



20th IMASA National Conference Inauguration Speech

President Winnie Baloyi : 2018-2019



I am so humbled by the confidence all members have shown in me to lead IMASA in the position of Presidency.

About 10 years back when I was introduced to IMASA, I never thought one day I will be at a National leading position. I am elected today.

Throughout the years, I allowed myself to learn, ask questions and observe from those who were in leading positions, with more knowledge and experience than me. My journey of learning still continues! I know this is not only a title, but it comes with lot of responsibilities, hard work, sacrifices and commitment.

There are so many challenges facing IMASA at this stage, but collectively we, IMASA Knights, can fight the battle and address the challenges. We all have so much responsibilities ahead of us. Looking at the declining attendance to conferences, meetings and workshops by members, already gives me sleepless nights.

I believe that working together, we can keep IMASA alive and recognized. I still have hope that we can take IMASA to greater heights. For

us IMASA Knights to gain much recognition, we need to give back to our respective municipalities the knowledge gained from conferences, workshops and trainings. Change should actually start with us and make a difference in the administration of the municipalities we serve. The country is waiting for us!

It is time we go back to basics and cultivate the spirit of serving. It should not be about how much we earn, but to which extent we contribute to make a difference in local government and our lovely country South Africa.

I will always be grateful to the people who saw potential in me and encouraged me to participate in the leadership of IMASA. Our immediate past President, Mrs Cherel Van Rensburg was always persistent that I should take part in the leadership position. At first, I was reluctant but eventually gave in. I thank her for the encouragement.

Thank you Limpopo branch for your support throughout. I am here today because of the support you gave me during my term of service as the Deputy Chairperson and Chairperson of the branch.

I will still need the support of all the branches going forward. I will further thank the leadership of IMASA for allowing me to join the immediate Past President and be part of the 72nd IIMC Conference at Norfolk, Virginia, USA. I had an opportunity to meet my mentor the IIMC MMC, Ms Monica Simmons. I thank her for offering to be my mentor.

Yes, I must say I will always be grateful for being received by warm hands at Norfolk, Virginia. And the memories of this first experience will forever be cherished.

I will further thank my municipality, Greater Tzaneen Municipality for supporting and allowing me to participate in IMASA activities.

Let me conclude with the inspiring words said by the IIMC President, Ms Stephanie Kelly, I quote **"TOGETHER WE CAN"**