

**Address by Her worship, Mayor Zandile Gumede at the  
SACN workshop on EPWP, held in Durban 1 March 2018**

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Programme Director,  
Deputy Minister of Public Works, Hon Jeremy Cronin,  
Dignitaries,  
Captains of industry,  
Special Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Sanibonani,

I would like to take this opportunity and welcome you to this wonderful and beautiful city of Durban. I understand that some of you are in Durban for the very first time, and I would like to invite you to enjoy the beauty of the city. We have a lot to offer for our visitors, so go out and enjoy the beauty of the city from our warm ocean, beach promenade, shopping experience and numerous attractions. Durban is the only city that you can mix business with pleasure.

This event comes at the time after making a number of national changes in our nation. We believe that South Africa is on the right track, and I would like to welcome back and congratulate Minister Thulasi Nxesi for his appointment to this portfolio which he is familiar with. The immediate task is to implement the recent ANC 54<sup>th</sup> Conference resolutions. In the year of president Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, we hope to create more jobs.

On Wednesday, the Parliament agreed on an amendment to a motion by the opposition. The National Assembly resolved that the Constitutional Review Committee of Parliament, reviews Section 25 of the Constitution and other clauses where necessary, to sufficiently cater for the principle of land expropriation without compensation. The principle of expropriation of land without compensation will have direct impact on property, land, agriculture and food security.

We support the process and we will be participating in constitutional review structures through SALGA and any other means available. The expropriation of land without compensation will speed up the issues of development.

Programme Director,

I was also encouraged by the state of the province addressed delivered yesterday by Premier Willies Mchunu. Amongst other things, is the progress that has been made by the ANC-led government in the Province in addressing the economic challenges faced by our people. It is a clear indication that the ANC is working hard in changing the lives of our people.

I am happy that the provincial government continue to align its programme of service delivery with NDP. We really appreciate the work done by our government in pursuit to confront challenge of unemployment in the province as more than 100 000 jobs created over the last year.

Our government in the province is align with the national government plans and achievement as addressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

During the State of the Nation Address President Ramaphosa continued with ANC message of calling on society to work together.

President has called on business, labour and our social partners to join us as we work towards a better South Africa for all. As the city we hold the same view that by working together, we can tackle the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Since the beginning of the term parliament in 2014, our public employment programmes have created more than 3.2 million work opportunities. Most of these opportunities were created by EPWP programme.

In times of poor economic performance and sluggish employment creation, with rising unemployment, government cannot be a passive observer. Government has an important role to play in the

manner that it procures and renders services. The EPWP Programme and other government-led job creation programmes provide an important bridging opportunity for new entrants to the labour market.

These programmes provide experiential work opportunities for in-service training to enable members of marginalised communities, in particular women and the youth, to prepare themselves for real, meaningful and sustainable employment.

What is more exciting is that President Ramaphosa is the former Chairperson of the Public Employment Programme Inter-Ministerial Committee and champion of government's anti-poverty programmes. We hope that this programme will receive his attention.

As eThekweni Municipality, we have created over 16 000 job opportunities during this financial year. We have also recently approved an addition R36 million budget to create more opportunities. We aim to increase these opportunities to more youth who requires necessary skills to enter job market.

In the next Council meeting, we hope to approve our EPWP policy. This was drafted in consultation with relevant stakeholders. I must register my happiness because as this city we want to do things according policies.

We want to keep our winning status of being a winner in the implementing EPWP 2016/2017. We are currently leading nationally in terms of work opportunities created. Ladies and Gentlemen, despite many challenges we face but eThekwinini is the best. As we continue to implement this program we face number of challenges and our city manager is leading process of finding solutions.

With those words, I would like to thank you and welcome you to this wonderful session. We hope to have more fruitful engagements; we will be joining you in other sessions of the program.