

## **SPEAKING NOTES FOR MAYOR ZANDILE GUMEDE AT 365 DAYS IN OFFICE AND TRANSPORT MONTH LAUNCH**

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Programme Director, Ms Tozi Mthethwa;

Deputy Mayor – Cllr Fawzai Peer,

Speaker – Cllr William Mapena,

Chief Whip – Cllr Nelly Nyanisa,

Members of Exco present here,

City Manager – Mr Sipho Nzuzwa,

Councillors,

Amakhosi,

Business community,

Religious leaders,

Civic society,

Ward committees,

Municipal officials,

Distinguished guests,

ANC Regional leadership,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani and Good morning,

We would like to thank you for making it to the 365 days reporting back meeting on the mandate that we received from voters. We are humbled by this leadership role and responsibility that has been afforded to us by the African National Congress to lead this metropolitan municipality and to contribute towards the City's vision of being the "**most caring and liveable city, in Africa, by 2030**".

This gathering takes place after we experienced severe storms in KwaZulu-Natal and Durban was one of the affected regions. We would like to thank our provincial government led by Premier Willies Mchunu and a delegation that was led by MEC Weziwe Thusi which visited many areas around Durban. We are sad to report that some have lost lives and some people are still missing. Our thoughts and prayers are with families and friends of those who were affected by the storms.

I must say that we are confident of our disaster management department and all our department that they are capable of dealing with many challenges going forward. I would like to thank all the volunteers, NGOs, Community members, councillors and officials for assisting during the storms. Sibonga ukuthi niveze Ubuntu nesihe njengoba abantu bakithi bebhekene nalesisimo sezulu esinzima.

Programme Director,

I would like thank the ANC, leadership of this council and municipal officials for their support and contribution as we travelled together on this new path of bringing continuous service delivery to our communities.

Siyabonga kakhulu kuKhongolose, uNkulunkulu, abasebenzi namakhansela omkhandlu kunye nomphakathi, ngokuqhubeka nokuseseka selokhu saqokelwa ukuhola lomkhandlu omkhulukazi eNingizimu Afrika naKwaZulu-Natali.

Improving service delivery is one of my priorities as the Mayor. The empowerment of women, youth, military veterans, rural and township communities and the disabled remains critical in our quest of radical economic transformation, in order to deal with challenges such as unemployment, inequality, underdevelopment and poverty. These are the main challenges we have identified in our National Development Plan and they form part of our Integrated Development Plan.

Whilst we continue to address the urgent needs of our residents within the current constraints that we face, we do so believing in our Vision and long term development plan for the City.

As President OR Tambo once said in 1977 (I quote): **“Comrades, you might think it is very difficult to wage a liberation struggle. Wait until you are in power. I might be dead by then. At that stage you will realize that it is actually more difficult to keep the power than to wage a liberation war. People will be expecting a lot of services from you. You will have to satisfy the various demands of the masses of our people.”**

President Tambo knew exactly that this day will come and as the local sphere of government which is closer to the people on the ground, we have no choice but to meet the demands of our people. Unfortunately, our people have been oppressed for more than 300 years and it will require more than 20 years to undo the legacy of oppression and colonisation.

We are called to do everything correctly, diligently but we must increase our speed of service delivery because people are losing patience.

Our first 365 days in the office has been interesting one for me. I am proud of leading the eThekweni Municipality as the first woman Mayor of this Metro since its formation. We had to quickly adjust as councillors within few months into office and we are truly amazed by wonderful job done by our new City Manager (Mr Siphon Nzuza) within few days in office. Public Service job is not always easy if you come from outside especially local government – but Mr Nzuza has been a man of less words and more actions.

Lendlela esiyihambayo yinde kodwa sekukuningi esikwenzile esingakukhomba njengeMkhandlu oholwa uKhongolose. Sisabambebele kuyo i-Freedom Charter konke esikwenzayo sikuncikise kuyo.

We made clear promises which were based on the ANC manifesto under the theme of ***advancing people's power through local government***. We made serious commitments and we remain committed in fulfilling our manifesto. The Manifesto remains our guiding programme of action, we will be going back to the people to tell them what we have done so far. We will be going to each and every ward, every street corner and every village to report back as to what we have been doing since our election to office. We are the government of the people and I am the people's mayor. Today's function is about giving feedback or a progress report to the public and our stakeholders.

