



**Speech for Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede  
on the occasion of  
Tourism Indaba opening ceremony - Durban ICC**

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- Programme Director,
- His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa
- Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honorable Willies Mchunu,
- Honourable Minister of Tourism, Mr Darek Hanekom,
- KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Sihle Zikalala
- Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic corps,
- Captains of industry,
- Our international guests and friends,
- Delegates of the Tourism Indaba,
- Distinguished guests,
- Members of the media
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Sanibonani!

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you all here today to our

warm and friendly City of Durban.

It is always an honor for us to host this gathering of key decision makers and influencers in the Tourism Industry, the biggest in the Southern hemisphere.

We believe that over the years we have displayed our prowess and flamboyance when it comes to hosting Indaba.

This, I believe, is what has led to the national government entrusting us with hosting this splendid gathering for the next 05 years.

Our view is that arriving at this decision would have been also influenced by the fact that the Tourism Indaba has become synonymous with Durban and I am sure that most of us here cannot imagine Indaba hosted anywhere else but in Durban.

We would like to once again give our heartfelt gratitude to the South African Tourism Department for recognizing the efforts that we have invested in ensuring that we host a spectacle each time we were given an opportunity to host Indaba.

Most importantly, I want to give a special message of gratitude to the people of Durban and our local tourism industry. It is the passion that has been shown by the locals in working with us to grow tourism that has enabled us to continue to lead.

Honoured guests, I stand here today to reassure you that over the next five years, we will take Indaba to unimaginable levels.

Last year we made a promise that over the next five years, we will raise the bar to a level where government will have no choice but to make Indaba a permanent Durban show.

Today, I want to reiterate that we intend to use this platform to grow access to tourism for all and to unlock the tourism potential of Durban into Africa and beyond.

In this regard, we have already started with major investments, in partnership with the private sector, to ensure that we build the necessary capacity to ensure that Durban continues to be a global city and Africa's leading tourism and investment destination.

Some of the cutting edge investments that we have undertaken in this regard include the R200 million investment towards a Cruise Terminal in the Durban Harbour.

The project is expected to complement the Durban Point Waterfront developments, which will extend the beachfront promenade from uShaka beach towards the entrance of the harbour entrance.

We estimate that the investment for the Durban Point Waterfront project over the next 10 to 15 years to be around R30 billion to R35 billion. We

also anticipate that this project alone will generate an economic activity that will yield more than 11 000 construction jobs and 6 750 permanent jobs, upon completion.

In his state of the nation address, President Cyril Ramaphosa did not mince his words when he called on all of us to work towards an economic growth agenda that creates jobs.

In this regard, we are happy that this clarion call came at a time when we had already adopted a programme of catalytic projects, which will change the landscape of the City in the near future.

To us, this was a reassurance that our work was in line with the national government priorities.

Spade work is currently happening at the construction of the all our major infrastructure investment projects and we are confident that upon completion, we would have responded adequately to this call by our President.

Some of these projects include the R40 billion rand mixed-use Kings Estate development in the North of Durban. This project will enable us to intergrate the North of the City with facilities like the Dube Trade Port and the King Shaka International Airport.

This will create a more balanced spatial footprint for ease in economic activity and easy access to our ports of entry for access to global markets.

Another project that we pride ourselves with is the Keystone Logistics and Business Hub, west of Durban.

Phase one of this project, which has an investment value of R6 billion, was complete and has already seen three factories finished.

Programme Director, some of the projects that are currently underway include; The Pearls Umhlanga, The Arch, Nedbank Square, Suncoast Casino renovations, construction of the Clairwood Logistics Park, Cornubia and Dube Tradeport expansion.

Esteemed guests, the point I am trying to make is that the completion of the above projects will enable Durban to be a gateway into the African continent, for both tourism and investment.

Another important factor is the overwhelming positive response we have received from the private sector.

Most of the projects that I have listed above are Private-Public-Partnerships (PPP) and that is an assurance of a responsive business sector that is willing to work with government in growing the economy of our City.

It is for this reason that we are confident that we have created an enabling environment for business to thrive in Durban.

In this regard, I would like to state that the discussions you will be having in your meetings over the next few days must be guided by the fact that as the City, we are open for business.

Programme Director,

In June this year, the Mayor will lead a delegation to London to promote Durban and KZN as a destination for investment. The leadership of the city wants to ensure that there are valuable linkages from the new Foreign Investments into our local SMME's, and Community Participation Groups. We want to see new investments being spread across the city, including our townships and rural areas.

The strategic objective of this initiative is to further promote Durban as Africa's premier investment destination. This will deliver on the call for all spheres of government to proactively secure accelerated investment and job creation. The leadership of the City will engage in high level discussions with the UK cities of Newcastle and London including their business leadership.

In line with her vision of job creation, the Mayor seeks to extend and deepen government and business relations as well as bilateral investment drives to Durban. The focal point is to create as much exposure for the City and catalytic projects and to further cement foreign direct investments into the region. It will also create a platform for exposure of further investment-ready flagship projects across the whole province in a

demonstration of intergovernmental cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to be inspired by, connect with and fully immerse yourselves in the Durban experience.

Our City has won major accolades and is highly recommended by many reputable international platforms like CNN, New York Times Travel and many others.

This international recognition, albeit a result of our investment in a consented global marketing campaign, has also served to motivate us to focusing significant additional investment and resources into our tourism attributes.

This is aimed at building a strong global travel brand and identity for the City of Durban and the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

To all Tourism Indaba delegates, hosted buyers and media, I trust that Durban will prove a memorable host city and that interaction with exhibitors during this year's three-day Tourism Indaba will lead to the continued growth of this vital economic sector.

Welcome to Durban!

I thank you.