



**Keynote address by her worship, Cllr Zandile Gumede
opening the Radical Economic Transformation Summit
22 February 2017
Inkosi Albert Luthuli, Durban ICC**

Programme Director,
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,

Sanibonani ekuseni, siyabonga ukunibona niphumelele nonke kulomhlangano ozodingida udaba olusemqoko kulezinsuku, okungudaba lomnotho. 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.

Programme Director,

Radical socio-economic transformation includes legislation, regulations, licensing, budget and procurement. We will be radical because we know that there will be resistance. We are fully aware that this programme will be opposed from all quarters however we will push forward. Siyaphambili noma kukubi, ekugcineni umnotho kumele ubesezandleni zeningi hhayi idlanzana njengoba kwenzeka. Siyazi loluhlelo esiluthulayo luzosusa omkhulukazi umsindo ngoba kukhona abamelene noshitsho.

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.

Through this legislation or framework we are saying our military veterans must benefit. We say our youth and women must benefit in these big contracts. Our rural and township based business owned by black people must be given a chance.

We believe that this framework will assist us as the city to deal with number of challenges and unhappiness on the ground. This will deal with issues of disruption of projects in communities and a slow pace of economic transformation which has always been a concern for us.

These, in the main, are caused by lack of meaningful participation of our black people in the economic mainstream and it is about to change.

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 osomabhizinisi nosonkontileka kuphela. Kodwa sisho wonke umuntu okuhlanganisa 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. I hope you have heard that via our own budgets, programs and projects, we aim to accelerate onto a higher growth path of more equitable and sustainable development. Together with you as our valued Business & Media Partners, we intend to improve the Business and Investor confidence levels .

Let me close by this quote of Amilcar Cabral, **“Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children .”**

I thank you.