

Monthly magazine of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

in session



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World leaders talk peace

National Assembly Speaker at the Inter-Parliamentary Union



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. Strengthen oversight
2. Build a People's Parliament
3. Strengthen co-operative government
4. Improve international participation
5. Build an effective and efficient institution

Mace of National Assembly

Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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OUR IDEALS

VISION 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.

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What is good governance?

From the human development perspective, good governance is democratic governance. Democratic governance means that:

- People's human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, allowing them to live with dignity.
- People have a say in decisions that affect their lives.
- People can hold decision-makers accountable.
- Inclusive and fair rules, institutions and practices govern social interactions.
- Women are equal partners with men in private and public spheres of life and decision-making.
- People are free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, gender or any other attribute.
- The needs of future generations are reflected in current policies.
- Economic and social policies are responsive to people's needs and aspirations.
- Economic and social policies aim at eradicating poverty and expanding the choices that all people have in their lives.

From the Human Development Report 2002

hdr.undp.org/en/global-reports

letter to parliament

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA), in association with the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) and the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) call on community leaders to pledge support to libraries as community hubs.

The aim of such hubs is to promote social cohesion, information literacy, community development and nation-building. Libraries support education, training and innovation.

We can only achieve our mandate through participatory culture, partnerships and stakeholder collaboration, in order to extend these invaluable services to all South Africans. With this, we will collectively enable libraries to play a more essential role in today's global knowledge society.

The NLSA, together with its strategies partners, will roll out a nation-wide reading campaign to inculcate the culture of reading in South Africa and improve literacy levels. This will ensure better people, successful communities and a positive future for our nation as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP).

Since the allocation of the Department of Arts and Culture Conditional Grant in 2007, there have indeed been great strides in improving the state of community libraries in the country. Libraries have been transformed into decent community hubs of information service centres.

We thank the government for providing the Conditional Grant and recognising the significant role that libraries and librarians play in improving the socio-economic conditions of South Africans.

The international community has begun to realise the significant role that libraries play in the lives of the people. With the support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the NLSA's Mzansi Libraries Online project was launched in Kwa-Ndwalane on 17 March 2015.

This project will be rolled out in all the nine provinces and 27 libraries were selected to receive ICT facilities, which will enable communities to access the internet and e-books, and make use of tablets, educational games and other digital products. Our communities will be able to exploit the potential of digital technologies in libraries to access information and get support for life-long learning.

The NLSA, LIASA and DAC appeal to community leaders to support libraries as social spaces that bring people together to share information, and to ignite a passion for reading. We also appeal to community leaders to engage communities in protecting these national literary heritage institutions against arson and those who are destroying libraries.

Today's readers are tomorrow's leaders. A reading nation is a thriving nation and a successful nation.

Professor MD Rocky Ralebipi-Simela
CEO and National Librarian of South Africa
on behalf of the Library and Information Services Sector

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, has thrown his weight behind a national campaign to promote libraries as more than centres of reading, but as hubs where citizens can engage in their communities. He supports local libraries, where Parliament's commitment to public participation can become a reality.





Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete

MESSAGE FROM THE national assembly

On behalf of the South African Parliament, I wish to thank the people and Parliament of Vietnam for hosting the 132nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in your beautiful country, which is steeped in such rich culture and history.

The South African Parliament welcomes this crucial debate on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically the emphasis on “turning words into action”. It is indeed high time that we focus on the implementation of real solutions to the world’s challenges.

The post-2015 agenda offers the space for Africa to move beyond simply talking about the importance of service delivery, infrastructure, inclusive growth, decent jobs and inequality. The Common African Position (CAP), which includes the African Union’s Vision 2063, the New Economic Partnership for African Development and nationally tailored development plans are the foundation of Africa’s development agenda. The CAP affirms the Rio principles [27 principles for sustainable development worldwide], especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the right to development and equity, and mutual accountability and responsibility.

The CAP also underscores that the issue of financing for development cannot be addressed in isolation. Major changes have taken place in economic and geopolitical power and influence. Confidence in old forms of multilateral co-operation and governance has declined. New forms of regional and “like-minded” cooperation are emerging. BRICS [which comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa], for example, is in the process of establishing a BRICS Development Bank and special reserve fund.

