



**Address by Chairperson of the Community Services
Committee Cllr Zamazulu Sokhabase on the Occasion of
the Roll-out of Sanitary Pads**

**22 September 2016 – 11h00
Mariannpark Primary School – Nagina**

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- Programme Director,
 - School Principal, Dr L.E.M Nkosi,
 - Members of the School Management Team,
 - Members of the School Governing Body,
 - Educators,
 - Learners,
 - Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
 - Ladies and gentlemen,
 - All protocol observed,

Sanibonani!

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here today for the roll-out of sanitary towels, an initiative that is driven by our Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede.

A project very close to her heart, our Mayor's intentions are to protect and promote the interests of the girl child, the female leaders of tomorrow.

Through this initiative, we are taking the well-being of the girl child seriously and we want to ensure that girls attend school without worrying about their monthly menstrual cycle.

It is time that we rise and raise awareness around challenges faced by the girl child from an underprivileged background during her menstrual days. Our Mayor believes that this is not an individual female problem but a societal matter.

During menstruation, some girls are deprived of an education because they are forced to stay at home since they cannot afford sanitary towels. For some, sanitary towels are a privilege. For others, it is a need.

Sometimes girls attend school during this time and use unhygienic objects like sponges, pieces of material, tissue paper and even cotton wool as makeshift sanitary towels.

Ladies and gentlemen, alongside the lost learning days, girls lose self-confidence and it also affects their academic performance at school.

Through the roll-out of sanitary towels initiative, we are confident that we will contribute to an effective education system by reducing the absenteeism rate in our local schools.

Through this initiative, we will encourage cleanliness, which would in turn promote confidence and self-esteem.

Our vision is for this initiative to reach all corners of eThekweni to make a difference in our communities. We would like to build partnerships to ensure that this initiative is effectively driven in our local schools.

We would like to encourage our partners in the private sectors to join us in our quest to make a difference in the lives of young girls who are deprived and cannot afford sanitary towels.

EThekweni is a caring City. Therefore, we must work together to create a caring society for our girl children.

Thank you!