



## **MAYORAL LEKGOTLA OPENING REMARKS**

Delivered by Cllr Zandile Gumede, Mayor of eThekweni Municipality

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Deputy Mayor, Cllr Fawzai Peer,

Speaker – Cllr Mapena,

EXCO Members and Councilors Present,

Acting City Manager and DCMs,

Acting Head – Mr Martin Xaba,

Senior Managers,

All Protocol Observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Siyabonga kakhulu ukunibona niphelele. Let me take this opportunity to greet you all and welcome you to this 1st Mayoral Lekgotla. A Lekgotla intended at improving the state of the Municipality. As we are meeting in this Lekgotla we should by instinct and outlook be optimistic that the power of unity and cooperation will improve the way we render services to the citizens of our City. And we must be united in this belief for the sake of our communities.

I was away on a C40 cities conference held in New York. I must say that in line with our vision of being the most liveable and caring city – we must be sustainable. We must be alive to the changes in our environment and their impact on our lives. They say that

Africa, is most vulnerable to climate change impacts due its geographic location, socio-economic conditions and developmental state.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate Durban for being ranked the top South African City with the highest quality of life by the international Mercer's 19th Quality of Living survey. This is one of the indicators that we are on the right track but we need to do more. We must not relax but push until we reach the first place in Africa or the World.

This Lekgotla takes place during the Human Rights Month in the year of OR Tambo. We must use this month to commemorate those who fought for our freedom. We must also look back and see if we are respecting human rights as individuals and the city. We must check if our bylaws are not infringing on human rights before we get instructed by courts. We must respect and follow laws these days because we get taken to courts everyday.

This human month coincides with our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the adoption of the constitution of the Republic of South Africa. We respect the constitution of our country and its laws. Our constitution remains one of the best document ever produced by this ANC led democratic government.

We can no longer afford that courts must always intervene on behalf of the people in the provision of services for the people. Service provision to the people is a constitutional right and not a privilege. We have a constitutional obligation to render effective and efficient services to the people.

#### Purpose of the Meeting

We have convened this Lekgotla to assess the progress made in improving the quality of life of our people, the working class and particularly the poor. At the heart of what we need to achieve is a call for the second phase of the National Democratic Revolution. It is a call for more intense focus on the full radical economic and social transformation of our city. It cannot be business as usual.

We have to ensure that what people told us during door to door campaigns forms part of our planning, IDP and budget. Our planning must be considerate of the views of our masses. We must remember that we are not planning for ourselves but for the people. We cannot have a top down approach and think people will not revolt. When people revolt they don't fight with officials but they fight councilors.

It is important that at times as the City leaderships we reflect on the manner we provide service to our people. We must ask a question are we adding value to the **better life for all** motto. In our reflection we must critically analyze our purpose in this administration. The citizens must become the focal point or nucleus of our core business. In essence we must be "a citizens centered municipality".

I am sure we are all aware that this is the 5th administration since the dawn of democracy and the formalization of organized Local Government. What this means is that people will run out of patience and start revolting against government in their demand for service.

We must use this weekend as an opportunity to review the performance of our city and also plan concrete programmes for this term of office. As I have stated that we visited many parts of eThekweni - rural and urban - and interacted with many citizens who finally voted overwhelmingly for a **Better life for all**. We will not disappoint them.

The question that we must answer is what have we done, both as elected public representatives and technocrats, for the people who voted in 2016?

### **Peoples Mayor and Peoples City**

It is imperative that we acknowledge that the presence of an effective governance system is important for us achieving our set goals. We must optimize the use of resources through ensuring proper effective internal control system. Good governance will shape our attitudes on how we manage public resources. We must commit ourselves to espouse high standards of integrity and ethical values. Effective good governance will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the City.

As I have indicated above there is a serious need for the City to adopt a New Public Management approach. We need an approach that is focused on citizens becoming our customers. This approach will ensure that our staff embodies the fiduciary duty principle in how they render services to our people. It will also ensure that they perform their functions and tasks efficiently and effectively for the interest of the City.