Our Manifesto was about the following:

- To build from the foundation laid by previous leadership;
- Radical reverse the legacy of apartheid;
- Fight poverty, unemployment and inequalities;
- To push for township and rural economic growth and development;
- To prioritise the development of youth, women, people with disabilities and military veterans;
- To work with all the grassroots stakeholders who feel side-lined

In my inaugural speech I undertook to carry on with building from foundation laid by the previous leadership and which I was part of.

Since my appointment to office as the Mayor, I have also been elected to numerous positions representing the people of this city both locally and internationally to name the few positions: I am the Deputy President of SALGA, Co-Chair for UCLG Strategic Planning Committee; Chair of AFUS; Vice-Chairpersons for C40 Cities Africa and Chairperson of HIV and AIDS Committee.

Next week I will be going to Paris to represent Africa as the vice-chairperson of the C40 where we will be dealing with issues of climate change. Also in December, as the chairperson of Aids Committee – we will be in Phoenix to commemorate the world Aids Day.

## Awards

During our first 365 days under our leadership, the City has been honoured with many outstanding awards. Amongst others:

-  **Premier's Service Excellence Awards 2017:** Our City's Water and Sanitation WhatsApp reporting line received a gold award in the Best Public Service Implemented Programme
-  **Govan Mbeki Award:** The City was credited with the best Community Residential units and Best Metro in Service Delivery
-  Durban Solid Waste scooped the Greenest Municipality Award
-  **Worldwide Quality of Living Index Survey:** Durban has for a third consecutive year, been ranked the top South African City with the highest quality of life in the international Mercer's 19<sup>th</sup> Quality of Living survey. The annual survey ranked Durban the best City in South Africa, placing it 87<sup>th</sup> overall. This is followed closely by Cape Town and Johannesburg in 94 and 96 respectively.

Looking at these awards, it tells us that we are on the correct path. It is possible to achieve our vision of **"being the most liveable and caring city in Africa"**.

We believe that we can achieve this by working together and I also invite the opposition to positively contribute towards making this city great. Durban is our only home and we must not use our energy trying to destroy this city as if we have a second home outside of this city. Our focus should be about the city and let us refrain from tarnishing the

image of this city. We will continue to refuse to play in the mud. Asidlali nezingane.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

The reality remains that more than 56 % of our people in eThekweni voted for the ANC based on the fact that it is the liberation movement that has stood by the people for more than 103 years. It is the party that has worked hard to break the legacy of apartheid by creating most progressive policies. We have a clear track record of service delivery and we have always kept our promises.

A lot has been achieved in the first 365 days and lot more will be achieved. We started by getting the basic right and ensuring that we all understand what is needed to be done.

- We ensured that our councillors signed the performance contract especially from the ANC;
- We took them for training and capacity building programme;
- We established structures which will deal with issues of development such as Ward Committees;
- For a first time in history we ensured that the Budget is tabled at each and every ward in eThekweni, it was a real people's budget. All the 110 wards participated in the budget IDP process;
- In my office I ensured that we have structures that deal with issues of Operation Sukuma Sakhe and we are busy launching war rooms in the 110 wards;
- We have a fully operational office of Operation Sukuma Sakhe which is bringing government closer to the people;

- Our war rooms are one of the best in the country, even the United Nations is coming here to learn about our concept of war rooms;
- We have an office that deals with issues of military veterans, we are catering for all the veterans not just MKMVA of the ANC;
- We have strengthened youth office with additional staff but we will add more personnel once the organogram is approved;
- We also ensured that we do away with Committee of Finance and Procurement into Executive Committee where it is supposed to be. This was done to improve accountability in line;
- Most importantly, we appointed a city manager that is qualified in terms of dealing with finances and auditing. This is part of trying to strength good governance. Given his background, we think he will assist our people in benefiting from oceans economy under Operation Phakisa. Already under him we have announced a bidder for a cruise terminal with Transnet and unveiled a new tug called uMbilu with Shipyards.

## **STATE of the ECONOMY**

The decisions by rating agencies to downgrade South Africa has a knock on effect to all of us. However, as the city of Durban we have increased our GDP by 0.93%.

