

"Celebrating the legacy of freedom through strengthening the link between Parliament and the people"

in session



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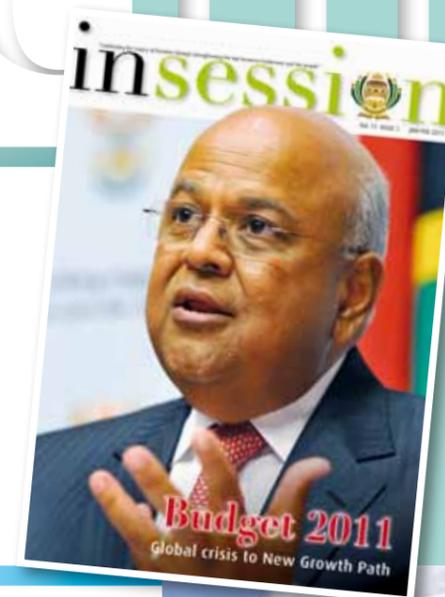
Budget 2011

Global crisis to New Growth Path



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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COVER:
Budget 2011
must put
South Africa
on a New
Growth Path



Mace of National Assembly

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



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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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 institutional governance.



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editor's note

Our first issue of 2011 has a special report on the rhythmic, lively State of the Nation Address by President Jacob Zuma in February, responses from political parties to the issues raised and interviews with the winners of a radio competition who attended the Address. We feature the municipal elections on 18 May and in our Guest Column, Idasa reviews the 2011/12 Budget tabled by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan. Members of the Cabinet will provide particulars, during debates in Parliament on their ministerial budget votes. Our next edition will carry a full report on the budget votes, which together comprise the R979.2-billion national budget for this fiscal year. This is due to increase to more than one trillion Rand national budgets in each of the ensuing years: that's a one followed by twelve noughts!

While Parliament's presiding officers were at pains to apologise to the people of Cape Town for traffic disruptions on the evening of the State of the Nation Address, the hosts of the evening, Speaker of the National Assembly Mr Max Sisulu and Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, expressed delight at the smooth running of the event. It was seen by an average four million TV viewers, heard on radio by many millions more, and followed via live streaming and social pages on the internet. For the first time, the State of the Nation Address became a world event, via Twitter and even Facebook.

In his Address, the President shared his plans to harness the combined talents of business, labour and the community, in order to generate new growth in employment. Research has identified six priority areas that can be tapped, he says: The green economy, agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, manufacturing, mining and beneficiation. President Zuma's reference to the country's R17.5-trillion mining assets stirred some interest. Besides its direct contribution to the economy, the sum of the mining industry is greater than its parts, as seen in its ripple-effect on other sectors. There is a boost for beneficiation, which includes activities such as smelting and jewellery manufacturing. The President announced tax breaks to encourage new investments, expansions and upgrades of manufacturing industries.

We have a report on what was achieved in Cancun, Mexico at the global climate change conference late last year. South Africa hopes that with the backing of China, the next Conference of Parties (COP17) will at last produce something tangible on carbon reduction targets, when Durban plays host to world leaders at the end of this year. Achievable targets are way overdue, says Parliament.

This is a local election year. The voter registration campaign of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) focused on the young and the result is the highest number of voters registered in South Africa, ever. The number of municipal wards has been increased across the country. Special votes are to be allowed for the first time in a municipal election, for those unable to vote in the voting districts in which they are registered, including elderly, ill and disabled people. Where feasible, the IEC will conduct home visits to arrange for special votes to be cast before or on 18 May. Make a date with democracy.



Enjoy!
Momelezi Kula
editor



Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu

MESSAGE FROM THE national assembly



Military salute for the President

Thank you, everyone

The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, and I want to say a resounding "THANK YOU" to all involved in the smooth running of the State of the Nation Address: it went off without a hitch. We were honoured to welcome the Head of State, Executive, MPs, diplomats and eminent guests from all over the country, reflecting our grassroots origins. The Civil and Junior guards of honour, lined up alongside one of the longest red carpets in the world, looked just right for the occasion.

In his address the President identified several priority areas. Parliament has a well-defined role to play not only in seeing to it that the Executive brings governance to full fruition, but also to ensure that the public is involved in this process. There will be plenty of opportunity for public involvement as this year's sectoral Parliaments unfold. They include a Youth Parliament in June, a Women's Parliament in August, a People's Assembly which usually includes a live link-up with the Provinces and direct broadcast on the second day of the event (in September). And not least, there will also be a full *Taking Parliament to the People* in November.

Parliament also has a special task of oversight of local government, and this responsibility encompasses municipal elections. With verification still taking place it's clear that voter registration for the 2011 Local Government Elections is well above the 2006 figures, the Independent Electoral Commission's Chief Electoral Officer, Adv Pansy Tlakula, has told the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs.

Members of the Committee said the IEC should ensure that farm and domestic workers who had registered should be guaranteed of a vote in the elections, because they were historically vulnerable. "Put strong measures in place to ensure that no farmer or other employer can deny South Africans their right to vote."

Parliament's Select Committee on Social Services has also welcomed the inclusion of special votes in this year's local government elections. We will closely monitor the process to ensure that democracy continues to flourish. Real democracy is expanded by getting more citizens to register and to vote.

Special votes for the coming local elections have been costed by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) at an estimated R230million. A formal request has been made to the Treasury to supplement the IEC budget.

Parliament also has a special role to play in the national Budget process. The balance and presentation is interesting, starting with what must be paid for, and thereafter spelling out how the needed revenue will be raised. There is intense media interest in the event. Accredited journalists of the Press Gallery Association of Parliament are joined by economics editors and analysts. The annual Budget is one made-for-media occasion when journalists don't mind being "locked-up" in Parliament. The lock-up refers to the practice of isolating journalists shortly before the Budget speech. They rapidly scan and prepare material from the address by the Minister of Finance, as he details how revenue will be raised to meet the projected expenditure.

For the second time in one month, millions tuned in to the live TV and radio broadcast (and live streaming) of the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan, who must also be congratulated on a job well done.

Max Sisulu
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

parliament in-brief

A selection of online news

Committee on Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Stanley Motimele, said the outcome was an eye-opener for Members of Parliament. "It empowers us to make informed contributions. This is a serious Bill and everybody is interested in its success," he said. The only benefit exempted from the means test, is 'honouring and memorialisation'.

Military Veterans Bill costed

The initial costing of the Military Veterans Bill has been pegged at R19.623-billion over five years.

At the request of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans, the Department has provided a costing of the Bill. The provisional figures from the Department are based on the available database of military veterans, which currently stands at 56 064.

A means test will be used to determine which military veterans are eligible for which benefits. At R13-billion and R1.8-billion respectively, health care and pensions will take up the lion's share of the ongoing costs. Once-off payments for housing will cost the treasury R600-million a year for four years, and educational assistance is set at R200-million a year for three years. There is provision for transport, employment and business opportunities for the military veterans. A final costing of the Bill will be made once the database is consolidated and Cabinet approves benefits contained in it, such as the inclusion of dependents.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio

BRICS to build South Africa

On the global front South Africa was excited about the first meeting of the BRICS-nations, at which the major emerging economies of the world, Brazil, Russia, India and China are making the circle bigger, to include South Africa. President Zuma was scheduled to attend the BRICS gathering in China, in March. South Africa's focus includes the interests of the 15-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC), which it leads.

Parliament pleased with Sudan process

Parliament has expressed gratitude to the South African observer team at the South Sudan referendum and said it was pleased with the peaceful outcome of the historical event. This was acknowledged by President Zuma in his State of the Nation Address, when he congratulated the people of Sudan on a successful referendum and welcomed the new state of Southern Sudan, which will secede from the north in July this year. "This is a true African success story," he said.

Sting in lobster tale

South African citizens Arnold Bengis, his brother David Bengis and United States citizen Jeffrey Noll have been found guilty of illegal over-harvesting of rock lobster in Western Cape waters, and illegal exporting tons of them illegally to the US. They have been sentenced to imprisonment, millions of dollars in fines, and a further sum in restitution owing to the South African government. The amount owing is likely to be between R280-million and R380-million, to restore rock lobster (crayfish) stocks to the level they would have been expected to achieve without the illegal catches.

Boost for (African) Eye on the Sky

Northern Cape Premier Hazel Jenkins says South Africa's bid to host the Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope (SKA), may be boosted as an African bid, thanks to collaboration with other African countries. "We are partnering with Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar and Mauritius. The seven dishes of the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT7), located at Carnarvon, Northern Cape, have been successfully connected. MeerKAT will eventually consist of 64 dishes," she said in her State of the Province Address. "The bid for the SKA is now viewed as an African Bid. The decision on the successful bidder, South Africa or Australia, will be made by mid-2012."



guest column

Analysis of the 2011 Budget
by Len Verwey of Idasa

Both *the 2009 and 2010 Budgets can rightly be called crisis budgets. They were tabled in Parliament during a recession and its immediate aftermath, amidst large-scale job-losses in the South African economy and a great deal of uncertainty around the pace of global and domestic recovery.*

We are not yet out of the woods, but the economic backdrop to the 2011 Budget does look more favourable and a note of cautious optimism seems appropriate. The latest numbers suggest that the South African economy grew by slightly under 3% in 2010, and the forecasts of growth rates between 3% and 4% for the next two years seem realistic.

