



**Welcome Speech by Councillor Ntandoyenkosi
Khuzwayo at the 2018 Leisure and Recreation
Association of South Africa National Congress
Reception at the ICC – 8 October 2018**

- Ms. Maliga Naidoo – Program Chairperson : 2018
Larasa International Congress
 - Ms. Rene Haarhoff – Board Member
 - Mr. Norman Mphake – Board Member
 - Ms. Shilaluke Ngwakwana – Board Member
 - Mr. Dhaya Sewduth – Board Member
 - Ms. Portia Sifolo – Board Member
 - Partners
 - Sponsors
 - Distinguished Delegates and Guests
- Ladies And Gentlemen

Good Evening

On behalf of Her Worship the Mayor of the eThekweni Municipality, Councillor Zandile Gumede, I wish to extend a warm welcome to you all at this years LARASA National Congress.

It is an honour for me to be welcoming you all in this great building – the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre - Named after the first African Nobel Peace Laureate from our province. Chief Albert Luthuli was one of the leading lights in the leadership of the African National Congress – the movement that fought for freedom and democracy for all South Africans.

Programme Director I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to LARASA Board of Directors for choosing Durban to be the host city for this important congress.

Durban is happy to be the host of this congress. This event is widely regarded as one of South Africa's leading congress on innovation and development of leisure and recreation services and programmes for all our communities. I am sure that your deliberations will

promote and recognize all the important developments and programmes in the leisure and recreation industry.

Hosting this congress in Durban has to a large extent motivated us all to improve each and every programme that creates a healthy lifestyle and social cohesion in all our communities.

I am sure that your congress will bring together all the recreation professionals and practitioners together create an environment for continuous learning and development that will benefit all our cities.

This year's congress will see the development of new strategies to reposition recreation and leisure within the public service to transform the environment to meet the leisure time needs of all our communities. I am sure that your deliberations will form cooperative partnerships and networks that will make our cities more livable and vibrant.

I wish you well in your mission to support South Africans journey to be a healthy nation through the deliberations at this year's congress. I have no doubt that the congress

will also support plans to support South Africans in changing their behaviour and attitudes towards unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity.

I wish to honour and respect LARASA programmes to building liveable and sustainable communities in South Africa. I am sure these values will be key in your deliberations and leave you all inspired.

Building liveable and sustainable communities, ensures the preservation of cultural heritage, preservation of public parks, open spaces and the natural environment for future generations to enjoy. The combined effort to support conservation of natural fauna and flora of the country goes a long way towards increasing state revenue by stimulating tourism, eco-tourism and the stewardship of land, water, and natural resources. We also need to ensure that all our recreational and leisure spaces are safe and secure for all members of our communities, especially youth, women and children.

I wish you all well in coming up with innovative solutions and programmes that will support and assist all South African cities to use leisure and recreation to promote transformation, inclusion and social Cohesion

This congress coincides with our country and the worlds celebrating our iconic statesman and the father of our nation Tata Mandela centenary and Mum Albertina Sisulu. I am sure both of our icons would be proud of the achievements that you all have made to improving leisure and recreation in South Africa.

I am sure this congress will also serve to build lasting partnerships and networks between all LARASA partners and members. Partnerships, networks and learning exchanges will contribute to the growth of the sector and lead to a winning nation.

It is important that all role players and partners at the congress also work together to be responsible corporate citizens by ensuring that we treat our environment and human resources with a level of care and dedication. This

will ensure stability in our societies and we can all make a significant contribution to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

I encourage all delegates to explore Durban's tourism offerings and share their experience in our beautiful City with their friends and family when they return home.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you all for coming to Durban and I wish you all a successful and productive congress.

I thank you.