

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MAYOR ZANDILE GUMEDE AT THE LAUNCH OF ANNUAL REPORT HELD AT MOSES MABHIDA STADIUM – 21 February 2018

Programme Director,

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Fawzia Peer,

EXCO Members and Fellow councillors,

Chairperson of MPAC, Cllr Thabani Luthuli,

City Manager – Mr Siphon Nzuza,

CFO – Mr Krish Kumar,

Senior Officials,

Business represented by Mr Musa Makhunga of Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

Amakhosi,

Religious sector,

Media,

All our stakeholders,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani ekuseni,

It is with great joy to see all of you gathered here for this important event. We decided to have this event because we are running a transparent and accountable government. We are committed in improving our service delivery and do better. We are open to criticism, even though at times we know that we get unfair criticism from our opponents.

We are open to ideas, corrections and we believe that by work together with you – we can do more.

Our new President, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa during the State of the Nation Address launched the government's commemoration of the centenary of the life of Nelson Mandela. The celebration is a major milestone in the incredible story of Nelson Mandela and our nation's journey. When we celebrate Madiba's life, we need to stay true to his ideals, including his unwavering commitment to justice, equality and a non-racial South Africa. All South Africans have a responsibility to promote freedom and defend our democracy in honour of Madiba's life-long commitment to these ideals.

We will also use this year to celebrate the life of Mama Albertina Sisulu. She was the only woman who was there in 1944 when ANCYL was launched and first woman to be arrested under the general act of apartheid regime.

I would like to use this opportunity to honour President Zuma for his role and contribution our liberation and this newly built nation. He dedicated more than 60 years servicing our people. In KZN, he led the peace process from the front. His work in education, infrastructure development and developing the nation's plan of NDP. The good thing is that President Ramaphosa was the chairperson of the planning commission which developed this plan.

During the State of the Nation Address President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke of the need for partnerships. He also called on business, labour and our social partners to join us as we work towards a better South Africa for all.

As the city we hold the same view that by working together, we can tackle the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Since the beginning of the term parliament in 2014, our public employment programmes have created more than 3.2 million work opportunities. During his speech, our President highlighted a number of interventions to grow the economy, attract investment and create jobs.

- The announcement of the upcoming Jobs Summit to align the efforts of all sectors behind the imperative of job creation is a positive step.
- A planned Investment Conference to market investment opportunities in the country will also take place.
- The Youth Employment Service to place unemployed youth in paid internships will support efforts to advance the economy.

As this local sphere of government that is led by the ANC, we are looking forward to the above initiatives. We have a duty of ensuring maximum unity in our nation, job creation and renewal.

Programme Director,

I thought I should give our national perspective because we are one government and are servicing one nation. It is important that we align our plans together to get better results. The 2016/2017 financial year has been an exciting year for local government, in that we are now into the 4th generation of democratic local government. At a global and national level, many of our City's Political and Administrative Leadership have actively influenced global policy and development, through involvement in the Habitat III processes, the Paris COP Meeting, C40 and numerous other global events.

By being involved in these events, the City has entrenched its position as one of the cities at the forefront of strategic development as well as knowledge management.

EThekweni was also honoured to host the World Economic Forum on Africa (WEFA) in May 2017. It is important that the economic growth of our Municipality, country and continent as a whole has been brought to the fore. Among the sites visited by the WEFA was the Bridge City precinct in KwaMashu along the Integrated Rapid Public Transport route and the Dube Tradeport. The purpose of the tour was to showcase the major inroads the City has made with regards to ensuring inclusive growth, which is a call to action for more meaningful involvement of all our citizens within the local economy.

As a leading Metro that contributes significantly to the national fiscus, we have positioned ourselves to respond to the legacy of spatial fragmentation and contribute to inclusive growth. This integrated approach will allow for the majority of our local citizens to access public transport, goods and services in a cost effective and efficient manner and to also respond to growing the City's rates base.

The Municipality's vision of being Africa's most Caring and Liveable City is as true today as it was in year 2000 when we collectively created a Long Term Development Framework (LTDF) for the City. The LTDF, which was later reviewed through the Imagine Durban Programme, provided a collective platform for sustainability in the City.

Whilst we continue to address the urgent needs of our residents within the current constraints that we face, we do so believing in the Vision that we have created for ourselves.

Programme Director,

Our predecessors laid a firm foundation for service delivery as well as sustainable growth and development in our City. Our immediate task is to consolidate and accelerate what has been achieved. We must reach for new heights and raise the bar through interventions that will change our City for the betterment of our people. Kumele sikhuphule amasokisi, sisebenze ngejubane. Under this leadership, we promised to continue with the improvement of our people's lives through accelerating service delivery, economic growth, job creation, social and rural development.

The empowerment of women, youth and the disabled is also critical in our quest to address and redress the economic status of all our people, in order to sustainably eradicate challenges such as unemployment, inequality and poverty. The introduction of the eThekweni Radical Economic Transformation Framework in February last year, aims to demonstrate that the City's leadership is committed to accelerating service delivery, providing economic opportunities to poor and unemployed residents and growing the small business sector. Through this progressive framework, there is an opportunity for the private sector to assist in addressing socio-economic challenges in the City.

In closing, the catalytic projects planned for the City will have a huge economic and social impact. This impact will be measured in terms of the number of jobs created and how it supports mixed-use development by

integrating commercial and housing needs, which will generate additional income through rates.

We have 25 catalytic projects being implemented. This is yet another demonstration of our commitment to transform the economic landscape of this eThekweni towards more inclusivity.

Our approach on City's economy is to accelerate a number of projects in eThekweni, which will benefit local businesses and communities broadly. These projects speak to the notion of "**people-centered development**". It is important that projects have economic strategies in place to draw previously excluded people into the economy.

We believe that by working together, all this can be achieved. While we grow our rate collection base, creating vibrant local economy – we will redouble our efforts on service delivery.

Before I sit down, let me touch on the issue of tourism in the city. This reduction of our visitors is a concern for us and in fact this has affected all the major cities due to numerous reasons. We have identified it as a challenge and we are put a plan aimed at attracting domestic and international tourists. We have also set a budget aside for that, we will also be working with business in the hospitality and tourism industry to roll out our plan. We believe that by working together a lot more can be achieved.

With those few words, you are all welcome.