



**Welcoming Address by Her Worship, Cllr Zandile
Gumede opening the Right to Learn Campaign**

24 February 2017

MUT Pixley kaSeme Hall , Durban

**Programme Director,
President of the Republic of South Africa and of the ANC, His
excellency, President Jacob Zuma,
Vice Chancellor – Professor Kgaphola
SASCO President - Cde Thabo Moloja,
SRC President – Cde Simelane,
PYA leadership,
Academics and Staff,
Students
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Sanibonani nonke and welcome to Durban. It is indeed an honour to speak to young lions in the year of when we celebrate President OR

Tambo . It is a pleasure for us to welcome you into this province, the home of Andrew Zondo, Anton Lembede and Sipiwe Zuma. Our province and region has produced number of youth leaders who have made a significant contribution in the struggle.

It is therefore not a mistake that you have decided to bring this Right to Learn Campaign into our province. In this very hall that is name after Dr Pixley kaIsaka Seme. He is one of the youth leaders who was in the forefront when the ANC was formed in 1912. Dr Seme was later elected as the President of the ANC.

Comrades,

Right to learn campaign comes after a budget speech which made some important speech in terms of education. Education remains one of the key priorities for the ANC. We welcome the increase of the allocation

budget for Higher education. We hope this will assist us in ensuring that door of higher education are opened.

SASCO must therefore intensify the struggle to increase access to institutions of higher learning. Such a call is in line with the Freedom Charter that said "The doors of learning and culture shall be open for all." It is important that doors of higher education be opened to our youth. The right to learn campaign must ensure that our black student are allowed to do all the courses. There must be no exclusions! Children from rural areas must be allowed to do courses that are done by those who come from former Model C schools. Doors of Education must be opened for our girls. We want to see more girls doing and passing engineering courses.

Comrades,

We value education as this ANC led Municipality. Education is not a mandate of local government but we believe that education is important hence we support it financially. We also benefit from education by getting skilled workers such as engineers, plumbers including our administrators.

We have set aside monies towards assisting poor students through the office of the Mayor. We have a Mayoral Relief Fund aimed at poor students who are at tertiary institutions. We have set aside about R4,7million and we want to increase this amount to accommodate more students. This is little but it means a lot if you have nothing. This Mayoral Fund has assisted more than 500 students some are studying

here. On top of that we offer full bursaries to engineering students and they get a laptop and a R2600.00 allowance from us.

As the ANC led Municipality we have Artisan Development Programme which would see the City facilitate the training of 10 000 youth as artisans over the next three years. The programme will cost R741 million and will train the youth in various trades. Students from FETs and TVET Colleges will benefit from this initiative. Besides that, we have learnerships and internships for graduates. We have started an auditing process at Built Engineering department. We want to see more black engineers being employed by our municipality. It will not be business as usual. Doors of employment must be opened for black professionals – this is our radical programme.

We do this because as ANC led Council we care about our people. We are a caring municipality. When the world turns against us, you must be our voice and say we have seen ANC giving us bursaries. Tell the world that ANC paid towards your studies.

Comrades,

You must defend the ANC and do not allow people with agendas to use you. The ANC is providing free quality education from Primary School and now we are Higher Education. We are doing something.

We have a programme of distributing sanitary towels at University Residents. We want dignity of all the girls in your residents to be restored. We want to partner with you.

This year is the year of deepening unity. We must defend the unity of the ANC and the alliance at all cost. We must not allow different

opinions to divide us. Conferences comes and go but the ANC must remain. It must remain united. We must never allow division. Let us be like President OR Tambo and unite the ANC. Let us unite the Alliance.

Speaking at the Morogoro Conference, President OR Tambo called for the defence of the revolution, he said – I quote- **“Defend the revolution against enemy propaganda, whatever form it takes. Be vigilant, comrades. The enemy is vigilant. Beware of the wedge-driver, the man who creeps from ear to ear, carrying a bag full of wedges, driving them in between you and the next man, between a group and another, a man who goes round creating splits and divisions. Beware of the wedge driver, comrades. Watch his poisonous tongue.”**

Amandla!

Jikijela Fasimba!!!

Roar Young Lion Roar!!!

Educator SASCO Educator!!!