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AN ACTIVIST, PEOPLE-CENTRED LEGISLATURE

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Honourable Speaker Nontembeko Boyce

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE **SPEAKER OF THE KZN LEGISLATURE**

*AS WE BEGIN THE YEAR 2020, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME
ALL THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL
LEGISLATURE, THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF.*

We also had Members and officials who left the institution for various reasons, we wish them all the best in their endeavours.

I trust that we all had a restful holiday season and have come back energetic and ready to hit the ground running. Our condolences go to those who lost their loved ones during the festive season.

While 2019 was a successful year, we are saddened that we lost some of the prominent sons and daughters who were ambassadors of our province, nevertheless, we hope that their families will find solace in that their contributions will always be cherished by the people of this country.

It is beneficial to commend the provincial government for its continued efforts to reduce accidents on our roads through awareness campaigns and other means. The Legislature will support any initiative to strengthen awareness campaigns.

Let me also congratulate the Provincial Department of Education and all stakeholders within the education sector for the phenomenal improvement recorded for the 2019 matric class. We hope we will see even more improvement for the 2020 academic year.

The KZN Legislature's effective oversight mechanisms, particularly the Schools Functionality Monitoring Programme, is bearing fruit since the trend indicates improvement in most of the schools visited in the past.

Thus, the KZN Legislature will endeavour to strengthen this programme. Such improvement includes the stakeholder engagements just like the one we had on the 17th of January as part of our School Visits for 2020.

The objective of these meetings was to identify key areas of intervention as the year began.

Whilst the previous year was short as a result of general elections which took place on the 8th of May 2019, we were able to immediately hit the ground running by ushering-in the 6th legislature, electing the Premier, Speaker and Deputy Speaker and other members of the institution's strategic leadership.

We conducted a comprehensive induction programme, bearing in mind that we had a substantial number of new Members. We established portfolio committees and subsequently elected chairpersons of these committees.

Whilst the year was short, it was however a very fruitful year in which we managed to carry out most of our annual programmes, including the Official Opening, Youth, Women, Senior Citizens, Taking Legislature to the People and Parliament for People with Disabilities, which is in fulfillment of our mandate to ensure public participation in legislative activities.

On the part of oversight, our committees played their role in ensuring effective budget hearings, participated actively during budget speeches, and were involved in many oversight visits throughout the province.

Further to this, through my Social Responsibility Programme (SSR), various interventions and support was given to deserving individuals and organisations with a view to participate in poverty alleviation initiatives.

This year marks the beginning of the new decade and presents an opportunity to reflect on our successes and challenges in delivering on our mandate, in line with our guiding documents including the National Development Plan (NDP) and Sector Oversight Model (SOM).

Let me take this opportunity to apologize for the inconvenience caused during the refurbishment of the façade of the chamber; we hope the work will be completed shortly and we will have a dignified environment in which to conduct our business.

In conclusion let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary to the Legislature, management and staff for the dedication to their work and to the success of this institution.

Lastly, let me congratulate all the teams that participated in the last Inter-Legislature Games that were hosted by us towards the end of last year.

As we report elsewhere in this Newsletter, you really made us proud – not only for winning in most sporting codes but in the way in which you conducted yourselves.



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KZN LEGISLATURE MPLs EMBARK ON SCHOOLS FUNCTIONALITY VISITS



Chairperson of Committees Honourable Themba Mthembu (far right), addressing members and the school management team at Manono High School in Nongoma.

As part of the Schools Functionality Monitoring Programme, Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature were deployed by Honourable Speaker Nontembeko Boyce throughout the Province to assess the state of readiness in different schools for the beginning of the 2020 academic year.

During these visits, Members had an opportunity to engage members of the community in stakeholder meetings to get the views of the locals on how best teaching and learning in their specific communities could be improved.

The school visits are part of KZN Legislature's oversight responsibility over the executive arm of government.

Once Members have monitored schools throughout the Province, a report was compiled for the Speaker, who handed it over to the Education MEC Kwazi Mshengu to ensure that the Department of Education makes necessary interventions.

"The Schools Functionality Monitoring Programme has been very effective and we believe that it has had a huge impact on the improvement of results," said Legislature Speaker Honourable Nontembeko Boyce.

During the school visits, Members inspected a number of issues, including whether schooling began

on the first day of school, the delivery of stationery, availability of teaching staff, school infrastructure, etc.

"We have been inspired by the positive results produced by the class of 2019 and we want to partner with the Provincial Education Department to make sure that they achieve even better results," said Honourable Boyce.

