Conference Venue: Emperors Palace Dates: 23 – 25 October 2019 Compiled by: **Meryl-Lynne Colborne** Introduction

Pre Conference Workshops

Highlights:

Challenges:

## Conference

Lessons learnt: The professionalization and importance of Monitoring and Evaluation particularly in government is encouraging. That being said, the institutionalisation and developing a culture of learning and evidence based decision making in government still has far to go.

The tools and easy software available which were demonstrated during the MERL tech strand was an eye-opener and I will be trying out a few in my workplace.

The various pathways into becoming a professional evaluator was also a lesson and inspirational for me, particularly as I am trying to make a career transition.

Challenges: None, the conference was world-class.

Networking: It was great to meet the wider M&E "community". I have made linkages with others who have emerged into this profession. I also had the opportunity to meet established evaluators from my province who we have added to our KZN Learning Network and who I identify as possible mentors.

Next steps: More practical learning with the help of my KZN Learning Network and identified mentors! The future is bright!