We are therefore insisting on our right to contribute to the rules that dominate world trade, finance and investment. We have also called for developed countries

to meet the target of 0,7% gross national income for development assistance, and for resource mobilisation from a variety of sources.

South Africa’s National Development Plan (NDP), which is our action plan for the next 30 years, elaborates the measures, markers, mechanisms and partnerships that make accelerated advancement possible. The National Plan therefore prioritises inclusive growth, the expansion of productive employment, redistribution of income wealth, social protection and investments in health and education, as well as environmental sustainability.

Taken together, these policies bring about the actions that are needed to broaden the base of our economy and leave no one behind in the creation and spreading of wealth.

The South African Parliament firmly supports the IPU’s call that legislatures should be “fit for purpose”. As legislatures, we cannot sit idly by and wait for the world’s negotiators to reach global agreements. In this regard, the South African Parliament has worked with regional and continental parliamentary structures such as the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum and the Pan African Parliament to exchange knowledge and best practice to ensure that we are equipped to achieve the SDGs.

The South African Parliament has also taken bold steps in support of sustainable development through our daily parliamentary work. These include:

- the mainstreaming of the NDP

- awareness and advocacy training for Members of Parliament and staff, and training on monitoring and evaluation methodologies
- national consultative seminars with key stakeholders in government, civil society, and in national, provincial and local governments
- the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office, which provides strategic budgetary support to committees
- extensive scrutiny of departmental budgets
- debates, questions and Members statements
- the building of dynamic partnerships with, among others, United Nations (UN) agencies, academia and civil society
- putting in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure that we monitor and report progress through the African Peer Review Mechanisms

The voices of parliamentarians as the representatives of the people are the strongest voices of persuasion at local, national, regional and international level.

Let us also send a clear message from the global parliamentary community to the UN, through the IPU’s Declaration on the Sustainable Development Goals, and let us use this Declaration as a platform for our future work on sustainable development.

We are the first generation that can end poverty, inequality and injustice. It is an opportunity that we may never again see in our lifetime. Former President Nelson Mandela said: “We pass through this world but once and opportunities you miss will never be available again.” 🌱

Ms Baleka Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly, delivered this address to the 132nd IPU Assembly in Hanoi, Vietnam. See story on page 22.

i put the question

Questions in Parliament recently covered issues of transformation in the police service garages, time frames for dealing with title deeds backlogs and the retirement of educators, among other things.



Ms Cathrene Dlamini

Ms Cathrene Dlamini (ANC) asked the Minister of Police, Mr Nathi Nhleko, whether there is a process of transformation of the South African Police Service garages and workshops, with a view to embracing diversity at management level, recruiting young people and improving service delivery.

The Minister replied: There is transformation within the garages and workshops. The nine provincial commanders currently consist of four African males, three white males, one white female and one coloured male. The 95 garage commanders consist of 43 African males, 27 white males, 11 coloured males, nine Indian males, four African females and one white female.

A total of 177 entry-level artisan posts and 105 clerical posts were advertised in the 2014/15 financial year to recruit young people to the garage environment. The service delivery for the garages has improved in the 2014/15 financial year and is being continually monitored for more improvement. The target set is 80% availability of the vehicle fleet, and the percentage currently being achieved is 83%.

Ms Annette Lovemore (DA) asked the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, how many educators have applied to retire before their official retirement date in 2014 and from 1 January 2015 up to the latest specified date for which information is available. She also wanted to know what steps have been taken to address the rumour of problems with the Government

Employee Pension Fund resulting in an exodus of teachers?

The Minister responded: In 2014, 2 177 educators retired before the normal retirement age of 60 years; and 810 from 1 to 31 January 2015. Early retirement date of exit is set to ensure that a replacement teacher is immediately available. Therefore, a high proportion of these exits will be at the end of the months of December and January.

The matter [of the pension fund] affected the whole public sector. The focus was therefore on communicating with all employees, hence my department collaborated with the Government Communications and Information System and the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPPF) to produce a communication strategy.

This resulted in GEPPF producing a brochure addressing the misconceptions. Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) were advised to place it on their websites, send the information to schools, place it on the Human Resource Management System and as agenda items of meetings with teachers and principals. It was emphasised that PEDs use all means to get the message across to teachers to stabilise resignations from the sector.

