



SAESI hosts gala dinner at SAESI 2017 Conference, Expo and Training Events



the people of Southern Africa' as reflected within the Memorandum of Incorporation (MOI) objectives, as well as the councillors who represent the interest of the membership at grass root level.

He added, "I am deeply honoured to be entrusted as the 31st president to lead this remarkable member- founded institution that was created in 1959 to 'Promote the fire services for the people of South Africa'. My involvement with SAESI would have not been possible without the support of the members who motivated, nominated and elected me, my employer, the eThekweni Municipality, for granting me permission to participate and, most importantly, my family especially my wife, who stand by my side and keep me motivated to persevere and drive the industry towards professionalisation to better serve the people of southern Africa."

Ramlall also introduced Arlene Wehr of the City of Cape Town, who serves as the first female vice-president. "She is an active member of the institute holding the Associate Diploma," said Ramlall.

The National Disaster Management Centre's Godiraone Lloyd Phetlhu provided a brief update on legislation, feedback from the various working groups and current status of the White Paper. Phetlhu also congratulated Melvin Ramlall on his appointment as president of SAESI.

A traditional illustrious gala dinner was hosted by the Southern African Institute of Emergency Services (SAESI) at its biennale conference, providing a glamorous setting and back drop for SAESI members, chief fire officers and industry delegates to socialise and mingle with their families and Brotherhood families. SAESI's Riaan Janse van Vuuren was programme director for the evening and provided humour to the evening's proceedings.

Chaplain June Jeffrey opened the evening with prayer. Musician Niko tied up with fire fighter Emile Conrad of Eden District Municipality and formed a fantastic duo to the great excitement of attendees. Conrad

started the evening off with Amazing Grace on the saxophone.

Past president Dino Padayachee reflected on the past two years of SAESI's achievements prior to handing over to Melvin Ramlall as SAESI's president.

Ramlall honoured the past SAESI presidents for the leadership and foresight and acknowledged the SAESI board of directors for availing themselves voluntarily to embrace the obligations and responsibility for the governance and enterprise risk management of SAESI NPC for the period 2017 to 2019:

Ramlall added appreciation to the executive committee (EXCO) who operationalise the strategic vision to 'Promote emergency services for





