

Remarks by Mayor Zandile Gumede during Council meeting held at Durban City Hall, 06 December 2018

Speaker, William Mapena,

Chief Whip, Nelly Nyanisa,

Deputy Mayor, Fawzia Peer,

Exco members,

Leaders of the political parties,

City Manager, Sipho Nzuza,

Amakhosi,

Municipal officials,

Media,

Distinguished guests,

Manene namanenekazi,

Sanibonani,

Fellow councillors, it is with pleasure and honour that I address you today as we close this year of Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu.

As we end the year of 2018, Ma Sisulu once said: **"We are each required to walk our own road and the stop, asses what we have learnt, and share it with others. It is only in this way that the next generation can learn from those who have walk with them."**

As advised by Mama Sisulu, we all need to look back and check if we have done well. Where we have done wrong we must admit, apologise if necessary and ensure that we don't repeat such mistakes.

We must also advise others because we believe that each one, teach one – as per the slogan of COSAS. However, we must also celebrate our achievements as individuals and this ANC led Council.

We are meeting here after the news of passing away of struggle stalwart, Mr Mendi Msimang a former member of first democratic parliament and TG of the ANC. We send our condolences to his family and the African National Congress – our liberation movement.

Firstly, let me congratulate the newly elected leadership of the ANCYL who are mostly members of this Council. I wish you well and we will go through your resolutions together.

We have been one of the most stable Municipality, we have never had any crisis. Despite the challenges that we have held but none have reached other Councils where we saw the removal of Councillors. It was a difficult time for local government to see the festivals of Vote of No Confidence and the removal of Mayors like we saw in the City of Cape Town and Endumeni. Any political instability will affect the speed of service delivery especially for the poor communities. When we have political differences, let us resolve them in peace and with speed.

We also lost some councillors due to reshuffling or redeployment, sickness and death. I must say that we were angry and saddened by the loss of two councillors in a space of less than 24 hours. This left us with bitter taste but with God all the wounds will be healed. We hope that the Police will make arrests and those who killed Cllr Maphumulo be arrested.

We were also comforted by the gains after winning ward 71 from the DA. This is a vote of confidence from the people of eThekweni ahead of national elections. Next year will be elections year and all parties will be out on campaign. Already, all parties have started in one way or another to campaign.

I would like to urge all parties to abide by constitution and ensure that we have peaceful, free and fair elections. As leaders, we must not allow emotions to rule us. We need to work together and call our members to order where necessary.

As the city we will be encouraging young people to register and also elders to correct their addresses. We will work with IEC and Home Affairs from ward to Zonal level.

Lastly, I would like to remind you of the **12 Point Plan** which has always been our base. This is the plan that has made us to collect accolades and awards here at home and abroad. We remain focus in ensuring that we achieve this 12 Point Plan as the people of eThekweni. It is what we will stick to and what we have been using as our guiding map. We have made 12 promises to our people.

These are the following:

1. Accelerate service delivery and job creation
2. Increase investments portfolio and grow local economy
3. Drive inclusive Radical economic transformation
4. Expanding broadband and WiFi access

5. Implement Township and Rural economic development
6. Food security through RASET
7. Increasing access to services through people's CRM approach
8. Build, upgrade and maintain infrastructure
9. Implement adaptation and mitigation strategy on climate change
10. Fighting crime, corruption and social ills.
11. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation
12. Building a Smart, Green and World class city

What have we done to achieve the above **12 Point Plan**, let me highlight few areas:

1. ACCELERATE SERVICE DELIVERY AND JOB CREATION

- We have ensured that we supply and deliver more water and sanitation to our people, built more houses and rental units. We have maintained and built more roads including our rural areas.
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- We have created more job opportunities especially for youth, women and disabled working with public and private sector. We have delivered and sustained more jobs – and we are still committed in creating more opportunities for youth, graduates and unemployed work force.

2. INCREASE INVESTMENTS PORTFOLIO AND GROW LOCAL ECONOMY

- We have launched our Invest Durban unit including appointing Team Durban. I will be making more announcements as we move

forward on the wonderful progress we are making, already we are sitting at about R200 billion investment portfolio.

3. DRIVE INCLUSIVE RADICAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

- We have made have made huge progress in driving radical economic transformation by ensuring that we have policy. We have not reached where we are going but we will get there despite challenges. We will also refuse to allow people to course anarchy in the name of RET.

