



**Welcome address: Masakhane as Women - Women of
the Clergy - Interfaith Desk**

Speech by: Cllr. Mpume Sithole
Event: Masakhane as Women - Women of the
Clergy – Interfaith Desk
Venue: Durban City Hall
Date: 8 September 2018
Time: 09h00 – 16h00

Programme Director
Councillors and members of the executive
Pastors and Church Leaders
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
All Protocol observed

Siyanibingelela futhi siyanamukela kulomhlangano

The Honourable Mayor couldn't make it because of other commitments. The issue of women in the leadership positions is an issue that is close to her heart and would have cherished the opportunity to welcome you here herself.

The issue of women in leadership is a pressing issue. It is an issue that deserves our full and undivided attention. Women leaders bring an element that you rarely find in male leadership and that is caring leadership. Women are holistic in their approach and consider all sides of the debate. They naturally put the welfare of people first whilst male leadership will tend to focus exclusively on the bottom-line. Sometimes this is at the expense of people's welfare.

For instance, global warming is an issue that has been proved conclusively many years ago. The biggest culprits are the big industries who are have mostly male-dominated leadership. A lot could have been done already to alleviate global warming. I am shocked that we are still debating if global warming exists at all. The facts are all there for everyone to see, but no, we are still debating and arguing. Why? Because bottom lines are at stake here.

The role of the church in moral regeneration and social cohesion has been well discussed everywhere. The church is the central role player in this regard as it preaches the values, if adopted by everyone, you will see less social ills. You will see less teenage pregnancy as the church preaches waiting and faithfulness. You will see less crime as the church preaches against theft and fraud. You will see less corruption and fraud as the church preaches honesty and integrity. You will see less abuse of women and children as the church preaches respect for others, love for your neighbour and the fear of the Almighty. You will see less abuse of drugs and alcohol as the church preaches self-control. You will see less incidence of racial hatred and more people would be employed and less poverty as the church preaches tolerance, acceptance, sharing and caring.

Programme Director, we think that women in clergy is an idea whose time has come. Women are the ones who are more familiar with the social ills. Women take care of the bed-ridden and the frail and the vulnerable. Women are better at running homes making sure they are comfortable and the environment is conducive to raising contributing citizens of tomorrow. They are therefore better custodians

of the church. They will make better decisions that are all encompassing.

Abesifazane abasebuholini bawabheka onke amasayidi odaba. Benza izinqumo ezicabangela noma ezisiza wonke umuntu. Abacabangeli imali nje kuphela noma ukuthi babukeka kanjani kwabanye noma kozakwabo.

With these words we want to convey our message of support as the eThekweni Municipality. We support women taking leadership positions in every arena of the society. We are looking forward to the day and time where this will no longer be an issue but a norm. Women bring in a dimension that is not really there in men. Too many of the societal ills are due to wrong ideas, half-baked concepts, poor decisions that are ill-informed and sometimes downright wrong. It was a man, Albert Einstein, who said: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

True indeed. Our problems are due to us discriminating people because of their gender, their race, their colour etc etc. We held people back and never developed them. We disenfranchised them and never offered them opportunity.

Our solutions will be generated by us engaging everyone and encouraging especially those that have been left behind to come on board and contribute in a way they have before engaged.

I thank you.