



Welcoming address by Cllr Zandile Gumede - Simon "Mabhunu"

Sabela

Film and Television Awards

14 July 2017 – Durban City Centre

Programme Director,

MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism : Hon
Zikalala,

MEC for Tourism: Ms Desbo Mohono from North West and her
delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani - Dumelang,

Thank you for inviting us to grace this occasion, on behalf of the people of eThekweni, we would like to thank the organisers for putting together this powerful ceremony. We appreciate the role that is played by our MEC and ANC provincial chairperson in this portfolio and for making this evening function a success.

The Simon Mabhunu Sabela film and television awards recognise outstanding achievement and excellence within the South African Film and Television industry, with a special focus on KwaZulu-Natal. Among those who will be honoured tonight are not just actors but producers, directors and various film and television technicians.

We also would like to congratulate all the nominees in all the categories for making it to the shortlist, we also encourage those who were not nominated to work even harder for an OSCAR!

South Africa has a vibrant, growing film industry that is growing in reputation and is competitive internationally, this is according to Brand SA. Local and foreign filmmakers are taking advantage of the country's diverse, unique locations – as well as low production costs and favourable exchange rate, which make it cheaper to make a movie here than elsewhere.

This is one of the reason in 2003, that the eThekweni Municipality established the Durban Film Office (DFO) which is a division of the Department of Economic Development responsible for the promotion and development of the Film Industry in the eThekweni Municipality.

The Durban Film Office is the film-industry development arm of the eThekweni Municipality, mandated to position Durban as a world-class film production destination and facilitate the development of the local film industry. The office is also responsible for facilitating and coordinating on-location filming in the City of Durban and surrounds. I invite all the film makers to shoot their films in this city which is a home of television talent.

We would like to use this occasion to learn from one another and grow this industry. With those few words, you are all welcome