



**Address by Chairperson of the Economic Development  
and Planning Committee, Cllr Siphon Kaunda on the  
Occasion of the Lamontville Tourism and Heritage  
Route Launch**

**24 September 2016 – 09h00  
Lamontville High School**

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- Programme Director,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Representatives of the Lamontville Community Tourism and Heritage Association,
- Representatives of the Sodurba Community Tourism Organisation,
- Captains of industry,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Municipal officials,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

## **Sanibonani!**

Today we launch the Lamontville Tourism and Heritage Route, significantly, during a month when we nationally celebrate tourism and heritage.

The view of the City is that the two elements, tourism and heritage, cannot be separated. When we market our City to the world, we package our identity and uniqueness, which in return, forms a critical part and a core of our South African heritage.

Furthermore, it is fitting that in this important month in the tourism calendar, we launch this route that is rich with history and is a catalyst for the economic regeneration of the township.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Lamontville Township, situated south of Durban, has existed for more than 80 years. It was named after Reverend Archibald Lamont.

He was a well-known Presbyterian clergyman and liberal reformist who served as a Councillor. He also served as a Mayor for 4 years within the Natal Provincial Council between the year 1929 and 1936.

Interestingly too, the history of Lamontville is one of resistance led by civil society and has been characterised by political, economic and social struggles.

The area is also home to a number of talented legends in the fields of music, sports and many others.

Places to form part of the Route include:

- S.J. Smith Hostel known as Wema which produced the first international soccer star to cross the ocean to represent South Africa abroad. His name was Steve "Kalamazoo" Mokone.
- The renowned political heroes' houses of Msizi Dube, Joseph Mdluli, Jonny Makhathini and others.
- Cynthia Shange's House, the first black Miss South Africa and celebrated television personality.
- Mseleku Family House, a homestead of an exceptionally musically talented family.
- Sports facilities that include a soccer stadium, swimming pool and bowling club.

Ladies and gentlemen, what I have just mentioned to you that our City is a melting pot of historical artefacts.

This Route forms part of other tourism and heritage routes in eThekweni. One such route, that has attracted domestic and international tourists, is the Inanda Heritage Route.

Our first democratic President Dr Nelson Mandela cast the first vote in our first democratic elections at Ohlange, in Inanda where Dr JL Dube founded the Ohlange Institute. It was in Inanda that Mahatma Gandhi established the Phoenix Settlement and developed his ideas of non-violent resistance that became important philosophies across the globe.

At Ohlange, the National Department of Arts and Culture is developing this historical site with an amphitheatre, museum and cultural centre. Inanda offers one of the biggest learning opportunities to understand our struggle history.

Clermont and Umlazi have been identified as key areas which have a lot to offer the local tourism sector. Lamontville, Umlazi, Clermont and Inanda all have active Community Tourism Organisations driving the success of the routes.

In our City, we have seen tangible results in our tourism development and marketing strategy with entails working with the tourism trade and Community Tourism Organisations to build and promote urban, township and rural tourism opportunities.

This week, Max's Lifestyle based in Umlazi, was named as one of the best 207 restaurants in the world. The accolade comes from an international luxury travel and lifestyle magazine, Conde' Naste Traveler. We are proud of this and many local success stories.

Programme Director, local people must know their townships. By this I mean a person from Lamontville must take time to visit the Inanda Heritage Route and a person from Durban North must visit the Lamontville Heritage Route.

Our roots, history, heritage and cultural knowledge are found on these routes. Tourists visiting these routes will contribute to growth of township economy. The City of Durban is using this route to promote township tourism. We are marketing our townships to the world.

Tourism has a massive potential for job creation and already support about 1.5 million jobs in South Africa. It is estimated that for every 12 tourists that come to our country, 1 job is created.

More importantly, the tourism industry creates jobs at all skill levels and is able to absorb a high number of unskilled workers. It also changes the perceptions and the stereotype of township life and people. Townships are accessible to everyone and that creates a culture of unity.

In closing, our City would like to encourage people to participate in township tourism to boost our local economy. EThekweni is tapping into the potential of townships and we are exploring opportunities in this sector.

**Thank you!**