



**Social Cohesion notes for Cllr Mpume Sithole at KwaMashu
Christian Centre**

01 June 2017

Office of the Premier – Social Cohesion Summit

Programme Director,
Premier of KwaZulu-Natal,
MECs
Members of Parliament and Legislature,
Councilors,
Abefundisi,
Honoured guests,
Media,
All protocol observed,
Sanibonani,

We thank you for inviting us to be part of this wonderful summit for the people of eThekweni. Ukuba khona kwethu kulendlu kuvusa umunyu, ngoba ekuqaleni konyaka besikhona kulendawo sizofihla abantwana bezikole abashona endaweni yaseNtuzuma emumva kwesibhicongo sengozi yemoto. Siwumkhandlu wabantu oholwa i-ANC sithi asizigweme izingozi emagaqweni.

Yesterday we had a full council meeting, and during the address the Mayor announced that the City will be having more speed humps to avoid such incidents. We will also increase sidewalks for our pedestrians

especially in rural and townships. This doesn't people must speed and disrespect rules of the road.

Programme Director,

Social cohesion is an integral part of the nation building project. It is part of our radical economic transformation project. We must never divorce economy from Social Cohesion.

The Freedom charter says, " our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities; that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief."

Our Constitution stipulates that neither the state nor any person may discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language or birth. However, the historical legacy of discriminatory legislation means that there is still much work to be done to turn these constitutional principles into reality.

Social cohesion as the degree of social integration and inclusion in communities and society at large, and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression among individuals and communities. Social cohesion will only be achieved once all the inequalities are eliminated and people live and treated as equals. It means we need to change the face of disease and poverty from being a black person who was historical oppressed. We need to work together as citizens to improve the living conditions for all.

In our local government Manifesto, as the ANC we promised that by working together with our People – we will

1. Ensure that municipal programmes strengthen the social fabric of our communities.
2. Honouring and celebrating collective heritage sites in municipalities.
3. Upgrading community arts centres and libraries in all municipalities.

4. Organising sport and recreational activities that are promoting a culture of dialogue as part of efforts to build a social compact for local growth and development.
5. Organising cultural activities where people from diverse backgrounds express their cultural identities and belief systems.

This is the reason why we as the Mayor has called upon the city to stop doing events that will not have impact. We are moving away from events to programmes with clear measurable achievements. We want to look back after events and say we have achieved this in terms of economy and social cohesion.

We will continue to have joint programmes that unite us as people of this city and province.

In line with celebrating the year of deepening Unity and cohesion. The year 2017 was declared the year of President OR Tambo – we will be building a biggest Statue of President OR Tambo in front of the City Hall.

President OR Tambo is a symbol of unity for the people of South Africa and continent. He was the most influential leader in the African continent.

As the people of OR Tambo we must never allow people to sow seeds of divisions amongst the Africans. We are ONE Africa! We must say no to xenophobia! We must fight for our unity.

In line with Social Cohesion, we are undoing the spatial planning of the Apartheid. The housing allocation in places like Cornubia will be multi-racial. Our communities and children must have parks where black and white will play together. We are promoting multi-cultural festivities so that we learn about each other cultures – we must stop looking down upon our cultures. As a result we have Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Cell-C Sharks as our brand ambassadors. We will be seeing more Rugby games being played in Townships as part of this social cohesion process.

The ultimate goal should be economic freedom. Once we are all economically free – we will easily achieve Social Cohesion.

In closing, guided by the Freedom Charter, we say – **“Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:**

**'THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE,
THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR
LIBERTY.'**