

Book Launch Speech by Mayor Zandile Gumede – Hilton Hotel

Dr Nkosazane Dlamini-Zuma

09 June 2017

Programme Director,

Former AU Commission – Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma,

Dr Iqbal Surve of Independent Media,

SABC Interim Board Member- Ambassador Febe Potgieter-Gqabule,

ANC Provincial Leadership,

Media,

Honoured guests,

All protocol observed,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

We are honoured to be part of this book launch of Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's work at the African Union. We hope this book will give insight on the work that needed to be done in Africa. I hope it will highlight the achievements by this wonderful mother and woman. It is important that we learn about her work in Africa not because of the December conference. Our vision for Africa is not 2017 but vision 2063. We must begin to look beyond conference and slates – but think about the Africa we want to have.

Programme director,

As we celebrate the youth month – we want our youth to become more focused and more aware of the challenges facing this beautiful continent,

so that you can be ready to take Africa to greater heights. It is therefore compulsory for the youth to forge unity among themselves and use their energy and drive to ensure the total success of the AU Agenda 2063. The Africa you will hand over should be free from war and conflict, disease, hunger, homelessness, extreme poverty and all other social ills engineered and sustained by actions of human beings. It must be an Africa that is at peace with itself in every corner. The youth must read this book of Dr Dlamini-Zuma and do it for many generations to come. We are proud of Mama Dlamini-Zuma.

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma is an undisputed trailblazer in the upliftment and empowerment of women across the African continent.

Dr Dlamini Zuma was elected chairperson of the African Union Commission by the heads of state in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2012. She is the first woman to lead the continental organisation, including its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity. But people want to only focus on only her past relationships which President Zuma.

She is a medical doctor by profession, Dlamini Zuma has been in the trenches fighting for the liberation of South Africa. She has also championed African development and women empowerment in her illustrious career of serving people.

We must reject the public opinion that seeks to say woman can only succeed if they are supported by man. The reality is that man only succeed because of woman.

When South Africa achieved its independence in 1994, she served in President Nelson Mandela's Cabinet as minister of health, a position she held until 1999. As minister of health, Dlamini Zuma led the process of building a non-racial health system and initiating radical health reforms. Among her major achievements during this period were access for all to basic healthcare, reproductive rights of women and a ban on smoking in public spaces.

In 1999, Dlamini Zuma was appointed minister of foreign affairs. She held this portfolio until 2009. She championed South Africa's foreign policy on the promotion of human rights, multilateralism, peace and collective development, and the African renaissance.

As minister of foreign Affairs, she chaired the 2001 World Conference Against Racism. She has worked tirelessly for African peace and stability, especially in Burundi, Comoros and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She was also instrumental in the launch of the African Union in Durban in 2002.

In 2009, she was appointed minister of home (interior) affairs, a position she held until 2012, when she was elected as the chairperson of the African Union Commission. Her work in the African Union Commission focuses on a continental drive to ensure an Africa that is prosperous, integrated and peaceful. She is the founding chairperson of the Council of the African Union Foundation, which is aimed at mobilising resources for the African Union and promoting its programmes.

Dlamini Zuma is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards. These include:

- The Maitre de l'Ordre Nat. of the Republic of Mali (2002)
- The National Order of Luthuli in Gold from the Republic of South Africa (2013)
- Le Grand-Officier de l'Ordre National du Bénin (2014)
- Honorary doctorates from the University of Natal (1995); University of Bristol (1996); University of Transkei (1997); University of Rome (2013); and University of Fort Hare (2014)
- Honorary Professor of the Belarusian State University – 2007

During her term of office at the African Union, she championed the first ever vision for Africa known as Africa 2063.

Her experience, character and her work has been an inspiration to all of us. She has clear and untainted credentials and has proven to be a presidential material in her all deployments. She has served all the NECs of the ANCWL

and was also our Provincial Chairperson of the ANCWL in KZN. She has served in the ANC NEC for many years – not because she was single or divorced – but because of her credentials and character. She represent where we come from and capable to take us to the next level of our liberation called economic freedom.

We believe in her work and leadership capabilities and with those few words – welcome to Durban of eThekwni Metro.