



## CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Natalia, 330 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201  
Private Bag X 9051, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
Tel: 033 395 2582, Fax: 033 342 0429  
Cellphone: 082 466 9874  
Email: [sibonelo.msomi@kznhealth.gov.za](mailto:sibonelo.msomi@kznhealth.gov.za)  
[www.kznhealth.gov.za](http://www.kznhealth.gov.za)

---

**TO: ALL MEDIA**  
**DATE: 30 May 2007**  
**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has granted Durban the right to host the organisation's congress in 2009.

ICN's President Hiroko Minami made the historic announcement during the council's conference in Japan yesterday where rights to host the 2009 event were handed to KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health Neliswa Nkonyeni and eThekweni Mayor Obed Mlaba. It will be the first time that the organisation holds its 2009 congress in Africa.

Elated MEC Nkonyeni could not hold the excitement and expressed her delight that the council's conference would be held in Africa for the first time since its establishment in 1890s.

"To the International Council of Nurses, we want to express our sincere gratitude for having chosen South Africa as a country in which the 2009 Congress will be held.

"We are a continent that will enormously benefit from your stated objectives as you seek to ensure quality nursing, care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide, of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce.

"We are humbled by the fact that in more than hundred years of your existence as a Federation, we are the first African country that will host nurses from 128 countries. We are humbled indeed.

"Viva the children of Africa, Viva!" said MEC Nkonyeni.

She said Africa would rise to the occasion and embrace the opportunity with both hands.

With President Thabo Mbeki calling this era the African Century, we will invest all our energies in making the 2009 congress a resounding success, said MEC Nkonyeni.

She invited the council to assist Africa, particularly South Africa, in pointing to the right direction in the attainment of our strategic objectives, namely:

Improve the quality of nurse educators through education and training;

To recruit and retain nurse educators;

Review nursing education and training curriculum in line with the National Qualifications Framework;

Ensure integration of theory and practice in nursing education;  
Increase production of nurses especially professional nurse and clinical nurse specialists;  
Promote continuous professional development among nurses to improve skills;  
To improve the working conditions and service benefits for nurse educators and all nurses, and lastly,  
To improve research skills and competencies among nurse educators and nurses.

“This gesture fits in well with Our Honourable President Thabo Mbeki’s affirmation that this indeed, is an African Century.

“Today Africa can proudly call on the world and say be with us as we host: 2009 International Council of Nurses Congress; and the 2010 Soccer World Cup,” she concluded.

**Issued by: Ms. Sebe Zwane**  
**General Manager: Corporate Communication**  
**KZN Department of Health Acting Spokesperson**  
**078 447 9611**