

**CRL Commission additional information by Mayor Zandile
Gumede at Protea Edward Hotel, Durban North Beach – 15
March 2018**

Greetings,

Usihlalo we Khomishane yokuVikelwa nokuThuthukiswa kwamaLungelo
amaSiko, ezeNkolo neziLimi, uNkz. Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva,

Ithimba labameli beKhomishana,

Izikhulu zomkhandlu esihamba nazo,

Izinhlaka zomphakathi ezahlukene,

Abezindaba,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

Today we are here to give testimony regarding the challenge we are facing as the leadership of the city and also as residents. I would like to touch on some few issues before I address the questions raised by the Commission.

Many families within the city of eThekweni struggle to secure a gravesite because most of the graveyards are full. The fundamental problem is the issue of land. We don't have enough land to lay to bury our people, we don't have enough land to build houses and developmental infrastructure.

Yesterday in Parliament, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the land is central to human existence. To us in this city we need land for the living and for the death. Our people are squashed in their houses and continue to be squashed in their gravesites because there is no land.

The dispossession of the land of the indigenous people of this country by settlers is therefore the original colonial sin that continues to constrain the realisation of the potential of our people. The return of the land to those who work it is fundamental to the transformation of our society and it is critical if we are to improve the lives of the poor.

In this, the Year of Nelson Mandela, we need to work together to ensure his vision for land reform is realised.

Since 1994, the democratic government has embarked on a series of interventions to advance land reform, including restitution, redistribution and tenure reform. While more than 3 million hectares of land was restored between 1995 and 2014, the Land Audit Report indicates that whites still own around 72% of the farms owned by individuals, coloureds 15%, Indians 5% and Africans only 4%.

It was also reported that males own 72% and female only 13%. We will work with urgency to significantly and sustainably accelerate the pace of land reform. The expropriation of land without compensation is one of

the mechanisms that government will use to do this. We believe that expropriation of land without compensation will assist us in addressing these challenges of gravesites in the near future.

Population

The eThekweni 's municipal population is about 3.5 million, which comprises approximately 32% of KZN's 10.6 million. The projected population of the municipality by 2020 is 4.07 million, which is an increase 500, 000 people. The current growth rate is 1.4%. It is projected that the population will reach 7 million by 2060 (Census, 2001). Migration to eThekweni from rural areas and countries outside of South Africa are increasing.

The poverty and unemployment that exists in most areas of KwaZulu-Natal are the main reason that causes people living in such areas to move to urban areas (urbanisation) in search for opportunities in order to better their lives. This migration of the people has led to serious overcrowding of urban areas.

Migration of population to eThekweni is an important contributing factor to population growth. According to Census 2011 the province that provided most migrants to eThekweni was KwaZulu-Natal. Considering other sources besides KwaZulu-Natal, the largest source of migrants (39,500) was from outside the country. The next largest source was the Eastern Cape (38,500) followed by Gauteng (24,300). Many of the migrants are taking up residence in informal settlements and in the case of migrants from outside South Africa 15% reside in informal settlements and as many as 35% of the migrants from the Eastern Cape live in informal settlements. Migration has implications for the labour

force, social services, infrastructure, housing and basic household services backlogs.

Problem statement

Many families within the city of eThekweni struggle to secure a gravesite because most of the graveyards are full. Sometimes gravesites are unavailable for purchase because well-to-do families have already bought up any remaining spaces so that when they die they will be laid to rest with the rest of their family. The problem of graveyard overcrowding has led to some people having to bury their relatives on the outskirts of the city, while others have chosen to bury a newly deceased family member on top of another already deceased and buried family member. For example, one relative died ten years ago, you are allowed to bury a newly deceased person in the very same gravesite, by way of digging up the grave and bury the relative on top of other relative.

South Africa is going through a difficult time in terms of the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has resulted in countless deaths which has thus had a major impact on municipal burial sites as plots are limited. In some places there are currently not enough places to accommodate the number of bodies needing to be buried. It has been announced that some graveyards in KwaZulu-Natal, Alexandra and Soweto are full.

- RESPONSES -