



KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE NEWSLETTER

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AN ACTIVIST, PEOPLE-CENTRED LEGISLATURE

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

Since the National Lockdown at the end of March due to COVID-19 we have seen an exponential increase in the number of persons that have tested positive. We have engaged through Microsoft Teams meetings, Zoom meeting and Skype meeting. We had to conquer load shedding, unstable Wi Fi connections, loss in signal, and many more. The “new normal” looks very different from what we knew pre lockdown. The challenge to physical planning norms as the profession had been advocating for as measure for sustainable development have become even more clear as we try to navigate through the obstacles.

Since the start of the National Lockdown introduced by the national government to decelerate the spread of the deadly COVID-19 eleven months ago, we have seen an exponential increase in the number of people who tested positive for the virus in KwaZulu-Natal. This has led us to adopt to the new normal.

We have engaged through Microsoft Teams meetings, Zoom meeting and Skype meetings to ensure that the work of the Legislature does not come to a halt. We had to conquer load shedding, unstable Wi Fi connections, loss in signal, and many more hindrances.

The “new normal” looks very different from what we knew pre-lockdown, the challenge to physical meetings has become even more clear as we try to navigate through this obstacles.

This issue of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Newsletter is the second publication of the newsletter during this lockdown period, third edition of the year 2020 our 16th edition. I want to thank all the contributors for their continued support and commitment to compiling this Newsletter.

The Newsletter is not our only source of information. Readers are also encouraged to visit the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Website frequently as the website is updated on a regular basis with new information, research and crucial announcements.

Articles covered in this issue are a testimony to the hard work that we as the Legislature are putting in to ensure that we fulfill our constitutional mandate, namely; Law Making, Oversight and Public Participation.

We continue to host key programmes particularly those that assess the work of the executive like sectoral parliaments. In August, the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature successfully hosted the Virtual Women's Parliament which was followed by the Hybrid Senior Citizens Parliament hosted in October.

In the midst of lockdown and the novel coronavirus taking its toll, women are evidently facing a second pandemic; Gender Based Violence.

Statistics show that during the lockdown, gender based violence and domestic violence cases have risen exponentially. Our efforts to push back against the rise in sexual and gender based violence requires us to establish effective measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of violence against women.

We need to establish effective means to respond to each case of violence, as well as address the structural causes of violence. This can be achieved by ensuring that there is comprehensive legal and policy frameworks, gender sensitive justice systems and police. We also have to ensure that there is availability of health and social services as well as adequate awareness raising activities. Together we can end Gender Based Violence.

We call upon the people of KwaZulu-Natal to continue adhering to the COVID-19 regulations designed to decelerate the spread of the virus.

Lastly, we wish to pay our greatest respects to our departed colleagues who have served our Legislature in various leadership capacities with unwavering dedication and commitment. We shall forever be indebted to our late colleagues Honourables Mluleki Ndobe, Bheki Ntuli and Bridget Ntshangase.

These departed colleagues have made an immense contribution to the work and development of the institution always demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities. We have been left poor without them. We deep our banners of respect to them and they will be sorely missed.

I trust that you will enjoy this issue



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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

As we begin the new legislature calendar for 2021/22, I would like to welcome Honourable Members and staff to the new financial year.

Last year and the beginning of this year has been an extremely challenging year for us as a legislative community, as citizens of the province, as citizens of the country and of the world.

South Africa entered a period of lockdown on midnight of the 26th March 2020 in response to Covid-19 outbreak.

We committed ourselves to remote operations to facilitate our work. We established a Covid-19 Administrative Task team to develop an immediate response to challenges occasioned by the pandemic.

The Legislature had to comply with the understanding that and where it is impossible to do so then FMPPLA provides for the Legislature provide reasons for failure to comply timeously to the Legislature.

The Legislature had to provide the necessary final mandate on DORA through NCOP processes as well as pass the provincial Appropriation legislation for 2020/2021 budget; had to carry out its oversight, law-making and public involvement mandate; had to protect staff and Members, pass the provincial budget and provide a mandate for DORA.

The Legislature developed scenarios in response to the initial lockdown and these are summarized as follows: -

SCENARIO 1: LOCKDOWN ENDS WITH NO RESTRICTIONS

SCENARIO 2: LOCKDOWN ENDS WITH RESTRICTIONS PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED TO CONTINUE

SCENARIO 3: LOCKDOWN IS EXTENDED

Information Communication Technology systems remain the backbone of the Legislature's Business Continuity Plan in the context of Covid-19.

We were one of seven Legislatures that submitted our financials on time and were one of three Legislatures that concluded our audit within the timeframes.

2019/20 Audit outcomes

We have improved in this year and moved us out of a qualified opinion to an unqualified audit outcome.

On the issue of Security and facilities management

In the case of COVID-19, a combination of controls is required, although the main principle is to follow the hierarchy of controls.

