

### **3 -minute (allocated to the Premier)**

#### **Welcoming Remarks by the Chairperson of the KZN Council on AIDS and Premier of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal Mr Willies Mchunu on the occasion of the Lunch with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon**

18 July 2016

**Programme Director – Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe**

**United Nations Secretary General His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-Moon**

**Deputy President of the Republic and Chairperson of SANAC, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa**

**South African Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoeledi**

**Mayor of eThekweni Municipality Cllr James Nxumalo**

**MEC for Health Dr Sbongiseni Dhlomo**

**MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nomsa Dube-Ncube**

**Executive Director of UNAIDS, Mr Sedibe**

**Prof Olive Shisana, Chairperson of the Local Co-Chair of the International Aids Conference**

#### **Honoured Guests**

At the outset, I wish to welcome the Secretary General of the United Nations His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-Moon.

Equally, I also want to extend a warm hand of welcome to all delegates attending the 21<sup>st</sup> International Aids Conference.

As the provincial government we want to express our appreciation to the South Africa Government led by His Excellency Mr J.G Zuma and the international community for once again showing confidence in our ability to host international conferences.

Over the years, we have worked hard to ensure that we portray this province as an important site for exchange of ideas, and finding solutions to problems of different parts of the globe.

We welcome the opportunity to host this conference which is the gathering of scientists, policymakers and non-governmental organisations, health activists and community healthcare workers.

This conference marks the beginning of another phase of a journey towards the creation of a Zero Aids Free Society.

This journey is inspired by the first President of a free democratic South Africa our beloved Nelson Mandela.

His determination to free millions of people from the bondage of oppression saw him spending 27 years in prison. This was indeed a long walk to freedom which inspired multitudes of people across the globe.

Despite his incarceration, Madiba became a shining beacon of hope for not only the downtrodden of the world, but also a living symbol of the triumph of the human spirit against adversity.

As we are gathered here **Your Excellencies**, we must draw inspiration from this gallant fighter who inspired multitudes of people across the globe.

Madiba's level of influence is best captured by the following prominent individuals: -

**The former Editor of Time Magazine, Richard Stengel said:** "Thinking like Nelson Mandela makes you more controlled, more self-disciplined, more measured. It makes you take the long view of things."

**The Former US president Bill Clinton:** "Nelson Mandela told me he forgave his oppressors because if he didn't, they would have destroyed him."

**Current US president Barak Obama:** "Through his choices, Nelson Mandela made it clear that we did not have to accept the world as it is – that we should do our part to seek the world as it should be."

**Programme Director,** this is the most important conference given the fact that it coincides with Madiba's birthday.

This morning the people of this province spent 67minutes at the Nelson Mandela Capture Site in Howick outside Pietermaritzburg. We paid tribute to him for his efforts aimed at creating an Aids Free Generation.

Inspired by his spirit and dedication we want to state to the international community that we will continue with the fight against this pandemic.

Importantly, the presence of international delegates will enable us to learn best practices and enhance our strategies in order to make an impact at local levels.

As the province we want to emerge out of the conference with strategies that will ensure an improvement in the AIDS awareness campaigns as well as health promotion activities.

We are confident that the conference will help strengthen the campaign on treatment adherence as well as campaigns on testing and counseling for confirmed HIV patients.

We are also paying attention to young people as they hold the key to the future. It is unfortunate that as young people grow up, they are increasingly exposed to reproductive health risks such as sexual transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies.

We are hopeful that through this conference we will learn best strategies on how to strengthen behavioral change targeted at young people.

**Your Excellencies,** we anticipate ground-breaking decisions that will generate hope and optimism about the future fight against HIV and AIDS.

We wish Durban to be a world landmark for a decisive action and a global giant leap from the 20th conference held in Melbourne.

We want Durban to be remembered positively such as its role in the World Conference Against Racism, Non Aligned Movement Summit, the formation of the African Union, BRICS Summit, CORP 17 and many other international conferences.

I thank you