

IN SESSION



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"YOUR SEAT IN PARLIAMENT"

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NOVEMBER 2009

Planet Earth... running out of time

FEATURE: SA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



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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AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



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Presiding Officers

Mr Max Sisulu
Mr Mninwa Mahlangu
Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo
Ms Thandi Memela

Accounting Officer: Zingile Dingani

Editor-in-Chief: Luzuko Jacobs

Editor: Momelezi Kula

Production Editor: Kagisho Mamabolo

Copy Editor: Oswald Gibson

Writers: Jackie Adriaans, Abel Mputing and Sakhile Mokoena

Contributors: Makhotso Sotyu, Kanyisa Ndyondya, Mava Lukani, Shereen Dawood, Oscar Selebogo and Jasmine Mohidin

Design and Layout: Angelo Lamour

Photography:
Parliamentary Communication Services, GCIS

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EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

Telephone: (021) 403 8243, Fax (021) 403 8096

E-mail: insession@parliament.gov.za

Subscriptions: subscriptions@parliament.gov.za
Post: PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000

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 institutional governance.



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Coming in next edition

- Looking back on 2009
- The way forward in 2010
- Report on No-Violence campaign
- Solutions for November crossword puzzle and Sudoku

editor's note

In this issue we examine Parliament's involvement in international relations, issues of climate change and Parliament's response to them, and the oversight and public hearings of Parliament on how policies on gender-based violence are implemented.

The first Ordinary Session of the second Pan-African Parliament opened on 26 October in Midrand, South Africa, with deliberations on integration in Africa. South Africa was represented by its five permanent delegates to the PAP, headed by the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mzinwa Mahlangu, who is also a member of the PAP Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline. The other delegates are Ms Sandy Kalyan, who sits on the PAP Committee on Education, Culture and Human resources; Ms Fatima Hajaig, a member of the Committee on Co-operation, International Relations and Conflict Resolutions; Ms Mavis Matladi, a member of the PAP Committee on Gender, Family, Youth and People with Disability, and Mr Sisa Njikelana, a member of the PAP Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters.

PAP President Dr. Moussa Idriss Ndele is optimistic that the PAP, which has been operating as a consultative body since it was formed five years ago, will evolve into a legislative body by 2011. "It is our hope that by the end of the January 2010 session, the new protocol (to make PAP a legislature) will be examined by the heads of State," he said.

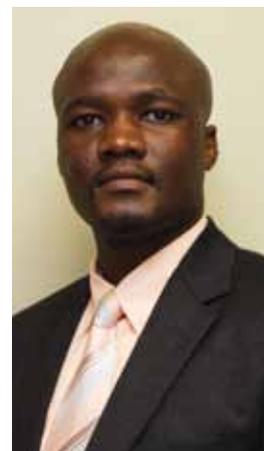
During the October session, members of the PAP resolved to push for the full implementation of the Kyoto protocol at the Copenhagen Climate Change conference in Denmark in December. Climate change is high on the global agenda and as representatives of the people, Members of Parliaments are taking an active interest in this. Our Parliament held public hearings on the political, economic, legal, gender and social impacts of climate change and global warming. These issues require a multi-sectoral, inter-departmental and intergovernmental approach that can address multiple issues at once. The aim of the hearings amongst other things was to:

- Develop a comprehensive picture from various stakeholders of how climate change is impacting on communities and ecosystems in South Africa
- Understand gaps between existing legislation and government policy and how to respond to climate change and sustainable development
- Identify short, medium as well as long-term solutions, and establish what action is needed from Parliament and Government
- Inform Parliamentarians on what the South African negotiating team at December's Copenhagen climate change negotiations will push for in the new international climate framework.

In addition, Parliament's Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disability held public hearings on the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. The main aim was to assess the impact of the Domestic Violence Act on people affected by domestic violence and abuse, and gain insight into both the challenges and achievements of the Act. The hearings were also part of a broader process by Parliament to assess the effect of the laws it has passed since 1994.

The hosting of public hearings is in line with Parliament's aim to enhance public participation in its processes. To this end, the Committees hear and receive written input from a range of stakeholders and individuals drawn from all sectors of society. Enjoy reading.

Momelezi Kula
editor





Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu

MESSAGE FROM THE national assembly



Africa's unified stand on a wetter and warmer world

Africa's position at Copenhagen's summit meeting on Climate Change is expected to be coherent and strong. Commitments that Africa seek from the international community, and the actions that our countries can take themselves, should be based on the principles of equity and taking responsibility for global warming and climate change.

Africa, in the context of environmental justice, seeks to be equitably compensated for environmental, social and economic losses. Increased support to Africa under any future climate regime should be based on the priorities determined by the continent, including food security, poverty alleviation and climate risk management. Regardless of their participation in the Kyoto Protocol, Africa is requesting "polluting countries" to drastically reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. We also want the polluting countries to finance the transfer of skills and climate adaptation technology to Africa, and its implementation in this continent.

South Africa's international climate change negotiation position reflects the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" as stipulated in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This position argues for more ambitious, quantified and legally binding commitments on reducing emission for developed countries, without imposing similar obligations on developing countries. South Africa is arguing for a climate regime based on the recognition that solutions to the problem of climate change must take cognisance of the priority of developing countries, that is, to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development. The framework for mitigation action by developing countries should be supported and enabled by finance, through technology transfer and by building capacity in developing countries. In any future climate regime the flow of funding for the above should be more predictable, in order to help developing countries construct more resilient economies, and make the big leap to low carbon growth and development.

In South Africa, the response to climate change is reflected

in our National Climate Change Response Strategy, which among other things frames climate change response as an opportunity to create employment, alleviate poverty, and provide housing. These are all consistent with the goal of sustainable development and advancement.

The strategy can be summed up in ten goals:

- To promote adaptation to climate change
- To develop a sustainable energy programme
- To meet international obligations specified in the UNFCCC
- To integrate climate change response in government and promote awareness
- To ensure that climate change response measures are properly directed, acceptable to all and carried out with a national focus
- To establish partnerships between government and industry in order to effectively manage climate change
- To promote related education, training, awareness and capacity-building
- To encourage climate change research and development
- To conduct inventories of greenhouse gases and air pollutants
- To access and manage financial resources for climate change.

Our position calls for a comprehensive international programme on adaptation, which prioritizes both immediate and future impacts of climate change on Africa. We would want legally binding emission reduction commitments for developed countries that are bound by the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the United States. On the other hand, the framework for mitigation action by developing countries should not be legally binding and should be supported with funding, technology and capacity building. A commitment of funds is needed in developing countries, for building resilient economies and to facilitate low carbon growth and development, among other things. Africa's view is that an effective international agreement for climate change mitigation must do three things. It must create incentives for broad participation, and for compliance,

Real, immediate action is needed



and it requires that countries take real and immediate action. A focus on climate change is central to sustainable development and poverty reduction agendas.

Parliamentarians are best placed to be at the forefront of the food security and climate change debates, and are thus in an excellent position through their legislative powers, oversight functions, budget allocations and representation of the public to make a critical difference. Parliaments have an important role to play in enacting sound legislation that can protect the environment, lead to the attainment of sustainable food security and reduce poverty. This can be done by mainstreaming climate change imperatives into all government sectors that contribute to climate change or are affected by it.

Parliamentarians are in a good position to identify and respond to societal needs. They are also responsible for holding the Executive and governments to account by overseeing their work and ensuring that they do not infringe on the rights of citizens or waste State resources. Oversight work also affords parliamentarians a role in promoting climate change concerns at a local level through advocacy and engaging with constituents.

Parliaments are responsible for approving national budgets and therefore they have a say in how State resources are allocated. This empowers Parliament to ensure that substantial resources are allocated to the important and relevant sectors. Parliaments are not involved in the negotiating processes itself, only in ratification of international agreements: but it is necessary for them to get involved proactively, before governments finalize the agreements, and to ensure that the views of the people are taken into account.