Provincial Legislature's Chairperson of Committees Honourable N.R. Mthembu, who led the Zululand team, lashed out at teachers who hid behind union activism while they ignored their duty of teaching children.

"Any teacher who politicises the working environment is primitive and needs to be dealt with harshly. We should meet such individuals at the CCMA (Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration)," said Mthembu.

He said that all stakeholders, especially teachers and parents, should have the interests of the child at heart.

Honourable Members were deployed throughout the province as part of the Schools Functionality Monitoring Programme. Below are Honourable Members in action.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature participated in a number of activities, including a march against gender-based violence, as part of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign.



Left: Deputy Chief Whip Honourable Vuyiswa Caluza (second from right) represented KZN Legislature in a march to protest against gender-based violence as part of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children.

The march, which took place in Richmond outside Pietermaritzburg, was organised by Emmanuel's Wish Foundation and the Richmond Day Care Support Centre.

The two organisations are at the centre of fighting for children's rights and both support abused women of all ages in the Richmond area.

Deputy Chief Whip Honourable Vuyiswa Caluza, who represented the Legislature at the march, strongly condemned the ongoing incidences of femicide and gender-based violence (GBV) in KwaZulu-Natal.

Other leaders who participated in the march were Richmond Municipality Chief Whip Councillor Samora Ndlovu, Chief Whip

Councillor Ntombizonke Phoswa and Ward Councillor Scelo Ngubo.

Given the scourge of GBV in the country, which has been declared a national concern, Government is implementing the Emergency Response Action Plan on GBV and femicide, which was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in September last year.

The 16 Days Campaign formed the centre point of Government's comprehensive 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. At the end of the campaign on 10 December last year, Government officially launched the 365 Days Behavioural Change Campaign.

During the 16 Days Campaign period, Government, together with civil society and the private sector, hosted a series of community and sector dialogues and activities to foster a collaborative effort in dealing with GBV.

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign is a United Nations campaign that takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). Other key annual commemorative days during this period include World Aids Day on 1 December and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.



HON. RT MTHEMBU
Chairperson of Committees

EFFICIENT AND RESEARCH-DRIVEN OVERSIGHT IS CRITICALLY NEEDED

The KwaZulu-Natal government prides itself on its ability to champion the interests of its citizens. Through our outreach programmes, we have gradually edged closer to our communities (the

nucleus of any democratic government) in a bid to listen and act upon their concerns.

While some ground has already been covered in this regard, more still needs to be done in order to ensure that there is continuous and direct contact between Members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs) and all our communities. To address this inconsistency, we will, in the next few months, launch the 'Know Your MPL' Campaign, which will see us strengthening our partnership with the people we represent.

This campaign will be extended to the length and breadth of our Province, as we seek to familiarise our people with their representatives at provincial level. Our ultimate goal is to make our MPLs the first port of call when our people need to air their voices on various issues, whether it relates to policies or general government services. We are meant to reach our people through Parliament and legislatures in order to advance our national democratic goals. Our people should be mobilised to play an active role in shaping their own lives. Hence, we reiterate the fact that we must work together with our people in building an activist Parliament.

The 'Know Your MPL' Campaign was conceived by communities themselves and is part of our grand plan to improve how our Parliamentary constituency offices operate. It is about meeting the needs and aspirations of those at whose behest we serve.

While the Parliamentary constituency offices were formed to ensure effectiveness and accountability to the people, there have been challenges. We must ensure that the Constituency offices are used to their full potential and should also provide a platform for the

involvement of our people in decision-making, especially in matters affecting them.

During the establishment of the constituency offices, it was made clear that they should serve as a link to government in order to extend programmes of direct contact to empower people to be active participants in building a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. We have no doubt that the journey we have begun will receive the full support of all political parties represented in the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature as they have consistently offered counsel on how we can improve our interactions with communities.

In the next few months, the Office of the Chief Whip will start formal consultations with the relevant structures in the Legislature so that our vision can be refined and implemented. Ordinary members of the public will also be afforded an opportunity to air their views on what they would like to see their constituency offices doing for them.

With the central government's bold plans introduced to move our country out of its economic doldrums and improve the delivery of services to our people, we must at all times harness unity and nation-building.

In our journey of ensuring community involvement, let us remember the wise words of our Former President, Nelson Mandela, who once said:

"Since my release, I have become more convinced than ever that the real makers of the future are the ordinary men and women of our country. Their participation in every decision about their future is the only guarantee of true democracy and freedom."

Hon. B.M. (Super) Zuma is the Chief Whip in the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.



