



Welcome Address by His Worship, the Mayor Cllr James Nxumalo on the Occasion of the Launch of the One Stop Shop for Developers and Investors

**20 July 2016 – 07h00
Elangeni Hotel – Grand Ilanga**

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- Programme Director, Mr Sibusiso Sithole,
 - Honourable MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala,
 - Her Worship Deputy Mayor, Cllr Nomvuzo Shabalala,
 - Members of the eThekweni Executive Committee,
 - Fellow Councillor,
 - Deputy City Managers,
 - Captains of industry,
 - Stakeholders and partners,
 - Civil society,
 - Officials from all spheres of government,
 - Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
 - Members of the media,
 - Ladies and gentlemen,
 - All protocol observed,

Honoured guests and dignitaries, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the ground-breaking launch of the City's "One Stop Shop" for developers and investors.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I officially open this momentous gathering this morning, I wish to highlight that this intervention will ensure that our City and province become an investor and developer friendly destination.

Effective service delivery and radical economic transformation are paramount to the success of any Metropolitan Municipality. The competitiveness of cities hinges on the speed with which development applications are facilitated and approved. This is a major contributing factor when it comes to attracting investment to a city.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is imperative that I mention to you that the One Stop Shop is part of the catalytic projects that are set to inject millions into our economy. Our City is earmarked for massive growth from several of these projects over the next few years which will transform eThekweni's economic landscape. These high impact projects will promote job creation and create opportunities for private sector investment while cementing Durban's economic status globally.

Programme Director, we must understand that catalytic projects are not only the backbone for our City's economy, but will assist us address historical imbalances associated with separatist planning.

One of the objectives of our catalytic projects is to facilitate the long-term empowerment and active participation of African people, in particular, in the property development industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, our City is guided by our Economic Development and Job Creation Strategy which draws extensively on the National Development Plan, the New Growth Path as well as the Industrial Policy Action Plan. This strategy provides direction regarding strategic economic issues and identifies areas in need of large-scale investments. The strategy also looks at spatial-economic needs, addresses underdevelopment and neighbourhood level local economic development.

This strategy has five key outcomes which are leadership to drive a 'business unusual' path, high economic growth over the next 10 years, partnerships for sustainable economic development, reduced income and spatial inequality, unemployment and poverty and to become a Global Metropolis over the next 20 years.

In welcoming you once again ladies and gentlemen, I wish you a successful launch of the One Stop Shop. Our City believes in local economic development that will create real and accessible economic opportunities where people live. Increased local economic activity in close proximity to residential areas will eradicate the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Thank you!