Therefore, Parliaments require dedicated multi-disciplinary or inter-sectoral Portfolio Committees on Climate Change. We must mainstream climate change issues in all Departments involved in land-use planning, natural resource management, energy, transport, coastal management and human settlement, explicitly to manage climate change. A Portfolio Committee on Climate Change can play a pivotal role in identifying policy gaps and plugging them, in addition to mobilizing resources and budget allocations for climate change.

We need a comprehensive climate policy, if a low-carbon vision is to be achieved. Within such a comprehensive

policy, climate-specific policies, such as emissions trading, should be complemented by general or sector-specific policies that take climate policy aims into account. Annual budgets, financial policies, agricultural, transport and regional policies would all need to integrate climate policy aims to a greater extent than hitherto, in order to generate stronger and more coherent signals to consumers and producers.

The extent to which climate change issues are considered and integrated into existing policy fields is therefore a key issue for the future. There is also a case to be made for a dedicated ministry with a broad mandate, located in the Presidency, National Planning Commission or Finance, to coordinate and manage policy planning and ensure that environmental concerns feature in all policy.

As President Jacob Zuma told the UN General Assembly, "The impact of climate change is devastating for Africa, and will severely undermine development and poverty eradication efforts. We must ensure that there is an inclusive, fair and effective global treaty to meet this challenge. The agreement must recognise that solving the climate problem cannot be separated from the struggle to eradicate poverty. Developed countries bear the biggest responsibility for climate change and its impact. We must therefore strike a balance between adaptation and mitigation. Our goal should be to significantly reduce emissions across the globe without constraining development in countries of the South. Developed countries must make ambitious, quantified, and legally-binding emission reduction commitments that are in line with science, and that address their historical responsibilities. At Copenhagen, there needs to be agreement on new, additional, sustainable and predictable financing-for-adaptation. This should be for programmes that reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to the effects of climate change."

The commitment that Africa seeks from the international community is based on the principle of equity, and common but differentiated responsibilities, as we prepare for a wetter and warmer world. And in the context of environmental justice, the continent must be compensated for environmental, social and economic losses.



Max Sisulu

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



President Zuma (centre), Chief Justice Ngcobo, friends and family. (Story p.23)

parliament in-brief

A selection of online news

Farewell and Welcome to Chief Justice

Parliament held a Joint Session to bid farewell to former Chief Justice Pius Langa, who turned 70 this year, and at the same time, to welcome the new Chief Justice, Sandile Ngcobo. President Jacob Zuma shared his bench with the former Chief Justice the Joint Sitting of Parliament's National Assembly and National Council of Provinces, and praised his dedication to justice, especially in the face of apartheid. The sitting was attended by members of the judiciary drawn from the Constitutional Court, the Labour Court, the Land Claims Court, the Competition Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Appeal, Judge Presidents of all the divisions, the South African Law Reform Commission, the South African Judicial Education Institute and the National Prosecuting Authority.

Impact of Gambling

The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry held public hearings to review the country's gambling legislation. The hearings provided the public an opportunity to address the Committee on the socio-economic impact of legalised gambling, the impact of misleading advertising, the regulation of cross-border gambling, the effectiveness of the current regulatory environment with regards to gambling, and interactive gambling.

Committees briefed

The FIFA Local Organising Committee (LOC), led by Dr Danny Jordaan, briefed a Joint Committee session of Parliament involving the Portfolio Committee on Sport, the Select Committee on Education and Recreation and 11 other Parliamentary Committees tasked with issues such as tourism, transport, police, home affairs, finance and cooperative governance and traditional affairs. The LOC also attended a special Joint Sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces during which the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Makhenkesi Stofile, addressed MPs on the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and South Africa's hosting of the event.

Anti-competitive briefing

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Economic Development was briefed by the Competition Commission on the progress report on investigations into and prosecution of firms in the food supply chain industry, which are alleged to have engaged in various forms of anti-competitive conduct. The agenda included discussion of mechanisms to address the high price of food in South Africa. Watch out for the special March 2010 INSESSION issue on consumer affairs.

Diamond mining report

The Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises is to be briefed by Alexkor on its annual report and the Department of Public Enterprises on the performance management of executive management of State-Owned Enterprises. Alexkor mines diamonds off Alexander Bay, on the Namibian border.

A-G on SABC

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications, Mr Ismail Vadi, says it is premature at this stage to convene a special meeting of the Committee regarding a section of the Auditor-General's report on the SABC, which was brought to his attention by General Bantu Holomisa. He said the Office of the Auditor-General had in fact fully investigated the allegations and reported on them to Parliament and the Interim Board, which was currently dealing with them. Mr Vadi said the Interim Board should be given an opportunity to follow the processes that were in place to address such matters. The Interim Board has assured the Committee that all the matters identified in the audit report would be dealt with swiftly and fully.

Education Plan Gets Green Light

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, Ms Fatima Chohan, has praised the Department of Basic Education for its five-year plan to improve the school system. The Department appeared before the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education to brief the Members of the Portfolio Committee on the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee on implementing the National Curriculum Statement. The statement includes the five-year plan to improve teaching and learning across the system. Members of the Committee sought clarity on the future of Outcomes Based Education (OBE). The OBE would remain, while the Department put in place reforms to the education system.

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Ms Shereen Dawood and Mr Tshililo Manenzhe of Parliament's Committee Section *Vote for Earth*

guest column

The WWF provides a short glossary of terms

The WWF is one of the world's largest independent conservation organizations, with five million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. In our Guest Column this month we feature a "jargon buster" by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), formerly known as the World Wildlife Fund.

Adaptation Fund. A fund set up under the Kyoto Protocol to provide money for poor countries to adapt to climate change.

Bioenergy, biomass. Includes biofuels which are crops that are converted into liquid fuel, eg maize turned into ethanol to replace petrol, and vegetable oils like palm and soy turned into a substitute for diesel.

Biomass is solid, mostly wood-based material used for heating (woodchips), cooking (fuel wood in developing nations) and increasingly for power generation to replace coal.

Carbon budget. A set amount of carbon that can be emitted in a given amount of time by a country, in a set of activities, or by the entire planet. Part of a strategy to limit climate change by capping greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

Carbon trading is any system where countries, companies or others trade in rights to emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. **Carbon sink** is any natural store of carbon that can absorb carbon dioxide from the air, such as forests, grasslands and oceans. Note that at different times,

soils, forests and oceans can be both sinks and sources.

Dangerous climate change. A term embedded in the UNFCCC (see below). It is not defined, but the world's governments have agreed to prevent it.

Fossil fuel. Any fuel made of fossilized carbon; the remains of ancient vegetation and animals.

Greenhouse effect. Term used to describe the warming of the atmosphere due to an increase in heat-trapping gases.

Greenhouse gas (GHG). The Kyoto Protocol covers human-induced emissions of six gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere: carbon dioxide (the most important), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Kyoto Protocol. Agreed in 1997 in Rio de Janeiro, and subsequently ratified by most nations except the USA, it gives industrialized nations legally binding emission-reduction targets for the six main GHGs, covering the period 2008 to 2012. They can do this partly by investing in emissions-cutting projects in other countries, through protocol instruments like the Clean Development Mechanism, and gaining "carbon credits". These credits can be used to offset emissions in countries where they are limited under the protocols.

Leakage. Leakage is when a country is compensated for ending deforestation in one forest, but the destroyers simply moved somewhere else.

NAPA. Plans devised by the least developed countries to help protect their citizens, ecosystems and economies against climate change.

Per capita emissions. Emissions (usually of a country) divided by the number of inhabitants. The carbon dioxide emissions of China and the USA are about the same, but because China has four times as many people, its per capita emissions are only about a quarter that of the USA.

Photovoltaics. Method of converting solar energy directly into electricity, using solar panels

Renewables. Any form of energy generated from natural sources like wind and solar energy, that are not used up.

