

**Welcome address by Cllr N Madlala Post Office Conference
on logistics
21 February 2017
Greyville Hall, Durban**

Programme Director,
Ms T Nkahlle, chairman of the board
Dr Zimbango, CEO of SAPOA
Board Members present,
CEOs and Managers present,
Honoured guests,
All protocol observed,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede, to welcome you to this Postal forum gathering. We are glad that you have chosen Durban as the venue for this conference which is a networking session for people of this industry.

I would like to invite you use this opportunity to enjoy Durban and its environment. We have a number of wonderful attractions that can make you enjoy your stay in the city. We are the only city that you mix business with pleasure.

Programme Director,

I hope you will also use this conference to share ideas of how best do you take postal services forward in Africa. It is a platform that you should use to educate one another including us who are not technocrats. We hope this gathering will assist us as a country in radical transforming our South African Post Office. We are glad that our post office has been able to pass through number of challenges. We hope that its new board and management will be able to take it forward as envisaged by most South Africans, especially the poor.

You must make Post Office relevant to all people not just those who live in rural areas. In the age of technology we still need Post office and it remains relevant to the masses of our people.

Programme Director,

The postal infrastructure plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country. Through its massive and extensive network the Post Office act as a pay point for many government services including municipality bills and traffic fines. This contribution helps alleviate backlogs in the delivery of services to the people which is the central trust of our National Democratic Revolution.

There are certain areas who are still without post offices. We call on the introduction and distribution of mobile Post Offices to be deployed in all needy rural and urban communities. Post Office Public Information Terminals should be upgraded to become fully functioning internet access points in rural areas. The post office and postal infrastructure should have regard to increased attention paid to rural areas. This should include the provision to implement a consistent national address system, taking into account the human settlement expansion in the country.

We are adamant that technology will not replace post office infrastructure, in fact we must use the existing post office infrastructure to advance technology. Last year, the Universal Postal Union and the South African government agreed to work together to establish an electronic commerce hub to serve the Southern region of Africa.

We believe that this project will be able to assist whole SADC region. We would like to encourage you to go beyond sharing of information. You must sign Memorandum of Understandings as to how you are going to be sharing infrastructure and skills in the continent. You must do this to advance our people in the continent. This gathering must come up with serious resolutions.

I wish you, a successful deliberations. You must come out stronger than before. We want to see real change for the sake of our masses and development of us as Africans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
With those few words, I would like to welcome you all.