

**Address by Her Worship the Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede  
at the Official Opening of the Cornubia Mall  
Thursday, September 28  
Mount Edgecome, KZN**

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Programme Director,  
Ward Councillor, Mr Siya Thango;  
Mr Darryl Mayers Head of *Investec Property* South Africa;  
Members of the media;  
Honoured Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
Sanibonani;

**Thank you programme director!**

The opening of this impressive Cornubia Mall, marks a major milestone for its investors, the City, the various stakeholders and the people of this community, as it is the manifestation of big sky thinking that can be achieved in partnership between government and business.

The Mall cannot be seen as a separate entity and unconnected to the very people who will come here to work, play and meet. The Mall is set within the Cornubia Presidential project, and it act as a link on so many levels between a number of communities from varied economic backgrounds and provides opportunities for employment, skills transfers, economic growth and development.

The role of this Mall in the main is to address the economic disparity that is still widespread across our City.

As with many of the projects we have under development in the City, we have to bring along people who have been excluded from participation in the past, and who are still excluded even today. We need to see changes our people cannot live in poverty forever, we must radical change the status quo. Our people deserves a bigger slice in the economy not just hand-outs.

Much thought has been given to creating spaces and places where people can “live, play and work” in close proximity. The vision is to lessen the time and money spent in commutes on public transport, with more leisure and down time to enjoy life, with the bigger vision of making this Africa’s most caring and liveable city by 2030.

But the Mall is not only about infrastructure and concrete, and creating spaces for the wheel of our economy to continue to turn, but is how we move ahead as a community taking everyone along with us; affording those who have not been able to improve their living standards, or be educated, or up-skilled, the opportunity to walk hand in hand with those that have.

Our City’s development at Cornubia is the first proposed sustainable and fully integrated human settlement in the region, which was declared a national presidential priority project in 2014.

It came out of a need to shift the way in which urban environments have been planned and connected. Our apartheid legacy of separate development, still lingers as a bitter reminder of the disconnected world in which we once lived, and we are constantly at work in an attempt to undo this. So Cornubia represents, and is, a new socio-economic paradigm between business, community and government as we are navigate new and uncharted waters in a bold attempt to close gaps between communities, spaces and economies.

As you are all well aware, there remain significant challenges within this paradigm, but we have to forge ahead, test the water, be courageous and unafraid to make mistakes with our eyes on the horizon to create a better life for our people.

The housing development at Cornubia continues as a work in progress:

- In Phase 1A - 482 houses have been completed and occupied;
- IN Phase 1B - 1652 houses have been completed and occupied and a balance of 528 are still to be completed.
- A temporary primary school has been constructed in Phase 1A and is now operational;
- There are adult outdoor gym facilities/ equipment;
- A community retail facility is currently being constructed;
- A permanent primary school and multipurpose hall is about to go out to tender;

- There are numerous factories and warehouses that have been constructed in Phase 1 and more are in the process of construction;
- Construction of the next route of our integrated rapid public transport network, GO!Durban, which runs from KwaMashu's Bridge city, via Phoenix Industrial, through Cornubia to Umhlanga Ridge, has started, and this will further link the community to opportunities.

With the Mall now complete and the promise of some 1100 permanent employment opportunities, this community is now poised to really test the waters of our blue sky thinking.

It will take much collaboration between business and government to ensure the model works, and for it's continued success.

So I am happy to see that the Mall mangement has taken up the charge to work with the communities, through the creation of the Cornubia Mall Trust, and that it has pledged to continue to work with the local people to create a truly sustainable community.

My congratulations goes to Mr Mayers, and your team for having the vision to develop the Mall. And also congratulations to all those that planned and constructed it – from the people sitting behind desks designing the space, to the contractors on the ground and all the skilled and unskilled labourers – men and women - who toiled to actually physically build it. Siyanihalalisela. Ngiyabonga.