Tipping Point. Any point of no return, after which change is sudden and irreversible. This might be the shutting down of an ocean current, which won't switch back on, even if the world goes back to the old climate conditions.

UNFCCC-UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Signed in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit. Ratified by 192 nations, it commits them to stabilising climate-changing emissions and to preventing "dangerous human interference with the climate." 

www.wwf.org.za



SADC PF Members at the Goodhope Chamber in Cape Town

Forging an e-Democracy

by Abel Mputing

Southern Africa's Parliaments are integrating their electronic capabilities, to enhance their service to the electorates of the region and address regional and global challenges.

The South African Development Community's Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) in conjunction with our Parliament recently convened a regional Information Communication Technology (ICT) Conference to create a blueprint that will define the vision, strategic direction and

framework of computer-based communication by all Parliaments in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Its theme "e-Parliament, Concepts, Policies and Reality" underlined the commitment of SADC PF to close the gap on an increasing digital divide in the region. The SADC Parliaments want to implement measures that will fast-track regional integration and create a firm basis for a coherent electronic response to the communication needs of the electorate, as well as regional and

global challenges.

The ICT Programme Manager of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, Ms Thandi Mbvundula, said e-Parliament provided distinct advantages in helping SADC Parliaments to achieve their legislative mandates: "Parliaments can use ICT to support their primary function of representation, law-making and oversight. It can also be used to promote greater access to parliamentary activities, documents and Bills, leading to better accountability and transparency. This provides for better interactivity and participation of citizens in the respective Parliaments."

Political will and more technology development are needed to address Africa's ICT challenges

This conference reflected the realisation that the joint legislative mandate and the promotion of good governance in the region hinge on the optimal use of opportunities, and the ability of electronic communication to enhance its reach. Stakeholders were on hand to provide SADC's Members of Parliament with some insights on trends, technical knowledge and the skills needed to achieve electronic integration.

Ms Mbvundula said there was unfortunately a lack of skills to guide and manage SADC's data: "The lack of sound data management stems from a lack of capacity and skills. This limits collaboration in the region and impedes the discovery, preservation or sharing of research in Africa and elsewhere, including scientific data that could enhance social and economic development."

The absence of a harmonised regulatory environment and lack of ICT legislation or protocols are some of the reasons for the lack of e-capability in the region.

"We lack a harmonized regulatory environment, political will, and people who will 'champion' ICT. There is too little appreciation of the cross-over nature of information technology. These factors, and an accelerated rate of information technology development, are at the heart of Africa's ICT challenges," Ms Mbvundula said.

Outdated infrastructure, especially in rural areas, has had a negative impact on the development use of ICT, she said. "Africa's infrastructure is limited and unreliable, and there is a particular challenge in rural communities, which lack electricity, telephones and computers. Most of all, the cost of access to them is still relatively high," she said.

Much of ICT content was in English, and it would help if indigenous content was developed, eg like Kenya where Swahili is used in communication.

A protocol has still to be agreed on by the SADC countries, but it should have the following features:

- Standards and standards-based technologies must be adopted to ensure interoperability between data and management systems
- Intellectual property rights must be checked to ensure that all is in order
- The resulting system must help to enhance open and equitable access to publicly-funded scientific data.

If these impediments can be overcome, it will help in the ICT transition from e-Parliament to e-Democracy. This embodies respect for human rights and dignity, and the right to freedom of expression and information. Ms Mbvundula drew a parallel between the values of an open society and the values embodied in Parliament's mission and vision. "An open society in the context of South Africa's people's Parliament is one that allows the electorate to freely elect representatives, which builds on the foundation of a democratic and open society based on the free will of the people, their participation and access to Parliament," she said. 🌐

Hands Free: E-communication in the National Assembly may be beamed to SADC neighbours



PAP



PAP Members at the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network

wants crack e-network

Bridging the divide in Africa & abroad

by Abel Mputing

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) wants a network that can share technological expertise, and best information and communication practices. The Deputy Speaker of Parliament says the network that serves PAP members, the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN), must help to realize Africa's Millennium Development Goals.

Addressing member countries at the opening of the APKN conference in Cape Town, Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo said the Network had a significant role to play in assisting Parliaments in terms of resolutions taken at the World Summit of the Information Society: "To reach its Millennium Development Goals, Africa needs information technology. We have barely scratched the surface in trying to harness Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the benefit of our people. Many countries have progressed towards bridging the digital divide but there is still a lot to be done before Africa can compete with the developed world," Ms Mfeketo said.

On the final day of the SADC Parliamentary Forum's Conference, the ICT managers of African Parliaments hosted the International Internet Governance Conference, in support of PAP's capacity-building initiative. Ms Cecilia Matanga, of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said long-established Parliamentary networks like those in the USA and Europe had benefitted from sharing experiences and learning from best practices. The process had also helped them to achieve critical mass and generate economies of scale. In his keynote address Mr Wubneh Emiru

of the PAP Committee on Transport, Industry, Communication, Energy, Science and Technology, said there had to be a concerted effort on issues involving the knowledge economy, and the creation of an open information society in Africa: "We have come to realize that the information society, the knowledge economy and internet governance are issues that cannot be dealt with effectively in isolation. These issues need a more concerted effort and coordination at a regional and continental level. It is important for PAP to rise to these challenges in strict collaboration with national Parliaments, to agree on a coordinated approach and to play a complementary role between PAP on the one hand, and national and regional member Parliaments, on the other."

The General Secretary of SADC Parliamentary Forum, Dr Esau Chiviya, emphasised the need for PAP to use information technology in building an informed citizenry. Otherwise, Parliaments ran the risk of not fully representing the people: "The challenge we face is to ensure the participation

of our citizenry in the affairs of our Parliaments. Parliaments have a responsibility to protect public interest. Strong collaboration and improved exchange of information among Parliaments can help encourage an open and equitable information society," Dr Chiviya said.

The Secretary to Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Zingile Dingani, said just as it was up to the present generation to reap the fruits of democracy, it was important for them to bridge the continent's digital divide: "An ICT strategy should not only be about technology, it should also have a direct bearing on the core business strategy of an institution, its mission and vision. Presiding Officers as leaders of our Parliaments must champion the strategy to guarantee its success. However, long-term success is rooted in the active support of Members of Parliament, committing resources and the ability of Parliamentary administrations to identify with and incorporate ICT as an integral part of planning," he said.

The conference resolved that the region's Parliaments should establish online publications on their ICT policy, have online experts lead discussions to provide further clarity and input, and help develop e-learning modules on internet governance issues affecting Africa. They should build a common repository of laws and regulations, and promote development of an equitable information society for member countries. The conference called for support for an "e-Parliaments Day", and chat rooms to promote contact between parliamentarians and the electorate. 🌐

Calling all networks: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo





Giants with common destiny

From left: NA House Chairperson for Committees, Mr Obed Bapela, NA Speaker Mr Max Sisulu, NCOP Chairperson, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu and the Nigerian Speaker Dimeji Bankole

Nigeria & SA close ranks on global warming

The Bi-National Commission between South Africa and Nigeria has brought the two giants of African production closer together in the past 10 years. *Abel Mputing reports*

The South Africa-Nigeria Bi-National Commission (BNC) has come a long way. The two countries will have to act in unison in Denmark in December, as delegates to the Copenhagen Climate Change strive to get a binding protocol on global warming.

Celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the BNC, the Speakers of the two Parliaments, Mr Max Sisulu

and Mr Dimeji Bankole of Nigeria, emphasised the significance and potential of helping to shape the destiny of the continent, together.

Mr Sisulu flagged global warming as the key challenge facing Africa's developmental agenda and stressed the need for the continent to speak with one voice at the climate summit in Copenhagen. "It is important for Africa to speak with one voice, to have one delegation in Copenhagen. This will show how seriously we take the climate change issue and its threat to our developmental agenda. This Commission of the two leading economies in Africa could play a

major role in forging and influencing such a resolve."

