



**Closing Remarks by Mayor Councillor Zandile Gumede
31 March 2017
Durban ICC, Hall**

- Programme Director,
- Members of EXCO and Councillors
- Acting City Manager and DCMs
- Senior Municipal Managers and officials,
- Honoured guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani

We have come to the conclusion of this important meeting of this historic Mayoral Lekgotla which was aimed at aligning the work of the city with the Manifesto and our Inaugural Speech.

I would like to thank everybody from the Acting of my office, Mr Martin Xaba, the acting City manager, Ms Dumisile Nene and everyone who organized this meeting. I want to also thank our EXCO members and my regional secretary for taking time by attending this Lekgotla.

We take our mandate from the ANC which was voted by the majority of the citizens of this city. On August 2016, people voted for the ANC manifesto

after an intense campaign. During the campaign we went into every house, every street corner, every church and tavern mobilizing people to vote the ANC. People responded and we must never fail the people and the ANC.

These days we are seeing leaders who are not visible during campaign attacking the ANC in public. This is meant to weaken the organization in 2019. They are even organizing a Zuma Must Fall March on Friday. We must close ranks and defend the unity of our movement. If people lose hope on the ANC they will end up voting a party that praises Colonialism. They will vote a party that want to bring back apartheid and colonialism. Let us work together and defend this ANC.

We know that currently is under attack and we saw what happened in Joburg, Tshwane and Nelson Mandela. This thing must never happen in Durban, we must not be arrogant and ignore the voters. We must deliver services and communicate with electorate. We must remain visible and be on the ground. We must respond to every complain and this is why we need a singular number. There should be one reporting number, we must end these many numbers. This must happen soon. You must have something like **0800 DURBAN**. Something that is easy to Remember!

We must retrain staff at the call centres, they must learn to care about our customers. They must show sympathy when receiving complain. We are a caring municipality.

I have asked you to go back and find means and ways of boosting staff moral which is very low. You must respond quickly to issues raised by staff. We must change the way we do things, it must be much more quicker.

We also want to see the implementation of radical economic transformation in the city. We want to see African benefiting from municipality contracts and you must remove red tape. Make sure that you open doors for them to benefit. You must give them skills and training if they lack them. I don't want to see or hear any excuses. Big contracts must be shared by all including youth, women and military veterans. You must pay people on time. If you don't pay service providers you are killing their businesses and affecting service delivery.

This doesn't mean you must abuse the provisions of law. We must ensure that we achieve clean governance and fight corruption. We must deal with every thing that was raised by the Auditor General.

Programme Director,

We have agreed that working in silos must end. I want to see all of you working together and there will be no competition amongst you. I want to see you complementing each other. I repeat that left must know the right hand.

You must know that there is only one centre which is the organization. People voted the organization and you must not do things on your own. Everything must be presented at the center and be approved by centre. We must respect the party line which is democratically elected.

Speaker,

We have tabled a budget and the public will be making comments. We must go there and listen to the people and make sure that their views are reflected on the final budget. We must use this budget for radical economic transformation. I want less talk and more action.

People who not prepared to work with us must find another thing to do. They must not stand between us and the people who want delivery of services. We will not tolerate any form of sabotage.