

**Speech for Deputy Mayor on the occasion of the signing of the sister city
Friendship cooperation agreement between the city of Los
Angeles and Durban**

The Honourable Mr Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor city of Los Angeles

Mr Tom La Bonge (Los Angeles Council Member)

Our Honourable Consul General Mr. C.S Ndaba

Ms Kamilla Blanche (Director Sister Cities of Los Angeles)

Mr Gary Toebben (President/CEO of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce)

Mr Carlos Valderama (Senior Vice-President: Global Initiatives)

Mr Lee Ligons (Vice-President: Business Development)

From Durban South Africa

Mr Tau Morwe, CEO, TransNet Port Authorities

Ms LungaNgcobo, Manager, TransNet Port Authorities

Ms Nana Sabelo, Maritime Representative

Ms ThamiNtshingila, PortNet Representative

Ms Mathabo Kunene, Bidvest Freight Group

Ms ThatoTsautse, President, Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI)

I greet you all and thank you for the wonderful reception we have received in your great city. I am indeed proud and honoured to participate in the historical signing of the Certificate of Friendship between the Cities of Durban and Los Angeles.

I am convinced that this friendship agreement will go a long way to be of mutual benefit to the two cities. I will endeavour to work with political leaders and officials in both cities to work hard at making this agreement make better life for our respective citizens.

The unveiling of the Los-Angeles-Durban Dome Project (Peace Dome) is of particular significance as the City of Los Angeles, through our good Friend Councilman Tom la Bonge will donate the air form balloon to the City of Durban. Two artists, from Durban and their two counterparts from LA would have painted their impressions and peace messages both on the exterior and the interior of this giant balloon. The air form balloon is a key component in building a Peace Dome and is worth a whopping \$26 000-00 which is a gift from the City and the Citizens of Los Angeles to the City and Citizens of Durban. Once again thank you for this great symbol of our friendship.

in the spirit of friendship Durban will cooperate with the city of Los Angeles for the mutual benefit of our communities by exploring educational, economic and cultural opportunities, including specifically, efforts in the areas of trade and investment as well as in the areas of cultural and sporting links, as detailed below:

- **Promotion of trade and investment links:** There are a number of opportunities for sectoral cooperation, with a focus on both trade and investment and leisure and business tourism. In particular, Los Angeles and Durban are both leading national centers for Maritime developments, Creative industries, and digital and new media expansion within the city and on the African sub-continent. We will also be willing to explore cooperation in the field of port development. Durban is currently developing a multi-billion rand port and rail expansion programme. We are looking for partners in this field.
- **We will** strengthen business-to-business linkages, encouraging stronger trade and investment relations key sectors that are mutually beneficial to Durban and Los Angeles. Promote investment and knowledge management around infrastructure development, housing and education. Work with higher educational institutions and schools to develop vocational courses that support key sectors in particular maritime studies. Support the development of knowledge transfer between research institutes and companies. Work with

South Africans living and working in LA and Americans living and working in South Africa to promote goodwill between the two cities.

- **Promotion of cultural and sporting links:** Durban and Los Angeles are cities of culture and sport, sharing a significant leisure offer for both residents and visitors. There are a number of opportunities to use the city partnership to develop international cultural and sporting links and promote visitor movement between the two cities.
- **Actions:** Develop a targeted presence at events in Durban and Los Angeles. Exchange best practice and new ideas on service delivery for arts, culture, heritage and leisure. Explore opportunities for cultural and sporting investment. Support creative artist exchange programs. Promote ideas on stimulating the creative industries and the development of arts and cultural precincts within Durban and Los Angeles.

Lets work together to building a long lasting friendship that promote sustainable partnerships that will benefit our respective city citizens and promote goodwill between South Africa and the United States.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the people of Los Angeles for their role and support for our struggle against racial discrimination during the dark days of Apartheid.

I also wish to thank our Consul General, his team, Mr Tom Le Bonge and all the people in LA for bringing us here today to start a friendship that will grow from strength to strength.

I thank you.