Mr Bankole said Nigeria had established a Standing Committee on Climate Change, and suggested a joint inter-Parliamentary working group to ensure progress on certain issues.

The Chairperson of the BNC, Mr Obed Bapela, said climate change should become its new focal point, since South Africa and Nigeria had the highest carbon dioxide emissions in Africa. It was more significant than ever to "mainstream" African youth in the political and economic life of the two countries because by



Buffalo soldier: NCOP Chairperson Mr Mninwa Mahlangu hands a gift to Nigeria's Speaker Mr Dimeji Bankole

Parliaments have to look into, to get a fair and balanced trade relationship between the two economies," Mr Positive said.

The Deputy President of South Africa, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, attended the anniversary with his Nigerian counterpart, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, to mark the BNC's achievements in education, trade, agriculture and international relations. Mr Motlanthe said trade relations with Nigeria had grown swiftly since the dawn of democracy in South Africa, along with the vigorous growth of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Sustaining the relationship was helping to create a solid economic base that would benefit Africa in the long run. The involvement of the two Parliaments in the BNC showed that the creation of creating a platform for Africa to advance economically, and eradicate poverty, was a political as well as a legislative task.

South Africa's Ms Hope Malgas pointed out the significant achievements of the local Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and People with Disability in mainstreaming issues to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): "The MDGs will not be reached if we don't elevate the status of women in the legislatures and the Executive of both countries, to champion the fight against poverty. Women can best champion this cause," she said.

Nigerian MP Mr Bethel Amadi said the political advancement of women in Nigeria politics still lagged behind, due to entrenched cultural traditions: "But we are making steady progress and there are more women in our cabinet. We think we can learn from you in this regard, and the involvement of your youth in politics is encouraging," he said.



Front right to left: National Assembly House Chairperson Ms Mildred Oliphant, NA Speaker Mr Max Sisulu, Nigeria's Speaker Mr Dimeji Bankole and NCOP Chairperson Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, with delegates to BNC 10th anniversary

2030 young people would comprise 70% of Africa's population. This was most pressing for Nigeria, whose population was already nearing this percentage, Mr Bapela said.

There was concern about a skewed trade relationship with South Africa. Nigerian MP, Mr Sampson Positive, said South African companies had made big inroads into Nigeria's economy. Ten years ago there were only four companies from South Africa doing business in Nigeria, now

there are more than 100. Trade has flourished to more than R11 billion a year, jointly, but 98% of South Africa's import from Nigeria is crude oil.

"MTN's telecommunications dominance is a perfect example of this one-way traffic. Our companies are still faced with a stiff South African regulatory environment, which that makes it impossible for them to participate in the local economy. It's something that our

Rising to the challenge in Africa

PAP gets legislative powers



Full powers by 2011: PAP's Dr Moussa Idriss Ndele of Chad

by Sakhile Mokoena

from a global lack of respect.

Speakers emphasised that PAP needed to make laws to help Africa confront her challenges. The first sitting was used to deliberate the revision of PAP's protocol and amendment of rules, a move that could transform the organization into a fully legislative body.

The potential transformation was fully supported by PAP President Dr Moussa Idriss Ndele of Chad: "Its time we transform the PAP into a fully legislative body," he said.

Besides condemning what they termed "lack of good governance" by many countries in the continent, delegates bemoaned conflict over natural resources, global economic meltdown and the inevitable effects of global warming. PAP was concerned that Africa's people remained among the poorest in the world despite the continent being richly endowed with natural resources. Speakers said large parts of the continent were still plagued by war and conflict, political instability and the removal of governments by unconstitutional means. In such circumstances, development was stifled and economic activity severely curtailed.

The sitting heard that the economic downturn adversely affected many African nations. Countries were encouraged to carefully manage scarce resources and Parliaments were urged strongly discourage criminal activities by governments.

At the recent PAP's women's conference it had been established that many women and youngsters across the continent were victims of genital mutilation.

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) needs to demonstrate that it is not merely a forum for debate, but an institution that embodies the renewal of Africa. Speaking as the President of the host country, Mr Jacob Zuma said it was encouraging that the Pan-African Parliament would soon be transforming itself from an advisory into a legislative body: "The deadline for the transformation of PAP into a parliament with full legislative powers is 2011," President Zuma said in Gauteng, at the opening of the first session of the second Pan-African Parliament.

The Speaker of the Parliament of Nigeria, Mr Dimeji Bankole, said it was criminal that millions of Africans lived in poverty because of bad governance. Mr Bankole also urged PAP to condemn military rule and said it had stalled human development and created poverty in Africa. "Good governance remains a challenge to Africa," Mr Bankole added.

President Zuma said PAP had a major role to play in deepening democratic

ideals and ensuring respect for the rule of law, and equality throughout the continent: "PAP needs to ensure

PAP a full Parliament by 2011
- Zuma

that its deliberations strengthen the continent-wide effort to promote development, economic growth, peace, stability and democracy. If these issues are not discussed, there would be very little point for the existence of this Parliament," the South African leader said.

Presenting messages of solidarity to the newly-elected PAP, representatives from member Parliaments agreed that the abuse of power, ignorance of the rule of law and a failure to manage Presidential successions were major causes of conflict in Africa, and part of the reason that the continent suffered

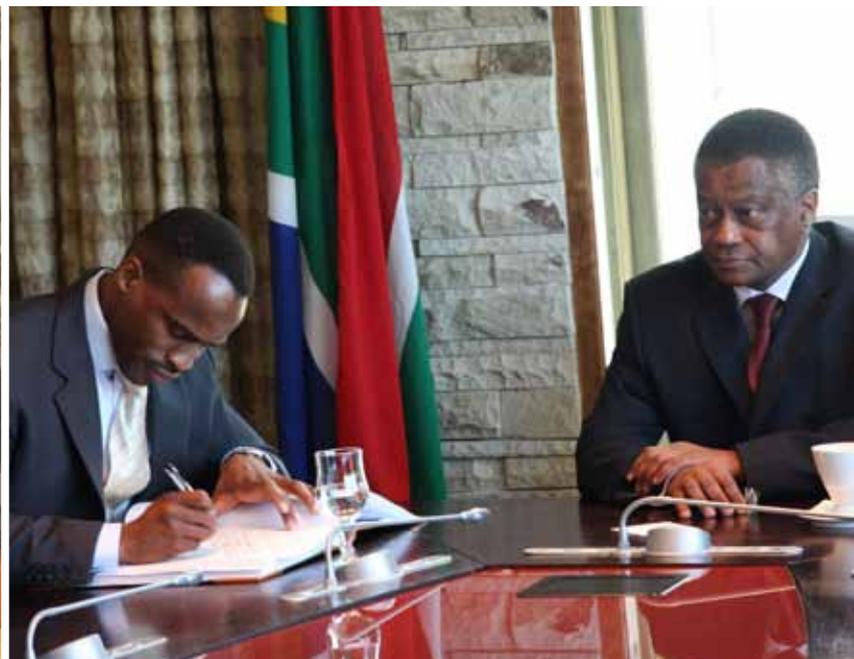


Through the lens

BAFOKENG ROYALS VISIT PARLIAMENT



Royal Visit: (Centre Front) Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi of the Royal Bafokeng Nation with Members of Committees



TOP: Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi pays courtesy call on leaders of political parties in Parliament
ABOVE LEFT: ANC Chief Whip Dr Mathole Motshekga with Kgosi Molotlegi
ABOVE RIGHT: Kgosi Molotlegi signs the visitor's book with Speaker Mr Max Sisulu
BELOW: Final call on NCOP Chairperson Mr Mninwa Mahlangu and Deputy Chairperson, Ms Thandi Memela



Platinum Royals wow Parliament

Bafokeng's tour will help boost services back home

by Jackie Adriaans

The Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN), who live on top of the richest platinum deposits in the world, are traditional people with a modern twist. The RBN hail from North West and number about 300 000 people, who occupy 1 200 square kilometres of land in Phokeng, near Rustenberg. Approximately 94% of the country's platinum is found in the Rustenberg-Brits district, which produces more platinum than any other area in the world.

