

IN SESSION



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"YOUR SEAT IN PARLIAMENT"

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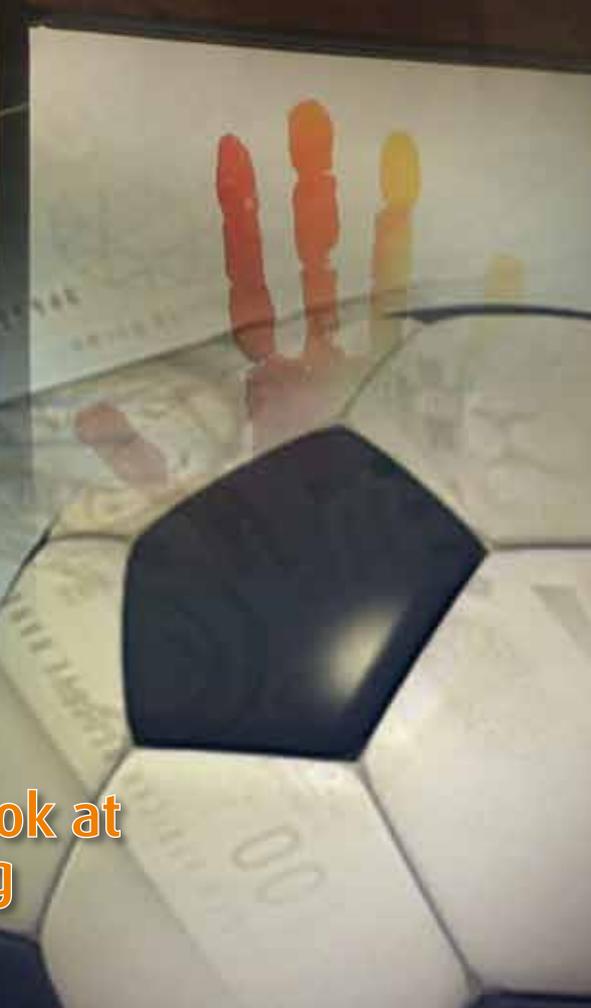


First

100 days

of 4th Parliament

As Parliament hits the mark, we look at
its oversight task since opening



SPECIAL REPORT: Political Party dynamics of Parliament



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Black Rod National Council of Provinces

Vision Statement

To build an effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people and that is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people of South Africa.

Mission Statement

As the freely elected representatives of the people of South Africa, our Mission is to represent, and to act as a voice of the people, in fulfilling our Constitutional functions of passing laws and overseeing executive action.

Strategic Objectives

1. Increasing oversight
2. Increasing public participation
3. Building an efficient, effective institution



Mace of the National Assembly

contents

Regulars

- 5 Editor's Note**
The first 100 days of parliament
- 6 Message from Presiding Officer**
Mninwa Mahlangu, Chairperson of National Council of Provinces
- 8 Parliament in Brief**
Selection of online news
- 9 Guest Columnist**
Moses Mncwabe on anti-Aids campaign

Feature: First 100 days of Parliament

- 10 Nation-building through Money Bills**
An outline of Parliament's budget
- 12 National Council of Provinces**
A call for provinces to identify issues
- 13 Caring through Sharing**
Speaker's vision of 'activist' Parliament
- 14 Parliament acts on SABC chaos**
Inquiry recommends new Board for public broadcaster
- 15 2010 Kick-off**
SA gets ready for the World Cup
- 16 Through the lens**
Pictures of first 100 days of Parliament
- 18 Deputy Speaker Mfeketo & Deputy Chairperson Memela**
on their new roles in Parliament
- 20 MPs spotlight illegal mining**
New laws mooted to control closed mines
- 21 Backtracking on transport**
Department told to improve rural services
- 22 Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests**
- 23 Hansard online: Parliament's library gears up for new era**

Special Report

- 24 Political Party dynamics in Parliament, a summary of chapter 4**
The Role of Opposition, Smaller Parties and
An inclusive Approach

Out and About

- 28 Mandela Day**
- 29 Book Reviews:**
On the Contrary and *The Dream Deferred*
- 30 Did you know?** Making submissions to Parliament



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OUR IDEALS**VISION**

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MISSION

As the freely elected representatives of the people of South Africa, our mission is to represent, and act as a voice of the people, in fulfilling our Constitutional functions of passing laws and overseeing executive action.

VALUES

Our values guide the management of Parliament. Our values are formed by that which we treasure and hold dear. It forms the foundation that will give rise to policies, which provide guidance in the implementation of everyday services and projects. The values of Parliament are derived from the role that Parliament plays in the context of our democracy. Therefore our values are formed by the people of South Africa, the Constitution, our cooperation with other arms of government, and our will to act with professionalism and good institutional governance.

The Tours Office of Parliament offers the following services, all of which are free

- DVD presentation on the National Symbols and the new Parliamentary Emblem in our Multimedia Centre
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- Meeting with a Member of Parliament
- Presentations on the Structure of Parliament, Committees of Parliament, How a law is made, Parliament's oversight role, etc
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Look out for new features from next month
**crossword puzzle
and sudoku**

editor's note

The fourth democratic Parliament completed its first session just as things started to settle down and Members were finding their rhythm. The first recess brought a welcome intervention as members headed back to their constituencies, to do constituency work. The first session proved to be a busy one for the new Parliament. The focus of Committees during this period was to consider and report on the Budget Votes that were referred to them. Committees of the National Assembly (NA) alone held 133 meetings during the month of June, and Committees of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held 38. A total of 33 Budget Votes were considered by the NA Committees and 14 Budget Votes by Committees of the NCOP.

The quick consideration of the Budget Votes by Committees shortly after the establishment of the fourth Parliament underscores the importance of creating conditions for service delivery. This is crucial, considering that Departments may only commit up to 45% of their budgets before they are passed by Parliament.

This system also reflects the important role of oversight. In terms of the strategic focus of Committees, oversight will form the bulk of the work of Committees. Committees will spend 60% of their time on oversight and 40% on legislation.

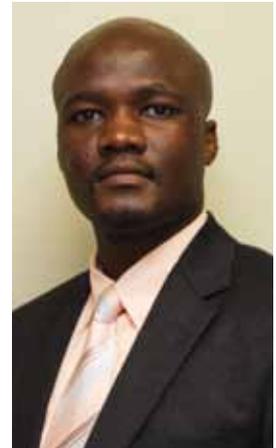
Parliament is set to examine how the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act will be implemented. The Act establishes a procedure to amend money Bills before Parliament within the context of oversight findings and the adoption of a fiscal framework. Furthermore, it establishes a Parliamentary Budget Office to provide research support to Parliament and its Committees, in order to maintain oversight of the budget process and possible amendments to money Bills.

The Report of the Independent Panel Assessment of Parliament will be tabled by the Joint Rules Committee. The terms of reference of the Independent Panel were to inquire into, report on and make recommendations regarding the extent to which Parliament is evolving to meet its constitutional mandate of promoting and entrenching democracy. The report was put on hold by the third Parliament for consideration by the fourth Parliament, as many of the issues and recommendations will have to be addressed by it.

Parliament will also consider in its entirety the Report of the ad hoc Committee on the Review of Chapter 9 and Associated Institutions. The report was tabled in 2008 but it was not considered as a whole. Parliament acted on certain recommendations such as the one that led to the merger of Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the Youth Commission to form the National Youth Development Agency. Now Parliament will consider the entire report and all its recommendations. It will also oversee an audit of National Youth Development Agency Assets, as the Youth Commission and Umsobomvu Youth Fund were merged prior to audits of their respective assets.

In this issue we bring you a feature on the first 100 days of the fourth Parliament. In our Guest Column we have Moses Mncwabe: SADC Parliamentary Forum HIV/Aids Researcher attached to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. The SADC Parliamentary Forum has appointed researchers to all SADC member states. For its part, each Parliament must provide research support to Committees that deal with HIV/ Aids as part of the overall strategy for Parliaments to take a leading role against the pandemic that is devastating Southern Africa. Enjoy the read.

Momelezi Kula
editor





The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mzinwa Mahlangu

MESSAGE FROM THE national council of provinces



Less talk, more action

Our first task in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) is to get the provinces to identify the key issues that face our people. Knowing this will enable us to work on a more people-centred approach and help get Parliament in line with identified democratic objectives, which is crucial in trying to consolidate our democracy. In pursuing issues of national interest, high ideals will not amount to much unless we can build on consensus. In the long term, the transformation of Parliament and success in the goal of nation-building depends on us achieving consensus.

Secondly, during this five-year term of the NCOP, we must work closely with the South African Local Governments Association (SALGA). They are at the coalface of interaction with our greater constituency, the people of South Africa.

Thirdly, despite the achievements of the third Parliament, we must strive to turn ordinary oversight into outcomes-based oversight. Once we achieve outcomes-based oversight, it will become easier to gauge the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of accelerated service delivery, in areas such as agriculture and land reform, education, health, or job creation.

There are some issues raised by the previous NCOP that still require our focus and attention. A recommendation of the 10th Anniversary

Summit of the NCOP in 2007, was that its effectiveness should be improved. Directly related to this is the process, which must still be completed, of transforming the NCOP to reflect its character. In addition, provinces must have enough space to consider Section 76 legislation, before it goes to the NCOP, and we must stipulate the nature of the support required by the NCOP to carry out these complex tasks. This includes establishing stronger relationships with other government entities, for our own oversight purposes. Towards the end of the third Parliament, a working relationship was established with the office of the Auditor-General.

Looking ahead, there are issues that require new or renewed focus, including the central position of provinces. As envisaged in the Constitution, centrality places provinces at the hub of the NCOP. We need to reflect this in the way we conduct our business, both as a constitutional obligation and a strategic issue. That is why we keenly await the discussion, still to come, on the future shape of our intergovernmental system, including the future of the provinces.

There is also a need to ensure that Committee business and support is aligned to, and is able to respond to, the mandate and priorities of Parliament. The fourth Parliament presents us with an opportunity to craft and implement a new strategy to further the mandate of the NCOP. We plan to run a workshop on this from 12 to 14 August this year.

