



**Introductory Notes by Mayor Zandile Gumede
At the 1st National Funeral Indaba
hosted at the Durban International Convention Centre
19 September 2017**

- Master of ceremonies
- The Honourable President – Mr JG Zuma,
- Former Chairperson of AU Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
- Premier of KZN – Mr Willies Mchunu,
- President of Nafupa SA – Mr Muzi Hlengwa
- Members of Nafupa SA and Other Associations,
- Industry Stakeholders,
- Women in business,
- Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the very first National Funeral Indaba, taking place in the so-ever warm city of Durban.

The Funeral/insurance industry in South Africa has had a great peak over the last years, with a good supplies and manufacturing sector that is highly regulated with all service providers having to register with government through the Financial Services Board (FSB). And like any other industry, there are fly-by night undertakers who do not provide proper services and are in the business purely to make money.

They operate without licenses and do not comply with the industry rules and in some unfortunate instances, people are buried into the wrong graves and the correct health requirements are not met.

We need to join heads as government to come up with ways to empower black owned funeral businesses whether in the insurance or manufacturing sector. We believe that it is the responsibility of municipalities to ensure the proper management of cemeteries, crematoria and burial undertakers within their areas of jurisdiction.

Programme director,

It is both an honour and a privilege to be able to introduce to you an undisputed trailblazer in the upliftment and empowerment of women across the African continent.

Dr Dlamini Zuma was elected chairperson of the African Union Commission by the heads of state in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2012. She is the first woman to lead the continental organisation, including its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity. But people want to only focus on only her past relationships which President Zuma.

She is a medical doctor by profession, Dlamini Zuma has been in the trenches fighting for the liberation of South Africa. She has also championed African development and women empowerment in her illustrious career of serving people.

We must reject the public opinion that seeks to say woman can only succeed if they are supported by man. The reality is that man only succeed because of woman.

When South Africa achieved its independence in 1994, she served in President Nelson Mandela's Cabinet as minister of health, a position she held until 1999. As minister of health, Dlamini Zuma led the process of building a non-racial health system and initiating radical health reforms. Among her major achievements during this period were access for all to basic healthcare, reproductive rights of women and a ban on smoking in public spaces.

In 1999, Dlamini Zuma was appointed minister of foreign affairs. She held this portfolio until 2009. She championed South Africa's foreign policy on the promotion of human rights, multilateralism, peace and collective development, and the African renaissance.

As minister of foreign Affairs, she chaired the 2001 World Conference Against Racism. She has worked tirelessly for African peace and stability, especially in Burundi, Comoros and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She was also instrumental in the launch of the African Union in Durban in 2002.

In 2009, she was appointed minister of home (interior) affairs, a position she held until 2012, when she was elected as the chairperson of the African Union Commission. Her work in the African Union Commission focuses on a continental drive to ensure an Africa that is prosperous, integrated and peaceful. She is the founding chairperson of the Council of the African Union Foundation, which is aimed at mobilising resources for the African Union and promoting its programmes.

We believe in her work and leadership capabilities and to pair with that Dlamini Zuma is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards. Which include:

- The Maitre de l'Ordre Nat. of the Republic of Mali (2002)
- The National Order of Luthuli in Gold from the Republic of South Africa (2013)
- Le Grand-Officier de l'Ordre National du Bénin (2014)
- Honorary doctorates from the University of Natal (1995); University of Bristol (1996); University of Transkei (1997); University of Rome (2013); and University of Fort Hare (2014)
- Honorary Professor of the Belarusian State University – 2007

During her term of office at the African Union, she championed the first ever vision for Africa known as Africa 2063.

Her experience, character and her work has been an inspiration to all of us. She has clear and untainted credentials and has proven to be a presidential material in her all deployments.

She has served all the NECs of the ANCWL and was also our Provincial Chairperson of the ANCWL in KZN. She has served in the ANC NEC for many years – not because she was single or divorced – but because of her credentials and character. She represents where we come from and capable to take us to the next level of our liberation called radical economic freedom.

Please join me in welcoming Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to address us all this evening with her seasoned words of wisdom and knowledge. We are ready to be addressed by you madam.

I Thank you.