



Speech by Councillor Mpume Sithole at the Welcome Reception for the 2018 Regional Roads Conference for Africa – ICC – 9 October 2018

- Mr. Saied Solomons, The Chairman of the Conference Committee and the South African Roads Federation President,
- Members of the South African Roads Federation
- Leadership and members of the International Road Federation
- Members of the World Roads Association
- Partners
- Sponsors
- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen
- Good evening

On behalf of Her Worship the Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Councillor Zandile Gumede, I wish to extend

a warm welcome to you all at this years Regional Roads Conference Mayoral Reception.

It is an honour for me to be welcoming you all this evening in the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre - Named after the first African Nobel Peace Laureate from our province. Chief Albert Luthuli was one of the leaders of the African National Congress – the movement that fought for freedom and democracy for all South Africans and a beacon hope across the world.

Many positive strides have been made in the improvements and investments in our road infrastructure since 1994. Cooperation between countries in the SADEC region has also improved and this has led to the sharing of ideas to enhance the regions road network.

Logistics – the efficient movement of people and goods is critical to the growth of our local economies and the stimulation of employment.

I am sure that your conference will build on the success and achievements in our region to make a better life for all our people. Coming together to network and collaborate on road projects and innovations in the development of roads networks will be of great value for us all.

Programme Director, today I wish to express my gratitude to the South African Road Federation (SARF) in association with the International Road Federation, headquartered in Washington DC (IRF) and the PIARC (World Roads Association) for hosting the important Regional Conference for Africa at our award winning Durban International Convention Centre.

I wish you well in all your deliberations to lay firm foundation to achieve your theme of 'Roads to Social and Economic Growth'.

This flagship event for road infrastructure in Southern Africa comes at the correct time when we all need to have the best minds to guide our growing need for strong road networks in our region to support the demands of the

local economy and communities. It is hoped that the conference will also explore how local communities, women, our youth and SMMEs are partners and beneficiaries in the work of your organisations and the outcomes of this conference. This will lead to inclusion and stability in our communities.

Our continent poses unique challenges for the provision and preservation of roads and road transport to serve an extensive range of needs in terms of economic development and social well-being. I am sure your conference will come up with ideas and resolutions that will guide and inspire you all to meet all the challenges faced by our regional road network.

Durban is happy to be the host of this important congress. This event is widely regarded as one of South Africa's leading conferences on innovation and development of road networks development services and programmes in our region.

I am sure that your deliberations will promote and recognize all the important developments and

programmes in the management and development of roads in our region.

The partnership with all our international partners will enrich the content and outcomes of the conference.

I am sure that this year's congress will see the development of new strategies to reposition your organisations to meet the road network 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 and our economies to thrive and grow.

Finally,

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 2018 conference.

I thank you.