REMARKS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR CLLR CYRIL XABA AT THE PREMIERE OF THE CANE CUTTER MOVIE, 17 NOVEMBER 2025.

Good evening

Tonight, we gather with great anticipation to celebrate a moment of artistic triumph and cultural pride, the highly anticipated premiere of The Cane Cutter. This film is more than just a production; it is a heartfelt tribute to the history, resilience, and untold stories of the cane-cutting communities whose labour, spirit, and sacrifice have shaped generations.

To the entire creative team, cast, and crew: congratulations for bringing this powerful narrative to life with such authenticity, passion, and depth. Your dedication has ensured that the voices and experiences of those who came before us are honoured with dignity and artistry. You have crafted not only a film, but a legacy, a cultural milestone that will inspire conversations, evoke emotion, and preserve heritage for years to come.

A special recognition goes to Dr Eubulus Timothy, the visionary director whose guidance and creativity have shaped every frame of this remarkable story. Your leadership has seamlessly blended history, culture, and cinematic excellence, ensuring that The Cane Cutter resonates with audiences both locally and internationally.

This premiere is also a celebration of collaboration, bringing together artists, technicians, historians, and community voices in a shared mission to honour our heritage. The impact of this film will extend beyond entertainment; it will educate, inspire, and remind us of the stories that define our past and guide our future. May tonight mark the beginning of a journey for The Cane Cutter to reach audiences far and wide, leaving an indelible mark on South African cinema.

We congratulate everyone involved and wish the production continued success, recognition, and impact beyond tonight’s premiere.