



Keynote Address Mayor Zandile Gumede at Mayoral Beneficiaries

Function held at Durban ICC, 09 February 2018

- Mphathi wohlelo,
- EXCO **Cllr Barbra Fontein** Governance and Human Resource,
- **Cllr Zama Sokhabase** (Chairperson of the Community Services,
- Cllr **Thembo Ntuli** : Deputy Chairperson Community Services,
- **Sandile Zungu of Chairman of ZICO,**
- Dr. Mpilo Ngubane Head of EMA or Skills Unit,
- Head of departments,
- Business Support
- Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Beneficiaries (bursary holders, student relief patrons)
- PYA representatives,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- Sanibonani,

I would like to take this opportunity and thank you for coming to this wonderful breakfast imbizo for beneficiaries. As indicated by the first

speaker, I felt it was very important for us to have such a gathering of this nature to engage with beneficiaries. It is important for us to get a feedback from you in order to plan better for the future.

I am not going to waste your time with long speeches, because I understand it is a weekend. You need to rest and prepare for the week ahead.

This year is dedicated to President Nelson Mandela. We are celebrating his life and legacy. We will be drawing many lessons from his life. President Mandela has taught many of us to give our money and time towards education. At his tender age, our bright young Nelson Mandela completed his Junior Certificate in only 2 years rather than 3 before moving onto the College in Fort Beaufort. Mandela was a bright student.

This is the reason that we encourage our youth to take his words seriously, when he said – **“Young people must take it upon themselves to ensure that they receive the highest education possible so that they can represent us well in future as future leaders.”**

I must say that I was real touched by the stories that I heard this morning, ngakho sithi onezindlebe makezwe. I so wish that the world was here to listen to these testimonies. As the ANC led government we have been working hard to change the lives of our people despites challenges.

People continue to criticise our government as if we are doing nothing. It will not be easy for us to fix damage that was done for 400 years by white government in short space of time. The struggle to change lives of our people is a lifetime commitment for the ANC and its government.

For more than a century, the ANC has led our people in their aspiration for a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society, as the strategic goal of the National Democratic Revolution.

That vision, inscribed in the Freedom Charter, inspired the sacrifices that brought freedom and democracy. We have always placed education and health as apex priorities of our agenda. As this sphere of government we have no direct mandate to deal with education. However, we use creative ways to assist in education.

Ethekwini Municipality assist from Early Childhood Development up to tertiary level. Even though we are not directly involved, we want to ensure that our city friendly to universities, schools and early childhood centres. We have grant-in-aid funding that we use to help children. In partnership with NGOs, we have ensured that each and every ward has a proper crèche.

We work closely with schools, currently we are looking at some of their challenges such as crime, electricity and water connection. We are also working together on a number of projects to deal with social ills. We want to ensure that our children are protected from drugs and alcohol and focus on education. Roads must be clearly marked where children are crossing.

When we saw the crisis of Higher education with **#Fees Must Fall struggle**, we brought Mayoral student relief funding for students who seek relief with registration. We are also giving full bursaries which includes meals, accommodation, tuition fees and allowances to students who are studying scarce skills.

We fully understand that skills development plays an important role in the growth of every country's economy, service delivery and technology improvement. It builds confidence and dignity in people, so it is crucial for every government to ensure that its people are well-skilled and developed.

Local government (municipalities) is the third sphere of government which interacts very closely with the community and delivers basic services like water and sanitation, roads, electricity, refuse removal, housing and other essential services.

For all these services to be provided efficiently and effectively the municipality needs competent and skilled employees, if they do not have the skilled employees they will have challenges in delivering these services. Proper training and development is continuously needed as technology changes and new developments are uncovered in the industry.

This is the reason we support those who are studying these much needed skills. We are looking at the program of artisans such as plumbers who will form part of the team that will be fixing water leaks. We lose lot of water due to leaks, we need to have plumbers all over the city. This is the reason we continue to encourage our youth to take up studies in our FET and TVET colleges. We are in a skills revolution.

On top of that we do have graduate trainee program, we take hundreds of graduate to work with us for two years. We also have learnerships for those with matric and internships for graduates. Sinazo izinhlelo ezisiza abantu abasha futhi baningi abasizakalayo kulomkhandlu oholwa nguANC.

We will continue and support initiative of education and working with all sectors of society we believe that we can uplift our youth.

Our commitment to youth development and future of this country has led us to a partnership with Samsung and KZN Coastal TVET College in order to establish the KwaMashu Samsung Engineering Academy. This academy is providing accredited technical skills programmes in electronics, refrigeration mechanic. We are largely focusing on unemployed youth from the INK area and other areas of eThekweni. Asigcini lapha sizohubeka sidlulele kwezinye izindawo ezakhele iTheku.

According to our statistics, eThekweni comprises of about 35% of youth populations, a substantial number of which is unemployed and in disadvantaged position to further their education on occupational fields. It is critical as a caring city in Africa that we respond to challenges faced by the youth.

We urge you to work with us and support us. I would like to thank all our sponsors who continue to support us. We believe that by working together a lot more can be achieved.