The following are the control measures that the Legislature

has put in place:

- a) Screening
- b) Fog Sanitization
- c) Biometrics
- d) Social distancing & Shared Equipment
- e) Lifts
- f) Induction
- g) Cleaning
- h) PPE
- i) Identified outbreak at the KZN Legislature

Labour matters

Policies review: These were tough times and we were in the public eye with revolutionary and new products and programmes and we bravely went where we had never been before. Well done Team KZN.

We were still able to pass policies, to sign off on the recognition agreement and to address some outstanding matters in an amicable manner. We look forward to concluding these matters and other matters soon.

Budget

In order to subsidise the costs associated with this year's shut down, there will be budget cuts across the board this year. We have a preliminary letter from Treasury reflecting large cuts over the next three years.

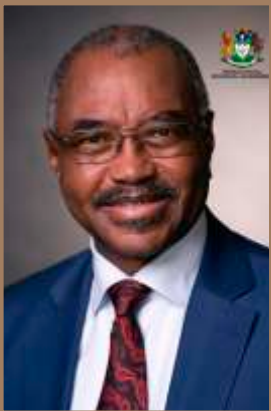
Review of Conditions of Service

We have signed off on the Conditions of Service and where there are issues of implementation, we will continue engaging in order that we find each other.

We are looking at new ways of working so that we learn from what we have done in the last 11 months. Let us strive for excellence and work together to find solutions as we contribute to opening up the economy.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown decisions will heavily impact on the spending ability of the Legislature. The legislature will undertake a reprioritization process as the financial year unfolds. Commit to proper research, costing and early decision-making to ensure that the budget is re-prioritised and value provided to those most in need, where the Legislature programmes permit toward the ultimate aim of furthering the mandate of the Legislature.

KZN LEGISLATURE HONOURS FORMER AND CURRENT MPLs



Honourable Speaker Nontembeko Boyce, Deputy Speaker Honourable Themba Mthembu and Premier Mr Sihle Zikalala handing over a token of appreciation to Speaker and former Premier Honourable Willies Mchunu after delivering the Harry Gwala Memorial Lecture.

In preserving the legacy and the heritage of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, the institution held a series of events on December 15 last year including unveiling the plaque of all Members who served in the legislature from 1994 to this current sixth legislature.

The plaque has transformed the old colonial building to make it reflect the new dispensation. To give due honour to such recognition and in the context of the legacy of the KZN legislature, the institution commemorated the first chief whip of the Opposition, Baba Harry Gwala, better known as the Lion of the Midlands.

The memorial lecture was delivered by the man who worked with Harry Gwala and went on to become the Speaker of the Legislature and retired as Premier in the fifth legislature Mr Willies Mchunu.

The memorial lecture was attended by Members of the provincial legislature (past and present), Members of the National Assembly, representatives of the Gwala family and the Harry Gwala Foundation and Members of the public.

A number of people had to attend the lecture virtually in order to observe COVID-19 pandemic regulations.

Mchunu thanked the legislature for organising the lecture and urged its leadership to work together with the Harry Gwala Foundation to preserve the legacy of the Lion of the Midlands.

“This is the leader, who touched the lives of many people at their very core throughout his life. To the apartheid government – he was a terrorist that had to be taken out in order to limit the spread of communism and socialism influence. It is for these reasons that they celebrated in the 1980s when a motor neuron disease robbed him of the use of his arms. His disability did not deter him from working for the cause. He continued to inspire many people in the struggle for freedom and democracy,” said Mchunu.

Mchunu said Gwala represented discipline; principle; fearlessness and foresight and was a political educator, commander and commissar and a diplomat par excellence.



Honourable Themba Mthembu
Deputy Speaker

HONOURABLE MTHEMBU ELECTED AS NEW DEPUTY SPEAKER

Former KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Chairperson of Committees Honourable Richard Themba Mthembu was elected as the new Deputy Speaker of the institution following the untimely passing of Mr Mluleki Ndobé. He had been a Deputy Speaker for just over a year when he tragically passed away in November last year.

Mthembu, who is a veteran politician and a former Member of the Executive Council, brings a wealth of experience into the Office of the Speaker. He is highly respected by his political comrades and opposition parties for being principled and his fearless crusade against corruption.

Mthembu joined the legislature in 2009 and served in a number of portfolio committees before he was appointed as the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development. In this sixth legislature, he was elected as the Chairperson of Committees immediately after the 2019 May elections.

As the Deputy Speaker, he will be chairing a number of committees including Disciplinary Committee and will be representing the institution in the absence of Honourable Speaker Nontembeko Boyce.

Mthembu was congratulated by most political parties following his election as the Deputy Speaker.



KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE MOURNS THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF ITS DEPUTY SPEAKER, MR MLULEKI NDOBE

On the 7th of November 2020 we woke up to the heart-rending news of the untimely passing of KwaZulu-

Natal Legislature Deputy Speaker, Mr Mluleki Ndobé having been unwell for some time.

With his passing, our legislature and indeed the entire country has lost an upright leader, a deep thinker, and a true servant of the people. In this hour of grief, we find comfort in knowing that Mr Ndobé leaves behind a rich legacy for all of us to emulate.

Ndobé belonged to the generation of leaders who dedicated their lives to serving the people with distinction. That is why he continued to offer his services to the people of KwaZulu-Natal even during

the time when he was ill. He will be missed for his ability to unite members of the legislature across the political spectrum towards a common goal. He will also be remembered for his love for education.

Mr Ndobé also represented the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature in the legislative sector's Pension Fund Board where he served as the Deputy Chairperson. His duties in the legislature included capacity building, members affairs and discipline.

"On behalf of the legislature community, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Ndobé family, his friends and the organisation he represented in the legislature. May his revolutionary soul rest in peace," said Speaker Nontembeko Boyce.



HONOURABLE SIBONISO DUMA ELECTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

*Honourable Siboniso Duma
Chairperson of Committees*

Honourable Siboniso Duma, one of the highly respected Members of the Provincial Legislature, was elected in December last year as the new Chairperson of Committees. He is replacing Honourable Themba Mthembu who was elected as the new Deputy Speaker following the untimely death of former Deputy Speaker Mr Mluleki Ndobe.

Duma has made a name for himself as one of the sharpest legislators the KZN Legislature has ever produced.

He was elected as the Chairperson of the Transport Portfolio Committee immediately after the 2019 elections. Whilst Duma has served in a number of

Portfolio Committees, he made a notable spell as the Chairperson of the Transport Portfolio Committee working together with the Department to reduce fatalities.

When COVID-19 pandemic began he was in the forefront of legislators who encouraged commuters in the taxi bus industries to stick to regulations as set out by the National Coronavirus Command Council which include wearing of masks, sanitizing and keeping social distance.

Duma's election has been widely welcomed with MPLs saying he is set to bring in new energy to his portfolio.

NEW CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES



*New Chairperson of COGTA
Portfolio Committee
Honourable Zinhle Cele*



*New Chairperson of the
Transport Portfolio Committee
Honourable Sbonelo Mtshali*

Honourable Zinhle Cele was elected as the new Chairperson of Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee. She is replacing Honourable Ricardo Mthembu who passed away last year due to COVID-19 complications. Cele brings a new energy to the portfolio committee. She became a Member of the Provincial Legislature after the 2019 national elections.

Honourable Sbonelo Mtshali, has been elected as the new Chairperson of the Transport Portfolio Committee. Mtshali takes over from Honourable Siboniso Duma who has been elected as the new Chairperson of Committees. Mtshali took over the reign during the busy period when the country was battling the spread of COVID-19 infections and in the middle of the December holidays. However, he hit the road running making regular appearances at road blocks with Members of his committee to support and monitor the activities of the Department of Transport as part of the committee's oversight work.

Legislature hosts a successful Senior Citizens' Parliament amid Level 1 Lockdown



*KZN Legislature Speaker
Honourable Nontembeko Boyce
addressing senior citizens
during their parliament in
Uthukela district.*

The 2020 Senior Citizens Parliament had a resounding success despite the country still under Level 1 Lockdown due to the COVID-19 epidemic. On the 2nd October, the Legislature gathered delegates of senior citizens from all districts of KwaZulu-Natal, in their annual parliament that provides the elders with a platform to debate issues affecting them.

Amongst the important issues that were discussed included the issue of long queues at pension pay-points, the killing of elderly women by young boys for their pension monies, provision of housing for elders and those with physical challenges also top the agenda. Members of the Executive Council (MECs) from various departments also took to the podium to address the elders on the programs of their

respective departments that seek to better the lives of the elders in this province.

The day ended with an address by the Speaker of the Legislature Hon. Nontembeko Boyce who promised that all resolutions that were adopted by the Senior Citizens will be followed upon by relevant portfolio committees of the Legislature to ensure swift implementation of those resolutions by provincial departments. She also appealed to the MEC for Community Safety to ensure maximum availability and visibility of SAPS at pension pay-points to guarantee the safety of the elders and that the crimes pertaining to elderly abuse, GBV be given a priority and should be dealt with as a matter of national crisis.

*Chief Whip of the Provincial
Legislature Honourable
Bangokwakhe Zuma making a
contribution on behalf of the
Legislaure to Senior Citizens who
attended the Senior Citizens
Parliament in Uthukela District.*



SPEAKER'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES



Honourable Mntomuhle Khawula distributing sanitizers and masks in Harding as part of the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme.

