

Notes for her worship, Cllr Zandile Gumede – City Hall, NICRA March

Sanibonani,

Standing here, on behalf of the people of eThekweni, I receive this memorandum from NICRA. I would also reaffirm my support for the struggle of women and children and downtrodden. Our liberation struggle is not over yet; we still have a long way to go before we achieve freedom.

Freedom means, our people will be able to walk freely without fear. It means our girls and women must be able to dress freely, walk freely without fear of being raped or abused. This is what we want and it is possible if we work together.

We must work together to end crime, social ills and abuse of women. We must encourage our women to speak out and confront abusers. We must report abuse and rape at the police station. Break your silence, SEKWANELE. Enough is Enough! As we celebrate the centenary birthday of the former President Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, we ought to be inspired by these two freedom fighters and continue to fight.

Addressing audiences at his birthday concert, President Mandela , said –

“For every woman and girl violently attacked, we reduce our humanity. For every woman forced into unprotected sex because men demand this, we destroy dignity and pride. For every moment we remain silent, we conspire against our women. For every woman infected by HIV, we destroy a generation.”

Lets break the silence and speak out, this is what we are required to do. We encourage young women to seek legal and professional help. We do have Thuthuzela Centre and SAPS 10111 number.

We truly believe in the words of Madiba when he said that – "**Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression...**"

As eThekweni we would like to plead with our community to organise themselves into groups in order to deal with crime. An organised and united community is capable of fighting crime and grime.

We are radically implementing an inner city regeneration programme which seeks to make our inner city beautiful. We need your support. We want to drive criminals and crime out of the city. Criminals belong to jail. We will be targeting all the bad buildings, all the corners and illegal activities. We are saying enough is enough. The drug lords must pack and go. We are after them, we are tired and we have to act now.

Lastly, I would like to invite you to our prayer meeting that is planned for Friday next week. We recognise the need to restore our society to normality. This is an initiative by our Premier, which is part of effort to restore our morality and social cohesion. It will culminate into a Provincial prayer.

Through prayer we hope to achieve a society that respects women and children, a society that does not kill its girls or commit rape. We want to see our people safe in their homes and places of work or worship. To do this we must rekindle the moral and ethical basis of our communities. Places of worship and culture, tradition and education must play their role

in helping build a new KwaZulu-Natal and a new eThekweni in which we all live together in peace and prosperity.

I thank you.