



Speech by Cllr Mpume Sithole on behalf of the Mayor of the eThekweni Municipality on the occasion of the Social Cohesion conference at the Moses Mabhida Stadium, 10 September 2018

- The Consul-General of the United States of America Mrs. Sherry Zalika Sykes.
- Premier Willies Mchunu
- The Traditional Leadership – Amakhosi present
- Bishop Rubin Philip, Vice-Chairperson of the Kwazulu-Natal Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Council.
- Mr. Vasu Gounden, Director of ACCORD.
- Councilors
- Civil society partners
- Community leaders

- Officials
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Good morning

On behalf of the eThekweni Municipality I wish to formally welcome you all this important social cohesion workshop that takes place in the month that we celebrate our heritage.

I wish to firstly thank the USA Consul-Generals office, The United States Department of Justice, the office of the Premier, the office of the Mayor and Good Governance Africa for agreeing to host this important workshop in Durban.

I am sure that this workshop will bring together some of our great minds working on peace and the promotion of human rights. It is my wish that you all will come up with ideas and strategies that we can implement to promote social cohesion in our city and communities.

The workshop will give us important tools and ideas to enhance the work of the newly established social cohesion

and Moral Regeneration council established by the Honourable Premier of Kwazulu-Natal Mr Willies Mchunu.

In Durban we have challenges of racism, sexism, xenophobia, crime, violence against women and children, political assassinations. This is exacerbated by high levels of unemployment and a shrinking economy.

These challenges will make it very appropriate and more urgent to work with you all at this workshop to come up the most sustainable and appropriate strategies to promote and build social cohesion.

It is hoped that your deliberations over the next 2 days will come with ideas to promote a more unified and socially cohesive society. Your deliberations must enable us all to build on the legacy of Mandela and Mum Sisulu. This year we celebrate the centenary of both Mandela and Sisulu. The inspiration of these two struggle icons will also be a shining light for our journey to a society free from discrimination and conflict.

I sincerely wish that your deliberations will build on the values of equality, inclusion, tolerance and civil rights for all.

Now is the time to work together to promote programmes that strives for world peace and a future that we can proudly leave for our children. A future free from racism, violence, sexism and all forms of discrimination.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the partners for bringing this important workshop to Durban. I wish you all a successful and productive workshop to promote social cohesion in our communities and our city. This will contribute to our vision to be Africa's most caring and livable city by 2030.

I thank you.