“We are small... to make an impact we need a strong focus”

Provinces have a crucial role to play and we must determine from them what their priorities are. The NCOP is strategically placed; it is at the cutting edge of cooperative government. We welcome the call by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to become partners and to assist the three spheres of government on issues of cooperative governance, without compromising our oversight role.

I worked closely with the former Speakers of the provincial legislatures and I owe them a debt of gratitude. We had a cordial and special working relationship. Together we laid the groundwork for the new National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in the fourth Parliament. We will build on the work already done, but increase our pace as we tackle new challenges.

The NCOP of 2009 to 2014 has a definite mandate. Its mandate is to represent the provinces, and to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account by the national sphere of government. Central to carrying out this mandate, is the task of harmonising the interests of the three spheres of government. Obviously, the new NCOP will need to enhance both its liaison and working relationship with every provincial legislature. Its permanent delegates must serve as agents for promoting a dynamic link with their respective provinces. The work of the NCOP in the previous term provides a springboard from which to launch a vibrant partnership, in pursuit of our development goals.

However, in terms of size the NCOP is a small institution. In order to make an impact, we need to understand and focus on our mandate, especially in the areas of concurrent national and provincial competence (such as agriculture and rural development, education and health). The ways in which we conduct oversight should be informed by these realities, and by the nature of this House.

This brings me to the shortfall in the 2009/10 Budget of the National Council of Provinces.

The budget for Parliament continues to provide for us to implement our vision of building an effective people's Parliament. From 2005/06 to 2009/10, the total budget has grown from R809.7 million to R1.35 billion. However, I must point out that there is still a shortfall of R143 million on the budgeted amount, which is compounded by transitional requirements. The shortfall, and the fact that the budget was finalised before the new Parliament, means that the total allocation falls short of our needs for the current financial year. The budget represents our continued efforts to further the goals of reconstructing and developing our society, and ensuring a better quality of life for all citizens. I hope we will all live up to our responsibilities and together push for less talk and more action. 🇿🇦

Mninwa Mahlangu

CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES



Collector's item: Mandela Day poster

parliament in brief

A selection of online news

Green light for Committee

The Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence has been constituted with the swearing-in of its 12 members. The induction ceremony was presided over by Judge Siraj Desai of the Cape High Court. Unlike other Parliamentary Committees, members of the Standing Committee on Intelligence are inducted in terms of the Intelligence Services Oversight Act, which stipulates that because of the nature of their work, members must take an oath of secrecy. The members of the Committee, drawn from both Houses of Parliament, are the Chairperson, Mr Cecil Burgess (ANC) Mr Mmatlala Boroto (ANC) Mr Theo Coetzee (DA) Mr Nkosinathi Fihla (ANC) Mr Ntopile Kganyago (UDM) Mr Llewellyn Landers (ANC) Mr Jerome Maake (ANC) Mr Siphiso Mazosiwe (ANC) Mr Themba Msimang (IFP) Ms Thembisa Ndabeni (ANC) Mr Mbhazima Shilowa (COPE) and Ms Sheila Sithole (ANC).

The Committee must conduct oversight of all Intelligence Agencies and the Department of State Security.

Unspent cash returned

The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training visited the National Student Financial Aid Scheme's (NSFAS) offices in Cape

Town to express concern about the return of unspent funds destined for needy students. Although the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education plans to conduct oversight visits to all its constituents, the Aid Scheme visit was given priority after challenges were highlighted during a Portfolio Committee meeting. It transpired that millions of Rands had not been disbursed in the previous financial year, suggesting a serious misalignment between Universities and Further Education and Training Colleges, and the Financial Aid Scheme. This had severely affected many needy students, and thrown the system into disarray. The Committee was particularly disturbed by news that more than R40 million had to be returned to NSFAS by Colleges and Universities in 2008, as "unspent money".

Madiba Day Action

The ANC Chief Whip, Dr Mathole Motshekga, said at a news briefing that all Chief Whips of political parties represented in Parliament had agreed to support Mandela Day. To celebrate the day, Members of Parliament and the Cabinet planned to dedicate at least 67 minutes of their time on 18 July to doing community work. The aim was to have Mandela Day celebrations marked by as many people as possible dedicating time to community work. Mandela Day, which will be celebrated annually, included activities to foster moral regeneration,

especially among the youth, events to ensure promotion of the values of ubuntu as espoused by Madiba, and the longer-term goals of people not only helping each other to weather the economic downturn, but also trying to create "sustainable livelihoods".

Tender appearances

Parliament, 7 July

Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) planned to hold hearings on the report of the Auditor-General, regarding entities connected with government employees, that are doing business with national departments. Companies owned by or linked to public servants are reportedly involved in government tenders totaling R600 million.

N2 Gateway Project

The Department of Human Settlements appeared before Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) and the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, to answer questions arising from the Auditor-General's report on the N2 Gateway Project. The Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, the City of Cape Town and the provincial Scopa are expected to be part of a special audit of the R2,5 billion housing project.

Read full report on Mandela Day (page 28). For the latest news see: www.parliament.gov.za



Tough task: Moses Mncwabe must drum up anti-Aids support

guest column

Denialism NO, Prevention YES

Southern Africa Aids activist Moses Mncwabe says there may be a sliver of light at the end of the tunnel

Parliament is encouraging South African Members of Parliament to join in a more proactive regional approach, which combines a scientific point of view, cultural practices and religious conduct, in taking the fight to the HIV/Aids pandemic. In partnership with the Southern African Development Community's Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), Parliament is empowering MPs to face up to the disease, by enlisting their name and image against it, and by acknowledging all sectoral efforts to alleviate it.

The objectives of the five-year HIV/Aids prevention campaign are for every MP:

- To put a high-profile public face to the fight against HIV/Aids
- To link up with constituencies, regarding Parliament's response
- To counter discrimination against people living with the disease
- To generate a more sympathetic attitude towards all infected or affected by it
- To offer guidance and support to entities working against HIV/Aids
- To encourage various measures that together can help prevent it from spreading.

The overall objective is to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, with special emphasis on goal number six (enhancing the fight against Aids, malaria and other diseases). This article serves to introduce a series featuring MPs from all walks of life, who will

publicly acknowledge the existence of the pandemic and assert their determination to fight it in South Africa, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and globally. The MPs agree that human strength lies in a collective effort, and they plan to create an effective front against HIV/Aids by working extensively with their constituents.

Parliament is strategically placed to make laws, to hold the Executive accountable for the implementation of those laws, and to provide a forum for public debate. Committees, as the lifeblood of Parliament, must at every possible juncture introduce discussion of a pro-active stance against HIV/Aids. The rationale for this vigorous approach lies in acknowledging that human lives are being lost to HIV/Aids, to spell out what prevention will entail, and to detail the benefits that this will bring.

In forthcoming guest columns, MPs will be seen connecting with people living with HIV and Aids, meeting with home-based community caregivers, supporting families affected by HIV/Aids and interacting with others who have pledged their support against the pandemic. The Southern African Development Community's Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), in partnership with world-acclaimed institutions like the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), is seeking far and wide for solutions to break the Aids cycle. Generating public participation is a key parliamentary function, and members of the

community will be encouraged to work in union with MPs to salvage the country's future.

Moses Mncwabe is a Research Officer who works for the HIV/AIDS unit of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) and is based at Parliament. The articles supplied by INSESSION's guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

Aids first for SA

The South African Aids Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) is conducting a Safety Trial of the first anti-HIV vaccine to be developed in South Africa. Launched by the Medical Research Council (MRC) in 1999, SAAVI must co-ordinate the research, development and testing of the SAAVI 102/HVTN 073, which is being conducted jointly with the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and part of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). SAAVI is testing two vaccines developed by UCT through joint funding with NIAID. The President of the MRC, Prof Anthony Mbewu, said the development of the vaccines took years of research and development, and involved scientists across South Africa and globally. "They are the first HIV test vaccines developed in Africa to make it into human clinical trials." SAAVI has offices in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria.



Nation-building and Money Bills

Presiding Officers see Parliament as 'activist' referee

by Abel Mputing

At the beginning of every financial year, amidst great expectations and anticipation, the Presiding Officers table before Parliament a detailed outline of Parliament's budget outlining how much money is earmarked for what, during the year. This year's budget votes of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mzinwa Mahlangu, were influenced by the fourth Parliament's stated intention of being an "activist" Parliament.

Mr Sisulu said the fourth Parliament was activist if this lay in redefining its role in terms of social mobilisation for development goals, to entrench democracy and to contribute towards nation-building. In his budget speech, the Speaker called for support for

President Zuma's activist Parliament, as outlined in the State of the Nation Address, and pointed out that an activist Parliament depended in part on the intent of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, which aimed to entrench Parliament as the accounting authority of the State: "This Act clearly reflects the level of maturity of our democracy. Parliament is now empowered to make adjustments to budgets of national departments, thereby providing an opportunity to ensure that public needs and concerns are prioritised in Government's financial allocations and programmes," he said.

The Act obliges Parliament to reframe the nature of its relationship with the Executive, as the custodians of service delivery. Above all, Parliament would need to develop the necessary

capacity needed by its Members and staff in order to exercise this task effectively. "The Act calls for the establishment of a 'budget office' in Parliament to support this function. Adequate financial and human resources will be required to achieve this," the Speaker said.

In his budget speech in the NCOP, Mr Mahlangu said the Financial Management of Parliament Act would, at last, afford Parliament the financial independence enjoyed by other organs of the state.

"The Act compels the Minister of Finance to consult with the Presiding Officers before finalizing the allocation for Parliament. Subjecting Parliament to the same processes of motivating its budget as government Departments, is inconsistent with the constitutional

principle of the separation of powers." Unlike its predecessor, the fourth Parliament will have to absorb a R143 million budget cut, which means that it will have to make do with R974.1 million. This year's Parliamentary Public Participation programmes: the *People's Assembly*, *Taking Parliament to the People*, *Youth Parliament* and *Women's Parliament* have all been cancelled.

Although this year's budget votes have narrowed down expectations, Parliament has pledged its commitment to adopting the Reports of the Independent Panel Assessment of Parliament, the Review of Chapter Nine Institutions and the unveiling of Parliament's Oversight model, which formed part of the third Parliament's legacy projects.

