



SPEECH BY HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR ZANDILE GUMEDE OF THE ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY TO WELCOME AND HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MARTIN SCHAFFER, GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA

Oysterbox Hotel, Tuesday 18h30

- Your Excellency Mr Martin Schaffer, German Ambassador to South Africa,
- The German-Honourary Consul based in Durban, Mr Horst Achtzehn.
- Members of the German South Africa Chamber of Commerce
- The German Delegation
- Members of the Executive Committee of the eThekweni Municipality
- The leadership of the Durban Chamber of Commerce
- Deputy City Managers and officials from the eThekweni municipality

Sanibonani, good evening, a warm welcome to all of you. On behalf of the people of our city, I wish to welcome his Excellency the Ambassador and all of you to this dinner to honour and express our sincere appreciation for the partnership and support that we have received from the German government.

Today we are welcoming you and your delegation in the month that we will be celebrating our 24 years of freedom, mourning the death of our stalwarts Ms Winne Madikizela-Mandela and Dr. Zola Skweyiya.

As the nation, we have dedicated this year to celebrate the centenary of our founding President, Dr Nelson Mandela. We are also commemorating the life and contribution of Mum Albertina Sisulu.

The President of the Republic, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, have declared this year as the year of Jobs, Unity and Renewal. We can say it here without fear that South Africa is on the road to economic recovery and our government is creating an enabling environment to boost investor confidence. Our government is initiating measures to set the economy on a new path of growth, employment and transformation

Programme Director,

As we celebrate the year of Madiba's centenary, we also welcome the announcement that was made by Germany that it will for the first time be issuing a postal stamp in the former president's memory. This is a sign of loyalty, friendship and brotherhood. You stood with us in difficult times and today we are celebrating together.

Speaking in 1995, President Mandela said – I quote – **“In as much as we benefited immensely from the support of the German people in the struggle against apartheid, we can learn much by drawing on your valuable experiences in reconstruction and development.**

Above all, history has placed economic reconstruction and national reconciliation at the centre of the challenges faced by both countries.” Close quote.

We continue to place the issues of unity and reconciliation on our agenda in order to heal the wounds of our past. Moreover, we have realised that total reconciliation requires transformation of our economy in order to achieve equality.

I am sure that all our cooperation projects that we have worked on with Germany over the years will make our fallen leaders proud of our achievements to date. We must continue the journey of making a better life for all our people in Germany, South Africa and across the globe.

On behalf of the people of our city I wish to express our sincere appreciation for all the cooperation and projects that have impacted positively on the life of our people and supported our efforts to promote the sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

I also wish to express our sincere gratitude for all the support we have received from the German people during the difficult times associated with the Apartheid era.

On Friday, we will be celebrating 24 years of our liberation. later in the post-Apartheid South Africa we still have strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that strives to do the following;

- Eradicate racism and sexism in our society's.
- Build strong institutional arrangement to create jobs, protect our environment and ensure sustainable systems of transport and economic growth.

- Build strong partnerships that will protect us all from the negative impacts of climate change.
- Our cooperation will also enable us to impact on the education of young people through the Bremen –Durban Ocean Champs programme. The exchange programmes between Bremen and Durban targeting university students will also have a positive impact on their careers and stronger German-South African relations.
- Our cooperation with our German partners BORDA on key water and sanitation projects that focus on enhanced service delivery, innovation and research has made a strong contribution to the city's water and sanitation service delivery agenda. It has also allowed us to share knowledge and experience with other cities around the world and in particular on our continent of Africa.
- The partnership and cooperation with our GO DURBAN transport team has yielded some positive results. We are on track with the first phase of the GO DURBAN transport plan. We are looking forward to on-going cooperation on our public transport plans with our German partners.
- Support and cooperation with our city planners has made a positive contribution to the policy development and project design of the municipality's development and planning department.
- Other important areas of cooperation with the German government we wish to develop and enhance are agriculture, training and

development of education and economic opportunities from the ocean economy and our strategic port. Cooperation with our institutions of higher learning will also be another area that we can consolidate and expand.

- In the fields of trade and investment we will work with your office and our Invest Durban team to stimulate and enhance mutually beneficial trade and investment relations. The key sectors we are working on are; Auto-motive, Green energy, clothing and textiles, wood and furniture, tourism, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure, creative industries, urban renewal and agriculture. We wish to cooperate with big business in the private sector and the SMMEs and entrepreneur's. We also wish to cooperate with the German partners on how we can create an environment for transformation and inclusion so that we address the inequality in our society.

The work we have done together has made a useful contribution to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. I am sure we all realise the huge task that still lies ahead to realise the SDG's. I am sure that we can build on our current areas of cooperation to strengthen the SDG's and take them to a higher level.

In conclusion I wish you a successful and productive trip to Durban and hoping that our friendship and cooperation will flourish and grow from strength to strength.

I thank you!!!!