

Speaker's notes for Mayor Zandile Gumede during Youth Day rally held at Moses Mabhida Stadium – Peoples Park, 17 June 2018

- Program Director,
- MEC for Radical Economic Transformation, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Sihle Zikalala,
- Deputy Mayor, Cllr Fawzia Peer,
- Councillors and Members of EXCO,
- Deputy Chair of Youth Cluster, Cllr Thembo Ntuli,
- Abefundisi,
- Amakhosi,
- Youth formations represented,
- Progressive Youth formations,
- Abazali namalunga omphakathi,
- Fellow citizens,
- Sanibonani,

The youth plays an important role in society and in EThekweni the youth constitute about 60 percent of the population. Investing in youth development is important.

It was 42 years ago, on 16 June 1976, when courageous young people rejected an oppressive educational system designed to restrict the intellectual development of Africans and relegate them to a position of perpetual servitude.

The apartheid government's move to make Afrikaans the compulsory medium of instruction at African schools ignited the Soweto student protest on 16 June 1976.

The apartheid state reaction – with gunfire and teargas – forced the world to take notice and act against a government prepared to kill even children so it could enforce its racially discriminatory minority rule.

With their heroic open defiance, the generation of '76 intensified the revolutionary journey towards constitutional democracy – based on values of human dignity, achievement of equality, advancement of human rights and freedoms.

Today, we pay tribute to that courageous '76 generation of young South Africans for their immense contribution to our struggle for democracy.

It is also a time to reflect on what our democracy must still do to realise the aspirations and unleash the full potential of young South Africans – who constitute a significant majority of our population. Indeed, our country has a unique opportunity to harness the youthful energy of its population to build an inclusive economy, create much-needed jobs and end inequality and poverty.

As we celebrate this day we pay tribute to many generations of young people who fought for our liberation. We recognize the role of young people in different successive generations. We recognize the role played by Bhambatha kaManciza. From early childhood, Inkosi Bhambatha

became renowned for his athletic skills, the use of assegais, and running. Siyabonga emakhosini ethu aphumela obala alwela umhlaba wethu nezwe lokhokho bethu.

We also recognize the role played by Dr Pixley kaSeme from Inanda, a young man who founded the African National Congress. Not only did he conceptualise the form and structure of the movement but he also facilitated the founding of the ANC in Bloemfontein in 1912. At the founding Congress, Dr Seme delivered the keynote address. And when voting began for the position of president, Seme proposed that Dr John Langalibalele Dube be elected in his absentia.

We celebrate the role that was played by the generation of 1944 which established the Youth Wing of the ANC. The generation of President Mandela, OR Tambo, Antony Lembede, Albertina Sisulu who was the only woman when the ANCYL was formed. We honour also Walter Sisulu the first youngest Secretary General of the ANC.

We salute the generation of the 1970s which includes the like of Steve Biko and Rick Turner who inspired the thousands of young people who played active roles in the Durban strikes of 1973 and the 1976 student uprising, events that brought about the changes that led to freedom.

We salute the 80s generation who were in the forefront working with UDF, COSAS and many formations in our rural and townships. This is the generation that President OR Tambo described as young lions. **We say salute to the Lion of the North, Peter Mokaba, and especially to the youth of our region, the likes of Andrew Zondo, Zibuse**

Zuma, Kotho Mkhunya, Zithulele Mshibe, Boni Nene, Sbu Sibiya and many others.

As we celebrate this day, we appreciate and the role of young people in fighting for freedom and our democracy. We accept that this generation has placed the agenda of Economic Freedom on our table. It has made us to realise that our struggle was not only about voting but it was about land and mineral resources.

The Youth of eThekweni has called upon not only to look into the but also our oceans.

The unlocking of Oceans Economy will provide us with needed jobs for our economy and society. It is important that we save the youth from unemployment, under skilling, black tax and generational poverty.

In South Africa we have our own flagship project known as Operation Phakisa. Operation Phakisa focuses on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's oceans, which could contribute up to R177 billion to the GDP by 2033 and between 800 000 and 1 million direct jobs. Our duty is to ensure that we skill you for the opportunities that will results from oceans economy.

