



Address by Cllr Mpume Sithole on the Occasion of the WIZMIC India 2016 Send-Off Function

**12 October 2016 – 10h00
City Engineers on Old Fort Old**

- Programme Director,
- Deputy City Manager for Trading Services, Mr Philemon Mashoko,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Mr Gideon Vundla: Deputy Head: HR and Representing the Office of the Deputy City Manager: Human Settlements, Engineering Services, Transport Authority and Trading Services Cluster,
- Our guests of honour, the participants of the Wizards at Mathematics International Contest,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Good morning! Sanibonani!

It is an honour for me to address you all today as we bid farewell to participants of Wizards at Mathematics International Contest.

On behalf of eThekweni Municipality, we are proud of the achievements they have gradually built during the selection process.

It is truly fulfilling to witness the seeds of our labour bear such bright and exquisite fruits.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality, through the Human Settlements, Engineering Services and Transport Authority Cluster, Trading Services Cluster: Support Services Business Unit is mandated to implement Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives.

Through these initiatives, the plan is to collaborate with various stakeholders, partners and educational institutions to produce tertiary and career-ready learners who are equipped to meet current and future societal challenges.

It is with this philosophic attitude and approach that I stand behind and support such programmes and initiatives wholeheartedly.

In accordance with the principles and values of the Municipality, the City is fully committed to addressing and eradicating the shortage of scarce skills professionals within the Municipal area.

In bidding our future leaders a profound farewell, it is quite important to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of the organisers; and the people that ensured the success of this educational excursion our future leaders are about to embark on.

We most generously acknowledge and appreciate the efforts by the Wizards at Mathematics International Contest for presenting the children of our Municipality with this profound opportunity.

Similar to the Support Services Unit, WIZMIC also aims to:

- Promote and reward the pursuit of excellence in mathematics;
- Challenge and stimulate gifted mathematicians and to develop their talents;
- Select the top young achievers in mathematics from EThekwini; and
- Encourage continued participation in the study of mathematics.

To our young participants; as you depart our beautiful shores in the pursuit of empowering oneself, we urge you to remind the people of Vijnana Bharati, a science movement in Delhi of the Durban Exhibition Centre – 5th February 2016 when we held the Guinness World Record Attempt.

Walk tall, walk proud, walk with confidence and constantly remind them that you are the Guinness World Record holders for the **LARGEST PRACTICAL SCIENCE LESSON** hosted by our City. We have indeed come a long way.

These young boys and girls will be raising the flag of not only our City, but the rest of South Africa when they participate in this international intellectual contest, which is very critical towards the agenda of developing the skills of our children, especially in maths and science.

My children, we are extremely proud of each and every one of you. Come back well rejuvenated and armed with the weapons of education in hand. Come back home to be the innovators you were destined to be.

Fly the South African flag high!

All the best and travel safely to India!

Thank you!