



**Address by Her Worship, the Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede  
on the occasion of the Black Management Forum KZN  
Business Breakfast in Partnership with Nedbank**

**29 September 2016 – 08h30  
Golden Horse Casino - Pietermaritzburg**

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Address by Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede at the Black Management Forum KZN Business  
Breakfast in Partnership with Nedbank, 29 September 2016

- Programme Director,
- Mayors of KwaZulu-Natal Municipalities,
- Representatives of Black Management Forum,
- Representatives of Nedbank,
- Representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry,
- Captains of Industry and representatives of the Business sector,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Representatives of the different spheres of government,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocols observed,

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## **Sanibonani!**

Ladies and gentlemen, I am highly honoured to join you this morning as I address you on Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and their contribution to the growth of the economy.

Let me begin my address by highlighting a national mandate by our government regarding the empowerment of this important sector.

As leaders of the public and private sector, we must take the lead from President Jacob Zuma's nine point plan which outlines the approach to grow the economy and to create employment.

This will in turn accelerate growth and attract more investment cities.

Our President placed emphasis on unlocking the potential of small, medium and micro enterprises, cooperatives and township as well as rural enterprises.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a mammoth task at hand. We must empower SMMEs to accelerate their growth.

In this regard, we must establish programmes to ensure that SMMEs have access to high-quality, innovative business support. This can improve the success rate of new ventures.

Our government is serious about radical economic transformation especially in the SMME sector.

Our government has a vision to turn our townships into economic hubs that will be fountains of bustling activities, draw our people into mainstream and ultimately ensure that they contribute towards our agenda of changing ownership patterns of the economy of this country.

In this regard, our government creates opportunities for previously disadvantaged people to play a key role in the economy through small businesses.

SMMEs are projected to be contributing 35 percent to our Gross Domestic Product and 54 percent to formal private sector employment.

The small business sector is a necessary catalyst to bridge the gap between the first and second economy.

This sector will contribute positively to our fight against poverty, inequality and unemployment.

That is why eThekweni Municipality prioritises economic development through entrepreneurship.

Our City invests in the empowerment of small, medium and micro business sector because growth in this sector will drive the growth of our local economy.

Just to highlight a few major initiatives, we have annual Regional Business Fairs, a platform for SMMEs to explore business opportunities and seek business ventures to progress.



We also host the annual Durban Business Fair, a seminar that seeks to empower local businesses by unlocking their creativity while encouraging innovation ideas of expanding their business globally.

Recently, eThekweni Municipality launched a R35 million Furniture Manufacturing Incubator this month. The state-of-the-art facility will have a drastic impact on stimulation and development of manufacturing business in the City, especially in Phoenix, Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu area.

We pay a special focus on economic development because we understand that a well performing economy indicates well for all of us.

When the economy is able to expand and create decent jobs, many people will be able to earn a living.

We know, too, that a thriving economy will directly address the triple challenge of unemployment, inequality and poverty.

Ladies and gentlemen, eThekweni continues to take the queue from provincial and national government to ensure that the collective vision of a vibrant and prosperous small business sector is realised.

We must also be proactive in how we deal with imbalances and injustices of the past. BBBEE legislation has paved the way for engaging previously marginalised business so that they too can operate at the level of those who have been exposed to opportunities for much longer.

As the government closest to the people, our task is to ensure that our programmes will enable small business to survive beyond the first three years.

It has been proven that most business that have been able to survive the critical three years, most of them have become sustainable.

Ladies and gentlemen, co-operatives are equally significant to the growth of the economy.

Earlier this year, eThekweni Municipality launched a Co-operative Development Strategy which seeks to improve and streamline the support offered to co-operatives.

This supports includes assisting co-operatives with sourcing finance, offering business training and promoting their products.

In eThekweni, we will continue advancing small businesses because they are the backbone of our economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to close my address by reminding you that the triple challenges facing our communities can be eradicated if we commit to working hard towards the growth and prosperity of SMMEs.

**Thank you!**