



Address by the eThekweni Councillor Busi Ndlovu, Representing Her Worship, The Mayor of eThekweni, Councillor Zandile Gumede, on the occasion of the official Launch of the Westville Business Chamber, on 09 October 2018 at Coastlands on the Ridge.

- Program Director
- CEO of the Westville Business Chamber : Mr M.J. Bhengu
- Chairperson of the WBC : Mr Mahaye
- The Honourable KZN MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs : Mr Sihle Zikalala
- Respected Bishop : Vusi Dube
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

It is a refreshing morning indeed. Refreshing because it is Spring but more so, because we meet this morning, on the official

Launch of the Westville Business Chamber, which has come to bloom!

Program Director, on behalf of the eThekweni Mayor, it is a privilege honour to be with you today, and to introduce the house, to one of the Province's roving Champions of Radical Economic Transformation, the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Sihle Zikala!

But before I have the honour of making that introduction, and on behalf of the City, I wish to extend my congratulations to the Westville Business Chamber, on the Launch of this most significant Board of Trade.

Ladies and gentlemen, a Chamber of Commerce is a form of business network, or a local organization of businesses, whose goal is to further the interests of businesses.

Business owners in towns and cities form these local societies to advocate on behalf of the business community.

The chamber of commerce is an organization of citizens who are investing their time and money in a community development program-working together to improve the economic, civic, and cultural wellbeing of the area.

Local businesses are the members, that elect a board of directors or executive council, to set policy for the chamber.

Program Director, there are two primary functions of a chamber of commerce:

- first, it acts as a spokesman for the business and professional community and translates the group thinking of its members into action
- secondly, it renders a specific product or services type that can be most effectively be beneficial by a community organization, and to its members as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Group Thinking of the Westville Business Chamber, is dedicated to economically empowering and sustaining Black communities through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity within South Africa, via interaction with the Black Diaspora, whilst making the mainstream economy accessible, to all its members.

With the back drop of the countries historical imbalances, Black chambers are important because they give Black communities more opportunities to unite and develop, not only their personal economic growth, but also their self-worth.

In the United States of America, Black Business Chambers have come into existence, for very much the same reasons.

Program Director, Black South Africans, especially Black Africans, have been born without luxuries such as old money and legacies to endow their children.

Black chambers encourage individuals to think outside of the box. That includes thinking about subsequent generations instead of themselves. Black chambers are educating others that the future is "not just for me," it's for my family and your family.

Black Business Chambers are about producing new wealth through fierce economic and public policy advocacy to foster new partnerships. These new partnerships will help lead our community in driving economic development and Radical Economic Transformation.

Ladies and gentlemen, it therefore gives me immense pleasure this morning, to introduce to you, the KZN MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs: Mr Sihle Zikalala

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr Zikalala is the driving force behind KZN's Radical Economic Transformation.

The MEC marshals the province as a voice representing the specific needs and addressing the specific issues of the Black entrepreneur. He is an encouraging entity, unapologetic in his vision, and leads straight up interaction on Black trade, in the Black Diaspora.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hand you over to this morning's
Keynote Speaker, MEC, Sihle Zikalala!

Thank you.