The Speaker said one of the outcomes of the involvement of the third Parliament in South Africa's self-assessment process, as part of the African Peer Review Mechanism, was the establishment of an Independent Panel for the Assessment of Parliament and the ad hoc Committee on the Review of Chapter Nine Institutions. Their recommendations would in due course be debated and considered for implementation.

Mr Mahlangu credited the third Parliament for overseeing the adoption of the Financial Management of Parliament Act, the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, and the Mandating Procedures of Provincial Legislatures Act, which would help to enhance Parliament's legislative mandate. Most of all, it would promote the vision of a People's Parliament. "The third Parliament has increased its public participation activities and implemented the Language Policy Project, thus elevating the status and use of our official languages in the processes of Parliament."

But the Chairperson sounded a word of caution. The effectiveness of the NCOP had to be improved, in line

with the recommendations of the 10th Anniversary Summit in 2007. "The NCOP needs renewed focus on the centrality of provinces, because the Constitution places provinces at its centre. We also need to reflect this in the way we conduct our business. It is against this background that we are keenly awaiting the discourse on the future shape of our intergovernmental system, including the future of provinces," Mr Mahlangu said.

The NCOP's flagship programme "*Taking Parliament to the People*" would also be reviewed in terms of its impact. The Chairperson unveiled plans for the NCOP's strategic framework. "The fourth Parliament presents us with an opportunity to craft and implement a new strategy to further the mandate of the NCOP. Provinces have a crucial role to play in this process. They must give us their priorities for the term," he said.

On the NCOP's role in promoting cooperative governance, he said it was strategically placed, at the cutting edge of co-operative government. The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs had invited the NCOP to be partners, and assist the three spheres of government on issues of co-operative governance, without compromising its oversight role. A focal point of the budget votes of both the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the NCOP is nation-building.

"Beyond the explicit Constitutional mandate of legislation and oversight, what would be the role of this Parliament in nation-building? I believe that Parliament represents a unique space to lead national dialogue, and create national consensus, on issues of national concern and interest. As the elected representatives of our people, we bring together a diversity of experiences, cultures and views that can be channeled toward formulating a common path and a better quality of life for all South Africans," Mr Sisulu said. 🇿🇦

Budget Allocation

This year's Parliamentary Budget is divided into five Programmes. Comprehensive details are available in the Appropriation Bill and the Estimate of National Expenditure of 2009.

Programme 1

Administration Programme

This programme serves to provide for strategic leadership, institutional policy, overall management, administration and corporate services to Parliament's Executive, management and staff. The allocation for Programme 1 amounts to R247.8 million.

Programme 2

Legislation and Oversight Programme

The purpose of this programme is to provide for procedural and administrative services for Parliament's core functions. In addition, the purpose of the programme is to monitor the passing of legislation and to oversee Executive action. The allocation for Programme 2 amounts to R187.8 million.

Programme 3

Public and International Participation Programme

The programme aims to project Parliament's role in public and international participation and provide support for the underlying activities. The allocation for Programme 3 amounts to R67.8 million.

Programme 4

Members' Facilities programme

This programme provides for telephone, travel, and other facilities for Members of Parliament in the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces. The allocation for Programme 4 is R212 million.

Programme 5

Associated Services programme

This programme serves to provide financial support to political parties represented in Parliament, and to its leaders and constituency offices. The allocation for Programme 5 is R258.7 million.

Indaba *for* Provinces

After a productive first term, Members of the fourth democratic Parliament returned to their constituencies until the session in August. INSESSION highlights some of the progress of the NCOP's first 100 days in office.

by Jackie Adriaans

Unlike its counterpart the National Assembly, the National Council of Provinces continued to exist well beyond the national elections in April. Its MPs only ceased to be members of the NCOP a day prior to the appointment of new members by the country's nine Provincial Legislatures. For the NCOP, 7 May marked the establishment of the fourth Parliament, when its new members were sworn in and a Chairperson was elected from among its ranks.

Following Mr Mninwa Mahlangu's re-election as the Chairperson he put the mandate of the NCOP in perspective: "As we start our journey in the fourth Parliament, our first task will be to establish from the provinces the broad issues they would like us to focus on during this term. This will inform our planning, which must respond to the challenges faced at this stage of our democracy."

The National Council of Provinces was established to consider provincial issues and ensure that provincial interests are represented at national level.

The Chairperson confirmed the priority focus areas of the NCOP's oversight role: "To make an impact, we need to understand and focus on our mandate especially in the areas of concurrent national and provincial competence, such as education, health, agriculture and rural development. Our approach to oversight should take account of these realities and the nature of this House," Mr Mahlangu said.

Two weeks after the first sitting of the NCOP the Presiding Officers and other office-bearers were elected. On 26 May, Ms Thandi Memela was elected (permanent) Deputy Chairperson and Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza was appointed (rotating) Deputy Chairperson.

At the same sitting, Ms Nosipho Ntwanambi, who served as NCOP Chief Whip towards the end of the third Parliament, was re-elected as Chief Whip. The two NCOP House Chairpersons elected are Mr Johannes Tau, Oversight and Institutional Support, and Ms Nosilivere Magadla, House Chairperson of Committees. By June,

members of the NCOP had been assigned to Committees, Chairpersons of Committees were appointed, and work had begun in earnest. A case in point was the response by the Select Committee on Economic Development to the deaths of illegal miners in the Free State. The Select Committee visited the Eland shaft of Harmony Gold Mine in Welkom in June to assess the situation and gauge how Parliament could best intervene.

In an effort to ensure that the members of the NCOP and representatives from provinces understand the mandate of the House, the Presiding Officers of the NCOP decided to host a workshop from 12 to 14 August, to plan and strategise on the way forward for the fourth Parliament. This will ensure that the voices of their representatives, namely the provinces, are factored into the strategic framework of the NCOP. By the time the workshop takes place, the NCOP will have reached its first 100 days in office.

The NCOP comprises 90 delegates, 54 permanent appointees named by political parties represented in Provincial Legislatures, and 36 special delegates selected by the provinces from members of the Provincial Legislatures, who are replaced as required by each province. The municipalities are represented in the NCOP through the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), although they have no voting rights.

The NCOP holds a unique position in South Africa. It was established with the adoption of the Constitution in 1996, bringing with it co-operative governance.

The National Council of Provinces is the second house of Parliament





Take five: MPs congratulate new Speaker of the National Assembly

Caring through sharing

As the fourth democratic Parliament takes on a life of its own, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu, shares his vision of a different role with INSESSION

by Abel Mputing

The Speaker expects the fourth Parliament to be the most accountable of all, and he would like to see Parliament hold government accountable for its election promises. Mr Max Sisulu says he detects a lot of enthusiasm among ordinary people who want to see change, and his role is to help government ensure that change becomes a reality.

Mr Sisulu would also like to see Parliament as the “model of pragmatism and efficiency,” outlined by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address. First on the agenda is the unfinished business of the third Parliament, as contained in its Legacy report.

“As the fourth Parliament, we inherit a good legacy. But there is a lot of unfinished business to attend to, such as the Independent Panel Assessment of Parliament and the Kader Asmal Report on Chapter Nine Institutions, which must still be tabled in Parliament. These reports indicate ongoing effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling the legislative mandate.”

Mr Sisulu thinks of Parliament as both activist and participatory but he wants to consolidate its oversight role. This means providing resources and training MPs to assess the impact of laws,

rather than just passing them. That’s where civil society comes in, especially the Parliamentary Democracy Offices in various provinces, says Mr Sisulu.

“We have established three Parliamentary Democracy Offices, because we really want to hear what people in far-flung villages have to say. We want to make it possible for people to come to Parliament and to influence its affairs, and to truly reflect the aspirations of our people,” he said.

Best legacy would be holding government accountable for its promises

Mr Sisulu said there was still a lot to learn about the complexities of being a Speaker of the National Assembly. He recently served as a member of the Independent Panel Assessment of Parliament, and has promised that the report won’t gather dust in the cupboards. He was still “finding his way around Parliament”, having been away for nearly ten years. During his previous

stint as an MP he was the Chief Whip of the ANC. Being the Speaker was clearly a new and much more demanding role, but having the support of all MPs and political parties has made it a lot easier. “The staff have been very supportive, and so far it has been a painless transition,” said Mr Sisulu.

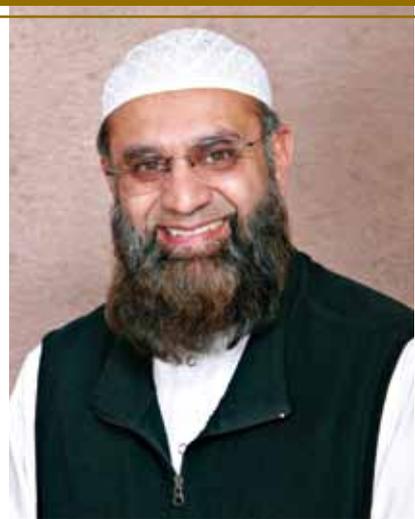
Ironically, he did not expect to be the Speaker, but has been heartened by the confidence shown in him: “I will serve Parliament in the best way I know.” He paid tribute to his predecessors, Dr Frene Ginwala, Ms Baleka Mbete and most recently Ms Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde.

“They were three powerful individuals who contributed a great deal to making Parliament what it is today: an institution of change, transformation and democracy. We owe them a debt of gratitude, and I am sure we will benefit from the work they have done.

“We all come to Parliament with a vision of making things better. We all want to ensure that Parliament is truly a democratic institution. We all want to make it an important institution for change. My mission is to ensure that this Parliament holds government accountable for all the promises it made to the electorate,” Mr Sisulu said.

Parliament disbands SABC Board

Interim appointees take charge



Mr Vadi Ismail, Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Communication

by Yoliswa Landu

The first hundred days of the fourth Parliament saw the Portfolio Committee on Communications recommending that the SABC be dissolved and a new interim board be appointed.

In June the Portfolio Committee reported to the House that it was instituting an inquiry into the SABC Board in terms of section 15A(1)(b) of the Broadcasting Act (No 4 of 1999), as amended by the Broadcasting Amendment Act (No 4 of 2009).

The law states that if the SABC Board fails in any or all of certain duties, or fails to discharge its fiduciary duties or adhere to its Charter, the National Assembly may, after due inquiry and by the adoption of a resolution of a majority of its members.

