



**Keynote Address by Her Worship, Cllr Zandile Gumede
at the Clermont Choir Breakfast**

25 February 2017

Durban ICC, Chief Albert Luthuli

**Programme Director,
Chairperson of the Board – Mr Sandile Zungu,
Choir Master
Councillors present
Sponsors
Choristers
Distinguished guest
Members of the Media,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Siyanibingelela nonke ekuseni egameni leNkosi yethu uJesu Kristu. We want to thank God for waking us up this morning and most importantly to be part of this breakfast celebration.

Today is about celebrating community and celebrating black excellency. It is always humbling to see a project that was started by black people succeeding. This is a proof that we are more than capable of starting, running and succeeding in what we do. This choir must serve as an inspiration to other local choirs, community organisations and individuals.

Konke kuyenzeka umangabe ukholwa, ayikho into engasehlula umangabe simunye. Okumandi ukuthi lomcimbi wenzeka ngonyaka wokubungaza owayenguMongameli weANC, ubaba uOR Tambo. Futhi lonyaka owokukhuthaza ubunye embuthweni kunye nasemphakathini waseNingizimu Afrika.

President OR Tambo was a lover of choral and classical music. According to his family he traveled with radio and a music radio with all the collections. He used music to relax. This is the power of music.

Voices from choral music have a power to uplift human spirit. They are able to make be in touch with oneself. They allow thoughts to flow, deeper and deeper. Music is so powerful that it can help to bring nations together.

Music plays an important part in development of individual and nation building. Our nation is still a young nation and music, sport and culture are important in unifying us. This is in line with our constitution which encourages unity in diversity.

It was through music and song that we were able to face the apartheid government in song. We were so bold and fearless because of the power of music. In the olden day, music of Isreal brought down the walls of Jericho. In south Africa, the song of Enoch Sontonga brought down apartheid. Nkosi' sikelela iAfrika was not just a song but a prayer. It is the same song that is uniting us. It is the same song that has

become a national anthem to other countries in Afrika. This is the power of Music.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Today we are here to celebrate Clermont choir and choral music. A voice that has kept the Clermont community together for 25 years. This choir has represented this country in many places. It has been a journey.

Carry on to shine. We wish you more 25 years in the industry. We will continue to support music and arts industry. Hosting Metro FM awards in the city is not only about tourism but about music. We support South African music and 90% policy of SABC. We support local artists and as the city we will continue to produce and support more artists. We are

more interested in finding new talent. We hope Clermont choir will become our partner in our mission especial on social cohesion.

Siyabonga, siyanihalalisela!!!