REMARKS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR CYRIL XABA, AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION'S REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION, 09 NOVEMBER 2025

- Programme Director,
- Members of the South African Legion,
- Representatives of the South African National Defence Force,
- Families of our fallen heroes and heroines,
- Distinguished guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

We deeply appreciate this opportunity to be part of this solemn and meaningful occasion — a day set aside to remember and honour the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

From the battlefields of the First and Second World Wars to the most recent tragedy where 14 of our soldiers perished while serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission — today, we pause to pay tribute to all who laid down their lives so that others might live in peace.

What is important for us to recognise is that these servicemen and women died not for personal gain, but in service of a greater cause — the cause of peace, justice, and humanity. They answered the call of duty with courage and commitment, representing the very best of our nation's values.

Today, we reflect on their role in bringing peace and stability not only to our continent but also to the world. Their bravery continues to inspire generations of South Africans to stand firm in defence of freedom, democracy, and human dignity.

Their sacrifices remind us that patriotism is not about words but about action — about being willing to serve one's country and people, even

when the price is high. It is a lesson in selflessness that we must continue to uphold and pass on to future generations.

As we remember our fallen heroes and heroines, let us also reaffirm our own commitment to the ideals they stood for. Let us work together to build a nation that is united, peaceful, and prosperous — a South Africa where the dreams they fought for are realised in our everyday lives.

Let us strive to build an inclusive economy, to create opportunities for all our people, and to confront the persistent challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. In doing so, we honour their memory not only with words, but with deeds that advance the wellbeing of our communities.

As the eThekwini Municipality, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting all initiatives that promote peace and unity.

With these remarks, we once again salute all our fallen soldiers — our heroes and heroines who paid the ultimate price. May their courage never be forgotten, and may their legacy continue to guide us as we work tirelessly to build a united, non-racial, and prosperous South Africa.

I thank you.