

Welcoming address by Mayor Zandile Gumede at Inner City regeneration Programme – Durban ICC

Programme Director,

Councillor Siphon Kaunda – Chairperson of ECOD and Planning,

Councillors present,

Mr Makhunga – New President of Durban Chamber of Commerce (congratulations on your appointment),

Acting DCM – Philip Sithole,

Business community,

All sectors represented,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, sanibonani.

We thank you for waking up this early to grace this important occasion. Indeed, Durban is about to change its face and regain its beauty. What is important is that the new face of Durban will be much better than previous beauty.

We are delighted about the announcement of the MTN 8 Cup final which is coming to Moses Mabhida Stadium. We are glad that on the 30th of September 2017, Durban will be hosting MTN 8 Cup final on the same week of ESSENCE festival. Durban will be abuzz during the week of Essence, I encourage you to buy tickets.

Great cities of the world are liveable communities of people where government, commerce and culture thrive. Great cities offer a variety of

lifestyle and recreation. They find a balance between the natural and the built environment.

Great cities are places where the human spirit can thrive socially, economically and culturally. Durban has the aspirations to be a great city.

The City has undertaken a two weeks of Radical CBD Clean up as phase one implementation of Mayoral Inner City Intensive Urban Management. All operational departments are dedicating 4 hours each day jointly cleaning and making the city safe and attractive to all.

All security cluster (public and Private) are working tirelessly to ensure that cleaned areas are sustainable 24/7 until the city appoints a dedicated team to take full responsibility of CBD urban management. The Supply Chain Management process is underway to ensure that due process are properly followed for the team to start operating soon.

Programme Director, I think it is important that I air my concern regarding the issues of crime and the so called political killings. The killing of women especially by their boyfriend and husband remains a concern. Today I will be with minister of Police- Hon Fikile Mbalula at Glebelands hostel in response to the situation.

The CBD clean-up is a signature for the eThekweni municipality with all stakeholders to support our clean and liveable Durban vision. This is what I promised in my inaugural speech and I promised to clean Durban. Ngathembisa ukulikhuculula iTheku. I believe that by working together we can make a difference and we are in business to Break Silos and Regenerating our CBD. This vision is shared as pre-requirement for

an implementation of the adopted Inner City Regeneration Plan. The key focus includes the following:

- **Safety and Security** – An outcome-based visible security team to carry out key safety and security mandates with clear indicators for each precinct
- **Promote Trading** – Rationalization trading areas, provide associated facilities (storage, waste disposal, proper ablution facilities) and progression plan for street traders as a positive contributor to the GDP, embrace Durban diversity culture and create stability in many households
- **Waste Management** – A focused approach towards waste management that is responsive to the needs of residents, businesses, and the informal economy. We want our informal traders to trade in clean spaces.
- **Implementing Bylaws** - Undertaking Education and Awareness of City long vision, City By laws, City Economic access and associated responsibilities.
- To stimulate interest and active participation by community in the promotion, enhancement and protection of the “green areas” in the Durban Inner City area and the creation of a healthier Inner City for both people and the natural environment;

- To create environmental awareness amongst our members and various elements of the community through communication and education about both the opportunities to enjoy the urban environment as well as the threats to this environment.

We have clear and achievable goals as this current leadership which have been entrusted this responsibility by the ANC and voters. We believe that our goals are in line with our inaugural speech which placed more focus on job creation. When we have clean city, we attract more investors. Some of our goals are the following:

- To accommodate 450,000 people when fully developed
- To create 250,000 jobs when fully developed
- Additional accommodation will be provided with at least 40% of that being a mix of affordable, Gap and social housing
- To place Durban on the World Tourism Map and grow tourist spending in the Inner City
- To accommodate more legal street trading
- Every resident will be within a 5 minute walk of facilities to supply their daily needs
- The Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network (IRPTN) will have been implemented with an inner city distribution system
- The city will be more energy efficient and 90% of buildings in the city will have grey water recycling

I believe that by working together we can achieve, with those few words I hope we will be able to engage with business community on other projects. We will be creating more platforms for engagements. I will be calling a meeting where I will be reporting my 365 days achievements as the Mayor.

I want to tell you that a lot has been achieved thus far and I am looking forward to engage with you in that platform. As this leadership we are optimistic about the future of Durban. When we end our term of office – we will look back and say Durban is beautiful during the day and at night. We will hand over a beautiful and clean city to the next generation of leaders.

We want to encourage business community to use correct platforms such as NEDLAC instead making irresponsible statement that will cause panic to investors. The irresponsible statements by some known business leader on radical economic transformation plan should be strongly condemned. We must use correct platform for engagement.

WE are happy with our relationship with the Chamber and other forums such as KZN Growth Coalition.

With those words, I thank you, have a lovely weekend.