



Welcoming address by Councillor Mpume Sithole -
Mayoral Reception to Welcome the Fleur de Passion to
South African Shores - 11 October 2018 at 18h00

Programme Director, Mr Eric Apelgren

Minister Counsellor, Mr Balz Abplanalp

Vice-President and Founding member of Foundation
Pacific, Mr Samuel Gardaz

President of the International Federation of
Environmental Health, Dr. Selva Mudaly

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the eThekweni Municipality Mayor, Councillor
Zandile Gumede, it is my honour and privilege to welcome
the Fleur de Passion in our shores this evening. Last
Month, September was our Heritage Month, we were
reflecting and honouring our rich and diverse history and

heritage as the city of Durban. One of the highlights was the hosting of the Durban Port Festival, thanks to Transnet executives and especially the Durban Port Manager and all the partners who made it possible. This is also in line with the International Maritime Organisation 2018 theme "Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future". As we enter the era of the 4th Industrial revolution, and rapidly progress to the smarter, faster, bigger vessels, this occasion signifies the importance for us to reflect, appreciate and celebrate the history and evolution in the shipping world.

Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, for us to effectively navigate our future, it is equally important to know that our precious maritime history, heritage and values is transcending beyond our shores, trade, culture and generational boundaries gaps. The narrative of the story through Fleur de Passion navigation the oceans over decades and transition from being a war ship to a sailing boat brings us nations closer to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals in line with our aspiration as eThekweni to be a Smart Port City for the people and tap

into opportunities presented by the Blue Oceans Economy. The Port of Durban being the largest and the busiest container handling port in Southern Hemisphere.

Thank you, Minister Counsellor, Mr Balz Abplanalp and Vice President Samuel Gardaz for inviting us to witness this historic event as the Fleur de Passion docks at the Port of Durban. I trust that this symbolises the augmentation of a stronger and further collaboration with Switzerland on various projects including trade and investment, maritime related training and skill development, enterprise development, innovation and technology and cultural exchanges to ensure that we sustainable maximise our Blue Oceans Economy.

I would like to give warm Durban welcome to the Fleur de Passion crew and captain and congratulate them for the journey travelled thus far. I am inviting you to experience Durban and is offering. Our doors are open for any support should the need arise.

Welcome and have a great time during your stay in Durban

