

Media Statement

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Dear Editor/Reporter

The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature will visit Amajuba District in Northern KwaZulu-Natal next week to hold its innovative programme of "Taking Legislature to the People" which continues to grow from strength to strength since its inception in 2005. The three day sitting which commences on the 28th to the 30th of October 2008 will be held at Phelindaba Stadium at Madadeni township in Newcastle.

The inaugural Taking Legislature to the People programme took place in Uthukela District in 2005. Since then the programme has seen the Legislature holding its sittings away from Pietermaritzburg in various district municipalities of KwaZulu-Natal including Ugu, Umkhanyakude, Umzinyathi, Uthungulu and Zululand. A multi-party delegation was formed to conduct extensive oversight visits which precede the sitting of the Legislature in each and every district visited to date. These oversight visits are characterised by extensive interactions with ordinary people to hear about their service delivery needs. The delegation reports back to the Legislature on its findings.

Commenting on the upcoming Taking Legislature to the People in Amajuba, Speaker Willies Mchunu said "This innovative programme has had huge service delivery spin-offs for the people of KwaZulu-Natal. Our programme of Taking Legislature to the People continues to grow from strength to strength despite our political detractors who persist to view it as a waste of money. The overwhelming enthusiasm which the people have demonstrated towards this programme has given us an added impetus to press ahead with this programme".

Speaker Mchunu added that "during this sitting in Newcastle the Legislature will, amongst other things, get a briefing from the Department of Home Affairs on their state of readiness to roll-out IDs to eligible voters in view of the 2009 national and provincial elections".

On the first day of the sitting the public will have an opportunity to interact with the Premier and Members of the Cabinet (MECs). The people of Amajuba will raise issues that affect them in their communities and receive instant feedback on what the government is doing to address those issues. Other highlights of this sitting include the following:

- Report by the Chairperson by the chairperson of Committees on the Multi Party Oversight visit to Amajuba District;

- Report by the MEC for Finance and Economic Development on the consolidated statement on municipalities budget (3rd quarter);

- Report by the Chairperson of Education Portfolio Committee on the challenges of KZN Department of Education regarding infrastructure.

"Once again, as customary in our approach we have had consultations with the political leadership of Amajuba District in preparing for this sitting" added Speaker Mchunu.

Ends.

Issued by

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