

IN SESSION



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"YOUR SEAT IN PARLIAMENT"

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Coming
soon

3 million
tourists
for 2010
World Cup

FEATURE: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES TALK ABOUT OVERSIGHT



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Black Rod of 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 National Assembly



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OUR IDEALS**VISION**

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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



Have Your Say!

Call for Public Comment

Public Hearings on the Political, Economic, Legal, Gender and Social Impacts of Climate Change, 17 - 18 November 2009

Parliamentary committees provide a linkage between Parliament and the public through public meetings and hearings. Through public hearings, in particular, parliamentary committees provide an avenue for Members of Parliament to gain public input on governance issues and to ensure that the people partake in the governance of their affairs.

The following Portfolio and Select Committees will hold joint public hearings, as a matter of urgency, on the impact and implications of climate change on various sectors:

- Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs
- Joint Monitoring Committee on Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Children, Youth and Disabled Persons
- Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology
- Portfolio Committee on Health
- Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform
- Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Portfolio Committee on Social Development
- Portfolio Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Joint Monitoring Committee on the Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Women
- Portfolio Committee on Energy
- Select Committee on Land and Environmental Affairs

Aims of the Hearings

The aims of the hearings are as follows: • To develop a comprehensive picture of how climate change is impacting communities and ecosystems in South Africa, based on input from various stakeholders • To understand gaps in existing legislation and Government policies • To understand gaps in Government's response to climate change and sustainable development • To identify short-, medium- as well as long-term solutions, and what action is needed from Parliament and Government • To inform parliamentarians on what the South African negotiating team at the 2009 December Copenhagen climate change negotiations should be advocating for in the new international climate framework.

Interested individuals and interest groups wishing to comment on the subject of climate change are kindly requested to forward written submissions to Parliament by no later than Friday, 6 November 2009. Stakeholders interested in making verbal presentations are also requested to contact our office by no later than Friday, 6 November 2009.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Office of the Secretary, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, PO Box 15, Cape Town 8000. It is important for all submissions and queries to be marked for the attention of the Committee Secretary, Ms Phumla Nyamza. She can also be contacted on tel. +27 (21) 403-3852, fax: 086 504 6848 or e-mail: pnnyamza@parliament.gov.za

Parliament. Making Democracy Work.

crossword puzzle
and sudoku
Solutions for September page 31

editor's note

At the end of September, Public Accounts Committees from Parliament, South Africa's provinces and municipalities, and 11 foreign countries converged in Cape Town for the 11th conference of the Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC). The outcomes of the conference are promises of more vigorous oversight and improved accountability.

APAC delegates highlighted the importance of effective monitoring and evaluation, and passed a declaration to this effect at the end of the conference. They resolved that all executing authorities should be required to submit action plans, detailing how they would implement Committee resolutions, and how they would address issues raised in reports of the Auditors General serving the various jurisdictions represented at the conference. The executive bodies should also report back to the Public Account Committees within a given time frame.

APAC believes that the most acceptable method to exercise effective oversight is to develop a set of performance indicators that accurately reflect government policy and can also be used to evaluate performance. In this respect, APAC's Executive will initiate and participate in appointing a task team to develop a set of performance indicators for all State departments and entities covered by the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

This initiative will be pursued in consultation with any relevant role-players including the National Treasury, the Auditor-General and the Ministry in the Presidency, which deals with monitoring and evaluation. This collaborative effort will consider mechanisms to monitor and evaluate adherence to the performance measures, and stipulate the unambiguous consequences of not complying or performing.

At local government level an initiative is currently underway by the Minister for Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, to establish Public Account Committees. All Public Account Committees will engage with municipalities in their areas to help improve the capacity of local government public account committees, and report back by the end of June 2010 to the APAC Executive on the results of their interventions. In this regard, APAC will facilitate an orientation workshop that will focus on capacitating Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs). A best-practice guide on public hearings will be updated and distributed to all Public Account Committees (PACs) and MPACs to share proven approaches to oversight work.

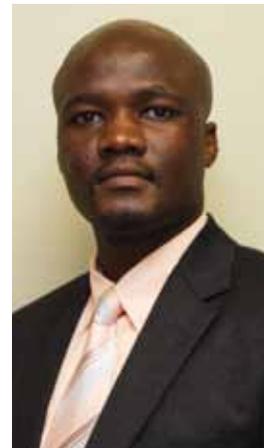
With the assistance of officials, APAC will conduct training to help MPAC acquire the requisite skills to study and analyse documents tabled before Committees. In this regard, the PACs and MPACs should lobby for resources and permanent skills to conduct research, ensure committee coordination, and give advice on content and legal matters.

The PACs and MPACs coordinated by APAC will strive to develop effective and implementable resolutions, with clear timeframes for their implementation. The Committees will maintain sound relationships with key stakeholders, including Presiding Officers, other parliamentary committees, law enforcement agencies and civil society. In consultation with Presiding Officers, the PACs and MPACs will develop and maintain a tracking mechanism to monitor on-going progress, and the timeliness with which Public Accounts resolutions passed by the House are implemented.

APAC will conduct training on performance management and systems, to ensure effective utilisation of existing tools and applicable legislation, and it will produce guidelines to increase PACs powers.

On a separate note, in this month's edition we also bring you reports on oversight, climate change, human rights, health, education and international relations. Enjoy the read.

Momelezi Kula
editor





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

MESSAGE FROM THE national council of provinces



Budgetary oversight

Parliament's direct mechanisms of oversight consist primarily of its own structures, including the applicable parliamentary Committees that are entrusted with the financial oversight of public finances, such as the Finance Committees, Public Accounts Committees and others.

Indirect mechanisms of oversight consist of institutions such as the national audit offices, the Ombudsman and similar inspectorates of government, and public enquiries into government administration, including judicial Commissions of Inquiry. Anti-corruption bodies can also play a role in this area.

Through oversight of the Executive and its auxiliary bodies, Parliament is responsible for ensuring accountability and openness of government. Parliaments in the Westminster system conduct this oversight through departmentally-related permanent Committees (Portfolio and Select Committees) and Public Accounts Committees, like the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA). Effective oversight of the budget provides an opportunity to ensure that the budget addresses the needs and interests of all stakeholders, thereby helping to manage points of friction.

Several conditions need to be met in order for Public Accounts Committees and other financial committees to conduct effective oversight. They must have follow-up mechanisms, to ensure implementation of their recommendations, to gain access to information from the Executive and other State organs, to facilitate capacity-building for members and to provide adequate structural provisions and resources. There must also be enabling conditions in the legislatures, such as scheduling and independent research capacity, for holistic functioning.

In our system, oversight can be exercised directly by Parliament, usually through oversight Committees, or indirectly through autonomous accountability institutions, eg the Chapter 9 Institution of Auditor-General. Parliament has an obligation to ensure that it authorises fiscally sound measures with regard to expenditure, that the needs of the population are matched with whatever resources are available, and that the measures are implemented properly and efficiently.

The first opportunity for scrutiny of the budget process occurs when the budget is tabled in Parliament, and it becomes open and accountable. When the budget comes up before the Committee, it is often the first opportunity for an inclusive public debate on its content.

Draw on the social and intellectual capital of the community, to strengthen oversight

To ensure transparency and accountability, the proceedings of Public Accounts Committees should be open to the public whenever possible. A closely monitored and professional working relationship between SCOPA and the Auditor-General also helps to generate public confidence in the process.

To assist in their oversight function, members of the Committee should not be afraid to solicit submissions from several sources, including civil society, academics, research institutions and community groups. By drawing on the social and intellectual capital of the community, and by facilitating wider participation, Parliament can strengthen its own oversight.

SCOPA can also take corrective action if the particular audit report is not a good one. To preserve the spirit of co-operative government and maintain healthy intergovernmental relations, the process to be followed by national SCOPA would be first to call the specific national department, then the provincial and local departments.

With regard to other spheres of government and public enterprises, SCOPA must ensure that it acquires sufficient capacity for the work it is expected to do, especially in terms of human resources. This is often where things can go wrong, because on their own, good laws and appropriate institutional arrangements cannot result in proper management of public finance. Competent management is vital to successful execution of public programmes.

There are four fundamental steps that I think our Public Accounts Committees should take. First, co-ordinate oversight activities to enhance intergovernmental relations. Second, because all Committees are there to assist Parliament, SCOPAs must have a sound relationship with Presiding Officers for purposes of sharing information, strategising etc. Third, there must be capacity-building for Members, preferably through customised development programmes, to enable them to acquire minimum skills and finally, the Committees must provide appropriate support for SCOPAs in the form of researchers, content advisers, financial analysts, and the requisite budgets, to support them in executing their work.

The main oversight challenge facing the Public Accounts Committees is to ensure that fiscal discipline is maintained, and that both their influence and impact reflect public or national priorities, as opposed to partisan causes.

Mninwa Mahlangu

CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

MPs visit SABC, border posts and housing Projects

Various Parliamentary Committees undertook oversight visits to different entities and projects including the SABC, OR Tambo International Airport and housing schemes.

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements visited Eastern Cape housing projects from 5 to 9 October to find out more about the implementation of government's programme on settlements.

During the same period, the Portfolio Committees on Tourism and Home Affairs carried out a joint visit to several ports of entry (OR Tambo International Airport, Beitbridge in Limpopo and Ficksburg, Fouriesburg and Maseru on the Free State border) to assess if they were ready for the Fifa 2010 World Cup.

From 6 to 8 October, the Portfolio Committee on Communication visited the SABC, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) and the outside broadcast facility, Sentech. The purpose of the visits was to get an update on the financial controls of the SABC, understand the roles of different divisions at ICASA and get to grips with the technical dimensions of signal distribution.

