



**Welcoming address by Her Worship, Mayor Zandile Gumede
during the KZN ECONOMIC SUMMIT occasion
03 February 2017
Olive Convention Centre, Durban**

Programme Director,
MEC for Economic Development and Tourism and chairperson of KZN
Economic Council, Hon Sihle Zikalala,
Members of Executive Council (MECs)
KZN Economic Council Members
Mayors and Councillors present,
Captains of industry
Honoured guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen
Sanibonani,

Siyabonga kakhulu ngokusinika lelithuba lokuba sinamukele
kulomhlangano obalulekile nosemqoka kuthina njengabaholi
abakhethelwe ukuhola uhlelo lwenkululeko yezomnotho (Economic
Freedom). Sithanda ukubonga usihlalo weKZN Economic Council,
ubaba uKhuzeni ngokuletha lomhlanga kwidolobha lethu
laseThekwini sizizwa sibalulekile kakhulu.

This meeting takes place after a huge milestone in eThekweni
Municipality. As eThekweni Municipality we have recently approved
Radical Economic Transformation framework which will change the
conditions of our people. T

MAYOR MOVES ON RADICAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Durban: The Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Cllr Zandile Gumede, says that it is high time that this city implements a radical economic transformation framework that will give opportunities to youth, women, disabled, military veterans and rural communities.

Speaking today, Tuesday, after the approval of the Framework on Economic transformation the Mayor said that she will ensure that the radical economic transformation will not be just a grandstanding slogan but a revolutionary programme of action.

Mayor Gumede says, “This policy will ensure that people who have been previously disadvantaged are given business and job opportunities in the city. Our mandate is to accelerate change in improving the quality of life of all people through radical economic transformation with special attention to the needs of the youth, women and people with disability.”

Since her election to the position, the Mayor has prioritized job creation, youth empowerment, small-businesses support and community empowerment as one of her economic development thrusts for the next five years. “The level of poverty, rate of service delivery, disruption of projects in communities and a slow pace of economic transformation has always been a concern for us. These, in the main, are caused by lack of meaningful participation of our people in the economic mainstream and it is about to change. My response to these challenges was for us as the ANC led Municipality to develop and adopt an Empowerment Framework,” said Cllr Gumede.

The Empowerment Framework will ensure that a meaningful subcontracting of smaller contractors is promoted through subcontracting a minimum of 30% of contracts valued over R30 million. Meaning that a tenderer must sub-contract a minimum of 30% of the value of the contract to a company which is at least 51% owned by black youth, women, people with disabilities, township and rural people, and military veterans.

The Mayor will be hosting Business Summit through economic development cluster where she will be presenting this framework to business community which is a progressive way of doing business with the city. She will further engage community based organization and civil society on this framework “a revolutionary programme of action” of economic transformation.

A team of officials will conduct ward based business and community meetings in order to empower them on this new trajectory. This framework will benefit both big and small business.

In a bid to bolster the pace of economic growth in the province, the KwaZulu-Natal Economic Council, a multi-stakeholder forum comprising social partners from government, organised labour, business and civil society has invited one of the country's leading lights in economics to address its annual summit.

The summit, held under the theme: "Stimulating Economic Activity in a Low Economic Growth Environment" will be addressed by FNB Chief Economist Sizwe Nxedlana who will speak on, amongst other issues, the implications on the KZN economy of the possible outcomes of the impending assessment of South Africa's economy by credit ratings agencies.

The summit will also be attended by various MECs and representatives from civil society, organised labour and organised business who will also partake in discussions on socio-economic transformation and the empowerment of designated groupings such as the youth, women, rural communities and the disabled.

The KwaZulu-Natal Economic Council was initiated in 2009 in the aftermath of the global economic downturn that resulted in the province and country experiencing job losses especially in the manufacturing sector.

Its aim was to come up with practical interventions aimed at mobilising various sectors in the province's economy to halt further job losses that could exacerbate the levels of poverty and inequality.

The KwaZulu-Natal Economic Council is housed within the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and is chaired by MEC Sihle Zikalala who is also the convenor for the government caucus within the council.

Since its official launch in 2011, the Council has formulated plans that include Social Accords that seek to promote an integrated approach to the activation of priority growth sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, maritime, renewable energy, agri-business and the aerotropolis initiative in the vicinity of King Shaka International Airport which is the anchor business within the Dube Trade Port industrial precinct.

The forthcoming Summit therefore provides an ideal platform for social partners to reflect on the progress made since the advent of the Council whilst setting the tone for accelerated economic implementation. Besides Mr Nxedlana, an ensemble of top brass in the public sector, the private sector, organised labour and civil society will also share their expertise at the summit.