HON. B.M. ZUMA
Chief Whip

MEASURES AFOOT TO BRIDGE GULF BETWEEN KZN MPLS' AND COMMUNITIES

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CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL AMAJUBA STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT



The Chairperson Honourable 'K.K.' Nkosi welcoming the members of the community to the Stakeholder Engagement Session.



Honourable Rogers outlining the purpose of the visit at the request of the Chairperson.

The Provincial Treasury presented the Draft Annual Performance Plan (APP) and Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year at Durnacol Sports Complex in Dannhauser Municipality at the invitation of the KZN Finance Portfolio Committee in December last year.

The main aim was to expose the public to the APP and Budget long before they were passed by the Legislature and to factor in the public's views and comments. This proves that the KZN Legislature is a truly 'activist Legislature', which is a centre for public involvement and oversight.

The public members were exposed to how the KZN Provincial Treasury is structured and what its main functions are. Treasury programmes and sub-

programmes were clearly explained by the Deputy Director-General Mrs Shezi, Chief Financial Officer Mr Ndlovu and three other top officials.

The Chairperson of the Committee Honourable Siphon 'K.K.' Nkosi commended the people of Amajuba for posing relevant yet difficult questions during the presentation, and concluded by thanking the Speaker of Dannhauser and all councillors who had taken time to attend this important meeting.



Young girls attending the launch of a campaign against the practice of Ukuthwala, which was launched as part of 16 Days of Activism for no Violence against Women and Children. Insert: Quality of Life Portfolio Committee Chairperson Phumzile Mbatha-Cele addressing the meeting.

QUALITY OF LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE STANDS AGAINST THE PRACTICE OF UKUTHWALA (KIDNAPPING AND FORCED MARRIAGE OF YOUNG GIRLS)



The Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Children and People with Disabilities launched a campaign to fight against the practice of *ukuthwala* as part of the 16 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women and Children in December last year.

The Committee's activities involved a dialogue on a number of issues affecting women and people with disabilities, including the practice of *ukuthwala* (forced marriage, which involves an act of a man/men abducting a girl or young woman for a forced marriage). The practice is prevalent in rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

It has long been a source of reinforcement for oppressive patriarchal social customs that disempower females, deprive them of their freedom and rob them of their dignity.

Girls as young as 12 may be forced into marriage, often with the consent or support of their parents who are tempted by the prospect of *lobola*.

The Committee believed that through engaging communities in dialogue and public addresses people can be educated about the dangers of the practice of *ukuthwala*.

The purpose of the meetings were to:

- Assess the manner in which government departments are utilising their resources to respond to the issue of gender-based violence in accordance with their respective mandates
- Receive an update on the *Ukuthwala* Task Team – how is this being coordinated, what resources have

been allocated, which stakeholders are included on the Task Team, what is the progress in the implementation of the action plan and what specific targets have been set for the current financial year.

- Be appraised on the involvement of traditional leaders in the eradication of this practice; gain information on awareness measures being undertaken by traditional leadership structures in KZN concerning *ukuthwala* and what protocols, if any, exist to guide *amakhosi* in the investigation and handling of any community cases or complaints concerning *ukuthwala*.
- Ascertain if there are any other support measures in place by SAPS.

Committee Chairperson Honourable Phumzile Mbatha-Cele lashed out at those who are practicing *ukuthwala*, saying that they are depriving young girls of a fair chance for a brighter future.

She said that when young girls are forced to get married, they are no longer allowed to further their studies, which makes them dependent on the men they marry. She also called traditional leadership and law enforcement agencies to work together to eliminate the practice of *ukuthwala*.

THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VISITS TWO 2019 NSC/ABET EXAMINATION CENTRES



Right: Members of the Education Portfolio Committee, led by Ntuthuko Sibiya, (second from right) visited National Senior Certificate and ABET Examination Marking Centres as part of their oversight work.



The Education Portfolio Committee made two unannounced visits to NSC/ABET examination marking centres in December last year as part of their drive to continue monitoring them.

led by the Committee Chair Honourable Ntuthuko 'Jomo' Sibiya, the Committee visited Vryheid High first. The purpose of the visits were to check that marking was taking place in a conducive environment; the standard of marking; the quality of marking; the state of the food and accommodation; and any other issues that could require the Committee's attention.

Centre Manager Mr Ngema presented the progress on the marking itself, and gave the Committee assurances on the matters of the safety and security of marking and markers and after a walkabout, the Committee was pleased to note that the Centre was well managed and that there were no concerns.

"We feel that the work done here is precise, and that this centre is in good hands," concluded Mr Sibiya.