Ms Tebogo Mokwele (EFF) asked the Minister of State Security, Mr David Mahlobo, whether he has been informed of the alleged presence of terrorist groups in the country and also whether there are plans in place to deal

with these groups should they decide to come to South Africa.

The Minister answered: The State Security Agency (SSA) remains focused on identifying, investigating and implementing mitigating measures to address particular risks associated with terrorism. Specific concerns exist regarding the risks posed by the movement of foreign fighters to Syria and other states and their return to their countries of origin from where they could potentially become involved in radicalisation, recruitment or even the planning of a terror attack.

The number of international terror attacks in the past few weeks has underlined the realisation that no country is immune from the scourge posed by international terrorism. In this regard, the risk posed by radicalisation, as well as self-radicalisation of individuals prepared to fight on behalf of a "state that is not existent", namely the Islamic state, and other terror groups such as al-Qaeda to commit acts of terror, is clear. The global intelligence establishment is faced with the challenge of the timely identification of individuals being recruited, trained and exploited for purposes of conducting terror attacks.

The SSA has taken note of allegations that some members of foreign terror groups are active in South Africa. Intensive investigations are conducted by the SSA, in conjunction with its law enforcement counterparts on a continuing basis to confirm or refute said allegations.

bill tracker

Bills tabled in Parliament in March



Disaster Management Amendment Bill

The main purpose of this Bill is to address the problems that have been experienced in the implementation of the principal Act since its promulgation in 2003 and to promote the effective and efficient implementation of the principal Act.

It also seeks to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2002, so as to substitute and insert certain definitions; to clarify policy focus on rehabilitation and functioning of disaster management centres; to align the functions of the National Disaster Management Advisory Forum to accommodate the South African National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; to provide for the South African National Defence Force, South African Police Service and any other organ of state to assist the disaster management structures; to provide for an extended reporting system by organs of state on information regarding occurrences leading to the declarations of disasters, expenditure on response and recovery, actions pertaining to risk reduction and particular problems experienced in dealing with disasters; to strengthen reporting on implementation of policy and legislation relating to disaster risk reduction and management of allocated funding to municipal and provincial intergovernmental forums established in terms of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005; to strengthen

the representation of traditional leaders in national, provincial and municipal disaster management advisory forums; to expand the contents of disaster management plans to include the conducting of disaster risk assessments for functional areas and the mapping of risks, areas and communities that are vulnerable to disasters; to provide measures to reduce the risk of disaster through adaptation to climate change and developing of early warning mechanisms; to provide for regulations on disaster management education, training and research matters and declaration and classification of disasters.

Plant Improvement Bill

The Plant Improvement Bill aims to enhance sustainable crop production in South Africa by regulating the quality of plants and seed. Crop production is not only dependent on the development of new varieties of plants with improved and useful characteristics of increased yields or disease tolerance, but also on the quality of plants and seed. Due to the influence of storage conditions on plants and seed for planting purposes, the Bill also prescribes standards for the different types of business involved in the selling of plants and seed. The standards set by the Bill will contribute to the food security and overall economy of the country.

The Bill will provide for:

- The registration of certain types of business relating to plants

and propagating material intended for cultivation and sale and the registration of premises on or from which that business is conducted

- Quality standards for plants and propagating material intended for cultivation and sale and conditions of sale of plants and propagating material
- A system for national listing of plant varieties
- The evaluation of plant varieties in order to ensure value if there is doubt in respect of the value for cultivation and use of plant varieties intended for cultivation and sale
- Import and export control of plants and propagating material
- A system for different types of schemes for plants and propagating material and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Agrément South Africa

The Bill seeks to establish Agrément South Africa as a juristic person and make the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999), as amended, applicable to it. The objects of Agrément South Africa are reaffirmed in the Bill, as follows:

- (a) To provide assurance to specifiers and users of the quality and value for money of non-standardised construction related products or systems. Agrément South Africa assesses the fitness-for-purpose of such products or systems, and if satisfied with the quality

thereof, Agrément South Africa may certify fitness-for-purpose through the issuing of an Agrément Certificate. Agrément South Africa provides continued assurance by monitoring and evaluating, on an ongoing basis, the quality management systems of a certified product or system, in its manufacture, application, installation or erection processes.