World Cup is for all of SA

"Strengthen your strategies to ensure that the rural communities participate in the 2010 Fifa World Cup." That was the message from Members of Parliament to officials of the Department of Sport and Recreation and Fifa's Local Organising Committee (LOC) when they met recently to check progress on the world event.

Officials of the Department of Sport and Recreation and members of FIFA Local Organising Committee briefed the Select Committee on Education and Recreation on the construction of public areas, and the state of readiness of the host cities for the 2010 tournament.

parliament in-brief

A selection of online news

The Chairperson of the Select Committee on Education and Recreation, Ms Wendy Makgale, said the strategy should include maximum participation of rural communities in the spinoffs of 2010: "Without the participation of the rural, ordinary people we won't feel we have had a successful Fifa World Cup," said Ms Makgale.

Addressing the Committee, the LOC's Leslie Sedibe said Fifa was going to create public viewing areas to accommodate fans who could not go to the stadiums, and this would include soccer-lovers in rural areas. The Ellis Park, Royal Bafokeng, Loftus Versfeld, Free State and Nelson Mandela Bay Stadiums were 100% ready for the 2010 World Cup. Cape Town's Green Point stadium, Durban's Moses Mabhida, Nelspruit's Mbombela stadium, the Peter Mokaba stadium in Polokwane and Johannesburg's Soccer City are 90% ready, according to Mr Sedibe.

Better management for housing database

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements has called on the Department of Human Settlements to strengthen its management of beneficiaries who are awaiting the allocation of subsidy houses. During the Department's annual report presentation to the Committee, the Chairperson, Ms Nomhle Dambuza, said that in its current form the management of the beneficiary list was not properly managed. The Committee had recommended that structures such as the Housing Forum needed to be revived, in order to ensure participation of the community in the coordination and management of the beneficiary list. The Housing Forum

should include other stakeholders, such as municipal authorities, the Department of Human Settlements, and community structures. Ms Dambuza said that a properly managed beneficiary list would eliminate suspicion of fraud and corruption, because it would encourage transparency and participation.

Sudan here to learn from SA

The Portfolio Committee on Police has welcomed an eight-member delegation of their counterparts from Sudan. The Chairperson of the Sudan Standing Committee on Security and National Defence, Lieutenant-General Dr Jalal Tawir Kafi, said the visit was a fact-finding mission with specific focus on policing and security. "South Africa is the place to go in Africa, especially to see how democracy works" Dr Kafi said. The Committee also chose to come to the South African Parliament because South Africa played a meaningful role in peace efforts that led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan. "We have always regarded South Africa as a country that has an interest of peace and development in Sudan," Dr Kafi said. The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Ms Sindiswa Chikunga welcomed the delegation, and described the visit as "worthwhile and historic". Because of the planned 2010 national general elections in Sudan, the Sudanese Committee wanted to know about the security measures that were usually rolled out in South Africa, to deter violence and intimidation during elections. Sudan was also interested in the security measures that were being put in place for the FIFA World Cup, and how this country planned to keep crime levels down in 2010.

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Makhotso Sotyú on climate change laws

guest column

How UK tackled climate change

SA holds hearings on global warming

The Parliament of the United Kingdom has passed legislation introducing the world's first extended framework to tackle the dangers of climate change. The legislation also established the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) as an independent body to provide the government with advice on the levels of the first three "carbon budgets" up to 2020, and to review the UK's 2050 carbon targets. Apart from advising Westminster on how to reduce carbon dioxide emission, the CCC pinpoints challenges that climate change will inevitably force on the UK.

The UK's initiative is unique. Our own Parliament's Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs has decided to engage Britain's climate change experts in order to gain skills on the process, and examine the mandate, vision, mission and legislative framework that were required to set up the Committee on Climate Change. This will be a useful initiative, as Parliament deliberates on and responds to our own issues of climate change.

The hope is that it will establish a strong and representative group, which can inject fresh impetus and achieve more comprehensive cooperation on climate change. The recent initial video linkup with our UK counterparts has created the

possibility of holding similar video conferences with our counterparts in other Parliaments. This creates a new paradigm for international cooperation amongst legislators. The strength of this type of dialogue is that it can, via satellite, bring together legislators in developing and developed countries. This could be expanded in future to discussions with respected international institutions, and possibly lead to agreement on policy and actions that are practical and politically robust.

On the other hand, our discussions with the Climate Change Dialogue Forum have been intended to get a high-level dialogue going among legislators, on the key environmental issues that face South Africa. The ability of the environmental sector to attract considerable political attention requires legislators to work together outside the confines of formal international negotiations. This is especially so, given that legislators can push the boundaries of what can be achieved politically, and develop new ideas that transcend the constraints of official government positions. Legislators also have a core responsibility to hold their own governments accountable, as regards internationally negotiated commitments.

A variety of environmental problems now press on the entire world. As globalisation rolls forward regardless, and the earth's natural processes transform local problems into international issues, few societies are not touched by environmental concerns. Some of the global problems are air pollution, water pollution, global warming, what to do with hazardous waste, how to slow ozone depletion, overpopulation, the degradation of land and the destruction of forests. Every environmental problem has a cause, multiple effects, and most importantly, there is a solution for every one. Therefore, oversight by the Social Cluster needs to encompass a process of monitoring and evaluating initiatives taken by the Executive to find solutions to environmental problems. This will entail scrutiny of Executive initiatives, to find solutions to the impact of a variety of challenges facing South Africa citizens, with regard to air, land, water and the environment.

Ms Makhotso Sotyú is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs

Public hearings on the impact of climate change will be held at Parliament on 18 and 19 November. See our next issue



National Assembly House Chairperson, Mr Obed Bapela, SCOPA Chairperson, Mr Themba Godi and Deputy Secretary of APAC, Ms Sarah Mangena

A dozen ways to see Public Accounts Committees

South African legislatures and observer delegations from eleven countries met for three days in Cape Town to talk about Public Accounts, and at the end they tabled some revealing new insights on service delivery and oversight. Our writer Jackie Adriaans was there.

Because the recent Conference of the Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) took place against the backdrop of the work programme of the fourth Parliament, delegates felt it could be valuable in guiding the work of public accounts committees from the outset of their five-year term. It was the first time that Parliament had hosted

the event and the first time that a member of the Executive officially opened proceedings. The conference gave a clearer focus of the supportive role that APAC plays at all levels of government in facilitating the work, creating synergy and enhancing the oversight function of Public Accounts Committees.

About 500 delegates contributed to the success of the 11th Annual APAC Conference at Cape Town International Convention Centre, attended by national, provincial and local government bodies from South Africa, delegates from Australia and representatives from 10 African nations: Angola, Botswana, Ghana,

Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In his keynote address, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe highlighted successful oversight as a critical transformation factor that ultimately promotes good governance and the effective channelling of public resources: "Issues of quality, cost and time effectiveness have shifted the oversight focus to the congruence between effective budget planning and service delivery," he said. Mr Motlanthe said the high level of non-compliance by government departments remained a thorny problem.

“Within the context of the global economic downturn, the pursuit of value for money is imperative if government is to improve service delivery standards,” the Deputy President said. He urged delegates to exercise vigilance: “Every member must act without fear or favour and remain committed to and cognisant of the needs of this country, and our duty within the public service, so that our public officials know that they will be held accountable for the services that they provide to South Africa, or lack thereof.”

The overall theme of the conference, *Parliament as a key institution in monitoring service delivery for all citizens through Public Accounts Committees*, was broken down into a number of sub-themes. These included *Measures for improving public sector governance, Ensuring successful oversight through effective follow-up by public accounts committees, Greater service delivery through increased focus on value for money, Performance by public sector departments and public entities and The need for public accounts committees at municipalities*. Detailed discussions on the various sub-themes were facilitated by presentations by prominent figures in government, Parliament, the public and private sectors, as well as academia. They included the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, the Minister for Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Sicelo Shiceka, the Auditor-General of South Africa, Mr Terence Nombembe, and the head of Pan-African Investment and Research Services, Dr Iraj Abedian.

The Chairperson of Parliament’s Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), Mr Themba Godi, reflected on the resolutions that would have a direct bearing on the work of SCOPA and other public

accounts committees. “For the first time we have taken resolutions that are practical and relate directly to the work that we are doing. Most of the resolutions we have taken resonate with SCOPA’s strategic plan for the next five years”, he said. As an example, he referred to the requirement that Cabinet Ministers appear before public accounts committees to account for departmental spending: “We believe that to fully discharge our constitutional obligation to oversee Executive action, it is important and necessary for Cabinet Ministers to take political ownership, leadership and responsibility. They must appear before SCOPA and explain how the money allocated to them by Parliament has been utilised”, Mr Godi said.

Cabinet Ministers must explain how money allocated by Parliament has been spent

There was also a need for synergy between the work of Public Accounts Committees and law enforcement agencies “to ensure that when public officials break the law, we are able to find synergy between our work and the law enforcement agencies,” he said.

A great deal of interest was generated by the model used by Uganda, where the Inspectorate of Government can investigate public officials and prosecute them if they have been involved in corrupt practices. The Criminal Investigation Directorate sits in on all meetings of the Public Accounts Committee, as

part of the technical team. But the SCOPA Chairperson warned against over-optimism: “Every system is a reflection of its own dynamics, and is a product of its social setting, so whatever system they have in Uganda we can look at it, learn from it and pronounce on what can work in our situation in South Africa.”