Essentially, the core of the budget has not changed over the last two years: we need to do more with less, and the era of large annual real increases to departments has come to an end. The proposed deficits over the medium-term generate a debt stock of around 40% of GDP by 2014. This is a sustainable debt burden, and could not have been avoided without worsening the contraction of the economy. We are also able to reduce the deficit at a balanced rate over the medium term. In nominal terms the cost of debt-servicing will double from its 2007/08 value to 2013/14, and debt service costs will increase by an annual average of around 16% from 2010/11 to 2013/14, thus, more than double the proposed rate of increase of allocated expenditure of 7.2%.

In other words, debt servicing is the fastest-increasing budget item over the medium-term. If we are to realise the objectives of the New Growth Path, of higher and more inclusive growth, the "right mix" of efficiency and priorities is important. Though economic recovery in the narrower sense appears to be moderately underway, job-creation and tax revenue will continue to lag significantly. As the Budget Review notes, the South African economy lost a large number of jobs during the recession and its output contraction was even worse. This also implies that the social impact of the recession was particularly pronounced in South Africa, and intensified the pre-existing structural unemployment.

It is therefore essential that job creation initiatives succeed. Whilst some jobs will be created simply by virtue of the recovery of the global and domestic economy, the targeted interventions are crucial in addressing youth unemployment. It will also be necessary to learn from the failures of past policy and implementation. To date support for small business, for example,

has not been adequate, despite their potentially key contribution in creating jobs. Similarly, the training layoff scheme, which allocated more than R2-billion to provide training allowances as an alternative to retrenchment for workers during the recession, has fallen significantly short of its aims.

These and similar experiences suggest that better partnership-building between government and other stakeholders is needed if we are to address the jobs crisis. They also point to the informational and administrative challenges of effective labour market intervention. The proposed R9-billion Jobs Fund is certainly a necessary intervention, but it is imperative that no undue delays hamper the requests for proposals from implementing organisations, that appropriate organisations be selected quickly, and that adequate oversight ensures achievement of the desired impact.

Along with its familiar budgetary priorities, the Budget also introduced new sectoral measures and, in the case of some sectors, signals of policy shifts. These measures reflect the objectives of the New Growth Path.

Regarding health reform there was a further commitment to the gradual introduction of a system of National Health Insurance for

South Africa. As with the potential youth wage subsidy measure, however, the Minister emphasised that further consultation would be embarked on in assessing the best financing options for such a measure. The Budget also allocated funds directly to specific aspects of the Ten Point Plan for Health Reform. A continued move towards a Primary Health Care approach will be further supported by fund allocations for the introduction of family health care teams. The upgrading of hospitals with specific focus on infant and maternal health will help to attain the Millennium Development Goal targets, and expanding training of doctors and nurses together with management reform within hospitals could go a long way towards improving the efficiency and access of health care throughout the country and eliminating the inequality of the current two-tiered system.

Budget 2011 reaffirms the government's commitment to promoting innovation through "green economy" initiatives as a key strategy for fostering growth and job creation. As a first step, the question boils down to whether budget allocations are in fact aligned with these desired policy outcomes. South Africa will be hosting the 17th United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP17), where we will be under particular scrutiny regarding ways of reducing the dangers associated

with a hotter future. Whilst funding is allocated for renewable energy, environmental protection and "green" economy initiatives, it is disappointing that the funding (R800-million) set aside over the next three years for "green economy" initiatives, will only be allocated in the Adjustments Budget. This poses the question if there is urgency in tackling the danger posed by climate change.

Over the medium term, there is a steady growth in transport sector funding with a real annual growth rate of 4.3% between the 2010/11 to 2013/14 fiscal years. This is in line with the New Growth Path's identification of investment in infrastructure as a key driver of job creation. There has in the past been substantial growth in the transport sector in the form of public transport investment, especially leading up to the 2010 Soccer World Cup. However, these have only been short-to-medium-term jobs. A key challenge for the national government is to ensure that infrastructure investment in the transport sector translates into long-term job creation and contributes to overall growth.

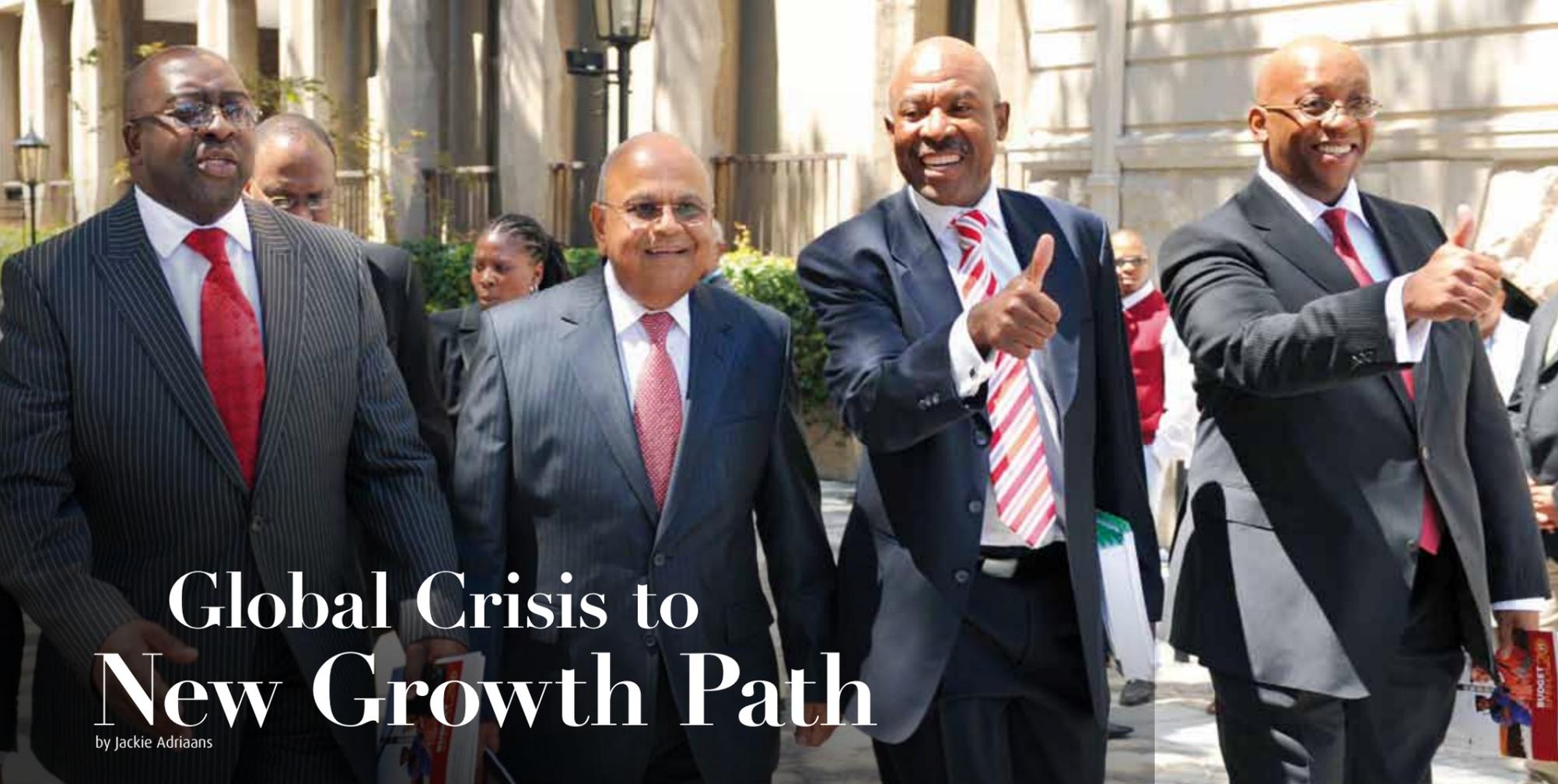
The Department of Human Settlements is one of the key departments in South Africa and receives a large share of the national budget after education, health and social development. The housing budget increases from R102-billion

to R116.3-billion between the 2010/11 and the 2011/12 fiscal years. Allocations to the sector will experience a real growth of 5.4% in the period between 2010/11 to 2013/14. While the increase is welcomed, the department will need to continue to look at the quality of housing delivery, capacity of municipalities and local government to deliver and to ensure that there is value for money in housing delivery.

In conclusion, Budget 2011 gives effect, across a range of sectors, to the objectives of the New Growth Path, and does so within a fiscal framework which finds an appropriate balance between medium- and long-term sustainability and the urgency of present challenges. However, in the wake of the recession many more South Africans have become poor, unemployed and vulnerable, and this challenge requires both short-term measures and fundamental structural change. Strong leadership, responsive institutions, and effective partnerships will be necessary to decisively move towards a transformed society. 🇿🇦

**Len Verwey, Budget Unit, Idasa's
Political Information and Monitoring
Service.**

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Global Crisis to New Growth Path

by Jackie Adriaans

South Africa's vibrant and lively 2011 State of the Nation Address at the opening of Parliament was one of the best yet. There was keen interest in jobs and service delivery in this year of the local election, as the President stepped up to the podium for his second one-on-one with the South African nation, to detail highlights of the year and map the country's way ahead.

