

To: All Media

RE: Response to IFP statement on Ms Nonkululeko Mhlongo's Catering Tender with KZN Legislature.

This matter has been discussed several times in various committees of the KZN Legislature such as Finance and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa).

Besides, The Honourable Speaker also addressed it in her Budget Speech, in which she said:

“On the issue of catering, I emphasize that this Legislature is on record for having informed both Scopa and the Finance Committee that in 2008/2009, the Legislature was pressurized by Members of this House, across the party lines to ensure that there was proper catering to address specific dietary requirements of Members. Addressing this issue on an urgent basis resulted in the Legislature not advertising in the Government Gazette for a period of 21 days as per supply chain prescripts. We also explained that notwithstanding this fact, the tender was advertised widely in all newspapers and the process leading to the appointment of the service provider was fair and transparent. This issue was not discovered by any other person but the Legislature, when it disclosed this in its financial statements as a non-compliance issue”.

As far as the issue of Mohammed Ismail's absenteeism is concerned, the Legislature's Human Resources Department is investigating those allegations.

If the IFP has proof that a particular individual received kickbacks they must come forward with that proof and submit it to the Treasury Department which was tasked to investigate this matter.

The IFP's attempt to drag the name of the Legislature Speaker, Ms Neliswa Nkonyeni, into this matter can only be described as nothing else but mere desperate attempts to score cheap political points because, she has nothing to do with supply chain management matters and does not even sit in the tender bid committees.

For more information contact the Spokesperson for the Speaker of KZN Legislature: Wonder Hlongwa at 0829083532,

Ends