Address by His Worship, the Mayor
Cllr James Nxumalo
On the occasion of the 2015 Mayoral Charity Golf Day

3 July 2015
Durban Country Club

- Programme Director Thomas Mketelwa,
- Deputy Mayor Councillor Nomvuzo Shabalala,
- City Manager Sibusiso Sithole,
- Managing Executive of Client Coverage, Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking, Mr Terence Sibiya,
- Provincial General Manager of Old Mutual Retail Mass Division, Mr AJ Dlamini,
- Sponsors and stakeholders,
- Businesspeople,
- Distinguished guests,
- All protocol observed,
Good evening and welcome to the 2015 Mayoral Charity Golf Day dinner. I am honoured to address you this evening after a successful event with a pleasing attendance from our sponsors, stakeholders and businesspeople who have made this day possible.

Ladies and gentlemen, my intention is not to bore you with a long speech, I promise to be short so that there will be enough time for us to network and build partnerships that will take the Mayoral Charity Golf Day forward.

This annual event has been a success since its inception about eight years ago. It aims to introduce and develop golf as a sport to young people from previously disadvantaged communities. Over the years, more than 100 young people between the ages of 10 and 14 have participated in the development programme. This year, under the theme “Let’s play for our children”, 10 learners from various schools will participate in the programme.

Since the programme started approximately R800 000 has been sponsored towards the upliftment of the children involved in the sport. The children start from the level of primary school because golf training is a long process. Therefore, as the years go by and the children graduate from primary to high school, they grow with the sport, become passionate about it and continue to participate in it and adopt it as the one sport they play even as adults.
Ladies and gentlemen, we equip children with the skills to play the sport. The training sessions take place every Saturday from 8h00 to 10h00 right here, at the Durban Country Club. It also gives the children insight to this sport which is not popular like other sporting codes amongst young people. It also plays an important role in keeping our children off the streets and away from social challenges like drug and alcohol abuse, crime and teenage pregnancy.

The children are selected by approaching schools and asking teachers to identify learners who are actively involved in sports and those who come from impoverished backgrounds.

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the people of eThekwini, I would like to extend my appreciation to our sponsors, stakeholders and businesspeople who have contributed to the success of the Mayoral Charity Golf Day programme over the years.

As government, we encourage young people to demonstrate civic pride and to become actively involved in sports, to create a socially cohesive society. Sport is a universal language, something that is understood by all, or most of the world’s population. Therefore, we believe this to be one of the most effective ways to build and achieve a caring, united and socially cohesive City. Building ‘A Socially Cohesive City’ form once of the six strategic priority areas within the Integrated Development Plan.
Ladies and gentlemen, let us not forget that this month is very significant to our democracy that we enjoy today. This month is Mandela Month, a time to celebrate the life of the fallen struggle icon and world renowned statesman who fought for a better South Africa. This is a month to reflect and recommit to keeping Dr Nelson Mandela’s legacy alive.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the words of Mandela who once said: (I quote): “Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair.” (Unquote)

I thank you.