

**Welcome and Keynote Address by Her Worship, Cllr
Zandile Gumede**

Samsung Engineering Academy Launch: 28 June 2017

**Programme Director,
Councillors present,
Partners,
Young people,
All protocol observed,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Sanibonani,**

The youth month is coming to end in few days, but I want to assure you that we will not stop the youth development projects. This is one of the reasons we have moved away from just events but to peoples centred developmental programs. Today's function is a testament to our commitment towards youth development programs.

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 eThekwini. Asigcini lapha sizoqhubeka sidlulele kwezinye izindawo ezakhele iTheku.

According to our statistics, eThekwini 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:

- a) Sound well-being of Young People
- b) Education and Training
- c) Economic Participation and Empowerment
- d) Justice and Safety
- e) 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.

The main objective of the KwaMashu Engineering Academy is to provide accredited technical programmes to boost local technical skills in Electronics, and air-conditioning and refrigeration mechanic.

Through this launch on the other hand we seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. Bring a general awareness for the unemployed youth looking for career development and community at large for support and protection of the academy;
2. Assist youth with information on the objectives of the academy and programmes that would be offered;
3. Provide platform to exhibit and showcase public-private partnership in action;
4. Afford stakeholders opportunity to provide information on developmental opportunities available and processes to be followed in accessing them; AND
5. Provide youth with opportunity on programmes to support learners and the unemployed to explore and understand opportunities available to them.

I would like to thank all those who have partnered with us and ensured that we make this project a success. I want to thank the following stakeholders :

- Youth Formations in the Northern part of eThekweni
- EThekweni Municipal Units
- Department of Education
- Samsung
- KZN Coastal TVET College
- Samsung retailers and outlets
- Office of the Premier
- Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Moses Kotane institute
- SETAs
- Members of the community within the Northern parts of eThekweni

With those few words, i thank you.