The Committee moved on to the next examination marking centre managed by Mr Ntumba with a team of 401 markers and 141 000 isiZulu scripts (the centre also had about eight scripts from the Eastern Cape).

This Centre was also commended for the work done and Mr Ntumba assured the Committee that the deadline for completion of marking would be met. The Chairperson also commended the marking team during the walkabout for no marker having reported sick.



Members of the Finance Portfolio Committee, led by Siphon Nkosi, visited Manguzi to get first-hand information on the construction of a border wall between South Africa and Mozambique.

FINANCE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE INSPECTS THE SOUTH AFRICA/MOZAMBIQUE BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION SITE

The Finance Portfolio Committee, led by Chairperson Honourable Siphon K.K. Nkosi, visited Manguzi in Umhlabuyalingana in November last year to gain first-hand information on the construction of the border wall between South Africa and Mozambique.

The construction of the border wall, known as the 'jersey barrier', is intended to prevent cross-border vehicle theft, which has become prevalent along the South Africa/Mozambique border in the Umhlabuyalingana area. More than 30 vehicle thefts are reported every month and most of the stolen vehicles cross the border and find their way to Mozambique where it is difficult to recover them.

The Committee began with a visit to the border wall construction site at KwaMazambane in Manguzi to inspect the construction of the wall barriers. Committee Members interacted with the construction management, workers and Department of Transport officials to glean first-hand information about their working conditions.

The Committee then attended the meeting at Umhlabuyalingana Municipal Chamber, which was also attended by stakeholders, including local councillors, the Umkhanyakude Society Against Crime and Department of Transport officials.

The local community structure Umkhanyakude Society Against Crime raised several concerns regarding the 'jersey barrier' project. The committee was informed that the project was moving slowly and that it was two months behind schedule. They believe that the project

will not be completed on time. They were also not told about the exact budget of the project, which raised strong suspicions.

They recently learnt that the project will cost R85 million. They did not know how many contractors were involved and how many women and disabled people were employed. There was no social facilitation in the project and they noted that illegal immigrants from Mozambique and Zimbabwe were employed at the construction site.

The Finance Committee raised a concern that the building of the border wall by the Provincial Government was an unfunded mandate. The National Government refused to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the KZN Government, which would have obliged them to refund the Province. The Department of Transport has been paying the main contractor twice a month to pay sub-contractors but there have been delays in paying them.

Finance Committee Chairperson Honourable Siphon Nkosi had strong words for the Department. He insisted that all sub-contractors be paid within 30 days, that the main contractor is held accountable, and that all contractors must honour their social responsibility obligations by employing local people for the project.

TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE PROGRAMME GOES TO UGU DISTRICT



Left: Speaker of the KZN Legislature, Nontembeko Boyce addressing people who attended the TLTP at Emantiyaneni Sports Field in Umzumbe.

Thousands of people from all municipalities in the Ugu District gathered at the Emantiyaneni Sports Field in Umzumbe Municipality as part of the KZN Legislature's Taking Legislature to the People Programme (TLTP) in October/November last year.

The TLTP is one of the programmes that is designed to fulfill the Institution's constitutional (Section 118) mandate of facilitating and encouraging public participation in the governance of the Province.

The visits breathe life into the Institution's mission to 'deepen democracy and activism through robust oversight, effective public participation and efficient law-making' and its vision as an 'activist, people-centred legislature'.

The sitting of the TLTP followed the Multiparty Delegation Committee, which visited all municipalities in the Ugu District to conduct public hearing meetings on service delivery issues and oversight visits to projects and service delivery institutions for verification of performance.

The visits comprised representatives from various political parties in the Legislature, support staff, Provincial Government department officials and municipal officials visiting selected projects in each of the four local municipalities.

During the public hearing meetings, community members were afforded a platform to engage with the Legislature and various departments on service delivery issues and concerns.

The 2019 Multiparty and TLTP Programme focused on 'tracking the progress on the implementation of the National Development Plan (and Provincial Growth and Development Plan) on departmental competencies focusing on the Ugu District'.

