

**SPEECH BY KZN HEALTH MEC NELISWA NKONYENI AT THE
GALA DINNER OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH HEALTH INDABA 2008**

23 June 2008

Programme Directors: Dr Amos and Ms Shezi

The Chairperson of the KZN Health portfolio Committee: Ms Zanele
Ludidi

Members of Provincial Legislature present

Director General for Health, Mr Thami Mseleku

My colleagues from the Department of Health

Representatives from Ethekewini Metro

Officials from various Government Departments, Private Sectors,
Academic Institutions

Representatives from Civil Society and various NGOs

Youth Ambassadors and Youth Representatives

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening,

Once more, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to you all. This, I
must say, has been a very long but worthwhile day and I do not wish

to make the night any longer by a lengthy speech lest I spoil your good appetite.

It would, however, be an omission on my side if I fail to express my sincere gratitude for the good work done by the churches, youth and the community I had the opportunity to witness during my rounds at the exhibition stands today.

My gratitude goes first and foremost to the St Phillips Anglican Church in Umlazi for the beautiful and inspiring sermon delivered by Father Shange, as I am told. If their passion and efforts for human development and advancement would be duplicated in many more churches, and we each gave generously of our selves, indeed we would lack of nothing.

I have to mention that in this very Province, we have a group of close to 200 young clinicians who have organized themselves under a banner of an organization called KHANYA AFRICA.

These young, qualified and prosperous citizens have on voluntary basis devoted all their weekends to the noble cause of taking health services to the poor in rural areas. Last weekend our National Health

Minister, Hon Dr Manto Tshabalala Msimang joined as well. These young men and women have not forgotten their roots and they have come together to volunteer their services to the rural communities from which they originated. I wish once again to thank their gallantry. Let us emulate these good practices.

To our youth, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities provided by all governmental departments, while pursuing different professions and many avenues will be opened to you.

Programme Director, allow to me conclude by using words of power from a renown international speaker **Dr John F Demartini**, who graced the shores of our country the past few weeks. This is what he has to say:

*"I am a master and student of persistence. I do what it takes.
I embrace all aspects of my life and maintain my vision and focus.
I take time to focus myself daily, to see and hear my mission.
I daily plant in my mind the seeds of growth that I want in my life.
My vision and my mission manifest as I see them clearly.
I embrace the positive and the negative in pursuit of my purpose.*

*I daily hold the image of how I would love my life to be.
The universe conspires to help me manifest my dream".*

With that, I would like to thank all our partners and sponsors for their generous support. Most importantly, to thank the young people for your enthusiasm - your presence in such big numbers is indicative of the fruitfulness of this yearly event.

It is my earnest hope that this event will grow from strength to strength and some of you will, in later life, look back and say: "I was one of the path finders".

Please relax and enjoy the evening. For those who still have to travel, travel safely. For the majority who remain, I wish you a safe and fruitful week.

BON APPETITE!