Deputy Speaker Honourable Themba Mthembu distributing blankets and hampers to the elderly as part of the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme during the Senior Citizens Parliament in Uthukela.



The office of the Speaker is committed to making socially responsible practices a hallmark of the office. Over the past 3 months many interventions were made as part of contributing to the greater societal good and having a positive impact, and having community-oriented programmes that provided opportunities to think of ways to help out in our own backyard; taking the SSR project for this quarter to Harry Gwala to ascertain this.

The Speakership is committed to the development of a sustainable future and is charting a course to provide actionable solutions that tackle challenges of today while also looking ahead toward the challenges that may be present tomorrow. This quarter; in a gesture of selfless and charitable leadership, the Speakership donated laptops to much needy schools in the Harry Gwala District, school uniforms to scores of needy learners as well as masks and sanitizers to help curb the spread of COVID 19

Handing over the items to jubilant learners and teachers, KwaZulu Natal Legislature Speaker Nontembeko Boyce explained that she had decided to donate to needy learners and schools because the Legislature valued education and wanted to see all learners attired in a dignified manner and those receiving laptops not left behind on the path to the 4th Industrial Revolution.

“As part of our social responsibility programme, we decided to hand over these uniforms. Through this initiative we have already benefited hundreds of pupils in different parts of KwaZulu-Natal. We are providing uniforms because we know that some families face serious financial hardships which make them unable to support their children. In turn, this leads to absenteeism and even dropping out, history has taught us that it is through giving that we enrich and prolong both our own lives and the lives of others” added Boyce.

The Speaker described giving back to the underprivileged as immensely satisfying.

KZN LEGISLATURE'S MULTI-PARTY DELEGATION VISITS ETHEKWINI METRO

Honourable Themba Mthembu, listening to members of the public during the legislature's Multi-Party Delegation Visits in Ethekewini.



Nompumelelo Mthlane from Clermont township, making a point during the Multi-Party delegation visits

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature is mandated by the Constitution to exercise oversight over the executive; encourage and facilitate public participation and make laws.

As part of exercising its constitutional mandate of encouraging Public Participation in the governance of the province, a Multi-Party delegation of Members of the Provincial Legislature visited all wards within Ethekewini Municipality to assess service delivery issues and engage members of the community in those wards.

The Multi-Party visits are part of the build-up to the Legislature's annual Programme known as Taking Legislature to the People (TLtP) which took place in October.

However due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying regulations, the Multi-Party delegation visits' meetings were for a limited number of people and those who were unable to attend were encouraged to send their service delivery challenges through various forms of social media.

Top of the challenges in most areas included shortage of jobs, high unemployment, crime and corruption.

In Claremont township, where the team led by Chairperson of Committees Hon Themba Mthembu, visited KK Hostel and two community halls it became clear that people were extremely concerned about incidents of crime and lack of houses.

"I have been living in a transit camp for the past 15 years. Everytime low cost houses are completed they are allocated to people who are politically connected but we all vote for the ANC. Living conditions in our area are so bad that elderly people have challenge go in and out of the transit camp because of the topography of the area," said Fikile Mntungwa.

Hon Mthembu emphasised the oversight and accountability role of the Legislature and will therefore ensure that the Ethekeweni Mayor, Councillors, Provincial Premier and MECs would account and address the community on service delivery issues affecting people of Ethekewini during the sitting of the Taking Legislature to the People.

Issues raised in the meetings will be compiled into a report by the legislature's research unit and that report will be handed over to the Honourable Speaker.



