



**Address by Her Worship, the Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede
on the occasion of the 3rd Annual Stop Human
Trafficking 5km Awareness Walk**

08 October 2016 – 09h00

Green Hub, Blue Lagoon, 31 Stiebel Place, Durban

- Programme Director,
- Umngeni Community Empowerment Centre Founders
Rodney and Gloria De Gee,
- Special guests:
 - Andre Joubert, Springbok Rugby Legend and 1995
World Cup Winner,
 - Dr Albu van Eeden, Chief Executive Officer of Doctors
for Life and Executive Board Member of the
International Right to Life Federation,
 - Rajen Singh, General Manager of Oil Tanking GC,
- Participants of the Walk,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Distinguished guests and dignitaries, participants of the 3rd Annual Stop Human Trafficking 5km Awareness Walk, I am honoured to join you this important occasion.

Let me state from the onset of my address that eThekweni Municipality fully sports today's course because we are creating awareness on a serious global issue.

Ladies and gentlemen, South Africa fully recognises the existence of human trafficking activities.

This has led to calls for global cooperation as well as the introduction of aligned legislation and immigration procedures.

South African girls are trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, while boys are trafficked for use in street vending, food service, and agriculture.

Human trafficking is a significant threat to our young democracy. Tackling human trafficking and exploitative labour practices are thus a priority for our government.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ghanian Diplomat Kofi Annan once said: **"Human beings are not property"**.

eThekweni fully supports his view and we are confident that our government remains unrelenting in our commitment to fight crime, however way it may manifests itself, especially in the

form that seeks to prey on the most vulnerable members of our communities, women and children.

When it comes to addressing these crimes, time is of the essence. The fight against trafficking requires our immediate and on-going attention.

In closing ladies and gentlemen, Pope Francis once said: **“The human person ought never to be sold or bought as if he or she were a commodity. Whoever uses human persons in this way and exploits them, even if indirectly, becomes an accomplice of injustice.”**

To the participants, have fun but remember that you are participating in a Walk for a good course!

Thank you!