



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MAYOR ZANDILE GUMEDE AT SAFHE
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

7 MARCH 2017

DURBAN ICC

Programme Director,

President of SAFHE Mr Jetendra Poorum,

President of CEASA Mr Jeffery Fry,

Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi,

Councillors present,

Government officials,

Captains of industry,

Professional and industry associations,

Media present,

Ladies and gentlemen,

All protocol observed,

Good morning.

It gives me great pleasure to address you all this year and welcome this important event to the City of Durban and Kwa Zulu-Natal for the first time. We are glad to see all of you in this wonderful and beautiful city of ours.

Durban is known to be playground of South Africa because it is a vibrant city with a lot of eclectic culture in terms of food, sightseeing and local festivals. It is also an extremely cosmopolitan city. We have in the past hosted a number of international events and we believe you will have a successful event.

The SAFHE/CEASA biennial event has been running for over two decades and is widely acclaimed as the flagship event for healthcare infrastructure in Southern Africa. It is one of the most respected event for the industry bringing together delegates from both the public and private healthcare sectors to explore the challenges, complexities and opportunities for improving healthcare services in Southern Africa.

Health care in South Africa varies from the most basic primary health care, offered free by the state, to highly specialised, hi-tech health services available in the both the public and private sector.

However, the public sector is stretched and under-resourced in places. While the state contributes on health, the public health sector is under pressure to deliver services to about 80% of the population.

The private sector, on the other hand, is run largely commercial and caters to middle- and high-income earners who have medical schemes. It also attracts most of the country's health professionals.

Our government led by President Zuma and Dr Motsaeledi as a Minister is responding with reform plans to revive and restructure our health care system.

The president recently announced plans of fast-tracking the implementation of a National Health Insurance , which will eventually cover all South Africans.

We have strengthening the fight against HIV and TB, non-communicable diseases. We are seeing improvement in human-resource management at state hospitals and strengthening co- ordination between the public

and private health sector. We have a good story to tell but more needs to be done.

Programme Director,

We as local government play a minimal role in the healthcare sector. In eThekweni Municipality, we have clinics and centres that offers optimal healthcare for our communities. We hope this gathering will enlighten us.

Programme Director,

With the growing trend of migration to our cities, city infrastructure is constantly under pressure to deliver appropriate services and healthcare is one of those critical service areas.

Perhaps something could be said about the city's plans for healthcare, what new developments are taking place and plans for future developments.

We need to do something about healthcare development through joint public and private development initiatives

We need to address the skills shortages and plans to overcome them by working together.

In closing, I think we can collaborate in planning future initiatives to expand and improve healthcare services to serve all our people more efficiently. We believe that this platform is correct platform that will advise us as Peoples government on how we move forward. With those few words, I welcome you all.