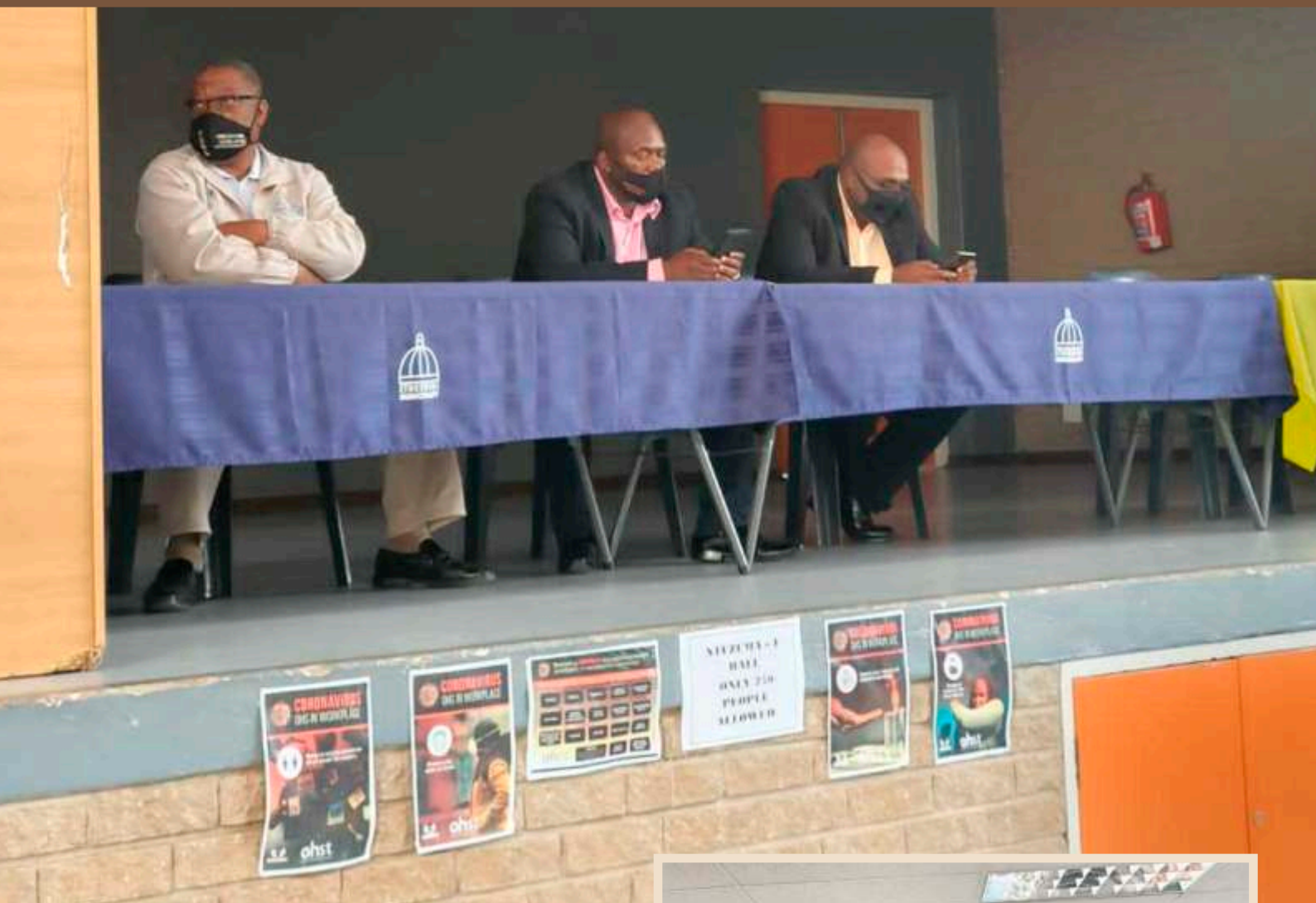
Members of the Legislature and NCOP Permanent Delegates Conduct Oversight Visits to Assess the Functionality of War Rooms in all Municipalities

From 27 -29 October 2020, various delegations of Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature and KwaZulu-Natal Permanent Delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) conducted oversight visits to all municipalities in KZN to assess the functionality of war-rooms as coordinating centres of service delivery at a local level.

War-rooms are a vehicle that coordinates and facilitates integrated service delivery at a ward level and provide quick responses to dire needs for

services to communities. They profile households in their wards and the level of service delivery per household, with specific reference to the eradication of poverty and the general improvement of the quality of life.

This week Members of the Legislature and NCOP Permanent Delegates visited the war-rooms to assess their functionality, with special focus on the participation and the role played by key stakeholders such as provincial and national departments of



Social Development, Education, Health, Transport, Human Settlement, SAPS, Agriculture, COGTA, SASSA, Home Affairs, District and Local Municipalities, Councillors, Amakhosi as well as local community structures such as ward committees.

The visits to war rooms have identified a number of challenges that hinder the effective functioning of the war rooms at a ward level in various municipalities. Some of the challenges include lack of participation and attendance of war room meetings by some departments, lack of resources in war rooms such as furniture and computers, lack of participation by community structures, rising social ills such as drug abuse and teenage pregnancy in schools, provision of water and housing.





PREMIER PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VISITS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

Members of the Premier's Portfolio Committee during the committee's visits to various Youth led projects in the province.

The Premier's Portfolio Committee of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature recently visited a number of youth empowerment projects which are funded by the KZN Youth Economic Empowerment Fund

The Committee has visited various enterprises in Umkhanyakude, King Cetshwayo and Amajuba Districts run by the youth who have benefited from the fund.

This is in line with the Committee's oversight responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of various programmes of the Premier's Office especially those

that are targeted at youth-development and empowerment.

The Youth Economic Empowerment Fund has a budget of 50 million in this financial year and aims to fund more businesses owned by the youth throughout KZN.

The projects that have been visited during the two days, benefited from the Fund to the tune of 2 million each.

Speaking to one of the projects, known as Elamawele Logistics in Mtubatuba, Premier Portfolio Committee



Members of the Premier Portfolio Committee visiting a farm that is youth owned and managed.