President Jacob Zuma began his Address with a timely reminder that it was 21 years since the release from prison of former President Nelson Mandela, who helped lay the cornerstone of the democratic state. "He is not young any more and will need medical checkups, from time to time. We owe it to him that

he should be able to do so with dignity, and should give his family and the medical team space to look after him on our behalf, in privacy."

The President detailed some impressive gains of the past year in basic services, water and electrification: "More than

400 000 additional people were served with basic water supply last year. About 81% of the country is electrified as compared to 63% in the year 2000," he said.

He was concerned that unemployment and poverty persist despite the economic growth of the past 10 years, in the face of the global crisis. "To address these concerns, we have declared 2011 a year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth. We have introduced a New Growth Path that will guide our work in achieving these goals, with the creation of decent work at the centre of our economic policies," he said.

Committing billions of Rands to growth and development, the President made it clear that the New Growth Path depended on co-operation between South Africa's citizens, business and government. First up was a jobs fund of R9-billion rand over the next three years to finance new job-creation initiatives. "In addition, the Industrial Development Corporation has set aside R10-billion over the next five years for investment in such economic activities with a high jobs potential. We also have plans for R20-billion in tax allowances or tax breaks to promote investments, expansions and upgrades in the manufacturing sector."

Referring to the municipal elections in May, President Zuma said "we have a Parliament that is vibrant and holds the executive accountable. Without fail, national general elections are held every five years to enable South Africans to choose a government of their choice, run by our efficient Independent Electoral Commission. We have an independent judiciary which is a trusted final arbiter in all disputes in our society." Summing up the debate around media freedom, he added "We have a media whose freedom is enshrined in the Constitution."

President Zuma outlined plans to improve education: the Triple T (Teachers, Textbooks and Time) restates government's call for teachers to be at school, in class, on time, and teaching for at least seven hours a day.

To target corruption, a Special Anti-Corruption Unit has been established in the Department of Public Service and Administration to handle corruption-related disciplinary cases involving public servants: about R44 million has been recovered from public servants who are illegally benefiting from housing subsidies, while the cleaning of the social grants system of fraud is also continuing.

Responding to the State of the Nation Address, the chief Whip of the ANC, Dr Mathole Motshekga, said structures to enlighten the public, such as

Parliamentary Democracy Offices (PDOs) and sectoral parliaments including the youth, women and religious parliaments had not made the desired impact and should be reviewed. Their resolutions were never channelled into parliamentary processes and Parliament's response to the issues raised were never communicated back to the communities or referred to the executive for implementation. Not only should the fourth Parliament conduct its oversight role even more robustly than ever before: MPs, MPLs and all other officials should become organs of an activist Parliament, and begin by ensuring that everyone knew about it.

Opposition parties referred to crime, the environment, unemployment and jobs, and the 15-million people who get social grants from the State, and the state of education.

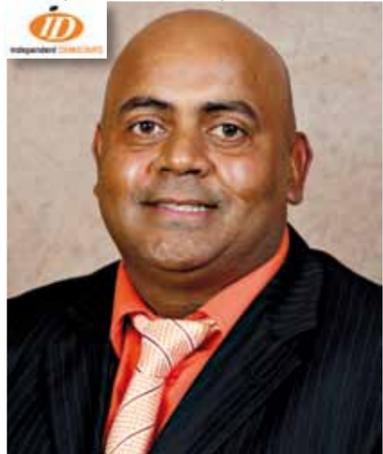
Dr Wilmot James of the Democratic Alliance (DA) said the most obvious advance in education of the past 17 years was in improving access and 96% of children could get to schools now. "There are very good schools, not all in middle class areas, and very good teachers, not all in former model C or private schools. The fact is, though, that schooling is crippled in many parts of our country, and it is often poor where the trade unions are strong," he said.

Mr Joe McGluwa of the Independent Democrats (ID) said education was the

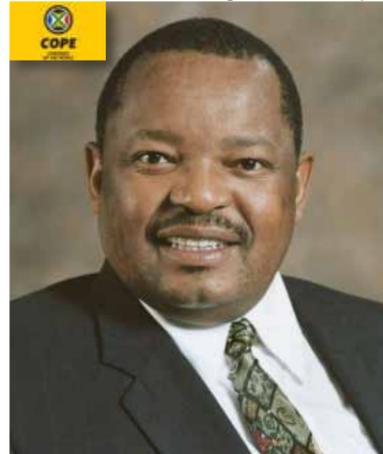
Dr Wilmot James, Democratic Alliance



Mr Joe McGluwa, Independent Democrats



Mr Mosiua Lekota, Congress of the People



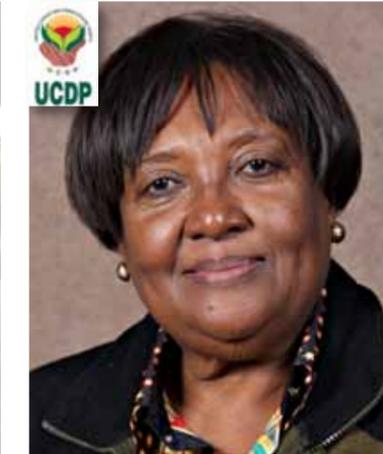
Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Inkatha Freedom Party



Rev Kenneth Moshoe, African Christian Democratic Party



Mrs Ipuseng Ditshetelo, United Christian Democratic Party



great engine of personal development. "It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, and the child of farm workers can become the President of a great nation." His ID colleague, Mr Lance Greyling was disappointed not to hear President Zuma refer to South Africa's hosting of the UN climate change conference at the end of this year. "Without a solution the natural devastation will intensify and nullify any efforts we might take to relieve our impending water crisis," he said.

The Congress of the People (COPE) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) expressed concern about unemployment.

Mr Mosiua Lekota of COPE said the direction the nation was taking was worrisome: "I am very glad that the President declared this 'the year of job creation', because if there is one single grave and serious problem confronting our country, it is that of unemployment." Being jobless left a deep psychological impact on people, he added. "They lose their self respect and dignity. Physically they suffer hunger and deprivation. Eventually they resort to desperate measures. Then all of us may find ourselves engulfed," Mr Lekota said.

Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi (IFP) said job creation should spurn political divides. "This will require a measured attitude adjustment within government, and the courage to reconsider our hostile labour laws. If we want to create

jobs we must create industries which are viable in the long term and do not require a stream of state subsidies to survive. Unless this is done, South Africa will remain a welfare state, rather than the developmental state that we dream of. The reality of a welfare state is that it cannot survive in the long run," he said.

Rev Kenneth Meshoe of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) welcomed the President's focus on job creation and the fund of R9billion over the next three years to finance new job creation initiatives. "As our country is moving closer to the local government elections, I want to appeal to the President to stop misleading voters by telling them that a vote for the ANC and an ANC membership card will guarantee them a place in heaven. This is deception that must stop."

Mrs Ipuseng Ditshetelo of the United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP) welcomed the progress made in providing 400 000 people with a basic water supply. "That is a substantial number. However, we look forward to when all South Africans can enjoy basic services as their right. Despite the decline in crime especially the 8.6% decline in murder rate, gender-based violence has not abated. It was disappointing that the President did not dwell much on this, because we must all rid our society of crime, especially rape.

Mr Royit Bhoola of the Minority Front (MF) said every year in the State of the Nation Address goals were identified,

"but at the end of each year you still have challenges when the targets are not achieved. The MF praises your efforts in international relationships and supports sound meaningful economic transformation that must be translated into economic opportunities and social improvements in everybody's lives."

Mr Nelson Godi of the African Peoples Convention said the APC believed that the role of the State in the economy had been highly minimised and a reversal was long overdue. "We therefore welcome the thinking in the new growth plan, to give the State an active role in driving job creation. We believe we need to do more to stimulate economic development. We need to strengthen the Public Service Commission by making it the point of entry into civil service, the recruiter and trainer of departmental officials," he said.

Mr Letlapa Mphahlele of the Pan Africanist Congress welcomed the establishment of a special anti-corruption unit. "Corruption is a cancer afflicting all organs of our society. Unfortunately, the ruling party has institutionalised corruption through a cadre deployment policy." He was also concerned that witchcraft and ritual-related matters continue unabated in the rural areas. "The government seems to be running out of ideas in fighting this scourge. We have never debated witchcraft openly, always in whispered conversations. Now is the time for the nation to debate witchcraft openly and honestly."

Mr Koti Dikobo of the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) said all funded vacant posts in the public service sector should be filled. "We welcome the money for new job creation initiatives, tax allowances to promote investments and tax deductible allowances. Ensure that this money is used for job creation and not to pay hefty bonuses for executives. We agree that suitably qualified people must be appointed into the right positions."

Dr Pieter Mulder of the Freedom Front Plus (FF+) said President Zuma had emphasised that corruption and misapplication of taxes would not be tolerated. "The Special Investigation Unit has already recovered R44-million from public servants who had illegally received housing subsidies. But then we have to read in the newspapers about R100-million being wasted on the youth festival. These comments and actions send out conflicting messages to everyone," he said, "to voters, to the private sector, to the agricultural community and to investors."

