

Welcome address by Deputy Mayor Cllr Fawzia Peer at Local Government Summit held at Greyville Hall - 22 March 2018

Mphathi wohlelo, Baba Lennox Mthatheni Mabaso,

MEC for COGTA – Ambassador Nomusa Dube-Ncube,

Members of Parliament,

District Mayors and Councillors,

Amakhosi,

Abefundisi and religious sector,

Senior Managers and officials,

Members of the media,

Sanibonani,

It is a pleasure that today we are here for this important Summit after celebrating the Human Rights Day in the year of President Madiba. Human Rights Month reminds us of Madiba's unwavering commitment to justice, equality and a non-racial South Africa.

We are using this period to reflect on the dreams and aspirations of Madiba which include the respect of basic human rights and commitment to the rule of law. All South Africans have a responsibility to promote freedom and defend our democracy in honour of Madiba's life-long commitment to these ideals. Nelson Mandela is our guiding light for the type of society we are building and people we aspire to become.

In celebrating the human rights, we all have an obligation to work together in order to build a more inclusive economy that truly reflects the demographics of the country.

The economic freedom of millions of South Africans will give effect to our hard fought human and socio-economic rights. Together we must support redistributive measures that enhance the standard of living and quality of life for all. Working with business, labour and the community sector we have to change the ownership, control and management of the economy.

We want economic freedom and we will achieve this through changing of policies not Anarchy. We support the programme of the ANC which is radical economic transformation.

Local government summit must be able to take us a step forward in order to address many challenges we face at this sphere of government. It must also assist us to think creatively in addressing many challenges we face. These challenges range from lack of resources, disruption of services, lack of capacity and water shortage.

In eThekweni we have many challenges that emanate from the fact that we are the only Metro in the city and many people are moving to Durban for opportunities. This create a strain in our planning and budget. This creates social problems which includes sickness and crime.

Today as we celebrate the world TB day, eThekweni is faced with a challenge of TB, Diarrhoea and HIV as our biggest killers. People need better housing and environment in order to beat the spread of TB.

Another challenge we are facing is what is known as political killings which is problem in this entire province. Our councillors are not safe, they are

blamed and attacked for everything that goes wrong in our communities. What is frustrating is not receiving assistance from other state agencies or spheres of government. We need more departments to participate in our war rooms of Operation Sukuma Sakhe. Department must assist us at the ground level.

We hope this summit will be able to strengthen our relations with all spheres of government and all entities. We are committed in making local government work.

I would like to thank the department for making us host this important summit. We are looking forward to resolutions which are in line with our December Conference and Lekgotla. We are willing to take forward these resolutions and implement them in our cities.

Lastly, as the city we proud to be voted as the most liveable city in South Africa for the fourth time by 20th Mercer's Quality of Living report released on Tuesday. This means we are on the right path, it proves that eThekweni Municipality is growing its economy and meeting need of its people, and is fast becoming a world city where all citizens are truly proud of.

With those few remarks you are all welcomed, we thank the gods for the rain.