

Welcoming remarks by Mayor Zandile Gumede during the LLAM Conference held at Durban ICC– 13 February 2018

- Program Director,
- MEC Bongzi Sithole-Moloi,
- HOD, Ntokozo Chonco,
- Members of parliament,
- Councillors present,
- Special Guests,
- Captains of industry,
- Academics,
- Amakhosi nabantwana baseNdlunkulu,
- Government officials,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,
- Sanibonani,

This weekend marked the 28th anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. He was released on the 11th of February, after spending 27 years in prison fighting for equality and a better life for all. His release laid a foundation for healing and the peaceful and democratic elections held on 27 April 1994. Mandela casted his first vote in Durban, at Inanda to report to President JL Dube that **South Africa is now free.**

President Nelson Mandela would have turned 100 years on 18 July 2018. The centenary will be used to celebrate the life of a selfless leader, and a struggle stalwart whose ethos and values inspired many people around the world to join the fight against any injustices wherever they occurred.

The national government has announced that the centenary will be held under the theme “**Be the legacy**”, it will extend across the continent and the globe as the former President was one of the world’s most respected statesmen.

As we celebrate Madiba and our freedom, I think we should all strongly condemn recent actions by MiWay insurance. This follows the leaking of a recorded conversation between MiWay sales agent and His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwethini. This is a violation of the Protection of Private Information Act (POPIA) and steps against MiWay insurance company should be taken. We support the actions taken by Ongangezweleke and we hope that this matter will be attended to urgently.

It is important that we preserve and protect our own cultures and heritage. We must not allow people to turn our traditions into a joke, every culture deserve respect even if we don’t understand agree with it.

Sithanda ukubonga uNqonqoshe weZobuciko, Amasiko, ezemidlalo nokuncebeka ngokwakha lelithuba lokucobelelana ngolwazi. Ingqungquthela emaqondana nezilimi, imitapo yolwazi, izinqolobane zokugcina imibhalo eyigugu Kanye neziGcinamagugu ibalulekile kuthini njengesizwe ikakhulukazi njengoHulumeni basekhaya.

We really appreciate you for bringing this event to our city. We don’t take it for granted hence we really appreciate your office for choosing Durban as

a hosting city. We would like to welcome all of you and wish you a successful conference. We hope that whatever that will be resolved here will take us forward as a nation.

This department is entrusted with the responsibility to promote and preserve arts, culture and official languages while enhancing the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Province. It also plays a greater part in entrenching social cohesion which is one of the priorities of the department.

The eThekweni Municipality offers a free public library services at 90 circulating branch libraries across the metropolitan area. Durban has a lot to offer in terms of museums, libraries and archives. We are on a drive to increase these facilities in our communities, we have started constructing a library in Amaoti. We have completed a museum in Umkhumbane, we are busy also in Hammersdale or Mpumalanga township with another museums.

In the words of Oliver Reginald Tambo, one of the nation's main architects of our democracy: **"We are one people with a rich cultural heritage which manifests itself in many variations. Our task is not to preserve our culture in its antique forms but to build on it and let it grow to assume a national character, the better to become a component of all evolving world culture."**

You are all welcomed!