The need for a clear separation of powers between the Executive and council in municipalities was highlighted by Mr Godi in a discussion of the establishment of Municipal Public Accounts Committees in all municipalities. Uniformity of definition in terms of the composition, powers and functions of these committees was also recommended.

Mr Godi felt it was important to have input from other countries “for purposes of exchanging ideas, experiences and perspectives that contributed towards strengthening and deepening the bonds of African solidarity and integration.” The support of Parliament was vital: “Although national SCOPA was hosting the conference, Parliament played a very central role. They sponsored the conference and provided staff, which ensured that we had a conference that went smoothly. The support of Parliament was a powerful message that we have institutional backing to strengthen our capacity to do oversight work, as effectively and as efficiently as possible.”

Shortly after the first democratic elections, members of the Public Accounts Committees in Parliament identified a need for more support for the 10 new Public Accounts bodies, in the nine provinces and Parliament. They decided to work together to increase efficiency. Since its formation, APAC has used training interventions, research and best practice development, to provide members with enhanced capacity to discharge their oversight duties.

Tighter strings, better training

Public Accounts Conference spells it out



Dr Anthony Tsekpo of Ghana



Mr George Nashon of Kenya

The recent conference of the Association of Public Accounts Committees provided delegates from Southern Africa and abroad with food for thought. Delegates from neighbouring countries spoke to Jackie Adriaans.

The value of the Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) conference lay in how it reflected the South African experience, and drew on the expertise of delegates from Africa and abroad.

Kenya's Assistant Director of Audit, Mr George Nashon, outlined how Kenya works: "In Kenya, we have three parliamentary watchdog committees, that is, the public accounts committee, the public investments committee and a new one referred to as the local authorities and funds accounts committee. All the presentations and discussions that took place at this conference touched on the work of these three committees. There is poor service delivery by local authorities in

Kenya, and some senior officials are not necessarily sufficiently qualified or experienced enough to do the job," he said. In some instances junior staff were better qualified or more experienced than senior staff: "Nepotism also occurs, so in the end service delivery suffers," Mr Nashon said.

Namibian Member of Parliament, Mr Reggie Diergaardt, said to a large extent the conference had met his expectations: "It was well organised and our hosts went to great lengths to meet the needs of delegations. Topics were well chosen, there were good speakers and the hospitality was great. The presentation by the Auditor-General of South Africa was spot on, informative and I think we can work on the issues that he raised. Cape Town is a great city!" he said.

Dr Anthony Tsekpo of Ghana said the APAC conference had been excellent. "My organisation supports the work of the Ghanaian legislature around the continent. We supported members of the Public Accounts Committee from Ghana attending this conference in the hope that we would have something to work with as we return home. Indeed there is a lot. The emphasis on service delivery came out very clearly, as well as the need for members of the Association of Public Accounts Committees to follow up and verify some of the reports submitted to them."

Dr Tsekpo said the tour of Robben Island was instructive and inspirational. "We must be inspired to work, not for our individual countries, not for our individual legislatures, but for the development of democracy on the continent as a whole."

▷ The Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee of Zimbabwe, Mr Tapiwa Mashakada, summed it up: "The conference has been very productive in the sense that we are beginning to see Africa coming together, especially public accounts committees, and trying to formulate strategies that would hold executives accountable and ensure that services are delivered to the general public.

"The issue of oversight at local municipalities is a developing concept, which I would like to see implemented in Zimbabwe so that there is more effective oversight by public accounts committees in municipal areas," Mr Mashakada said.

Ms Puleg Skelm and Mr Mpuleng Kgotleng, of Emfuleni local municipality in Gauteng said they had learnt many things to help equip them for the coming local government elections.

"There is especially greater awareness of the need for better management of service delivery. The conference provided us with the opportunity to network with other provinces as well as learn how African countries like Zimbabwe and Kenya deal with the matter of municipalities and disciplining corrupt officials," Ms Skelm said.

A Member of the Standing Committee on the Auditor General, Mr Lindubusa Ndabandaba, said he had learnt a great deal: "I think I will be able to carry out my oversight much more efficiently. The highlights included the need to take a closer look at (South African) municipalities, especially the question of part-time and full-time councillors. For a number of reasons, there is a perception that part-time councillors are not always fulfilling their duties, so we will seriously consider this issue."

The Parliamentary Manager in the office of the South African Auditor General, Mr Blackie Swart, said the conference went off smoothly and the items on the agenda were relevant. The message concerning service delivery was overdue and delegates had left enriched: "The central issue is that of establishing public accounts committees in municipalities. It is something that there is still some uncertainty about, but a subject that is being raised more often," he said. 



SA Auditor-General, Mr Terence Nombembe, Ms Sarah Mangena and Pan African Investment CEO, Dr Iraj Abedian

WANTED: Clean audits by 2014

by Abel Mputing

Public Accounts are at the heart of this country's developmental agenda and can determine the success or failure of its democratic inspirations, especially in light of the number of qualified reports given to State departments and public entities, and an increase in service delivery protests in South Africa.

The Auditor General, Mr Terence Nombembe, says good oversight has two faces: "The central feature of good governance is maximizing the use of available resources for effective service delivery and for creating public value. Good governance is also about having effective mechanisms to deal with those mismanaging or misappropriating public resources."

Mr Nombembe said impartial and effective action had to be taken against offenders, so that the public could see justice was being done. The mechanisms should also provide for prompt action and for the entire process to be completed swiftly. To achieve a clean audit for all public entities by 2014, Mr Nombembe said, "the Public Accounts Committees must use the powers available to them for

transparent and robust oversight." This meant using available legislation and possibly reviewing the mechanisms of redress and the prosecution of offenders.

Also on the topic, the Chief Executive Officer of Pan African Investment and Research Services, Dr Iraj Abedian, said Public Accounts Committees had to ensure that those charged with public accounts discharged their responsibilities professionally and in a non-partisan manner: "Budget is the single most powerful policy instrument for socio-economic improvement. When public sector productivity improves, so does the entire economy. Conversely, failure to achieve the budget outcomes falls disproportionately on the poor," he said.

He flagged the importance of political will on the part of those charged with the task of running state departments and public entities as one of the major factors influencing performance. "To do well we need to clarify political and management accountability, and make sure we have non-partisan, professional, senior management in the civil service," he said. 



LENDING A HAND: Standard Bank South Africa CEO, Mr Simphiwe Tshabalala

New bond can boost skills

Parliament needs more 'know-how'

by Abel Mputing

Parliament needs private sector skills to help it improve the accountability of Public Accounts bodies. The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mzinwa Mahlangu, said at a dinner sponsored by Standard Bank for APAC conference delegates that if a partnership is allowed to blossom "it will help Parliament acquire critical private sector skills that can improve Public Accounts accountability."

He says there are striking similarities between the legislative mandate of public accounts committees and the core business of a bank. "A public-private partnership is necessary, because it can improve service delivery to our people and greater public accounts accountability," Mr Mahlangu said.

Members of the Public Accounts Committees should remember that they needed to be quite separate from the Executive in order to do their work effectively.

"This naturally adversarial, but healthy relationship between Legislatures and Executive is normal

and it must be encouraged because it helps these organs to do their jobs better. This is a relationship that boils down to one thing: trying to do what is best for South Africa: "I hope this conference will herald new beginnings for Parliament and Legislatures, especially with regard to oversight on public accounts. It goes well with the concept of an 'activist Parliament'," Mr Mahlangu said.

The Chief Executive Officer of Standard Bank South Africa, Mr Simphiwe Tshabalala, said the work of the Public Accounts Committees in the Provincial Legislatures had made a big difference to the economy: "This is why we are supporting this conference. Delivering services to citizens and consumers is an expensive affair and the work of Public Accounts Committees is decisive in determining the price of money and the cost of delivering services."

The highlight of the social programme was a boat trip to the cradle of South African democracy, Robben Island. On arrival the APAC delegates paid homage to the blood, sweat and tears of struggle icons

who spent the better part of their lives there in solitary confinement. The Consultant of Internal Affairs of Angola, Ms Nadia Chaves, was deeply moved by the trials and tribulations the inmates had to endure. "Before I came here I knew about the Robben Island story, but seeing what they went through is deeply moving. They have a big heart to forgive and forget."

A Ugandan Member of Parliament, Mr Milton Muwuma, called for the documentation of Africa's liberation history. "As an African I am proud that such a political heritage has been preserved. With such sites we have a lot to teach Africa's children and generations about the sacrifices and suffering those before them had to endure to liberate Africa. In fact, it is time we wrote our own liberation struggle history."

SCOPA Chairperson Mr Themba Godi said the visitors should draw strength from recalling the common good the jailed leaders represented "so that we can recover the vision to serve our people and our people only, as they did."

SA-EU

trade matures

Fast-tracking closer ties

by Staff reporters

Trade, development and cooperation are on the agenda of the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry, which is taking the initiative to strengthen its working relationship with other Portfolio Committees in Parliament, particularly the Committee on International Relations and Cooperation as well as the Parliamentary Group on International Relations (PGIR). The International Relations Section of Parliament says this is in line with engaging the European Parliament on matters of mutual importance and strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, particularly in international trade and development.

Following a presentation by the International Relations Section entitled, "Engaging Europe: Parliament of South Africa's Relationship with the European Parliament," the Portfolio Committee agreed among other things that it would "work with other Committees and the PGIR to ensure greater public participation in international relations through public hearings and other suitable mechanisms."

The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry recommended that the Chairperson of South Africa's delegation, Ms Joan Fubbs, should work with the PGIR to fast-track the approval of the *Joint Declaration on the Further Strengthening of Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Political Dialogue Between the Delegations of the Parliament of South Africa and the European Parliament*. The Committee says its work with the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation will help determine the best approach to deal with the global agreement between members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on the one part, and the European Community and its member States on the other.



