ADDRESS BY THE ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY CHAIRPERSON OF GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, CLLR MPUME SITHOLE AT THE FUNERAL OF BISHOP SELVAN GOVENDER

- Programme Director
- Govender Family
- Leadership from the provincial and local government
- Councillors present
- Interfaith leadership
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good day

It is with great sadness that we gathering here today to bid farewell to Bishop Govender, one of the outstanding interfaith leaders we have come across in the province.

On behalf of the people of eThekwini, we would like to convey our sincere condolences to the Govender family, friends and relatives for this great loss.

His untimely death is a clear indication that we are all pilgrims on this earth.

Be that as it may, one cannot stop lamenting the fact that the Bishop was an outstanding leader and what made him to stand out among his peers was that he executed his responsibilities with passion. We note with pride his immense contribution in bringing together different church leaders from various denominations. He was also instrumental in building unity and social cohesion in all communities. To him, all people were equal because they we made in the image of God.

Bishop's Govender's leadership qualities were beyond question. One of the qualities that still stands out for me which is testament to his leadership abilities was putting together programmes to alleviate the plight of the vulnerable citizens in collaboration with other stakeholders in the city. He indeed led from the from on many initiatives that involved the interfaith community.

Therefore, his passing has indeed robbed us of her exceptional skills and talent since he was a dedicated Man of God and a humble servant of the

people. As a special tribute to him, we must work tirelessly to ensure that all his plans to improve the lives of the people for the better yield positive results.

In his honour, we must also intensify the message that fighting all forms of social ills in our communities is a collective responsibility. These are some of the goals that Bishop Govender relentlessly pursued as a dedicated leader of our community and a man of God. To all of us who are left behind, let us pick up the spear and continue where he left off.

We want to emphasise the point that It is only when we work together as a collective that we can be able to address all developmental challenges that are confronting our communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on this sad day, our hearts go to the family of Bishop Govender during this time great loss. May you find solace in the fact that he left a legacy that everyone is proud of in eThekwini. You have indeed fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith.

On behalf of the eThekwini Municipality, with these few words, we would like to say farewell to you Bishop and we have no doubt that your soul rest in peace.

Thank you for your attention.