



**SPEECH BY CLLR MPUME SITHOLE at the CFCI Campus Impact  
Function  
31 March 2017  
Durban City Hall**

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**Programme Director,**

Senior Pastor Dlomo,  
Pastors that are present ,  
Student leadership,  
Elders and deacons,  
Sanibonani nonke,

It is an honor and a great privilege to welcome you to tonight's function of Campus Impact Student Society, sibonga ithuba elisinika lokna lokukhuluma nabantu abasha nango kubaluleka kwenu ikakhulukazi ukubaluleka kwendima eniyidlalayo emabandleni nasemphakathini.

I would like to apologies for the Mayor who could not attend due to the ANCWL Conference that is happening today. However she had indicated that when she get an opportunity she will come and say hi. We are very priveldge to have a woman Mayor as the city and we are praying that one day we have a woman President. It is just a pray that God is able to answer. We have seen the role of woman in the Bible from the famous Garden of Eden to the cross of Calvary. Mary was the last woman at the Cross and the first at the grave. Devil understood that to corrupt man you must use a woman. The devil used Eve in the garden of Eden to corrupt eve, and Diliah to corrupt Samson in the book of Judges. This is the reason why God chose a woman to bring Jesus into our lives. Our prayer is that God use a woman to save South Africa from this poverty, unemployment

and inequalities.

Programme director,

The Campus Impact Society is aimed at expanding the youths network in order for them to be able to engage with one another and create dialogs that are both beneficial to them and society. And I truly believe that there is no better place to do this than through the church.

Baqinisile uma bethi, "The Youth is the future." And by this, what is meant is that, young people are capable of far more than they realize. Your future start from today, start preparing now so that you don't regret later.

I am told that this year, CFCI Youth-network together with UKZN, DUT & MUT Campus Impact are planning to host the 1<sup>st</sup> RECHARGE 2017 under the theme "***Get Up and Eat***" (which is meant to prepare the youth to get up and get going in order for them to become successful.

Campus Impact is a unique experience which offers the youth an opportunity of reviving their souls through praise and worship and ministry, and by being here today, you have already taken the first great step to success.

Programme director,

As EThekweni Municipality we have a number of programme that are aimed seeing our youth participating on sectors such as arts, sports, business, politics and religion.

The municipality has a Youth Programme which seeks to empower young people with entrepreneurial skills, in order to improve the socio-economic status of these young people. This programme has four areas, namely, Entrepreneurial Skills; Organizational Development; Capacity Building, Local Youth Fora and Youth

Outreach Programmes. We want young people to participate in these programmes. We want to the youth from the church being part of our activities and let your voice be heard. You must remember that you a head not a tail, show leadership and lead from the front.

Yesterday our Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede tabled the Peoples Budget during the full council meeting, in which one of her key areas was on youth development. The total budget for the 2017/2018 financial year is R45 billion made up of an operating budget of R37.5 billion and a capital budget of R7.5 billion.

The focus of this budget will be directed to the key areas in line with our promises to improve the lives of our people. We hold a view that the large percentage must be redirected towards youth development, directly and indirectly. If we don't address youth unemployment, we are putting ourselves in danger. There are many young people who are sitting at home doing nothing, not working and some not studying. We are sitting on a bomb, we must wake up because we are their only hope.

According to Statistics South Africa (2014), young people constitute 37 % of the country's population. This presents a powerful resource for the country, provided the youth are supported and able to become active members of society. The NDP states that: **"Having a relatively young population can be advantageous, provided the majority of working-age individuals are gainfully employed."** Youth are best resource for our development.

In the last elections we were largely voted by the youth as the ANC. There were about 1,9 million registered voters in eThekweni.

- The highest concentration of voters in eThekweni is between the ages of 20 to 29 at 470 761.
- Followed by ages 30 to 39 at 369 988
- Ages 40 to 59 accounts for about 200 000 voters

In 2019 more youth will be voting in eThekweni due to urbanization. More youth will be coming to Durban in their numbers looking for opportunities. The Durban population is increasing faster and we

want you to be patient with us if you don't get opportunities. There is many of you and we must work together.

President Zuma has declared 2017 as the year of President OR Tambo and year of deeping unity. He would have been 100 years if he was alive. He was an inspiration to many who were in the liberation movement and struggle for Free South Africa.

What was important about him was that he understood his mission and his mission of his generation was Freedom. He lived in the generation of Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Robert Sobukwe.

The youth of President OR Tambo generation understood its mission which was freedom in our lifetime. This youth has told us that their mission is "**economic freedom in our lifetime.**" I believe that this can be achieved. As we celebrate the year of OR Tambo under the theme of deepening unity, I call on youth of eThekweni to unite. I also call on all Christian and religous formation to speak in one voice. Stop these fights of politicians and focus on the cross. People need a message of hope and revival from you.

In closing

Today, programme director, we saw the Cabinet re-shuffle which consists of mostly young people and women. This alone, is a sign that South Africa is progressing and that young people are on the rise. We have a youngest Minister of Finance who is African and from KwaZulu-Natal. Minister Malusi Gigaba was an SRC President of UKZN. It is possible, you must dream more about and have faith. Gigaba is a son of a Pastor and was active in Student Christain Movements like your pastor.

I want you not to listen to people who are unhappy about the reshuffle and focus on the positive. Be proud to see young people becoming ministers and work even harder. The world is changing and it is becoming younger and younger. We hope that through these young men and women, your generation will achieve ECONOMIC Freedom. President Zuma is our President we respect and honour him. Pray for our country and pray for your leaders.

I thank you ! God bless you!!!