- (b) To support and promote the process of integrated socio-economic development in the Republic as it relates to the construction industry, encouraging research and development of non-standardised construction-related products or systems to support socio-economic development.
- (c) To support the introduction and use of a certified non-standardised construction-related products or systems in the local or international market. Agrément South Africa must establish and maintain liaison with similar international organisations to promote the export or facilitate the import of certified products or systems, for use in the construction industry.
- (d) To support policy makers to minimise the risk associated with the use of a non-standardised construction-related products or systems. Agrément South Africa will communicate relevant information to stakeholders in respect of the technical, socio-economic and regulatory aspects of a product or system it certifies.
- (e) To be an impartial and

internationally acknowledged South African centre for the assessment and confirmation of fitness-for-purpose of 13 non-standardised construction-related products or systems. The Bill requires Agrément South Africa to maintain existing and to establish and maintain new international links with peer organisations.

Financial and Fiscal Commission Amendment Bill

This Bill will amend the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act of 1997 so as to insert, substitute and delete certain definitions; to correctly describe the role of the Financial and Fiscal Commission; to effect changes to the provisions dealing with the functions of the Commission to ensure that the terminology used and consideration of the Commission's recommendations are aligned with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and other legislation.

The Bill will refer to the provision on the legal force of an assignment of a power or function by an organ of state from one sphere of government to an organ of state in another sphere of government, to the requirement to request the recommendation of the Commission; to specify how an organ or state making such assignment must reflect on a recommendation of the Commission; to adjust the period for filling of vacancies in the Commission; to provide for the appointment basis of members of the Commission; to provide that a person may not hold office as a member of the Commission for more than 10 consecutive years; to give effect to Section 219(5) of the

Constitution by introducing measures for the determination of the remuneration, allowance and other service benefits of the members of the Commission similar to the other constitutional institutions as provided for in the Determination of Remuneration of Office-bearers of Independent Constitutional Institutions Laws Amendment Act, 2014.

The Bill will also provide for the appointment of a person, other than a member or chairperson of the Commission, to the newly created administrative position of the chief executive officer (CEO), shift the CEO's and accounting officer's responsibilities from the chairperson to the person appointed as the chief executive officer of the Commission, who must also function as the secretary to the Commission; to enable delegations and instructions by the chief executive officer; to insert new provisions regulating the conduct of members of the Commission; to align terminology used in the principal Act with that of the Public Service Act, 1994, in respect of employees seconded from the Public Service to the Commission; to align the date for the submission of the Commission's audited financial statements and annual report to Parliament with the provisions in the Public Finance Management Act, 1999; to substitute the reference to the Central Statistical Service for Statistics South Africa; to enable the Commission to obtain information from any person; to replace the Minister's power to make regulations with a power for the Commission to make rules regarding its functioning; to repeal transitional arrangements; and to provide for matters connected therewith. 🇿🇦

Strengthening constitutional democracy

At the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, the heads of the Institutions Supporting Democracy (ISDs) attended a meeting with the Presiding Officers of the National Assembly. This was the first meeting of its kind since the start of the fifth Parliament. The following is a report from the **Office of the Speaker**.

The meeting was attended by the Speaker, Ms Baleka Mbete, the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli; the House Chairperson: Committees, Oversight and ICT, Mr Cedric Frolick; the Chairpersons of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC); Commission for Gender Equality (CGE); the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa), the PanSouth African Language Board (PanSALB) and the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL); as well as the Public Protector and Deputy Public Protector; the Deputy Auditor-General and a Commissioner from the Electoral Commission and the Public Service Commission (PSC), respectively. In attendance were the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Speaker, a representative from the Office on Institutions Supporting Democracy and from the Secretariat of the Forum for Institutions Supporting Democracy.

The ISDs were established in terms of the Constitution with the purpose of strengthening constitutional democracy and promoting respect for

the fundamental human rights of all in our society. They are empowered to investigate, assist and report on any human rights violations and to take steps to secure appropriate redress where human rights have been violated. The ISDs strengthen democracy by actively promoting a culture of responsibility, transparency and accountability. They thus perform oversight that complements that of Parliament.