This tracking of progress on NDP implementation was categorised into the following themes as the 'main focus' for the status research analysis, multiparty oversight and actual TLTP reports:

1. Transport (construction of bridges, maintenance of roads, access roads to schools, health facilities and households, and learner transport)

2. Human Settlements and CoGTA (housing registers, access and backlogs, slums clearance housing projects, bulk infrastructural services, and social and economic amenities)
3. Economic Development and Tourism (cooperatives – existence, functionality, support and sustainability; SMMEs – existence, functionality, support and sustainability)
4. Public Works (EPWP – employment, type of employment, sustainability, and acquisition of skills and types of skills acquired)
5. Agriculture and Rural Development (food security programmes, projects and challenges)
6. Health (progress on NHI pilot implementation, readiness for Phase 2 implementation and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programmes)
7. Education and Social Development (Early Childhood Development – ECDs)

During the two days of oversight visits, four teams were established to undertake community service delivery hearing meetings and to visit the identified projects.

The teams were led by Honourable B.M. Zuma – Umzumbe Local Municipality, Honourable Z.L.I. Cele – Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, Honourable S.J. Nxumalo – Umuziwabantu Local Municipality and Honourable T.V. Xulu – Umdoni Local Municipality; and comprised MPLs from different political parties.

During the two-day sitting of the Legislature, the four team leaders gave reports to the sitting, which were followed by responses from the service delivery departments. The Premier of the Province Honourable Sihle Zikala also outlined the Provincial Government's education plan.

MPLs VISIT HEALTH INSTITUTIONS



Members of the KZN Legislature visiting health institutions as part of their oversight work with the Deputy Speaker (far left).



Health Portfolio Committee Chair Nomakiki Majola addressing the media.

Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature were deployed throughout the Province on 15 and 16 October last year to visit health institutions as part of an oversight exercise of the Provincial Legislature.

During these visits, Members check a number of issues, including the availability of critical services – especially doctors – the availability of medicine, cleanliness and the state of health facility infrastructure, etc.

The team that visited the eThekweni Metro comprised Deputy Speaker Honourable Mluleki Ndobe and Health Portfolio Committee Chairperson Nomakiki Majola. During this visit, a number of issues were raised at various health institutions.

The Emergency Medical and Rescue Services (EMRS) headquarters in Durban South reported on challenges such as hijackings of ambulances, harassment and sometimes murders of EMRS employees.

Honourable Ndobe suggested that the EMRS unit should identify hotspot areas and form strategic partnerships with law enforcement agencies in those particular areas.

"This will assist EMRS so that when your employees are responding to an emergency, they also inform the

local police station so that if the emergency is a hoax, police can swiftly move in and avoid a hijacking," said Honourable Ndobe.

The eThekweni team then moved to Gale Street Mortuary, which has been bedevilled by a series of challenges, including ageing infrastructure and a series of disputes with organised labour.

Honourable Majola reported to the management of Gale Street Mortuary that the committee had suggested to the Provincial Health Department that it be shut down and its services moved RK Khan Hospital Mortuary in Chatsworth.

Throughout the Province, teams received a number of reports, including on health institutions that are designated as pioneers for the National Health Insurance Plan, which will be rolled out in the near future.

In her budget speech last year, Honourable Speaker Nontembeko Boyce said that the Functionality Oversight Programme, which covers schools, war rooms, health institutions and community policing forums, will be extended to include places of safety.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARLIAMENT OLDER PEOPLE MOVING SA FORWARD



KZN Legislature Members and delegates to the Senior Citizens' Parliament.

The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature held its annual Senior Citizens' Parliament in October last year at the Thembeni Sports Field in KwaDukuza Municipality.

Senior Citizens' Parliament is part of the Institution's Public Participation initiatives that are designed to ensure that the Legislature involves the public in the governance of the Province. The event formed part of the International Senior Citizens' Week, which is celebrated all over the world from September 30 to 6 October. Senior Citizens' Parliament was held under the theme: Older People Moving South Africa Forward.

It was attended by representatives of senior citizens drawn from all political parties represented in the Provincial Legislature. Members of the Executive Council, led by Honourable Premier Sihle Zikalala, councillors and representatives of traditional leadership also attended the event.

In her opening address, Honourable Speaker Nontembeko Boyce strongly condemned the ongoing attacks on vulnerable sectors of society, especially women and children.

Honourable Boyce called on the public to unite and isolate those who are accused of perpetrating crimes against women and children.

"While the media has focused on young women who have been victims of femicide and girl children who have been raped, little has been reported about the scourge that has been directed at elderly women," said Honourable Boyce.

She said that it is a shame on society that these are the men and women who bore the brunt of the struggle for equality in this country, but today they are often forgotten, neglected and even abused.



