**HON. SAKHILE MNGADI, MPL**

Member of the Provincial Legislature

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27 March 2025

**Hon. Hlengiwe Mavimbela MPL**

Chairperson: KZN Education Portfolio Committee

KwaZulu-Natal Legislature

**Subject: Formalization of Agreement on MPL Oversight Access to Schools**

Dear Hon. Mavimbela,

I trust this letter finds you well.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) welcomes the amendments to Circular 29 following the recent deliberations within the Education Portfolio Committee. This change is a critical step in ensuring that Members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs) can continue to fulfill their constitutional mandate of conducting oversight in KwaZulu-Natal’s schools without undue obstruction.

While the department’s initial position sought to restrict unannounced oversight visits—undermining transparency and accountability—the committee’s intervention has resulted in a necessary correction. However, to prevent any future backtracking on this commitment, I request that this agreement be formally recorded and adopted as a standing resolution of the committee. This will ensure that all members can effectively exercise their oversight duties without arbitrary restrictions from the department.

Furthermore, the DA remains concerned about the inconsistent application of school access rules, particularly in light of recent abuses by political entities such as the uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) Party, which has exploited school premises for political activities. While we support legitimate measures to protect the learning environment, these rules must be applied fairly and without bias.

We appreciate your leadership in facilitating this important discussion and look forward to your confirmation of the formalization of this agreement. We trust that, as Chairperson, you will continue to uphold the principles of accountability and good governance in ensuring that MPLs retain their rightful access to schools for oversight purposes.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

*AN ACTIVIST, PEOPLE CENTRED LEGISLATURE*

Hon. Sakhile Mngadi, MPL