This is why I applaud you for focusing on this important development which is presented to us by Operation Phakisa. The ocean economy has for many years remained untransformed owing to our history. This sector has potential as mentioned above and we need as government to find lasting solutions.

Programme Director,

President Ramaphosa has called on youth and all South Africans to use the Youth Month to honour the sacrifices made by Tata Madiba and Mama Sisulu towards a free, democratic, non-sexist and non-racial

South Africa. We want to encourage each and every one of you to make a mark and leave a legacy like Mama Albertina and Nelson Mandela.

President has said we must speak about social ills, because these are some of the challenges that are faced by our youth. We have a serious problem of AmaBlessers and Slay Queens in our country. We must discourage this combo if we want to have independent and prosperous youth. Young women must be discouraged from taking favours from old men. The best thing to do is to slay with your education. Don't be pressured by society and do wrong things in order to get a VIP. Don't fall into temptation in order to go to Dubia and post on Instagram. I encourage you to be like Mama Albertina Sisulu and Winnie Mandela.

These were young and educated women in the struggle who were beautiful and classy but very independent. Young women must be in the forefront in the struggle for economic freedom. They must fight for opportunities in the land and oceans economy in order to be independent. We don't need amaBlessers, we need opportunities and education to succeed in life.

I would like to warn youth about abuse of drugs and alcohol. This generation must focus on the future. We are concerned about the level of alcohol abuse. As a consequence, some die young on our roads due to alcohol. We also have young girls who drink during pregnancy.

Youth Employment

We support the programme that was announced by our President to fight youth unemployment. The Youth Employment Service, which is an initiative led by the private sector and supported by government and labour, was launched earlier this year to bridge the gap between school and work.

With a number of large companies already involved, it aims to create a million work experience opportunities for young people over the next three years.

On top of that as a city, we will be employing more young people in junior and senior management positions especially on the engineering. The old engineers must also begin to hand over to young ones before they retire. We don't want to disturb them during retirement by requesting them to come back and be consultants.

We also urge the private and public sector to employ more youth. They must scrap relax the requirements for all the junior posts by reviewing the years of experience required.

President Ramaphosa said yesterday, **"The employers must realise that the only way to get work experience is to get work.** If we are to succeed in creating more jobs for young people, our economy needs to grow much faster – and for that it needs investment."

Akuqashwe abantu abasha ukuze bathole isipiliyoni.

Skills and Fourth Industrial Revolution

We are committed in ensuring that young people receive proper and relevant training for the market. Through our Municipal Academy we have assisted young people to get work experience, internship, learnership including bursaries. We have contributed over R200 million as a city to assist youth to study further and get relevant skills. We have assisted over 10 000 youth of eThekweni through my office and our Municipal Academy.

The challenge for unemployed youth is not only one of skills. There are many graduates, who have completed university degrees, who are still unemployed.

We are calling on employers to heed the call made by our government and ruling party. They must begin to employ all the unemployed graduate and absorb them into their entry programmes.

We understand that we are on the fourth industrial revolution which is the era of technology. Jobs in the past that were done by 5 people is now assign to 1 person due to technology. This means jobs of unskilled people are shrinking. This is the reason we encourage youth to study and get skilled. We encourage you to be innovative or creative. Use technology to advance and create more jobs and money. The Founders of Google, Facebook and Apple have influenced the world. We need our own Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckenburg.

Let use the Free Wifi and other available opportunities to occupy the space. Engage the Youth office so that we take this agenda forward.

The Youth Office in the Office of the Mayor has programmes designed for youth and their participation will be required in order to make these programme an astounding success:

1. **Youth Mayoral Cup** - as part of promoting sports in the City while discouraging social ills amongst youth.
2. **Young Women Seminar/Phakama Mbokodo** - for the girls only.
3. **Social Ills Campaign** was held in KwaMashu
4. **EThekwini Youth Talent Show and** we have our winner here.
5. **Career Expo** – and Youth Employability Indaba at the ICC and Umlazi
6. **I Am Able Campaign** - in recognition of people with disabilities this is aimed at empowering and educating them specifically on opportunities available in the Municipality.

In the main, we want to create a conducive environment for our youth, children, school children so that they can grow to fully realise their dream. We want our youth to choose Durban as the city for study, work, growing and raising their children when they are old.

I thank you!!!