



Speaking notes for Mayor Zandile Gumede at the SAPOA on 19 September 2017 at Hilton Hotel

Programme Director,

President of SAPOA - Mr Peter Levett,

CEO of SAPOA - Mr Neil Gopal,

CEOs from Top Property companies,

Captains of industry,

Distinguished guests,

Sponsors,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

Good evening and thanking for coming to this important occasion for the private property industry which takes place after winning seven (7) awards at the KZN Govan Mbeki Human Settlement Awards, indeed we are a hardworking and winning city.

Our city recognises the importance of property development as a critical feature during these crucial times when the overall economy is facing challenges. In one of my first meetings in office was to meet with business leaders. I am happy to state that SAPOA was one of the first business stakeholders that I met and in that meeting I committed myself through SOPAO to engage further with entities in this sector.

I am happy that tonight we are gathered here to further engage on issues of property development within the city. I am quite certain that you all want to know the plans that I have to support property developers.

I have acknowledged that the inner city faces various challenges that includes crime and grime. Through the city manager, Mr Nzuzwa, we have established a multi-disciplinary team that is working around the clock to deal with crime and grime in the inner city. We have also allocated resources which are dedicated towards the maintenance and improvement of the inner city environment. We want to restore our image and make this city beautiful, friendly, clean and safe.

We want to ensure that we make our Durban CBD attractive and conducive for investors and our people. This radical clean-up campaign requires partnership with institutions like SAPOA for it to deliver the intended results.

I am happy that one of the leading banks, FNB, has committed to bring vibrancy into the inner city through their marathon. As part of this marathon they have dedicated resources for two weeks to work with the city in the clean-up and rejuvenation of the inner city. I want to make a plea to you, to follow suite in pursuance of this dream.

The ANC government has realised that political freedom without economic freedom has less meaning to our people. The 1994 democratic project will fail if our people are still living in squalor and poverty. In his state of the nation address of 2014, President Jacob Zuma made a clarion call by calling all of us to work together in order to move South Africa forward.

Private sector is important for our economic transformation project, especially our radical economic transformation plan. We believe that property development comes with 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 through its radical economic transformation would like to work with SAPOA in developing programmes that will open doors for BLACK owned professional agencies, contractors and developers to benefit from future investments and maintenance of current properties.

We want to see more youth and women being involved in this sector. I have met a number of young women who have interests in the property industry and they need guidance and mentorship from big players. We also would like you to consider military veterans in the security of these properties.

Programme Director,

We have noticed that major property developments are taking place in the north of Durban but would like to engage with you on how we can work together to bring investments into the Durban Central district and also to the South of Durban.

The Ethekewini metro endowed with many projects that have catalytic capabilities. The 25 catalytic projects currently being implemented or being planned for the City will result in huge economic and social impacts. This impact is broad in nature, ranging from job creation, encouraging mixed-use development, including integrating commercial and housing needs. All this will generate additional income through rates.

The demonstration and commitment by us as the city's leadership to radically transform the economic landscape of this Municipality towards a more inclusive city should not go unnoticed.

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 Office. Investors are welcomed to engage with our professional team who are geared to facilitate development.

In conclusion, as I undertook last year, we have called for and received full approval to establish this Business Investment partnership forum, to be called "Team Durban". This Team will need to be led by senior, experienced Business Leaders and some of the existing large Foreign Investors in Durban. You will hear more at our Invest Durban Strategy Launch and Township Investment Showcase event planned for September.

The council has given us a blessing to go ahead and establish this Team Durban which will be advertised on newspapers. You are welcome to

make nominations so that the Council will have a bigger pool to select from.

eThekweni Municipality's new Investment Promotion Strategy and Implementation Plan is set to take the City's global investment attraction and retention plans to greater heights.

This has been to develop an entirely new and improved Durban Investment Promotion Strategy, plus a new organisational structure. The work has been well researched and is based on global best practices which will benefit all in eThekweni. The plans were approved by our full Council on 1st August, and the refreshed Unit responsible for bringing in new Foreign Investment for eThekweni is now known as "**Invest Durban**".

Siyaqhuba and we are hard at work. We would like to improve our relations with you through the office of the City manager and acting DCM responsible for economic development and planning.