



Speech by Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede – Launch of Youth Month

10 June 2017

Ushaka Marine World - Durban

Master of Ceremonies,

Her Excellency – Dr Dlamini-Zuma,

MEC – Honourable Bongi Sithole,

City Manager – Siphon Nzuza,

Exco members present,

Councillors,

Senior managers,

Special guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, sibingelela uLusha!

- It is good to see you gathered here at this wonderful occasion organised by Youth for the Youth of eThekweni. On Saturday the municipality launched the youth month programs that are going to be driven by the mayors office. And there is no better time than during commemoration of the month of June, which is better known in our country as Youth Month – inyanga yenu.

We are celebrating the class of 1976 who fought to for the liberation and freedom of this country.

The youth of 1976 took it upon themselves to fight for its generational mission which was to dismantle an unjust and cruel apartheid regime.

The 1976 generation continues to act as an inspiration to the youth of today to continue to fight for the immediate realization of economic freedom.

What is this economic freedom that we talk about, It is:

1. characterized by a fundamental shift of the ownership patterns of the economy,
2. the return of the land to our people,
3. creation of employment opportunities,
4. the development of a state owned bank ,
5. the provision of free and quality education for the poor and the promotion of youth entrepreneurship.

The youth radicalism has brought about the agenda of radical economic transformation in the main agenda of our government. It has forced the nation to begin to speak about "**Expropriation of Land without Compensation.**" This is the reason we have now adopted and implementing a Radical Economic transformation framework at our SCM. We are saying to our Municipal officials that they must ensure that opportunities are shared with youth, women, military veterans and people living with disabilities.

We understand that in the near future more black people will be owning land. Abantu abamnyama sithi abangawudayisi umhlaba kodwa mabalime ngoba sizimisele ukubasiza. Kunomhlaba okhona osezindaweni ezisemakhaya ekumele siwusebenzise ukulima. This is the reason in line with our provincial government we have adopted RASET in response to issues of land and agriculture. We are in a process of buying two farms from Rainbow Chicken which will be used for youth farming.

When our youth speak to us as government we respond. We are a government of the people and we listen. We are more than prepared to meet in boardrooms to engage. We full understand that – there is nothing about the youth without the youth.

The youth of today has disappointed those who called you a lost generation. You have disappointed those who thought you were just born-frees without direction. You have used the internet and social media to mobilise and fight issues of transformation. You said to us **Rhodes Must Fall** and we as eThekwini are now saying President OR Tambo must rise. This is one of the reason we are going to have a statue of President OR Tambo in front of Durban City Hall.

Our youth said to us – **Data Must Fall** because of the cost of the internet. We as eThekwini have said we will increase our wifi hotspot from 75 to 250 hotspot around the city. We want to have wifi at every library, every Sizakala Centre, at our Clinics and Schools of eThekwini. We are looking at increasing our wifi hotspot to respond to needs of our young people. We are also engaging the national government to deal with area where there is weak connectivity.

Our Youth said – **Fees Must Fall**. As eThekwini we said we will increase the allocation for bursaries, skills, artisans, learnerships, graduates programme and internships. This is in response to issues that have been raised by students. We have also started discussions with universities on what must we do solve student accommodation challenges.

Programme Director,

We must remember that this year is dedicated to the life of President OR Tambo – he was a product of the youth movement, the ANCYL. He often referred to youth as young lions.

OR Tambo said: “A nation that does not take care of its youth has no future and does not deserve one.” These are words that continues to guide us as this municipality of eThekwini.

At the beginning of the year my office began a process of formulating a youth strategy for the city. We held a workshop at Moses Mabhida stadium with stakeholders. We were doing this workshop because we wanted to be structured properly.

We wanted to ensure that our strategy is linked to the national and provincial strategy because we are one government. Our strategy is about the following:

- It is about ensuring eThekweni municipality programs, services and facilities are inclusive of and accessible to all young people
- It about ensuring that our new programs to respond to the changing needs of young people, because youth needs changes all the time.
- It about supporting and resourcing youth-led initiatives, ideas and projects
- It is about ensuring social cohesion - diversity of young people and showcasing their social, cultural and creative contributions to Durban,
- about identifying opportunities to involve young people in Council's decision-making processes
- about providing employment and business opportunities for young people
- Engaging with young people internationally through our sister cities and institutions such as BRICS and African Union.

During the Budget speech we announced specific projects that are dedicated to young people. We emphasised that youth programme cut across all departments. The Mayor's office plays an oversight and guides policy implementation. We are in a process of increasing our youth structure in the office. We will have an interim structure.

The projects of youth are found in all departments because youth issues cut across. If we are to do quantity and quality assessment, you will

realise that youth development is above a Billion Rand. The youth is going to directly and indirectly benefit from all the municipal programs.

I am speaking in terms of new libraries, free municipal service for child headed households, speed humps next to schools, bridges and sidewalks next to schools, libraries and clinics. The value of our services to the youth of eThekweni is above R1billion.

We will be creating more platforms for youth in business, sports and arts to make their own money. We will be empowering youth to find jobs and have better skills that are needed by the economy.

Sizodala amathuba azokhulisa intsha ukuze ikwazi ukuzimela izenzele inzuzo ngaphandle kokungcika kuhulumeni.

We have also have partnerships with private sector which are going to create job and business opportunities for our youth. On top of that we are saying young people, women and people with disabilities must get job opportunities in the city. Akuqashwe abantu abasha basebenze emkhandlwini umanabe kukhona amathuba. Siyaphinda futhi sithi ayibhekwe lento yokuthi kufunakale isipiliyoni sika-5years umangabe kumele kuqashwe umuntu onjengo-Mabhalane (Clark). Asikho isidingo sika-5years experience if we are hiring a junior clark.

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.
- On libraries and heritage we will be spending over R33 million besides building New City Library and Amaoti Library. In Hammarsdale there is now a library and in Umnini Thusong.
- About R34 million from EPWP set aside for youth work opportunities which are above 5000 – we are targeting the poor
- About R58million has been set aside youth skills development
- Ithala will be employing about 325 youth from eThekweni who will enrolling the bill payment system. They will be earning about R4000
- We have many opportunities and my office will be busy monitoring the implementation.

In her book about Born Frees – Malakia Mahlatsi says, (I quote), "*When you vote for a party, you vote for the future of your country. You give powers to a few individuals to decide on the fate of millions, some of whom are too young or too powerless to speak for themselves. When you vote for a party, you give them the responsibility of guarding the gains of our liberation struggle.*"(close quote)

I want to assure you that we will continue to guard the gains of the liberation struggle. We will ensure that we lay solid foundations which will ensure that you achieve economic freedom. There are no blank cheques here but clear and achievable projects for our youth. We don't want to over promise and under deliver but we will under promise and over deliver.

I call on youth of eThekweni to rally behind this ANC led Municipality because we care and serious about youth development.

We have a series of Youth programmes that have elements of development which is long term and traceable. We moving away from bashes and parties that have no impact. We are doing away with talk shows and conferences that are not giving us results.

I want a programme that deals with unemployed youth, youth in universities, youth in townships, youth in all zones, youth in rural areas and youth in urban areas. Programme that will address youth in all sectors such as arts, sports, business, religion, politics and others.

It must be able to address social ills that are affecting young people such as drugs, woonga, teenage pregnancy, crime, HIV and Aids and other things.

The programme must be comprehensive and all department must tell us what they are going to do. All departments must contribute because this is not about individuals but about lives of our youth.

Siyaqhuba – working together we are going to achieve more. Unity is the power!