The following departments made presentations on issues affecting senior citizens:

- The Department of Social Development/SASSA presented on the radical intervention programmes to transform the quality of government services to senior citizens.
- The Department of Justice presented on the mechanisms to protect senior citizens from various forms of abuse and fast-tracking cases relating to sexual and other forms of abuse.
- The Department of Community Safety and Liaison presented on mechanisms that have been/are being initiated to ensure enforcement of government laws relating to liquor licensing. This was done because there is a belief that most of the incidences of abuse against women are directly linked to the excessive consumption of alcohol and drugs.
- The Department of Home Affairs made a presentation on the plans that are in place to ensure the preferential treatment of senior citizens visiting its offices.
- After the presentations, the plenary broke into commission where a number of issues affecting senior citizens were discussed.

Following the sitting of the Senior Citizens' Parliament the following day, resolutions were adopted and relevant committees of the KZN Legislature undertook to monitor the implementation of these resolutions.



KZN Legislature Speaker Honourable Nontembeko Boyce addressing Members and senior citizens during the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme in KwaDukuza. Right: Planting vegetables for the senior citizens, and gardening with Honourable Phumzile Mbatha-Cele and Deputy Speaker Honourable Ndobe.



KZN LEGISLATURE SPEAKER HELPS NEEDY SENIOR CITIZENS

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Speaker Honourable Nontembeko Boyce made a huge impact when she assisted a halfway house for senior citizens in Groutville outside KwaDukuza in October last year.

Honourable Boyce visited the Thuthukani Day Care Centre for the Aged through her Office's Special Projects Unit as part of the Senior Citizens' Parliament. The Centre looks after local senior citizens by providing them with a number of services and meals three times a week. The parliament was sitting at the nearby Thembeni Sports Field on the same day.

She donated a number of items, including food hampers, gas cylinders and sewing machines. The Provincial Department of Social Development also donated dozens of blankets.

Honourable Boyce thanked the management of the facility for their dedication to helping the vulnerable members of society.

"I am deeply touched by the work you are doing. You are reminding all of us that as long as we are failing to look after the most vulnerable in our society, our work is incomplete," said Honourable Boyce.

She was accompanied by the opposition party Whip Honourable Blessed Gwala, Deputy Chair of Committees Honourable Makhosazana Zungu and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Quality of Life Honourable Phumzile Mbatha-Cele.

THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION GATHERS IN UGANDA



Speaker Honourable Boyce with the member of the Ugandan Defense Force.



Chairperson of Committees Honourable Themba Mthembu and Chief-Whip Honourable Super Zuma attending the CPA in Uganda.

One of the largest annual gatherings of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians took place from 22-29 September last year at the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) hosted by the CPA Uganda Branch and Parliament of Uganda.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association connects, develops, promotes and supports parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and the implementation of the enduring values of the Commonwealth.

The CPA is an international community of around 180 Commonwealth parliaments and legislatures working together to deepen the Commonwealth's commitment to the highest standards of democratic governance. The organisation was founded in 1911. The main conference theme was: Adaption, Engagement and Evolution of Parliament in a Rapidly Changing Commonwealth. The CPA flagship event brought together over 500 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and decision-makers from across the Commonwealth for this unique conference and networking opportunity. The CPC offered the prospect of the coming together of CPA's global membership of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to address critical issues facing today's parliaments.

With the ever-increasing focus on greater scrutiny

of parliamentarians and overall public trust deficit in parliaments, the CPA's annual conference also offered the opportunity for Members to benefit from professional development, supportive learning and the sharing of best practice with colleagues from Commonwealth parliaments together with the participation of leading international organisations.

During the conference, there were also a number of additional conferences and meetings, including the following:

- 37th CPA Small Branches Conference
- 6th Triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference
- 64th CPA General Assembly
- Meetings of the CPA Executive Committee
- Meeting of the Society of Clerks at the Table (SOCATT)

This year, the conference held elections for the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), the CPA Treasurer and CPA Small Branches Chairperson for new three-year terms.

THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR VISITS THE KZN LEGISLATURE

Public Protector Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane paid a courtesy visit to the KZN Legislature in September last year to meet with the Speaker Honourable Nontembeko Boyce and senior management as part of her national roadshow.



The Public Protector Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane paying a courtesy visit to the KZN Legislature to meet the Speaker and members of the strategic leadership.



The purpose of the meeting was to pursue close co-operation with the KZN Legislature and its committees in order to explore working together in public awareness campaigns and the Legislature's public participation initiatives.

Prior to coming to the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, Mkhwebane had a meeting with the Members of the Provincial Executive led by Premier Sihle Zikalala. She left to have a meeting with His Majesty Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini in Nongoma.

"My meeting with the Executive entailed taking them through the Executive Members' Ethics so that they understand how it affects them as Members of the Executive," Mkhwebane later told the media in the Speaker's Office courtyard.

