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IKS and Triple Heritage in the Context of Business Sector in eThekweni Municipality

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Structure of Presentation

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Value Proposition of IKS and Triple Heritage for Business Sector in EThekweni Municipality
- ▶ General and Specific Objectives of Triple Heritage Philosophy and Initiative
- ▶ Triple Heritage Programme Activities

Introduction

- ▶ The Departments of Science and Technology, Trade and Industry have recognized that the existing IKS across South African cultures provide a massive potential for business, research, innovation and social cohesion;
- ▶ The KZN Provincial government has also realized and embraced the importance of IKS to enrich its PGDS as part of its knowledge economy. A large proportion of the people across cultures depend on IKS for livelihood in health, food security, natural resource management income generation, governance, etc.
- ▶ The NDP looks at IKS as an important tool for promoting an active citizenry in the sustainable development process of the country based on their ways of knowing and value systems;
- ▶ IK is, therefore, central to sustainable development and should be supported by all sectors of society including business as part of the public good;

Introduction

- ▶ The eThekweni Municipality is rich in cultural diversity and associated IKS due to its Triple Heritage of being the home of representative of three global regions (Africa, Asia and Europe).
- ▶ The eThekweni Municipality in partnership with the DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, would like to partner with the private sector to promote and utilize the rich and diverse cultural heritage and associated IKS to foster economic prosperity, social cohesion, moral regeneration and human understanding for sustainable livelihood and development of the Municipality, the province and country.

The Value Proposition of IKS and Triple Heritage in the Provincial Business Sector

- ▶ It is argued that scientists and the business sector in their efforts to meet global challenges, tend to neglect local ways of solving national and global problems.
- ▶ They look at these local solutions including IKS and culture as obstacles to business and progress;
- ▶ There is a growing realization that the holistic and trans-disciplinary nature of IKS and the cultural diversity provides the country and Municipality opportunities to build partnership between business, education, research and other sectors for the prosperity of all in terms of job creation, income generation, public health and environmental protection including climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- ▶ The diverse IKS embedded in the Triple Heritage of the Municipality are not fully documented. The business sector in partnership with research institutions and other stakeholders using ICT need to identify, document, preserve, protect and promote these IKS for sustainable development and building a shared identity.

The Value Proposition of IKS and Triple Heritage in the Provincial Business Sector

- ▶ Western education tends to promote technical knowledge and skills. IKS through its Triple Heritage as a philosophy and developmental initiative in the municipality will enrich formal education and the business sector by integrating and promoting the normative values of Ubuntu for moral regeneration, social cohesion and caring society for all. Hence producing a best practice of a unique human capital for sustainable community livelihood and prosperity;
- ▶ The unique cultural values emanating from the Triple Heritage provide the business sector with an opportunity to develop unique products and services which will strategically position the Sector to connect with customers from diverse cultures, nationally and internationally.
- ▶ These unique provide will give the Sector in EThekweni a competitive edge in the new markets including the IKS BRICS Countries Conference in September 2016 in Durban; BRICS Summit Conference in October 2016 (Goa, India) and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

General and Specific Objectives of IKS and Triple Heritage Philosophy and Initiative for the Municipality

General Objectives

- ▶ To integrate IKS in the Municipal Development Programmes including the business sector;
- ▶ To build and promote social cohesion, human understanding and sustainable livelihood in the municipality based on IKS in the context of the Municipal Triple Heritage;

Specific Objectives

- ▶ To identify and document, through research, the diverse IKS, cultural values and practices of the different racial, ethnic and cultural groups including religious groups in the municipality in order to create foundations of promoting and sharing the Municipal Triple Heritage;
- ▶ To create a cadre of stakeholders, especially among the youth, across races and cultures, as champions of promoting the virtues of the Municipal Triple Heritage;
- ▶ To identify through research and interactive seminars/workshops, community-based participatory strategies, projects and programmes for promoting the Municipal Triple Heritage;

Programme activities for implementing eThekweni Municipality Triple

Heritage Initiative

- ▶ Conduct research on the philosophies, values and practices of the diverse racial and cultural groups in eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. The data collected will provide baseline information for the other initiative programme activities;
- ▶ Organize cultural diversity knowledge and awareness campaigns for promoting knowledge and awareness on the values of the Triple Heritage philosophy in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. This will involve combined workshops, seminars, theatre, arts exhibitions, dance productions and storytelling;
- ▶ Develop curriculum and educational material design and development of the Triple Heritage philosophy in the educational system including Early Childhood Development Education for its sustainability;
- ▶ Facilitate and coordinate the involvement of international stakeholders in the various Triple Heritage programme activities. This is based on the argument that the struggle against the apartheid system took an international perspective and solidarity. Therefore, the international solidarity is still needed to continue working together with local initiatives to ensure that South Africa builds the rainbow nation.

▶ THANK YOU