



OPERATION PHAKISA: OCEANS ECONOMY PRESIDENTIAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Her Worship Cllr Zandile Gumede closing remarks

DURBAN, EThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

06 October 2017

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- His Excellency, President J.G. Zuma,
 - The Honorable, Premier of KwaZulu Natal Mr Willies Mchunu
 - The Honorable Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating; Hon Jeff Radebe
 - The Honorable Minister of Public Enterprises; Hon Lynn Brown
 - The Honorable Minister of Transport; Hon Joe Maswangayi,
 - The Honorable MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, KwaZulu Natal; MEC Zikalala
 - Deputy ministers present,
 - The Chairperson of Transnet/Transnet Ports Authority.

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- Members of the eThekweni Municipality executive committee and councilors
 - The city manager
 - The Port Manager
 - Partners from the private sector and captains of industry
 - Organised labour leadership present
 - Community leaders
 - Officials from all government departments
 - Educators and learners
 - Comrades, friends
 - Members of the media
 - Ladies and gentlemen
 - Good morning,

Sanibonani

It is with a deep sense of pride and gratitude that I stand before you all to present the closing remarks at this important presidential stakeholder engagement on the progress of Operation Phakisa.

This gathering takes place during an important month when we celebrate the Month of President OR Tambo during the year of President OR Tambo.

I also wish to thank our President for the detailed feedback on the progress made in respect of the implementation of the Oceans Economy Initiatives to all our stakeholders present today.

Today I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership of His Excellency the President, all our cabinet ministers present, our Premier, Willies Mchunu and MEC for Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs, TRANSNET, my council and all the officials and maritime related private sector partners for the progress of the Operation Phakisa programme.

We also wish to thank you all for making our city a partner in the opportunities from the ocean economy and Operation Phakisa.

I am pleased that the following achievements have contributed to making a better life for the people of my city, the province and the country at large.

The visit to the Bayhead ship repair and boat building facilities at the South African Shipyards in our port by his Excellency the President has given us given us hope and inspiration for the economic development and job creation in our city.

To date contracts in the local ship building sector in the harbor have promoted local content and this has included black suppliers, women- and youth-owned businesses. I wish to thank South African Shipyards in partnership with the EThekweni Maritime Cluster and Municipal Academy for training about 30 artisans at their shipyards. They are qualified and were instrumental in building the tug boats.

A special thanks to all the relevant departments and ministries and state owned entities SETA's for the role they are playing in transforming and developing of the blue ocean economy sector in our city.

I am sure more work is still required to bring more black owned companies into the maritime sector. This will contribute towards job creation, business development and investments, innovation technology transfer and skills development and curb unemployment in our city.

Today's announcement that the South African Navy has entrusted Southern African Shipyards to build their complex and specialized hydrographic survey vessel is great news. This is great news for our city and the continent at large. Siyabonga kuhulumeni ka Nxamalala!!

Today we are also pleased that His Excellency the President has announced the intention to establish the KZN Boatbuilding Park, as part of this maritime vessel industrial complex at Bay head. This project is a partnership between KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs led by MEC Zikalala, the eThekweni Municipality Economic development, Transnet, eThekweni Maritime Cluster and Southern African Shipyards.

I am pleased that the project will include a number of emerging and black owned boatbuilding companies and suppliers. It will also provide marine skills development and on the job training for unemployed youth. The boat-building park will also create 600 direct jobs and 2000 indirect jobs along the supply chain and related support industries.

Programme director, I am sure more work is still required to maximize the value from our oceans economy like in the Point

Water Front and the Passenger Terminal Development. The eThekweni Municipality remains committed to the strategic partnership with all stakeholders to ensure that we fast track the support and the development of our Blue Oceans Economy succeeds and contributes to reducing poverty, unemployment and inequality in our society.

Durban is blessed with an ocean and it is our biggest mine as the citizens of the city of eThekweni and surrounding. It is high time that we explore all the opportunities that are in the ocean for the benefit of our people and future generations. The ocean is our heritage and future.

As the freedom charter states - **“The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth! The national wealth of our country, the heritage of South Africans, shall be restored to the people.”**

In closing let me quote President OR Tambo – “ “The objective of our struggle in South Africa, as set out in the Freedom Charter, encompasses economic emancipation. It is inconceivable for liberation to have meaning without a return of the wealth of the country to the people as a whole.

“It is therefore a fundamental feature of our strategy that victory must embrace more than formal political democracy; and our drive towards national emancipation must include economic emancipation.”

I wish to thank our President for coming and giving us feedback on Operation Phakisa and giving us inspiration for the future.

Siyabonga.