The SABC's mandate as a public broadcaster comes from the Charter which defines its objectives. The SABC Charter is laid down in the Broadcasting Act (as amended) and requires the SABC "to encourage the development of South African expression by providing, in the official languages, a wide range of programming that reflects South

African attitudes, opinions, ideas, values and artistic creativity."

The content of the programmes must offer a plurality of views and a variety of news, information and analysis from a South African point of view. The SABC must, in general, "advance the national and public interest and ...display local talent in educational and entertaining programmes."

At its earlier meeting, the Portfolio Committee noted media reports of the resignation of the majority of members of the SABC Board, including the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, which meant that the Board had become dysfunctional. Media reports also outlined a cash flow crisis at the SABC. The SABC reported a financial loss of R839 million for the year as a result of declining revenue and chronic overspending.

News reports headlined several protests by independent producers about not being paid by the SABC, and various legal battles between the former Group Chief Executive Officer, the acting CEO, and the Board.

A three-day inquiry followed to

determine whether the Board had met and could perform its fiduciary duties and this resulted in the Board being dissolved. During the inquiry, the Committee told the Board, and the public broadcaster's executive management, that they were extremely concerned by the lack of effective corporate governance at the SABC.

After the inquiry, the Committee found that the SABC was in a state of crisis, both financially and in terms of a breakdown in its corporate governance. There was a lack of common purpose among members of the Board and the executive management of the Corporation, and this impacted on the Board's ability to carry out its fiduciary duties. The tensions between certain executive managers and Board members had contributed to a virtual breakdown in the relationships between them, to the overall detriment of the SABC.

In addition the Committee found that the SABC Board did not enjoy a sound relationship with the Department of Communications as a shareholder, which was necessary for timeous reporting and proper accountability.

The Committee then called on the National Assembly to adopt its recommendation that the Board be dissolved, and an interim Board be appointed as soon as possible for a period of six months. The House adopted the Committee's report in which the Portfolio Committee on Communications recommended appointees for an interim Board.

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe has appointed eight members to an interim SABC Board, for a period of six months from July 2009

- Ms Irene Charnley: Chairperson
- Dr Philip Frederick Mtimkulu: Deputy Chairperson
- Ms Libby Lloyd
- Mr Leslie Kgopotso Sedibe
- Ms Suzanne Vos
- Mr Gab Mampone
- Mr Robin Nicholson
- Ms Charlotte Mampane

Ready, steady... for 2010 kick-off

World Cup could soften recession in South Africa



Mr Butana Komphela, Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Sport

by Abel Mputing

fIFA 2010 World Cup owes more to the Parliamentary Sports Committee than meets the eye. There is an array of other role players such as the Local Organizing Committee, but without the Parliamentary Sports Committee, the 2010 World Cup Special Measures Bill would not have been passed. The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Mr Butana Komphela, says the 2010 Bill ensures that the full requirements of the Organising Association Agreement between FIFA and SAFA will be met: "Without it, the Minister of Sport and Recreation would not have been entrusted with legislative powers to officially declare in the Government Gazette that certain stadiums and venues will be official hosts of the 2010 World Cup Tournament. Departments would not have had to proclaim their support or pledges, and nor would they have been obliged to fulfill their commitments."

The Sports Committee's adoption of the 2010 World Cup Special Measures Bill was not an end in itself: "Government has invested R50 billion of taxpayers money in this project, so the Committee has to exercise its oversight role, and it must create and propose conditions to ensure that the spin-offs of this investment are not seen to be benefiting the elite, but also the people in the street who are selling T-shirts, flags, drinks and peanuts. Most of all, our interest is to ensure that government infrastructure targets and promises made to FIFA are met and that our Committee has its finger

on the pulse of these developments," Mr Komphela said. In time these developments would add significantly to the infrastructure of Southern Africa, but the 2010 World Cup could also help soften the impact of recession. "Recession will obviously have an impact on us, but it won't be as much as it would have been if we had not invested in the 2010 infrastructure development. However, our investment in infrastructure was not informed by 2010. Our development agenda was already in full swing."

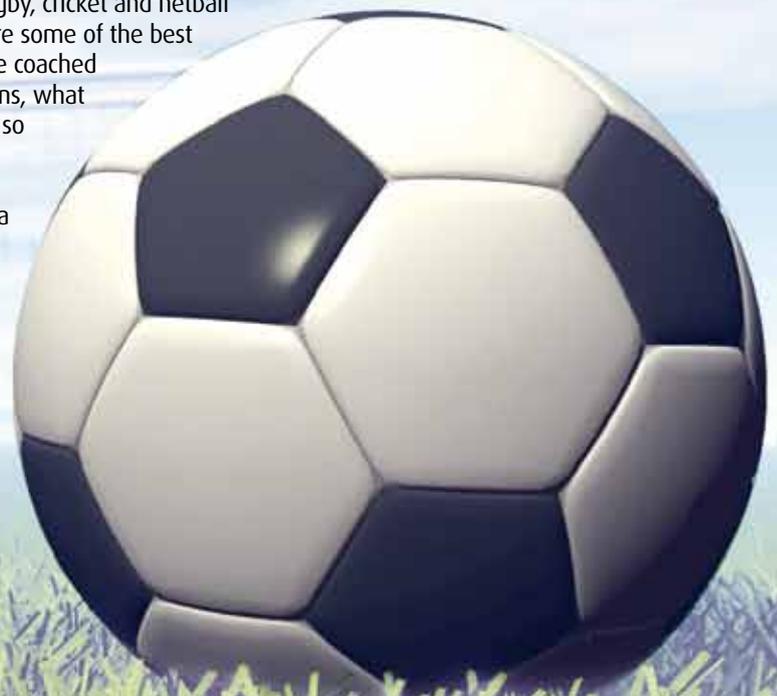
But Mr Komphela also has some criticism, and although Bafana Bafana was praised for its impressive run at the Confederation Cup, he remains unimpressed.

"According to Section 6 Subsection 3 of the Sports Act if you employ a foreign coach you must give us empirical evidence that out of 45 million people in this country nobody has the requisite skills and capabilities to coach our national team. I still believe that if the national rugby, cricket and netball teams which are some of the best in the world are coached by South Africans, what makes football so different?

"Indeed, Bafana Bafana has improved in leaps and bounds. But I am one person who won't

patronize them. Bafana Bafana can't hold people of this country to ransom and keep on saying 'we are on a learning curve'. Fifteen years down the line we can't still be on a learning curve. I hope in the remaining twelve months we will have a stable and cohesive team, driven by determination, a team that won't be knocked out in the group stages."

Of the organizational lessons learnt from the Confederations Cup he said the Local Organizing Committee needed to fully orientate its marshals to protocol, and the seating procedures of the host stadiums. "That is something that will need a constant rehearsal. We also suggested to FIFA that national anthems should not be sung at national football games if the anthem was shortened. It should be sung in full, or not at all, because its national anthem is the pride of any nation. FIFA has since agreed that all national anthems must be sung in full," Mr Komphela said.





Through the lens

FIRST 100 DAYS OF PARLIAMENT



ABOVE: (From left to right) Ms Ruth Archibald, High Commissioner of Canada to South Africa, Mr Max Sisulu, Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Christopher Brown, Consul-General of Canada and Ms Mildred Oliphant, House Chairperson of the National Assembly

BOTTOM LEFT: New Members of Parliament taking the Oath at the first sitting of the National Council of Provinces

BOTTOM RIGHT: Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, Mr Raila Odinga, signs the Distinguished Visitors' Book of Parliament while the Speaker of the National Assembly (left of Prime Minister), the High Commissioner of Kenya to South Africa, Mr Thomas Amolo (right of Prime Minister) and Dr Alexander Stander, Head of Protocol (behind), look on





ABOVE: Youths join the Presiding Officers of Parliament after Youth Summit on 16 June

BELOW LEFT: Speaker of House of Representatives of Nigeria, Ms Oladimeji Sabur Bankole (centre) with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, during her courtesy visit to Parliament

BELOW RIGHT: Speaker of National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu (2nd from left) inducts new members of Parliament, Ms Nhlanhla Ngcobo (to his left), and (right) Ms Dorothy Chiloane, Ms Patricia Adams and Ms Tshiwela Lishivha

BOTTOM: Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mzinwa Mahlangu inducts Mr Robert Alfred (taking Oath) while his wife looks on



Q & A



Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Working for a grassroots Parliament

Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo assumed the reigns of Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly on 6 May 2009. INSESSION's Jackie Adriaans finds out how she is doing

Are you settling into your position as a Presiding Officer?

I have been a Member of Parliament since 2008 but I was only recently elected to my current position. One has to acclimatise and adapt to the system of Parliament. When you take on a new job, numerous consultations and briefings are necessary to help you get a more comprehensive grasp of what it entails. My diary is packed, so I can't take time off for "everyday" activities. But the people at Parliament are warm, welcoming and helpful. The parliamentary staff are committed and work hard. Colleagues who preceded me are supportive, so the transition has not been difficult.

What is your understanding of your new role?

My role (officially, I'm the Deputy Speaker in the Office of the Speaker) is determined in line with legislation and the rules of Parliament. If we're talking about things like making sure this fourth Parliament is vibrant, ensuring that there are healthy debates and strengthening our oversight role, I understand that to be my role. In addition, the Speaker has put me in charge of certain duties like facilities and training, the implementation of Parliament's Language Policy, and seeing to the Parliamentary villages and the Members' Medical Aid. As his Deputy, I must make sure that the Office of the Speaker, who is the head of the National Assembly, functions effectively.

What experience do you bring to the position?

I have served in various capacities at different levels of government, starting from local government. This has equipped me for many things, including transformation of the institution itself. I brought together the statutory and non-statutory parties in local government negotiations in 1996, and occupied various positions until I was elected Mayor of the City of Cape Town in 1998, and again in 2000. I have also worked in the business sector and for non-governmental organizations, so I bring experience of having interacted with external stakeholders.

What are the issues you feel passionate about?

