



Speaking Notes for Deputy Mayor – Cllr Peer

Programme Director,

Organisers,

Sponsors,

KZN Film Board,

Durban Film office,

Councillors present,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Nominees,
Media,
All protocol observed,
Sanibonani siyanamukela eThekwini.

Firstly, we would like to extend our best wishes to the Muslim community as they prepare to observe the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is the most sacred month on the Muslim calendar and marks the time when Islam's holy book, the Qur'an, was revealed. It also is a time of devotion and reflection when Muslims abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting us to grace this occasion, on behalf of the matter we would like to thank the organisers for putting together this powerful ceremony. We also would like to congratulate all the nominees in all the categories for making it to shortlist, we also encourage those who were not nominated to work even harder for an OSCAR!

South Africa has a vibrant, growing film industry that is growing in reputation and

is competitive internationally, this is according to Brand SA. Local and foreign filmmakers are taking advantage of the country's diverse, unique locations – as well as low production costs and favourable exchange rate, which make it cheaper to make a movie here than elsewhere.

This is one of the reason in 2003, that the eThekweni Municipality established the Durban Film Office (DFO) which is a division of the Department of Economic Development responsible for the promotion and development of the Film Industry in the eThekweni Municipality.

The Durban Film Office is the film-industry development arm of the eThekweni Municipality, mandated to position Durban as a world-class film production destination and facilitate the development of the local film industry. The office is also responsible for facilitating and coordinating on-location filming in the City of Durban and surrounds.

The eThekweni Filmmakers Association and the Durban Film Office with the help of the Municipality has been recognizing our local film industry talent, encouraging growth and assisting our local film industry practitioners improve the

quality of the films they produce, increase production for a much livelier industry and unearthing new talent literally from our own backyard.

Our municipality is at the forefront of local film funding, having just opened a new film grant funding call out for this year and these awards expose film makers to an audience.

These awards were started in 2011 with the vision to show the naysayers that it is possible to produce good quality, local stories within a limited budget constraints. I am even told that some of the producers made these films with no budget.

As the city we will continue to support the film industry and we hope it will grow. We are the city that is on the coast with wonderful weather and we believe that we have a potential of growing film industry.

We still believe that SABC should broadcast our stories produced by our local people. We support the local content agenda and it should increase to 100 % on our screens. We need to tell our stories for generations to come. We need to sing and hear our music on our public radio stations and that is not too much to ask.

Congratulations to all the winners to be announced tonight.

With those few words, I thank you!