

**Media Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**Wednesday, 12 September 2012**

The Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Honorable Supra Mahumapelo met with representatives from research institutions, leaders of further education to form a partnership that will enhance public participation and promote oversight in the Legislature.

This was a pronouncement he made when he presented his 2012/2013 budget speech, when he said “we must continue to work with our local university and other research institutions to strengthen the research capacity of the Legislature. The invitation to university and other institutions to work with us will assist in coming with creative methods of promoting oversight and public participation in a more effective way”.

The Honourable Speaker shared his vision with all representatives present, with the believe that all have a role to play in ensuring that the Legislature achieve its mandate of oversight, public participation and law making. Part of the vision is to work with all stakeholders in order to rebrand and reposition the North West Province among the Provinces in the Republic of South Africa: To be a province that is prosperous, that communicates with its citizens regularly and be a Legislature that represents the true aspirations of our people. The objective is to change the negative perceptions people have about the North West Province. These negative perceptions must serve as opportunities we can work on so that we bring more positivity about our Province.

Hence it is necessary to engage learning and research institutions so that they can critique, make proposals on how the Legislature can some of the things.

This platform of confronting challenges together was welcomed by the institutions present. A representative from the University of Johannesburg, Dr. Zodwa Mangwezi, embraced the proposal saying that it would serve as a sound platform that would benefit both the students and the legislature.

The University of Johannesburg representative clarified their embracing of this opportunity by saying the University is in the process of engaging with local communities to ensure that its knowledge capital responds to the needs of communities. That knowledge capital can be offered around the area of quality and standards. Further, there are training opportunities for the Legislature committees and internships for students at the University of Johannesburg, which is an issue of mutual benefit.

Another representative from the University of North West, Mr. Sammy Thekisho was more willing to assist on the proposed idea, saying that the university has already developed systems in place that already cater for government institutions such as the business school which assist municipalities in the area on agriculture.

Ends.

**For further enquiries please contact:**

**Mongezi Tsenca**

**Spokesperson – Office of the Speaker**

**North West Provincial Legislature**

**Tel: 018 392 7051**

**Cell: 072 632 0880**

**Email: [tsencab@nwpl.org.za](mailto:tsencab@nwpl.org.za)**

**Website: [www.nwpl.gov.za](http://www.nwpl.gov.za)**