

## Words of Support by Her Worship, Cllr Fawzia Peer

### Icebolethu – Skills Programme Function

---

**Programme Director,  
CEO of Cebelethu , Ms Mcoyi,  
Departments represented here,  
Honoured guests,  
All protocol observed,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Members of the media,  
Sanibonani,**

I would like to thank you for inviting us to this wonderful function. We had a hectic week with Nelson Mandela Day activities – as government servants we spent more than 67 minutes with our communities. We will continue because we want to make everyday a Mandela Day. We also launched our Essence Festival. The events will take place in September and I invite everyone in South Africa and Africa to attend Essence Festival. It will be exciting and empowering, ESSENCE Festival is about empowerment, education and entertainment.

Programme Director, it is always a pleasure for us to partake in functions that are aimed at empowering our people especially the youth. We will always support programs that are results driven and they you can measure their successes. We are moving away from just events to programs with serious and measureable results. We are tired of big events and talk shows that will not give us results as the people.

Amalcar Cabral warned us, when he said, (i quote) **“Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.”**

People are tired of ideas and debates but their want real change for their children. Youth want change for their future. We are committed in changing the lives of our youth.

According to our statistics, eThekweni comprises of about 35% of youth populations , a substantial number of which is unemployed and in disadvantaged position to further their education on occupational fields. It is critical as a caring city in Africa that we respond to challenges faced by the youth. As a result, the council is in the process of reviewing its policy in an effort to assist the municipality in addressing the needs thereof.

There were five strategic areas of focus:

1. Sound well-being of Young People
2. **Education and Training**
3. Economic Participation and Empowerment
4. Justice and Safety
5. Social Mobilisation, Capacity Building and Advocacy

In addressing the aspects of education and training, we have entered strategic partnership in order to address what we have termed as Skills Revolution. The generation of 1976 fought against apartheid education and our democratic government is now introducing a Skills revolution. We want to empower young people so that they can do things on their own without relying on anyone. In order to arrive at Economic revolution we need skilled people who will be able to handle the radical economic growth and development project. We need a higher productivity and a skilled and capable workforce to support a skills revolution in the country.

Our comitment to youth development and future of this country has led us to a partnership with with Samsung and KZN Coastal TVET College in order to establish the KwaMashu Samsung Engineering Academy. This academy will be providing accredited technical skills programmes in electronics, refrigeration mechanic. We believe that through this Academy, we will be empowering unemployed youth from this area and other areas of eThekweni.

During her budget speech the mayor made many announcements on the budget that has been set aside to skill the youth.

The following is a summary of these initiatives to provide an overview of the programmes in place:

- 199 learnerships relating to business administration, CCTV cameras, disaster management, contact centres, and payroll administration at a cost of R5.48 million.
- 190 skills programmes relating to firefighting, life guards, business processing, IT, educators, early childhood development practitioners, and professional driving at a cost of R3.5 million.
- 92 artisan development programmes relating to fitters & turners, boilermakers, diesel mechanics, welders, automotive electricians, electricians, plumbers, and air conditioning & registration repairmen at a cost of R3.3 million.
- 1 000 graduate work experience opportunities at cost of R36.8 million.
- About R34 million from EPWP set aside for youth work opportunities
- About R58million has been set aside youth skills development

We are looking forward to partnerships with Icebolethu and we will be working with you in many other initiatives. We are committed in skilling our youth sothat they can take over and move this country forward to another level.

We are optimestic that this nation will rise against the current challenges.