



## **Welcome Address by Cllr Zamazulu Sokhabase on the Occasion of the Councillor Induction Programme**

**05 September 2016**

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- Programme Director,
- Members of the eThekweni Executive Committee,
- Representatives from the South African Local Government Association,
- Representatives from all spheres of government,
- Fellow Councillors,
- Amakhosi,
- Speakers in different topics,
- Stakeholders and partners,
- Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- All protocol observed,

## **Sanibonani!**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Councillor Induction Programme this morning.

My fellow Councillors, we are gathered here today to ensure that we have a clear understanding of the role we will play in the communities that we will serve during our five-year tenure in Local Government.

We must remain strongly committed to the principles of accountability, transparency, anti-corruption and good governance.

As foot soldiers, we remain the first point of contact between citizens and government. This makes us at the frontline of service delivery.

Therefore, as Councillors we must play a more active oversight role to ensure the efficient delivery of services.

Service delivery remains high on eThekweni's top list of priorities. As the drivers of transformation and service delivery, we must hit the ground running.

If we work in collaboration with all stakeholders, we can achieve the City's vision of being Africa's most liveable and caring City in Africa by 2030.

All Councillors must be champions of the Back-to-Basics Campaign. This is a requirement for all levels of government, especially Local Government to build an organisational culture to drive a people-centred service delivery programme.

The next two years of this Campaign will also focus on combating corruption, improving institutional weaknesses and engaging communities so they too, can fully participate in government's programme of action.

It is our duty to ensure that this Campaign is implemented accordingly and effectively. We need to go back to basics. We need to put our people first, treat them with respect and address their needs with immediate effect.

Being a Councillor is not a job, it is a calling. When we serve, we must do it from the heart and do it with pride. Don't become a Councillor just to earn a living, it is about touching lives and being an agent of change.

Learn the dynamics of your community, respect members of the public and be at their service at all times. Know the issues and challenges in your community. Build a relationship with members of the community that you serve, be visible, have an open door policy and be approachable. Interact and communicate with residents and work with the community towards achieving one goal.

**Kumele sikuqinisekise ukuthi imisebenzi kaHulumeni iyabonakala!**

It is our duty to ensure that housing is delivered; households have electricity and clean potable water as well as proper sanitation facilities. If this is achieved then we would have accelerated service delivery.

As Councillors, we must always remember that we are the foot soldiers of government and the backbone of service delivery! Active Councillors will set the tone for the rhythm of eThekweni.

The community must experience us as a City in motion, a City that is tuned into their needs and a City that delivers for all

**Let's work together in advancing people's power in eThekweni!**

**Ngiyabonga!**