

WELCOME ADDRESS

By Masifundise Chairperson Mr. George Bongo

On behalf of board members of MDT, the director the entire staff, especially Michelle Joshua who has been the owner behind the scenes. Our partners at Coastal Links- SA, our mother body TCOE, our sister affiliates, our long term contributors. To the toiling fisher men and women and children along the coastal line of the Republic of SA, Allow me the pleasure of welcoming you all to this august gathering of the world's fisher people in Cape Town.

We pay homage to our forebears who lived and still do along the coastal lines of the world, living off their God given marine resources. We know that throughout the ages their lives have been adversely disrupted by big fishing companies and prohibitive and punitive laws of various countries. In the same breath I wish to express and convey our heartfelt appreciation to those governments who took time to listen to the voices of those which appealed and fought for favorable policies. I am proud to announce that MASIFUNDISE and COASTAL LINKS- SA contributed considerably to the SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES POLICY and the AMENDED MRLA of 2014. However the implementation process is yet to be realized

Our welcome is further directed to government its officials and the Minister, we express our gratitude to our traditional funders more so to those who made it possible for us to gather here deliberate and exchange ideas during the next 5 day

We are called upon to rise to the occasion, participate and contribute freely. Cape Town is a friendly city with lovely people, it has become a cosmopolitan destination, internationally recognized as a World Heritage with its majestic Table Mountain which is surrounded by the ATLANTIC and PACIFIC Oceans.

Finally, when visiting the West Coast villages spare a thought for those fisher men and women who strive to clothe, feed and educate their children with their meagre catch while facing dangerous and treacherous waters in their age beaten rickety dinghies, at time losing their lives in the process.

Welcome, enjoy Cape Town and its environs Thank you