A fortnight after the State of the Nation Address Minister of Finance Pravin Gordhan delivered his second Budget Speech, in the National Assembly on 23 February. Features of the Budget, also broadcast nation-wide, were steps to create jobs, compel the economy forward, and for South Africa to compete on the world stage. "Building South Africa is a multi-decade project," the Finance Minister stressed.

Among the usual increase on the so-called "sin" taxes (like liquor and cigarettes) was a first: a withholding tax of 15% from April 2012, on all gambling winnings in excess of R25 000, inclusive of the national lottery. Other "sin" taxes include a sliding-scale tax of up to a maximum 25% surcharge on new vehicles, for vehicles priced over R900 000. Road and air travel is also affected by a ten cent higher fuel levy on petrol and diesel, plus 80 cents a litre for the Road Accident Fund levy, instead of the current eight cents a litre. Motorists will also be paying more with steep increases in petrol prices to compensate for higher crude oil prices.

From October 2011 it will cost more in airport taxes to fly to foreign destinations. A five-fold increase in the levy on electricity generated from non-renewable sources like coal and nuclear plants should be absorbed in the already approved tariff structure of the National Energy Regulator, said the Minister. Included in R3.6-billion for water infrastructure and services is funding for the drainage of acid mines associated with abandoned underground mines, which is threatening communities and mines on the Witwatersrand.

Several of the tax relief measures were aimed at the elderly. Measures such as the Child Support Grant would be further extended, although the President had indicated earlier that the government favoured phasing it out when economic activity and community development became more favourable.

Millions see State of Nation Address

The 4.8 million viewers who watched eTV and the SABC for this year's televised broadcast for President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation Address at 7pm on 10 February reportedly got full value, both for news and entertainment. More than 10 million radio listeners tuned in and the event was the second most-discussed world event for the evening on the internet social page Twitter, with lively debates on Facebook.

When President Jacob Zuma began his Address at 7pm, SABC2 had 3.3 million and eTV had 1.5 million viewers. The combined average for the next half-hour was reportedly around four million adult viewers on the two TV stations, mostly in the medium-to-upper LSM groups (the audience that often influences advertisers as to where they spend their advertisement budgets).

In a year-by-year comparison with the first evening State of the Nation Address in 2010, the peak viewership this year was up, by roughly 400 000 for each station, reflecting good audience growth. The build-up, motorcade, arrivals and stunning fashions on display were covered by the TV outside-broadcast crews like a set-piece on a grand stage. Millions of people in the rural areas listening to the event on radio also enjoyed the theatrical descriptions of the setting, impressive 21-gun salute and military-and-civil music accompaniment.

Mr Royit Bhoola, Minority Front



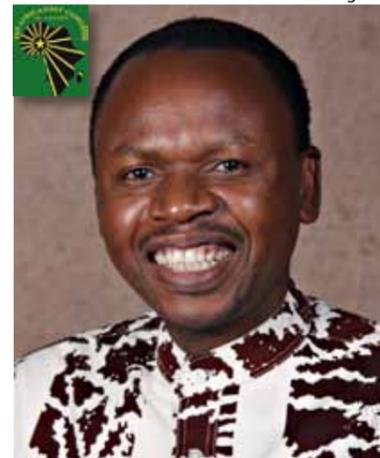
Mr Nelson Godi African Peoples Convention



Dr Pieter Mulder, Freedom Front Plus



Mr Letlapa Mphahlele Pan Africanist Congress



Mr Koti Dikobo Azanian People's Organisation



Love your South Africa

May's date with democracy

by Jackie Adriaans

More than 23.6 million voters are eligible to vote for their would-be councillors in the third municipal elections on 18 May 2011. As the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) runs through its checklist for South Africa's biggest ever local government election, a deeper longing for a better deal at municipal level is becoming evident among voters.

May 18 will be the third time that South Africans exercise their votes at local government level. The final weekend of voter registration helped lift the number of potential voters to not far short of the 24 million the IEC had hoped for.

There was a good response to the IEC's youth-focused campaign. If just half the 23.6 million voters who are registered go to the polls, it would still be a big improvement on the 9.8 million people who cast their vote in the local elections of 2006. In both previous local elections the poll was below 50%.

The independent candidates and political parties alike had to notify the IEC by 25 March of their intention to take part in the municipal elections. They also had to nominate their ward candidates and pay all deposits by that date.

In the mixed system, half of the councillors are elected on a proportional representation ticket. This means voters select their party, and the party appoints the candidate. The other half are elected individually as ward councillors by the residents of each particular ward, where residents decide on an independent candidate, and the one who is first-past-the-post wins the seat. Independent candidates require at least 50 signatures to back them, plus their deposit of R1000 to get onto the candidates list.

The Chief Electoral Officer, Adv Pansy Tlakula, says all parties and independent candidates have to pay a deposit to contest the elections.

- R4 000 per metropolitan council;
- R2 500 per local council with wards;
- R1 500 per local council without

- wards and per District Council;
- R1 000 per independent ward candidate;
- R1 000 per ward candidate nominated by a party who is not contesting the election of the relevant municipal council by way of a party (PR) list.

In local councils, voters will get three ballot papers - one vote for the ward candidate of their choice, the second vote for a party of their choice in the local council and a third vote for the party of their choice in the District Council.

Adv Tlakula said in order to contest the municipal elections, political parties had to be registered with the Electoral Commission by 25 March 2011. This is the date on which parties have to submit their intention to participate in the elections, submit their ward nominations and candidates' lists as well as pay their deposits.

A party that would contest elections in all municipalities could field a maximum of 9 086 candidates, and would have to pay deposits totalling more than

R633 000. A deposit paid by a party (or an independent ward candidate) is refundable, if the candidate's party gets at least one seat on the municipal council or if the ward candidate received at least 10 per cent of the votes cast in that ward election. Candidates have to be registered voters in the municipality they want to contest.

After 12 April when the IEC compiles its lists of parties and certifies them, and signs off on the lists of candidates contesting each ward, applications for special votes can be submitted from 15 April. Special votes are intended to assist people who cannot get to their polling stations because they are ill, elderly or disabled, or will be away from their designated electoral point on the day of the local elections.

Important dates in this respect are

- 3 May at 17h00: Closure of applications for special votes
- 16 May from 08h00 to 17h00: Casting of special votes by registered voters who qualify to do so at the voting station in the voting district where they are registered

- 17 May from 08h00 to 17h00: Home visitations for voters who qualify to cast a special vote.

Local government in South Africa is divided into three categories with the big eight Metropolitans (Category A), in the ascendancy. The current metros in South Africa are Johannesburg, Cape Town, eThekweni (Durban), Tshwane (Pretoria), Ekurhuleni (East Rand), Mangaung (Bloemfontein), Nelson Mandela (Port Elizabeth) and Buffalo City (East London), with Msunduzi (Pietermaritzburg) still awaiting confirmation. Covering the rest of the country are 52 Districts (Category B) and within the Districts, Category C, are the Municipalities with their wards.

The metros and local municipalities are split into 4277 wards covering the entire country. The wards are spread out in a minimum of four and a maximum of 130 per municipality. The population spread is very uneven: between them the big Metro areas are home to 19 million-plus of the population, for example.

Adv Tlakula said the Electoral

Commission appealed to all organs of civil society in South Africa, including the business community, faith-based organisations, women's groups, non-governmental organisations, traditional authorities, trade unions, the farming community, schools, universities, civil society organisations, sports groups and governmental institutions to join in the efforts of the Electoral Commission to promote maximum participation in the municipal elections.

She said that voters who need more information on the municipal elections such as confirmation of their registration details and voting station locations should contact the IEC Call Centre (toll free on a landline) at 0800 11 8000 or visit the IEC website at www.elections.org.za. Voters who want to know whether they are registered and where they should vote can also send an SMS with their ID number to 32810.

"Young voters are encouraged to follow registration and election developments on our newly created mobile site on mobi.elections.org.za or on twitter on www.twitter/iecloveyoursa," Ms Tlakula said.



Through the lens



HAIL TO THE CHIEFS: President Jacob Zuma and National Assembly Speaker Max Sisulu

DEPUTATION OF DEPUTIES: Left Deputy Chairperson Ms Thandi Memela, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, right Deputy Speaker Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo



STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS: Joint Sitting

BELOW: Max Sisulu, NA Speaker, Ms Zanele Mbeki, Former President Thabo Mbeki and Mninwa Mahlangu, NCOP Chairperson



BELOW AND BELOW RIGHT: Junior Guard of Honour
BELOW LEFT: National ceremonial guard





Basic education finds a voice

Ms Hope Malgas

Community and sports activist Ms Hope Malgas, who was born in Port Elizabeth and is a qualified college teacher by profession, is known as 'the voice of women in her constituency'. She will carry over this energy to her position as the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education.

Jackie Adriaans got her story

What shaped your career?

Sport and politics have always been in my blood and have played a major role in shaping who I am. The South African Council on Sport (SACOS) was established in 1973 as a non-racial sport federation in opposition to apartheid structures. When I joined a central SACOS principle was "No normal sport in an abnormal society." Within SACOS I became involved in amateur athletics at provincial and national level, as well as in school sports. In 1988 I became involved in the National Sports Congress (NSC), which was founded on the principles of non-racial, mass-based integration and development, aimed at democratizing sport in South Africa. I served on the National

Sports Council and on provincial and national Schools Sports Councils as secretary.

When did you become active in politics?