The RBN delegation said on a visit to Parliament recently that they wanted to regenerate traditional values, but adopt the best possible practices in service delivery for citizens. Kgosana (Headman) Joseph Rapetsana of the Royal Bafokeng Nation said of the visit: "What brought us to Parliament is the challenge that we face with service delivery. A prerequisite for effective service delivery is to have sound processes and policies in place."

Ultimately, the leaders of the RBN want to meet the service delivery needs of the Phokeng people. One of the ways of enhancing service delivery is by revitalising traditional governance structures, one of the most important trademarks of the RBN. "Hence, our interest in exploring best practice models of institutional governance," he said

The delegation of 86 members of the Supreme Council of the Royal Bafokeng Administration, was led

WINDING UP THE VISIT: Kgosi Molotlegi with NCOP Presiding Officers and political leaders





HANGING OUT TOGETHER: Bafokeng delegation (rear) with political leaders in Parliament, pose for INSESSION

by Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, the king of Africa's wealthiest indigenous group. The programme involved talks on Parliament's Committees, the legislative functions of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces, and institutional governance. The delegation made the most of their opportunity to attend a House sitting. They were given a tour to learn about the colourful history and buildings of Parliament. They paid courtesy calls on the Presiding Officers, the opposition parties in Parliament, and traditional leaders who are also Members of Parliament.

At a meeting with Members of Parliament and permanent delegates from North West, the MPs pledged to work with the Royal Bafokeng Nation for the benefit of the people of North West, and to help improve service delivery.

The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mzinwa Mahlangu, called it a groundbreaking

visit and emphasised Parliament's pivotal role in facilitating integration. "I have always held the view that for our institution to be termed a 'people's Parliament', it must provide space for engagement with our many different communities. We need an approach to development that balances the interests of our rural and urban communities. That is why we acknowledge the important role played by the traditional leaders of the Royal Bafokeng Nation in driving development," he said.

The challenges experienced by the Phokeng people are the same as those experienced elsewhere in rural South Africa. Issues of concern are poor education, primary health care, food security, safety and security and opportunities for youth.

Headman Rapetsana said "What brought us to Parliament is the challenge that we face with service delivery. We want to take elements of traditional governance and merge them with elements of corporate

governance, to create something unique that can be copied by other traditional administrations."

He said the main challenge was to build capacity. "We are going to enforce committees in our governance structure, and make sure that they have capacity. We are going to ask for government assistance in building the capacity of these Committees because we believe that this government has the necessary expertise, based on what we have seen and experienced in Parliament."

The leaders take care of their community through Royal Bafokeng Holdings (RBH), which has companies in charge of the mining and financial investments of the community. Its biggest asset is the land in the Rustenburg valley, from which platinum is extracted by Impala Platinum mines (Implats). Most of the profits have been used to uplift the Bafokeng community. 🌟

A death every 6 hours

NO RESOURCES : NO IMPLEMENTATION

by Jackie Adriaans

South Africa has some of the most progressive laws in the world but the country's biggest challenge is the issue of violence against women and children and this has not changed for the better. That is why the Director of the the Western Cape Network on Violence against Women, Ms Lungiswa Memela, says she wants better implementation and more resources to apply laws such as the Child Justice Act, the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act and the Domestic Violence Act .



In 2005, Ms Memela's organisation launched the *Every Six Days* campaign, to highlight partner killings. The name of the campaign had to be changed when statistics revealed that in South Africa a woman was killed by an intimate partner every six hours.

Ms Memela welcomed the broader definition of domestic violence, and support for standardised training of personnel dealing with violence and abuse, in the Domestic Violence Act. At a stakeholders' workshop held by the Portfolio Committee on Women, Children and Persons with Disability, Ms Memela said women in abusive relationships were using protection orders more regularly, which was a welcome improvement. The biggest remaining obstacles were still a lack of implementation and a lack of resources.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Western Cape Network on Violence against Women briefed the Portfolio Committee about the cluster work that enabled them to integrate their efforts on child protection and preventing violence against women and children. For example, the lead Department for

the promotion and protection of the rights of children is the Department of Social Development. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development can intervene when the children enter into the court system.

"The thrust, if you look at some of the recent legislation of the Department, is to deliver a justice system that is more therapeutic and restorative in nature," said the Chief Director of Promotion of the Rights of Vulnerable Groups in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Ms Shireen Said. She referred to the Child Justice Act, one of the first few pieces of legislation under the new dispensation, which will have an operational system to support it when it is implemented in 2010.

The Department said the Domestic Violence Act should be considered from a causal perspective, especially with regard to its impact on children. The new challenge faced by the Department was better inter-sectoral management of responses to domestic violence, and it was at present developing policy for the entire social cluster. The matter of integrating the information of the

Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Department of Social Development, including the registers of sex offenders was also raised. The Justice Department had only recently become aware of the register administered by the Education Department, which was managed by the trade unions but was not registered in terms of the law. The Department was addressing this with the trade unions. "For there to be a change, there has to be a change in the law," Ms Said stressed.

The Committee enquired about the turnaround time of court cases, which was two months to three months for cases involving children. The Deputy Director-General: Court services in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Simon Jiyane, said the current performance of the courts was not satisfactory. The government was introducing an integrated process of case flow management in lower courts, to allow cases to be speedily concluded. Once guidelines were properly applied, performance standards would be established in courts throughout the country.

For some, the answer is violence



Dr Sesh Paruk and NCOP Deputy Chairperson Ms Thandi Memela (centre) welcome civil society organisations at the launch of 16 days campaign

Gap grows in SA's anti-violence strategy

by Jackie Adriaans

South Africa needs a comprehensive national strategy to end domestic violence, because without one, some women will continue to suffer years of abuse. This is what Members of Parliament heard from civil society organisations and individuals who presented evidence at recent public hearings to review the 11-year implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.

Some of the individuals who attended the joint public hearings of the Portfolio and Select Committees on Women, Children and Persons with Disability shared deep personal perspectives on domestic violence. A mother of two who survived 14 years of abuse, appeared before the Committees to plead for the protection of women and better implementation of the Act. She related how during her first marriage she was beaten, tied up and raped by her husband, sometimes in the presence of their daughter. An interdict did not help. Her husband was released after serving three months in jail, and the beatings resumed. She put up with the abuse for eight years until she managed to obtain a divorce.

Two years later she met somebody else, who initially treated her well and was "like a father" to her children. But he was a jealous man and started to beat her and often threatened to

stab her. On the afternoon she tried to end the relationship he set her alight at knifepoint. He beat and raped her for the next day and night until her daughter managed to escape through an open window to get help.

The South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO) and the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre proposed that the government and civil society jointly develop a comprehensive, integrated national strategy on domestic violence. They said cooperation and coordination between the relevant government departments such as the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Departments of Justice and Constitutional Development, Social Development, Health and Human Settlements needed to improve.

Ms Pregs Govender of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) said adequate budgeting and resourcing presented a challenge to the full implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. She explained that the Act provided for a clear role for government role-players: "In relation to gender-responsive budgeting, it is important that the Committees interrogate governmental departmental budgets to determine if the necessary budgets have been allocated for the specific programmes required," she said.

The Committees heard about the destructive nature of domestic violence in perpetuating the cycle of violence from one generation to the next, with children either suffering abuse themselves or becoming secondary victims. Professor Sebastian van As of Red Cross Children's Hospital addressed the impact of domestic violence on children. "Out of a population of 48 million people, 20 million are children," he said. "Every year Red Cross treats about 10 000 children for injuries, of whom 500 are abused. In up to 80% of domestic violence incidents, alcohol or drugs play a role."