Chairperson Honourable Celiwe Madlopha told local media that the legislature will keep an eye on the implementation of the projects to ensure that there are no incidents of corruption.

“If we find that they have squandered the money, we will have no choice but to ensure that the law takes its course. I am sure you have all seen that some people have been arrested in the Office of the Premier. These people were arrested after they had been suspended

by Premier's Office which shows that we are not tolerant of corruption,” said Madlopha.

One of the beneficiaries, Siyanda Thethwayo of Amawele Logistics, said their company is involved in logistics and transports coal. He encouraged other young people to establish entities with the aim to create jobs and not to enrich themselves. Their entity employ youth and women.

PUBLIC WORKS PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES VISIT BORDER BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE



Members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works from the National Assembly and KZN Legislature visiting border between South Africa and Mozambique.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure of the National Assembly, joined by their KwaZulu-Natal Legislature counterparts in October visited the Jersey Barrier Wall Project at the border between South Africa and Mozambique in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Nolitha Ntobongwana, said amongst the primary objectives of the visit is to ensure an effective oversight over the executive. “The committee aims to visit all the borders to ensure that they are properly managed for the protection of our country,” emphasised Ms Ntobongwana.

Furthermore, the committee is also on a mission to look at ways on how to draw lessons from the Beitbridge border post incident. “We saw the shortcomings at Beitbridge in Limpopo and we are here to compare the two borders to see if there are no lessons to be learnt,” said Ms Ntobongwana.

The Jersey Barrier Wall Project is situated in Kosi Bay in the KwaZulu-Natal's (KZN's) Umkhanyakude District Municipality. It starts at the boundary of iSimangaliso Wetland Park and ends at the Pongola River, excluding the area covered by the Tembe Elephant Park.

The joint committees were informed that the project is undertaken to address numerous complaints from the communities that are living in the Umkhanyakude District Municipality. The communities say they are continuously victimised by criminal syndicates who are stealing and hijacking vehicles and illegally passing them over the RSA/Mozambican border.

“These communities indicated that living in this area has become intensely unbearable and they called for

the intervention of the government,” the Deputy Director General for Infrastructure of the KZN's Department of Transport, Mr Simphiwe Nkosi said.

Mr Nkosi told the committees that the department was tasked to find solutions on the ongoing rampant border crimes which included the theft of approximately 30 South African vehicles a month.

The Jersey Barrier Wall Project covers a distance of 25 km along the national border. The project has been separated into three phases. The first phase, which has been declared a hotspot due to high criminal activities, is 8 km from Gate 6. This phase moves in the western direction towards Tembe Elephant Park. Phase two is also 8 km long from the boundary of iSimangaliso Wetland Park towards Gate 6, and phase 3 is 9 km from the boundary of the Tembe Elephant Park towards the Pongola River.

Reporting on the progress of the project, Mr Nkosi said the reinforced concrete wall with SoilCem was found to be the best alternative for the project which provides tight and reliable security compared to other options. He told the committee that a distance of 3 km has been completed.

He further reported that a minimum of 35% of the contract is directed at enhancing socio-economic benefits with the appointment of local contractors and 33 local women and youth after receiving training by the department.

Also the department told the committee that the finalisation and the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between KZN's Department of Transport and the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is in progress.

KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE HAS ESTABLISHED AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS IN THE PROVINCE



*Chairperson of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Investigations
Honourable Maggie Govender.*

KwaZulu-Natal legislature has established an ad hoc committee to conduct oversight over investigations conducted in provincial departments and public entities.

The committee, which is chaired by current Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) Portfolio Committee chair Honourable Maggie Govender is established for a period of twelve months, to oversee the progress and finalisation of: -

- (a) all forensic and other (internal and external) investigations conducted in provincial departments and public entities in KwaZulu-Natal that are in progress at the time of establishment of the committee; and
- (b) implementation of all recommendations emanating from such investigations and from investigations that were concluded before establishment of the committee,

SCOPA recommended that the House establish a an ad hoc committee to

conduct oversight over investigations conducted in the province and House adopted the recommendation which led to the establishment of the committee.

“The number of forensic and internal investigations pertaining to fraud and corruption or other forms of criminal conduct, as well irregularities,

transgressions of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 and other types of misconduct committed by officials, causing financial losses or negative audit findings within provincial departments and public entities in KwaZulu-Natal, has been on the increase in recent times and is a cause for concern,” reads the Committee's terms of reference.

The terms of reference add that some of the investigations pertain to incidents that occurred several years ago and some investigations take an inordinately long time to conclude.

“Once the investigations are concluded, some departments and public entities seem reluctant or are slow in implementing the recommendations of the investigative reports fully or are selective in their implementation, culminating in a lack of consequence management and resultant negative audit findings, as well as inculcating a culture of tolerance towards criminal behaviour or other forms of misconduct by government officials,” reads the terms of reference.