In terms of the Constitution and the enabling legislation, these institutions are accountable to the National Assembly and must report on their activities and the performance of their functions at least once a year. Other organs of state, through legislative and other means, must assist and protect these institutions to ensure their independence, impartiality, dignity and effectiveness.

Welcoming everyone present, the Speaker said she was pleased at the opportunity to hear from and discuss with the ISDs as a collective what they would like to prioritise as cross-cutting issues of concern. She emphasised that

it was in Parliament's interest to ensure that issues that affect the ISDs negatively are dealt with and processed. She mentioned that in a meeting that was convened towards the end of 2014 the Chairpersons of Committees that oversee the respective ISDs had reported to the Presiding Officers on some of the issues. The Presiding Officers also received a legacy report from the fourth Parliament.

The Speaker suggested that matters specific to the individual ISDs be dealt with in bilaterals. Matters related to the content of the work of the ISDs would, as always, be dealt with by the relevant parliamentary Committees to which the ISDs report.

During the ensuing discussion, the following were highlighted as priority areas that should be considered by the fifth Parliament:

- * The extent to which the fifth Parliament would process the "Kader Asmal Report" (the *Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of Chapter 9 and Associated Institutions*). The report was partially considered but then deferred by the National Assembly on 21 November 2008. It was acknowledged that a lot of time has elapsed and that the country has evolved since the report was produced.
- * Areas of overlap and possible duplication among the institutions.
- * De-linking the budgets of the ISDs from associated departments.
- * Budget shortfalls, influencing the impact the institutions are able to make in effecting their mandates.
- * The mutual development of a communications protocol between Parliament and the ISDs to strengthen relationships and provide guidance on suggested procedures.
- * Recognition of the Heads of the ISDs in the Table of Precedence in the country.
- * Implementation of the Determination of Remuneration of Office Bearers of Independent Constitutional Institutions



WORKING TOGETHER: The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, and the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, on the steps of the National Assembly following the meeting with the heads of the Institutions Supporting Democracy.

Laws Amendment Act, and the need to accommodate the FFC, PSC and PanSALB in an amendment Bill.

* An effective way of handling the special reports of a research or investigative nature which the ISDs submit to Parliament.

* A degree of standardisation and tighter time frames in respect of the appointment procedures of the Heads and Commissioners of the various institutions.

A number of ISD-specific issues were also briefly raised, by way of illustrating further areas that require discussion.

The Speaker emphasised that she would like to hear from the ISDs what would work best for them and, by implication, best for South Africa. She indicated that South Africans know far too little about the work of the ISDs and the issues they deal with, and that more avenues should be explored to address that. If it was the correct thing to do, the Speaker said that she would be ready to look into Parliament's capacity to service the relationship with the ISDs. "It might actually be good to collate the body of knowledge that's been collected over the past 20 years," she added.

Deputy Speaker Mr Lechesa Tsenoli said the Speaker's words prompted one to look into areas where current systems might not have yielded the desired outcomes, and where the fifth Parliament should consider doing things differently. "Feedback is necessary," he said, and brought in a touch of humour by adding, "Where the kilt is loose, it needs to be tightened up."

Acknowledging that resources are stretched, Ms Mbete requested House Chairperson Mr Cedric Frolick nevertheless to remind the ISD Heads of the importance of the Budgetary Review and Recommendation period, which occurs during October each year.

Mr Frolick referred to the three-year Budget cycle, and explained that during the so-called BRRR (Budget Review and Recommendations Report) period thoroughly motivated submission could be made to Committees on areas for which Budget allocations did not cater.

