

## **PARLIAMENT VISITS NOTES**

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We welcome the members of parliament and support staff; we appreciate the role of the parliament over us as this sphere of government.

Parliament is a strategic site for the implementation of the movement's policies. Parliament well positioned, capacitated and equipped to deliver on the fervent aspirations of the people - particularly the poor and the vulnerable.

Participatory democracy, which empowers ordinary people to be at the forefront of change and development. This is the reason we optimistic about the continued role of this democratic and activist people's parliament. WE also appreciate the role played by certain programmes of parliament, such as People's Parliament, Taking Parliament to the People, Women's Parliament and Youth Parliament.

These are important, effective and powerful tools for parliamentary in its oversight and public participation. Your serve as catalysts for real change and development in the lives of our people.

Programme Director, let me give a brief update on our work as the city.

We are proud of our improving service delivery record which is a confirmation that the New Dawn is upon us. I am humbled by the support we have received since we laid down our vision for this term of office. Our vision is inspired by that of our nation and province, which is to move South Africa forward in order to deal with triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

We will continue with our pursuit of making eThekweni Municipality a **“most caring and liveable city, in Africa, by 2030”**.

The City’s vision of being Africa’s most caring and liveable city is as true today as it was in year 2000 when we collectively created a Long Term Development Framework (LTDF) for the City. The LTDF, which was later reviewed through the Imagine Durban Programme, provided a collective platform for sustainability in the City. Whilst we continue to address the urgent needs of our residents within the current constraints that we face, we do so believing in the vision that we have created for ourselves.

As stated by his excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa during the state of the nation address, 2018, that “We are one people, committed to work together to find jobs for our youth; to build factories and roads, houses and clinics; to prepare our children for a world of change and progress; to build cities and towns where families may be safe, productive and content. We are determined to build a society defined by decency and integrity, that does not tolerate the plunder of public resources, nor the theft by corporate criminals of the hard-earned savings of ordinary people”.

We are committed in a principle of change and continuity. This simple means that we will always build upon the foundation that was laid by previous leadership both in the administration and policy level. This most fortunate part is that we were part of the collective decision, we own up to all achievements and challenges that we have dealt with since our launch.

This financial year has been an exciting year for local government, in that we are now into the 4th generation of democratic local government. We are grateful to all the changes that have since happened in the country which were done in a most peaceful, dignified and democratic manner. Once again, we have proven to the world and international community that our democracy is the most stable and working. We continue to lead at global level and South Africa continues to live up to its founding vision of peace and democracy. We are the nation of democracy, people of Mandela, Tambo and Sisulu.

At a global and national level, many of our City's political and administrative leadership have actively influenced global policy and development, through involvement in the Habitat III processes, the Paris COP meeting and numerous other global events. Holding a leadership position in organisations such as C40 as Vice President responsible for Africa, has been one of the most fulfilling responsibility. We have been able to advocate for Africa and its agenda when it comes to issues of climate change. Our participation and involvement in these events and forums, has entrenched our position as one of the cities at the forefront of strategic development as well as knowledge management.

At a Provincial level, we welcome the reviewed Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) as the council which guides us as a city within a province that exists on the borders of different strategic municipalities. We have aligned our municipal priorities to that of the PGDS as well as the international goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we develop and review our Integrated Development Plan (IDP), we are very aware of our roles and responsibility to our residents as well as future generations.

We have been also appointed our Team Durban that will provide strategic foreign direct investment advice and support to the city, and act as a sounding board for the mayor, council leadership and the new Invest Durban Unit on business and investment promotion matters. This team gives feasible support to the City Leadership and Invest Durban when attracting Foreign Direct Investments to the City. It will accompany the City Leadership delegations when it promotes and attract Foreign Direct Investment into Durban. It is a board that advises regarding improvements to the cost/ease of doing business plus new investments in the city.

As a leading metro that contributes significantly to the national fiscus, we have positioned ourselves to respond to the legacy of spatial fragmentation and contribute to inclusive growth. This integrated approach will allow for the majority of our local citizens to access public transport, goods and services in a cost effective and efficient manner and to also respond to growing the City's rates base.

This will enable us to meet the local socio-economic obligations. The catalytic projects planned for the City will have a huge economic and social impact. This impact will be measured in terms of the number of jobs created and how it supports mixed-use development by integrating commercial and housing needs, which will generate additional income through rates.

The implementation of our Radical Economic Transformation Framework will accelerate service delivery, improve lives of our and largely benefit

local businesses and communities. These projects speak to the notion of “people-centered development”. It is important that projects have economic strategies in place to draw previously excluded people into the economy.