In their submissions, the civil society organisations urged the committees to establish more shelters for women, especially in rural areas. Nicro said the criminal justice system had to be overhauled to take a more effective role in managing domestic violence. Three suggestions were made:

- Police and court officials should receive intensive and ongoing gender-sensitivity training
- The currently inadequate psycho-social support for victims required dedicated resources and personnel
- More intensive campaigns were needed to heighten awareness about domestic violence.



BIG OCCASION: Members welcome President Zuma at his annual address to the NCOP

No Cash for Banks

Loans tagged for growth

by Sakhile Mokoena

President Jacob Zuma says the government is not going to raise money to bail out banks and failing businesses. During his annual address to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), President Zuma said loans would be earmarked for investment in economic infrastructure, education, healthcare, rural development and the fight against crime.

Apartheid planning still had a significant impact on poor people living in both rural and urban areas: "The lack of basic infrastructure in these areas, and their location far from economic centres, severely limits opportunities for millions of our people," he said.

President Zuma says he's concerned that the country's education system is failing to produce the required

outcomes, despite absorbing a large percentage of the budget very year. Many South Africans did not have the skills needed to find employment, and this situation could partly be blamed on the failure of the education system to deliver skilled people: "Though it absorbs a significant amount of our budget, our education system does not produce the outcomes we require," the President said.

The President also said South Africa was not winning the battle against HIV/Aids, in spite of an internationally recognized strategy to tackle the pandemic, and the largest anti-retroviral programme in the world. "We must accept that we need to work harder and with renewed focus, to implement the strategy that we have developed together. We should now work

seriously to convert that knowledge into a change of behaviour," he said. The government's target for 2011 was to reduce new infections by half and extend the anti-retroviral programme.

The Chief Whip of the NCOP, Ms Nosipho Ntwanambi, announced that the programme Taking Parliament to the People will be resumed in March next year, when the Council visits rural Sekhukhune in Limpopo. "We are informed that rural communities in that area are enduring harsh development challenges. We are also aware that poor infrastructure is one of the biggest constraints on growth in rural areas, therefore the development and maintenance of public infrastructure is an important ingredient for sustained growth and poverty reduction," Ms Ntwanambi said.

Judge's

moving farewell & welcome

by Abel Mputing

South Africans witnessed a special moment in our constitutional democracy when the three arms of State: the Executive, Judiciary and Legislature, gathered in a Joint Sitting to bid farewell to the outgoing Chief Justice Pius Langa and welcome his successor, Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo. In his address, President Jacob Zuma said "It is rare that we have an opportunity for Members of three arms of government to address this house. This is the indication of the importance we attach to this moment in the life of South Africa's democracy. It is also an indication of the critical role of judiciary as a pillar of our constitutional order."

He praised the outgoing Chief Justice for serving the judiciary diligently, with integrity and in full observance of the law and judicial ethics. "This occasion is a testimony to the high regard in which retiring Chief Justice Pius Langa is held. He has been the vital part of the birth and development of jurisprudence in a democratic South Africa."

In his address the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, acknowledged that the occasion reflected the value attached to the sovereignty of the judiciary. "As we celebrate the leadership of retired Chief Justice Pius Langa and welcome the new Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo, we appreciate this opportunity to reflect on the meaning of an independent judiciary, in a democracy. We also affirm the notion that South Africa is a constitutional state, and this serves as evidence that our democracy is maturing."

The leader of the Opposition, Mr Athol Trollip, outlined the challenges that would face the incoming Chief Justice:



Centre: Pres Jacob Zuma From left: Secretary to Parliament Mr Zingile Dingani, NA Speaker Mr Max Sisulu, Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo, former Chief Justice Pius Langa, NCOP Chairperson Mr Mninwa Mahlangu and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe

"These are enormous challenges, especially the transformation of the judiciary and legal system in South Africa. Transformation is a complex issue not merely in terms of numbers and race. It involves the independence and legitimacy of the judiciary, the accessibility of the courts, and justice to all the people of South Africa."

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Ngoako Ramathlodi, said transformation was not the sole challenge facing the judiciary: "It is not enough for the judiciary to be broadly representative. In addition to changing the form, it is perhaps even more important to change the mindset. In this regard, we have to accommodate the moral values and ethos as practiced by the majority in this country. Sitting judicial officers may need to attend regular courses studying other cultures in order to understand the nature of people they are providing service to."

The incoming Chief Justice, Sandile Ngcobo, said the ability of the country's justice system to retain public confidence superseded the other challenges it faced: "Without confidence in the ability of the courts to dispense

justice, there can be no faith in the Rule of Law, and without faith in the Rule of Law, valuable relationships of trust within society begin to break down, and citizens can no longer be assured that their rights can be protected."

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe, said he admired the outgoing Chief Justice Langa, and was confident that his successor would retain the principle of the separation of powers as the tenet of the country's constitutional democracy: "Mr Sandile Ngcobo has strong leadership qualities and an impeccable judicial track record. His clear foresight will strengthen and enhance the judiciary as one of the three branches of the State, and help attain the truly transformed and accessible justice system that this country has desired for years."

The outgoing Chief Justice Langa said he had been richly rewarded by South Africa to serve as a judge of the Constitutional Court for more than a decade. "This has been a momentous period of my life. I will continue to uphold equality, the supremacy of the Constitution and the Rule of Law." 🇿🇦

Planet Earth is
running out of time



SA's hopes for Copenhagen



SPEAKING OUT: Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Makhotso Sotyau, and Minister Buyelwa Sonjica in recent radio interview

South Africa's team would like to see consensus on a fair, effective and balanced deal emerging from the UN Climate Change Conference in Denmark in December. But, says the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, South Africa's need for a stable growing economy might be threatened by efforts to cap greenhouse gas emissions. **Oscar Selebogo reports**

Addressing the National Assembly, she said the country could not jeopardise growth and development: "We insist on our 'carbon space'. South Africa's greenhouse gas emissions will continue rising over the next 16 years, and only start dropping from about 2035."

The Minister says South Africa's carbon emission trajectory will rise for the next 16 years, to 2025. For the decade after that, it is expected to stabilise, while a range of low-carbon interventions are introduced, "including the way we run our economy. We would then want to see them decline, in absolute terms, from about 2035," Ms Sonjica said. Given the fact that about 90% of South Africa's electricity comes from coal-fired power stations, the country needs "substantial assistance" from the international community: "We need to finance low-carbon initiatives, we need technology transfer and access to technology", she said.

Ms Sonjica earlier told the media that South Africa could not afford to accept any binding emissions reduction targets at the Climate Change Conference: "South Africa is a developing country with huge developmental challenges, and needs carbon space in order to meet our developmental needs.

Nevertheless, there were serious concerns about the impact of climate change on Africa. A small rise in world temperatures would have potentially devastating consequences for the continent. "For Africa, and South Africa, our continued development requires the developed world to play its part."

It is also crucial to educate South Africans about climate change:

We insist on our carbon space

"Although South Africans know about veld fires, dongas and drought, they don't always appreciate how these are linked to climate change and global warming," she said. "Our people especially in rural areas need to be taught and involved in the challenge, to understand the effect of climate change."

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Makhotso Sotyau, says South Africa's main focus in Copenhagen will be on energy efficiency and renewability, finding alternatives for liquid fuels, and making the transition to a low-carbon economy society.

Recently, the Parliaments of South Africa and the UK linked up via video call to discuss the way the United Kingdom had tackled the challenge, among other things by passing the

world's first long-term legally binding standards for UK industry. The UK has established a Committee on Climate Change (CCC), an independent body that will advise it on the country's first three "carbon emission budgets" up to 2020. The CCC also has to review 2050 targets.

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs will be targeting public awareness, especially in rural areas, and introducing a new performance indicator in the Local Government Framework, which stresses the importance of adaptability. The long-term mitigation scenario is to ultimately stabilize emissions by 2025.

