

Media Statement 12 June 2009

In celebrating the Youth Month, the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature will host its annual Youth Parliament on the 14th & 15th June at Enhlanhleni Sports Field in Underberg, Sisonke District.

The Youth Parliament is part of the KZN Legislature's public participation strategy which ensures that there is sustained engagement between the Legislature and various sectors of society. The youth formations from the six parties that are represented in the Legislature will participate in this event.

Commenting on this year's Youth Parliament, the Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Mrs Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni said " Our Legislature continues to broaden public participation in matters of provincial governance. In May, we hosted a very successful Workers Parliament where the workers raised a number of issues that affect them. The Workers Parliament adopted resolutions which require the Legislature and the provincial government to implement. We will continue to give all sectors of our society a platform to engage with their public representatives".

The theme of the 2009 Youth Parliament is "Celebrating a vibrant Youth Voice". Remarking on this year's theme, Speaker Nkonyeni said "We are very convinced that this theme succinctly captures what we strive for as the Legislature. Our motto - Expression of the People's voice, dovetails with this theme".

In line with the theme of the 2009 Youth Parliament, participants will deliberate on the following issues:

- Youth participation in the economy
- Youth skills development
- Sports transformation including the 2010 World Cup and beyond
- Promoting healthy lifestyle among the youth
- The role of the National Youth Development Agency

On the first day of the Youth Parliament, that is 14 June, the Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize will address the youth on youth development initiatives within all provincial government departments. "We are certain that this address will be able to locate the role of the youth within five priority areas that the Premier announced during his inauguration in May" said the Speaker. Participants will then break into five commissions to deliberate on these key areas mentioned above.

The following day, the 15th June will be entirely dedicated to debates which will culminate in the adoption of resolutions. Those resolutions will be referred to the Legislature and its committees to be acted upon. This will form part of the Legislature's oversight responsibility as certain issues will be cascaded down to departments for implementation.

The Speaker further said " We hold these sectoral sittings such as the Youth Parliament not because it is fashionable to do so. We have taken this route because that is what participatory democracy calls upon us to do. We want to give various sectors of our society a voice in our Legislature".

Ends

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For more information contact

We invite all the youth from Sisonke District to participate in Youth Parliament. Transport has been arranged to bring the youth to the venue of this event. Contact your local municipality to get information on bus routes. Your view counts.

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature - Expression of the People's Voice

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