WELCOME MESSAGE BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR MXOLISI KAUNDA

On behalf of the people of eThekwini Muncipality, we would like to welcome all the delegates to the inaugural eThekwini Energy Transformation Summit.

We are delighted to host this summit which brings together industry leaders, experts, and investors in the form of Independent Power Producers. Held under the theme ***"Building Energy Security Now,"*** this gathering could not have come at a better time when the country is faced by an energy crisis which is adversely affecting the performance of the economy.

Therefore, the hosting of this summit by the city, demonstrates that eThekwini Municipality continues to be the leader in the renewable energy space. In fact, various government departments including Treasury have given eThekwini Municipality thumbs up for developing a solid renewable energy plan.

We want to assure the people of eThekwini that as we transition to the renewable energy, no one will be left behind. We will ensure that there is just transition even in terms of economic opportunities that will be created through various renewable energy sources.

As the leadership of the city, we are confident that we will have fruitful engagements that will help our city and the province to tap into other sources of energy and reduce reliance on the national grid.

Once gain, let me welcome you all to the beautiful city of Durban.