



**Welcome Address by the Deputy Mayor of the eThekweni Municipality, Councillor Fawzia Peer on the occasion of the IERM Cocktail Reception, at the Moses Mabhida Stadium, on 17 September 2018 @ 17h30**

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- Program Director
- IERM President : Bishop Ngobeli
- IERM General Secretary : Jean Venter
- The Various Government Departments
- Universities
- eThekweni Parks, Leisure and Recreation Management
- IERM Member Municipalities, Councillors and Officials
- Members of Academia

- Distinguished Speakers
- Honoured Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocols observed.

Good evening.

I am delighted to join all of you at the cocktail reception tonight, to mark the opening of the Institute of Environment and Recreation Management, Convention.

First of all, on behalf of the Executive Mayor of eThekweni and the executive of the council, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all participants attending this conference.

I would also like to thank the IERM for acceding to the request of our local Councillors, for choosing Durban as the location for staging this important convention, which reaffirms the city's important role, in Local Government.

I also like to place on record our appreciation to the local organising committee, for their tireless efforts in facilitating this event.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is the mission of the IERM, to be the leading public sector organization, promoting sustainable, integrated environmental and recreation management practices, in South Africa.

The IERM therefore offers multi –disciplinary, interactive forums with the participation of influential Parastatal CEOs, Academics, Government officials and relative value representatives.

Program Director, the steerage by the IERM, has been marked by some very distinctive, natural environment conferences, which have been instrumental in shaping Municipal policies for the whole country, for many, many years.

The Institute has been a consistent and powerful advocate for stimulating high-key conversations

promoting best practices in environmental management. This is clearly visible from the programme set out already, for this convention.

Program Director, themed “Public Spaces and Places, Future Values, Trends and Global Views”, this convention is contemporary and far reaching, and will help Municipalities towards achieving their sustainable development goals.

We therefore encourage candid and searching discussions on the theme of this programme, as this encounter allows delegates, to have their anxieties and hopes aired fully, and honestly.

We must acknowledge a special debt to the IERM in this area of its specialisation, and hope more events like these, are held under its aegis.

Finally, I wish this convention great success and all our visitors a very enjoyable stay here, in eThekweni.

Thank you.