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Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning, goeie môre, molweni, as-salaamu alaikum, shalom.

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to Cape Town, my African City.
2. We are indeed pleased to be hosting this gathering of key figures in the infrastructure and consulting engineers sector as the City of Cape Town is committed to our path of infrastructure-led development.
3. Just last week I addressed the Western Cape Property Development Forum to engage them on the key issues on the built environment landscape in Cape Town and ways in which we can work together more effectively.
4. I always say that with anything we do as government, we must remember that we do not have all the answers and that partnerships are vital to achieving progress.

5. Together we can do great things and take the African continent to new heights by building on our past to create our own futures of dynamic, vibrant African cities.
6. In our work of building an Opportunity City, we recognise the important role that our fellow African countries and cities play in bringing progress and economic growth for our continent.
7. We firmly believe in the Africa Rising narrative that it is Africa's time.
8. Together, we have a wealth of unique experiences and expertise to become a major global player across various markets.
9. City of Cape Town has taken a decision to grow business opportunities between ourselves and African cities in line with our Enhanced African Agenda to strengthen ties and facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships and investment opportunities.
10. We have a clear bias towards Africa in our strategies to promote trade and investment and share ideas and best practise solutions with our counterparts across the continent.
11. An integral part of this strategy is to increase Cape Town's connectivity with the rest of Africa and we are working to bring more direct flights between Cape Town and other African destinations.
12. Currently we have direct flights to Luanda, Mauritius, Gaborone, Maputo and Addis Ababa with the direct flight to Kenya being the latest addition.

13. We are doing this so that we can host even more gatherings like this and make it easier for experts to travel around the continent so that we can pursue the ideas that will see Africa rise to its full potential.

14. We are establishing Cape Town as the centre for ideas in Africa, to be the melting pot for innovation and economic growth.

15. The City of Cape Town has embarked on an Organisational Development and Transformation Plan (ODTP), to become more progressive, more responsive and more customer-centric and better meet the needs of the residents we serve.

16. A key change of the ODTP was the establishment of the Transport and Urban Development Authority whose key role is to drive urban development and see the realisation of a more compact and connected city.

17. Last year, our Council adopted the Transit Orientated Development strategy which aims to reverse the legacy of apartheid spatial planning and redress the injustices of the past by stopping long travelling distances and urban sprawl by building high densities and bringing people closer to residential and work opportunities.

18. One of the most inspiring figures of our time, Steve Jobs in his book spoke about being a disruptive force.

19. He explained that in order to bring about change and make a difference, there needs to be a disruptive force in order to break out of the accepted norms set by other people for you.

20. We are disrupting the old norms to rethink the way we design our city so that we can bring about the progressive change that will meet the aspirations of the residents we serve.

21. One of the key projects that will bring about transformation is our Foreshore Freeway Project where we are leveraging City-owned land to encourage investment and partnerships with the private sector so that we can build a thriving African city.

22. In June 2016 we made the call to the private sector to submit ideas for the unfinished highways on the western, central and eastern side of the Foreshore Freeway Precinct which have been part of the Cape Town city landscape for nearly five decades now.

23. As a condition and in exchange for us releasing six hectares of land locked underneath the bridges, we said that the proposed development must address congestion and provide affordable, inclusive housing in the city centre.

24. The Foreshore Freeway is the beginning where we are starting with the TOD projects in the CBD and we will follow this approach with four other developments in around the city.

25. Professor Nick Binedell, said: 'Our entire economic future will depend on cities. Economic growth is the oxygen of our democracy and cities are the engines of economic growth'.

26. These five major urban development projects in the city will be our contribution to the economic growth of our country.

27. The City of Cape Town also made a commitment to invest in infrastructure by making sure we invest at least R6billion a year in capital projects and at the same time, we make sure that we invest heavily in maintenance of older infrastructure.

28. Investing in sound, quality infrastructure is our contribution to making sure the economy works and grows and that much-needed jobs are created for our people.

29. I am also pleased to share another exciting development with you and that is that the City of Cape Town is in the process of issuing a bond up to the value of R1 billion which will be accredited through the Climate Bonds Initiative's Standard.

30. This third party accreditation will enable us to market the bond as a true Green Bond.

31. In developing the associated Green Bond Framework, we have identified a suite of eligible projects which will be funded through the proceeds of the bond.

32. The projects to be funded by the Green Bond are a mix of adaptation and mitigation initiatives, all of which are aligned to the City's Climate Change Strategy.

33. The projects include:

- 34.- procurement of electric busses
- 35.- energy efficiency in buildings
- 36.- water management initiatives which includes;
- 37.· water meter installations and replacements
- 38.· water pressure management
- 39.· upgrade of reservoirs
- 40.- sewerage effluent treatment
- 41.- rehabilitation and protection of coastal structures

42. As we speak, Cape Town is in the midst of a drought with the lowest rainfall levels in 100 years over the past two winter seasons.

43. The impacts of climate change are being felt with reduced rainfall and we have to consider our response to climate change in all the work we do.

44. Consideration in terms of engineering is paramount.

45. While we are experiencing reduced annual average rainfall, climate change has also brought about more intense spells of heavy rains which leads to flooding.
46. The way that engineers work therefore also needs to be relooked to accommodate climate change.
47. We need to invest in green infrastructure so that we especially reduce the impact of climate change on our poorer communities.
48. For example, the size of the stormwater drains and infrastructure needs to be redesigned and built bigger in order to cope with more severe flooding.
49. Another example is that currently our water reticulation systems are only built with one pipe for potable water.
50. In redesigning our cities, we must now look at building two reticulation systems - one for potable water and one for treated waste water.
51. In closing, urbanisation has meant that more people live in cities than ever before and in addressing urbanisation, we have to innovative, we have to be willing to take hands and work together in order to create African partnerships for sustainable growth.
52. There is a great need to inject urgency and innovation into our mission to make sure that we provide people with quality living spaces, beyond just houses, we need to build connected, integrated communities where people are close to work opportunities and social amenities.

53. We also need to be mindful of balancing infrastructure growth with our duty to protect the environment by creating the green spaces for people to enjoy.

54. For our part, the City of Cape Town remains committed to forging relationships and partnerships with organisations and cities across the continent so that we can personify the Africa Rising narrative.

55. Once again thank you for coming to Cape Town. I wish you all a successful, productive conference and a wonderful stay in our city.

56. Thank you, baie dankie, enkosi and God Bless.