



COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
(ASSOCIATIONS OF SURGEONS OF EAST AFRICA)

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All correspondences should be addressed to the CEO

COSECSA 18th AGM Speech ,
Prof Miliard Derbew President,
December 06, 2017
Maputo Mozambique

Dear Dr Nasira Vali Abdula - Minister of Health, Republic of Mozambique
Guest Of Honor;
Presidents of sister Colleges;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Maputo and College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa, COSECSA, have long story, I also personally have sentimental attachment with both. 17 years ago, in the year 2000, we launched our first COSECSA general assembly here in Maputo (It was ASEA before that). This same year my country Ethiopia became the 8th constituent member of COSECSA. Today I am honored and privileged to give this speech as the president of COSECSA.

The 18th COSECSA conference and graduation ceremony, wouldn't have been successful without the unreserved effort of the Mozambicans surgical society, specially the local organizing committee led by Drs Prem, Assish, and Vanda and the President Dr Miranda, thank you very much!!

Mozambique is one of the few COSECSA countries where the College of Surgeons of East Central COSECSA, is fully registered as nonprofit NGO company, I have heard from Mozambicans fellows, that it was materialized by the great support of the Ministry of health.

The Ministry of health of Mozambique has given special consideration and they were following each and every stapes of the organization of this conference, including the preparation of the examination very closely. This colorful high-end ceremony, in a prime location of Maputo, in this luxury hotel, accompanied by Indian ocean breathe, wouldn't have been a reality without support of MOH of Mozambique and other partners. I have great respect and honor to the Ministry of health and I humbly request the audience to join me in appreciating the MOH of Mozambique.

Obrigado

Today, we are not only celebrating our 18th annual conference, we are also celebrating, the 10th year anniversary of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and COSECSA's successful partnership. As a remembrance of this anniversary, RCSI has donated this beautiful chain of office to COSECSA, we thank the people and government of Ireland and Irish Aid and RCSI for being with us all this years. "A friend in need is a friend in deed"

President: Dr Miliard Derbew ,Ethiopia. **Secretary General:** Professor Eric Borgstein, Malawi.

Treasurer: Dr Jane Fualal ,Uganda. **Registrar :**Professor Krikor Erzingatsian,Zambia. **CEO:** Ms Rosemary Mugwe, Secretariat



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Today COSECSA AGM has approved the membership of two countries, **South Sudan and Namibia**. Very soon Botswana will join us.

COSECSA is very glad and honored today to donate digitalized modern mobile surgical skills unit which was donated to us by the RCSI. The council of COSECSA strongly believes, this mobile unit will help and facilitate the training of surgeons in Mozambique and the southern regions.

Dear Guest of Honor
Ladies and Gentlemen:

ON top of the burden of diseases, Africa is suffering from man-made geographical & economical divisions. This one continent is divided into six health sectors, (show slides) ECSA, EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, (slide 3)

These divisions have somehow impaired the health system development of the continent. Disease doesn't respect borders, race, tribes, political or economic divisions. It is with this principle that COSECSA is functioning in the four out of six "health communities". Currently with other sister colleges we are also heading to strengthen Pan African Association of Surgeons. At this juncture, I would like to invite our northern Africa colleagues to join us and work hand in hand with their African fellows.

Even though surgery is recognized as a primary health problem by WHO 2015 the international organization and governments are not giving due attention to surgery: Most WHO initiatives Alma-ata declaration _ MDG didn't achieve their targets, because they fail to include surgery as part of primary health care. Maternal mortality, infant and child mortality and morbidity, trauma, mortalities and morbidities due to natural and man-made disasters will not improve without access to safe and emergency surgery.

J Meara "Despite growing need, the development and delivery of surgical and anaesthesia care in LMICs has been nearly absent from the global health discourse."

The leading cause of lack of surgical care in LMIC, where we are part of it, is the severe shortage of surgical workforce. In the 10 COSECSA member countries, we have less than 2000 practicing surgeons. That is 0.5 surgeon per 100,000 population. (the Lancet commission recommends, 20 SAO/100,000popn) In LMIC the surgical burden is high where as the workforce is negligible, that why COSECSA focuses on addressing the severe shortage of surgical workforce beyond and above all issues. To this effect since we started training and graduating 4, in 2004, we have graduated 206 surgeons until last year. Today there are ----graduates and total of 260 surgeons

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have graduated from this college, There are more than 500 trainees enrolled to date in our program. More than 80,000 surgeries are performed since 2016 (since we started using electronic log book)

The College of Surgeons of East central and southern Africa is would like to all our partners, without you we couldn't achieve all these. specially the Irish government and people through Irish aid and RCSI.

ACS, specially operation giving back, many NGO and all the professionals who are working with us, COSECSA remains in debt. Thank you so much.

The female surgeons wing of COSECSA, Women in Surgery Africa, WISA, is working

hard in collaboration with other sister colleges to attract more women to the profession. I would like to thank ACS for encouraging women surgeons by sponsoring 9 female trainees, in their training (slide) . We are grateful for international leading role model women surgeons, Prof Barbara Bass, President of ACS, Dr Patricia Neumann, Dr Hilary Sanfe Dr Sherry wren

I would like to thank you all very much,

A luta Continua!!

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