



Welcoming Address by Cllr Mpume Sithole
On the occasion of Graduation of women councilors and
Amakhosi
08 November 2018

- Programme director
- MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nomsa Dube
- Municipal Managers;
- All Councilors;
- Traditional Leaders;
- Invited Guests;

First and foremost, I would like thank you for inviting us to be part of this wonderful and beautiful event.

I am proud that I am representing Mayor Gumede. She was looking forward to this event but unfortunately there is another pressing matter that she is attending.

Programme Director, on the 3rd August 2016 the people of the KwaZulu-Natal spoke voted for party of their choices.

The IEC told us that the number of voters who participated in the local government elections on that day were the highest recorded in local government elections history.

What that tells us is that there has been an awakening in the South African electorate. This means, as leaders, we have an electorate that is acutely aware of their needs.

By voting us into office, the electorate laid their trust in us as public representatives. They placed a great burden on our shoulders to help get them out of poverty and unemployment. We need not betray that trust placed upon us.

Since the local government elections, the message from the ANC-led has been clear. The message has been that - once elected into office partisanship should be placed in the back. We have a contract with the people and are servants of the people – who are deployed by the ANC.

We should act in unity in order to fulfil the mandate given to us. We need to take joint ownership for the development of our respective municipalities.

Acting in partnership with our communities, we need to see to it that all of us as councillors hold regular meetings with their constituents.

At the Mayoral and Speaker's office, we have a monitoring system. This checks if we are doing our job and reports on back to basics policy. This is important element of governance. It is not policing the wrong but assist us in dealing with issues.

The ANC-leadership in government has been stating very clear that communication is a vital tool in ensuring that the right kind of service is delivered to the right kind of community.

We must close the social distance that exists between us and communities. At all material times, we must be found with the people – side by side. We must be accessible at all levels, in all street corners and not just be present BUT address issues.

Working together and having constant dialogue means joint ownership of local development. We cannot work in silos.

For us to succeed we must work together. We believe that by working together we can achieve more and do greater things.

Most importantly, we must work with remote members of the community such as elders, rural women and young children. This includes engaging traditional, religious leaders and other leaders of society.

Programme Director, at this stage, we want to express our appreciation to the MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nomsa Dube-Ncube for leading this programme of training women councillors and Amakhosi.

It should also be noted that women continue to contribute to nation building by being actively involved as professionals in government, municipalities, the private sector, as entrepreneurs and many other sectors which were previously dominated by men.

We do not overlook the women who continue to work as domestic workers, farm labourers, on the factory floor, as street traders and several other occupations which help them earn a living and raise their children.

These women are a beacon of hope for the future of this country because even though they are economically active respectively, they continue to play the role of home makers. They bring up children under trying circumstances and are building families which are the future of this province and this country.

Importantly, we want to thank all the sponsors who have funded this training programme. Our message as eThekweni Municipality is that lets continue to work together in order to create a stronger KZN both economically and socially.

This training will help all of us to be in a better position to strengthen service delivery. On the other hand, Amakhosi have also been empowered to lead all efforts aimed at winning the war against poverty.

Women councillors and Amakhosi must work together to create a better province for future generation. In line with year of Ma Albertina Sisulu – a woman of fortitude.

She inspired a generation of leaders who have since swelled the ranks of the democratic movement and our government. To us she has left huge footprints that tracks our history of suffering, and resilience under immeasurable harassment and dehumanization under apartheid.

As South Africans, we owe it to this pedigree of revolutionaries who defined the course and tempo of our struggle. Indeed, we can without equivocation, say that as South Africans, we today enjoy the freedom and democracy because of her selfless contribution.

Once again, we salute MEC Nomsa Dube-Ncube and her department, she is our own Ma Sisulu and inspiration.

I thank you