A broad range of issues. For example, one key area is chapter 9 Institutions, because these institutions were established to support democracy and change the lives of people, in particular the lives of women. I also want to make sure that people understand the concept and meaning of a people's Parliament: What does it actually refer to? Do people understand that this is their Parliament and how do they relate the debates here to their own lives? I hope we can achieve a more vibrant Parliament, and convey the voice of the community, through constituencies. Every Member across party lines has his/her own constituency. Parliament needs a platform for these voices to be heard.

What are your immediate priorities?

To translate my functions into programmes with clear time frames, and to identify and prioritise my

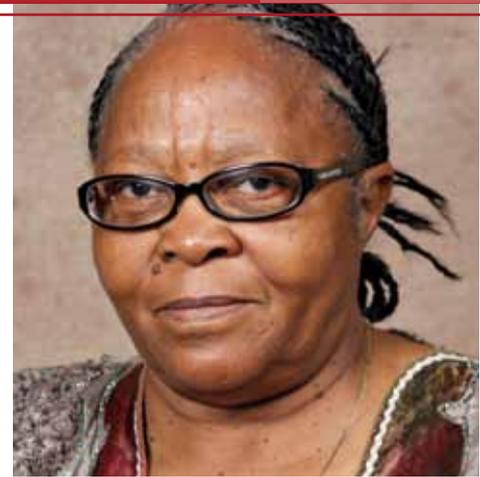
outputs on an annual basis, over the five-year term of Parliament. This process will allow me to keep a record and reflect on what I have accomplished. I will not only do this for myself, but so that others can see these outputs.

Why is the oversight function of the National Assembly important?

Oversight is critical in relation to the roles played by the different arms of the State. The National Assembly must hold government accountable, including members of the Executive, who are after all elected to Parliament for this purpose. There is no institution, other than Parliament, that can make sure that the government does what it's supposed to do. There may have been a slightly antagonistic relationship between Parliament and the Executive previously. They're meant to cooperate on the firm understanding that proper processes are followed and timely programmes implemented by the Executive. Parliament needs a vehicle that checks its oversight role over the Executive, as well as oversight of Parliament itself.

As the Parliament of the people, we must hold government accountable so that when they present their work, we are able to inform the wider community about the legislation being that is being processed, and what opportunities there are for public participation. It is important for Parliament to monitor legislation because it impacts on the lives of people, especially at grassroots level. 🌱

Q & A



Ms Thandi Memela, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces

Securing the weak

INSESSION's Jackie Adriaans interviews the new Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Memela, about a better deal for women and children.

Your new role remains critical in shaping Parliament. What do you understand it to include?

Our duty is to make the institution more relevant to the current problems and prospects of our people. Being responsive to these issues, and accountable to the people whose votes put us where we are, means being results-oriented. Through its interface with the provincial and local spheres of government, the Council is uniquely placed to interact directly with individual citizens, place their concerns on the national agenda and make sure that we respond to them.

You have worked with communities in social development projects, in the Presidential development nodal areas. How can this help the Institution?

As a Presiding Officer in the NCOP, I want to evaluate past programmes and see if they should be continued and possibly improved, especially those relating to the interface between the NCOP and the public. It is important to listen to the issues raised, commit the government to respond to them, and then ensure that we report back directly to the people who raised the issues.

I want to use the time allocated by the NCOP to put questions to members of the Executive, to make sure that the Executive arm of government remains accountable to the people of South Africa. The issues raised by people during our outreach programmes, should actually be addressed in

debates in Parliament. As part of our oversight agenda we must also find or strengthen mechanisms for members to use the constituency period effectively to gather information from their constituents on issues that are not being effectively addressed at the provincial and local levels. The long experience I bring in community development at local government level gives me a deep-seated understanding of the challenges that confront communities, and I think qualifies me to contribute to the development and implementation of national policy.

What are the issues you feel passionate about?

I want to prick the national conscience on some subjects. I am most passionate about improving the quality of life of women and children and ensuring their safety. South Africa does not have a good record with regard to its women and children. Not a single day passes without media reports of a missing child, or a woman being raped or killed. The brunt of poverty is borne by women and children. A new phenomenon has developed, of children in their early teens who become heads of households, because their parents have passed away. Also, when teenage girls become mothers, it impacts on their education and they increase the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. These are the issues I want to pursue, using current policies or improving on them where weaknesses exist. My own constituency work seeks to champion the cause of these vulnerable groups.

What are your immediate priorities?

My immediate priority is to get the new Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities off the ground and to present its short, medium and long-term plans to the NCOP, to ensure that social ills are adequately addressed. I intend to exercise my oversight responsibilities in this area of the national agenda to the fullest extent.

Why is the oversight role of the NCOP so important to you?

The NCOP is made up of provincial representatives who obtain their mandates regularly from their homebases, the provinces. Through this mandating process, issues of failure of national policy or implementation are expressed at national level. The NCOP has a critical role to play in overseeing national policy development and its implementation. It must urgently bring any failures in service delivery to the Executive's attention.

I think the NCOP is uniquely placed to play a vibrant oversight role because of its eyes and ears in the provinces, and the ways in which it can access local government. The participation of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) provides the NCOP with up-to-date reports on the status of service delivery, and if service delivery fails, how this impacts on the lives of people, especially the poorest people. This contribution must be strengthened, so that the oversight agenda of the NCOP and its Committees are influenced by current experiences and it becomes fully relevant in implementing national policy.

Mining deaths prompt new laws

MPs take on illegal deep-level mining



by Sakhile Mokoena

The South African economy is losing billions of Rands in revenue and tax to illegal miners (called “Zama-Zamas”) who extract gold from current and disused mining operations in the Free State and on the Reef. Following the deaths of 86 illegal miners in the Eland Shaft at Harmony Gold, a disused Welkom mine, Parliament’s Select Committee on Economic Development went on an oversight visit to the Free State mine to learn more about a fresh wave of organised crime that is seriously affecting the mining industry.

The Select Committee received disturbing reports about the extent of dealings in stolen gold by the illegal miners. Already big business in the Free State, illegal mining has rapidly spread to mining towns in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. Earlier this year, about 35 illegal miners died in an abandoned gold mine in Barberton, Mpumalanga, while combing for gold remains in the historical mines near the town. Another town targeted by the “Zama Zamas” is Carletonville in Gauteng, although there have not been any reported tragedies from there to date.

Members of the Committee agreed that legislation would make it easier for law enforcers to police closed mines as it would give a clear definition of a disused mine, and who was responsible for controlling access to it. The Chairperson of the Select Committee, Mr Freddie

Adams, says lack of clear legislation on illegal mining and closed mines makes it difficult to combat the practice. Under the current laws the illegal miners can only be charged with trespassing if and when they are arrested, and they pay the fines with a smile.

“It’s very trying, given the seriousness of the practice,” said Mr Adams.

The Committee has proposed that mining laws be reviewed to find ways to end a practice that is reportedly costing the industry over R10 billion each year. Not only does illegal gold mining affect the economy, local mining communities who refuse to collude with the Zama-Zamas are under constant threat, and there have been reports of illegal immigrants being recruited from neighbouring countries for the dirtiest jobs underground. They are paid peanuts and are the first to get caught during raids, while their shifty employers scatter with the profits.

Mineworkers and their families have been threatened with death because they refuse to assist, for example by lending their access cards to the Zama-Zamas, or providing uniforms and smuggle mining equipment to them. Illegal miners can live and “work” underground for between six and eight months, without ever surfacing. They create an underground economy where a loaf of bread can sell for anything from R40 to R100 and a packet of cigarettes

for R100, or more. Amarula liqueur sells for up to R1800 a bottle because of a belief that it cures TB.

Prostitutes are also smuggled in for the subterranean “workforce”, and schoolgirls have been forced into prostitution down below. To get at the gold seams, the illegal miners have also been targeting local primary schools for young boys and girls. “Some entry points to these disused mines are too small for adults, and small children are used,” Mr Adams said. The Zama-Zamas were mostly former miners with experience in extracting and refining ore, and they were often heavily armed: “There have been gun battles underground with mine police, and incidents in which explosives were set off,” he said. The illegal workers conspire with mine security officials and current miners to supply explosives to them, at a price.

The Minister of Mineral Resources, Ms Susan Shabangu, has appointed a task team to investigate illegal mining and trace its links to the crime world outside. The task team includes members of the South African Police Service, the National Union of Mineworkers and mine management. At public hearings on illegal mining attended by the South African Chamber of Mines, mining companies, unions and civil society, a call for tougher laws was supported by the trade unions, Solidarity and the National Union of Mineworkers.



Early morning rush: SA commuters hang on

Backtracking on transport

Department told to improve service delivery to poor

by Kanyisa Ndyondya

Poor people in previously disadvantaged communities continue to pay a premium for transport. That's why Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Transport says it is disappointed at the slow pace of development in the South African transport sector and has called on the national Department to review its programme.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport, Ms Ruth Bhengu says there are children who risk drowning when crossing rivers to get to school, because of poor road infrastructure. In addition, most rural communities in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Eastern and Western Cape struggle to access clinics, schools, and shopping centres: "Fifteen years into democracy the cost of public transport is still too high and commuters spend long hours waiting in queues, and travelling to and from work. This is not a desirable situation," she said.

The Portfolio Committee monitors and oversees the performance of the Department of Transport, and according to Ms Bhengu must ensure that the country's transportation infrastructure is up to scratch by 2010. She told Parliament during the debate on the Transport Budget vote that the lack of a clear road maintenance plan had led to some of the goals of the Masakhane Campaign being deferred. The campaign was launched by former President Nelson Mandela, to improve the quality of life of all South Africans.

"President Mandela highlighted the issue of class divisions in our society, and services that were provided according to class. These services must be maintained by the government to prevent them from degrading, while the services for township and peri-urban communities are inadequate, and they will need upgrading and improvement. There are rural and farm communities with no services at

all. Government will need to provide the wherewithal," Ms Bhengu said. However, the Committee was confident that with the approach of the new government on service delivery, the transportation problems could be solved. It believed that there was progress on the Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system: "We agree with the approach of the Minister of Transport in engaging with the taxi industry to raise issues from the government side and allow the taxi industry to raise their concerns with Government. However, we want to point out that Government is responsible for providing transport-related services to the citizens of South Africa. The needs of commuters are equally important. Therefore, civil society should join the National Joint Working Committee (NJWC), so that it can represent the views of commuters. The discussions of the NJWC should address all issues relating to public transport, and the role therein of the taxi Industry," Ms Bhengu said.

