



**Address by Her Worship, Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede
On the Occasion of the Breakfast Send-off for Clermont
Community Choir**

**15 September 2016 – 10h00
Moses Mabhida Stadium**

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- Programme Director,
- Members of the eThekweni Executive Committee,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Members of Clermont Community Choir,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Members of the media,
- Municipal officials,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

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Good morning ladies and gentlemen!

It is with honour that I address you this morning as we bid farewell to our own local multi-talented Clermont Community Choir as they jet off to Venda.

Ladies and gentlemen, this occasion is yet another proudly Durban success story. In just one week, we have bid farewell to two local choirs. On Tuesday, we organised a send-off breakfast for uMlazi's Ithimba Le Afrika Acapella group that will perform at the White House in Washington this week.

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Today, we send-off this renowned Choir to conduct music development workshops and assisting choirs in Thohoyandou.

In a newly formed partnership with Professor Alfred Nevhutanda Development Foundation, this Choir is spreading its wings and is focusing on youth development through music.

This partnership will be beneficial to both the cities through the growth of the choristers.

Ladies and gentlemen, these two occasions are a true indication that eThekweni is serious about promoting arts and is rich with talent.

During this journey, the Choir will also honour the legendary SJ Khosa, one of the best composers from Venda, through a short concert.

Founded in 1992, the Choir specialises in a variety of music styles including choral, opera, classical and African indigenous music.

This highly-gifted, professional and vibrant Choir has received numerous awards. Just to highlight a few, the Choir was crowned national champions in the standard category of the Old Mutual National Choir Festival in December 2009.

The Choir has excelled in various national and provincial music competitions during 2003 and 2008.

These include the Arts, Culture and Tourism Choral Eisteddford, South African Post Office, KZN Premier Choral Competition and Imvunge Choral Music Eisteddford.

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Clermont Community Choir, we are proud of you! We are particularly proud that you embark on this important journey during a time when our country celebrates Heritage Month.

We plead with our business people, civil society and residents of eThekweni to support and rally behind Clermont Community Choir as they leave to showcase Durban talent to Venda.

Ladies and gentlemen, eThekweni is serious about the development of the creative industry sector.

EThekweni is increasingly gaining recognition as a creative centre, especially within the arts, culture, film and design fields, with innovation playing a major role in each sub-sector.

Programme Director, the power of music should never be underestimated. It is a powerful tool in promoting social cohesion and unity.

Our Municipality promotes arts because it is one of the instruments that drive social cohesion.

Plan 6 of our Integrated Development Plan encourages the introduction of interventions in the fields of arts, culture, recreation and heritage to create a socially cohesive City.

Encouraging participation in these sectors will lead to growth for both individuals and communities as well as provide major potential for income opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen, to prove that promoting arts and culture sectors is a priority, the City of Durban will host the

international edition of the Essence Festival from 8 to 13 November 2016.

We look forward to hosting this multi-day entertainment, empowerment and cultural festival.

This festival will provide a platform for our business people and artists to network, gain valuable information and build relationships with international experts for locals to be globally competitive.

To the Clermont Community Choir, travel safely to Thohoyandou.

Fly the Durban flag high and make us proud!

We are behind you all the way!

Nihambe kahle!

Thank you!

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