



**Address by Mayor Councilor Zandile Gumede  
at the Youth Workshop  
31 March 2017  
Durban ICC, Hall**

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- Programme Director,
- Members of EXCO and Councillors
- DCM Siphon Cele,
- Mr Martin Xaba, Acting Head at the Mayors office
- Vincent Cebekhulu, Head of Community Participation,
- Mr Mndeni Mkhize, Youth Manager at Mayor's Office,
- Senior Municipal Managers and officials,
- Honoured guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani

It is indeed an honour to be with you this morning after successful tabling of the Peoples Budget yesterday during the full Council meeting. This budget will now go to the public for further

engagement before the adoption by the full council again. We urge young people to come out and participate in the budget roadshows. Youth must ensure that this budget address their needs and aspiration as group.

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

As we approach 2019 we must be alive to the fact that more people will be living in urban areas and eThekweni is likely to have more people. 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 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 the units within the city to work like unit.

We must stop competition and start complementing each other. The left hand must know what is happening on the right. There must be once centre of youth development. The left hand must know what is happening on the right hand. This is the year of unity and we want to see unity. Work as a united force and have one youth strategy.

Programme Director,

I believe that this workshop will assist us in dealing with number things. In the main it should be able to outline a clear youth programme of action and comprehensive youth strategy. It must be able to give us a draft structure for our city.

### **Youth programme of Action**

We need a clear youth programme of action that is going to have elements of long term and short plans. It must not only be about events and festivals. We do need events such as festivals, workshops and conferences but they must have impact.

Youth programmes should have elements of development which is long term and traceable. It must not be about kissing festivals that will not achieve anything. It must not be talk shows and less actions.

I want a programme that will deal with unemployed youth, youth in universities, youth in townships, youth in all zones, youth in rural areas and youth in urban areas. We need a 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.

Durban Youth strategy

We must ensure that our strategy is linked to the national and provincial strategy because we are one government.

- It is about ensuring eThekweni municipality programs, services and facilities are inclusive of and accessible to all young people
- It must be about ensuring that our new programs to respond to the changing needs of young people, because youth needs changes all the time.
- It must be about supporting and resourcing youth-led initiatives, ideas and projects
- Celebrating the diversity of young people and showcasing their social, cultural and creative contributions to Durban,

- Identifying opportunities to involve young people in Council's decision-making processes
- Providing employment and business opportunities for young people
- Engaging with young people internationally through our sister cities and institutions such as BRICS.

I believe that we can do this by working together. I wish you successful and powerful deliberations.

As we celebrate 30 years since the formation of South African Youth Congress (SAYCO), we must mobilise and unite young people. The youth of today are more connected to each other and the world with the advance of communications and information technology. You have social media and internet as a powerful tool to change your world. You must attract young minds, from all sectors, to strengthen our city. Youth must think that eThekweni is cool, they must just think that we are an IN thing. They must feel us. Mabagcwale ngathi!

Siyabonga! Heita bantu abasha,heita!