

Media Statement

KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE TO HOLD A THREE DAY SITTING AT ILEMBE DISTRICT

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Speaker, Neliswa Nkonyeni today announces that the Legislature will visit Ilembe District and hold a two day sitting at Sabuyaze Sports Ground at Maphumulo from 9 - 10 March 2010.

The two day sitting is in line with the Legislature's innovative programme of Taking Legislature to the People which started during the third term of the KZN Legislature.

Speaker Nkonyeni said " as a democratically elected assembly, we will continue to reach out to the people who elected us and listen to the issues which affect them as citizens of KwaZulu-Natal. Our aim is to engage with the people directly so as to fast-track service delivery in every corner of KwaZulu-Natal. We want to ensure that there is meaningful participatory democracy in our province".

The Speaker further said that the Taking Legislature to the People has enhanced the Legislature's oversight responsibility as Members get to know the realities on the ground through direct interactions with the public as well as undertaking community visits. This has enabled committees to exercise robust oversight over provincial departments with a view to addressing service delivery backlogs, particularly in rural areas.

The sitting at Maphumulo is preceded by the visit of Legislators to the four municipalities under Ilembe in October last year. The delegation comprised all political parties represented in the Legislature. The Multi-party delegation interacted with ordinary people in the municipalities of Mandeni, Dukuza, Ndwedwe and Maphumulo. The delegation obtained first hand information on service delivery challenges facing the people of Ilembe.

As a result of that visit, the Legislature sitting at Maphumulo, will debate amongst other things, a report on Multi Party oversight visit to Ilembe District. The Legislature will also debate a report which will be presented by the Education MEC on the state of readiness with respect to the opening of public schools in 2010. The MEC for Finance will also table a report on the consolidated statement on the budget of municipalities.

On 11 March, the Legislature will host the People with Disabilities Parliament at Maphumulo in order to give this sector a platform to engage with Members of the Legislature. This is in keeping with the Legislature's commitment to broaden

Sector Parliaments in order to accommodate other sectors and give them a voice in matters of the Legislature.