

Welcoming Address by Cllr Nkosenhle Madlala at KZN Manufacturing  
Indaba

14 September 2017 at Durban ICC

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Programme Director,

MEC Sihle Zikalala – Economic Development & Tourism

Dr Tebogo Makube: Chief Director for Industrial Procurement, the dti

Angela Dick: Chief Executive Officer, Transman

Dylan Piatti: Chief of Staff, Deloitte,

CEOs from different entities,

Honoured guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

As eThekweni Municipality; we are proud to host the KZN Manufacturing Indaba in our City.

South Africa's current socioeconomic predicament is firmly rooted in its past and requires measures that will change the historic imposition of inequality and economic disenfranchisement by colonial and apartheid administrations. To this effect, the National Development Plan (NDP) acknowledges that transforming the economy also means changing the patterns of ownership and control.

The Black Industrialists Programme is a practical tool of achieving the demographic transformation of economic power and spatial concentration within the overall industrial strategy outlined in IPAP (industrial policy action plan) and the objectives of national development as articulated in the NDP (national development plan).

As eThekweni, we believe that the Black Industrialists (BI) programme would break down the barriers to entry for black-owned and -managed firms in South Africa's manufacturing sector. This is a significant step towards creating multiple and diverse pathways for black industrialists to enter the sector and to grow the economy, while promoting industrialisation and transforming the manufacturing industry.

Programme Director,

Manufacturing is a very important sector to the City. A fifth of Durban's economy is made up of manufacturing. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest employer in the City, and is likely to produce more dignified jobs for our people than most other sectors. Our province has the second biggest manufacturing sector- after Gauteng, and eThekweni has the second biggest manufacturing sector- after Johannesburg. The City and province also have an impressive competitive advantage in manufacturing because of our Port.

However, we are aware that the sector is not without its challenges. Employment in the City's, and country's manufacturing has been declining steadily, for far too long. We are determined as a City therefore, to maintain our competitive advantage, and keep in the forefront of developments within manufacturing. We are also resolute about ensuring that the manufacturing sector provides key opportunities for the City and province to achieve real economic transformation for our people

For this reason, and with this in mind, eThekweni Municipality would like to welcome the Manufacturing Indaba, and all its delegates as key partners in addressing the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector. We thank you for taking the time to gather in our City and address this very important sector, and we hope that together we will unlock significant opportunities for the prosperity of our people.

We would like to thank our partners, the dti and the Manufacturing Circle as well as our KZN partners, Durban Chamber of Commerce, Trade & Invest KwaZulu-Natal, Economic Development & Growth in eThekweni, as well as our sponsors Cova Advisory & Associates and Laser Junction.

On behalf of the city and the Mayor, you are all welcomed.

I thank you!