MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Allow me to thank everyone who has been part of this two-day strategic planning session. I want to convey my gratitude to the political leadership, the Deputy Mayor, Speaker, Whip of Council, Chairpersons of Committees, Deputy Chairs and Whips of Committees.

This has been a fruitful engagement, with a lot of technical information being presented to us by external stakeholders and our internal colleagues. Since there is a need for us to adjourn now, I want to propose that we reconvene in the next two or three weeks to receive presentations from the remaining departments. We will also present our resolutions at the reconvened session. Once adopted, the resolutions will then become our blueprint that will guide the direction we are taking in the current financial year.

I am really grateful that we had colleagues from National Treasury and the Public Service Commission who were not only sharing their insights, but who were also able to tell us what we are doing right and where we need to improve. What struck me among the things they presented are the following:

The city is doing well and has surpassed all other Metros in the country except one and if we are continuing on this trajectory, we will become number one very soon. Therefore, we need to occupy the public space and tell our good story. The people who must set the tone is the leadership that is here. Collectively, we must sing from the same hymn book. Let us use our

many voices and send one clear and unified message that eThekwini is rising. Let us all rally behind “Brand eThekwini” and protect it. This will require us to develop a deliberate and impactful strategy with a clear message that we must all disseminate to the public.

Colleagues, I am happy that since our first strategic retreat early this year, a great deal has been achieved. The resolutions we adopted include:

- Finalisation of procurement of smart meters
- Automation of SCM environment
- Finalisation of Audit Action Plans

I am pleased that there is notable progress on these issues as highlighted by the CFO and CAE in their presentations. I will await a full report on the engagement we had with ESKOM regarding access to their infrastructure so that we are able to measure the amount of electricity we are purchasing from them.

The input that has been given by National Treasury about our performance has given us a major shot in the arm. Your assessment and advices are very important to us because that does not only put us on our toes but is a beckon and springboard for us to improve and do better in future. It will always be an excellent idea to have you present in these sessions in future. I want to assure you that we will keep on knocking on your door because we can only be better if we work closely with you.

Thank you all for your contributions and have a safe journey home.