- In terms of employment we have increased by 0.9% in the formal sector but job has decreased in the informal sector by 2,6 %
- In terms of the Quartely unemployment rate we are at 21,8% which is a decrease of 0,2% according to Stats SA.

- Our populations have increased by 1,4% its means more people are now living in Durban and this means we will have to share our resources
- In terms of Annual trade our total exports have increased by 12,3% and Total imports by 9,3% which means we are on the right path.

Despite the current economic climate and the downgrading of the sovereign credit rating, we have managed to maintain our credit rating of AA in the long-term and A1+ in the short term. This is a very commendable achievement indeed!

We have also introduced austerity measures in terms of the National Treasury circular such as decreasing our delegation at international trips more controls on our fleets.

In a bid to ensure the effective use of public funds and enhance accountability, I have spearheaded the process of merging the Finance and Procurement Committee with the Executive Committee to strengthen political oversight and guidance over the fiscal as well as financial affairs of the Municipality. This is one of the first decision we took.

We have increased the capital budget in 2017/2018. The total budget for the 2017/2018 financial year is R45 billion made up of an operating budget of R37.5 billion and a capital budget of R7.5 billion.

The focus of this budget will be directed to the key areas in line with our promises to improve the lives of our people. These were mentioned

during 2016 local government elections campaign and in my inaugural speech.

This means there is more monies available for service delivery and infrastructure development. However, this expenditure will be prioritized in terms of need and spend will focus on underdeveloped areas.

This will also help eradicate our service delivery backlogs despite the impact of rural-urban migration.

In terms of **Back to Basics** policy, the budget clearly provides funding for addressing issues such as potholes, grass cutting, street lighting, robots, water leaks, and all the small issues that needs fast fixing.

## **ATTRACTING INVESTMENT TO THE CITY**

EThekwini Municipality's new Investment Promotion Strategy and Implementation Plan is set to take the City's global investment attraction and retention plans to greater heights.

I'm pleased to advise that we have been working with National Treasury and the World Bank Heads of their Investment Promotion profession from last year.

This has been to develop an entirely new and improved Durban Investment Promotion Strategy, plus a new organisational structure. The work has been well researched and is based on global best practices which will benefit all in eThekwini. The plans were approved by our full Council on 1st August, and the refreshed Unit responsible for bringing in

new Foreign Investment for eThekweni is now known as "Invest Durban".

This new Unit will have significantly increased resources, capacity and leadership support to attract, retain and grow investment in our core sectors. In partnership with our Business Support Unit, the "**Invest Durban**" Team will also ensure valuable linkages from the new Foreign Investments into our local SMME's, and Community Participation Groups. We are encouraging and working towards more of these new investments being spread across the city including our townships and rural areas.

### **Team Durban**

As I undertook last year, we have called for and received full approval to establish this Business Investment partnership forum, to be called "**Team Durban**". This Team will need to be led by senior, experienced Business Leaders and some of the existing large Foreign Investors in Durban.

We still encouraging business and stakeholders to forward their names once the advert has been issued. We need to finalise this matter before the end of this year.

### **Radical Economic Transformation**

The introduction of the eThekweni Radical Economic Transformation Framework in February 2017, aims to demonstrate our commitment in accelerating service delivery, providing economic opportunities to poor and unemployed residents and growing the small business sector. Our Radical Economic Transformation Framework aims to improve the

economic and social wellbeing of poor communities by, among other things, setting aside 30 percent of work for emerging businesses.

We are ensuring that all service providers, contractors, suppliers up to the ward level are registered on its database and the bid specifications are done in line with the amended preferential procurement legislation emphasizing on contract participation goals and enterprise development.

The empowerment initiatives like the incubation programme for business entities trading within eThekweni Municipality areas have already started. Just to highlight the few targeted areas are supply of grocery for soup kitchens; detergents manufacturing, supply of toilet papers; office furniture; uniform and protective wear; construction material; community based contracts; removal of illegal signs and many others. We are saying more people should benefit from DSW contracts which includes small business, co-operatives and even individuals with grass cutting equipment must be able to benefit.

