



**Address by Her Worship, the Deputy Mayor Cllr Fawzia
Peer on the Occasion of the ANC's Progressive Business
Forum Luncheon**

**04 October 2016 – 12h00
Coastlands Hotel - Umhlanga**

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- Programme Director,
 - Leadership and members of the Progressive Business Forum,
 - Businesspeople,
 - Sponsors and stakeholders,
 - Esteemed guests and dignitaries,
 - Ladies and gentlemen,
 - All protocol observed,

Good day ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of eThekweni Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Zandile Gumede, it is with honour that I address you on this important occasion.

As the newly elected 5th eThekweni Council, I wish to state on the onset that we have hit the ground running to ensure the acceleration of service delivery in all corners of our Municipality.

We have a mammoth task of delivering services to more than 3.5 million citizens residing in our Municipality. We must also take into account that our Municipality is a mix of urban, semi-urban and rural areas. Regardless of the area, we must deliver on our mandate.

We are grateful that the previous Council laid a firm foundation for service delivery as well as sustainable growth and development in our City.

Moving forward, the task at hand for us is to consolidate and fast track what has been achieved. We must reach for new heights and raise the bar through interventions that will change our City for the betterment of our people.

It must be noted that in the last financial year, the City achieved a clean financial audit and this can be attributed to good governance. In order to continue with this status, we vow to drive a corruption free City.

When the new Council assumed office, our Mayor took an approach of active oversight. This approach will put monitoring and evaluation at the centre of our service delivery agenda.

Transforming the township economy is going to receive an added focus over the next five years. We will work with all stakeholders, including the Progressive Business Forum, to fast track our vision of empowering small businesses – that are the heart of our previously disadvantaged areas and backbone of the economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, the development of young people, women and people living with disabilities us a major focus in our office.

We will look at resources that must be prioritised for youth development linked to job creation and the establishment of sustainable youth business enterprises. This is another area that we seek partnership with this Forum.

It must also be noted that our Municipality has the largest concentration of higher education institution in KwaZulu-Natal. Therefore, we will continue to partner with local universities and technical colleges in training programmes to ensure that our youth get the skills required for economic growth.

Also important is our commitment to build a globally competitive investment destination. This Forum will be excited to know that eThekwinI has built a One Stop Shop for investors and developers that will facilitate all catalytic projects.

The business community is excited by this initiative which indicates that we take their needs and concerns seriously.

As we speak, the City is in the process of establishing a team of experts that will assist our catalytic projects office to quickly achieve its objectives.

The catalytic projects will create in excess of 1 million construction jobs and over 600 000 permanent jobs over the next 20 years.

We would like this Forum to assist us in establishing Agri-Parks in eThekweni. This initiative will contribute to rural industrialisation and job creation.

The aim of the parks is to provide a network of contacts between producers, markets and processors, as well as infrastructure to process agricultural products. These parks are expected to create up to 900 000 employment opportunities.

We believe that there is a direct link between economic conditions and social ills, as a result, eThekweni is focused on improving the economic status of all our people.

Using our strengths as a dynamic growth node, we must maximise opportunities in our key economic sectors.

For our collaboration to be effective, we need to relentlessly pursue our key priorities like manufacturing, small businesses and innovation.

We remain highly cognisant of the development agenda of our young democracy and we will continue to work with business to grow our economy and create jobs.

Effective service delivery and economic transformation are key to the success of any Metropolitan Municipality.

Throughout our term of office, we shall keep lines of communication open and sustained. We believe that unity of purpose will remain a critical pillar of our work with all sectors of society.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for giving our City a platform to share with Forum the eThekwini that you know now and the eThekwini that will be in the coming years.

For eThekwini to achieve these goals, we wish to partner with the Progressive Business Forum and businesspeople.

Your contribution is highly valued in the development of our City!

Thank you!