

MWEB and Silulo bring fast Internet to township residents

Cape Town, May 7, 2010: In an effort to connect more South Africans to the web, MWEB announced today that it is increasing its Internet penetration in townships by joining forces with Silulo Ulutho Technologies to open a series of public internet cafes and IT training centres.

As the leading Internet service provider in South Africa, MWEB revolutionized the Internet industry earlier this year by becoming the first ISP to offer affordable uncapped ADSL on a broad scale. Now MWEB is partnering with Silulo as part of its Enterprise Development initiative to launch the first of five Internet Cafés in townships in the Cape Town area.

“Silulo’s aim to bridge the digital divide and empower people resonated with us,” says Rudi Jansen, MWEB CEO. “Affordable broadband Internet access is an important part of empowering people to achieve their personal goals, and MWEB strives to show South Africans the value of the Internet and what they can do once they are connected, in particular small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Khayelitsha area. We’ll be bringing fast Internet to previously under resourced areas”. Silulo also provides computer-training classes with the aim of addressing high levels of computer illiteracy in the townships,

Nonqubela Mall in Khayelitsha will be home to the first Silulo and MWEB IT Centre. The 65 square meter shop will feature 25 computers with broadband Internet access for the Internet café and 22 computers to be used for computer training. The centre will help to meet the challenges around access to information that township residents currently face. Visitors to the shop will meet a team of skilled assistants offering advice and an introduction to the various operating systems and MS Office.

Luvuyo Rani, Managing Director of Silulo Technologies continues: “The training services Silulo offers to residents of Khayelitsha to improve their computer literacy will increase their chances of finding employment. MWEB can also recruit learners from Silulo Training and Development College which will be run from the various IT Centres.”

In addition to the computer-training classes, Silulo offers business solutions, retail services, support and repairs. Following the launch of the Silulo and MWEB IT Centre at Nonqubela Mall in Khayelitsha, additional locations have been identified and another four centres will be opened in Phillipi Mall, Gugulethu Square, Da Noon Taxi Rank and Mfuleni Mall before the end of 2010.