4. EXPANDING BROADBAND AND WIFI ACCESS

- We have increased Wifi hotspots across the city including some of our buses, libraries, schools, parks, Sizakala Centres and clinics. We have rolled out infrastructure which will ensure that we tap into fourth industrial revolution. We are the first African city to host ITU (International Telecommunications Union). I will be making announcements in due time.

5. IMPLEMENT TOWNSHIP AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- We are rolling out infrastructure and bringing investors into rural and township areas. When we end this term Clermont, KwaNdengezi, Hambanathi, Umlazi, Mbumbulu, KwaXimba, eMfume and many areas will be better developed. There will be more economic activities more than Shisanyama and Funeral parlours.

6. FOOD SECURITY THROUGH RASET

- We are serious about agriculture from developing small farmers into big corporate or commercial farms. We have established a department of agriculture in Sokhabase's cluster and it will work with Kaunda's cluster.
- We are making progress in all areas, there are opportunities for agriculture, crop, animal farming and agro-processing. Umnotho usemhlabathini

7. INCREASING ACCESS TO SERVICES THROUGH PEOPLE'S CRM APPROACH

- We have changed our customer services and our turn-around in terms of responses will soon be at a speed of a lightning. I launched WhatsApp number, One Number and I have a Mayoral Hotline.
- We have relationship managers dealing with big accounts. We also held road-shows across to reach to our customers. We are resolving our billing system challenges.

8. BUILD, UPGRADE AND MAINTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

- As part of back to basics, we want to see Municipal infrastructure, assets and facilities being properly maintained. We will be establishing assets unit which will ensure that everything is

maintained, aircons are fixed, lifts are working. We don't want to a situation where people will die in our buildings.

- Before we build new infrastructure lets ensure that we service and maintain the current assets including our buses. They must not break on every bus stop.

9. IMPLEMENT ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- In October 2017 we were hard-hit by storms and this was a lesson to all of us that the global warming is a reality.
- I have established a committee on environment which is made of councillors from all committees and it is assisting me to champion issues of climate change.
- In my office I have hired an advisor who deals specifically on issues of climate change. We have elevated it to this level because this is serious and requires political attention at a Policy level.

10. FIGHTING CRIME, CORRUPTION & SOCIAL ILLS

- We have increased our Metro Police officers, cameras and developing systems to protect our citizens from criminals working with all agencies. Statistics have shown big improvements compared to all other big cities.

- We are committed in exposing and fighting corruption in our municipality. We have investigated a number of cases and we remain committed in ensuring that the city is rid of corruption and maladministration.
- I am also happy to announce that individual who went on Radio and accused of corruption has lost out in court. My name has been cleared of the baseless and defaming allegation by Mr Calvin Mojalefa. Never accuse people of corruption to fight your battles internally.
- We are fighting social ills such as drug abuse, rape, violence, poverty, diseases including HIV/Aids and TB.

11. STRENGTHEN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- I have employed an executive in my office (Mr Mkhize) who is dealing with issues of evaluating of executive committee members. Currently we are developing a policy, once it has been adopted we will make every EXCO member to sign a performance agreement. EXCO members will be held accountable so that they perform their duties this includes the Mayor.

12. BUILDING A SMART, GREEN AND WORLD CLASS CITY

- Lastly, we remain committed in building a smart, green and world class city. We continue to learn from other cities of the world. We will be implementing programs and projects that are in line with world class cities. We are a smart and innovative city. Next

year I will be unveiling a number of projects that will change the manner in which we conduct our business.

- We have just received an award of being the Greenest city in South Africa, we are on the right track.

Speaker,

This is my 12 Point Plan and my vision as the Mayor. This is the mandate and I promised to deliver. I will continue to work hard and I need everyone to support me. I don't need those who will sabotage me. Even if they try, they won't succeed because this plan belongs to the people.

This is People's Mayor plan and our plan, and let us work together. Working together we can do more.

Our vision is to make Durban a most caring and liveable city. It is a city where people work, live, play and pray.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone and the almighty for being with us through-out the year. This has been exciting year for all of us and indeed a blessing.

Like all other years, there were challenges, tears and joys but we have made it. I would like to wish you and your loved ones a joyous festive season. Come back refreshed.