Honourable Boyce, accompanied by Deputy Speaker Honourable Mluleki Ndobe, Chief Whip Honourable Super

Zuma, Chairperson of Committees Honourable Themba Mthembu and Deputy Chairperson of Committees Honourable Makhosazane Zungu, welcomed the Public Protector.

Honourable Boyce thanked the Public Protector for initiating a visit to the Legislature, adding that the Institution's work of exercising oversight over the Executive was complemented by that of the Public Protector, which sometimes investigates challenges relating to service delivery.

KZN Legislature has a strong working relationship with other Chapter Nine Institutions such as the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), Gender Commission and the Office of the Public Protector.

MEMBERS OF THE NCOP VISIT KWAZULU-NATAL



Right: Speaker Honourable Nontemeko Boyce addressing members of the KZN Legislature and other stakeholders who attended the briefing meeting of the NCOP.

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature's delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) visited the Province between 16-20 September last year to ensure that they keep in touch with the developments and challenges facing their province.

The visit, which focused on a number of municipalities throughout the Province, was conducted under the theme: **Building Sustainable, Responsive and People-centred Municipalities.**

The visit also accorded delegates an opportunity to interact with their respective provinces and report on their activities to the NCOP in order to obtain a new mandate on issues to be placed on the national agenda.

During a briefing at Mpofana Municipality, delegation leader NCOP Chief Whip Honourable Lindiwe Beebee said that the visit also creates an opportunity for the NCOP and provinces to work together to seek solutions and develop new ways to address the challenges facing local government.

"The aim of Provincial Week is to examine the current state of local government in respect of its developmental mandate, service delivery and institutional capacity, by visiting municipalities in distress," she said.

Municipalities visited included Ulundi, Nongoma, Vryheid, Phongola and eDumbe.

Beebee added that a number of thematic areas, all of which relate to accountability and good governance, were explored:

- Delivery of basic services to communities (water and sanitation, electricity, etc.)
- Financial viability (quality of financial statements, credit rating, revenue base, revenue collection

rate and systems such as billing and debt to state entities, including that owed to the municipality by other State entities)

- Local economic development (targeted economic sectors and initiatives)
- Governance (compliance with legislation, political stability, interventions, administrative deficiencies and malpractices such as maladministration, corruption, etc.)
- Impediments created by existing legislation to the functioning of municipalities and their mandate to delivery services to communities
- Spending on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant



HON. VF HLABISA
Leader Of The Official Opposition

MY EXPECTATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2020

As could be expected, the members of the 6th Legislature of KwaZulu-Natal hit the ground running after the 2019 General Elections. Now the dust has settled, and all members have come to terms with their roles in the Legislature and the State.

The Legislature derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996. The Legislature thus has the constitutional obligation to:

- Make laws
- Exercise oversight over the executive
- Ensure facilitation of public participation and involvement
- Ensure co-operative governance of the government spheres

Now that members have settled into their roles, it is expected that these roles would be fulfilled diligently for the benefit of the electorate. Central to the role of a parliamentarian is the ethos of representing the people as their voice, and in the process, ensuring government by the people and the Constitution. This is what, in the interpretation of our constitution, we would refer to as servant leadership or servanthood of members.

Members of the Legislature need not be afraid to speak the truth; it is the responsibility of members to ensure that the Executive is accountable to the Legislature. Therefore, members must scrutinise and oversee executive actions.

Members must evaluate the efficacy of government departments in their pursuit of development programmes and the delivery of services and also ensure the appropriateness of financial resource allocations of the Province through properly scrutinising the budget and its application.

This should result in economic development, creating employment opportunities, improved education and health services, improved infrastructure provision, proper allocation of pensions and grants, improved conditions of roads, provision of services such as water, housing and electricity, and many more.

If we can all join minds, hands and effort to deliver these services effectively and efficiently, we would conclude that we have done well as Members. The trust of people of our Province as they queued patiently to cast their votes must be rewarded.

The unwarranted situation of joblessness must be curbed, and our youth and unemployed professionals must get jobs. The fears of our women and children over the criminal element that devastates our communities must be stopped. It is in the hands of parliamentarians to attack these uncertainties and bring smiles to our citizens.

We also expect to have a Legislature that reaches out to citizens in all corners of the Province: urban and rural. We expect to see portfolio committees that seek to strengthen public participation in the processes.

