



**Opening Remarks during 2017 Sustainable Living
Exhibition
by
Her Worship, Cllr Zandile Gumede, Mayor of eThekweni
Municipality**

**15 September 2017
Durban Exhibition Centre**

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- Programme Director;
 - MEC for Local Government and Traditional Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Nomusa Dube-Ncube;
 - Fellow Councillors;
 - City Manager and all government managers present;
 - Representatives from the business community;
 - Representatives from academia;
 - Organised civil society;
 - Future leaders;
 - Members of the media;
 - Ladies and gentlemen;
 - All protocol observed

I would like to reflect back and look at the journey we took since 2007 when we were reviewing our long-term development framework which was adopted in 2001.

Following the Imagine Movement which was started by organised civil society in Chicago and City of Calgary, eThekweni Municipality joined Sustainable Cities International to be the third city in the world to mobilise all stakeholders, young and old in our diversity to imagine a city we would love to live in.

The visioning process was long, interesting and equally challenging; however, we came to the point where matters became clear and six thematic areas which are the key pillars of our long-term plan were identified. These are:

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Prosperity
- Culture and heritage
- Sustainability
- Care and empowerment

We identified the creation of relevant and appropriate platforms for the sharing of promising practices as the key to the achievement of our vision of a *liveable and caring city by 2030*. For this reason, a decision to host an annual exhibition to showcase different efforts by different stakeholders was taken. The first Exhibition was successfully hosted in 2010.

The rationale behind the Exhibition is to recognise efforts and inspire mass action by our people towards our agreed vision.

The Sustainable Living Exhibition has grown to be one amongst the key events to which people living, investing, playing and praying within the Municipality and KwaZulu-Natal province look forward to attend and showcase their innovation.

In fact, I am told the Exhibition has also attracted global attention. While this is worth celebrating, we should not forget the purpose why this unique exhibition is hosted. The overarching purpose is to educate and inspire ourselves to live within the confines of our natural resources, let it be land, water and air.

It is our contribution towards meeting the local needs within the context of regional and global sustainable development agenda in the form of Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Climate Change Agreement, National Development Plan and Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PDGS).

Thank you to all our partners. Thank you MEC Dube-Ncube and your Department for being with us on this journey of learning and changing attitudes. Thank you to all exhibitors and visitors. Our gratitude goes to educators and learners who are here to learn; and I am positive they are going to be our sustainability champions.

With those words, I formally welcome you all to 2017 Sustainable Living Exhibitions!!!

Ngiyabonga !!!