The committee will report to the House and to SCOPA every three months with the first report expected to be tabled in three months-time from the date of the establishment and the final report to be tabled at the end of the twelve months period for which the committee is established.



KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHES AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MATTERS RELATED TO LAND AND / OR RESTITUTION PROGRAMME IN THE PROVINCE

*Chairperson of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Matters Related to Land/ and or
Restitution Programme in KwaZulu-Natal Honourable Ntombikayise
Sibhidla-Saphetha*

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature has established ad hoc committee to investigate matters related to land reform/land restitution in the province. The committee was established after the institution received a number of complaints from communities who are supposed to be beneficiaries of land claims.

One of these communities, from Bbanango in northern KwaZulu-Natal, approached the Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee regarding the land dispute involving 52 farms which were restored to Emcakwini Community Trust.

The Management of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development led by Hon Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha visited the Machitshane Community, after the Portfolio Committee on Community Safety and Liaison had conducted an oversight visit and reported that there were issues relating to land claims in Babanango, which needed the attention of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

Following the committee's fact-finding mission to Babanango, Sibhidla-Saphetha reported to the Chairpersons Committee on this matter and a resolution was made to establish a joint committee comprising of Chairpersons of Public Participation and Petitions Portfolio Committee; Premier and Conservation Portfolio.

The Joint Committee of the Chairpersons conducted a visit to Babanango Community for a fact-finding mission as it was mindful that rural development has aspects of national competency eg. land restitution

function, however, it saw a need to engage the Regional Land Claims Commission, the KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife, the Chief Land Claims Commissioner, the Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reform as well as the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Forestry on these matters as the communities and farms affected are within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. The PPP Committee Chairperson also indicated that they have few cases that were referred to the Committee in the form of Petitions which proved difficult to resolve urgently.

The Chairperson of Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee upon reporting to the Portfolio Committee on the Joint Chairpersons' findings, the Committee resolved as follows:

"The Speaker must be requested to establish a dedicated ad hoc Committee to deal with all the land claims complaints that have been referred to various Committees of the Legislature. The ad hoc Committee will be solely ceased with resolving land claims complaints before it until such time that they are resolved."

The Chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee then wrote the letter to the Speaker to process the Committee Resolution. The committee has since been established for the duration of the sixth term. It has sat where it elected the chairperson Honourable Sibhidla-Saphetha and it is expected to submit its first report in six months-time.

The final report to be tabled to the House a month before the end of the sixth term.



THE HEALTH PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE KZN LEGISLATURE HOLDS A SPECIAL MEETING TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF FAULTY LIFTS AT ADDINGTON HOSPITAL

Health Portfolio Committee Chairperson Honourable Nomakiki Majola at Addington Hospital.

Following a protest staged by the staff of Addington hospital over the issue of faulty lifts, the Chairperson of the Health Portfolio Committee, Hon Nomakiki Majola and Members of the Portfolio Committee on Health, called a special meeting on 7 November 2020, with the senior officials of the KZN department of Health in Addington hospital. This urgent meeting called on Saturday by the Committee sought to find urgent solutions to the sufferings of staff patients and visitors because of lift that are not operational.

Opening the meeting the Chair said, “we are here for the protection of the public, we have come now to find out what are these issues that we are seeing on the media and protest by the staff. Instead of getting the information from the media it was important for the committee to hear for ourselves as to what is the real problem here. This is the massive infrastructure that carry most operations in this hospital”.

It was reported in the meeting by the officials that there is a need to restore the infrastructure, and this will cost about 3billion rand. The officials of the department had confirmed that the damage to the hospital's four lifts had been caused by the water

flowing into the lifts. The flooding came from 10th floor. Whilst the work of repairing the lifts is currently underway, however the arrival of the material for the replacement of 16 lifts, is January 2021.

A new Engineering team has been brought in from the Head office to find solutions to problems. Currently the service Provider is on site and only service lifts that are working currently.

The focus is to get two lifts working as a matter of urgency to relieve the load on the service lift.

The Committee members expressed their disappointment that the delivery of the material takes longer than expected. The hospital has made a plan that all emergency cases are diverted to Kind Dinuzulu, Prince Mshiyeni, and King Edward Hospital. The Committee has taken the responsibility of closely monitoring the plans the hospital has in resolving the problem. The Committee further called for disciplinary actions to be taken against those responsible to oversee the infrastructure, as they should have known or at least detected the flooding of the lifts. The Chair commended the management for bringing in the team on site to work long hours in search of answers to the problem.



KZN LEGISLATURE'S AGRICULTURE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE CALLS ON FARMING COMMUNITIES TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST BRUCELLA BACTERIA

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has warned communities living in areas where there has been an outbreak of brucella bacteria to be vigilant when dealing with suspicious animals.

