



To: All News Editors

From: Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature

Re: Public Hearings on the National Credit Amendment Bill

The Portfolio Committee on Economic Affairs in the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature will from the 4th -8th February hold public hearings on the National Credit Amendment Bill across the Province. The Bill is a result of the resolution taken by the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry in Parliament that it should initiate a legislation to pursue debt relief measures for the most vulnerable of consumers. The Bill has been termed the "Debt Intervention Bill" as its main purpose is to address and prevent over – indebtedness of consumers and ensuring an accessible, consistent, responsible and equitable credit market.

Studies conducted have shown that unsecured and illegal lending has grown and is more prevalent in factory workers, miners, farm workers and domestic workers who thus are vulnerable to over-indebtedness hence the Portfolio Committee saw it imperative for a strong response and intervention. The study has also found that the factors that have contributed to the demand for credit by these workers include retrenchment, escalating cost of living, the number of breadwinners lost their lives in taxi and bus accidents and other accidents. The Bill amends the National Credit Act (NCA), 2005 as amended by Act 19 of

2014 and in the first instance adds new definitions that will clarify some of the provisions of the Bill.

Some of the amendments include Clause 2 that amends section 3 of the Act to provide for debt intervention as one of the tools to promote and advance the social and economic welfare of South Africans. The intention is to provide urgent debt relief to those people not currently covered by the insolvency systems and debt administration which remains largely creditor oriented. Again Clause 7 amends section 70 of the Act requiring credit bureaux to accept information related to debt intervention applications from the National Credit Regulator at no charge. The intention here is that the National Credit Regulator should ensure that consumers that are able to repay, after an adjustment to their obligations, should be able to do so.

Members of the public are invited to join public hearings in the following areas:

District	Chairperson	Town	Hearings Date	Time	Venues
Arrival – Matatiele Mon, 4 Feb 2019					
ANDM & OTRDM	Group 1 Hon. Duba	Matatiele	Tues, 5 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Town Hall
		Mt Frere	Wed, 6 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Town Hall
		Lusikisiki	Thurs, 7 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Health Resource Center
		Mthatha	Fri, 8 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Roman Catholic Church Hall
Arrival – Aliwal North - Mon, 4 Feb 2019					
JGDM & CHDM	Group 2 Hon. Mvana	Sterkspruit	Tues, 5 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Ibhunga Hall
		Aliwal North	Wed, 6 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Greenslade Hall
		Cofimvaba	Thurs, 7 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	BM Mayosi Methodist Church Hall
		Queenstown	Fri, 8 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Indoor Sports Center
Arrival – Mthatha - Mon, 4 Feb 2019					
ADM & BCM	Group 3 Hon. Fihlani	Butterworth	Tues, 5 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Msobomvu Community Hall
		Alice	Wed, 6 Feb 2019	10h00 –	Town Hall

				13h00	
		East London	Thurs, 7 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Gompo Hall
		King Williams Town	Fri, 8 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	War Memorial Hall
Arrival – Port Elizabeth - Mon, 4 Feb 2019					
SBDM & NMBM	Group 2 Hon. Lwana	Jeffrey's Bay	Tues, 5 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Pellsrus Hall
		Port Alfred	Wed, 6 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Jawuka Hall
		Uitenhage	Thurs, 7 Feb 2019	10h00 – 13h00	Babs Madlakane
		Port Elizabeth	Fri, 8 Feb 2019	11h00 – 14h00	Daku Hall

Members of the public are urged to comment on the Bill as it will affect them once it is passed into law. Copies of the Bill may be obtained at the following website: www.eclegislature.gov.za

Statement issued by the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature

For more inquiries please contact Makabongwe Tyiwani @0794966490