



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL  
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**TO: ALL MEDIA**  
**DATE: 17 FEBRUARY 2005**

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL SPEECH THERAPY AND AUDIOLOGY FORUM**

The Provincial Department of Health is proud to host a two-day consultative meeting to establish a National Public Sector Forum for Speech Therapy and Audiology.

The two-day meeting that starts today, 17 February is attended by delegates from across the country. The department's Disability and Rehabilitation Programme has played a huge role in facilitating and initiating the establishment of a National Public Sector Speech Therapy and Audiology Forum.

At present no official National or Provincial Public Sector Speech Therapy and Audiology Forum exists, however KZN has a productive "unofficial" structure, which has been supported by the department's Disability and Rehabilitation Programme. During this meeting other provinces will get a chance to reaffirm their commitment to the creation of the forum by compiling Terms of Reference of the Forum, develop and Action Plan to facilitate National consultation on the Terms of Reference, establish Provincial Forums and request that the National Department of Health officially launch the National Speech Therapy and Audiology Forum within 6 months of the initial meeting.



It is hoped that the forum will provide a platform to position the Professions of Speech Therapy and Audiology at National, Provincial and local levels as a mandated advocate for change, development and liaison with relevant role players and stakeholders.

**ENDS.**

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