

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEDIA STATEMENT

22 March 2018

THE NEW SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER ARE ELECTED AND A VACANCY IS FILLED IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Judge President Malesela Francis Legodi of the Mpumalanga Division of the High Court of South Africa convened a sitting of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature earlier today (22 March 2018), and presided over the election of the new Speaker of the Legislature, Honourable VS Siwela. The election of Ms VS Siwela as the Speaker follows a vacancy created by the resignation of former Speaker Mrs BT Shongwe who is now MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation.

In her acceptance speech, as the newly elected Speaker, she appreciated the confidence and responsibility entrusted in her to provide political and administrative leadership to the Legislature. "Working together and in partnership with the people of the Province, I commit to ensure this legislature fulfils its constitutional mandate to ensure Oversight, law making and public participation" concluded Speaker VS Siwela.

Subsequent to her election as the Speaker, Ms VS Siwela presided over the election of Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Mr Bonakele Majuba and later presided over the swearing in of Ms Thulisile Swankie Khoza, former Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality. Ms Khoza was sworn in to fill the vacancy following the resignation of former member and Chief Whip of the majority party in the Legislature, Mr JM Mkhathshwa.

The Speaker warmly welcomed the member after she took an oath of office and indicated that the Legislature is hoping to benefit from her experience.

In taking the oath the member committed that she will perform her duties to the best of her abilities in serving the Legislature, the people of Mpumalanga Province and the Republic of South Africa. She also indicated that she would be willing to listen, do as directed so that she can learn and understand how the Legislature operates.

The Speaker handed over documents that will assist in making the job of serving in the Legislature easy for the new member and wished her well in her duties as she concluded the swearing in process.

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