

KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HER WORSHIP CLLR ZUKISWA NDEVU DURING THE FREEDOM DAY COMMEMORATION IN KWABHACA ON THE 28th APRIL 2022.

Programme Director,

Speaker

Chief Whip

Executive Committee Members

MPAC Chair

Award Winning Director and Film Producer, Mr Zuko Nodada and Your Team

Municipal Manager and Senior Managers

Officials present

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me greet you all this morning in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

South Africa celebrates Freedom Month under the theme: “**Consolidate our Democratic Gains**”, to mark the country’s transition from the oppressive apartheid regime to a free democratic country.

The first democratic elections on the 27th April 1994 gave birth to our constitutional democracy. For the majority of South Africans who had never voted before their dignity was restored and the country transformed to a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society.

It led to the emergence of a national identity built on respect for each other and our love for the country. We salute today’s generation of men and women who have taken up the cause of freedom, equality, non-racialism, non-sexism and human rights for all.



They are the worthy inheritors of the baton of struggle passed to them by those who came before. This year marks 28 years since we attained our freedom from apartheid rule. On this day we recall the historic events of the 27th of April 1994 when we voted for the first time.

We have a constitution that is a shield and a protection for all. We have made great progress towards realising the rights of our people to a better life and in advancing human dignity. And yet, even as we have lived in a democratic country for the past 28 years, we know that across many parts of South Africa, the promise of 1994 has not yet been fulfilled.

Ladies and Gentlemen; A month ago from now, I marked my 1st hundred days in office. I had the privilege of visiting several sites across Umzimvubu, and I can confirm that our government continues the plight of restoring dignity to our disadvantaged communities.

We have seen number of families enjoy our Municipal housing programme, whilst others have switched on their house lights for the very first time. Our efforts cannot be overstated as we continue to rally for equality.

As we celebrate this Freedom Day, we can point to the great progress we have made in confronting the apartheid legacy. But we cannot celebrate Freedom Day without acknowledging how much further we still need to go.

Speaker; It cannot be that 27 years into our democracy that our people are being deprived of even the most basic services like water and sanitation because of poor planning, incompetence, mismanagement or corruption. It cannot be that access to housing, education and decent health care is being undermined because those tasked with service delivery do not care enough.

Ladies and Gentlemen; This administration is here to ensure that we avert our backlog and really try to mitigate our service delivery related challenges within the next 5 years in office.



As we commemorate our struggle heroes, we are reminded that our creative industry played a huge role during the apartheid regime. Various Eastern Cape Based theatre author such as John Kani,

I Thank you

Delivered by the Honourable Mayor,
Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu

