



Address by Her Worship, the Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumedede on the Occasion of Abahlali BaseMjondolo Movement SA Annual Heritage Day Event and unveiling ceremony for the late Thuli Ndlovu

**30 October 2016 – 10h00
KwaNdengezi**

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- Programme Director,
 - President of Abahlali BaseMjondolo Movement SA, Mr Sbu Zikode,
 - Leadership and members of Abahlali BaseMjondolo Movement SA,
 - Traditional and religious leadership,
 - Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
 - Ladies and gentlemen,
 - All protocol observed,

Sanibonani!

Let me begin my address by thanking the leadership of this organisation for extending an invitation to us. Thank you for this kind gesture, I am honoured to join you.

Today we are gathered here for three things, to close off national Heritage Month, to hold an unveiling ceremony for the late Abahlali activist Thuli Ndlovu and to inform you about the service delivery plans by the 5th eThekweni Council.

Ladies and gentlemen, we celebrate an important month with a somber atmosphere. It has been a year since the murder of Abahlali activist Thuli Ndlovu from KwaNdengezi. It is alleged that the killing was politically motivated.

As the leadership of eThekweni, we condemn these types of killings. We promote peace and tolerance in our communities.

Programme Director, eThekweni honours Heritage Month because we are a diverse City and we are home to an interesting melting pot of cultures.

It is important not to let these differences separate us, but we should accept, celebrate and learn more about our differences.

To promote social cohesion, our Municipality has implemented a number of programmes and initiatives to ensure that this goal is achieved.

The importance of social cohesion is highlighted in our Integrated Development Plan – a mandatory 5-year-plan which the South African local government is required to compile to determine the development needs of the Municipality.

Social cohesion is defined as bonds that link members of a social group to one another, and to a group as a whole.

Our Municipality wants to work with Abahlali BaseMjondolo on building eThekweni to become Africa's most caring and liveable City by 2030.

Ladies and gentlemen, before I proceed I would like to take this opportunity to thank this organisation for giving me a platform to express the plans for the City going forward.

We commit to work with our people, opposition parties, government, business and civil society to realise the vision of our great City.

We are grateful that the previous Council laid a firm foundation for service delivery as well as sustainable growth and development in our City.

Our task, as the newly elected Council, is to consolidate and accelerate what has been achieved.

We must reach for new heights and raise the bar through interventions that will change our city for the betterment of our people.

This Council shall continue to improve people's lives through accelerating service delivery, economic growth, job creation, social and rural development.

EThekweni has grown from 103 to 110 wards. Most of these wards are rural so there is a need for us to fast-track infrastructure development to ensure better quality of life for these communities

Urbanisation is causing our city to burst at the seams. We need to have a clear plan to eradicate the slums by relooking at our housing models.

We want to ensure that those people living in flood plains, informal settlements and backyards receive priority from a development point of view.

All new houses will comply with the NHBRC standards.

We will also urgently look at our housing allocation policy to make sure that the needs of the poorest of the poor are taken care of. We vow to run a corruption free City.

In achieving this, we want to work with this organisation as a relevant stakeholder. We are aware that there is a huge task ahead of us in eradicating informal settlements and providing proper housing.

We will work hard to make that that this task is fulfilled!

Thank you!

