

Speech by Her Worship Cllr Zandile Gumede Mayor of the eThekweni Municipality on the occasion of the signing ceremony and the celebration of the partnership and the Memorandum of Association (MOA) between the eThekweni Municipality and South African Slum Dwellers International.

- The Leadership of the South African Slum Dwellers International and all its partners.
- Members of the Executive Committee
- Councilors
- Civil society partners
- Community leaders
- Officials
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Good afternoon

On behalf of the eThekweni Municipality I wish to formally welcome you all this important Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing ceremony and celebration of the partnership between the eThekweni Municipality and South African Slum Dwellers International.

Today we are entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the South African Shack Dwellers International Alliance. The Memorandum of Agreement is aimed at providing a framework of cooperation and facilitates cooperation between the parties to ensure that all parties have access to expertise and agreed resources in areas of common interest based on their organisation priorities and development plan.

This agreement will enable us to join hands on a host of projects that assist the municipality with the following;

- Facilitate the development of sustainable and integrated human settlements
- Find innovative ways of reducing the housing backlog, particularly in the peri-urban and rural communities.
- Local and International good practice on ideas to manage the rapid influx of people from rural areas, few of whom have the means to build or buy formal houses in the city.
- Ideas on how to prioritise the upgrade of informal settlements where they are currently located. This will include collaboration between parties that will be implemented with a focus on establishing lasting solutions and best practices on programmes associated with informal settlements upgrading.
- Sharing ideas on how we work with civil society and the private sector to create quality housing opportunities including construction of new integrated human settlements.

- Sharing ideas on inclusive and transformative human settlement strategies.

Shack Dwellers International always strives to put people at the center of the fight to end global urban poverty. We are looking forward to the partnership that will see us working together on this vision to end urban poverty. The partnership with Shack Dwellers international will also enhance our efforts to make eThekweni municipality the most caring and liveable city by 2030. I am convinced that this partnership will also support our joint commitment to the attainment of the global sustainable development goals.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the political leaders, officials, partners and stakeholders that have worked to bring us to the ceremony today. I am convinced that the partnership agreement signed today will make a valuable contribution to creating a better life for all our people.

I thank you.