

**REMARKS BY HER WORSHIP, MAYOR NCP MQWEBU
ON THE OCCASION OF SIGNING SLA WITH UNISA FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF UNISA CAMPUS IN RNM**

05/12/2018

UNISA MAIN CAMPUS, OR TAMB BUILDING

Honourable Vice-Chancellor Professor Makhanya

Municipal Manager Mr Mbili

Head of Development Planning Mr Zulu

With all protocol observed

It is with greatest of pleasure for me to give these remarks on such a historic occasion for the people of South Coast in general and Ray Nkonyeni Municipality in particular.

To witness this occasion today is like I am in a dream in my sleep. It has been a long way coming. If you can go back to

the first Integrated Development Plans since introduction of new democratic local government in our country, the people of South Coast, as our economic region where we are found is known have been from all corners crying and pleading we are isolated when it comes to tertiary institutions. Therefore, to be during my tenure as Mayor of Ray Nkonyeni Municipality to witness this day, I am honoured and it is really a special day for me.

If you know KZN & where we are located you will appreciate why there has been so much plea for a tertiary institution to be located in our area. From Port Shepstone/Margate, Durban is just over 120km and accessible by well-developed N2. This makes it difficult in terms of time and transportation costs for our young people to access Durban daily if they are to be students there and not have accommodation. In fact, given the poverty levels, even to go there in search of access to these academic institutions is a nightmare.

Our education levels show that this absence of tertiary institutions in our area has a huge negative impact – 2016 Community Survey shows only about 4% of Ray Nkonyeni Municipality's population with any level of post matric qualification. Now two points to underline here, of course there is outmigration factor which we believe is generally cancelled

by in-migration into the area. Secondly, this is the economic hub of the South Coast and if it post matric qualification stands at 4%, you can imagine how scary the figures are for the Ugu District Municipal area as a whole. Finally we believe this issue of tertiary institution within reach is a huge factor if you compare the 4% versus that almost a quarter of the population has matric certificate.

Therefore, you understand my excitement about your decision Honourable Vice-Chancellor with your management team and Council, I had to be here, I had to witness this and I carry with me excitement of my Council too.

Lastly, let me assure you, there couldn't have been a better area to locate your next campus. We are a leading tourist destination in KZN second only to DBN – independent several government research consistently show this. We are leading the country on Blue Flag Beaches for countless years now with 7 of them and most maintained 365 days a year when others keep the status only seasonally. The tranquillity of our area cannot be compared to any in the country. We are away from rush of the city but still within reasonable access both in distance and enabling infrastructure. We have scheduled flights directly from OR Tambo to local Regional airport – Margate Airport. All this, in our eyes make us best location to study –

developed enough to have decent urban life but not too much to attract to many disturbances and this should appeal to most parents and potential students alike beyond our borders.

Finally, I wish to make this commitment as we sign this agreement, while there are standard legislated time frames to process planning and building plans applications, I have the assurance of the Accounting Officer (Mr Mbili) here and Head of Development Planning Services (Mr Zulu), that our team are ready and available to assist in guiding what needs to be done and most importantly when your submission get to our desk, we will put everything aside and attend to it to ensure it concluded as quickly as possible. For us we need this development like yesterday and want to work with you on it as you partner to ensure the development process is as efficient as possible. We look forward to work with you for betterment our people.

Thank you