



cooperative governance

Department:
Cooperative Governance
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Address by

Ken Terry

Head: National Disaster Management Centre

On the occasion of the 3rd National Fire Safety and Prevention Seminar on 04 March 2015 at Durban, Public Works Conference Centre, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

Programme Director,

Acting Head of the KZN PDMC, Mr Jonty Ndlazi,

Senior Managers from across the spheres of government

Chief Fire Officers

Fire Safety and prevention Officers

Distinguished delegates and speakers

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon,

As most of you are aware, the NDMC started hosting the Annual National Fire Safety and Prevention Seminar in 2013. Delegates at the 2013 seminar requested the NDMC to organise this event on annual basis and the 2nd annual seminar was

held in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga during March 2015. This year, we organised the seminar in collaboration with the KZN COGTA and the Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa (FPASA). As it was indicated yesterday by the Directorate: Fire Services Coordination, the primary objective of the seminar is to create a platform for sharing knowledge, good practice, research, etc.

This platform also enables our key partners from within and outside government to share information and knowledge on key issues that must be prioritised by all stakeholders in order to reduce fire losses. I am aware that the fire problem in our country is complex and requires concerted effort by all role players across all spheres of government, civil society and the private sector. It is against this background that the NDMC is partnering with various organisations within and outside government to pool all available resources in order to reduce fire risks and losses.

I hope you had a fruitful summit and that you will take into account the key focus areas that have been identified as critical for us to significantly reduce fire risks and losses in our country. As you are aware, the Department is busy reviewing the Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 to ensure linkage with other relevant local government legislation such as the Municipal Systems Act, 2000; Municipal Structures Act, 1998; Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005; Disaster Management Act etc. In this regard, the NDMC has submitted the draft White Paper on Fire Services to Cabinet for further processing. This draft White Paper on Fire Services will form the basis of the new legislation. This White Paper places fire safety and fire prevention at the centre of the work that must be undertaken by

all fire services in the country. The NDMC has also prepared a draft Bill on Fire Services which will be discussed with stakeholders prior to submission to Cabinet for consideration. This will be done once Cabinet approves the White Paper.

Programme Director, in closing, I wish to thank the Fire Protection Association of South Africa, and Santam for supporting the hosting of this conference through their generous donations. I also wish to thank the KZN COGTA for allowing us to host the summit in their province and for all the logistical support including securing this venue at no cost from the provincial department of Public Works.

To all the speakers, thank you for taking time off your busy schedule to share your knowledge and expertise on fire safety and prevention issues. To the delegates, I hope the seminar was informative and that lesson learned here will improve fire safety practice going forward. I wish to thank you for the continued support in making this summit a success that it has become.

I thank you!