Anything to declare?



The disclosure of what Members of Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures own, sparks a great deal of public and business interest. The Joint Committee on Ethics and Members Interests and the Registrar of Members' Interests Office must ensure that accountability prevails.

by Jackie Adriaans

In 1996 Parliament adopted a Code of Conduct governing the financial interests of Members of Parliament, a Code that forms part of Parliament's rules. This bold step introduced a new level of transparency and accountability and enabled the public to scrutinize the assets of elected national representatives.

The Code of Conduct for MPs is implemented by the Joint Committee on Ethics and Members Interests. It is their job to ensure that there is public disclosure of every MP's financial interests, so as to prevent a conflict of interest. This means that a Member's personal financial affairs cannot supersede the public interest. Public representatives must make decisions entirely in the public's interest, and should not receive any improper benefit, profit or advantage from their decisions.

The Registrar of Members Interests, Ms Fazela Mahomed, whose office was established to support the work of the Committee by registering the disclosures submitted by MPs, says it is all about the best interests of the public. "People have a right to know in what areas MPs have business dealings. They also have a right to know who is providing gifts and benefits to them. This ensures transparency and accountability to the public," she said.

In terms of the Code of Conduct, MPs, their spouses and minor children have to submit on an annual basis, details of all shares, financial interests, any external remuneration, directorships

or partnerships in companies, any consultancies, gifts, hospitality, benefits and sponsorships received. Members also have to disclose if their travel is paid for by any external source. All property owned or purchased must be disclosed, as well as any pension received. Should a conflict of interests arise, that is, if MPs are liable to benefit from a decision, they cannot participate in making that decision. This means that they have to withdraw from the proceedings and inform the Committee in writing of their interest. In the event of a complaint, the registrar conducts preliminary investigations and reports the findings directly to the Committee.

To preserve Parliament's commitment to principles of good governance, an MP must declare any gift which exceeds R1500 in value, and may not keep any gift which creates a conflict of interest. Ministers need special permission from the President to accept any gift in excess of R1000. Provincial Legislatures all have arrangements along the same lines as Parliament, and in addition, Gauteng and Limpopo have adopted a Code of Ethical Conduct.

According to Ms Mahomed, "Parliament's rules, which are mainly related to disclosure, are in line with international standards. The previous Committee was reviewing the ethics rules and their revised draft may be considered by the next Committee. When a new Committee is established it will consider changes and amendments."

There are, however, certain parts of the register that are not open to the public. Information related to a Member of Parliament's remuneration is confidential. For example, if an MP is a company director, the company's name and the details of the business are made public, but the salary remains confidential. Specific details of income of an MP's spouse and/or children are also private.

Non-compliance is considered a breach of the Joint Rules of Parliament and is investigated. The Joint Committee requests the relevant information from the Member, failing which it will consider the facts, or hold a hearing when those facts are in dispute. Should the Joint Committee rule that an MP has not complied it will decide on a suitable penalty, based on the circumstances.

It is the responsibility of the Registrar to prepare the register. Once the forms have been completed and checked, the register is tabled before the Joint Committee for consideration. As soon as the register has been adopted by the Joint Committee, in this case probably after Parliament's July recess period, it is made public. The new Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Ethics and Members Interests is expected to be appointed soon. 🌐

For information about the availability of the Register, contact the office of the Registrar on (021) 403-2476/2477 or e-mail fmahomed@parliament.gov.za

Library

will go online for public

Going modern but preserving heritage

by Jackie Adriaans



Going online: The Library's Hansard dates back to 1857

Official documents more than a century old are being made available to Members of Parliament as a means of further enhancing library and information support to MPs, and the service will later be rolled out to the public domain. These are some of the changes envisaged by the Library of Parliament to ensure that while Parliament preserves its heritage, the Library is also able to meet the demands of the fourth Parliament. As one of only four legal deposit libraries in the country, Parliament's library is entitled to claim a copy of every South African publication, in printed or electronic form.

"The library also has official publications like Hansard and Committee reports, which contain exclusive information that would not normally be available to the public," says Library and Information Unit Manager, Mr Albert Ntunja.

"We have a huge collection of physical material and as a result we have been battling to find space to house the materials. One of the ways of overcoming that problem is to digitise the material to make it available online."

A further motivation for digitisation would be to preserve the information. Parliament keeps an official record of meetings of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces through Hansard. The library has Hansard copies, done on a typewriter, that date back to when Parliament was first established in 1857. The

paper has become so brittle with age that it is almost impossible to handle. Under the Heritage Act, any material 50 years and over is supposed to be preserved, making the material a priority for digitisation.

Digitising the information would make historical records available online to a wider audience, including the public, researchers and future generations. It would also bring the library on par with its counterparts in Britain, the US and other European countries where this material is available online. Parliament was in the process of purchasing a digital scanner. He emphasised that the digitisation the library had in mind was broader than just the storage of information.

"We are talking about digitisation in terms of access to information. That makes a difference because we use the information in the library. We do not just store it."

Mr Ntunja explained that Parliamentary material did not fall within the Copyright Act because it was public information. "Books outside official publications, like the Mendelssohn Collection, also fall outside the provisions of the Act," he said. The Mendelssohn library of Africana is a valuable collection of books, pamphlets, maps, paintings and drawings donated to the library by Sidney Mendelssohn, a mining magnate from Kimberley with a keen interest in collecting Africana.

The main role of Parliament's library

is to provide information, both proactive and reactive, to MPs. The information is provided for oversight and legislative purposes, to enable MPs to fulfil their mandate.

When it began in the 1850s the library was a place to relax and read. Among the important developments since then have been the introduction of modern technology and the evolution of the role of traditional librarian, into that of a subject specialist librarian, Mr Ntunja said.

"There has been a paradigm shift. Most librarians need to be proactive in terms of the information that is provided to assist Members of Parliament. We also had to consider whether the library itself, including the furniture and resources, was consistent with this mind shift. At the same time we had to be mindful that any changes, such as the introduction of computers, should not conflict with the preservation of the cultural heritage of the National Council of Provinces building that the library is situated in."

At present, MPs and Parliamentary staff are able to access some of the library's resources online, including full-text journals and books, without physically having to visit the library. The library plans to roll out a user-education programme to boost this initiative. An MP or staff member can also access information outside the Parliamentary precinct.

For more information on the Library of Parliament, visit www.parliament.gov.za



Long route: Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of Inkatha Freedom Party, who served in the Government of National Unity

Parties in Parliament

*This is the second in a series of articles taken from the publication **Parliament Since 1994**, published by the Parliament of South Africa. We feature extracts from Chapter 4, **Political Parties in Parliament**.*

Political parties can profoundly influence the character of Parliament. Since 1994, democratically elected parties have helped shape the South African Parliament. In the period since the country's April 1994 election, there has been a fundamental change in the political landscape. While the African National Congress has retained and increased its majority in both houses of Parliament, the past years have seen the official Opposition change from the now-defunct National Party to the new-style Democratic Alliance, as well as the formation of new parties and measures to facilitate the movement of members between political parties, during designated periods of floor-crossing. In response to changes in the country,

parties have also changed their names, and floor-crossing has been ended.

Spotlight on parliamentary leadership

In 1994, seven political parties won seats in Parliament. The 1999 election saw this number grow to 13, and after floor-crossing in 2003, to 17 political parties. In the 2004 election 12 parties were returned to Parliament, which grew to 16 after floor-crossing saw the creation of four new parties. In the 2009 elections, 13 parties were returned to Parliament with the ANC winning 264 seats, the Democratic Alliance 67 seats to become the official Opposition, and the newcomer party, Congress of the People, 30 seats to take third place.

The legislature has also been affected by, and responded to, the nature of the Executive, which since 1994 has included parties other than the majority party. In 1994, on the basis

of the interim Constitution, parties in Parliament which received more than five percent of the vote were entitled to proportional representation within the Cabinet. The creation of the Government of National Unity to include multiparty representation in the Executive arm of government, was an important political agreement leading to South Africa's successful political transition.

The issue of minority rights had been a contentious issue around the negotiating table, but the agreement that parties achieving more than five percent of electoral support in the 1994 election would be proportionally represented in the Cabinet, helped to end the deadlock in negotiations. Agreement was reached on the position of Executive Deputy President: the interim Constitution provided that every party with at least 80 seats in the National Assembly would be entitled to designate an Executive Deputy President from among its members. In 1994 this entitled the National Party, with 82 seats in the

“Representation in the Pan-African Parliament was fiercely disputed”

National Assembly, to nominate the NP Leader, F W de Klerk, to one of the positions of Executive Deputy President, and he was duly appointed by President Nelson Mandela. Thabo Mbeki of the ANC was appointed as the other Executive Deputy President. The Cabinet included the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and several members of the IFP.

Like the interim Constitution, the Government of National Unity was a temporary arrangement. The new Constitution did not make provision for formal power-sharing within the Executive, and it allowed the President a free hand in choosing members of the Cabinet. As it happened, the National Party, the ANC's largest partner in the Government of National Unity, opted to withdraw from this arrangement shortly after the adoption of the new Constitution. Ms Sheila Camerer, then a member of the National Party, recalls that there was a lot of debate within the party when FW de Klerk announced his decision to withdraw from the Government of National Unity, “because it really should have run its course: he went to the electorate on that, and that was the mandate.”

Along with Messrs Leon Wessels, Roelf Meyer, Chris Fisser, Pik Botha and others, Ms Camerer argued that the NP should have remained within the Government of National Unity.

An opposing route

The South African Parliament is characterized by a large majority party and several smaller parties. Former Speaker Dr Frene Ginwala says that while the position of Leader of the Opposition is constitutionally recognized, it doesn't mean that the leader of the largest opposition party should have special status in relation to other parties.

One of the bones of contention in the

period 1994 to 1999 centred on the nature of a Government of National Unity, compared with that of a coalition government: “We felt that in the GNU members of opposition parties served in the Executive at the invitation of the President, but that those, such as the IFP, essentially remained in the opposition benches.”