A delegate to the conference, Professor Harald Winkler of the University of Cape Town, says South Africans "ought to redefine the trade-off between being competitive and using technology that is climate change-friendly." The Department of Transport has responded with Bus Rapid Transport systems for Gauteng and Cape Town, at an estimated cost of R2.35 billion, to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. "This will reduce the amount of gas escaping into the atmosphere, and hopefully, the Department of Science and Technology can follow up with initiatives on battery powered vehicles," he said.

Averting climatic disaster is expensive. The biggest greenhouse gas culprits, that is, the 20% of the world's countries who produce 80% of its emissions, do not want to go the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December to agree to specific commitments for the next 15 years, nor do they particularly want to sponsor others to make the grade.



Tick, Tick, Tick

Here are the views of the political parties that took part in the global warming debate in Parliament in November:



While the agricultural sector is very vulnerable to, and is significantly impacted on by climate change, at the same time, it plays a major role in contributing solutions to climate change. For this potential to be realized, agriculture must be included in any post 2012 Kyoto Protocol agreement. Farmers interact daily with the environment and are thus well placed to implement sustainable agricultural practices which help to adapt and mitigate climate change.

- Dr Lourie Bosman, Democratic Alliance

For the Congress of the People a priority would be to legislate for green housing and building development. In Kolkata, India, the first completely solar-powered housing development has come into existence. Each home in the complex has the capability to generate 2KW of power. The surplus

is sold to the grid. I will say again that more than our present economy is at stake on account of climate change. Unfortunately, in respect of our natural habitat we always do too little, too late. Let us not make that fatal mistake in respect of climate changes, as is predicted. This government will be changed if it does not take climate change seriously. Certainly, it will not be able to withstand the social upheaval that will follow. Cope is very clear about what needs to be done. Can the government cope?

- Ms Hilda Dube, Congress of the People

The United State plus the a few other countries, and many large corporations, have been against climate change treaties due to the fear of the threat to their economy and profits if they have to make substantial changes. However, as more climate changes science has emerged over the years, many

businesses are accepting this and asking their governments for more action so that there is quick clarification on the new rules of the game so they can get on with their businesses. In the words of George Monbiot, 'The real costs of climate change are not measured in dollars and pounds, the real costs are measured in lives and in ecosystems, and that is immeasurable.' We're now entering an era of consequence, and therefore opportunities to forge a global commitment to fight climate change must be seized. We need a major shift in attitudes to see binding agreements and shared solutions proposed and implemented.

- Ms Constance Zikalala, Inkatha Freedom Party

The climate simply cannot afford a global stalemate in the Copenhagen negotiations with both sides using each other's inaction as an excuse

to do nothing. Industrialized countries must take on reduction targets of nothing less than 25 to 40 percent by 2020 and the electorates of those countries must demand this of their negotiators. In addition, financial and technical resources must be provided for developing countries to employ clean technologies. High emitting developing countries, and South Africa unfortunately falls into this group, must also live up to their end of the bargain by agreeing to put in place Low Carbon Action Plans in time for the new treaty to be put into force.

- Mr Lance Greyling, Independent Democrats

There is no scientific consensus on the primary cause of global warming and if anything, man appears to be the least likely to be having an effect upon it. Any geo-engineering on our part could have unintended consequences. Climate warming is not necessarily apocalyptic, nor is it new. The temperature Anomaly Graph over the last two thousand years shows that when the Vikings colonized Greenland, they were in a five-hundred-year warmer period..... and for about 200 years from about 1400 AD there was 'a Little Ice Age'- so fluctuations happen

-Ms Cheryllyn Dudley, African Christian Democrat Party

Poverty eradication and socio-economic development are necessary for combating climate change. The critical effort of developing and diffusing clean energy technologies is being stepped up. At the same time, enhanced access for the poor to modern services also needs to be vigorously pursued. Concrete initiatives for technology co-operation between North and South and South- South, could help realize the promise of technology transfer. Incorporating climate change response into all development strategies can contribute to achieving sustainable development goals.

- Ms Nozabelo Bengu, ANC

Green Scorpions get teeth

The Departments of Justice and Environmental Affairs are combining efforts to strengthen the Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMI), which employs 1 000 environmental inspectors throughout South Africa. The Minister of Justice, Mr Jeff Radebe, and the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, say they may reinstate the system of Environmental Courts, which was terminated in September 2007. Penalties for not complying with the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, which was first passed in 1965 and amended again this year, have increased significantly. Previously, the maximum penalty was R500, while maximum penalties now range between R5 million and R10 million.

The National Environment Laws Amendment Bill currently before Parliament will, once promulgated, assist the EMI (also known as the "Green Scorpions") by providing clear and comprehensive mandates, powers and legal tools. It clarifies the status of the EMI as peace officers for the purpose of specific environment management Acts, until the Air Quality Act is fully implemented. The EMI recently started a 'Clean Cement' campaign with a blitz inspection at the Lafarge Cement plant in North West, and other provinces will soon follow. The Inspectorate covers a range of compliance and enforcement activities such as conservation, biodiversity, air quality and pollution, marine and coastal management, pollution and waste management as well as activities. The EMI, which was created when an amendment to the National Environmental Management Act of 1998 came into effect in 2005, also pursues co-operation between different departments and spheres of government.

*Fines increased
10 000 %*



Swaziland prepares to take on giants



Delegates at November's seminar in Mbabane, Swaziland on Climate Change Mitigation, urged Members of Parliaments in the region to examine how they could conduct better oversight of international agreements. The call was for each of the legislators to understand and be a part of the State's bi-lateral and multi-lateral negotiations, and to monitor agreements with other countries.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Makhotso Soty, who led a team of SA Chairpersons of Committees to Swaziland, told INSESSION that although Parliament generally operated as a nexus of government and civil society to get buy-in from the general public on new laws, "South Africa entered the climate change arena relatively late, only ratifying the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 29 August 1997."

Ms Soty said that as a party to the

UNFCCC, South Africa was required to report on national emissions and encouraged to consider climate change issues in domestic, social, economic and environmental policymaking. Consequently, it had recommended that a post-2012 climate change framework that was fair and equitable should

- Significantly reduce fossil fuel emissions from industrialised countries
- Provide strong incentives for investment in clean energy technology
- Put emerging economies on a low-carbon growth path
- Stop forest loss
- Build resilience in nature and people, to help adapt to climate change.

Delegates dealt with the impact of national change policies in the region, emphasizing the importance of co-operation and partnership between government, civil society and the legislatures as a joint impetus to climate change mitigation. The seminar

provided a useful knowledge base on the realities facing the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) region, and stressed that cooperation between countries could only be to Africa's advantage.

The South African delegation included the Chairpersons of the Portfolio Committees on Science and Technology, Dr Nhlanhla Ngcobo, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Mlungisi Johnson, Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Phumelele Sizani, and Energy, Ms Elizabeth Thabethe.

The seminar was organised by the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa and the International Institute for Environment and Development, with the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. National follow-up workshops are expected to resume soon in the five parliaments, and they will focus on the plans of action of various Parliaments regarding climate change mitigation.

Fuss about global warming

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 brought the world's first agreement that the developed nations should take the lead "in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof."

The Kyoto Protocol five years later was an attempt to bind the signatories to undertakings that would quantify allowable carbon emissions. When it was signed in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, terms such as climate change, global warming and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions had not yet gained the weight and currency they have now.

The temperature has been rising over the last 100 years, on land and in the oceans: we have had a decade of the hottest years on record since 1850. The natural greenhouse gas effect keeps the Earth around 30°C warmer than it would be without it, otherwise the Earth would be very cold. It works because greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and mostly water vapour, wrap the planet like a blanket. These gases allow the rays of the sun to reach the earth's surface, but hinder the heat they create from escaping into space.

Any increases in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere mean that more heat is trapped and global temperatures increase, an effect known as global warming. This "greenhouse gas" effect has been understood for nearly 200 years and is regarded as firmly established science. We know from looking at gases found trapped in cores of polar ice that the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are 35% greater than they have been for several hundred thousand years. From analyzing the gas we know that this is due mainly to the burning of fossil fuels, cement production and the widespread destruction of forests.

