



## **Enterprise Mauritius Opening by Cllr Siphon Kaunda Durban**

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Programme Director,

Mr Zeph Ndlovu, President Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

Mr Ebrahim Patel, President Minara Chamber of Commerce,

Mr Nirode Bramdaw, Honorary Consul for Mauritius,

Mr Zamo Gwala, Chief Executive, Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal

Mr Geerish Bucktowonsing, Manager, Enterprise Mauritius,

Ladies and gentlemen,

All protocol observed,

Sanibonani,

I would like to take this opportunity and welcome you to this wonderful city of ours. We are pleased to have international guests and those coming from outside this province. We hope and wish that this gathering will be of great success. We would like to thank you for choosing this city for this gathering.

Relations between South Africa and Mauritius were formalised in 1992 with the establishing of Representative Offices in both countries. Full diplomatic relations were established in 1994. Upon South Africa's return to the Commonwealth, relations have been conducted at the level of High Commission.

It is important that we take advantage of the existing relations for the economic benefit of our local economies in line with our aims of achieve inclusive economic growth. We believe that opportunities that exist especially in textile, clothing industry can assist these two countries.

Durban has experience with this industry with many factories around the outskirts of the city that are in this industry.

Programme Director,

This industry has greatly suffered in the recent past but we are optimistic that it will rise again with such relations. In 2013, the Clothing, Textiles, Footwear and Leather (CTFL) industry accounted for about 14% of manufacturing employment and represented South Africa's second largest source of tax revenue. The industry facilitates an estimated 60 to 80 000 jobs (down from 120 000 jobs) and contributes around 8% to the country's GDP.

The domestic industry can be found mostly in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, with some activity taking place in Gauteng.

Owing to technological developments that are closing the major product gaps, local textile production has evolved into a capital-intensive industry, producing synthetic fibres in ever-increasing proportions.

The apparel industry has also undergone significant technological change and has benefited from the country's sophisticated transport and communications infrastructure. The sector displays regional differences; broadly speaking, the Cape Metropolitan Area is renowned for the high fashion orientation of its industry, while KZN focuses on mass market production.

Programme Director,

When we look at our neighbouring countries such as Mauritius, the textile industry is rightly considered as the catalyst of the Mauritian industrial revolution. For the past 4 decades, the textile industry has spearheaded the structural transformation of the Mauritian economy to such an extent that this sector has acted as the engine of economic growth, attracting Foreign Direct Investment from various countries, creating new employment opportunities, and strengthening the manufacturing base of the economy.

The regional transfer of Mauritian textile expertise has turned Mauritius into the textile hub of excellence in Southern & Eastern Africa, making our success story a business model that is currently being benchmarked right across Africa. The Mauritian manufacturers

have the capability to supply a wide range of textile products at varying price points, with a focus on quality that includes T-shirts, lingerie and loungewear, shirts, sportswear, trousers and denim, children's wear, pullovers, uniforms and beachwear to name a few. Traditionally, the main export markets for textiles and apparel have been Europe and the US, but during the past few years, exports to the South African market have been constantly increasing

Programme Director,

We believe that we can greatly benefit from country to country relations with Mauritius or City to City relations. In eThekweni Municipality we have programmes that supports the small business in fashion and in textile manufacturing.

As the municipality we facilitate the Co-operative sector specific mentorship programme in Manufacturing, Agriculture, Textile, Construction and many more sectors which are seem to be contributing to the country's GDP.

We believe that within no time, we can turn around the city of Durban. We trust that this occasion will be fruitful and help us move these countries forward.

As we celebrate the Africa month, I call on Africa to unite and this unity should be reflected in its economies. Let us increase our trade relations.

God bless Africa, I thank you.