

**Welcoming Remarks by Mr Sipho Buthelezi, KZN Health  
Department's CFO on behalf of MEC Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni on the  
occasion of Pathology Revival Conference at Blue Waters Hotel**

03 July 2006

All protocol observed.

It gives me a great pleasure to join you here today at the Pathology Revival Conference. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our international speakers, guests and local delegates.

I wish to commend the organizing committee for arranging such an impressive program to advance the knowledge and practice of pathology and laboratory medicine. This event provides an opportunity to discuss and deliberate on crucial topics and the latest developments in all fields of pathology.

The emergence of new infectious diseases require the advances in science, pathology and technology to facilitate academic research and development of innovative techniques in discovery of novel mechanisms of diseases. Training and development of human resource capacity in pathology, science and technology to maintain standards locally and international in keeping with global innovations in academic research in pathology is therefore critical. Pathology influence management of diseases and contribute significantly towards addressing global health problems such as TB, HIV and Aids, Cervical cancer and malaria.

Pathology today is faced with a number of challenges, e.g.

- shortage of skilled professionals

- increased demand for services due to emergence of new infectious diseases
- pressure to improve turn-around time
- quality assurance and accreditation requirements

These challenges require new management strategies in pathology and laboratory medicine, which focuses on improvement in the quality of diagnostic services, academic research and training.

Technology convergence and development of common automated platforms provides an opportunity to address some of these challenges and service providers are encouraged to take full advantage of these developments. The establishment of public entities namely the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) in South Africa provides an enabling environment to explore these opportunities.

The range of topics to be covered at this conference lay the foundation for future collaborations that would take pathology to great heights, improve diagnostics and meet the changing needs of clinical service throughout the world. I am confident that this conference will provide guidance on how to resolve these challenges. Concerted efforts of the public and private sectors and other stakeholders are essential to pave the way to the future of pathology.

As we invite your collective wisdom and pray for your fruitful and progressive discussions, we at the same breath wish to extend our gratitude to the University captains for their contributions in research and productions of practitioners. To all the private pathology and laboratory services, we are saying, continue with the good work and compliment wherever the public service falters. George Bernard Shaw, in this instance would say:

***‘The people who get on in the world are the people who get up  
And look for the Circumstances they want,  
And if they can’t find them, make them.’***

I wish you all a very stimulating learning and sharing experience.  
and a pleasant stay in our beautiful city of Durban.