



**Welcoming Address by Her Worship, Cllr Zandile  
Gumede opening the War-On-Leaks Project Launch**

**24 February 2017**

**Glenridge Church, Durban**

---

**Programme Director,  
Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon Nomvula Mokonyane,  
Premier of KZN, Hon TW Mchunu,  
Deputy Minister, Hon Pam Tshwete,  
Deputy Minister Mduduzi Manana,  
MEC of COGTA, Ms Nomusa Dube-Ncube,  
Government Officials,  
Stakeholders  
KZN Water Agents  
Government officials  
Distinguished guests  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the Minister for inviting us to be part of this important programme. The War on Leaks programme is an important project because it addresses three issues at once. It addresses the issue of water loss, youth unemployment and skills shortage. We want to thank the minister and the department for coming up with this programme and such project will take us forward.

Programme Director,

We as the eThekweni Municipality are in full support of this programme. We have number of youth that are coming this region who have registered in this initiative. We have about 64 learners who are currently receiving training. Already some have been absorbed by our municipality through our Municipality Academy. We have taken them into our

different department within the city so that they can get their work experience.

Programme Director,

As the city, we are supportive of such programmes that will yield positive results. During this time of draught some of our areas within the city are experiencing serious water shortage. This is the reason we have come up with number of intervention to deal with the situation.

Numerous interventions have been implemented to deal with the drought. These include ways of augmenting water supply using water tankers, educating consumers about ways to save water, installing flow limiters to reduce water demand, dealing with leaks and illegal water connections. In addition to this, we have engaged over 200 community educators who conduct door-to-door education programmes.

Yesterday I announced our plans to harvest water.

Honourable Minister, as eThekweni Municipality, we will be installing water tanks, the so called Jojo tanks in every household. Even though we have experience bit of a rain during this week, we are still encouraging our people to save water.

Programme Director,

We are in full support of this programme and we believe that it will us as eThekweni and local government in general. It is a programme that will be:

1. Assisting municipalities in dealing with the water crisis
2. Provide training and experience to the youth
3. Create opportunities for the unemployed youth

Programme director,

I would like to thank the municipality employees for ensuring that this programme receives attention it deserves. We are proud of our eThekweni Municipality involvement through the Municipal Academy and service units.

We thank you for taking these learners in and providing them with experience. Having said that, eThekweni municipality would like to urge these learners to take this opportunity seriously, and use it as a stepping stone to building their careers further. We are giving you opportunities, please do not play take this job seriously. You must love your job, be dedicated and excel in what you do. Make us proud, we don't want to be let down by you. We have a lot of youth who are sitting at home looking for opportunities, so don't play with this opportunity.

With those few words, you are all welcome.