

Media Statement

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The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature will hold the annual Workers Parliament on May 25- 26 to celebrate the workers month in the Parliamentary chamber in Pietermaritzburg. This is the fifth sitting of the Workers Parliament having started in 2005 under the leadership of the former Speaker Willies Mchunu to give workers a platform to debate issues affecting them in the presence of the Members of the Legislature including MECs.

Commenting on this year's Workers Parliament, the newly elected Speaker Mrs Peggy Nkonyeni had this to say "the Legislature will continue with its public participation strategy which ensures that all sectors of our society are given platforms to engage with government and raise issues that affect them. Our strategy is aimed at deepening debate and democracy in KwaZulu-Natal. The Workers Parliament was pioneered by our Legislature and other provinces have emulated it. We lead and others follow".

Participants in this year's Workers Parliament have been drawn from Cosatu, Fedusa and Nactu. These biggest union federations will bring delegates from their affiliate unions to debate the theme titled "Labour unity for the betterment of all". Issues such as job losses due to the global economic recession and the creation of decent jobs will feature prominently during the debates.

There will be presentations on the first day of the Workers Parliament by various organisations including the South African Nursing Council, Department of Labour, Land Affairs. The Premier will present the government's priorities for the 2009 - 2014 term. The second day will be dedicated to debates by the delegates. The event starts at 9h00 on both days.

Ends

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