

**WELCOME ADDRESS AT KZN PROPERTY MARKETING CONFERENCE OF THE
SMALL HARBOURS AND STATE COASTAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT UNIT
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Programme Director,

Representatives of our neighbouring municipalities,

Department of Public Works,

National Treasury,

Representatives from ACSA and Transnet,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Mayor of eThekweni and welcome you to this important occasion. We would like to thank the department of Public Works for hosting such engagements with the province and coastal municipalities regarding the letting out of state coastal properties, under its custodianship.

South Africa has 2800 kilometres of coastline from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic (western) coast southwards around the tip of Africa and then northeast to the border with Mozambique on the Indian Ocean. Many communities depend on this coast and South Africa's oceans to sustain their livelihoods. Over 300 businesses are currently leasing state owned coastal property and these include fishing, recreational, sport, leisure, retail, tourism, mining, farming, hospitality, logistics and energy operations.

We believe there are many opportunities to attract investment, stimulate local economic development, job creation, revenue generation and economic empowerment under the convening of the Laboratory for Operation Phakisa. As the city that is situated on the coast, we believe that there are many opportunities for our people in terms of jobs and local business. We believe that we will be able to move away from making slogans on radical economic transformation and start implementing.

We are therefore, grateful to have the Port of Durban in our city and have another Richards bay Port in our sister municipality uMhlathuze, this means that we have two ports in one KwaZulu Natal Province. Recently, we had further strategic engagements with other coastal municipalities like Ugu, iLembe, Umkhanyakude around the issues of supporting the maritime sector and exploring opportunities in the Blue Oceans Economy.

Having the Port of Durban in our city gives us an opportunity to have an in-depth appreciation of the maritime sector and its complexities. As we continue to support the sector, we provide complementary infrastructure and services to promote efficient and competitive operations for the betterment of our businesses and communities.

The success of the growth of this sector does not depend on cities only but requires alignment, partnerships and collaboration of efforts and

resources with all stakeholders. It was for this reason that the city and the port of Durban developed a joint vision and entered into a collaborative agreement to support and develop the sector locally. This vision resulted to the joint port - city plans being developed, alignment of budgeting and implementation of maritime logistics related catalytic infrastructure projects such as; the Bayhead Bridge, Point Waterfront Development, Cator Ridge and Dube Trade Port.

Programme Director,

The City through the Economic Development and Investment Promotion Unit took a proactive and strategic decision to set up the eThekweni Maritime Cluster. This is a special purpose vehicle, set up not only as a mechanism for implementing the Local Economic Development, Provincial Growth and Development Plan, Industrial Policy Frameworks. It was also set up to create to an enabling platform for the business, community, the port, academia, government and other agents to have meaningful dialogue, identify issues of common interests and implement responsive and impactful programmes and projects.

The municipality recognises the importance of property development as a critical feature during these critical times when the overall economy is not functioning optimally. With property development comes opportunities for construction and related activities. Construction by its very nature has many multipliers and this creates heightened economic activity and job creation.

The eThekweni Municipality is endowed with many projects that have catalytic capabilities. These catalytic projects currently being implemented or being planned for the City will have a huge economic

and social impact. This impact will be broad, ranging from job creation, encouraging mixed-use development, including integrating commercial and housing needs. All this will generate additional income through rates.

We currently have twenty five (25) catalytic projects being implemented, which in itself is a real demonstration of the commitment City leaders have, to transform the economic landscape of this Municipality towards more inclusivity.

I am confident that these projects will inject renewed interest in Durban as an investment location. In order to give priority to these projects that will re-shape the landscape of Durban, the municipality has put in place a specialised office known as the Catalytic Projects and One-Stop Shop. Investors are welcomed to engage with our professional team geared to facilitate development.