



Welcoming Address by Cllr Ntando Khuzwayo opening the Smart City Infrastructure Summit

22 February 2017

Durban Exhibition Centre, KZN

**Programme Director,
Organisers
Sponsors
Guest speakers
Panel
Delegates
Government officials
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the wonderful city of Durban as we host the Smart Business and Infrastructure KwaZulu-Natal Summit 2017. I hope you have all had a pleasant stay so far.

This is one the most important gatherings to be hosted by our city. It is part of a series of summits for decision-makers involved in the design, construction and management of their buildings and infrastructure assets.

We hope that this Summit will provide key insights into emerging trends, confront the most pressing issues, discover solutions, explore technologies, debate a roadmap for a smart future and learn best practices in:

- Planning for resilience
- Designing for adaptability
- Creating value
- Delivering smarter buildings and infrastructure

Programme Director,

We believe eThekweni Municipality would benefit from participating at this event, by having a presence in this summit. This will provide attendees with information and more importantly giving them access to the latest government programmes and initiatives, which is crucial for economic growth and development within the region.

Programme Director,

To highlight some of the key benefits of participating at the KZN Construction Trade Expo. This programme offers an opportunity to enhance job creation opportunities by providing an expanded access of resources and skills development training programmes, this is in particular to the under-privileged and small contactors.

For the importance of working together, we are hoping for the improvement of both the private and public sectors engagement and collaboration within the construction industry by taking part in various platforms on offer.

South Africa still faces a high unemployment rate and we are hoping to take this opportunity to improve education for construction professionals, both at an academic and professional level.

And of course this is a great opportunity to educate the public at the same time increasing communication into the local construction marketplace.

We are delighted to be with you tonight, after hosting a Mayoral Radical Economic Summit earlier today. We met with more than 900 business delegates from all the city.

Programme Director,

The mayor of eThekweni, Cllr Zandile Gumede, has made serious announcements this morning to business society which will benefit our black professionals and black SMMEs. Her new framework is targeting youth, women, military veterans and businesses that are based in communities such as townships and rural areas.

Amongst the things that the Mayor has announced is :

- a) Every project with a contract value above R30 million shall set aside 30% of the project for CPG's (Community Participation Groups).
- b) Projects that are between R5million and R30million must stipulate that 30% of the project value will be allocated to sub-contractors.
- c) Subcontractors or service providers shall be selected from the Wards where the service or project is being undertaken. If the project is traversing a number of Wards, opportunities shall be granted to all subcontractors in the benefiting Wards.

We welcome these steps in the right direction. We call on you to come and work with us here in eThekweni Municipality. We have a clear policy and that policy is Radical Economic Transformation.

With those few words, I welcome you on behalf of our mayor. Enjoy this evening.