



**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, sanibonani,

It gives me pleasure to address you all this year and welcome you to this important event at 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 the playground of South Africa because it is a vibrant city with a lot of 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 events 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. This event brings together people who can make a difference in exploring the ever increasing challenges and complexities, in order to find affordable and sustainable solutions.

One of the objective of this organization is to promote development of healthcare. The healthcare environment changes, as governments we need to be always alerted. Our government engineers and technocrats must be aware of these changes whenever we plan for development.

Programme Director,

We believe that by working together we can promote healthcare and healthy lifestyle. We must encourage our youth to take care of their bodies and live longer. People must eat healthy and this will make them healthier. We encourage people to take less salt and sugar in their food and drinks.

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. This is the reason we encourage partnership between us.

Our government led by President Zuma 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 believe that NHI is the only system that will eradicate all the inequalities in the provision of healthcare to the people. We have a need to open doors of healthcare to our people and private

sector must partner with us. Our common goal is healthy living and we should partner and open our private hospitals to the poor. This will increase the life expectancy rate of our people.

We have strengthened the fight against HIV&Aids and TB, and 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 eThekwini 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. Private sector for us as a government is a very important stakeholders.

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 is a correct platform that will advise us as Peoples government on how we move forward. With those few words, I welcome you all.