel awards ceremony

These are some of the few awards that I am mentioning to show that our city is on the right track and it is a best city. We have many accolades which demonstrate that we are working hard. The best recognition is the one we receive from our people whenever we meet with them. Our people are happy with our services, this doesn't mean that there are no challenges.

We are on the ground tackling them from all angles, this is the reason I introduced a Mayoral Hotline. I have a dedicated team in my office of officials that deals with complaints on daily bases. They make follow-ups and give feedback to our people who have complaints.

I have also held a number of roadshows during weekend at some of the Malls in eThekweni including our Masakhane ward based programmes.

We are on the ground, with our people, during good and bad times. Our aim is to increase our response time to be faster than lightning. We are taking it **Back to Basics**:

1. We are putting people and their concerns first;
2. We are supporting the delivery of municipal services to the right quality and standard;
3. We are promoting good governance, transparency and accountability;
4. Ensuring sound financial management and accounting; and
5. Building institutional resilience and administrative capability.

With those few words, you are welcome and congratulations to all the winners. Enjoy the city of Durban.