VOTE OF THANKS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR CYRIL XABA AT THE 46TH ORDINARY SADC SUMMIT HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT BANQUET, 16 AUGUST 2026

- Programme Director
- President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Cyril Ramaphosa
- Distinguished Heads of State and Government in our midst
- KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Hon Thami Ntuli
- Heads of Delegations
- Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- Special Guests
- Amakhosi aseNdlunkulu
- Business Leaders
- Delegates
- Senior Government Officials
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

On behalf of the people of eThekwini, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the leadership of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for affording our city the honour and privilege of hosting this important regional Summit.

We express our special gratitude to His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of SADC, for hosting this reception dinner in honour of the distinguished Heads of State and Government, Ministers, senior officials and delegates attending the 46th Ordinary Summit of SADC.

It is a great honour for eThekwini to welcome leaders and representatives from across our region to our beautiful city. Durban is a city that prides itself on its diversity, warmth and hospitality, and we hope that during your stay you will experience not only the professionalism with which this Summit has been organised, but also the spirit and character of our people.

Working closely with all spheres of government, the SADC Secretariat and our partners, we have pulled out all the stops to ensure that this Summit is successful, productive and memorable. We recognise the importance of this gathering and the significance of the decisions that will shape the future of our region.

As the peoples of Southern Africa, we share a common destiny and a collective responsibility to advance regional integration, sustainable development, peace, security and prosperity. We therefore look forward to the deliberations and resolutions of this Summit, which we trust will strengthen regional cooperation and contribute to improving the lives and well-being of our people.

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to make this reception dinner possible.

To all our distinguished guests, I hope you will have a wonderful and memorable stay in Durban. Where your programme allows, we encourage you to explore our beautiful beaches, rich cultural heritage and vibrant

tourism attractions, and to experience the warmth and hospitality for which eThekwini and KwaZulu-Natal are renowned.

We hope that you leave Durban with wonderful memories and return to our city as friends and visitors.

We wish you a successful, constructive and fruitful Summit.

Thank you.