



METHODIST CHURCH – KWANDENGEZI
Delivered by Her Worship - Cllr Zandile Gumede, Mayor of
eThekweni Municipality

Mphathi wohlelo,

Abefundisi,

Omama nobaba,

Izintombi nezinsizwa,

Usono skole,

Ngokwehlukana kwezigaba zebandla,

Sanibonani,

Ngiyabingelela egameni lenkosi uJesu,

Kuyangithokozisa njalo ukuhlanganyela kunye nani kwinkonzo yePhasika. Mina ngihlezi ngisho ukuthi angisona isimenywa kulelibandla ngoba inkonzo yami, yinto engaphakathi kumina. Ngiyingane yalayikhaya, ningibona nje, ngimiswe imikhuleko yenu njengendodakazi yenu bazalwane. Ningadinwa umangabe ngifika ngingamenyiwe ngoba kusekhaya kumina angisidingi isimemo.

Firstly, we would like to thank you for inviting us to grace this wonderful occasion. We really appreciate being part of this service, we are really blessed this morning. We started today with an interdenominational service in Durban Exhibition Centre and we walked carrying a cross to the city hall.

Silugale kamnandi usuku lwanamhlanje ngenkonzo yamabandla sisuka e-Exhibition sayiphetha eCity Hall. Lona bekuwumfuziselo wohamba olwahanjwa uJesu ethwele isiphambano. Nebhayibheli liyasho lithi umangabe ufuna ukungilandela thabatha esakho isiphambano.

Bazwalane,

Lendlela esiyihambayo idinga ukuba sizidele sishiye inzondo nezono emumva silandele uJesu. Loluhambo lidinga abantu abazokwazi ukuthi sizothukwa, silinyazwe ngenxa yesinqumo esisithathileyo. Njengabaholi kuyinto esiyaziyo ukuthi mhlazane wangena esikhundleni abantu baqamba amanga babhale ngakho konke kodwa akumele udinwe ngoba wena usuke wazi ukuthi uMhlengi wakho ukhona. Lithi iculo – enza njengoJOBE okwathi noma ethukwa wangamlahla uNkulunkulu wakhe.

Umyalezo wethu esiwushumayelayo kulonyaka, umyalezo wobunye. This year is a year of President Oliver Tambo and a year of deepening unity. President Oliver Tambo was one of the deeply devoted Christians in our movement. He understood that there is a relationship between politics and religion. He understood that the ANC was founded in the church. It was a Methodist Church. The first meeting of the ANC was opened and closed in prayer. It was attended by the church leaders and its first President was a Reverend JL Dube, uMafukuzela. This is why we celebrate President Oliver Tambo. President Tambo was regarded a glue that held the movement together. President Tambo is a symbol of unity.

Our main mission is to unite society behind the vision of this country. We don't want to see the continuation of racial divisions. We don't want to see brothers fighting one another. We don't want to see families being divided. We are preaching unity and we believe that if we unite as a nation we will prosper. Ngokubambisana sizophumelela.

We recognize that we must not only be united through praying or marching together. We must not only be seen marching together for political course

but we must also be seen marching of economic freedom. We must learn to share this economic power. We want to see black and whites marching for economic freedom and be willing to share.

We want to see unity that will defeat poverty and unemployment. We are encouraging people to share our economy and land. This is why we have something called radical economic transformation. We are saying black people must get a bigger slice of our economy. We cannot continue to be poor in our own country.

Umyalezo wethu uthi abantu abamnyama kumele nabo bahlomulo kumnotho wethu. Inkululeko yethu iyafana nohambo olusuka eGibhithe luqonde eKhanana. Sithi njengoba sesikhululekile kubandlululo kumele sihlomule ngoJu Kanye noBisi. Abantu bakathi abangahlupheki kulelizwe elinengecebo nomnotho. Siyazi futhi ukuthi izinyosi azifuni noJU lwazo ingakho zisitinyela kangaka. Ziyasilwisa zindlela zonke ngenxa yokuthi sesikhuluma indaba yomnotho. Bazalwane, sibhekene nempi enzima ingakho sicela umkhuleko kunina. Nikhulekele noMongameli ngoba uyena osiholayo kulendaba yokubuyiswa komhlaba Kanye-nomnotho. Ningayeki ukukhulekela uMongameli wethu.

Programme Director,

We want to use these Easter holidays to rest and reflect. We need this time to reflect on the importance of the Lord and our purpose in this life which is far greater than we can see. We need to reflect if we are still on the right path so that we can change our ways before it is too late. We must give thanks to the Creator for giving us an opportunity to live. We must be thankful of our children and families.

We also recognize that the month of April is one of the important months in our calendar as South Africans. It is the month that we received freedom

by being able to vote for the peoples government of choice led by President Mandela.

We need to take time and reflect how we changed the lives of our people. As the ANC, we realize how have been able to stabilize democracy by setting up independent judiciary, free media and having chapter nine institution. We have bill of rights and all the freedoms. We have also tried to cushion the poor through our socialist programme. We have free education, social grants, bursaries, EPWP and other forms of social security.

As we move forward we are saying we want radical economic transformation. We want an economy that will accommodate our African people who were oppressed. We want economic growth and stability that will benefit the masses. We want change and change for the better. Our freedom is meaningless without jobs and economic opportunities. Our freedom is meaningless if the majority of the economy is still in the hands of the few males.

Programme Director,

We also have a challenge of social ills such as alcohol abuse, rape, drugs, crime and violence that we are seeing on our television. In Durban we are worried by increasing number of youth who are using drugs including young girls.

As we celebrate the month of Freedom in prayer, we also want to see our children being freed from the drugs. We want a drug free generation. We want to see these children leaving our streets and being reunited with their families. We need a comprehensive strategy that will see these kids being rehabilitated and united with society. Asibakhulekele abantwana bethu baphume kwizidakamizwa.

Programme Director,

In closing, we are very grateful to be invited to be part of tonight's occasion. As a new Mayor am willing to create better working relations with you. We need to hold hands together. You are doing a wonderful job for our community and if we work together we can even do better. I want to work closely with you. Please be in touch with my office even if I am not present but you will be assisted. I am also the chairperson of the ANC in eThekweni and we want to have more discussions with you. We don't have to talk when we only have elections. I invite you to come to my office and let us engage.

As we will be celebrating the Family Day holiday on Monday, may you all feel the bright joyful blessings that the Almighty has to offer you these holidays, and may it bring all the families happiness, health and lots of love.

Let us love one another. Respect the rules of our roads. Be safe!

I thank you.