



WELCOMING REMARKS – AFRIWATER CONFERENCE & WORLD WATER DAY

Delivered by Cllr Fawzia Peer, Acting Mayor of eThekweni Municipality

Program Director – Minister of Water of Sanitation – Ms Nomvula Monkonyane,

His Excellency, President of the Republic of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma,

Chair of UN – Water , Mr Guy Ryder,

Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Hon Willies Mchunu,

Cabinet Ministers Present here,

Our African and World Ministers,

Provincial MEC for COGTA, Ms Nomusa Dube-Ncube,

Municipal Councillors and Mayors present,

Members of the Civil Society,

Technocrats and Academics,

Government officials,

Members of the Media,

All Protocol Observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Sanibonani, dumelang.

It is with great pleasure to welcome you this morning to the World Water Day Celebration and the AfriWater Conference and Exhibition, which is hosted by city of Durban. We are grateful to see all of you gathered here and we hope that you will enjoy your stay in this beautiful world class city.

Most importantly for us as the city, is to ensure that you have a most productive conference and be able to deal with the water issue at hand. Our vision as the city, is to be the most liveable and caring city in Africa by 2030 and yes, we want to be sustainable.

Programme Director,

This conference has come at a critical time when parts of the country were still grappling with drought. We are still praying for rain and preaching our gospel of saving water to the millions of our citizens. We are proud to host this important conference which will allow our African countries and cities to build partnerships and create information sharing platforms on ways to deal with challenges in the water sector. It will also assist the City in dealing with water loss which is between 35 percent and 40 percent.

We will continue with our wide-ranging drought awareness campaign ahead of and during the winter season. We will be saying to our residents and businesses they must continue to save water and help replenish our depleted water resources.

Honourable Minister,

Accelerating urbanisation and aging infrastructure provide opportunities for adopting alternative, decentralised and low-cost approaches to wastewater management tailored to meet specific local needs. As the city faced with issue of urbanization, we hope that we will be able to find better solution in this gathering.

This conference is about taking action to tackle the water crisis. We must use this conference to find solutions for our cities and nations world over. Water is life and it is has become a scarce resource that needs to be saved and protected. It must be protected from us by us.

Programme Director,

This conference came at an opportune moment for us when we are celebrating human rights month as the nation. We have come a long way when millions of our indigenous people were drinking water with cows. When they were suffering from cholera due to drinking unclean water.

We come from a period when water infrastructure was only used to direct water to business and other races while our people were suffering. We have made significant changes as this government and we believe we can even do more. Since our democratic take over we have learnt from our mistakes and we hope to do better now moving forward. We believe that this platform is important for this democratic government and our municipalities.

We would like to wish you a successful conference and we hope that our Durban magic will make this conference historic. We would like to invite you to enjoy our city during breaks and we have an exciting line-up of cultural events tonight. We want you to celebrate our human rights with us.

Distinguish guests,

Durban is Africa's events capital and is the destination of choice for a variety of International, National and Local Events, which are draw cards for global and African tourists into South Africa. Our city has a reputation and a proven track record of successfully hosting of major global events and this is a standard we are determined to maintain.

I encourage all of you to take some time out to explore some the offerings of the City's tourism and hospitality products and experiences. We have some of the world class facilities and we are confident that all our visitors will have a memorable time during their stay in Durban.

With those few words, welcome to Durban, the warmest place to be!