



# An institution that has touched the lives of many communities

## A message of support from the Premier

THE celebration of Diakonia Council of Churches' 35th anniversary comes at a time when the government of KwaZulu-Natal is embarking on a campaign to foster a spirit of partnership between the leaders of different faiths and the government. This arises from our deep conviction that the leaders of different faiths have a very strong contribution to make in the improvement of the lives of the people in our province.

This is an acknowledgement of the fact the government can not alone, satisfy the needs of people without extending a hand of partnership to the many other stakeholders within broader civil society. This has always been the message from our President, JG Zuma – a call for partnership in the rebuilding of our country and our society.

While government has committed massive resources in the development of infrastructure and service delivery, there remains a great need for continuous engagement with different stakeholders in ensuring that government programmes are understood and accessed by our people. This

joining of hands will also ensure that communities are empowered to monitor the effectiveness of these programmes and whether such resources ultimately reach the grassroots communities for whom they are destined.

The provincial government has been receiving tremendous support from religious leaders in the fight against poverty, which is a major area of concern in all faiths. We need a broad partnership between government and leaders of faiths as we surge forward to 2014.

In this province, 3.5 million people are food insecure and face starvation. We therefore embarked on a programme designed to ensure food security called the ONE HOME ONE GARDEN campaign.

This is a campaign to ensure that every home has a sustainable source of vegetables in the garden.

Taken to its conclusion, this is a campaign for self sufficiency in food production for KwaZulu-Natal, revitalisation of the agricultural sector of the economy, creation of jobs and fostering nation building across different communities, including the partnership of emerging and

established commercial farmers.

It is a campaign for nation building. We cannot defeat poverty if we believe poverty is a problem only for the poor people.

This is a call for all society to stand up and contribute to the fight against poverty.

We have urged business people to join the campaign and make it ONE BUSINESS ONE GARDEN.

We ask all of you to pray for an end to poverty, and we are calling upon you as you celebrate your achievements to launch ONE CHURCH, ONE GARDEN.

As you celebrate the organisation's 35th anniversary, please note that there are many people in KwaZulu-Natal who would wish they were part of the celebrations because you have touched their lives.

On behalf of government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to the Diakonia Council of Churches.

We appreciate your contribution towards lifting the spirituality of our people.

**Dr ZL Mkhize, MPL  
Premier: Province of  
KwaZulu-Natal**



**35th Anniversary Celebration**  
**A TRANSFORMED WORLD IS POSSIBLE**

