



**Remarks by Her Worship, Cllr Mpume Sithole of eThekweni
Municipality on EThekweni MRM Advocacy & Disability Dialogue
30 May 2017 – 10h00
KwaMashu, Section L Community Hall**

Program director, Mr S Sisibo
All protocol observed,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the people of eThekweni led by the African National Congress we would like to thank you for inviting us to be part of this occasion. This platform is important for us because we are still committed to the initial vision of nation building. We recognise that much has been achieved and much more still needs to be done. There are a number of things that seek to take us back to where we came from as the people. We must refuse to have overnight messiahs like the last apartheid president of Apartheid Mr De-Klerk to tell us, what is morality, when we are victims.

The legacy of apartheid has continued to manifest itself in different ways; the black on black violence persisted despite the achievement of democracy. People are killing one other, woman abuse has escalated, young people are exposed to drugs, teenagers falling pregnant and many more atrocities continue to persist. This is the reason we need a moral regeneration project as envisioned by our former President Nelson Mandela.

During our elections Manifesto we said – by working together we shall promote social cohesion and nation building in municipalities through:

- Ensuring that municipal programmes respond to the socio-economic needs of all citizens.
- Ensuring that municipal programmes strengthen the social fabric of our communities.
- Honouring and celebrating collective heritage sites in municipalities.
- Building commonly shared sites and venues for worship to accommodate diverse cultural and religious activities.
- Upgrading community arts centres and libraries in all municipalities.
- Organising sport and recreational activities that are aimed at promoting nation building.
- Promoting a culture of dialogue as part of efforts to build a social compact for local growth and development.
- Organising cultural activities where people from diverse backgrounds express their cultural identities and belief systems.

Last year, the municipality established two learnership programmes specifically for the youth of eThekweni living with disabilities, as part of the EThekweni Municipal Academy programme. Therefore proving that we believe that disabilities do not restrict or limit you from achieving your goals, which is why first preference is given to people with disabilities.

Tomorrow the Mayor of eThekweni will outline these projects, above that she will announce what are some of the interventions for people with disability.

We invite you all to be part of the Peoples Budget tomorrow.

I thank you.

