

Introduction of the Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang by MEC Neliswa Nkonyeni on the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety

02/04/06

Programme Director: Proff Mohammed Seedat

His Majesty, The King

Hlanga Lomhlabathi, Bhejane Phuma Es'qiwini: King Goodwill Zwelithini

Her Majesty the Queen of Jordan

Honourable National Minister of Health: Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang

Honourable National Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs: Ms. Thoko Didiza

Honourable Regional Director of the World Health Organization: Dr. Luis Sambo

Honourable Deputy Mayor of Ethekwini Metro: Cllr Logie Naidoo

National Director for Health: Mr Thami Mseleku

KZN Director General for Health: **Dr Busie Nyembezi**

Principal of Unisa: **Proff Barney Pityana**

Esteemed Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

William Blake, the poet once wrote:

**"Man was made for joy and woe
And when this we rightly know,
Through the world we safely go"**

We consider it a blessing that this International Conference, for the first time is held in our continent, on the African soil.

This is an historical occasion and we feel ever so proud that we as the beautiful province of KwaZulu Natal are the hosts.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you have seen for yourself, this is one beautiful place on earth, and undeniably, the destiny of choice for those in search of the sun.

We thank you for coming here as we know that this continent stands to benefit from your individual and collective wisdom and deliberations during this Consultation.

Speaking on behalf of our province, we want to assure you that we remain committed to the responsibilities and protocols entrusted to member states by the World Health Assembly Resolutions. Africa stands to gain, develop and prosper.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am privileged and honoured to introduce Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, a daughter of this soil, born and bred in this province of KwaZulu Natal in a beautiful landscape village South of Durban.

Dr Manto matriculated at Inanda seminary, a world-renowned Girls High School.

After qualifying with an Arts degree in 1961, the political environment within the country became extremely hostile towards those who were ready to serve their people. She was thus forced into exile.

In 1969 she completed her MD at the Leningrad Medical institution in Moscow.

Her passion for health care became evident when she involved herself tirelessly with the National Progressive Healthcare Network.

She is closely involved with women empowerment issues as well as the protection and promotion of children's rights.

She was appointed Chairperson of the Gender Committee of the National Executive Committee of the ANC in 1998.

She also served the country as Deputy Minister of Justice where again she fought for the improvement of the rights of women and children in the criminal justice system.

Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, an internationalist, served as the Chairperson of the Africa region at the World Health Assembly in 2004.

Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang is a mother to two daughters and a granny to three young beautiful grandkids, was elected to her current post on June 17 1999. This means that she has been in this position as National Minister for Health in South Africa for the last 7 years.

She is a veteran of the struggle against apartheid and has amassed a noteworthy reservoir of experience both at home and around the globe.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you the National Minister of Health in the Republic of South Africa - Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang.