

Welcome Remarks by the Chair of the Provincial
Governing Council Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni at the
Dinner hosted for the ARPM Country Review Mission

19 July 06

*'Life is no brief candle to me
It is sort of a splendid torch which
I have got hold of for a moment
And I want to make it burn as brightly as possible
Before handing it on to future generations.'*

That is George Bernard Shaw saying to us all, let us make good of the time and space that we have been afforded as an opportunity in this glorious world.

The Team Leader of the South African Peer Review Process and member of APRM, Professor Adebayo Adedejic.

Honourable members of the APRM, Eminent Persons.

Honourable Mayors of Umgungundlovu District Municipality, Ms Bongzi Sithole and Mayor of Msunduzi Local Municipality, Mrs Zanele Hlatshwayo
Esteemed Councillors present
All protocol observed.

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to this beautiful province of KwaZulu Natal.

After the heavy day's work it is time to relax and enjoy a meal together. We are mindful of a hectic day tomorrow and would not like to bore you with issues and matters of business and as a result keep you awake the whole night.

Suffice to say that we are ready to be assessed as part of the APRM, honestly and sincerely, justly and impartially.

The longer we keep you here, the greater the temptation will be to lobby and mobilise you into our favour. We do not want to do that. We are prepared to hear your unbiased critique on the state of governance of our province. Your effort we know, is for the sake of our people, our children, and our future.

Professor Adedeji and your delegation, we know that you are here on the continental mission, but as a chairperson of the PGC, I would like to extend a personal invitation to each and all of you to come back. We would like to have you basking and enjoying in the beautiful landscape of this place, in the hills and valleys, the oceans, the heritage sites, the cultural diversity that this corner of the world offers.

Welcome to KwaZulu Natal. Please enjoy the hospitality of our citizens and our special cuisine.

Bon appetit!!

Siyabonga