

Honourable Acting Consul General of India, Mr Harsh Negi.

Gandhi Committee

Councillors' present,

Municipal Manager and Msunduzi Management

Community services Management and Library Management Team,

Staff of Msunduzi Municipality,

Members of the Media

And all other invited guests and dignitaries.

All protocols observed.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to greet you all. The name Gandhi is synonymous with peace and non-violence. His epic struggle to bring together the people of India in their search for sovereignty is unparalleled. This great man's wisdom and foresight are compelling.

"There is an indefinable mysterious power that pervades everything; I feel it though I do not see it. It is this unseen power which makes itself felt and yet defies all proof, because it is so unlike all that I perceive through my senses. It transcends the senses. But it is possible to reason out the existence of God to a limited extent. Even in ordinary affairs we know that people do not know who rules or why and how He rules and yet they know that there is a power that certainly rules".

This is a Quote from Mahatma Gandhi's most famous speech that he made at the Kingsley Hall.

Nothing would have awakened Gandhi spirit than what is taking place here. He believed so much in human development and education. This corner will not only preserve his legacy but will inspire many to become heroes of their generation. The struggle still continues but now we are facing a different type of struggle which is poverty, unemployment and illiteracy.

I see this initiative as one of the outreach program, which is one of the tools that can be used to reach out the community to bridge the gap of education. In this way more people will know about Gandhi and what he stood for, but most importantly people will acquire knowledge and wisdom. As Msunduzi Municipality, we are constantly engaged in a variety of processes aimed at becoming more responsive to the needs of our communities. This becomes more important in reaching the majority in our communities who are disadvantaged. I have always believed that our communities collectively constitute the Municipality's most significant and influential partner in the administration and management of the affairs of our people, and driving Msunduzi Municipality's development agenda which is in line with National Development Plan (NDP).

Our principal mandate as Msunduzi Municipality is to deliver on community needs and aspirations as articulated by disadvantaged communities. I would like to commend the Gandhi Committee for taking decisive steps towards making this corner a reality.

In closing, I challenge the people of this city to realise that knowledge is power. It is the only way of liberation from Poverty and I appeal to them to take control of their destiny and a greater part of that is to appreciate this project. After all Gandhi said we must be the change we want to see.

I thank you.