This means we must have one CALL CENTRE NUMBER. We cannot have many numbers. We must have a phone number that is simple to remember, a toll free line for our people. All service departments must feed from one number and it must be available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. We need well trained staff that will answer those calls. We need people who understand that we are caring city.

### **Radical Economic Transformation**

In my inaugural speech I said that the Council must reach for new heights and raise the bar through implementing high impact interventions which will ensure far-reaching and radical socio-economic transformation in our city.

The ANC has also declared that it is now time to implement the radical phase of our programme for social and economic emancipation of our people. In the state of the Nation address the President announced that it is time for implementation of **Radical Economic Transformation**. His sentiments were repeated by our Premier during the state of the province address in Royal Show Grounds.

We have held a successful Radical Economic Transformation Summit which was well attended. The Summit introduced our radical framework to business and public. WE must stop talking and start with work.

We must use our state power to transform the economy. We must refuse to do business with untransformed entities. We must give true meaning to radical economic transformation. We must continue to guide and monitor the implementation of these policies.

The Provincial government has adopted the implementation of the **Radical Agrarian Social Economic Transformation (RASET)**.

We need a clear and deliberate program of implementation of these two programmes in fulfillment of the promise we made to the people, a promise of a better life for all.

Radical Economic Transformation and RASET are two programmes that are a catalyst in taking our people out of poverty.

- The eThekweni municipality must be the tool to implement both of these programmes. We must develop activities and systems that will ensure the success of these programmes. In fact we have already started to create platforms and frameworks to achieve our objectives.
- We must strengthen local economic development structures and build capacity for small businesses to participate in the main stream economy. We need to encourage the diversification and unbundling of certain contracts for the participation of a larger percentage of businesses.
- We must prioritize the comprehensive youth development, create youth employment opportunities and drive youth programmes that will respond to social and economic of our city.

Programme Director,

The previous Council approved the city's budget for 2016/2017 totaling R41.6 billion. As agreed then, our priorities in the 2016/17 financial year are to:

- Address service delivery backlogs;

- Deliver human settlements;
- Drive youth and women empowerment;
- Promote economic growth and development;
- Ensure financial sustainability;
- Promote climate change mitigation and adaption;
- Deal with water and drought challenges;
- Ensure access to public transport;
- Ensure human capital development;
- Create a safer City;
- Create a socially cohesive City;
- Address social ills;
- Promote job creation; and
- Fight diseases such as TB, HIV/Aids

We must use budget as a tool to advance peoples power. Budget must spent on service delivery. We have a budget and we must push services. We must also pay our service providers especially our cooperatives and SMMEs.

I still believe the above programs are in line with our objectives. As the new Council we have to vigorously review these with the aim of improving rather than to destroy. We must also review the city's catalytic projects to ensure these projects deliver the objectives that were set at inception.

Our plans should consider the fact that we inherited part of Vulamehlo Municipality which is largely rural. We still have some rural ward in the city that needs our best consideration.

In my inaugural speech I committed in working with Amakhosi, traditional leaders and civil society in general. I still believe they play an important role. We need to also revive our RURAL Councillors structure.

At the end of the day I expect to see a clear programme that articulates our Manifesto, the national development plan and our radical economic programme. It must be able to address poverty, unemployment, inequality and underdevelopment. It must priorities youth, women, especially rural women and previously disadvantaged communities.

We must have a system that involves our ward committees, ward structures and all stakeholders. When we launch or start programs we should have a BIG MAMA approach.

In conclusion,

I want this Lekgotla to decide on how do we boost staff moral. We must have staff that is passionate about citizens. People who are prepared to work till late because they're happy at work.

We want to see all departments talking to one another. This municipality is not about individuals. Managers must stop competing to one another. We must work together and complement each other. What is happening on the left must be known on the right.

We must mean business. We must show seriousness. I still believe that we can do much better.

This year is a year of deepening unity, it is the year of OR Tambo. We must start now and work together. We must stop working in silos. We must stop this competition. We must clean this city. WE must have a city with less crime, no drugs and most liveable city. We must achieve this most liveable and most caring city in our lifetime. This term of office is critical for us to achieve it.

With those remarks, I welcome all of you here.