



**Welcome address by Cllr Mondli Mthembu at the Radical
Economic Transformation Summit
22 February 2017
Inkosi Albert Luthuli, Durban ICC**

Programme Director,
Mayor of eThekweni
Deputy Mayor Cllr Peer,
Members of EXCO and councillors,
Acting City Manager,
DCMs and Municipal officials,
CEO of Durban Chamber of Commerce – Dumile Cele,
Representatives of Business,
SMMES,
Civil society,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
All protocol observed,

I would like to thank you for making it to this important summit in the history of eThekweni Municipality. This summit is about us committing to our manifesto and ANC Manguang resolution which called for radical economic transformation.

The year of 2017, is a year of President OR Tambo, who would have been 100 years if he was alive. We will have number of activities in his memory and we believe we should all be inspired by President OR Tambo.

Speaking in London at the SACP celebration of 1981, President OR Tambo said, "**Our drive towards national emancipation must include economic emancipation.**" Meaning that our freedom must include economic freedom.

During his state of the nation address, President Jacob Zuma called on all of us to move away from making statements regarding radical economic transformation and to start with practical programmes. This is one of the reason we are here this morning. We are called to fully implement radical economic transformation framework that will give opportunities to youth, women, disabled, military veterans and rural communities.

The 1994 breakthrough of President Mandela was about Political Freedom but today is about economic freedom. We thought by attaining political freedom in 1994 and being in charge of government it was going to be easy to attain economic freedom. The economic opportunities were only given to the few politicians and left masses of our people in poverty.

This is the reason we support and impliment the programme implementing that is led by President Zuma, of radical freedom. President Zuma is leading us to economic freedom hence he introduced such a policy. Radical economic transformation is not about making speeches but about ensuring that there mechanisms and policies.

As you have come to hear more of the Radical Economic Transformation Framework, please allow me to unpack that in more detail. We will have a presentation which will give more clarities.

What do we mean by radical socio-economic transformation?

We mean fundamental change in the structure, systems, institutions and patterns of ownership, management and control of the economy in favour of all South Africans, especially the poor, the majority of whom are African and

female, as defined by the ANC, which makes policy for the democratic government.

Twenty-two years into our freedom and democracy, the majority of black people are still economically disempowered. They are dissatisfied with the economic gains from liberation. This morning we are saying this must end and we will radical change this.

Our national government led by President Zuma, has a new regulations making it compulsory for big contractors to subcontract 30% of business to black-owned enterprises have been finalised and it was gazetted on 20 January 2017.

Through such regulations and programmes, we will be able to use the State buying power to empower small enterprises, rural and township enterprises, designated groups and to promote local industrial development.

Sithi abantu abakithi abamnyama, omama bethu, amasosha onke omzabalazo amnyama mabahlomule kulohulumeni. Mabanganikwa izinsalela, mabasikelwe isinkwa esikhulu njengebanye. Sesifikile isikhathi sokuthi kuhlomule abantu bakithi, asisho osomabhezini nosonkontileka kuphela. Kodwa sisho wonke umuntu okuhlenganisa nezifundiswa zethu ezingoProfessional, sifuna ukubona abameli, onjiniyela abamnyama nabo benikwa amathuba.

Programme Director,

We have number of projects that are coming up and some have already been budgeted for. We are saying that there should be clear empowerment plan. We want local people to benefit, youth, people with disability, women, military veterans and black people general – they must benefit.

In conclusion, I want to thank you all very much for joining us here this morning to engage in this Radical Economic Transformation Business Summit.