



DURBAN CHAMBER OF
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The Ultimate Business Network

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Aids 2016 Business Dinner

The President of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zeph Ndlovu has expressed his confidence that the 21st International Aids Conference set to take place from 18-22 July will be a resounding success. He was speaking this evening, 28th January during the Business Gala Dinner organized by KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo Mchunu in his capacity as the chairperson of the provincial Aids Council.

“We are impressed by the level of commitment displayed by the provincial government. Over the years we have hosted, successfully, international events attended by thousands of delegates. This would not have been possible without the excellent co-ordination involving the provincial government, eThekweni Municipality and the business sector,” Ndlovu remarked.

He further assured Mchunu that the chamber had put in place programmes aimed at mobilizing its members to be part of government’s programme of action aimed at fighting HIV and Aids.

“We agree with the premier that HIV and AIDS pandemic poses a major threat to the stability of the city’s economy. It is for this reason that we urge our members to allocate resources to fight this scourge,” he emphasized.

Ndlovu said this was in the interest of big business to unite with government because production is affected due to absenteeism as a result of illnesses emanating from HIV related illness.

“We must ensure that employee wellness programmes are strengthened for the benefit of the workforce and their families. We must show compassion to those who are affected and ensure that they get adequate support through our wellness programmes.”

Regarding accommodation and the hospitality industry as a whole – the Chamber has offered to work with government to ensure that more than 23 000 delegates expected to attend are left with a long-lasting impression.

“We have a responsibility as the business sector to ensure the provision of quality service in the hospitality industry. As the premier stressed, we must entice delegates to stay longer than they had initially planned. Tourism is our major contributor towards the provincial GDP and we express our appreciation to government for having identified KZN and Durban in particular to host this conference on behalf of the continent,” Ndlovu concluded.

Notes to Health Reporters and Editors:

The 21st International AIDS Conference (“AIDS 2016”) will provide a unique forum for the intersection of science and advocacy in HIV/AIDS, and an opportunity to strengthen policies and programmes to ensure an evidence-based response to the epidemic.

Occuring at the dawn of the global push to end the epidemic in the post-2015 era, the conference offers an opportunity to bring together all key factors – biomedical and implementation science, politics, activism and industry – and will determine whether the world effectively leverages this unique opportunity to advance toward ending AIDS. South Africa demonstrates the feasibility of rapid progress against AIDS through strong political leadership, evidence-based action, a rights-based approach and community leadership and engagement. Translating what has worked in this region to others is vital to reducing new HIV infections and AIDS morbidity and mortality worldwide.

Released by:

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