Brucella Bacteria is an animal-borne disease which causes abortion, infertility, reduced milk production and weakened joints in bovine animals and infected people.

Brucellosis is primarily a cattle disease but may affect most other mammals, including humans. Humans who are at risk of contracting the disease are people who work with animals such as veterinarians, farmers, farm workers and abattoir employees.

The Portfolio Committee has noted the intervention of the provincial department of Agriculture and Rural Development which has embarked on a campaign to vaccinate animals in affected districts and educate communities affected by the bacteria.

"Agriculture has been identified as a key driver in ensuring food security and radical economic

development in the province. We need to work together to deal with anything which seeks to threaten our agricultural potential such as the Brucella bacteria. We urge our communities to co-operate with departmental officials and attend information sharing sessions so that they understand the bacteria and know how to identify its symptoms," said Committee Chairperson Honourable Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha.

The portfolio committee will monitor the department's intervention strategies as part of its oversight exercise on the department.

The committee also sends out its deepest sympathies to the farmers who have lost their livestock.

"We understand that most farmers are dependent on this livestock for their livelihood. It is for this reason that we appeal to the farmers to co-operate with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development so that they will be familiar with protocols to be followed to minimise the impact of this outbreak," said Sibhidla-Saphetha.

JOINT-COMMITTEE CONDUCTS OVERSIGHT OVER MTHWALUME KILLINGS



Police van searching for more bodies.

*Women protesting the killings in the
Mthwalume area*



The Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee, together with the Quality of Life Standing Committee in the Legislature will held a stakeholders' engagement following the brutal killings of women in Mthwalume. Amongst the key stakeholders was the Mayor of Umzumbe Municipality, Ward Councillors, Traditional Leadership of the area, SAPS Management, CPFs and Department of Social Development.

The purpose of the visit was to:

- Get a report on the killings of women in Mthwalume from April to date, accompanied by a progress report on investigations and arrests
- Assess the capacity and resourcefulness of the Hibberdene Police Station to fight crime
- Get a progress report on the establishment of a satellite police station
- Assess the effectiveness of visible policing in the area.
- Oversee the establishment and functioning of Community Policing Forums (CPF's) and inspect its effectiveness of community policing structures that seek to improve co-operation between

police and community.

- To ascertain challenges that are faced by police station and seek solutions on how best those challenges can be addressed.
- To devise and deliberate on possible pathways to ensure that the people of Mthwalume live in a safe and secure environment

The Join-committee noted with disappointment the death of one of the key suspects in the killings who was found hanging in the police holding cell just ahead of a scheduled court appearance. The alleged Serial Killer had led the police to some of the bodies and was also expected to show them where his other victims were located.

“This alone raises eyebrows and as a committee, we commend the Police Minister for sending the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) to investigate and determine if there was any foul play at the hands of the authorities,” said Committee Chairperson Phumzile Mbatha-Cele.



**Dr Meshack
Radebe**



**Simo
Mfayela**



**Hon Bridgette
Ntshangase**

**Bheki
Mthuli**



**Zanele
Ludidi**



**Zwelifile
Christopher
Ntuli**



KZN LEGISLATURE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTED MPLs

Almost the whole of last year and the beginning of this year have been a very difficult period for the KZN Legislature.

This period will arguably go down in history as the darkest in the life of the institution. It is during this time that the legislature lost a number of serving and former MPLs, some to the complications caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

All our departed MPLs, who served in the 5th and 6th Legislature served with dedication, always putting the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal first.

May our prayers strengthen our awareness of our common humanity and our national unity at a time when harmony is a balm that seeks to comfort and strengthen us as a single people facing a common threat which does not respect race, culture or gender.

May our prayers for the departed and their families serve as a small expression of our national desire to comfort and strengthen those who have endured the loss of a loved one, and may it be a resounding gesture of gratitude for all those who have cared for the victims of this virus and their loved ones.

SCHOOLS FUNCTIONALITY VISITS IN 2021

KZN LEGISLATURE MEMBERS VISIT SCHOOLS TO MONITOR THEIR FUNCTIONALITY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE 2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR YEAR

Last month KZN MPLs conducted oversight visits throughout the province to assess whether teaching and learning was taking place in a safe and conducive environment in public schools across the province.

The visits were taking place amid the deadly second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic which forced the government to delay the opening of schools for more than a month.

The visits discovered that most public schools opened in a safe and conducive environment where teaching and learning was taking place smoothly.

Members interacted with various stakeholders including teacher unions, department officials, school governing bodies and members of the community to get their views on the challenges that were experienced by schools since the academic year officially started on February 15.

A comprehensive report on these oversight visits will be compiled and presented to the Speaker and be debated in the House by all political parties represented in the Legislature. This forms part of the oversight processes of the Legislature to ensure the delivery of quality education in our province.







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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