



**Message of Support by Cllr Zamani Khuzwayo
On the Occasion of the Durban and Coastal Mental
Health – 76th Annual General Meeting**

**29 September 2016 – 10h45
Sherwood Hostel, 733 Jan Smuts Highway**

- Programme Director,
- Chairperson of the Board, Dr L R Naidoo,
- Vice Chairperson of the Board, Mr W N Petersen,
- Board members and delegates of the Durban and Coastal Mental Health Society,
- Executive Director, Mrs Gita Harie,
- Management team,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

On behalf of Her Worship, the Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede, I wish to take this opportunity to thank this organisation for making a difference in the mental health community.

As we celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Durban and Coastal Mental Health, eThekweni salutes you for being one of the leading organisations in the mental health field.

Ladies and gentlemen, this non-profitable organisation has transformed lives in our communities, especially in families that are less fortunate and in rural areas where medical facilities are not easily accessible.

Your affiliation with the South African Federation for Mental Health shows your strong commitment to the national mental health movement for 76 years.

Over the years, we have seen transformation in mental health care. The introduction of the Mental Health Care Act of 2002 was a significant stride in advancing the rights of people living with mental disabilities to be treated with respect and dignity.

This has been followed by the introduction of the United Nations Convention which recognised mental health as a critical aspect of health in the country.

A total of 20 percent of South Africans will experience mental health difficulties in their lifetime and 4 percent of South Africans live with intellectual disability.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality has a partnership with Durban and Coastal Mental Health which entails packaging orange recycling refuse bags by people with mental disabilities.

This partnership has assisted us to change public perceptions and break down barriers to employing people with mental disabilities.

This partnership has also demonstrated the capabilities of people with mental disabilities if they receive the necessary training and support.

Programme Director, our Municipality is proud of the transformation and impact being made in our communities through programmes for people with mental disabilities. We wish to continue working with you to empower people with mental disabilities.

In closing ladies and gentlemen, I wish this organisation growth and prosperity. May you continue making a difference in our communities.

As a caring City working with the Durban and Coastal Mental Health, the development of people living with disabilities is a priority!

Thank you!