

Speaking Notes for Mayor Zandile Gumede during the Durban Business Fair launch held at Durban City Hall Church Walk – 04 May 2018.

Deputy Mayor,
Cluster Chairperson, Cllr Kaunda,
City Manager, Nzuza,
Officials,
Business society,
Members of the Community,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Sanibonani,

This morning we officially gave the Freedom of the City to the SANDF Durban Regiment. These were the soldiers who were deployed on our borders such Lesotho to fight crime at our entry point.

Again this evening, we are unveiling and celebrating the two decades of successful Durban Business Fair. We are celebrating 20 years and unveiling the logo which represent this important milestone in our history. This is wonderful news especially now that we have adopted the Radical Economic Transformation which means black small business are going to grow and become big business and be on the JSE.

FOR the past two decades, eThekweni Municipality has intensified its support to businesses by providing an invaluable platform to showcase and market their products, network and create linkages through the Durban Business Fair (DBF).

To further stimulate the growth and sustainability of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), the Municipality will kick-start the DBF 20-year celebration programme by hosting the first Regional Fair at the Inner and Outer West of Durban in Hammarsdale Junction on 25-27 May.

We are inviting all SMMEs to register for this three-day exhibition platform which will include a number of empowerment practises and seminars to be headlined by influential businesspeople. Interested businesses have until 16 May to register for the Inner and Outer West Regional Business Fair

Regional Business Fairs are a lead-up to the main Durban Business Fair to take place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 18 to 23 September. Entrepreneurs are urged to also start registering for the main Fair.

This year of President Mandela and Mama Sisulu is all about celebrating the positive impact the Fair has had on emerging businesses. The Fair has become a key tool for the City to accelerate the development of SMMEs.

This fair has grown from strength to strength and managed to produce a number of remarkable entrepreneurs that have contributed in reducing the high unemployment rate.

The fruition of the programme has also attracted global business empowerment events which were hosted alongside with the Fair in the

previous years. These include 19th International conference of small and medium enterprises and Essence.

These exhibitions has yielded lucrative benefits for the City such as boosting its profile, economic status, creating employment and business linkages.

As the ANC led government, we are convinced that through small business development, we will be able to unlock economic opportunities and thus achieve inclusive economic growth as well as sustainable employment for the historically marginalized.

Our key focus will be on youth development and township economies revitalisation. The Fair is the strategic platform to achieve economic development goals as it attracts esteemed businesses, private sector partners and investors who can identify opportunities and partner with us in driving radical economic transformation.

We are moving South Africa forward and creating opportunities.

Forward to Radical Economic Freedom.

Halala eThekweni, Halala Durban Business Fair