

Daily News  
20 July 2006

## KZN judges to discuss prison, case problems

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JUDGES and other justice officials from all over the province will gather in Durban tomorrow for a seminar aimed at enhancing access to justice, case backlogs in court and overcrowding in prisons.

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Justice Forum, which consists of representatives from the Criminal Justice System, will hold a court and case flow management seminar at the Royal Hotel.

Senior magistrates, regional judges, senior police management and Legal Aid officials have been invited to the seminar, with Judge Siraj Desai from the Western Cape division the guest speaker.

Brigitte Shabalala, regional head from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in KZN said the court and case flow management was an initiative by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

"This is aimed at improving court management. It also serves to improve and maintain the effective and efficient operation of Criminal Courts," she said.

The implementation of the Court and Case Flow Management System was first started at the Durban Magistrate's Office in 2004. The system was successful in reducing the number of district court cases being heard.

Court cases on the Durban roll for six months or longer were reduced from 771 in August 2004 to 303 in March this year. The system aims to look at cases that are five months and older.