



Address by eThekweni Municipality Councillor Busi Ndlovu on the occasion of the 6th African Emerging Film Makers Awards 2018 on 29 September 2018 at the Greyville Convention Centre, Durban

- Program Director
- Chairperson of the eThekweni Film Makers Association :
Andile Buwa
- KZN Film Commission- Jackie Motsope
- Durban Film Office- Toni Monty
- Panel of Judges
- Recipients of Awards
- Emerging Black Filmmakers
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocol observed.

Good evening.

On behalf of Her Worship the Mayor of eThekweni, Councilor Zandile Gumede, it gives me great pleasure, to join you at this exciting, 6th African Emerging Film Makers Awards ceremony, hosted by the eThekweni, Film Makers Association.

Program Director, in hosting this ceremony this evening, the eThekweni Film Makers Association, aims to celebrate the best local and national talent, together with the most creative, innovative and quality films, while at the same time, honoring excellent emerging filmmakers within the industry and across the African continent.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the awards celebrate the continent's fresh and young talent, the eThekweni Film Association, wishes to use this occasion as one of the ways it seeks, to position the province of KwaZulu- Natal and South Africa as a platform, to lobby for investment in the infrastructure, and capacity for Africa to commercialize its young creative talent.

Program Director, at eThekweni, we fully support this vision.

We see Africa's growing film industry as so integral, that a strong Pan African film industry, is seen not only to create jobs for the youth, but also to promote integration, peace and cohesion in the continent.

The eThekweni Municipality, in partnership with the Durban International Film Festival, continues to invest and facilitate opportunities for filmmakers – with a wider vision of promoting filmographies across Africa.

As one of Africa's premier film industry events, the 9th edition of the Durban Film Mart held this year, was a joint programme of the eThekweni Municipality's Durban Film Office and the Durban International Film Festival, which offered delegates unrivalled opportunities through a diverse programme of top notch seminars and events, for African Filmmakers.

Program Director, the primary goals of the Festival, were to build business networks, explore collaborations, develop content, benchmark creative and production work in line with international trends, and look for investment and business opportunities, to support local talent.

One of the highlights of this year's International Film Festival, was the launch of the Department of Trade and Industry's, Film Incentives Guidelines and the Emerging Black Filmmakers' Fund Guidelines. These guidelines are clear cut, and are most useful to guide film makers and others in the film industry, to proceed

with a technical “know how”, of how to go about with funding and other incentives made available.

We are excited, that yet again, this year’s Film Festival provided numerous platforms for discussion. One of those being a set of discussions led by the Department of Arts and Culture, on current and future collaborations within the BRICS member countries, where local Filmmakers had the opportunity, to network with member country filmmaker delegations, in attendance.

Ladies and gentlemen, all programmes and discussions were underpinned by a focus on developing the industry in Africa, whilst drawing on local African and international expertise.

The Durban Film Festival, therefore provided great opportunities for emerging Black artists and business, and afforded them space, within a transforming industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, at eThekweni, we are fast tracking our plans to make Durban a “Film City”, with a projected investment of R 7.5 billion. We will create all the opportunities we can, especially for emerging Black Filmmakers and to make Durban a

throbbing pulse which will be difficult not to be felt, on the African and international arena of film production.

Program Director, I think it is now time, so please allow me to come to the highlight of this evening, which features the Film Makers Awards presentation.

Firstly, I wish to congratulate all nominees and finalists for making the cut, and for their award winning projects and talents.

As awardees ladies and gentlemen, tonight you are not only being rewarded for your hard work, but also that your successful projects will provide you with a strong foothold for a great International career ahead.

I wish you every success for the future and thank you for the legacy and inspiration you are leaving behind, for succeeding generations of film makers in the city, South Africa, Africa, and abroad.

Your success and achievements, will provide the eThekwini Municipality more reason to invest in future programs in the Film Sector, which promotes the continent, South Africa and Durban.

In closing, and on behalf of the city, I wish to thank the eThekwini Film Makers Association for the hard work they are putting in, to bring the city and African Film Industries, to come together, and to work in unison, for the greater good of African Film.

I wish the Association, every success in the future.

Thank you.