LOOKING BACK: NCOP Chairperson Mr Mninwa Mahlangu and former Speaker of the NA, Ms Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde at a Seminar to outline the 3rd Parliament's SA-EU partnership

This agreement of itself is not of direct concern to South Africa, but it does help to give focus to the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement signed between South Africa and the EU. The latter treaty aims to recognise South Africa as an important and strategic regional power and creates opportunities to strengthen trade, development and cooperation between the European Union and SA.

The United Kingdom's strategy on climate change on the other side of the globe is also being studied by South Africa, to improve its own response to global warming issues. This follows a recent satellite link-up between the Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs and its UK counterpart to solicit the views of the Committee on Climate Change, as part of a wider bond between the Parliaments of South Africa and the EU.



Ms Joan Fubbs, Chairperson of South Africa's EU delegation

The South African Parliament concluded that it was confident that its relationship with Europe continued to strengthen, day by day.

INSESSION's theme for November is South Africa's response to global warming.



Through the lens

EVENTS IN AND AROUND PARLIAMENT



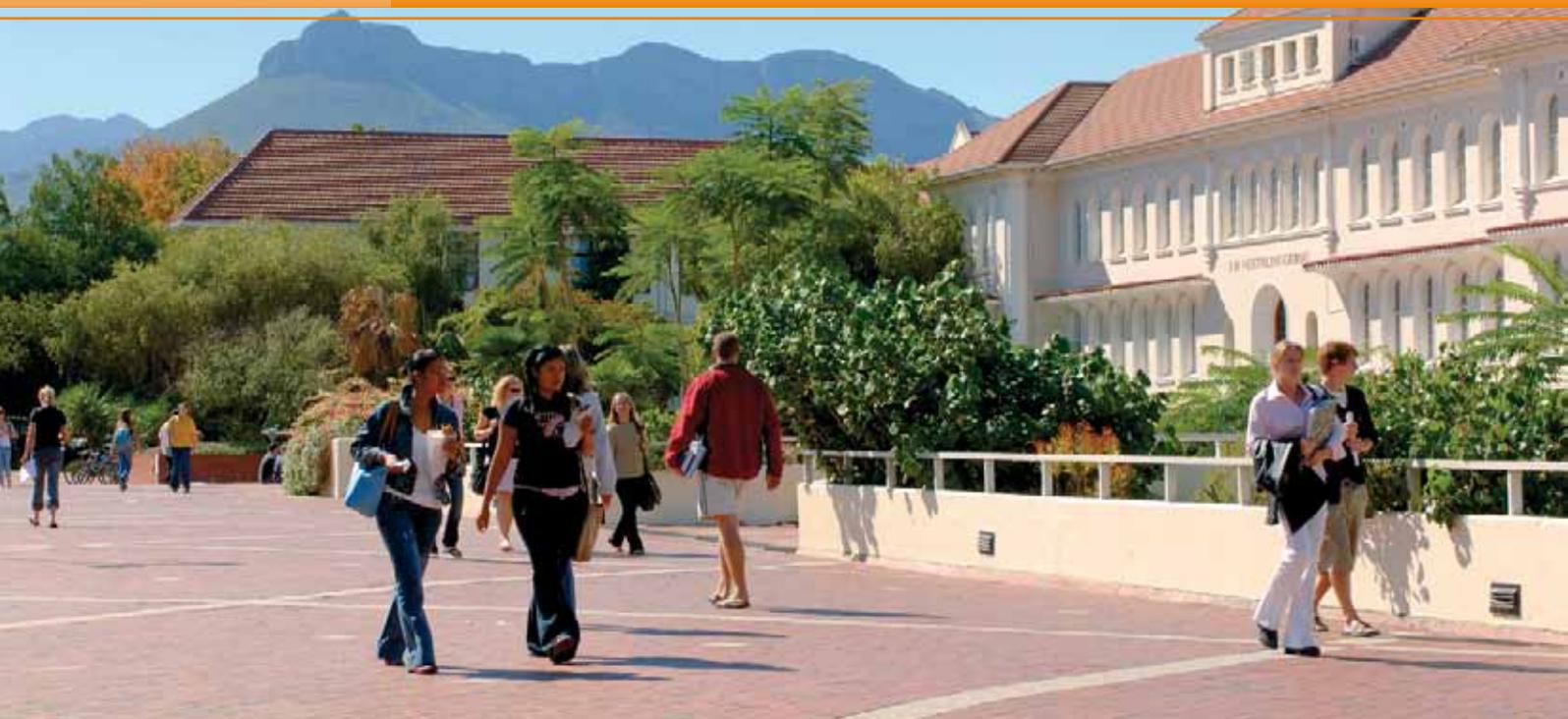
Speaker of the Saharawi National Assembly, Mr Ali Mahfoud Beiba and Counsellor to the Saharawi Embassy, Mr Mahfoud Brahim Omar sign the visitors book while National Assembly Speaker, Mr Max Sisulu, looks on



ABOVE & TOP: APAC delegates visit Robben Island to honour struggle heroes

BELOW: A group of artists keep it light at APAC Gala Dinner





SOME CHANGE, BUT NOT ENOUGH: University of Stellenbosch

Varsities not transforming fast enough

by Mava Lukani

The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education says South African universities are partly to blame for the high varsity dropout rate, which leads to a shortage of skills in South Africa. The Committee Chairperson, Mr Marius Fransman, said this after a briefing by the University of Stellenbosch's Management, Council and student leaders on progress with transformation, particularly on language and admission policies at Maties.

Mr Fransman says the Portfolio Committee is concerned about the shortage of skills required by the economy and student dropouts at the South African universities. He says this is caused by a lack of transformation at some universities, among other things: "The government contributes a lot of money through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) to ensure that historically disadvantaged students can also

get access to universities, but the country still faces a shortage of skills. That's why the Committee is not satisfied with the 44% failure rate at the country's universities. We are fifteen years into democracy but the through-put in terms of graduates that our universities deliver is unsatisfactory," Mr Fransman said.

Too few Black students at Maties

The University vice Chancellor and Rector, Professor Russel Botman, assured the Committee that the Management and Council of the University of Stellenbosch were committed to "South Africanising" the institution. He said in terms of the University's 2015 vision, which

is already being implemented, students are taught in English and Afrikaans, and are exposed to other languages.

"We want to ensure that we don't have a monolingual institution by 2015," Professor Botman said. The University hoped to increase the number of Black students to 34% by 2015, from its current 24%. However, Mr Fransman described this growth objective as "rather mediocre".

Members of the University Council praised Professor Botman for his commitment to the transformation of the University and the fact that he had consulted all the stakeholders. Mr Fransman said the Portfolio Committee hoped to visit Maties again in six months time. "Notwithstanding the challenges that this University is still facing, let me congratulate you on the best research," Mr Fransman said. 

Experts to advise Committee

SAHRC posts filled by President Zuma

four new full-time Human Rights Commissioners have been appointed by President Jacob Zuma, following an exhaustive process during which the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development interviewed 27 shortlisted candidates, drawn from more than 200 applications to fill the vacancies in the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). In January this year, former President Kgalema Motlanthe appointed the activist Ms Pregs Govender as a full-time Commissioner for seven years.

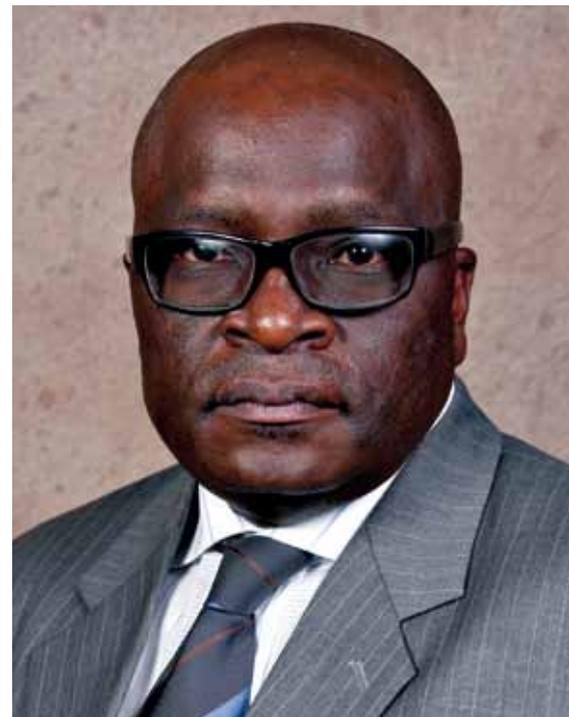
The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, Adv. Ngoako Ramatlhodi, said the Committee was keen "to make more use of the expertise available in the field of human rights." A pool of experts would be formed from shortlisted candidates to advise the Portfolio Committee. "The Committee would like to recommend the appointment of additional Commissioners. However, we are unable to do so because of funding constraints in the SAHRC budget. We intend to approach the government for additional funds to appoint more Commissioners," the Committee's report states.

The vacancies in the SAHRC had to be filled in terms of section 193(5) of the Constitution, because the term of office of the five Commissioners appointed in 2002 expired at the end of September. The Committee

was impressed with the calibre of shortlisted candidates this year. After interviewing them, it recommended to Parliament that Ms Lindiwe Mokate, Advocate Bokankatlana Malatji, Adv. Lawrence Mushwana and Adv. Loyiso Mpumlwana serve as full-time Commissioners, with Ms Janet Love and Dr Danfred Titus to serve as part-time Commissioners.