## **RASET**

As the City we are in a programme that seeks to develop and improve the agricultural -sector, to improve its current contribution to the city's GDP which is below 1% due to low productivity of local farmers and small scale famers alike. We are working with provincial and national government in the programme of RASET in order to radically transform the Food value chain by developing capacity into small scale black producers and provide access to markets as a stimulant to the sector. I will be working with amakhosi and rural communities in ensuring that we deal with poverty and produce more food.

Achievements to date:

- ✓ We have received a SLA from Department of Education to supply veggies to 377000 learners from 567 school with children from vulnerable backgrounds.
- ✓ Signed Multi Stakeholder RASET MoU which is inclusive of all provincial departments, Development finance institutions (DFIs), and District Municipalities
- ✓ Provincial RASET, launched by President JG Zuma on the 24 June 2017
- ✓ 6 x Tractors procured expected for delivery by the end of October 2017
- ✓ 10 x Tunnel farms installed in Ottawa Farm in ward 58
- ✓ Farmer verification and assessment survey to be completed
- ✓ Procurement of RCL Farm in Hammersdale in finale stages of sale agreement. Farm to be used as a breeding centre to support poultry out growers in Rural and Township wards. Rural wards will also be targeted for grain production as a backward integration into the poultry value chain.
- ✓ Poultry value chain Business plan is now complete. We will issue it to stakeholders

## **Catalytic Projects**

We currently have twenty five (25) catalytic projects being implemented, which in itself is a real demonstration of the commitment City leaders have, to transform the economic landscape of this Municipality towards more inclusivity. Since my inauguration in August – we have made

progress and decisions have been taken to move projects forward. I would like to mention some of the milestones that we have reached:

- Council has approved all the Planning and Zoning applications for the Kings Estate. This is a multi-purpose development in the far North of Durban worth more than R40 Billion.
- Ntshongweni development is an integrated human settlement, mixed use development. We have received an environmental authorisation for the proposed retail and mixed precinct. Ntshongweni development is earmarked to unlock the economic opportunities for Western region. It has an estimated investment at the value of R28billion with annual rates of R400million and 30 000 permanent jobs on completion.
- As part of commercially consolidating IRPTN C3 project, the Municipality has approved selling of land to the Black Empowered Investor to build a shopping complex in one of the C3 stations. This investment by Private Sector is more than R300 million. It will create thousands of jobs.
- We have approved the Leasing of further land to KwaMnyandu Shopping Mall. The extension of this Mall will provide more job opportunities. There will be a further investment by the developer of more than R30 Million.

- The biggest project in this region is Cornubia, and I'm happy to report that through the initiatives of the Municipality in partnership with Tongaat-Hulett the Cornubia Business and Industrial Estate has been completed and all sites have been sold. In addition, construction is in the preliminary stages for a Retail Facility to provide retail and social services and this will be completed in 2017/18, in addition to the completion of upgrades to the Flanders Drive interchange. We are also in the process of developing a further 2000 subsidised homes.
- One of our biggest highlights is that Tongaat-Hullet has agreed to implement our radical economic transformation plan and agreed to set aside more than 40% instead of 30 % for small contractors.
- At the Dube Trade Port Industrial Development Zone, leases have been secured for all sites in Trade Zone 1 with a number of key factories constructed and now operational. In 2017/18 construction will start on the multi-billion rand CIPLA biotechnology hub, which will be a world class state of the art facility. Environmental authorization has been received for Trade Zone 2 and construction will commence in 2017/18. We have recently opened a cold room storage which cost about R99 million.
- We have committed R88.5million for the Inner City Renewal Programme. In addition, R99m is allocated to the Beachfront

upgrade; R123m for Warwick Junction; R61m for the development of the Centrum site and R90m for enabling infrastructure for the Point Waterfront development.

- We are also making a significant progress in partnership with the private sector in the development of the Durban Film City; the Brickworks Development; the extension of the Beverly Hills hotel as well as phase 2 of the Oceans Development in Umhlanga. These projects amount to Billions of Rands invested by Private Sector.
- A key Catalytic Project driven by the Municipality is the Renewal of the Inner City. In February this year the Council approved the implementation of phase 1 of the Inner City Regeneration Programme which included Intensive Urban Management. This consists of, increased visible security; engagement with business; alternative uses for all bad buildings and rationalizing street trading as a positive contribution livelihood.

