



**Address by Chairperson of the Community Services
Committee Cllr Zama Sokhabase on the Occasion of the
Waste and Recycling Awareness Day**

**23 September 2016 – 09h30
Savannah Park Ground**

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- Programme Director,
 - Representatives of the Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal,
 - Officials from Durban Solid Waste,
 - Women in environment,
 - Speakers in different topics,
 - Stakeholders and partners,
 - Environmental organisations,
 - Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
 - Ladies and gentlemen,
 - All protocol observed,

Sanibonani Mbokodo!

This year we commemorate our Waste and Recycling Awareness Day in a special way as we honour our local women who play a role in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Some of these women do it out of the goodness of their hearts and their love and passion for nature while others use their creativity to earn a living from waste.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been informed by eThekweni's Durban Solid Waste about your craft made from recycled waste. I am also aware of the work that these women do in our communities. I am impressed by your efforts and I would like to encourage you to continue caring for our environment.

EThekweni has various women organisations that aim to ensure a healthy environment through various initiatives. Others work on an individual basis. Some women clean streams, adopt, beautify and maintain a spot, collect and recycle waste. Others make craft from waste and today, they are showcasing their work.

Other women volunteer to educate their community and schools about the importance of living in a clean environment. Others beautify their areas by planting trees or starting vegetable gardens which produces food for the community.

Other women have rehabilitated wetlands and have used the grass to make zulu mats or amacansi, baskets, bags and hats. Ladies and gentlemen, these remarkable women deserve a round of applause.

Uma sikhuluma ngembokodo ezibambela mathupha ixoshe ikati eziko sisuke sikhuluma ngani!

Ngicela nizishaye izandla!

(((((((((((PAUSE AS AUDIENCE CLAPS))))))))))))

As a City, we are proud of your achievements. However, we feel that more work needs to be done to accelerate socio-economic transformation and implementation for women's empowerment, particularly in the area of the Green Economy.

We must discuss ways to ensure that women who play a role in maintaining our environments are included in the Green Economy.

For those women who produce craft from waste, those who turn dumping sites into gardens and recreational sites, I implore them to empower others.

It could be through transfer of skills and knowledge, it could be uplifting or giving back to your community, it could also be through mentoring individuals. This could assist in driving a healthy and sustainable environment.

In closing, our Municipality's doors are always open to you because we strongly believe in the empowerment of women.

Therefore, we look forward to working with you in ensuring that our environments, rivers and streams are clean, healthy and full of life. Let's work together to ensure that our environments are green!

My message to women is:

**Siyabonga ngeqhaza enilibambayo ekunakekeleni
nasekuthukisweni kwezemvelo!**

Phambili ngeMbokodo Phambili!

Ngiyabonga!