The increase in global temperature is consistent with science: global warming is the phenomenon that occurs when rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, (released principally by the industrialised nations) lead to excessive warmth being trapped near the surface of the land and the sea.

In truth, the Kyoto Protocol was dead in the water without the signature of the United States, the world's biggest consumer country. Australia also did not sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and the Copenhagen summit will only succeed if everyone shows commitment. The negotiations in Denmark will require an exceptional lead negotiator, and South Africa will welcome even a compromise until next June, ahead of the expiry of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

The US may be ready to get more serious in December. In its absence the debate has been led by the nations of Europe. The triple key question for the future of global warming is whether the Kyoto Protocol will be followed in 2012 by a more inclusive international agreement, whilst retaining the vital discipline of binding quantifiable targets, and allowing for the needs of developing nations. For example, the impact of climate change on African countries is worsened by the outward flows of resources. If Africa really wants to reverse poverty, its response has to be different from the developed consumer nations. A hot issue when it comes to Africa is that global economic recovery is dependent on a continued supply of cheap primary materials from this continent, including fossil fuels, metals, minerals, in particular rock phosphate for agriculture which is running out globally but not in China (because China has decided to import what it can before using its own stocks), what is called 'virtual water' and 'virtual soils' (ie, the water

and nutrients embodied in exported biomass via export food and forest products). Even the export of large quantities of organically grown produce is causing problems, because in order to eat, Africans spend the money they get selling organic produce to import non-organic food (often processed and canned) from elsewhere, at several hundred times the cost. Hence, the export out of Africa of primary resources and the import back into Africa of processed and manufactured goods is a key cause of increasing poverty, but it works for elites who gain from their share of the transactions. So while Africa's place in the global economy is changing, there needs to be more of an indication that it will benefit. 

Has the Kyoto climate change protocol failed?

Yes

- It ignores the plight of poor countries hardest hit by climate-change disasters
- It has not reduced greenhouse gas emissions at the rate envisaged
- It has stifled more effective market-based solutions

No

- Greenhouse gas emission would have risen even further without it
- The problem is not the protocol, but the lack of political will to implement it
- Market-based solutions may well produce too little, too late.



Editor-in-Chief: Luzuko Jacobs

citizen's forum

Learning can be fun

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

Rules of crossword

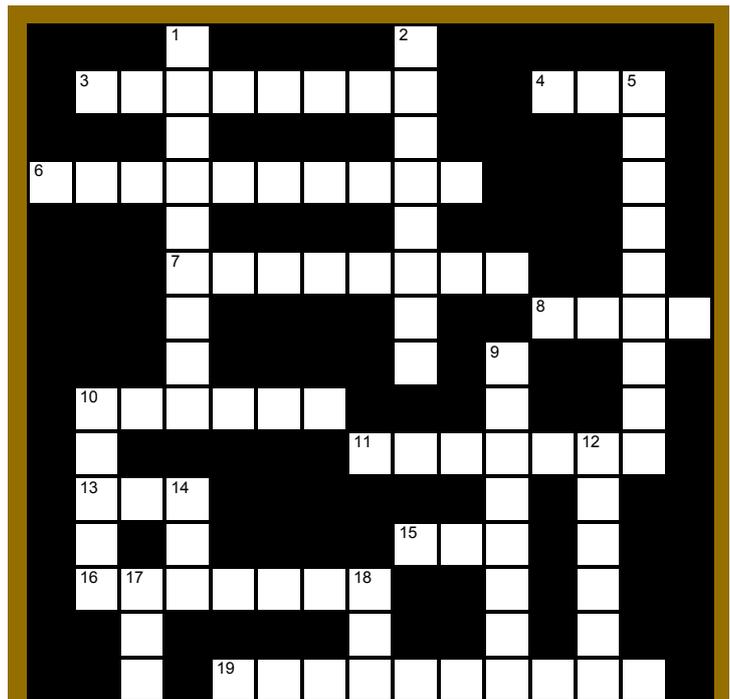
A crossword puzzle is a group of words that have been arranged across and down, so that each word crosses at least one other word at a common letter. The puzzle itself doesn't show the words, only the spaces where the words should be written. A list of numbered clues is matched to numbers placed in spaces 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		1	4			8		
2	3				6	9		
				3				
		7	3	2				
		4	6					
						4	6	
						5		7
	5		1					4
	4		2	9			1	



Across

- 3 The Domestic ----- Act protects women against domestic abuse (8)
- 4 Pan-African Parliament (abbrev.) (3)
- 6 City where Climate Change summit is scheduled in December (INSESSION p.25) (10)
- 7 International Day of No Violence Against Women is on 25th----- (8)
- 8 South African Development Community (abbrev.) (4)
- 10 Carbon dioxide levels are 35% ----- than the last 650 000 years (INSESSION p.29) (6)
- 11 Parliament has passed laws to ----- the rights of individuals (7)
- 13 Millennium Development Goal (abbreviation) (3)
- 15 Anti-retroviral medication (abbreviation) (3)
- 16 South Africa and ---- are celebrating 10 years of the BNC (INSESSION p.15) (7)

- 19 The National Council of Provinces Taking -----to the People programme will be resumed next year (INSESSION p.18) (10)

Down

- 1 Governance is about a set of rules for ----- the country (9)
- 2 World Aids Day is on 1st of ----- (8)
- 5 This person signs a Bill into law (9)
- 9 Sixteen days of -----for no violence against women and children begins in November (8)
- 10 10th December is International ---- Rights Day (5)
- 12 Excess-----emissions add to global warming (INSESSION p.29) (6)
- 14 Greenhouse Gas (abbrev.) (3)
- 17 Information and communication technology (abbrev.) (3)
- 18 The Constitution protects the rights of --- (3)

citizen's forum

Parliament goes green

Parliament means to “go green” by making better use of its information technology systems, and reducing its paper trail. This is the implication of an in-depth analysis of Parliament’s current three information technology systems, with its printing and copying environments. Phase One of the analysis will be completed in March 2010, at a cost of R250 000.

The object of the exercise is to integrate its three technology systems, the Parliament Content Management System (PCMS), the website and Faranani, with its printing system. Preliminary research indicates that Parliament is spending more than R18 million a year on average, on printing and related services. This does not include the use of external service providers. During three past financial year, more than R51 000 was spent on printers.

Documents of Parliament are still mostly produced in print, especially Order Papers Announcements, Tablings and Committee papers, 1 600 copies of Bills or any amendments to Bills and about 700 strategic and annual reports from the departments.

It has invested R35 million on PCMS, R3 million on an intranet system and R5,5 million on an offset digital printer. The Business Case for the analysis states: “It appears that Parliament is spending large amounts of money each year on printing, rental or hire of equipment, office supplies and stationery (mostly paper). These costs could be reduced by changing the current ways of working and redirecting the focus, making the best use of current information systems, and realising the benefits brought by these systems.”

The objective of the project is to “analyse the current printing environment and establish the most cost-effective printing environment, by integrating the existing IT systems with the mega printing systems,” according to the Business Case. Critical success factors are listed:

- Advanced planning and preparation
- Good communication with stakeholders
- Cooperation with representatives from all divisions
- Dedicated project management capacity
- Addressing the natural resistance to change of end users.

The timelines for Phase Two will be determined by the outcomes of Phase One of the analysis.

solutions to October Crossword and Sudoku

Crossword

	B	O	R	D	E	R	P	O	S	T	S		C
P													A
I		A											R
L		U											B
O		D		P									O
T		I		D		S							N
P		O		R		T							B
R		E		I		X							U
O		G		S		T							A
J		U		C		E							D
E		L		A		H							P
C		A		L		N							G
T		T				E							A
		I				S							T
O		Z				O							I
		N				T							E
		S				Y							M

Sudoku

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



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.

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