After the first democratic election in South Africa in 1994, the National Party was the largest opposition party, thus it was the official Opposition. The 1999 elections saw the Democratic Party become the largest opposition party, followed in 2004 by its successor, the Democratic Alliance (DA).

The DA regarded those parties with representatives in the Government of National Unity (GNU) of 1994, as part of the government. When members of the opposition were elected to Committees, or appointed to delegations, disputes arose over who was in fact ‘opposition’.

One of the fiercest debates was around South African representation in the Pan-African Parliament.

“We were the only Parliament which failed to send the official Opposition as one of the representatives to the Pan African Parliament,” said Tony Leon. “Of course, the ANC chose its representatives and the others were chosen from among the opposition parties. If you mentioned that to people like the British High Commissioner, they couldn't believe it.”

Dr Ginwala recalled the incident, and said there was “no automatic right for DA to be included (because) the delegation only had to be ‘broadly representative’ of Parliament”. The decision about who was included as the opposition representatives was left up to the opposition parties to decide for themselves. “I told them to sort it out and come to me with the required number of names, otherwise nominations would be done by the House and ultimately the majority party would decide.”

Leon believed that after 2004 the ANC and Parliament deliberately undermined the status of the official opposition parties, some of whom he believed were broadly in agreement



Athol Trollip is the new Parliamentary leader of the Democratic Alliance

with the ANC in any event, at the expense of the largest minority party.

“There was a desperate keenness to divide and rule. The DA was the official Opposition by virtue of it being the second largest party. It was twice as large as the next opposition party – 50% of the opposition seats were those of the DA and the other 50% were scattered among 12 other parties. There was very little recognition of the fact that we were the second largest party or that there was an official Opposition.”

He said this divide-and-rule tactic played itself out in things like speaking time and question time, where smaller parties were given additional speaking time in debates and the governing party used question time to shout down the opposition.

“Parliament did not discuss the issues of the day – that was not where the debate happened. I can say it didn’t worry me. And I care about democracy.”

Small can be big

An important feature of the South African Parliament is that even those political parties that draw a relatively small amount of voter support during an election can qualify for a seat in Parliament. With a threshold of 0.25% of the national poll, each democratic Parliament since the first (1994-1999), has included a number of small parties.

In 1994, the smallest party to make it to Parliament was the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), but that did not stop its leaders, Rev Kenneth Meshoe and Mr Louis Green from being vocal participants in the constitution-making process, and they eventually voted against the adoption of the Constitution in 1996.

In the 1999 election, three one-member parties were returned to Parliament: the Afrikaner



Independent Democrat leader, Ms Patricia de Lille

Eenheidsbeweging, the Minority Front and the Azanian People’s Organization.

In spite of their size, many of Parliament’s smallest parties have been able to use the many platforms provided by Parliament to advance their causes and ideas. In the first Parliament, despite only having seven members, the Democratic Party were active participants in the Constitutional and legislative processes, with negotiators from across the political spectrum always ready to listen to the sober, analytical contributions of veteran parliamentarian Mr Colin Eglin. In 1999 the Democratic Party was returned with 38 representatives and the party was no longer small, in parliamentary terms. The three-member Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania was at the time closely

associated with Patricia de Lille, later to become the leader of the Independent Democrats. Her impassioned speeches in plenary sessions of the National Assembly drew considerable media attention.

Parliament’s smaller parties are still a heterogeneous group, often disagreeing vocally with one another. Procedurally, small parties have less speaking time in parliamentary debates, although the situation is often weighted slightly in their favour. Parties are also allocated staff allowances and other budgets in proportion to their size. Parties with more than eight members qualify to elect a Whip, and this means additional resources to help the incumbents with all the extra things they have to do.



Opposition parties occupy seats to the left of the Speaker's Chair.

An inclusive approach

Although South Africa's Parliament was based fundamentally on the Westminster approach system, deliberate steps have been taken to depart from this tradition, one of which was after the 1994 election, at the behest of the first Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Frene Ginwala.

"I was very conscious at the first sitting of the new Parliament that television cameras were there and the nation was watching. We forget now, but some of the political parties came into the process just weeks before the elections, and not everyone had bought into the settlement we had negotiated. Parliament was an expression of the electorate, but it had to be more than that, to reflect its inclusive nature."

Stretching to the right of the Speaker was the majority party, the ANC, with 252 of the 400 seats.

To the left of the Speaker was the National Party, the official Opposition

party. Its nearly four million votes gave it 82 seats, followed by the Inkatha Freedom Party with more than two million votes, which gave it 43 seats in the National Assembly. Both parties were automatically entitled to front benches. However, some of the larger minority parties, like the Freedom Front (FF) with nine seats, and the Democratic Party (DP) with seven, were in danger of being pushed to the rear.

"I was concerned that the majority party (with more than 12 million votes) would have all the front benches and that TV viewers would struggle to see their leaders. So I approached the ANC Chief Whip and they agreed to give up front benches so that Constand Viljoen (FF), Tony Leon (DP) and others could have them. It may not have meant a lot, but I appreciated it. The principle of larger minority parties having front benches was a big step away, at least physically, from the Westminster system"

South Africa's founders were divided in the early 1990s on the desirability of directly elected Members of Parliament. They were guided by Constitutional Principle VIII, which stated that the electoral system should result in general in proportional representation (rather than the first-past-the-post approach of direct elections) in selecting a system which more accurately reflected party support. The negotiators also discussed floor-crossing, which is more difficult under the proportional representation (PR) system. If MPs are accountable to a political party rather than a constituency, it curtails their individual right to change parties.

Initially floor-crossing was allowed, and it was useful in reflecting changes in political opinion and

mood. Later, the system became discredited, especially when it was used out of context or in the scramble for political advantage, in which case it tended to erode the credibility of legislative and representative political institutions. Eventually, Parliament passed constitutional amendments to ban the floor-crossing of Members of Parliament and Ward Councillors. The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) brought an end to floor-crossing six years after measures allowing politicians to swap allegiance without losing their seats were promulgated. The NCOP unanimously passed three Bills: the Constitution 14th and 15th Amendment Bills, and the General Laws Amendment Bills, that scrapped floor-crossing at all levels of government. Since floor-crossing was first introduced in 2002, 1417 politicians had crossed the floor: 55 Members of Parliament, 60 Members of Provincial Legislatures and 1302 local government councillors.

The book can be obtained from Parliament: please contact INSESSION 🇿🇦





World Event: Dr Mathole Motshekga, ANC Chief Whip and Mr Paul Mashatile, Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, at the launch of Mandela Day in Parliament

from the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities. They complained about a range of issues ranging from lack of sign-language interpreters in government service delivery centres like police stations and Home Affairs offices, to inequality and too few educational opportunities for the deaf. Ms Pettersen-Maduna promised to take their concerns to the Portfolio Committee for discussion.

South Africans joined people across the world in dedicating 67 minutes of their time on 18 July, Nelson Mandela's birthday, to charity work or good deeds in the community. The 67 minutes suggested by the organisers refers to the 67 years our first democratic President spent in public life making the world a kinder, better place.

"On this occasion (Mandela Day) we celebrate the 67 years that he has given of his life to building a better South Africa and a better world," said Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe during a joint sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces to debate Mandela Day. Mr Motlanthe and other Members of Parliament referred to the crucial part Mandela played in achieving a peaceful transition from the apartheid state to a democratic South Africa.

"Madiba has made the world a better place, let us emulate his confidence, his humility, his determination, his strength and his vision", the Deputy President said.

Helping out others was a reminder that working together made a new world possible. "It is a way of promoting the spirit of helping others even when we face our own challenges", he said.

Members of Parliament agreed that the idea of 67 minutes of charitable contribution to communities on Madiba's birthday could reach a critical mass, which would generate a new consciousness of working for the improvement of human life.

67 minutes a world event

Parliament gives five hours for Mandela Day

by Sakhile Mokoena

As part of the Mandela Day commemoration, Parliament dedicated over five hours to host displaced children and people with disabilities, far more than the 67 minutes suggested by the organisers.

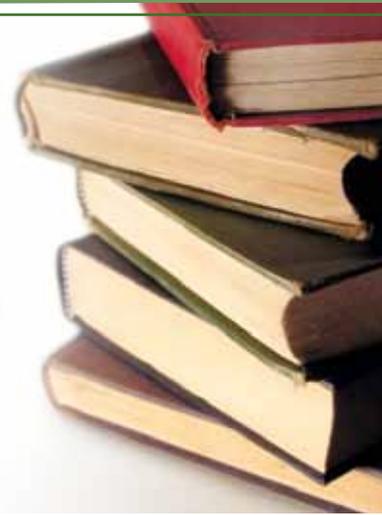
The Secretary to Parliament, Mr Zingile Dingani, handed over groceries and clothes donated by Parliament and staff, to Vredelus House Place of Safety. Mr Dingani said Parliament was responding to the international call to celebrate the loyal and selfless contribution to

humanity of Nelson Mandela.

"This is an opportunity to showcase commitment to Ubuntu, where we can and we should defend the defenceless, and be a voice of the voiceless – humanity is about love," said Mr Dingani.

Though the occasion was meant to be a celebration of Mandela's 91st birthday, deaf people from the Cape Town Deaf Community, saw an opportunity to raise their concerns to Ms Pearl Pettersen-Maduna, a Member of Parliament

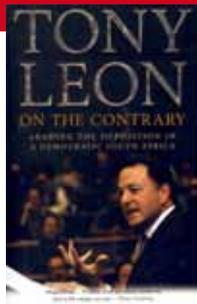
books you should be reading



Even though they faced each other directly in the National Assembly for several years, Thabo Mbeki and Tony Leon were poles apart to the end. We present reviews of *On the Contrary* the memoirs of former leader of the official Opposition, Tony Leon, and the biography of former President Thabo Mbeki, *The Dream Deferred*, by Mark Gevisser.