In 1983 I had become active in politics when I joined the United Democratic Front (UDF), and I later served in the ANC. My first involvement was in the UDF underground media programme and the women's movement through the Port Elizabeth Women's Organisation (PEWO) reporting to the UDF structure in our area, in northern Port Elizabeth.

I was detained in Port Elizabeth for my political involvement in 1987-1988, and the experience of detention was dehumanising. I felt

that it stripped me of my dignity as a woman, but it did serve to entrench my commitment to the struggle to free women and gain respect for them.

Later I joined the ANC, and currently I hold the position of Deputy Chairperson of the ANC Simon Mkalipi branch in northern Port Elizabeth. I am the Deputy Chairperson and at present the Acting Chairperson.

Where is your constituency?

My constituency consists of four wards in northern Port Elizabeth and my office is in West End. My constituency work has involved the facilitation of community development projects, oversight, public participation facilitation, cooperative delivery between Parliamentary Constituency Offices and the ANC structures, and the promotion of this type of office as a nerve centre of activity and information.

As part of our assistance to

the community, we have done everything from assisting learners with compiling information from the Internet for school projects, to assisting with social grants, liaising with the Department of Home Affairs to secure IDs and addressing municipal problems such as water and electricity bills, school fees and suspensions. We initiated a programme called Services on Wheels where various government departments are invited to render services to the people in the constituency. The programme runs every second month and rotates between the wards. Our most recent venture is the project involving Jubilee Park Primary School in Uitenhage, which was originally built out of planks in 1958. We are involving the community in rebuilding the school, under the auspices of the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department. We are also going to facilitate the building of a sports, arts and culture complex next to the school to serve the community. This project is also likely to create jobs and we would like the community to take ownership of the school to reduce vandalism and burglaries.

When were you elected to Parliament?

I have been a Member of Parliament since 2009 and have had a range of committee involvement from provincial to national level. Prior to being appointed Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, I served on the Portfolio Committees of Women, Children, Youth and Persons with Disabilities; as well as Social Development;

and International Relations and Cooperation. I am an alternative Member to the South African Development Community (SADC). During my term of office at the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature I chaired the Standing Committees on the Premier, Gender, Disabled and Youth. I also served on the Standing committee on Education, Cultural Affairs and Sport and the Standing Committee on Community Development.

The question is sometimes asked: what contribution do female MPs make to the national agenda?

I think we represent the interests of the community and we should bring this out in our work as parliamentarians. Through our work we are building a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. As a woman and an MP it is my function to promote the rights of women and place women's issues on Parliament's agenda.

I am the voice of women in my constituency. Besides being the voice of women, I convey relevant information from Parliament to my constituency and I bring the issues they raise to the attention of Parliament. I consider any legislation brought before Parliament from a gender perspective, and I encourage others to do the same.

Our committee must monitor the progress of basic education in South Africa. We have an oversight and

monitoring role as a committee, and carry out our legislative function. Besides chairing the committee and providing leadership, the objective of education is to provide quality education and give our children access to education.

What is your role as the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education?

The Committee I chair must monitor the progress of basic education in South Africa. Our legislative function as a committee is oversight and we also have a monitoring role to carry out. The President has called on us to "do things differently", and this is the approach the Committee will use. Besides chairing the committee and providing leadership, my own objective is to continue to strive for access to quality education for our children.

Judging from the Budget, basic education is a priority?

The ruling party and government have nominated education as a top priority. This encourages us to work hard as a committee, because we cannot sit back on our laurels until quality education is achieved. Although much has been achieved the road ahead is still long, "Unzima Lomthwalo". Fortunately, the class of 2010 has laid a foundation that we can build on. What is important is to develop synergy between the stakeholders, so that this responsibility is carried out with passion and dedication, with nothing to distract us.

Class of 2010 Brings hope

Education is looking up

by Jackie Adriaans



Gardens Commercial High pupils on a visit to Parliament in 2011

If the 2010 matric results are anything to go by, the future looks slightly more promising for basic education in South Africa. But despite the highest pass rate in three years, with double the number of 'Bachelors' passes for university entrance, the Department says it is not about to rest on its laurels.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, Ms Hope Malgas says there is every reason to congratulate the class of 2010 for achieving a 67,8% pass rate, up 7% from the previous year. "The learners grew up with a number of sporting world events and the results show that they were not derailed by the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Besides this there was industrial action at the schools, and again the learners survived. There were minimal leaks in examinations, mostly technical in nature. The number of candidates with university exemptions has doubled, so that is also good."

The drop-out rate remains a big concern and even though there have been improvements in Mathematics and Physical Science results, they are still way below the desired outcomes. The Department's strategic intervention, Schooling 2025, was put in place late last year. It is designed to turn around the education system. The Department and *Umalusi*, the council responsible for quality assurance in general and further education and training, briefed the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education recently on the outcomes of the 2010 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

• There were 642 691 learners

registered for the matric exams and 537 543 learners wrote seven subjects. Altogether 364 513 learners passed, which is higher than the number of passes in 2009 and 2008.

"When you still have more than 32% of young people failing in the system there is reason to be concerned," says Department of Education spokesperson Dr Nkosinathi Sishi.

There was a 21% improvements in the Physical Science results, while in Mathematics the results have improved gradually from 45,7% to 47,4% in three years. Dr Sishi said they were happy with the steady improvement in Mathematics but in terms of the number of passes, this was still way too low.

**800 000 Dropouts
over 12 years**

Ms Malgas says the Department of Basic Education has support programmes like the Dinaledi Schools Project in place for Grade 12 teachers and learners. The project was launched in 2002 to address the

legacy of inequality in mathematics and science in South Africa. In 2009, 500 schools were targeted nationally in disadvantaged communities. "The Department of Basic Education's turnaround strategy will not only focus on Mathematics and Science, but all subjects," she says.

There is concern over the number of children dropping out of school during the 12 years of primary and high school. When the 2009 matriculants first enrolled in 1998 the number of grade 1s was 1 444 018. By grade 12, that number had dwindled to 599 626. A staggering 800 000 had dropped out over the 12 years, and the Department was especially concerned about the drop-out rate of girls.

**Action plan 2014,
long vision: 2025**

"Significant challenges have been identified and will be addressed through Action Plan for 2014 and other specific interventions that are subject-specific. Our targets are designed to ensure that we deal with improvement across the system, particularly maths, science, accounting, geography and languages. English home language (and English First Additional Language) will also be targeted because the majority of our young people are challenged in this area," Dr Sishi said. Schooling 2025 contains the long-term vision of the Department of Basic Education, which

is aimed at transforming the education system within 15 years. Three main principles underpin the Department's strategy as the focus of the action plan, namely performance management, accountability and remedial action.

To ensure accountability, the Department will be setting accountability standards at various levels. As part of its remediation strategy, the Department plans subject-specific intervention, eg in Mathematics it will specify exactly what needs to be done. "An important characteristic of Schooling 2025 is that it is going to be provincialised. For the first time we are going to make sure that the provincial strategy is aligned to the national strategy and we believe this is going to turn around the ship," he says. Teacher education, and gauging how functional schools are, will be integral parts of the campaign of quality learning.

Ms Malgas says the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education will have a hands-on approach and will conduct oversight visits to schools to establish the Department's progress. "Also high on the committee's agenda are infrastructure, skills development and the creation of good jobs because all facets of education such as the building and revitalisation of schools, the early childhood development programme, nutrition, transport, learner workbooks and teacher employment," she says. The Head of the School of Education at the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Ruksana Osman, says

the quality of matric still remains unexplored. "There is a preoccupation with the number of matric passes and not their quality." The challenges facing basic education include violence in schools, inadequate school buildings and facilities, the big infrastructure backlog and a high number of teenage pregnancies.

Another critical area this year is HIV/AIDS and the introduction of HIV testing for learners in schools. "It is going to be important that we have a comprehensive programme within schools for the year. Support structures need to be put in place because many of our learners are AIDS orphans who need support, so we need an integrated approach from government on that," says Ms Malgas.

A big priority is the foundation phase: "95% of the workbooks have been delivered to schools and the Department will meet with the subject advisors to ensure that the educators can use these books. It is important to start at the formative age to fully prepare them for Grade 12," Ms Malgas said.

**'Fly-by-nights' prey
on students**

Young people who are desperate to further their studies at tertiary level but could not find space at university or Further Education and Training (FET) colleges have been cautioned to avoid

unregistered private institutions that are operating illegally in South Africa. The Department of Higher Education and Training has issued written warnings to several illegal institutions to discontinue their unscrupulous practices.

"The Department is also working closely with the South African Police Service and other law-enforcement agencies, in responding to allegations of private education institutions operating illegally," says the Director for private FET colleges in the Department of Higher Education and Training, Dr Mandlenkosi Buthelezi. "We have established through student enquiries and complaints that there are many unregistered private education institutions in operation."

Students, parents and the public were advised to ask the following questions:

- Does the institution offer the qualification in which you are interested?
- Is the qualification you are interested in listed on the certificate?
- Is there a brochure with all details, including qualifications offered?
- Is the institution in premises with good space, light and equipment?
- Can it provide full details of its teaching staff and their qualifications?
- Can it provide a sample copy of a learning contract?

