



**Welcome Address by Chairperson of the Governance  
and Human Resource Committee, Cllr Barbara Fortein  
on the Occasion of the Launch of the International  
Scholarship and Student Exchange Programme**

**07 October 2016 – 16h00  
Sharks Board 4320 Umhlanga Durban**

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- Programme Director,
- Honourable Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Mr Buti Manamela,
- Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Willies Mchunu,
- MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwane,
- Representatives from different spheres of government,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Sponsors and stakeholders,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

## **Good afternoon!**

Esteemed guests and dignitaries, on behalf of eThekweni Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Zandile Gumede, I welcome you to the award-winning City of Durban.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we launch the International Scholarship and Student Exchange Programme, I must highlight that youth development is a major focus in eThekweni Municipality.

We firmly believe that education remains the only hope for the complete liberation of a young mind. Furthermore, education plays a critical role in the development of a country through economic development.

It is for this reason that we encourage learners to take advantage of the International Student Scholarship and Exchange Programmes.

It will provide a platform for social upliftment, enhance employment potential and promote career development while empowering youth.

Ladies and gentlemen, these programmes will give young people with international exposure and experience will ensure a competitive advantage in their chosen careers and allow them to compete globally.

Our City priorities the development of young people, so much so that we have established a fully-fledged Youth Office to tackle challenges faced by youth in eThekweni and also to facilitate and co-ordinate youth programmes that aim to develop and empower.

During the 2016/2017 financial year, we have set aside more than R100 million for different youth programmes that will address the plight of young people. The development of skilled youth is critical for the growth of our economy.

Just to mention a few, we will facilitate the training of 10 000 youth as artisans over the next three years. We have partnered with local tertiary institutions to ensure that we have the skills required for the training programmes to be a success.

Last year, we officially launched the Mayoral Student Financial Relief Fund which offers bursaries to learners who come from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure access to education.

This fund provides deserving learners with registration fees so that they can access education, which constitutes lifetime empowerment of a young person. This year, we have provided assistance to the tune of R5.4 million to over 500 learners. We will continue to invest in youth development.

In closing ladies and gentlemen, these programmes demonstrate that eThekweni is serious about developing and empowering our young people. We want to partner with our young people to further develop our City.

I wish to conclude with a pertinent quote by first democratic President of South Africa, the late Dr Nelson Mandela. He said:

**“Young people must take it upon themselves to ensure that they receive the highest education possible so that they can represent us well in future as future leaders.”**

My message to our young people:

**Start building your future!**

**Take advantage of these opportunities!**

**Your time is now!**

**Thank you!**