On the Contrary

Title: *On the Contrary*
Author: Tony Leon
ISBN: 978186842259
Publisher: Jonathan Ball Publishers
780pp



As difficult to pigeon-hole as the man himself, part memoir, part biography, part political polemic, *On the Contrary* is a timely contribution to South Africa's "history in the making." Controversial, principled, plain-spoken: Tony Leon is all that and more. Destined from early life as the son of a High Court Judge to make a major impact as an ironclad liberal, he has left the political arena strewn with defeated adversaries and old-style conservatives content to let human rights slip for the sake of an easy life. Without fear or favour, he also confronted the new elite wherever they exceeded the bounds of probity. In fine prose, *On the Contrary* records an adventure in ideas that involves vivid, real people: his friends, colleagues and remorseless opponents alike. Many are famous names. Readers will be startled at Leon's freshness of approach and grasp of the intricate realities and compromises that go into the making of a politician and into the leadership of a political party. Fresh light is cast on a half-century of men and women who have shaped modern South Africa, ranging from dour Nationalists to abrasive personalities of the liberation fold. Themes, events and personalities emerge from five decades of memory, participation and intellectual struggle.

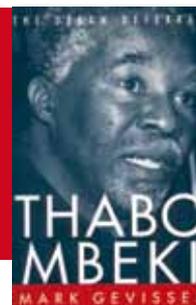
They are unique in our records, told from very near the centre of power. Leon lifts the lid on many of the most important chapters of the recent era, including the constitutional negotiations, the birth and near-death of the Democratic Alliance, his struggles with Thabo Mbeki over HIV/Aids, Zimbabwe and racial attitudes. In a candid assessment he provides an insider's account of the dramas and events that have helped shape and define modern South Africa. He also charts the future course of South Africa under Jacob Zuma, and the struggle for power inside the ANC. Leon's book offers an almost forensic examination of how corruption, crime and unemployment corroded the high ideals of the Constitution, and Parliament itself. He is not afraid to allow glimpses of his rich, private life: the brilliance of this book is in its careful balance of the public and the private, and how they nurture each other. *Review by Jonathan Ball Publishers*

Mbeki's friends and acquaintances, studied thousands of documents and interviewed the President himself six times. His book traces Mbeki's life from his birth in 1942 as the son of communist pioneers in the Transkei, through his 28 years in exile in London and Moscow, to his two terms in office as President. Mbeki is depicted as an intellectual dissident with a lifelong habit of fighting against the majority view. That drove him to persuade the ANC to talk to apartheid's rulers, not just fight them. But that same contrarian instinct was also behind the positions for which he was most harshly criticized: his refusal to condemn President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and his skepticism, in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence, that HIV is the principal cause of Aids. To others, independent-minded stubbornness looked at times like callousness, especially when millions of lives were at stake. Gevisser documents how the South Africa Mbeki returned to, did not match the hopes he had nourished in exile. For Mbeki, faced

with crises of Zulu-ANC violence, crime, aids and poverty, the homecoming triumph never really happened. Jonathan Ball Publishers have also released the *Updated and Abridged International Edition, The Dream Deferred*.

The Dream Deferred

Title: *Thabo Mbeki: The Dream Deferred*
Author: Mark Gevisser
ISBN paperback: 978186842 1015
ISBN hard cover: 978186842 3019
Publisher: Jonathan Ball Publishers



Mark Gevisser's 935-page biography, *Thabo Mbeki: The Dream Deferred*, addresses its subject with comprehensive authority. Gevisser began researching his subject in 1999 and consulted hundreds of

This shortened version, fewer than 400 pages, is updated to include the dramatic events that followed the ANC's Polokwane conference in late 2007. *Review by Time Magazine*



Editor-in-Chief: Luzuko Jacobs

citizen's forum

Be proud of Madiba Day

It's a great honour to celebrate the life and works of our icon, u tata Madiba. In 1964 he was taken away from his family and the people he truly loved, South Africans. It is the dream that he had for all of us that sent him to prison for more than 27 years (think of it as 324 months, 9 720 days, 233 280 hours, nearly 14 million minutes, or 8,4 billion seconds!). As we celebrate Mandela Day, let us all remember that dream and all the blood that was shed for it to come true. Let's all go out on every July 18, and spend 67 minutes doing something that will change other people's lives and continue to help the needy, women, and children, as long as we live. I am going door-to-door telling the youth about a South African dream that can help cleanse and heal the community.

Tell the world about our dream: they deserve to know. "Grey hair is a glorious crown." Happy Birthday Madiba!

Johannes Mushi, Seshego, Polokwane

Emailing Mr President

Sir - Am I able to write to President Jacob Zuma? If so, are you able to give me his email address?

Merle Fowler, Cape Town

Dear Merle

You can contact the office of the President directly on the website, by phone or by fax. Visit the Presidency website on www.thepresidency.gov.za or contact the Public Liaison & Stakeholder Management office at the Union Buildings on (Tel) 012 300 5213, or (Fax) 086 683 5203. They will gladly assist you.

Can I join you?

I write to the editor because I find it very helpful in disseminating information to all citizens about our Parliament. I would

encourage government departments to use community radio in South Africa to reach people in the language they understand. Government should also make sure that students are well trained, especially those who work at community radio to enhance their broadcasting skills. I would like to work as an intern on INSESSION in order to grow, and be exposed to our Parliament and its oversight role in government. Please increase our INSESSION subscription to 100. We have many students around the campus and they are also hungry for information. We do not want to deny them that opportunity.

Pappie Maja, University of Limpopo, Polokwane

Dear Pappie

We are very happy that you continue to receive your monthly subscription for your radio station, and that your students enjoy the magazine. As requested we have increased the assignment to your campus to 2000 copies and have partnered with the University's Marketing and Communications Division to distribute INSESSION on Campus. To learn more about the distribution and channels contact (015) 268 2121 Mr DK Mohuba at A-Block on the ground floor.

Does Parliament have internships?

Sir - I recently graduated with a National Diploma in Management from CPUT in Cape Town. I would like to enquire about internship programmes at Parliament: how do I get information regarding internships?

Angelo Bock, Cape Town

I want to ask you if INSESSION takes interns, because I'm struggling to get a placement. Although I wanted to try Gauteng-based newspapers, our journalism department requires us to

do training in Cape Town. It's getting stressful. I will appreciate your response.

Lonwabo Busakwe, Gugulethu, Cape Town

Thank you for the opportunity!

Sir - Thank you very much for organising the possible intake of students with your HR department. Of all 14 government departments/bodies that I contacted not a single one organised anything, except for yourself. However, we couldn't take up the opportunity because most of our students are poor and cannot afford the additional costs associated with working. For example: Some days a student misses classes because he/she didn't have transport money to get here. If they miss work, they will be regarded as a bad employee. Also, they do not have appropriate clothes for the workplace and at Parliament they would probably have had to dress better than in the newsrooms. Perhaps Parliament could relook the non-payment policy because it seems to exclude interns from poorer homes from taking up the opportunity? But thank you very much anyway for the willingness to accommodate students.

Hannelie, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Bellville Campus

In response to all the questions on internships, our programme is designed to assist unemployed graduates in acquiring experience in the workplace, which will in turn help to make them more employable. Student internship on the other hand, is based on the principle that students require workplace exposure as part of assignments to fulfill their academic requirements. We give priority to graduate interns, because we cannot accommodate interns on our limited funding. We cannot discriminate amongst the student interns in terms of who earns an allowance and who does not.

citizen's forum

Did you know...

How to make submissions to Parliament

The South African Constitution makes provision for public involvement in lawmaking and other processes. Parliament is therefore required by law to take the views of the public into consideration in its deliberations.

What is a submission?

If you wish to share your opinion on a law or issue, you can make a submission to Parliament. Committees in the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces discuss Bills. If the issue is of great public interest, the Committee may decide to advertise in the media for submissions from the public, or it may hold public hearings. Members of that particular Committee will go through all the written submissions received from members of the public or interested organizations, and based on the written submissions, it may decide to invite individuals or organizations to appear before it to explain their written submission. This is called an oral submission.

Why is making a submission important?

Making a submission to a Committee of Parliament is one of the ways the public can participate in formulating policy and laws. By making a submission you are providing the Committee with your insights, observations and opinions. Making a submission is

an opportunity to influence the opinion of members of a Committee who are discussing and debating a particular piece of legislation before it is finalized. It also helps Parliament carry out its oversight functions of watching over the work of government, and ensuring that the laws enacted by Parliament serve their purpose.

Tips on making a submission

There is no set format for a written submission. Your submission can be a simple letter of support or opposition, but it can also be a longer document with suggestions for changes. The important thing is to be clear about what you want to say. The following guidelines may help in preparing a submission:

The shorter and simpler, the better. Committees receive many submissions at a time and a submission that is brief and to the point will facilitate their work. If your document is long, include a summary of the main points and recommendations.

Say why you want to make a submission

If you are making the submission as an individual, explain why you want to comment on the legislation. State if you have training or experience that is relevant to the issue. If you are making the submission as an organization,

briefly describe the organization. Who are its members? Why are they concerned about this particular matter? Does the organization have special expertise or experience in regard to the substance of the matter being discussed?

Give your point of view on the subject

Say whether you want to support or oppose a Bill, or the issue that is being deliberated. If you want to suggest changes, explain what they are. Use the language and format that you feel most comfortable with Parliament, as the representative of the people, encourages the use of all official languages and would like all citizens to feel free to participate in the work of the institution in the language of their choice. Indicate in your submission if you would also like to make an oral submission. Follow this up with a telephonic enquiry to find out whether the Committee has agreed to your request. Working with a group of people is usually a better way of drawing attention to your concerns, especially if you want to make a presentation.

How to deliver a submission

You can deliver your written submission personally, or by post. If you post it, ensure that you leave enough time for it to arrive before the deadline. If it is not too long, you can send it by fax. Written submissions can also be e-mailed. 📧



OUR SOUTH AFRICA – THE SUN

The sun heals the divisions of the past, improves the quality of life of all South Africans, frees the potential of each person and builds a united and democratic South Africa, taking its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.



OUR PEOPLE – THE PROTEA LEAVES

Our people, building on the foundation of a democratic and open society, freely elect representatives, acting as a voice of the people and providing a national forum for public consideration of issues.



OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM

The drum calls the people's Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to consider national and provincial issues, ensuring government by the people under the Constitution.



OUR CONSTITUTION – THE BOOK

Our Constitution lays the foundation for a democratic and open society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. It is the supreme law of our country, and ensures government by the people.