



**SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR, COUNCILLOR  
FAWZIA PEER AT THE**

**3rd SADC SACCO Managers Forum Gala Dinner  
held at the Durban Tropicana Hotel**

**18 October 2018**

**Gala Dinner: "200 years of tradition of self-help  
and self-determined communities"**

**Topic for Mayor: "RASSET and role of community  
municipality's LED"**

Programme Director

Leadership of Nacfisa and other structures

Members of Parliament at national and provincial level

Mayors and councillors present

ACCOSCA SADC Region

Representatives from government departments

Delegates and honoured guests

Good Evening

May I begin by apologizing on behalf of the Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede who could not make it this evening. She has asked me to congratulate the leadership for co-ordinating this all important gathering.

I have no doubt that throughout the discussions you have been able to remind each other that co-operatives have always been part of the African continent.

When Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana in the 1950`s spoke about the need for Africans to achieve economic independence, his ideas were rooted in creating and developing successful and viable cooperatives as a way of achieving the economic freedom he propagated.

In one of his addresses, Nkrumah pointed out:  
**“Thought without practice is empty: and action without thought is blind.”**

I am sure delegates have been able put forward actionable ideas of how to strengthen the development of co-operatives. We must remember that the drafting of the Freedom Charter in 1955 took place during the tenure of Inkosi Albert Luthuli as the President of the current ruling party. He was a farmer who believed in self-sufficiency and the overall development of the nation.

We can proclaim today that progress has been made in achieving some of the tenets of the Freedom Charter except two clauses and these being the **economy and the land**.

As eThekweni Municipality we salute all of you for setting aside time to discuss ideas on how to translate the political freedom into economic freedom for our people.

I don't have to tell the delegates here how co-operatives have been successfully used in developing countries as building blocks of community development.

One of the primary objectives of the co-operatives programme not only in KwaZulu-Natal, but South Africa, is to contribute to the creation of sustainable communities through promoting food security and basic income opportunities.

As eThekweni Municipality we have endorsed the policy on co-operatives as a vital element of the city's poverty alleviation and de-racialisation of the economy. We are placing an emphasis on supporting the poor, who through our history of apartheid are locked in the vicious cycle of poverty.

We have a fundamental responsibility which is anchored by a legislative mandate, to use the resources of this municipality to create equal access to economic opportunities. I am saying this fully aware of frustrations of the emerging black businesses particularly the youth and women, whose lives are dependent on their businesses.

As a state institution, located in an economic hub, we are obliged to make an impact in terms of transforming the local economy using entrepreneurship and our procurement system as a vehicle.

The most strategic priority for this municipality is to ensure that ordinary members of society benefit from a democratic government which was ushered in on the 27th April 1994.

The people of this district and the country as a whole voted overwhelmingly for the ruling party on the 27th of April in response to the clarion call that "The People shall share in the country's wealth."

The serious challenge that we need to address is that the political freedom that we attained 23 years must be translated into economic freedom. As the municipality, we say political freedom should not co-exist with poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The wealth of the country and in this district in particular remains in the hands of the few white minority. Africans, blacks in particular, remain excluded in the mainstream economy yet they are in the majority. Such imbalances should be reversed as part of efforts aimed at ensuring social cohesion and social stability.

As you may be aware, this year we presented a capital budget of R45.8 billion. This is inclusive of all local municipalities projects. As the municipality we are using this budget to drive radical economic transformation.

Importantly, we want co-operatives to take part in the implementation of catalytic and infrastructure projects as articulated in the IDP.

Our catalytic projects report indicates that the municipality is poised for massive economic growth over the next 10 to 20 years creating in excess of a million construction jobs and over 600 000 permanent jobs. The biggest task for us as the municipality is to ensure that

co-operatives are given preferences in about 35 catalytic projects that have already started.

Having said that, as the municipality we are committed to working with national and provincial government to ensure that co-operatives from this municipality benefit from any projects managed by these spheres of government.

We have said that our councilors must work together to properly plan for all infrastructural needs of their communities. During the implementation of these plans, it is the local communities that must benefit especially Co-operatives.

We are also committed to working with the dedicated Provincial Infrastructure Co-ordination Workgroup to facilitate the speedy collective co-ordination of all Infrastructure Programmes and Projects.

We are fully aware that The Provincial Planning Commission has supported the Provincial Department of Public Works to establish this Work Group. The Group has a mandate of engaging with the developers of specialized agriculture, industrial, tourism, mining and commercial facilities.

The main focus is to ensure that infrastructure development is undertaken in such a manner that it creates economic opportunities for co-operatives and other small players.

Our view as the municipality is that – it cannot be correct that only big companies benefits from these projects. We must ensure that our co-operatives benefit from all infrastructure development related projects in Airports, Harbours, Road, Rail, Electricity, Information and Communication Technologies, Water, Sanitation, Human Settlement, Health and Education.

At this stage, Ladies and Gentlemen, we want to indicate that we are proud of the progress we have made to ensure that co-operatives benefit from our own Fresh Produce Market. This has been designated as a site for the implementation of the Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation programme known as RASET).

Our main focus is to revive agriculture and ensure that it generates income for many families who are involved in farming especially emerging farmers, and co-operatives. We have undertaken to assist agricultural co-ops with capacity building and skills development.

We want all vegetables and fruits produced by our co-operatives to be available in our fresh produce market. Working with the provincial government we want to create a wider market for this fresh produce market such as retail-food chains including supplying hospitals, schools, prisons and other government institutions.

This is one of the vehicles we want to use to ensure meaningful participation of people from previously disadvantaged communities in the entire food value chain.

**Programme Director**, I must hasten to point out that we are following in the footsteps of the national and provincial governments. We are committed to ensuring if we give work to big contractors - 30% must be subcontracted to black-owned enterprises.

It will be the abdication of our duties and betrayal of the mandate bestowed on us by the voters on the 3rd August 2016 if we do not ensure that this is implemented in our municipality as a matter of urgency.

Importantly, we want to make it possible for the small players to participate in the mainstream economy by ensuring that they understand the ever-changing policies and regulations. They must not be left outside and turned to be spectators. If we need to have education unit

within the Supply Chain Management for our small business to be capacitated let us make that possible within.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am saying this because I know that most government entities does have such entities such as SARS, Department of Trade and Industry etc.

The time allocated for tender briefings sometimes is not sufficient as most officials rush back to back meetings. Such a hit-and-run approach will reverse the gains we are making in transforming our economy by fast-tracking the entry of small players in the mainstream economy.

It is also very crucial for the Finance Department and portfolio committee to ensure that our spending patterns goes hand in hand with transformation agenda on targeted procurement and set sides.

With those words – thank you.