## INNER CITY REGENERATION

The city has embarked on a Radical CBD Clean programme as phased implementation of the approved Inner-city Regeneration Plan. The programme started on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 and is ongoing and has shown remarkable impact in the city. We want to restore and improve our inner city including other small towns such as Isipingo, Umbumbulu, Pinetown and Verulem. We are committed in fighting Crime and Grime.

The following resources have been identified to sustain the programme which includes the appointment of a project management team to support the implementation:

- ✓ 200 additional Metro police and vehicles,
- ✓ recruitment of security personnel to patrol CBD 24/7,
- ✓ dedicated legal resources of 10 patrol vans, eight motorcycles and four unmarked police vehicles with two rapid high power response
- ✓ repair of CCTV surveillance facilities
- ✓ DSW to recruit 171 waste management general workers,

The city is also looking at upgrading public and urban realm, construction of dignified trading stalls for informal trade, activation in open spaces and constant collection of garbage in hotspots. Through the programme, the EThekweni Municipality has identified an integrated budget of resources to sustain the Radical CBD Clean over 3 years.

## **Challenges**

We have had our fair share of challenges as the new government and we are confident that we will be able to resolve them with time. Such challenges include the following:

- Land invasions
- Disruption of service delivery
- Amadelangokubona and other groups
- Violence service delivery
- Wrong billings of our customers

- Our call centre agents not dealing with issues raised by our people
- Killings in Glebelands and Inchanga
- Opposition that is opposing for the sake of opposing instead of quality and intellectual contribution

In dealing with amadelangokubona and others, we have agreed on the formation of the federation which is known as Federation for Radical Economic Transformation. This is an umbrella body to all business forums from different communities and sectors of economy. Its main objective is to organize black and emerging businesses so that whenever they speak to the City and private sector they do so with one voice, lobby and advocate for inclusion of its constituency into the mainstream economy.

We have also had numerous meetings with civic society groups including abahlali baseMjondolo which we hope it will assist us in moving forward.

We also trust that the commission appointed by Premier Mchunu will help us to resolve issues of Inchanga and Gleblelands.

I have recently called for an independent investigation on the billings of eThekwini. We cannot afford to have such exorbitant bills as poor citizens. This must be done with urgency; the City manager is working on it. The current system is frustrating our rate payers.

It has been a long journey but we confident that we will be able to pull through. Yinde lendlela esisiyihambayo and we trust that we will be able to deliver all our manifesto promises to people of eThekwini.

In conclusion, let me announce the following projects that we have started:

## **OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Construction of Amaoti Library
- Construction of Waterloo Multipurpose Centre- finished and it is ready to be opened
- Construction of Umgababa Swimming Pool
- Upgrade and renovation of Japanese Gardens -
- Construction of Inanda Swimming Pool
- Completion of Cato Ridge Fire station
- Official opening of KwaMnyandu pedestrian bridge
- Opening of phase one of the Cato Manor Cultural Precinct. Phase one consists of the award winning Cato Manor Museum at the cost of R80million and grave where the late Queen Thomozile kaNdwandwe Zulu was buried. This work of this precinct has already received recognition when it scooped the top prize at Africa Architecture awards.
- Grant-in-Aid beneficiaries have increased from 62 to 105 organisations.
- The Council has officially launched additional soup kitchen making a total of 54 soup kitchens in the Municipality. The City is committed to its drive of establishing a soup kitchen in each of its 110 wards in the near future .
- We have established the City's first Multi-Disciplinary Task Team in August last year that are tasked to find an integrated approach to dealing with various social ills and challenges communities face. The task team is supported by a special Multi-Operational Response Team, which consists of Metro Police Officers dedicated to supporting and addressing issues identified by the task team.

In conclusion

As we said that we will not allow the hunters to tell the stories of the lion. We will expose those who lie about service delivery and tell you that the city is collapsing.

We are on the right path and we believe that by working with everyone, a lot more can be achieved. We invite the opposition to speak the truth at all times, they must not oppose for the sake of headlines but for the sake of building this city.

As Amilcar Cabral once said – **“Every responsible member must have the courage of his responsibilities, exacting from others a proper respect for his work and properly respecting the work of others. Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories...”**

Siyabonga.