



**Remarks and introduction of the Key Note speakers delivered by  
Cllr NI Madlala at the Ithala Awards Ceremony,**

**29 March 2017**

**Umhlanga Coastlands Hotel, Durban**

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Programme Director,

Honourable MEC – Mr Sihle Zikalala,

Ithala Group Chairman, Dr Mandla Gantsho

Ithala Group Chief Executive, Ms Yvonne Zwane,

Our business achievers,

Honoured guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

Firstly, let me take this opportunity and pass my deepest condolences to the family, friends and comrades of uncle Kathy, the late Isithwalande – Cde Ahmed Kathrada. Sithi hamba kahle qhawe lomzabalazo. We respect your contribution in the struggle we will always remember and honour your role in the liberation of our people.

We also send our condolences to the family of Joe Mafela and the entire arts industry. May their souls rest in peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to thank you for inviting us to this occasion which is set to honour those who have achieved. This evening function is a testament that

black and small businesses are able to achieve if they are given assistance. Our duty as government is to use the state power to open opportunities for these business to thrive. We must also create new policies in line with our call for radical economic transformation.

We appreciate the Ithala Business Achiever Awards for recognising the success of businesses and acknowledging their contribution towards developing an entrepreneurial province.

As part of Ithala's developmental mandate, the agency makes funding available to enterprises that are viable, sustainable and have the potential to stimulate economic growth and job creation. Economic growth should be inclusive and be felt by all.

Programme Director,

In our call for Radical Economic Transformation, we as eThekweni Municipality have approved a revenue collection system of Ithala bank that will assist with job creation and upliftment of SMMEs.

Ithala has developed a cutting edge EBPP Solution for the city which is paperless and self- enhanced system at a cost of R8.8million. This system will run for the period of three years from the current financial year.

This solution will save us R135million that will be redirected to other social programmes and service delivery projects of the Municipality. This system will be able to create about 325 jobs for our youth and redistribute about R50 million to local businesses such as spaza shops and local supermarkets in and around eThekweni. Youth will get job opportunities and they will be earning about R4400 per month.

We encourage more municipalities and government entities to work with iThala.

Programme Director,

My main task is to introduce a man that needs no introduction. He is a young, dynamic and intelligent leader. He is very clear and principled leader. He is radical and creative. He spent his youth in the congress

movement dedicated to the liberation of our people and now dedicated in the new struggle for economic freedom.

Born in Sonkombo at Ndwedwe, grew in stature to be a man of formidable courage, resilience and epitome of his generation – with many people accrediting him as an accomplished organiser and a workaholic in building and doing organisational work. He was born into the highly religious family which imbued to him a greatest sense of respect and humility – the characteristics he commands from people of all walks of life.

At an early age upon the unbanning of the ANC, he was central in rebuilding structures of the ANC and ANCYL in the northern Durban Areas – starting by building ANC and ANCYL structures in Ndwedwe. He served in all the levels of the ANCYL, nationally he served as the Secretary General.

He also served as a councillor in Ilembe District Council between 1996 and 2000. After serving the preparatory school of the ANC, he was correctly elected as a deputy provincial secretary and later a provincial secretary.

Mr Sihle Zikalala, is the current Provincial Chairperson of the ANC elected in November 2015 and is an MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. He holds a Degree in Communication Science from UNISA. He is married to Nelisiwe Zikalala and they have two sons and one daughter.