



**Remarks by Her Worship, Mayor Zandile Gumede at Durban  
Port Festival 9-10 September 2017**

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- Programme Director,
- CEO of Transnet Port Authority- Shumali Qalinge,
- Durban Port Manager – Moshe Motlohi,
- Distinguished guests,
- Sponsors and Exhibitors,
- Government representatives,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Sanibonani

I would like to thank you for inviting us to this wonderful festival which is opening the activities of the port to the public. This festival is important to us especially for our children and youth – who must take this country forward.

It is indeed important that we open the port or harbor to the public so that they can know and understand what exactly is happening

here. For many years we have been telling South Africa that Durban is not big in mining but our mines are in the waters. The port is very strategic for the city and we believe that it is important that we open it to the public so that they can have access to opportunities available for them.

We say our youth must learn and see what are the career opportunities that are in the port. Universities must consider offering more studies that will help us improve the port – we want to see more black youth working in the port. We don't want to see them as general workers only but as professionals with skills making meaningful contribution. The port authority must have more programmes that are targeting schools especially in townships and rural areas. When you have more locals who understands the port – the will be absolutely no need to import the skills from other countries. Instead we will be sending our skilled youth to other port cities.

The port must deliberately empower the locals in order for them to take charge of it. We really appreciate having such programmes because they are a step in a right direction.

The two-day festival is part of Transnet National Ports Authority's (TNPA) efforts to bring communities closer to the ports. The Durban

Port Festival not only celebrates our city's marine and maritime identity, but also the importance of our Oceans Economy, which government has earmarked as a catalyst for job creation and economic growth through the Operation Phakisa initiative. It is an opportunity for the public to be welcomed into the port and a way of making our ports more community friendly. The festival features an array of waterside and landside 'edu-tainment' activities that showcase our port, port related recreational activities and various players in the maritime industry.

Transnet is actively developing what it calls 'Smart People's Ports' that are people friendly and have a focus on community engagement, tourism, leisure, recreation, and career and business opportunities. "Smart" = using advanced technology platforms to facilitate greater ease of logistics and doing business in South Africa. "**People**" – is about promoting tourism, leisure, recreation, sport, career and business opportunities and community engagement through the ports. Working closely with the Cities is critical to the success of Smart People's Ports.

The Port of Durban is South Africa's premier multi-cargo port and is counted among the busiest ports in Africa, handling over 80 million tons of cargo per annum. It is the international commercial gateway to South Africa and is strategically positioned on the world shipping

routes. It is one of the few ports in the world located in close proximity to the central business district.

The Port of Durban occupies a focal point in the transport and logistics chain with 60% of all imports and exports passing through the port, thus it assumes a leading role in facilitating economic growth in South Africa. The Operation Phakisa programme has seen significant progress been made to restore the Durban dry dock to world class standards and to establish the city as a thriving ship repair hub. Nine new Transnet tugs are presently being built in Durban by Southern African Shipyards. The port is also growing as a cruise destination, with a number of global cruise lines already using Durban as a port of call.

The Durban Port Festival gives us an opportunity to bring the South African Navy closer to the community and showcase career opportunities that are available. I believe that we should be producing more soldier for the navy in Durban because we have the sea and the harbor.

Port is able to project many job opportunities for the locals especially the youth. I want us to discuss a possibility of having a joint mayoral project that will be able to empower locals but when we do get time lets us discuss this urgently.

The sporting activities that are happening in the port such as Yacht must be accessible to the locals especially the previously disadvantaged communities. This yacht club must not be for the privilege boys but it must be for everyone. We need to transform and we must do this by working together. We as the city are open for engagements which will take us forward.

We thank you for inviting us. Enjoy this wonderful festival which ensures that the ports offer positive and sustainable spin-offs to surrounding communities. Let us enjoy and use this opportunity to learn while having fun.

Siyabonga! WayiTshuKutShA! Asenze AmaWololo!