On the Department's website, <http://www.education.gov.za> any member of the public can inspect the register to determine which private education institutions qualify to offer Further Education and Training (FET) and Higher Education (HE) qualifications. The Department's Call Centre number is 080 087 2222.



MY story

Home is where the heart is

Mrs *Malesane Priscilla Themba has come a long way from being a departmental manager in a large chain store to Member of Parliament. Amid her hectic parliamentary schedule and political party duties, the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Communication, Labour and Public Enterprises still makes time for her long-time role as “advocate of women’s rights”*
By Sakhile Mokoena

Women’s issues are very close to my heart, and I will continue campaigning for the rights of women as long as I am alive.

Before I came to Parliament my colleagues called me “Comrade Gender” because of my involvement in the fight for the rights of women. One day in Mpumalanga I came across a newspaper article about the National Network on Violence Against Women. I called them and told them that there was a need for the organisation’s services in Mpumalanga. A few weeks later the organization opened an office in the province and I became the provincial chairperson, doing voluntary work after hours and on weekends.

In my political life I have always been involved in the fight for women’s rights and I will continue advocating for total emancipation of women in our country, especially in rural areas where there is a high level of illiteracy.

Although our government has so many programmes aimed at uplifting women, there is still a lot to be done to help develop women in this country. Despite the elevation of women in politics, religion, economy, government and domestic situations, there still so many drawbacks and resistance hindering full enjoyment of women and human rights

Rural areas are still behind in technology. This is very important, because women must be able to get to the markets and sell their products in bigger cities or even internationally.

Reportedly, we are still witnessing the abuse of farm workers in the Western Cape, in hands of rogue farmers who are paying their workers using the

deplorable “dop-system” (practice where workers are paid in part with alcohol). We must have a campaign to boycott wine from the affected areas.

We must again lay the foundation to make sure that the recognition of women’s right in economy, politics, religion and domestic are realized and increased. We do have the tools in the Ministry of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and the Department of Justice to establish laws to deal with people who are misbehaving.

I became an MP in 1998 when the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) replaced the Senate, and I served as a provincial whip and co-chairperson of the Joint Monitoring Committee on the Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Women. My best moment in Parliament was when I was elected Chairperson of the Select Committee on Labour and Public Enterprise and the most exciting part of the job is public hearings, when we interact with the voters.

I was both scared and excited when I received the news from my party that I will be a Member of Parliament, I didn’t know how I was going to break the news to my husband that I was relocating to Cape Town. But eventually I became brave and had the courage to tell him and he was not happy. He said he can’t let me go as that would be a step towards breaking up, but he later agreed and I went back to the ANC with the news and they started making arrangements for me to come to Cape Town. I asked my husband’s aunt (who was also not in favour of the move) to accompany me to the swearing-in.

However after some time my husband

became understanding and supportive, I think the distance has made our marriage even stronger. Before the 1994 elections I was number nine on the Senate list for Mpumalanga province, but after the results the provincial percentage only covered up to number eight, leaving me out. When the NCOP was established in 1997 to replace to Senate, I was seconded to be a permanent delegate.

I started as a unionist while working for a large chain store where I held several positions including those of shop steward, gender coordinator and Secretary-General of the local branch of SACCAWU (South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union).

With my busy parliamentary schedule, political party work and involvement in gender activism, my most important responsibility is my constituency work. My Constituency Office is in Hazyview, a small town on the border of the Kruger National Park, surrounded by farms in the rural area. As a result of the lack of Department of Labour office in the town the constituency office used to receive a lot of labour –related complaints from farm workers. We could not turn them away: being an MP to me is like being a servant of the voters. We engaged the Department of Labour and succeeded in having a satellite office set up, which opened once a week.

One other issue that the constituency office deals with quite often is violence against children and women. Together with the Office on the Status of Women from the Premier’s Office, the Departments of Health and Social Development, ward councillors, police and the Mbombela local municipality we have initiated programmes to conscientise women, to speak out against injustice and abuse. Last year we had a successful seminar on young women in ICT and leadership, and we are planning to have another one this year on a different topic. Often we meet with local councillors and ANC branches to assess service delivery and challenges in local communities.

HANSARD

'Online, on time'

by Sakhile Mokoena

In this final look at South Africa's Parliamentary record, we consider how going online could impact on Hansard, government, society and politics. Part 3 of 3 on Hansard's Centenary (1910-2010).

"Read today's debate in the (House of) Lords three hours after it happens," is the invitation when you type in www.parliament.uk on the internet.

Although the Hansard team at the South African Parliament in Cape Town does not yet have the resources to offer such a quick turnaround time, it hopes to be in a similar position in time. Parliament intends to digitalize all records of speeches kept in its library, because this will allow for longer preservation and help Hansard to reach a wider audience. It would be a boon to researchers, students and members of the public to get to Hansard records without physically travelling to the library of Parliament in Cape Town.

Plans to place the material online were made public during the recent 100th anniversary celebration of Hansard in South Africa. The practice of recording and preserving speeches delivered by Members of Parliament during parliamentary sittings, first practiced in Britain, has spread to most of the Commonwealth. Hansard is readily available on the internet in a number of these countries, including Australia and Canada. The Parliamentary Monitoring Group files most of the business of Parliament within a short time, and its content is available free to MPs.

Since the formation of the Union in 1910 Parliament has preserved most of the important material but the manager for special collections in the library of the institution, Ms Mmatheko Aphane, is concerned that if the work is not digitalized it might be lost. Some of the paper containing the earlier records has started showing signs of disintegrating.

"We intend digitalizing the material to preserve it for longer and so that we can reach a wider audience. It will also ease access to the records because people will no longer have to physically travel to Parliament in Cape Town," she said.

Though these records are open for public access Parliament Library reports that they are being underutilized. "Part of the reason could be the restrictions placed on Hansard and other historical publications that are locked away. Users are only allowed to use them in-house," she said.

Hansard is seen by all as "an important tool in keeping parliamentary records that can be trusted by everybody."

Ms Janneke Engelbrecht, the Hansard Manager in the Language Service section, said the records were important for posterity, future research

and the history of the House. "It records the evolution of the country's history as reflected in the debates of Parliament," she said. Hansard is not only be used by opposition parties to hold government accountable to the promises they make in the House, it can also be handy in court if there are disputes on the precise intention of the lawmakers, at the time of passing the law.

Some of the best moments in Parliament in recent years relate to the process of embracing democracy. For Ms Engelbrecht, an outstanding memory is the opening speech made by President FW De Klerk on 2 February 1990 in which he announced the release of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of political parties.

"It was exciting, unexpected and quite an emotional experience to be in the House: a special day," she said.

She vividly recalls the opening of the first democratic parliament when President Mandela walked to the podium in 1994.

"When he entered the House and greeted all members of opposition parties, everyone expected a confrontational and uncomfortable situation. But Mr Mandela with his special charm just completely dissolved the situation. The presence of *imbongi* (the praise singer) also made it more exciting," Ms Engelbrecht recalls.

Such moments in Hansard are among the most popular and are well-researched online.

Cancun to Durban

Climate Change Summit

By staff

Not nearly enough was done at the 16th Conference of Parties summit meeting in Cancun, Mexico, to commit realistic expenditure on combating climate change, but at least COP 16 helped to keep the applecart on track. The National Planning Commission's plan for South Africa's transition to a low-carbon economy is due for release in November, ahead of the UN's 17th attempt to broker a global climate change schedule at the COP17 summit in Durban in November-December this year. There is so much persuading to do by then, both locally and in the international arena, that some are calling it *Mission Impossible*.

The appointment of Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning, Trevor Manuel, as a member of the high-level advisory group on climate change financing established by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, could make it easier to monitor the progress on mobilizing finance to assist developing countries in the climate change struggle. Since it was first proposed at Copenhagen (COP15) not much has become public about the fund, mooted at \$10billion a year, and later adjusted to \$100billion by 2020: the fund is intended to help poor countries alleviate the worst effects of climate change.

At the same time, the National Planning Commission (NPC) must firm up suggestions on how South Africa must "manage the complexities of shifting to a low carbon economy, over time," as suggested at its seminar in Liliesleaf, Johannesburg. The seminar brought together the science and economics of climate change, and considered its implications for policy formulation and its impact on society.

South Africa is sinned against, but it is also a major sinner. Our greenhouse gas emissions are high (especially in relation to the rest of Africa) and because we rely on coal

for electricity generation we fall within the top 20 greenhouse gas emitting countries globally (number 13 in 2008).

The NPC seminar, attended by business, labour, academia, government and civil society, formulated some questions what are the drivers for business to change, how do we protect the poor and vulnerable from climate change, how do we reduce carbon emissions while still raising growth and employment, how we can promote industries that are less carbon intensive, and what implications global trends have for South African policy makers. While it is clear that there is overwhelming evidence that CO₂ emissions by humans are contributing to climate variability and that we need to curb our emissions, it is also clear that we need a careful, well thought-through plan to manage this transition so that we can continue growing, creating jobs, reducing poverty and inequality while at the same time reducing our carbon emissions.

This will not be an easy or straightforward transition. Managing climate change involves all of society, many aspects of public policy and globally coordinated actions. The NPC recognizes this huge challenge and it is likely to be an important part of



High post for Minister Trevor Manuel

the draft plan for South Africa that will be released later in the year.

