



**Address by Chief Whip, Cllr Nelly Nyanisa on the
Occasion of the Breakfast Send-off for Clermont
Community Choir**

**15 September 2016 – 10h00
Moses Mabhida Stadium**

Address by Chief Whip Cllr Nelly Nyanisa at the Breakfast Send-Off for Clermont Community
Choir, 15 September 2016

- Programme Director,
- Members of the eThekweni Executive Committee,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Members of Clermont Community Choir,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Members of the media,
- Municipal officials,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

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Good morning ladies and gentlemen!

It is with honour that I address you this morning as we bid farewell to our own local multi-talented Clermont Community Choir as they jet off to Venda. Sithi ndlelanhle bantwana bami...nilimele kahle iTheku!

Ladies and gentlemen, this occasion is yet another proudly Durban success story. In just one week, we bid farewell to two local musical groups. On Tuesday, we hosted a send-off

function for uMlazi's Ithimba Le Afrika Acapella group that will perform at the White House in Washington this week.

Today, we send-off the Clermont Community Choir who will be conducting music development workshops and assisting choirs in Thohoyandou.

In a newly formed partnership with Professor Alfred Nevhutanda Development Foundation, the Clermont Community Choir is spreading its wings and driving youth development through music.

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Ladies and gentlemen, in eThekweni we are serious about promoting arts. Our city has very reach talent and we must proudly showcase this at all times. Through the arts, we are able to unite people from different backgrounds and find something common. This is how we build social cohesion among all the people of eThekweni and beyond.

Durban has been named as the warmest city, our people have been referred to as the most friendly when compared to other South African cities. In fact, arts is one of the ways people can experience our true character as the people of Durban.

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During their time in Venda, the Clermont Community Choir will perform in a concert to honour the legendary SJ Khosa, one of the best composers from Venda.

Founded in 1992, the Clermont Community Choir specialises in a variety of music styles including choral, opera, classical and African indigenous music. This highly-gifted, professional and vibrant Choir has received numerous awards. Just to highlight a few, the Choir was crowned national champions in the standard category of the Old Mutual National Choir Festival in December 2009.

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The Choir has excelled in various national and provincial music competitions during 2003 and 2008.

These include the Arts, Culture and Tourism Choral Eisteddford, South African Post Office, KZN Premier Choral Competition and Imvunge Choral Music Eisteddford.

Clermont Community Choir, we are proud of you! We are particularly proud that you embark on this important journey during a time when our country celebrates Heritage Month.

We plead with our business people, civil society and residents of eThekweni to support and rally behind the Clermont Community Choir as they leave to showcase Durban talent to Venda.

Ladies and gentlemen, in eThekweni we are serious about the development of the creative industry sector.

EThekweni is increasingly gaining recognition as a creative centre, especially within the arts, culture, film and design fields, with innovation playing a major role in each sub-sector.

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Encouraging participation in these sectors will lead to growth for both individuals and communities as well as provide major potential for income opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen, to prove that promoting arts and culture sectors is a priority, the City of Durban will host the international edition of the Essence Festival from 8 to 13 November 2016.

We look forward to hosting this multi-day entertainment, empowerment and cultural festival.

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This festival will provide a platform for our business people and artists to network, gain valuable information and build relationships with international experts for locals to be globally competitive.

To the Clermont Community Choir, travel safely to Thohoyandou.

Fly the Durban flag high and make us proud!

We are behind you all the way!

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Nihambe kahle! Sinithanda kakhulu!

Thank you!