

# **Innovation Festival Durban 2017**

**4 October 2017, 13h00, Moses Mabhida Stadium**

**Welcome address by Her Worship, Cllr ZRT Gumede at Innovation Festival**

---

Programme Director,

Our partners and sponsors,

Captains of industry,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

Let me take this opportunity and welcome all of you to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Innovation Festival Durban.

The EThekweni Municipality, is indeed honoured to have partnered with organisations such as Innovate Durban, an entity set up by the Municipality, Oracle South Africa, Aurecon, Adams and Adams, Ndlovukazi Online Media, Open Data Durban and Socially Acceptable, on such an impactful programme.

Innovation is changing the way we think, act and live. Business needs to innovate to survive.

As the world's population keeps on growing, and concerns about diminishing resources and climate change increase, solutions for a more sustainable city are emerging. By 2050, the world will have more than 10.2 billion people living on it, with over 70 percent of them living in cities, according to data from the United Nations. But as the size of cities increase, so do the number of challenges: from housing to climate change.

The theme for this year's Festival, "Creating a Future Durban" is so relevant at this point in time where issues of sustainability are becoming more critical. Innovation lies at the heart of a future city, which goes beyond just building smart cities.

Durban is perfectly positioned to become a future city. Within the Municipality, there are a number of exciting initiatives looking at smart and sustainable solutions for water, energy, housing and infrastructure. In addition to this, the city has a pool of young talent that are coming up with innovative solutions to challenges being faced.

This programme of equipping the youth with the skills and providing them with opportunities to innovate and become problem solvers, is held annually by EThekwini Municipality and Innovate Durban. The solutions developed through this process can really contribute to improving the development of the city and its people. We, the Municipality, support such initiatives because of the impact that it has.

The Municipality is happy to announce that as of February 2017, Innovate Durban is its own legal entity, fully supported by the Municipality and its partners. The Municipality is proud to have spearheaded this initiative since inception four years ago and will continue to support its efforts in promoting innovation in the region.

Collaboration is the key to success for any programme and we are thankful to our partners for their support and vision for eThekwini, on our journey to become this future city.

These 3 days of the Innovation Festival, which has doubled its growth since last year, consists of a number of exciting activities, including smart car demonstrations, maker workshops and thought provoking sessions.

We hope that you benefit greatly from this and that you share and contribute to the Festival in a meaningful way.

Wishing you all the best for the deliberations over the next 3 days!

I thank you.