We would expect to see a Legislature that is all encompassing in its approach to citizens' engagement so that no sector of our populace feels left behind. It must be a Legislature that reaches out and engages in respect of the youth and adults, gender balance, race, involvement of people with disabilities, the religious sector, the important role of traditional leaders under the leadership of His Majesty the King, the farmers and industrialists, the economists and all stakeholders.

We also expect robust debates and engagement from Members. All this must be guided by the ability to accept and respect one another, and have tolerance for different views and opinions. Sometimes it does not auger well for Parliament when the House is reduced to a level of a clubhouse simply because there is a lack of tolerance for different views. It is important for the leaders in government to acknowledge and respect other peoples' views. In the words of Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, we can have differences of opinion and "disagree without being disagreeable." That is the essence of democracy.

Government and Legislature must instill a sense of service for the people in the public service. The provincial public service must learn the value of serving the government of the day and not the party. Government belongs to all the people of the Province irrespective of the ideology.

We must instill confidence and trust in our people by taking actions against all people implicated in corruption. I am looking forward to a year of action to fight the ills that destroy our Province.

KZN LEGISLATURE MAKES A CLEAN SWEEP AT THE INTER-LEGISLATURE GAMES

Teams from KwaZulu-Natal Legislature walked away with more trophies than any other team that participated in the Inter-Legislature games, which took place in eThekwinI at the end of last year.



Top: Members of KZN Legislature's soccer team, were supported by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chief Whip and the Secretary to the Legislature. Below: The Institution's Netball team also performed very well.

Employees and Members of provincial legislatures from different parts of the country participated in the annual games, which were hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Speaker Honourable Nontembeko Boyce thanked and congratulated all the teams that participated in the games, saying that while she was proud of her province, she was also very excited that the games were promoting social cohesion.

"We are not just competing here but we are promoting healthy lifestyles so that people don't spend lots of time recuperating from lifestyle diseases such as hypertension,

diabetes and lots more," said Honourable Boyce.

The main factor behind this, she said, is that exercise improves cerebral blood flow – blood flow to the brain – which improves performance.

Research has shown that while work can result in stress, exercise helps to reduce it by regulating the release of cortisol. After exercise, stress hormones drop and stress and anxiety fade away, leaving one in a more relaxed state.

The games will continue this year and likely hosts are either Limpopo or Eastern Cape. The games began in 2013 to encourage social cohesion and unity within the legislative sector.



There were scenes of jubilation when teams from the KZN Legislature scooped a number of medals and trophies for their excellent performance.



OVERALL RESULTS					
POSITION	PROVINCE	G	S	B	POINTS
1.	KWAZULU-NATAL	6	0	3	21
2.	FREE STATE	2	2	1	11
3.	GAUTENG	1	3	1	10
	NORTH WEST	1	3	1	10
4.	LIMPOPO	1	1	1	6
5.	MPUMALANGA	1	0	3	6
6.	EASTERN CAPE	0	3	0	6



Ms N. Naidoo
Secretary to the KZN Legislature

Implementation of the Revised Framework for Strategic Plans

The Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans is an innovation of the Sixth Democratic Administration aimed at reviewing the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 plan, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

The KZN Legislature is mandated by Section 114 of the Constitution of South Africa to exercise oversight over various provincial government departments and their entities. It is the responsibility of respective portfolio committees to ensure that government departments and entities align their Provincial Growth Development Plan (PGDP) strategic goals to the NDP. The KZN Legislature cannot achieve the mandate of effective oversight on its own; it needs to work closely with constitutional bodies to support democracy and communities.

Staff who provide support to committees must also empower portfolio committees with credible information to enable them to exercise effective oversight over provincial government departments. It is for this reason that the Legislature provided an

opportunity for engagement between Statistics South Africa; the Office of the Premier; the KZN Treasury; the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the National Planning Commission and the Auditor-General's Office to jointly discuss the most appropriate mechanisms that support effective oversight.

KZN Legislature strongly believes that collaboration opens the window to a world of opportunities. We anticipate and expect that capacitated officials will make meaningful contributions to portfolio committee oversight work.

Noting that the 6th Democratic Administration Legislature has just begun its new term (assumed their legislative roles) and the planning regime is also being more clearly defined in order that government reprioritises and delivers better services, we are confident that collective efforts towards outcomes-based oversight will ensure that in this term, the attainment of the NDP and PGDP strategic goals in KZN will be more meaningfully realised.



VISION

An activist, people-centred legislature

MISSION

To deepen democracy and activism in KwaZulu-Natal through robust oversight, effective public participation and efficient law-making.

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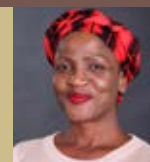


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