



Address by Cllr Ntuli on the occasion of the African-American Anti-Apartheid Activists Heritage Day

**24 September 2016 – 19h00
Jazzy Rainbow – 93 Simiso Nkwanyana Road
Morningside**

- Programme Director,
- His Royal Highness, Prince Sibusiso,
- His Royal Highness, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi,
- Our guest of honour, Mr Afrika Bambaataa,
- iSangoma Productions team,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Good evening ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of eThekweni Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede, I would like to extend a special greeting and welcome to our African-American Anti-Apartheid Activist Bambaataa Aasim, artistically known as Afrika Bambaataa.

Ladies and gentlemen, we celebrate this freedom fighter at a time when our country is commemorating Heritage Month. This is significant to the occasion because Afrika Bambaataa fought for the freedom of our African brothers and sisters through music.

Music is a universal language understood by most of the world's population. Through his music, Bambaataa was loved by many as he denounced colonial oppression and apartheid.

One particular song that comes to mind is 'Sun City.' It was the outcome of a group formed by Bambaataa and other artists who established the 'Artists United against Apartheid' organisation in the United States of America.

In 1986, this formation called on international artists to stand in solidarity with the African National Congress and boycott the leisure resort Sun City.

This protest song raised over 1 million pounds for the ANC, which was given to our late struggle icon, Oliver Tambo.

Interestingly too, Bambaataa founded the Hip Hop movement back in the 80s by changing his name to Zulu leader, Nkosi Bambhatha Zondi and forming a cultural movement he called the Zulu Nation in New York.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is only fitting that we recognise and honour this world icon tonight. He fought for our freedom and yet he had never been to South Africa.

He is here for the first time, to shoot a documentary. Our City values your contribution and support during a time when our country was in the shackles of apartheid.

You fought in solidarity with us and through your music; you spread the word on what was happening in South Africa. As a City we are proud to host you so that you can see a part of the country you fought for.

The support you drummed up through your music shows that music can be used as a social cohesion tool because it united people of different races and promoted peace. EThekweni has various programmes that drive social cohesion in our communities.

While on this platform, it is important to mention that promoting arts and culture sectors is a priority for our City. From 8 to 13 November 2016, Durban will host the international edition of the Essence Festival.

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

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. Bambaataa please do join us for this 5-day exciting occasion.

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing I would like to say thank you Afrika Bambaataa.

You are always welcome in the City of Durban!

South Africa is your home!

Thank you!