The dialogue was opened by Minister Trevor Manuel and some of the speakers included Lord Nick Stern, Tom Heller, Guy Midgely, Minister Rob Davies and Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin, Nosipho Ngcaba, Roger Baxter, Zav Rustomjee and Harald Winkler.

The fundamental truth is that those who damage others by emitting greenhouse gases do not pay up (and generally have no intention of doing so unless they can be compelled to do so).

The National Planning Commission intends conducting similar seminars on a range of topics over the next few months so that South Africans from all walks of life can engage with the difficult challenges facing South Africans. We do this so that all South Africans can get involved in the drafting of the vision statement and national plan that the Commission will release in November 2011.



What is a State of the Nation Address?

February is a special month for Parliament, a time to prioritise the country's needs and a time for reflection on the year gone by. In the State of the Nation Address, the President, as head of state, speaks to all South Africans.

The State of the Nation Address at the annual opening of Parliament is an address to the nation by the President of the Republic of South Africa. The sitting is called by the President and is hosted by the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). It is delivered to a Joint Sitting of the NA and the NCOP, and focuses on the current political and socio-economic state of the nation.

The State of the Nation Address is also one of the rare occasions where the three arms of state come together in one place: namely, the Executive, represented by the President, Deputy President and Ministers; the Judiciary, represented by the Chief Justice and the Judge Presidents; and

the Legislature, represented by the Presiding Officers and Members of Parliament (MPs).

What topics would the State of the Nation Address cover?

In the address, the President highlights the achievements and challenges experienced over the past year and maps the year ahead. The address covers political, economic and social matters and considers the general state of South Africa. It deliberates on South Africa's domestic affairs as well as its relations in Africa and abroad. The State of the Nation Address is an important means of accounting to Parliament and the South African public for what has happened over the past year and to involve the public in the political

agenda of the coming year. The State of the Nation Address is also about a celebration of our nation and nation-building.

When does it take place?

The State of the Nation Address usually takes place in February. However, when there are general elections two addresses take place, one to mark the final session of the outgoing Parliament and the other after the elections, when the new President and Parliament are acknowledged. In a break from tradition in February 2010, the State of the Nation Address was presented in the evening for the first time, to give more South Africans the opportunity to witness the proceedings and to listen to the President's address. As a result of this change, television viewership shot up from about two million viewers to just short of four million viewers, and this year its huge success as an evening event was again confirmed with well over four million viewers, according to SABC and eTV's researchers.

Is there public participation in the State of the Nation Address?

Public participation is an integral part of the ceremony. Members of the public are invited to participate in the ceremony as invited guests of Parliament. South African citizens from across South Africa and from each province form part of the Junior and Civil Guards of Honour. The Civil Guard of Honour, who welcomes the President to Parliament, comprises ordinary South Africans. The Junior Guard of Honour is drawn from schools around the country and represents the youth, to whom South Africa entrusts the country's future. Eminent South Africans are usually invited to be part of the activities. They are drawn from the provinces and are individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the country.

How does parliamentary oversight fit into this?

The State of the Nation Address forms an integral part of oversight and accountability. A true test of democracy is the extent to which Parliament can ensure that government remains answerable to the people. Oversight is a function granted by the Constitution to Parliament to monitor and oversee the actions of government. Parliament is mandated to oversee all organs of State including those at provincial and local level in order to:

- Make government accountable to the people
- Make government operations more transparent and
- Increase public trust in government.

When performing oversight Parliament focuses on how laws are implemented, how budgets have been applied and whether government departments are being effectively managed.

The oversight function entails the good management of government departments in order to improve service delivery and to achieve a better quality

of life for all citizens. In the State of the Nation Address, the President takes the pulse of the nation and sets out policy objectives and deliverables for the year ahead. It is against these objectives and planned deliverables that the Minister of Finance introduces the Budget for the coming year, usually towards the end of February. The policy objectives and key deliverables form the basis of what government will have to do in the coming year. It is the benchmark by which Parliament holds government accountable to the people, for what it delivers on, and for how money allocated is spent.

After the State of the Nation Address is delivered, it is debated by the two Houses of Parliament. Political parties have an opportunity to give their opinions and raise questions on matters addressed in the speech. Issues of concern are raised and areas of critical importance to the nation are highlighted. The public is invited to attend and observe this debate as is the case with all sessions of Parliament. In turn, the President responds to the points raised and questions arising from the debate.

What is Parliament's theme for this year?

Parliament's theme for 2011 is "Celebrating the legacy of freedom through strengthening the link between Parliament and the People". Each year Parliament identifies a theme which is informed by Parliament's strategic focus. A truly democratic state seeks to derive its authority from the people, through regular elections and continued public participation in the processes of governance. The theme encourages the realization of a participatory, representative and constitutional democracy, where citizens are involved in matters of lawmaking and oversight. It reinforces Parliament's role, which is to represent the people and ensure government by the people under the Constitution. The work of Parliament and of its Members must focus on strengthening links between the people and their elected representatives. The success of Parliament depends on the

active participation of all South African citizens to give direction to the work of their elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and to the institution.

How can the public participate in Parliament?

Involvement in the proceedings of the State of the Nation Address is one way in which the public can become involved in their Parliament. There are other ways of participating in Parliament and these include voting in elections, joining a political party, lobbying and joining a voluntary or non-governmental organisation, contacting MPs, making submissions or representations and sending petitions to Parliament. Parliament is committed to making itself accessible to the South African public by creating opportunities for the meaningful involvement and participation of all: men and women, literate or not, working or unemployed, able-bodied or people with disabilities, the poor (especially the rural poor), and other target groups; to gather and express themselves on matters relating to their basic needs. Specific programmes such as the *People's Assembly*, *Taking Parliament to the People*, *Women's Parliament* and the *Youth Parliament* are all platforms aimed at engaging with the public to hear their views on what matters most to them. Parliament wants to broaden public involvement and participation in keeping with this year's theme "Celebrating the legacy of freedom through strengthening the link between Parliament and the People".

For everyone unable to come to Parliament, you can experience a virtual tour of our Parliament from any part of the world, by visiting www.parliament.gov.za

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email: nmrwerwe@parliament.gov.za

Sport ignites new bonds for SA

by Sakhile Mokoena

The Proteas, Springboks and SA Women's Hockey teams are not the only South African sport teams representing the country in international tournaments in 2011. Members and staff of the national legislature will also be flying the country's flag high in New Zealand in September and October when they take part in the Parliamentary Rugby World Cup.

While some of our national teams are rated among the best in the world, our lesser-known Parliamentary Rugby Club is also respected by other Parliaments after being runners-up in three previous World Cup tournaments.

In 1995 South Africa hosted the first Parliamentary Rugby World Cup, which also coincided with the IRB World Cup. The Parliamentary Team didn't emulate the Springboks in winning the World Cup, but they did reach the final, where they were beaten by New Zealand. The team again became runners-up in the 1999 World Cup, beaten by the same team, and they also came second to New Zealand in 2007. Because of preparations for the 2004 elections South Africa missed the 2003 World Cup, which was won by Australia.

This year's Parliamentary World Cup will be staged a few weeks ahead of the IRB World Cup and will see Parliaments from all rugby-playing nations competing for the cup. Qualification is automatic, and there are special rules. One important rule is that players are not allowed to run

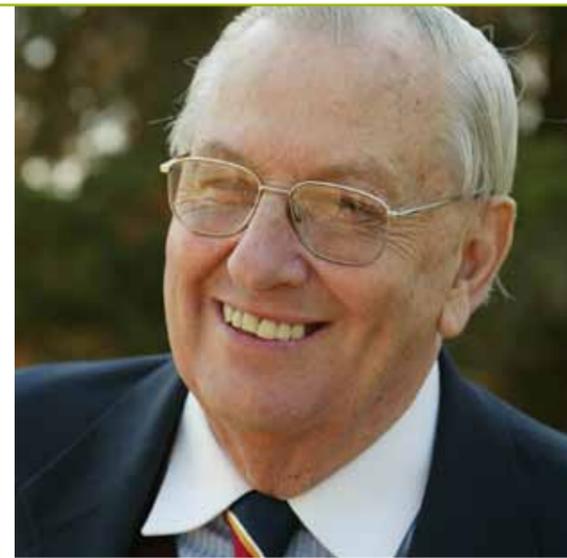
with the ball for more than 10 metres without passing, even if they are not tackled. The other rule that makes this game different is that players who are older than 50 wear yellow shorts for easy identification and enjoy the right to run with the ball for ten metres without being tackled. As part of their World Cup preparations, South Africa's Parliamentary Rugby Team went on a week-long tour to Argentina in November last year and played two matches against the Puma's parliamentary team. They won one match (15-5) and drew the other, outgunning the Argentineans in all departments. The speedy South Africans were penalized a dozen times in both matches for running with the ball further than ten metres before they passed. Eugene Stevens, Andrew Hendricks and Ian Mundell were the try-scorers in the first match. In the second game, a 10-all draw, Randall Favers and Peter Wellman scored for the visitors.

