

**THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. MZIWONKE DLABANTU OFFICIALLY OPENS THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION SPACE MARKING THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS HELD IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

**DATE:** Sunday 03 August 2014

**TIME:** 17H30

**VENUE:** Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal

- Our international delegates and other visitors
- The officials from the host province and the host City alike
- Other government officials
- The event organizers, planners and event managers
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good afternoon / evening

The long wait is over. For six years we have laboured as a country, the province of KwaZulu-Natal and the City of eThekweni to put together the best institutional and logistical arrangements, in order to host a successful 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Congress for the UIA (International Union of Architects).

No area epitomizes the sweat better than the exhibition space we are about to launch shortly. Judging from what we saw earlier, we were indeed impressed at the amount of creative effort that the planners, the exhibitors and the organizers put into the displays.

It was thrilling earlier during the walk-about to be taken through a creative journey of what to anticipate from the Congress - both the form and the content.

***ARCHITECTURE OTHERWHERE DURBAN*** has been instrumental in prompting us to think on our feet and to think beyond the spaces that seem to be confining us. I am sure you will all agree with me when I say that is exactly what the exhibitions sought to achieve.

The legacy of resilience, values and ecology should be a lasting one especially for our creative teams and guide them into the future as they plan and organize more events that utilizes available spaces to open our eyes and minds to the hidden OTHER.

I say this because the exhibitors are offering us some sort of mental stimulation, titillating our minds and making us wonder at the hidden worth of the speeches and other scientific content we are about to be exposed to, come the morning of the 04 August 2014.

As we officially inaugurate the Durban 2014 UIA exhibition, we like to thank all the entities who heeded the clarion call, and took the challenge to come and share with the world through these visual arts displays, the essence of what the architectural professional encapsulates.

Whether it is through graffiti, painting, graphic design or even an exhibition, the objective is to engender in the mind of the beholder the world that you as the creative person imagine it.

Architects are the built environment creative whiz kids. We depend on them to conceptualize our living world such that it can anticipate the worst while in response they simultaneously develop designs that can withstand both the natural and man-made disasters.

**(On a lighter Note).** In this age of smart buildings, it should not be far-fetched anymore colleagues to imagine a house with all its controls located on the remote switch of a vehicle. From the comfort of your car, you can control the temperature in the geyser and the intensity of the lights in the living room.

Join me in cocking the champagne as we declare the Durban UIA 2014 International Exhibition as officially open. Thank You and Cheers.