Address by Her Worship, Deputy Mayor Cllr Nomvuzo Shabalala
On the Occasion of the 2015 Mayors Awards for Excellence

04 December 2015 – 18h00
Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre
• Programme Director Mr Simo Nzama,
• Honourable Speaker, Cllr Logie Naidoo,
• Members of the Executive Committee,
• Chief Whip, Cllr Stanley Xulu,
• City Manager, Mr Sibusiso Sithole
• Fellow Councillors,
• Deputy City Managers,
• Award recipients,
• Our sponsors, Vodacom, ABI, Engen and Milpark Education,
• Stakeholders and partners,
Honoured guests,
Members of the media,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Members of the media,
All protocol observed,

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, today marks the 19th anniversary of the Mayoral Awards for Excellence, where the eThekwini Municipality honours individuals, groups and organisations that have made a positive contribution in
ensuring growth and sustainability of our beautiful and award-winning City.

These awards are given to people who have positively contributed to the development of their communities within the Municipal boundaries, and have done so without seeking any reward; but they were pushed by their pursuit of excellence and the desire to make a contribution to the development and wellbeing of the broader eThekwini region. A person does not need to be involved in huge projects in order to make an
impact and get recognition, but it is the little things you do to uplift your community that we will give you recognition.

It is the spirit of selflessness, voluntarism, community activism and the desire to become successful that we seek to reignite with these awards. We are talking about issues of crime prevention, cleanliness, employment creation and environmental protection; things that affect our communities on a daily basis.
We are recognising your efforts because we want you to serve as examples and role models to other individuals and communities. This is a call for community activism, where we encourage the people of our municipality to start doing things for themselves and not to wait for government.

Ladies and gentlemen, these prestigious awards take place at a time when our country commemorates the passing of our democratic President, Nelson Mandela, who passed away in December 2013.
We are using this period to remind ourselves of his teachings, his spirit of selflessness and dedication to serve his community. One of the most important lessons he taught us is that attaining success is never an easy process and I am reminded of one of his famous quotes when he spoke about his Long Road to Freedom. He said (I quote):

“I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a
moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended.” (Close quote)

And so ladies and gentlemen, the long walk to success is a never ending journey; it starts with the little steps that we take as individuals, groups or organisations.
In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to express our word of gratitude to our sponsors whose contribution has made this function a success. Our sponsors include VODACOM, ENGEN, ABI and MILPARK EDUCATION. We also thank our guests who bought tables in order to be part of this function.

We wish all the nominees all the best for this evening and in their future endeavours. May you continue to positively contribute to the development of your communities to ensure the growth and sustainability of our Municipality.

Thank you!