The Committee report, which was adopted by Parliament, revealed that only two of the more than 200 candidates withdrew, and three were not available for the interviews: "The advertisements calling for nominations were placed in national and regional newspapers in May 2009, but because the National Assembly still had to decide if it wanted to nominate more than five Commissioners, and possibly also nominate part-time as well as full-time Commissioners, it was decided to reopen the nomination process," the report states.

The rule of law is enshrined in South Africa by the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, which compels the State to "respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights." Because this should not be left to the government or individuals, Chapter Nine of the Constitution creates independent national institutions, subject only to the Constitution and the law, "to transform our society from its unjust past and to deliver the fundamental rights in the Constitution to all in South Africa," it states.



Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Adv. Ngoako Ramatlhodi

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is one such national institution, which derives its powers from the Constitution and the Act that established it. Members of the SAHRC must be men and women who are South African citizens, and they must comply with any other prescribed requirements. Chapter 9 of the Constitution establishes the SAHRC as a "State Institution Supporting Constitutional Democracy", which must promote respect for human rights and a culture of human rights; promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights; and monitor and assess the observance of human rights in South Africa. Since its inauguration in October 1995, the Commission has worked to ensure that all in South Africa are protected by the noble ideals of the Constitution. 🌐

Nursing colleges: too many bosses

by Kanyisa Ndyondya

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Health wants the Department of Health to strengthen its relationship with the South African Nursing Council (SANC), to promote better health for South Africans. The call by the Portfolio Committee follows the Council's appeal to the Department of Health to work more closely with the SANC on the funding of South Africa's 224 nursing schools, and redefining certain responsibilities. The Portfolio Committee had called on the Nursing Council to appear before it, because of concern about the quality and quantity of nurses in the country.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Dr Bevan Goqwana, said they were concerned about the shortage of health personnel, and especially the number of nurses emigrating. "Patients continually complain of being ill-treated by nurses, which tells us that the quality of nurses we have is not good," he said.

The Chairperson of the Nursing Council, Ms Nonhlanhla Makhanya, said there should be engagement at a high level to eliminate the conflicting roles and the duplication of responsibilities between SANC and the Council on Higher Education. She added that the South African Nursing Council was operating under different Acts, some of which appeared to clash with others.

Health of citizens is our top priority

TOO MANY COLLEGES: but still too few good nurses



In terms of the Nursing Act of 2005, the Nursing Council may accredit nursing education institutions, as well as the programmes they offer. However, the National Qualifications Act of 2008 states that there must be one national framework for all qualifications in South Africa, and that registration of all qualifications is to be done by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). To complicate matters, the Council on Higher Education is also tasked with accreditation of institutions and programmes, including nursing.

Ms Makhanya said having different Acts created problems because it duplicated roles and responsibilities between the bodies. "It would be better for everyone if the accreditation of colleges could be decentralised," she said.

Dr Goqwana said the Committee would arrange a meeting with the Department to see how the problem could be resolved. As to whether decentralisation of the accreditation was best for the nursing industry, Dr Goqwana said decentralisation was important but would only work if there was a strong monitoring body to oversee the process. "As Members of Parliament, we want the health of citizens to be the top priority, and nurses form part of the equation," he said. The Committee appreciated that there were numerous challenges facing the Council, some beyond their control. "However, we are worried that the quality and quantity of nurses is not what would be desired, and this needs to be fixed urgently," Dr Goqwana said.

Rescuing Africa from poverty

Tough job for new Commonwealth appointee

by Sakhile Mokoena

The recently-elected first Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)'s Africa region has been tasked with a real handful: to rescue Africa from poverty, end its conflicts and deal with the severe effects of inevitable climate change on the world's Mother Continent.

When he is not dealing with strategic and complex matters concerning the continent, the new appointee, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, will be busy passing laws and ensuring that provinces and local authorities maintain their voice in the national sphere of government.

Mr Mahlangu does not seem to be daunted by his new role in international relations. He must oversee the implementation of the strategic plan of the organisation and provide policy guidance to the CPA. He says he is very aware that Africa faces a number of challenges: "When we talk about poverty, we are the worst affected, when we talk about the effects of climate change, assessment reports show that we are in the list of continents that will be worst affected," he said. More importantly, the continent does not have resources to address these dangers. Part of his strategic plan is to inculcate international programmes that will benefit Africa and ensure that the continent emerges from its current decline.

Recent studies have shown that climate change could be a major blow to Africa's attempts to ward off hunger and poverty. The continent's dependence on primary agriculture could see it go down in massive starvation as a result of global warming. The severe change in weather conditions will also see large



National Council of Provinces Chairperson, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu

declines in fish stocks, thus ramming the economy of African countries where fishing and other climate-reliant industries contribute largely to the Gross Domestic Product. The developed nations are largely responsible for most of the emission that leads to global warming. Industrialized countries are being encouraged to commit to a reduction of carbon dioxide emission, in an attempt to limit the severity of climate change. Poorer countries in Africa and elsewhere are more vulnerable, and there is great concern about how the changes will affect them.

Another headache for Mr Mahlangu is the looming deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which several countries in the continent are reportedly not going to meet: "There are indications that we may not be able to achieve all eight MDGs, but we cannot sit down and give excuses. These are not only Africa's commitments, they are the commitments of the entire global community. There are challenges here and there, but we need to push ahead and see where our efforts take us, come 2015," he said.

CPA objectives that are close to his heart are women's rights and empowerment, which also form part of the MDGs. At a recent CPA conference, Parliaments were urged to strengthen

the legal frameworks that protect women's rights by amending laws that discriminate against women. The Association has also established a branch, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), to focus on women's issues. Part of the CPA's strategic plan is to promote and maintain gender equality, and emancipation of women.

Other key objectives in Africa are to participate in election observer missions and work towards the resolution of conflict. This is in line with the CPA's mission of promoting the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing an understanding of democratic governance.

Mr Mahlangu is also a member of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and often participates in Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) observer missions, the Association of Senates, Shooru and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab States (ASSECAA), an organisation of second Houses of Parliament.

He regularly attends conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which works for peace and co-operation, with a focus on worldwide dialogue and strengthening Parliaments as crucial pillars of democracy.



BIG DAY: Cape learners at the Centre for the Book to launch *My Story Our Stories*

person's view is the total reality, but that all views help to make up the whole picture," she said. The 26 schools were selected at random and the organisers attempted to reach out into rural South Africa, going as far afield as Ga-Mojaji in Limpopo and Askham in the Northern Cape. The children were encouraged to write in their mother tongue and their stories were translated into English.

CAPTURED: Passion of writing

A book launch with a difference

by Jackie Adriaans

The launch of *My Story Our Stories* hosted recently by the Parliamentary Millennium Programme (PMP) at the Centre for the Book in Cape Town is the culmination of a project initiated by the PMP three years ago. With the end-of-year break looming, here is an ideal gift to round off 2009.

The idea for the project followed a survey conducted by Johnnic Learning, which revealed that Grade 7 learners were not functionally literate to cope with the demands of Grade 8. The PMP, in partnership with Johnnic Learning, held workshops in the provinces to instil in children the joy of writing their story. Stories collected from 26 primary schools nationwide were published in the Sunday Times as a series of educational supplements with the theme, *Every View Counts: My Story Our Stories*, and this book is the result of the project.

Grade 7 learners from schools across Cape Town were invited to participate in

a story-writing workshop and to attend the launch. In his keynote address at the event, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, said it was significant to launch the book in September, to commemorate Heritage Month and mark International Literacy Day on 8 September: "The 26 stories collected from across the country will allow South African children to discover their history and share their vision of the future. More than that, it is about learning to write and communicate through writing."

PMP's Public Outreach and Media Co-ordinator, Ms Jill Merkel, said the objective was to find out how the youth identify themselves in the context of their communities. "This came out in their stories because you write what you are passionate about. Through the workshops we demonstrated that we all see things differently; what we see depends on who we are, where we stand and where we come from. We attempt to explain that no one

Mr Mahlangu pointed out some of the challenges facing the government with regards to reading, including the language of instruction in schools, a lack of education in the mother-tongue and an inadequate schooling infrastructure. He encouraged children and parents to play an active part in finding a solution: "An uneducated society cannot help itself... It is no secret that reading nations are empowered nations. All of us, including parents, need to promote a culture of reading, by reading to our children and encouraging them to read to us."

The PMP called on the experience of acclaimed children's author, Ms Lesley Beake, to guide the children through the process and to hone their stories. She described the process as "Irresistible: it is the kind of project you dream about throughout your whole career. It took me to places I would never have got to on my own – to the disadvantaged communities in the deep rural areas."

What struck her most about the experience was the spirit of the children and teachers, and their ability to pursue education in difficult circumstances.

The book will be distributed to 268 decentralised libraries countrywide and to 2 600 schools via the SABC Education Network.

**See our book review on page 28.
For more information, contact Ms Jill Merkel on (021) 403-8285 or e-mail jmerckel@parliament.gov.za**

Q & A



NCOP and OVERSIGHT

The National Council of Provinces House Chairperson (Oversight and Institutional Support), Mr Raseriti Tau, defines vigorous oversight as one of the NCOP's targets.

Sakhile Mokoena reports

How do the functions of the House Chairperson: Oversight and Institutional Support differ from those of the House Chairperson: Committees of the NCOP?

