

REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF ILEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI, NOBLE PEACE PRICE CELEBRATION, 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010, KWADUKUZA, STANGER HIGH SCHOOL

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Co-Programme Directors, MEC'S Thusi and MEC Mchunu;

Esteemed Premier of our Province, Dr Zweli Mkhize;

The Luthuli Family;

Nana Dakwah, Chief from Okyeman Palace;

Amakhosi present today

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentleman;

Members of the mass media;

We are honoured as iLembe District Municipality to have been given the opportunity to host the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Chief Albert Luthuli-the first African to be bestowed with an honour of Noble Peace Price.

It is a special occasion for all of us in that today we are also celebrating the reconciliation day-16<sup>th</sup> December on the same day that Umknonto Wesizwe was formed.

This to us in this Region is an important historic milestone because the meeting of the joint Congress when the decision to authorize Madiba to proceed with the launch of Umkhonto Wesizwe was taken in this region at a beach cottage, a meeting that was chaired by Chief Albert Luthuli on his capacity as President General of the African National Congress.

In this regard, we wish to salute the fighting forces of our people who have waged the armed struggle in view of the situation in which all peaceful avenues were closed.

We are where we are as country, part of liberated nations precisely because of the sacrifices that were made by many and because of the decision that was taken in 1961 at the beach cottage to launch Umkhonto Wesizwe.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010, we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the democratic local government system in South Africa.

This was an important milestone in our new democratic system in that part of the teachings of Chief Albert Luthuli was about the new democratic system that the new South Africa will have in which the entire universe will learn and marvel it.

We will go to the next year third local government elections with a single purpose of ensuring that the dream and vision of united, non racial, non sexist and democratic South Africa is enhanced.

We thank you honourable Premier and the government of KZN for organizing this important celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chief Albert Luthuli having won the Noble Peace Price.

His work and efforts were not in vain, we now live in a democratic country, where everyone has the right to vote, we need to deepen and consolidate our democratic system.

I thank you all for attention and attending this event.