



**Address by Her Worship, the Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede
On the Occasion of Funeral Service for Cllr Sibusiso Maphumulo
28th October 2018 held at King Zwelithini Stadium**

- Programme Director,
- Maphumulo Family and In-laws
- Relatives and Neighbours
- Alliance partners
- Leagues of the ANC
- Fellow Councillors,
- Municipal officials,
- Distinguished Guests
- Members of the community,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani

I rise with a deep sense of sadness and sorrow. Today we are gathered to bid farewell yet again to another young leader whose life has been cut short under very mysterious circumstances.

As the municipality we are saddened by the untimely death of Cllr Sibusiso Maphumulo. The brutality and violent manner in which Cllr Maphumulo's life was taken away is something that can't be easily erased from our minds. It is even worse for the members of the family who witnessed this tragedy.

The Premier of the Province Willies Mchunu and Leader of Government Business Sihle Zikalala have both expressed their condolences to the family. They have asked me to assure the family that law enforcement agencies have been mobilized to track down the perpetrators of this barbaric act.

In addition, as the municipality we support the call made by the ANC in eThekweni Region recently. The Regional Secretary Cde Bheki Ntuli issued a statement calling upon the leadership in government to deploy a team of experts to work with the Hawks to investigate the murder of Cllr Sbu Maphumulo and Cde Thulani Nxumalo who was the branch chairperson in ward 12 in KwaNdengezi.

We are disturbed by the fact that both comrades were shot and killed in front of their homes. Many other comrades in eThekweni Region such as Comrades Sbu Sibiya and Zakhele Mshibe were assassinated in cold blood.

As the municipality I want to reiterate a call made by the regional leadership that more resources need to be allocated to ensure intelligence gathering to detect planned killings of our leaders.

We further support the call that a team of ballistic experts need to be assigned to ensure the gathering of evidence and to carry spot examinations of all firearms, including licensed firearms in all crime scenes.

We are also suggesting as the municipality that a sophisticated technology must be utilized to conduct touch DNA and fingerprinting on firearms and dangerous weapons and other exhibits found at crime scenes.

We have also heard a call from the regional leadership that the Head of Metro Police Steve Middleton must work towards ensuring the creation of safe haven in the streets of eThekweni.

We want to assure the people of eThekweni Municipality that as the council we are providing resources to our Metro Police. We are also working co-operatively with law enforcement agencies to put to an end once and for all - a culture of impunity.

We agree as the municipality with the assertion that when we all celebrated the dawn of democracy we never imagined that we will one day be subjected to rampant murders and violent crimes.

We are also calling upon the community of Umlazi and many other communities to come together in defense of our freedom and democracy. Freedom is threatened each time any member of society is murdered, raped or mugged.

We support all efforts such as Thuma Mina in order to unite our communities. This campaign provides us with an opportunity to stand together in public disapproval of any form of crime in our communities. Let us report to the law enforcement agencies those who are involved in any criminal activities.

When President Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled the Thuma Mina campaign he acknowledged the role of each individual and each community in ensuring that an environment is created for a crime free society.

Programme Director, as we mourn the departure of Cllr Maphumulo we need to remember that he represented an emerging crop of young leaders who worked for our community.

He rose through the ranks of ANCYL and occupied many positions since 2004. In 2015, he became a leader in his branch until his deployment as a councillor in 2016 representing Ward 88.

He believed that young people had an important role to play in the development of communities. And he believed that young people had to use political freedom in order to achieve economic freedom.

It is for these reasons that at all times he mobilized young people to be part of the second phase of the revolution which is focusing on economic emancipation.

On many platforms he stated that young people must refuse to allow only a selected few to have access to economic opportunities. He advocated

for young people to participate on programmes focusing on driving socio-economic development.

At one stage he pointed out that young people must swell the ranks of public entities and other structures of governance such as school governing bodies, university councils, hospital boards, ward committees, development committees, clinic committees and many formal and informal governance structures, inside and outside municipal structures.

He also called for the creation of an environment conducive to learning and teaching, fighting crime and ensuring peace and stability.

I remember the ANCYL declared 2016 – the Year of the Youth. Cllr Maphumulo was confident that with young people at the helm of municipalities, they would inject speed into service delivery.

After the inauguration of the municipal council in August 2016, he called on youth leaders who are councilors to work hard for the development of their communities.

He also pointed out on that the municipality needed to have sustained skills development programs that will enable young people be the agents of change.

Today, on his final day on earth, I want to assure the young people of Umlazi that we will ensure that youth empowerment programmes are intensified. As the municipality we want a future where every young person will be armed with a skill, a trade, a qualification and knowledge that they can apply instantly.

We envision a future in which the scope of possible professions, skills, trades, qualifications and knowledge areas for young people of this municipality will be expanded extensively, in line with global trends.

Gone are the times where young people are only told that they must look for jobs, as the only option to starting a working life. We see a future where, as a result of being skilled, in a wide variety of fields, young people will become entrepreneurs of note, competing with the best in the world, and in line with global trends.

This will be the fitting tribute to Cllr Sbu Maphumulo who was passionate about youth development.

Once again, we want to convey our deepest sympathies to the Maphumulo family, the kids, neighbours, friends and the community of ward 88 which he served until his untimely death.

May His Soul Rest in Peace

Amandla !!!!!