



Welcome Address Cllr Mpume Sithole on the occasion of the KZN EPWP Indaba

06 October 2016 – 09h00

KZN Public Works – eThekweni Conference Centre

- Programme Director, Mr Thulani Mdadane,
- Honourable MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Mr Ravi Pillay,
- Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature,
- Members of the eThekweni Executive Committee,
- Senior official from government departments,
- Representatives from the different spheres of government,
- Captains of industry,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

On behalf of eThekweni Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede, it is with great pleasure that I welcome the KwaZulu-Natal Expanded Public Works Programme to our City.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome esteemed guests and delegates with a national mandate that sets the tone for this Indaba.

During the 2014 State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma announced that South Africa would create six million work opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme by 2019.

Honoured guests, it is a pleasure to inform you that we have taken our President's job creation agenda forward through various EPWP projects.

During the 2014/15 financial year, eThekweni created approximately 29 thousand job opportunities. The 2015/16 financial year saw an increase in the number of job opportunities with approximately 40 thousand created during that period.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality has made great strides in job creation and radical transformation. To date, the Municipality has reported the highest number of work opportunities with the figure totalling 134 thousand which is higher than other municipalities in the country. For the next three years, eThekweni Municipality is targeting, among others, to create 90 thousand EPWP job opportunities.

One of the projects, the Zibambele Road Maintenance programme was launched in 1998 by KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government to alleviate poverty and create work opportunities.

The programme continues to make a significant impact in ensuring that communities benefit financially from the maintenance of provincial roads.

Programme Director, eThekweni is serious about tackling the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality through poverty alleviation programmes.

Our Government wants to ensure that economic emancipation is being driven aggressively to lift people out of the poverty cycle. Through EPWP, we are breaking the cycle of poverty while empowering people with skills to secure employment in the future.

With those few words, I wish to thank the different spheres of government for the continued support in ensuring the sustainability and growth of our poverty alleviation programmes.

In welcoming you once again, I would like to pledge that eThekweni Municipality will contribute to the 6 million job opportunities by 2019 through EPWP projects. We are a caring City that is committed to transforming lives.

Thank you!