



Welcome Address by Her Worship, Deputy Mayor Cllr Fawzia Peer on the Occasion of the Mega VVIP Launch

09 September 2016 – 18h30
148 Crescent Shopping Centre, Umhlanga Ridge

- Programme Directors,
- Megazone Media Chief Executive Officer, MR Vishal Maharaj,
- Former eThekweni Speaker, Cllr Logie Naidoo,
- Head of Business Support, Tourism and Markets Unit, Mr Phillip Sithole,
- Guest speakers,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Megazone Media team,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Good evening ladies and gentlemen!

It is with great honour that I join you this evening for the Mega VVIP Launch.

Tonight's event is very important because it contributes significantly to the growth and development of the digital media in our City.

Tonight we launch an Online Radio Station under Megazone Media. This signifies growth of the Media Company which has evolved over the years by introducing various media platforms.

This also means that their listenership will grow worldwide and the radio station will no longer be bound by the limitations of the antenna. Our local stories can now be shared with the rest of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, equally important is building a sustainable partnership between Megazone Media and eThekweni Municipality. Public private partnerships are critical to the growth of our City.

The launch of the Online Radio Stations comes at a time when our City is currently installing WiFi equipment in various hotspots around eThekweni. We are doing this in an effort to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor with a main focus on under-developed communities.

The free WiFi project will be rolled out in different public access hot spots, targeting rural areas, townships and areas near tertiary institutions.

The project was announced as part of the 2016/17 financial year major projects. We will begin with the pilot phase which includes rolling out fibre cable.

About R30 million has been set aside for the project in this financial year.

The City has currently rolled out over 1 500 kilometres of optic fibre cables. This has enabled the City to connect all public facilities and to provide free WiFi in all Municipal libraries.

We intend to have rolled out 750 WiFi access points within three years.

Our Municipality supports initiatives of Megazone Media because they also address issues of skills development and transfer of skills especially to young people.

Programme Director, I have been informed that this Media company will soon establish an academy that will equip disadvantaged people, especially youth, in various media fields. This will give young people exposure and experience in the media industry.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is in line with our skills development vision in our Municipality. I am of the view that our youth are the future leaders. Therefore, it is important that we prioritise their development and we have various

interventions that are strategically aimed at equipping youth with skills.

In closing, I wish to add that we must maintain and strengthen this relationship so that we achieve our shared vision of youth development. I wish Megazone Media all the best.

Thank you!