



**Message of Support by Her Worship, Cllr Zandile
Gumede on the Occasion of Verulam Day and Frail Care
Centre**

02 October 2016 – 09h30

- Programme Director,
- Representatives from the Verulam Day and Frail Care
Centre,
- Our senior citizens,
- Stakeholders and sponsors,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

Sanibonani!

It is with great pleasure that I join you on this special occasion as we celebrate our senior citizens.

Our Municipality supports the Verulam Day and Frail Care Centre because it is dedicated to the wellbeing of our senior citizens. Some of them are too old to care for themselves and do not have people caring for them in their homes.

This centre ensures that they are loved and cared for appropriately. Some of our senior citizens suffer from ailments that need medical attention. This centre is able to assist.

We want to say thank you to the centre for the good work and the difference made in the lives of our senior citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality values and cherishes the contribution made by senior citizens in the development of our communities.

Programme Director, as we celebrated 22 years of democracy this year, we are proud of the numerous interventions and programmes that have been achieved by our democratic government in providing services to the people and transforming lives.

However, South Africa as a nation is still faced with multitudes of challenges and social ills that threaten the democratic gains of our government.

Most of our vulnerable citizens including the elderly are still ill-treated in our communities. Poverty is still defined along racial lines and the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality still exists.

Therefore, we need to work together as government, civil society, non-governmental organisations and many other social groups in order to overcome these challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality has programmes that are specifically developed to cater for the wellbeing of senior citizens in eThekweni.

One such programme is Operation Sukuma Sakhe, which seeks to bring all government services closer to the people at ward level. Through this programme, our City has made numerous interventions towards the betterment of the lives of elderly citizens.

Our City also has a Vulnerable Groups office which caters for the needs of women and children as well as people living with disabilities and senior citizens.

Taking care of senior citizens is of paramount importance for our government. It is for this reason the eThekweni Municipality has dedicated programmes that address the needs of elderly persons.

It is our way of ensuring that challenges related to senior citizens are prioritised because we are a caring Municipality.

So ladies and gentlemen, I believe the partnership between the Municipality and the Verulam Day and Frail Care Centre starts now.

We have shared visions which could be realised if we work together.

Thank you!