According to the rules of the NCOP, some of the following are my designated functions: Co-ordinating the oversight activities of Select Committees, while ensuring that all Committees are briefed on the Budget Votes by the applicable government departments, and to table progress reports on such briefings to the Programme Committee meeting. I also monitor compliance by the Executive with respect to recommendations set out in reports of Select Committees. Fundamental to my task, is to see to it that the recommendations on any oversight-related business are implemented. Currently, our focus is on the implementation of the Oversight and Accountability Model. Conversely, the House Chairperson of Committees has a unique task to facilitate the day-to-day running of committees, the formulation of their business plans and programmes, and thereby ensure the smooth running of Committee work.

In the NCOP strategic planning workshop earlier this year there was mention that the House will "exercise oversight vigorously" in this parliamentary term. How do you define "vigorous oversight" and do you have a programme of action?

Vigorous in the context of oversight simply means that emphasis will be on oversight and there will be follow-up. Following the Strategic Planning workshop, the Strategic Framework Plan

was developed to map out the path the NCOP wishes to take while exercising oversight. The plan outlines some important areas

- Provinces must be involved in designing and executing programmes of the NCOP's activities
- The role of permanent delegates must be clarified and strengthened
- Information must be coordinated all the way from local level, to the provinces and the NCOP
- When conducting oversight through the guidance of the new Oversight and Accountability Model there must be stronger liaison with provincial committees
- Planning and coordination must be improved when planning programmes and oversight activities of the NCOP
- Principles of public participation must be realised when conducting oversight work, to ensure that members of society also "own" the work done by the NCOP.

In the same workshop you mentioned the need to establish a relationship with the office of the Auditor-General, to be better equipped to do oversight.

Since 2008, the NCOP has embarked on plans to strengthen relations with the Office of the Auditor General. As such, we facilitate interactions between the AG's office and our own committees, wherein the two parties deliberate on the reports formulated by the AG's office. This interaction assists our office to be better positioned to carry out its oversight function. We have held two

workshops with the AG's office, to give our members an opportunity to pose questions and understand better the spending patterns of provinces and how some of the challenges that relate to spending may be dealt with.

What are the necessary tools for oversight and does the NCOP have enough to carry out its responsibilities effectively?

Some of the oversight tools available at our disposal include the following: Site visits by the NCOP delegations to various areas; Public Hearings on legislation; Briefings to Committees by departments and relevant entities; Questions for oral and written reply to the Executive; and Specific programmes such as Taking Parliament to the People and Provincial weeks.

During the Provincial Week in September, Provincial Legislatures raised concern about their inability to do oversight over national departments rendering services in the provinces

It is simple: the NCOP is a place at national level where representatives of the three spheres of government meet and where joint oversight in the spirit of intergovernmental relations and co-operative government is enshrined in the Constitution. So, it is not whether there is a distance or not between one sphere and the other, but whether we are able to look at issues that affect service delivery together. That is the advantage with the NCOP approach. My office is there to promote this principle of integrated approach to oversight. 🌐



3 million forecast

2010
World Cup
tourism
bonanza

by Sakhile Mokoena

Up to three million visitors are expected in South Africa for the Soccer World Cup next year. This emerged during recent oversight visits by Parliament to some of the country's ports of entry, to assess their readiness to handle the inflow of tourists. Overseas soccer fans are expected to boost the average annual number of visitors to this country, by 40%.

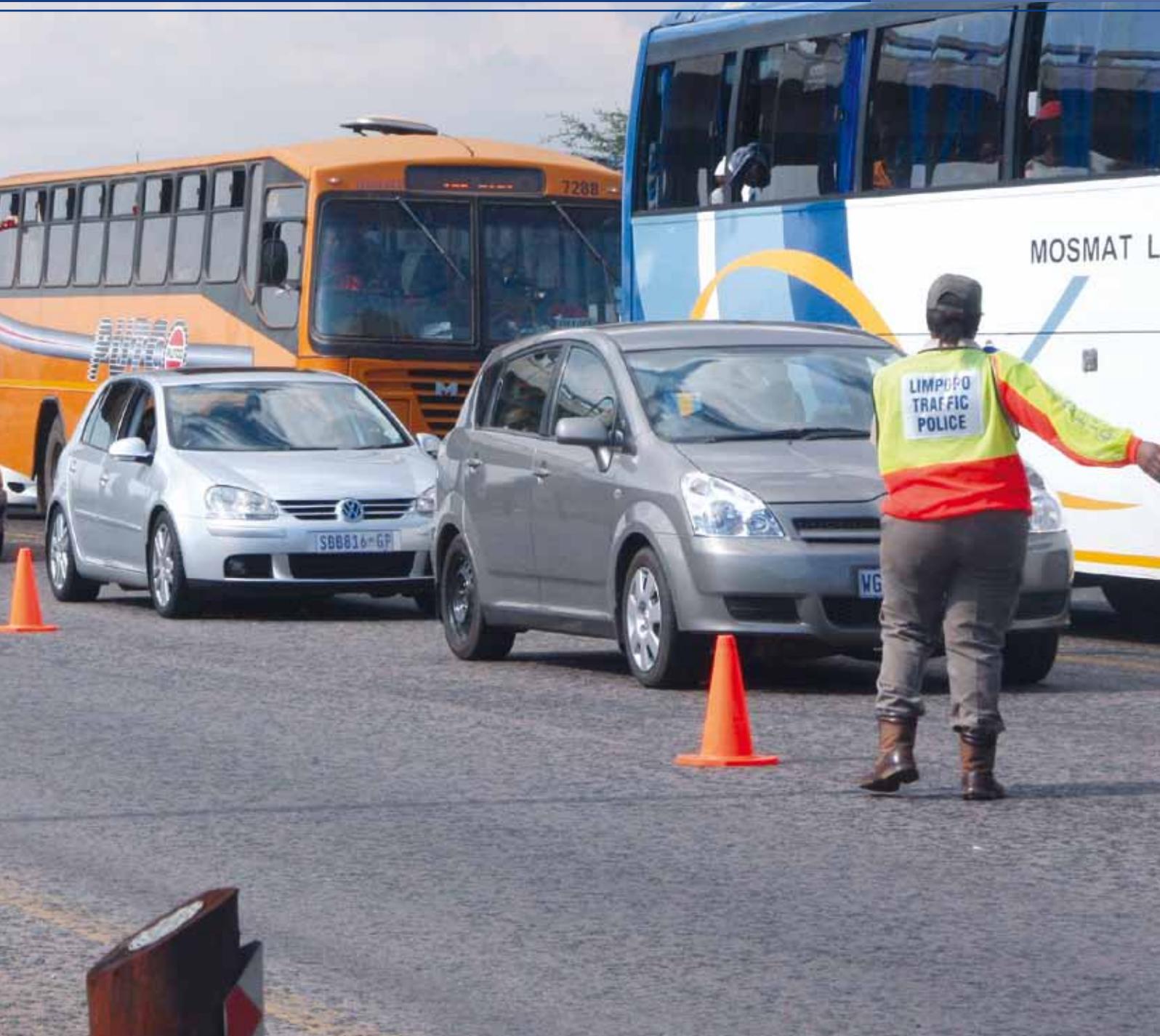
The tourism industry has high expectations for next year. Ensuring tourism-friendly public transport and seeing to the safety of tourists, top the SA Tourism list. The Department of Transport says it is convinced that the rail system will be able to cope with the influx of soccer fans for the World Cup.

However, the country's public transport system is plagued by issues, such as an inefficient and ageing railway system, and an unregulated taxi industry. Calls for a tourist-friendly public transport system seem to have sparked additional problems rather than offer solutions.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Tourism, Mr Donald Gumede, says it is overstating matters to claim that South Africa is dangerous for tourists: "There is nothing out of the ordinary compared to other countries; South Africa is safer than most destinations", Mr Gumede said. Part of the plan is to develop a tourism safety programme, implemented

jointly by the Department of Tourism and the South African Police Service (SAPS), which will address safety and security issues related to the World Cup. SAPS is working on the National Safety and Security Framework for 2010, and the International Marketing Council is one of the agencies identified to help "turn the tide" overseas on perceptions regarding crime in South Africa.

Positive factors include the Gautrain between Johannesburg and Pretoria, the government's taxi recapitalization and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects, and the fact that taxis are very flexible. Over 5000 railway police are expected to patrol the system.



The first stop for the Portfolio Committees on Tourism and Home Affairs was the OR Tambo International Airport in Gauteng, which will be the main port of entry for especially overseas visitors. Members of the two Committees were impressed when they visited the international arrivals section at Africa's biggest airport.

There is concern about fraud and corruption among airport staff, and both the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) and airport management have assured the Parliamentarians that they are working on strategies to address these problems. The Department of Home Affairs Immigration Services

say they will be training Airline Liaison Officers, who will help curb illegal entries at the OR Tambo International Airport.

South Africa has signed an agreement with Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique to share tourism spin-offs through "border free" tourism packages. These would help ease border formalities, and smooth the passage of visitors. The 2010 Soccer World Cup Organising Plan was to turn what would otherwise be one-time World Cup visitors, into repeat visitors to this country. Some of the challenges were a shortage of tourism information centres around the country, a shortage of skills in the tourism industry and insufficient

accommodation. By the end of last year South Africa had about 80 000 graded rooms, more than the 55 000 required by FIFA, and a sufficient reserve of private accommodation.

The Department of Tourism and MATCH (FIFA's accommodation partner for the 2010 World Cup) are working with the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa to assist smaller accommodation units and establishments in previously disadvantaged areas to obtain gradings and get registered as World Cup accommodation suppliers. Mr Gumede said they would interact with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and MATCH on tourism logistics.



SOCCER CITY IN JOHANNESBURG NEARS COMPLETION



Minister of Tourism, Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk, says this will contribute to job creation. "By travelling at home, South Africans contribute meaningfully to the tourism industry and its competitiveness, as well as local economic growth and job creation. Domestic tourism is also less volatile than foreign arrivals and it offers the economy a steady and reliable income stream," he said recently, while launching tourism month.

