



**Message by Her Worship the Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede on the occasion of Easter Prayer at Shree Mariamen Temple- Mt Edgecombe**

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Protocol,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani, receive our warm greetings from the citizens of eThekweni and from the leadership of the African National Congress in this region.

As the world celebrates pass over during this weekend we are reminded of the Life of Christ and his sacrifice. Today also marks an important day in the Tamil Calender as it is the Celebration of the Tamil New Year. On behalf of the Municipality and the leadership of the ANC in eThekweni Region I convey our best wishes to all. May this New Year bring you good health, wealth and prosperity.

As the ANC, we are committed to building a caring, united and prosperous South Africa in which all people have a right to pursue their religious faiths. We are committed to our democracy and freedom. As we celebrate the April month of Freedom, we will never forget where come from. However we have made a number of changes as the ANC. We will continue to do. Already we have adopted a radical economic transformation program that seeks to achieve job creation and economic opportunities for our people. We want to uplift our masses from poverty and inequality. Let us work together in this new plan of radical economic transformation.

Program Director,

Let me take this opportunity in congratulating the Temple Society for arranging this annual Easter Prayer which dates back over 100 years ago, this prayer brings together the community during Easter and culminates in a weekend of music and culture show casing local talent.

The biggest message that you should take from this prayer is the promotion of social cohesion. It is prayers like these that afford us the opportunity as society to respect each other's culture and heritage. It is important that we learn all the different traditions and beliefs that our fellow brothers and sisters follow, it is only in learning about this that we will come to appreciate the diverse country that we live in. South Africa belongs to all who live in it, all our different religions and culture.

We should never separate ourselves from being part of the majority in our country. We promote unity and cohesion at every sphere of government and we should at all times preach this message of building better communities through unity and cohesion.

Our Honourable President Jacob Zuma at the Social Cohesion Summit said that South Africans had on many occasions proven to be a nation that thrives and finds solutions to difficult problems through dialogue, discussion and reaching out to one another.

Let us continue to engage, communicate and build our nation together. Let us compliment and uplift each other but most of all let us help one another upholding the spirit of Ubuntu at all times.

Umntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu - a person is a person through people. In closing let me read this important paragraph from our National Development Plan – also known as Vision 2030:

*South Africa belongs to all its peoples.*

*We, the people, belong to one another.*

*We live the rainbow.*

*We discover the country and the world.*

*We live peacefully with neighbours.*

*We have good friends in other societies.*

*We have welcomed people from distant lands, who have chosen to live among us.*

*We value interdependence and reciprocity.*

*We feel hospitable.*

*We are a community of multiple, overlapping identities, cosmopolitan in our nationhood.*

*Our multiculturalism is a defining element of our indigeneity.*

*We are, because we are so many.*

*Our many-ness is our strength – we carry it in us throughout our lives.*

**This is who we are as South Africans.**

**I THANK YOU!! Ngiyabonga!!**