The teams agreed that the games were more about building friendship and could also open ways for Argentina to be included in a Four Nations series with South Africa,

New Zealand and Australia. They held an auction to raise funds for a charity organization chosen by the Argentineans. Rugby kits and books donated by both parliaments were auctioned after the second match. Parliamentary Household Services' Mr Clive Londt received an award for being the "oldest player on the field"

South African Ambassador Tony Leon said relations between the Parliaments of South Africa and Argentina were "non-existent", and he hoped the rugby tour would help create a bond. "We hope this tour could be the beginning of a great relationship," Mr Leon said. During a visit to the Argentine Congress (Parliament) the President of the Senate, Mr Julio Cobos who is also the Argentine's Deputy President, said the tour was the beginning of great partnership: "Like your former President Mandela who used rugby to unite a nation, you are also using the game to unite our two countries," he said.

Whatever happens in the real Rugby World Cup, South Africa's parliamentary team is well poised to take the parliamentary rugby honours in New Zealand this year. The club was formed in 1992 after the unbanning of political organizations, when the presiding officers of the Houses of Commons and Lords in the British Parliament invited the South African Parliament on their first tour. That match was drawn 10-all.



Jannie Momberg

27 July 1938 - 7 January 2011

The National Assembly has paid tribute to a former Democratic Party and ANC Member of Parliament, Mr Jannie Momberg, who died on 7 January 2011 at the age of 72. An experienced sports administrator, veteran politician and businessman, Momberg served both the ANC and South Africa in various capacities.

The Office of the ANC Chief Whip described him as a man who counted amongst those progressive Afrikaners who shunned racism and embraced the movement "to construct a non-racial, united and prosperous South Africa." Minister Trevor Manuel described Momberg as a teacher and a man of great integrity who from 1994 to 2001 taught young ANC MPs the "ins and outs" of Parliament. During his political career he served the National Party at branch level from 1957, followed by the Democratic Party in Parliament (1989-1992) and finally the African National Congress (1994-2001) as the ANC House Whip and the Chairperson of the Programming Committee between 1994 and 2001. He served on in the parliamentary Portfolio committees on Home Affairs, Sports and Recreation and Ethics and Members' Interest.

In 2001, Momberg was appointed as the South African Ambassador to Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia-Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cyprus. He was awarded the Medal of the City of Athens by the mayor, for his tireless and excellent efforts to promote diplomatic relations between South African and Greece. In 2005-2006 he occupied the position of the Dean of African Group of Ambassadors. At the time of his death, he was an executive trustee of the Macias Charitable Trust, which is responsible for feeding 300 orphans daily.



Adv Mamaroba Johannes Malahlela

2 April 1973 - 26 February 2011

Adv Mamaroba Johannes Malahlela, died tragically in a car accident recently at the age of 37. In a draft resolution the Chief Whip of the Majority Party noted his death with deep sadness.

"We hail Mamaroba Malahlela, fondly known as 'Joe' to his comrades and friends, as a gifted, hardworking, friendly and humble people's servant who never shied away from any task, no matter how challenging or difficult it was.

This people's servant formed part of a group of young activists who were deployed by the African National Congress (ANC) to Parliament. He was sworn in as an MP in 2002 at the tender age of 29. During his seven years in office he served on a number of portfolio committees, including communications, justice and constitutional development, foreign affairs and finance.

He first became involved in politics in the 1980s through his role as a student and youth activist in his home town of Mankweng in Limpopo and served as a member of the Mankweng Youth Congress and as branch chairperson of the ANC Youth League in Ga-Dikgale. Joe Malahlela served on the Student Representative Council at the University of the North where he studied law. He held various positions during that period, including that of Treasurer-General. He also served as a member of the ANC Capricorn Regional Executive Committee and chaired the ANC branch in Manyoro in Limpopo.

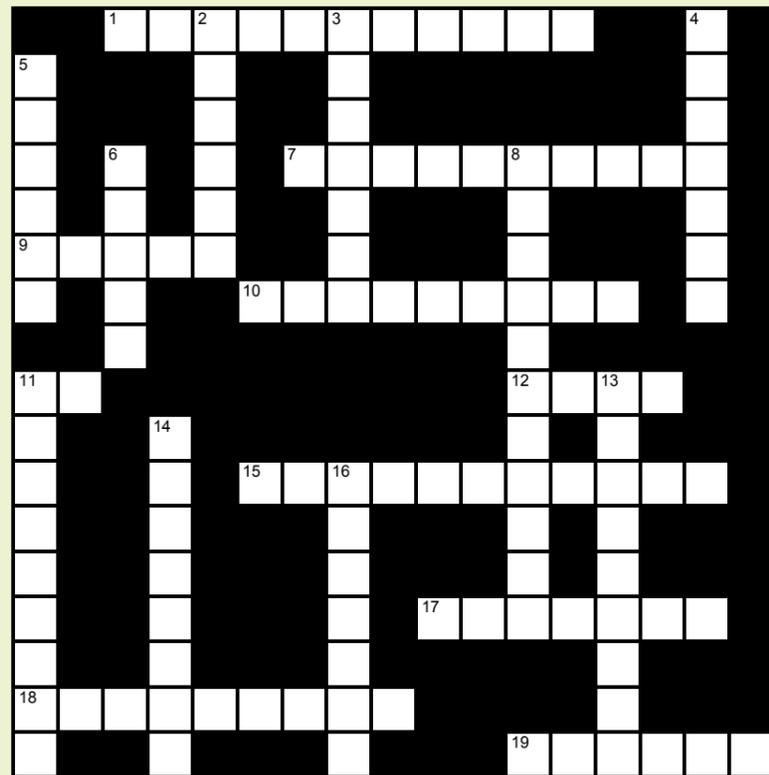
"We are confident that the legacy of his immense contribution to the ANC, Parliament and the people will continue to inspire us in our continuing effort to better the lives of all South Africans. The Office of the Chief Whip extends its heartfelt condolences and sympathy to his family, friends, colleagues and comrades."



edu-tainment

Learning can be fun

The Crossword is focused on learning about the business of Parliament. The solution to the Crossword and Sudoku will be published in the next edition of INSESSION. See article by Public Education Office on Pp. 26 and 27.



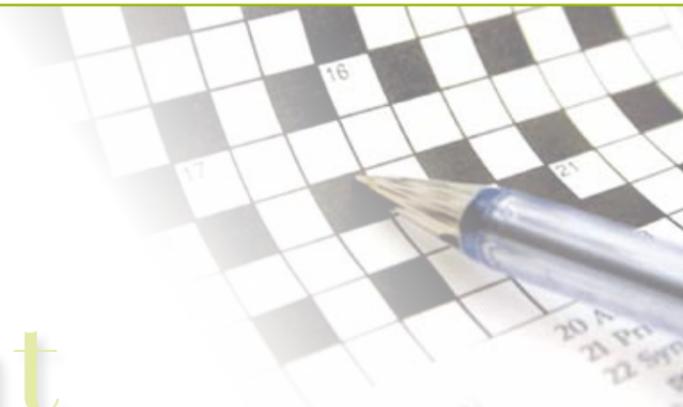
Across

- 1 The State of the Nation Address is when the President speaks as _____ (4,2,5)
- 7 Lobbying is a way of becoming involved in _____ (10)
- 9 Municipal elections are also called _____ elections. (5)
- 10 During debates parties can raise _____ (9)
- 11 Common abbrev. for Members of Parliament __ (2)
- 12 National Council of Provinces (abbrev.) (4)
- 15 Government operations must be _____ (11)
- 17 Openings of Parliament are broadcast in the _____ in SA (7)
- 18 General elections mean that two _____ will take place. (9)
- 19 People can becoem involved by _____ in elections (6)

Down

- 2 The opening of Parliament is an _____ event. (6)
- 3 The Minister of _____ introduces the Budget (7)
- 4 The Judiciary is represnted by the Chief _____ (7)
- 5 In a democratic state authority comes from the _____ (6)
- 6 Parliament's theme depends on its strategic _____ (5)
- 8 Democracy is _____ to the _____ people. (11)
- 11 There will be _____ elections in May this year (9)
- 13 The State of the Nation Address is a big part of _____ (9)
- 14 The State of the Nation Address takes place in the _____ (8)
- 16 Oversight focuses on how budgets have been _____ (7)

edu-tainment



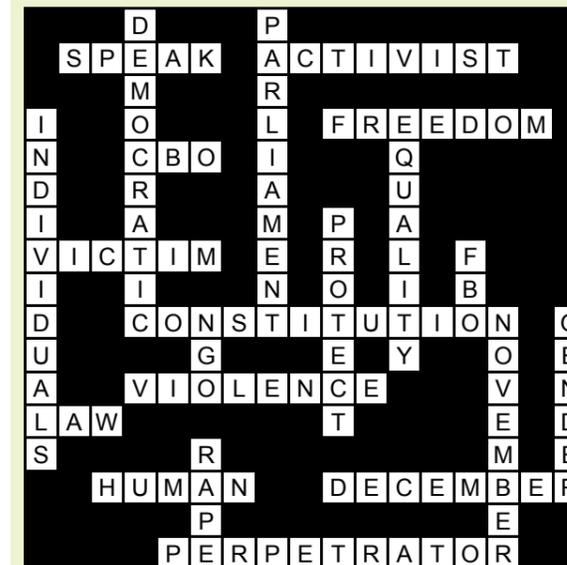
Rules of Sudoku

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.

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

solutions to previous Crossword and Sudoku

Crossword



Sudoku

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

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