



**Address by Her Worship, Deputy Mayor Cllr Fawzia Peer
on the Occasion of a Timeless Tribute To His Holiness
Pramukha Swami Maharaj (1921-2016)**

**28 September 2016 – 17h30
Shastri College New Hall – 1 Winterton Road – Durban**

- Programme Director,
- Members of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha,
- Devotees,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening!

Allow me to begin my address by thanking this organisation for extending an invitation the leadership of eThekweni to pay tribute to His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj who passed on last month at the age of 95.

Although the world is saddened by the loss, this evening we are gathered here to celebrate the life of His Holiness and his contribution towards the development of communities globally.

Ladies and gentlemen, His Holiness was a great religious leader. He inspired people towards a morally right, God-centric life without addiction, violence and crime.

This great religious leader did this through establishing numerous cultural centres, hospitals and educational facilities. He was an exemplary servant of society, living by his own ethos: **"In the joy of others lies our own..."**

Programme Director, this is a very powerful and meaningful quote by His Holiness. It speaks volumes about the satisfaction you get after giving to those who are less fortunate. It is about the warmth that you feel in your heart when you have made a difference in another person's life.

Interestingly too, the City of Durban was very close to the heart of His Holiness. During his time, he made several trips to our City and has inspired many to live a pious and charitable life.

With a vision of being Africa's most caring and liveable City by 2030, I am confident that the teachings of His Holiness will help us reach this milestone.

Ladies and gentlemen, His Holiness will always be remembered as an international stalwart of humanity, religion and spirituality.

In the year 2000, His Holiness addressed the Millennium World Peace Summit of Spiritual Leaders at the United Nations. In the year 2004, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the US government.

His Holiness travelled extensively, both in India and abroad, holding sacred gatherings and creating a large base of devotees.

Programme Director, we must never underestimate the spiritual power that His Holiness had. His life was dedicated to making a difference in the communities of the world.

His Holiness has left a lasting legacy behind. It is our duty to ensure that his teachings are passed down to future generations.

In closing ladies and gentlemen, I hope that now, more than ever, we can continue to live by His Holiness's profound values of selfless service, peace and harmony that he lived all his life.

Thank you!