"Domestic and regional tourism is the backbone of a sustainable and robust tourism industry. In 2008, the total number of tourists in South Africa was 42,5 million, of which 9,5 million were foreign arrivals," he said.

Domestic tourists accounted for 77% of all tourists in South Africa last year. Over the three year period from 2006 to 2008, domestic tourism accounted for nearly 80% of all tourism in South Africa.

The Parliamentary delegation also visited Beitbridge in Musina, (Limpopo), Maseru, Ficksburg and Fouriesburg (all three in the Free State Province), to monitor their readiness for increased visitor registration. The worst challenged was Maseru Bridge, which was found to be "not yet ready for next year's soccer World Cup." The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, Mr Ben Martins, said some of the problems were poor management, lack of proper equipment and staff shortages.

A normal shift required 20 police officers, but the Maseru border post only had four per shift. "This obviously compromises security searches of vehicles and pedestrians. There were also no scanners and sniffer dogs," Mr Martins said. Other ports of entry were ready for the 2010 World Cup, and the smaller border posts were impressive.

Local is lekker

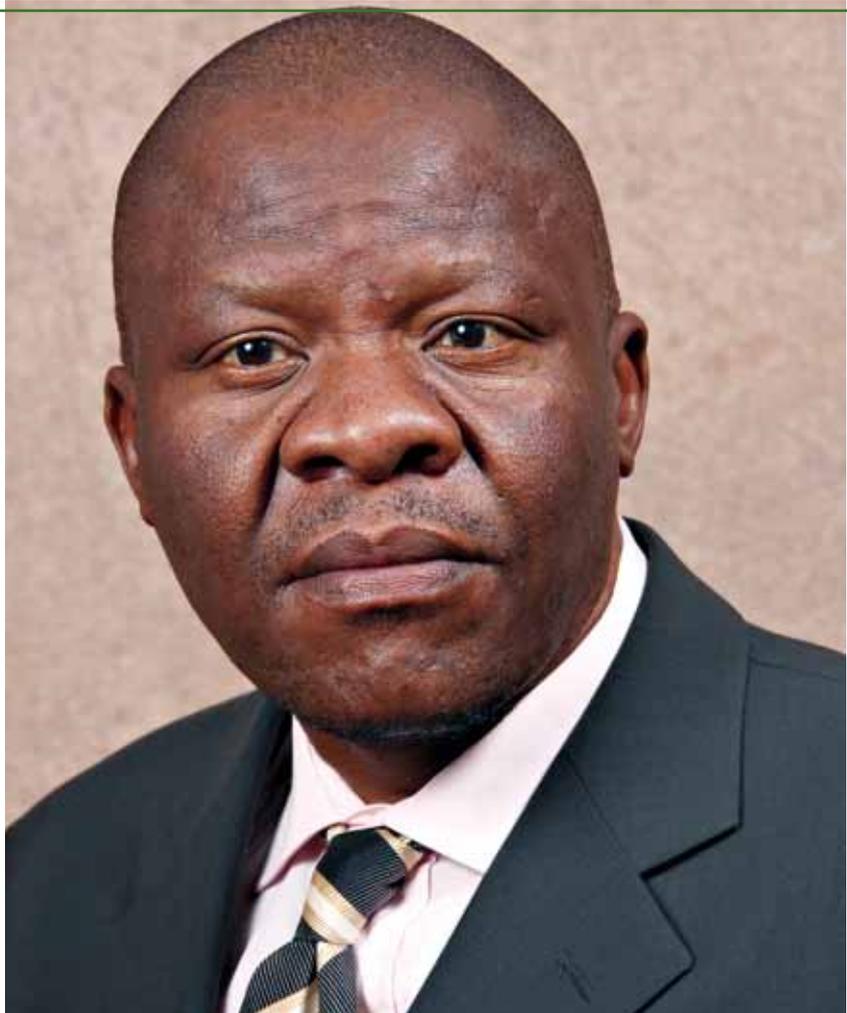
Meanwhile, South Africans have been encouraged to travel at home. The

In September, Parliamentarians gathered at the Old Assembly to bid farewell to the late Mr Frans Masango, who passed away earlier in the month from kidney failure after a long struggle with diabetes. This followed a motion in the National Assembly, to mark his death and his brave life in the struggle against apartheid.

Mr Frans Masango's early political life began as a student leader of the 1976 revolution, which changed the political landscape of South Africa forever. The motion that was unanimously approved by the National Assembly noted that after the June 16 uprising "Ting-Ting" Masango, as he was known, was elected onto the Student Representative Council. Later, he trained to become part of a specialised and disciplined MK unit which was sent back to apartheid South Africa to carry out military operations.

"Parliament recalls that Comrade Masango was amongst a group of activists who vociferously campaigned against the hanging of a prominent youth freedom fighter, Solomon Kalusha Mahlangu, before his hanging in 1979," said the deputy Chief Whip of the majority Party, Mr Bulelani Magwanishe. The National Assembly (NA) noted that Mr Masango's life was an example of heroism and commitment to the cause of the poor. The NA conveyed its condolences to the Masango family and the African National Congress.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu, presided over a commemoration service for the late Mr Masango in the Old



Mr Frans Masango

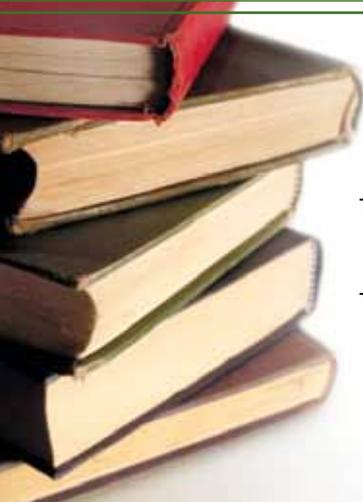
14 August 1958 - 18 September 2009

Assembly, where both NCOP Chief Whip, Ms Nosipho Ntwanambi, and ANC Chief Whip, Mr Mathole Motshega, honoured the selfless deeds of the struggle hero.

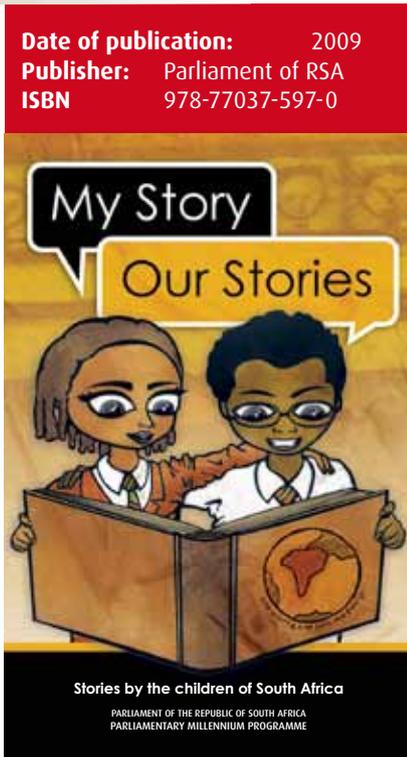
Mr Sisulu said "Ting-Ting" Masango's dedication to the cause of freedom could not be overestimated. Those who were with him in the trenches came in large numbers to chant, recount, sing, and most of all, to pay their last respects to him. Friends and colleagues recalled the Umkhonto Wesizwe veteran. He was one of the renowned Delmas Four who were charged with treason in the 1980s, in a trial which came to be known as the "silent trial". The Delmas Four, Mr Frans "Ting-Ting" Masango, Mr Jabu Masina, Mr Neo Potsane, and Mr Joseph Makhura did not participate in the trial because they did not recognise the jurisdiction of the court. They wanted to be tried as MK soldiers and prisoners of war. The Delmas Four were found guilty

and sentenced to death. They spent 18 months on death row, and made international headlines while staging a 38-day hunger strike. They were granted amnesty and released in June of 1991. The liberation struggle credentials of the deceased and his comrades were recently immortalised by their trial lawyer, Mr Peter Harris. His book, *In A different Time*, is a stranger-than-fiction narrative of their time together, and a harrowing account of their life on death row.

While in exile, Mr "Ting-Ting" Masango worked for Radio Freedom and when he returned home to South Africa, he secured a position as a journalist and newsreader at the SABC's Ikwezi FM. He became a Member of Parliament this year and served in various parliamentary structures, including the Portfolio Committees on Trade and Industry and Water and Environmental Affairs, and the Joint Committee on Constitutional Review.



books you should be reading



of South African children, for South African children. They reflect the way in which children experience their life and how, through their experiences, they “map” themselves and their communities. The thought-provoking stories depict topics such as human rights, citizenship and community spirit. The book targets primary school learners, although high school pupils will relate to the stories.

The earth in our valley is red and there are a thousand hills that are green - KwaZulu-Natal learners

We live in the flower veld of the Cape where flowers grow like stars on the ground, in spring. We are the whisper of rainbows and clatter of rocks - Namaqua learners

I live in Soweto, a place where the air breathes the words of freedom in South Africa - Soweto learners

Our mountain is always with us strong and dark against the sky, like its name Thaba Nchu, which means Black Mountain. - Free State learners

Things happen when we have a Rain Queen - Limpopo learners

Educational supplements that were intended to help children discover their history and share their vision have been turned into a charming and unique little gem of a book. The supplements were published in the Sunday Times over a period of a year, with the theme *Every View Counts: My Story Our Stories*. They were developed in 2006, in partnership with Johnnic Learning, by the Parliamentary Millennium Programme (PMP). The PMP encourages South Africans to explore their perspectives of each other and the challenges confronting the nation. The book was compiled by award-winning children’s author Ms Lesley Beake, but its stories and illustrations are the work



Learners from Siyabulela Primary School at the Centre for the Book in Cape Town



Summit Primary School also enjoyed the launch of My Story Our Stories in Cape Town



Editor-in-Chief: Luzuko Jacobs

citizen's forum

Did you know...

