



**Welcome Address by Her Worship, Cllr Zandile Gumede
at the Presidential Fundraising Luncheon**

25 February 2017

Oysterbox Umhlanga, Durban

**Programme Director,
His Excellency and Patron, President JG Zuma;
Chairpersons – Ms Dudu Myeni and Sizwe Shezi,
Ministers and Deputy Ministers Present,
MECs present,
MPs and MPLs,
Councillors and Mayors,
Distinguished guest
Members of the Media,
Ladies and gentlemen,
All protocol observed,**

Sanibonani,

We would like to take this opportunity and thank you for inviting us to be part of this wonderful function. My task here is to welcome you and further ask you to invest your monies in this program.

As the ANC in this region are proud of your wonderful work Mr President. You are such an inspiration to all of us. We look up to you and we learn from you as our leader. We don't regret electing you as the President of the ANC and that of our country.

You have taught us what it means to be a caring organization. We have seen wonderful work done by your Trust and Foundation. You have assisted children to access education. You have produced graduates under your foundation. We are proud of you and your team.

Nomangabe ontaba kayikhonjwa sebekhuluma, thina ngeke sibalalele ngoba siyayazi imisebenzi yakho emihle. In fact the work around your five key priorities are now bearing fruits, Mr President. We are seeing improvements in our education including early childhood development. Future generations will reap more fruits from these seeds you plough.

Programme Director,

It is important that we continue and rally behind our President and his projects. We must not just rally behind him in words but with our pockets. In South Africa you have so many opposition coming from every direction. We need to defend our President and the ANC using our pockets. We must ensure that we have enough money to sustain our revolutionary work.

We have organisations such as SAVE South Africa and others, who continue to attack the President. These are organizations who are pushing regime change agenda. We need also to have revolutionary organizations who are pushing our course. Organizations such as AfroForum have a clear agenda transformation. They are opposing policies such as BEE and Employment Equity. We need organizations such as these who will support our revolutionary courses.

In closing, we want to welcome the clear message delivered by President during his State of the Nation Address. The president was clear about radical economic transformation. He clearly defined it and what we need now is to rally behind this project. Twenty two years into democracy black people are not owning the economy of this country.

We need to change things. We must move forward with speed. Let us support this programme of Radical economic transformation. The state must use its muscle to transform the economy. In eThekweni we have already adopted a framework. This week we had a summit to outline our framework to business sector. Anyone who is doing business with eThekweni must be prepared to share with youth, women, military

veterans, black owned business, rural community and our townships. It will not be business as usual.

On Thursday we also approved Inner City Rejuvenation Programme which is set to upgrade our Durban Central Business District (CBD). The programme is part of the overall Inner City Master Plan which seeks to revitalise the Inner-City making it Africa's leading, most vibrant and walkable City Centre by 2040.

Outside of the core CBD, we have a committed "Category A" pipeline of other catalytic projects totaling over R100 Billion by many other significant Investors. To support these, we as eThekweni have already invested over R1 Billion Rand in the year ending 30 June 2016 to expand the Services required. A further R620 million has been invested by ourselves in just the 1st half of our Financial Year to Dec 2016, with Millions more still to come for the infrastructure base.

In addition, our Teams are working with National Treasury and the World Bank Group to explore and define several global best practices for eThekweni. These are in our City Support Program aspects of the "BEPP" or "Built Environment Performance Plan" which helps to coordinate our Planning, plus infrastructure and service delivery investments. Secondly, this City Support Program is materially assisting with the new Durban Investment Promotion Review & Recommendations, whilst lastly we have their "Sub-National Cost of Doing Business" review underway to examine our pricing and internal processes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

All these Government and Business projects hold enormous opportunities for thousands of residents and Businesses alike, but we must come together faster, and in more meaningful ways to realize radical economic transformation for all our collective benefit.

RASET

Turning to another economic sector now, such as Agriculture, we can look forward to improved economic empowerment opportunities. This is

being done by ourselves at present, in partnership with other spheres of Government, plus certain Organs of State. A key program of ours is known as "RASET", which stands for "Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation".

The program is an initiative by government to transform the economy through addressing the structural constraints and imbalances in the food value chain. RASET is aimed at stimulating the participation of previously disadvantaged individuals into the food production value chain.

Government departments have committed to procure 30% of their produce via the RASET program.

A youth development program is also being developed that is aligned to the food value chain. Through this program we anticipate 1040 permanent jobs being created during the first phase. This will be in addition to the other jobs that will be sustained through the farmer support program being carried out at the 7 existing Agri Hubs across Durban.

In closing, we will be activating team Durban soon. Which is a team that will be advising the Mayor on business investment opportunities. We will make announcement soon via the Media.

We are committed in changing lives of our people. We are committed in ensuring that the wealth of this land be shared amongst all people. We are committed in implementing the Freedom Charter. We are not afraid to be associated with the program of radical economic transformation.

We are saying forward with radical economic transformation forward!!

With those few words, I welcome.

I thank you.