

Opening and Welcome by Mayor Zandile Gumede at Glodina Announcement held in Hammersdale, 6 November 2018

Programme Director,

MEC for EDTEA, Hon Sihle Zikalala,

CEO for IDC,

CEO Glodina,

Senior Management,

Amakhosi present,

Councillors present,

Distinguished guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of eThekweni Council and welcome you to this wonderful and exciting event. We thank you that this day that we have all been waiting for, has finally come. I also do not know what this big announcement is about but its sound exciting. This morning it is going to be Lit. Christmas has come early for the people of Hammersdale and surrounding areas.

This area and it surroundings has been heavily affected by major job losses. Companies have closed down and people are sitting at home without jobs. Some people have lost hope and the whole area looks like a ghost town.

As this government, we are here to revive hope and also to say we are together. There is light at the end of the tunnel. We have good news this morning.

This area of Mpumalanga, Ntshanga, KwaXimba, Hammersdale, Georedale, Sankontshe and all the surroundings is our key priority. We have plans to revitalize its economy. We are optimistic that we will create the much needed jobs in the near future. When the Rainbow chicken closed down, we said we as the city we will come up with plans.

I am pleased to announce that we will be piloting Poultry Hubs in the western areas of the city (like Hammersdale and Georedale), in response to the high unemployment which was exacerbated by the retrenchment of about 2000 workers in the poultry sector (at Rainbow chicken).

Seeing some sites operating at the Keystone project is very exciting. The Keystone project is another major game changer in the area. We are happy and excited by opportunities that have been created especially for the youth. We are looking forward to another project which is the Dry Port that is coming very soon.

The SANRAL project is continuing after being stopped for several months. We discourage the stoppages of projects by government and private sector. This is not good for our image. We are pushing away the investors. Let's resolve our issues without disruption because some investors will pull out and move to other cities.

As people of KwaZulu-Natal we must not allow violence and disruption to be the order of the day. It is bad for our image and future of this province.

In the eThekweni region, the manufacturing sector remains a significant feature of our local economy. EThekweni's manufacturing firms have a significant advantage in that the port of Durban provides a premier export service to the rest of Southern Africa. It is critical for our local manufactures use our advantages of being the premier port and logistics gateway to diversify its own economy to increase the local production of goods and services. We hope that Glodina will take advantage of such opportunities and other local businesses.

There are several ways in which eThekweni Municipality may assist manufacturers in the region. The development and implementation of targeted sector support programmes is the core tenant of any industrial revitalisation plan. The Municipality has already had a success with many of its sector development programmes, most notably the Durban Automotive Cluster, Durban Chemicals Cluster, KZN Clothing and Textile Cluster and the eThekweni Maritime Cluster. These sector support programmes should be supported by business support and enterprise development services which focus on a range of interventions, including improving access to markets; access to finance; business skills; and managing red tape.

In closing, I would like to speak of youth unemployment which is a concern for us. The unemployed youth are a ticking bomb and if we don't urgently address it, this will explode on us. As government we are serious about working with young people in order for them to be independent. We do have programmes that looks into skills development, career counselling and education.

We have advertised on our eZasegagasini newspaper for learnerships, bursaries and internship programmes. I encourage you to apply.

According to our research, between 2001 and 2011, Durban had the smallest increase in the number of adults with post-matric qualification. This is particularly concerning as many firms frequently commented that a matric certificate is no longer a useful indicator of job-readiness, and that post-secondary education is becoming a more frequent mandatory requirement. EThekwini's Youth Education and Employment study found that there is indeed a general lack of job preparedness amongst not only school leavers, but tertiary graduates as well. A key finding from this study is that firms felt that the caliber of school leavers has deteriorated significantly.

Our focus will be less on events but more on programs. We want to see more youth attending our programs with a pen and paper because we will be learning new lessons. We will be giving you advise that you need in order to succeed. Youth must never partake in protest that disruptive. We are in a new revolution known as fourth industrial revolution.

Programme Director, we are looking forward to this announcement and the whole of South Africa is eagerly waiting to here. The good news is that as KwaZulu-Natal we have been able to create new job opportunities in this quarter. Without further waste of time, you are all welcome.

Siyanamukela