



**Speech by Patron, Mayor Zandile Gumede, at the Re-Launch of
Mama Zandile Gumede Foundation Dinner
19 May 2017**

Programme Director -
Chairperson of the Board – Mr Mlungisi Ntombela,
Board Members and CEO – Mr Wiseman Mkhize
ANC Leadership
Our Sponsors,
Ambassadors present,
Special guests,
Ladies and Gentleman,
Good evening – sanibonani,

A warm welcome to all of you, thank you for coming to grace this wonderful evening. Its bee

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here tonight to mark a very special occasion which to me is the re-birth of the Mama Zandile foundation which is now **“Light of Ubuntu.”**

UBUNTU is what we all know, it is how we were raised. We were cultured in Ubuntu. Ubuntu generally means “the quality of being human.” Ubuntu manifests itself through various human acts, clearly visible in social, political, and economic situations, as well as among families or communities.

Ubuntu can be seen and felt in the spirit of willing participation, unquestionable cooperation, warmth, openness, and personal dignity demonstrated by the indigenous black population.

Ubuntu kuthina kusho ukuba nesihhawu, ukuba nozwelo, ukuthanda umakhelwane wakho, ukupha, ukusiza umuntu ongamazi, nokwazi ukuthi – Umuntu ungumuntu ngabantu.

Mama Zandile Gumede is about sharing and giving to those who don't have. We are about ensuring that we take care of each other as a nation and communities or individuals. This is a platform we are creating for people to contribute towards changing lives of individuals, families and communities. Mother Theresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love." Close quote.

We want to revive the consciousness of our people to begin to give and taking care of those who do not have anything. You don't have to have a billion rand in your account, give the little you have. Give with your time, talent and money and you will be blessed.

U-Jesu uyasho ukuthi – "Ngokuba ngangilambile, nangangipha ukudla; ngangomile, nangangiphuzisa; ngangiwumfokazi, nanga ngingenisa;

"Khona bayakuyiphendula abalungileyo ngokuthi: 'Nkosi, sakubona nini ulambile sanga kupha ukudla, noma womile sangakuphuzisa, na?

"Isiyakuphendula iNkosi, ithi kubo: 'Ngiqinisile ngithi kini, njengokuba nikwenzile komunye walaba bafowethu abancane, nikwenzile kimi.'

It means if we take care of the poor, we are giving to God directly. If you take care of the poor in our communities- we are in a godly mission. Ubuntu is about godliness – Ubuntu is about doing the work of God to other Human beings.

This is a company that sells a unique product called Ubuntu. Our customers are very unique, they're small and big businesses, families and individuals who love people. Ubuntu is for Abantu.

That is exactly why I launched the Light of Ubuntu NPC.

As you can see from the objectives of the Foundation critical areas are to be addressed. Among those are:

- Education, including skills and life skills development;
- Youth development;
- Agricultural programmes
- Community representation structures development;
- Access to health and medical facilities and treatment;

Programme Director,

South Africa emerged from the difficult period of apartheid to be this beautiful country. When you go around to communities especially rural areas and townships, you can see the scars of apartheid. Government alone cannot change that, we all need to work together to reach-out to our people.

So tonight is about launching a vehicle or platform that can be used to transform lives of ordinary people. We need to be the hand that can reach where government cannot reach. Government has provided people with shelters and houses, but some families are sleep hungry. While government is busy delivering houses for other people, this foundation will be giving them food and clothes. We are supportive of this government of the ANC.

If government gives people land – we will be there with seeds so that there can be agricultural activities. If government builds sporting fields, our task as this Foundation is to ensure that kids have sporting kits and are playing.

This Foundation is responding to the call by Government of President Zuma that said – if we work together we do more.

Let me emphasize that the Foundation's programs seek to supplement and enhance what is already being done and especially to speed up delivery, and to ensure that adequate standards are achieved and maintained. We will work to unlock government programmes where they already exist, and make sure that they are holistic in their approach of our communities and their overall development.

The programmes and activities of the Foundation will obviously focus primarily on the eThekweni Municipality areas, but our vision is to go beyond eThekweni and KZN. Where possible we must reach to Africa, directly or indirectly because where have foreign national living in our city.

Programme Director,

Yesterday marked a very special day for me and my team, as we hosted a much informative high tea with a group of influential ladies, followed by a round table discussion. We later held a golf challenge in Mount Edgecombe where I displayed my golfing skills. Unfortunately, I was wearing high-hill shoes, I was going to show you flames if I had my proper golf shoes. Next time, I will be there to play for myself, ngiyanembe mina.

We really had fun as friends, associates and comrades, but we also formally and informally shared our dreams and vision for the growth and upliftment of

our communities. I was very excited yesterday but tonight is going to be even more exciting. It is going to be Lit! We will make money and more money.

Ladies, before we get there, I want to appreciate our sponsors for ensuring that we have this Re-Launch.

Secondly, let me also thank those who are about to contribute millions towards Ubuntu. I pray to God that he touches your heart. I think you must take a moment and see if you can contribute more. Pledging will allow you more time to raise monies. Maybe you currently have R50 and waiting for R2million invoice to be paid by a client. I want to encourage you to dig deeper into your pockets.

The support and contributions will make it possible for our future generations - especially young women to stand on your shoulders and to reach even higher heights than what you have already achieved. Your contribution will ensure that we have more men who are prepared to protect our women. The killing of young girls has shocked this nation, it shows that we don't have UBUNTU.

I strongly condemn the abuse and killing of women. We send our deep our deepest condolences to the families of these children.

We have a challenge of building this society and re-introducing the values of Ubuntu. We need to raise our children in the African culture of Ubuntu. We must begin to care about one another and be concerned about our neighbours. If your neighbour is hungry give them food, if your neighbour is being abused – call the POLICE.

We are about UBUNTU – when you give remember that you are building or rebuilding this nation.

God bless you and our beloved country.

Siyabonga kakhulu !!