Getting involved in Parliament Making contact with Parliamentary Democracy Offices

Various channels are available to anyone who wants to become involved in lawmaking and the activities of Parliament. You may want to present a petition, make a submission, attend a Committee meeting or a plenary debate of a House, or all of the above.

There is yet another way to participate in the work of Parliament and that is through the Parliamentary Democracy Offices, or PDOs as they are known. PDOs were created because Parliament believes that public participation drives democracy. As the custodian of parliamentary democracy, there is a constitutional imperative for it to facilitate participation. Chapter 4 of the Constitution compels Parliament to provide a national forum for public consideration of issues, to provide access to and to foster involvement in the legislative and

other processes of Parliament. This provision finds permanent expression in Parliament's vision, which places people at its centre: and communities feel empowered because they can organise themselves and interact with Parliament as a stronger force.

The PDO project was initiated to establish a permanent Parliamentary presence in the provinces, especially to serve far-flung rural communities that often find themselves on the periphery of the national debate. The PDO goal is to develop local points of contact where people can access Parliament, and influence its work and direction. The pilot project consists of three PDO offices in Limpopo, North West and Northern Cape. The next phase of the project will entail establishing another six PDO offices in the other provinces. Together, the PDO offices will provide all South Africans with an opportunity to take part in Parliament and give vital input into legislation and oversight programmes. Although established only last year, the PDOs have covered a good deal of ground in getting communities in the three provinces ready to participate effectively in

Parliament's programmes. Apart from information sessions and workshops they have dealt with appeals for Parliament's intervention in a variety of grievances ranging from health, social services and education to sport and recreation, youth- and labour related issues. Among other things, the PDOs are involved in conducting public education and providing information on Parliament and its work.

In brief, the PDOs are there to provide a platform for people to access and participate in the processes of Parliament. When there are parliamentary programmes and activities, they must provide logistical support. Public input and feedback are collated by the PDOs, and they co-ordinate and co-operate with other spheres of government.

"In addition to our mandate we have established a track record of resolving a variety of disputes by way of facilitating contact between aggrieved parties and relevant government departments, much to the appreciation of communities," the PDOs report. 🗣️

HOW TO CONTACT PDOs

Central PDO
90 Plein Street
2nd Floor
Office 2/305
Parliament of the RSA
CAPE TOWN, 8000
Tel: Ms Sindiswa Tyhokolo-Mbetshe on
(021) 403-8215/6

Limpopo
One Stop Shop Centre
Ga-Matlala, 0756
Tel: Mr Makgathi Sekonya on
(015) 227 0050 or cell: 082 938 2023

North West
Old Municipal building/
Old Governors House
Phola Section
North West Province

Tel: Ms Winnie Seoposengwe on
(053) 998-4262 or cell: 0824656343
email wseoposengwe@parliament.gov.za

Northern Cape
P O Box 754
Kakamas, 8870
Tel: Ms Motshidisi Mogamisi on
(054) 431-0508 or cell: 0828048591
Email mmogamisi@parliament.gov.za

citizen's forum

Learning can be fun

The Crossword is focused on learning about the business of Parliament. The solution to the October Crossword and Sudoku will be published in the November edition of INSESSION.

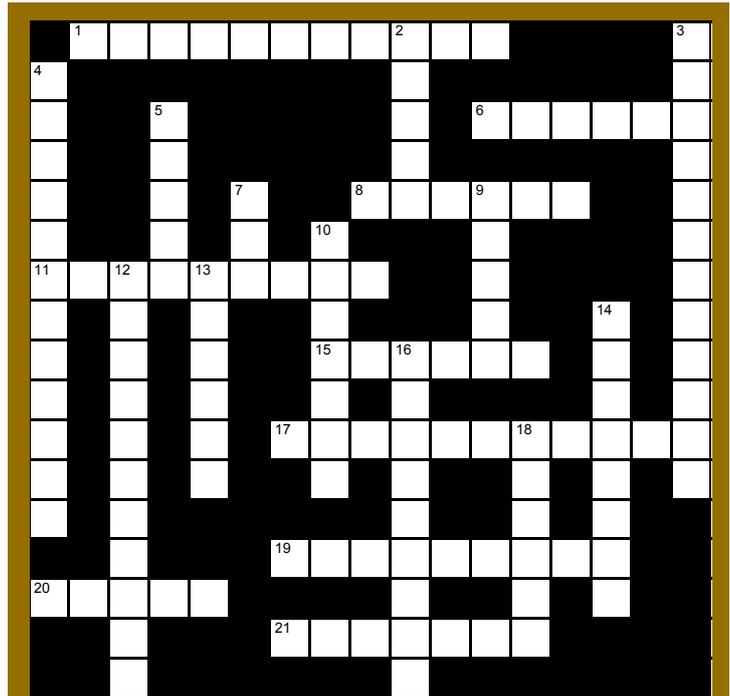
Rules of crossword

A crossword puzzle is a group of words that have been arranged across and down, so that each word crosses at least one other word at a common letter. The puzzle itself doesn't show the words, only the spaces where the words should be written. A list of numbered clues is matched to numbers placed in spaces on the puzzle where each word starts. You must find the correct word, in order for the clues to match up down and across, otherwise the puzzle does not work out.

Rules of Sudoku

Sudoku is played on a 9 by 9 board, divided into 3 by 3 cells. The solution of the puzzle is to place numbers on the board so that each row, column or cell contains each number, 1 to 9, exactly once, without moving the initial clues. The idea is to see where the numbers 1 to 9 will fit in. Each cell (or block) must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and each row vertically and horizontally must also contain 1 to 9.

Keep this INSESSION and check your answers in next month's issue.



							6	
				7		2		
	5	8	4	6		9		
		4					3	
6			1		2			9
	8		9		7			
	4		5		1			
		2			4	3	9	
						5		

Across

- 1 Places where visitors enter a country [Page 8, INSESSION] (6,5)
- 6 A _____ of Parliament is referred to as an MP (6)
- 8 Closed meeting of a political party in a legislative setting (6)
- 11 This Committee has oversight of trade and industry [Page 15, INSESSION] (9)
- 15 When the budget is _____ it becomes an official document (6)
- 17 The head of a country, eg its President (4,2,5)
- 19 A media release by a member of the Executive is sometimes referred to as a _____ (9)
- 20 Layer that protects the earth's atmosphere (Page 9, INSESSION)(5)
- 21 A person who travels for pleasure, eg to the World Cup (7)

Down

- 2 Select Committee on Public Accounts (abbrev.) (5)
- 3 Carbon dioxide emission targets set by industrial countries like the UK [Page 9, INSESSION] (6,6)
- 4 First attempt to test if a project is feasible (5,7)
- 5 To check and verify business or government accounts (5)
- 7 Parliamentary Democratic Office (abbrev.) (3)
- 9 Unlawful acts in general (5)
- 10 _____ Days of Activism against violence and abuse of women and children (7)
- 12 Acts of Law are often accompanied by sets of _____ (11)
- 13 Relating to government finances especially tax revenues (6)
- 14 Ability to do things [Page 6, INSESSION] (8)
- 16 To do with official forecasts of expenditure [Page 6, INSESSION] (9)
- 18 Committees of the National Council of Provinces are called _____ Committees (6)

citizen's forum

Labour broking has been in the spotlight recently with plans to amend legislation. What is labour broking?

Labour broking is when a person or business provides temporary or casual workers to another person or business in return for a fee. A labour broker is a person or business that provides this service. Obtaining work through a labour broker is similar to the concept of Temporary Employment Services (TES). There has been considerable growth in this sector. The rapid growth of the TES sector in the workplace is driven by an increased demand for flexible employment patterns to accommodate, for example:

- Staff absences, for short or long (set) periods
- Seasonal changes in demand for products
- A short-term need for employees with scarce skills.

Labour broking can be seen as a beneficial option from an efficiency perspective because brokers train their workers in a variety of skills, to be developed further in the workplace. In terms of South African legislation, nobody can be forced to work through a labour broker. In practice, people with lower-end skills may find it difficult to obtain work, except through a labour broker.

Legislation that impacts on Labour Broking includes:

- The Labour Relations Act
- The Basic Conditions of Employment Act
- The Skills Development Act
- The Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act.

In the interpretation of the law there appears to be uncertainty as to whether or not a labour broker who finds work for people, is in fact their employer. Although labour brokers find employment for temporary workers, this work may fall short of the benefits afforded to permanent employees, such as leave, wage structures and pension. Workers employed via labour brokers may be more at risk if they are injured at work. Questions arise regarding health and safety issues, and compensation. Temporary employees may be required to sign no-work, no-pay agreements, and could be entitled to fewer benefits than full-time employees.

solutions to September Crossword and Sudoku

Crossword



Sudoku

4	2	9	3	6	7	5	1	8
1	6	3	5	9	8	4	7	2
7	8	5	2	1	4	9	6	3
5	1	4	6	8	3	7	2	9
2	7	8	9	4	1	6	3	5
9	3	6	7	5	2	1	8	4
8	4	2	1	7	9	3	5	6
6	9	1	8	3	5	2	4	7
3	5	7	4	2	6	8	9	1



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.