The Speaker informed the meeting of the Deputy Speaker's delegated responsibility to assist her in managing matters related to the ISDs. She undertook to convene regular meetings with the heads of the ISDs, ideally on a quarterly basis, and said she looked forward to a term during which they would work together closely, for the benefit of all in the country. 🌱

The 11 Institutions Supporting Democracy are:

- * The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA)
- * Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)
- * Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Commission)
- * Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC)
- * Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC)
- * Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa)
- * National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)
- * Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB)
- * Public Protector of South Africa (PPSA)
- * Public Service Commission (PSC)
- * South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)

Departments will have to account for underspending

A lack of consequences for underspending of budgets is not acceptable, members of the Standing Committee on Appropriations told the Acting Deputy Director-General: Public Finance of the National Treasury, Mr Velile Mbethe. *Mava Lukani reports.*

Mr Mbethe appeared before the Committee to present the National Treasury's Third Quarter Expenditure Report for the 2014/15 financial year. During Mr Mbethe's presentation, certain departments' ongoing underspending became clear. Among the offenders were the departments of Health and Water and Sanitation. Although the Committee does not accept either under- or overspending, it was particularly unhappy about underspending at a time when service delivery protests are an ongoing feature of the South African situation.

The Committee asked for an explanation for the underspending, but the Committee Chairperson, Mr Paul Mashatile, said the National Treasury cannot be expected to account for under- or overspending by government departments. He said the Committee should rather call the affected departments to account for themselves. "We must deal with the culprits and tell those that have underspent that they cannot expect more money in the next financial year, given their history

of underspending. We are closing the books for this financial year this month," Mr Mashatile said.

In giving reasons for the underspending, Mr Mbethe said that the Department of Water and Sanitation is a new department and lacks expertise in both water and sanitation. He told the Committee that the department is underspending on its capital budget and on such programmes as the Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant and the Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme, but is overspending on other programmes.

Regarding the Department of Health, he said the department is underspending on the National Health Grant primarily because it has not been able to hire the number of doctors budgeted for to work in clinics in rural areas. "The Department of Health has hired very few doctors out of the 900 it budgeted for and, based on that, it has spent R35m out of R395m for far," Mr Mbethe explained. Mr Mbethe said the unspent money would be returned to the fiscus, as per National Treasury rules.

Although members of the Committee understood the rules of returning unspent money to the fiscus, they also highlighted the negative implications for service delivery. "The money that goes back tells a story that things that it was budgeted for have not been done and that is unacceptable. This diminishes the call for accelerated service delivery and is unacceptable," said the Committee Whip, Mr Ndaba Gcwabaza.

Although Mr Mbethe reminded the Committee that the departments still have time to spend the money, Committee members told him that time is limited. They said all the departments will be able to do is "fiscal dumping" and urged Mr Mbethe to be on guard for this. Members of the Committee told Mr Mbethe that underspending is not reconcilable with service delivery





and said departments should spend according to their strategic and annual performance plans adopted by Parliament at the beginning of the financial year.

Mr Mashatile said the Committee would call all the underspending departments to appear before it to account for the underspending. Committee members also said that officials responsible for the underspent budgets would not get performance bonuses at the end of this financial year.

Mr Mbethe told the Committee that the government has recorded a 9.3% growth in expenditure at the end of the third quarter. He said total expenditure for the third quarter was R462bn and 70% of that was transferred to other government accounts and agencies. Some 30%

was spent by national government departments, mostly on employees' compensation and payment for capital assets.

Employee compensation amounted to 65% of the total operational expenditure while goods and services accounted for 29%. The Committee noted that expenditure projections for current payments were not clearly outlined and therefore it could not establish whether those projections were met by the national government departments. Thus, the Committee was unable to conclude whether spending was on track.

Asked by the Committee to explain in simple language the expenditure on compensation of employees, Mr Mbethe said it is salaries and the money spent on consultants. The Committee told Mr Mbethe that it

noted with dissatisfaction the huge expenditure on compensation of employees and very little or no expenditure on service delivery. "It is difficult to reconcile more expenditure on compensation of employees and little expenditure on service delivery," Mr Gcwabaza said.

Mr Mbethe said the main budget revenue at the end of the third quarter was estimated at R680.4bn and total expenditure at the end of the third quarter was R828.3bn. Mr Mbethe said this implied a budget deficit of R147.9bn for the first three quarters. He said 44% of the total expenditure at the end of the third quarter was for direct charges against the national revenue fund. "This is equivalent to R367.2bn and includes R271.9bn transferred to provinces under the Equitable Share Agreement," Mr Mbethe said. 📌

Human rights the 'cornerstone' of democracy

As South Africa moves deeper into the era of democratic dispensation, the rising levels of crime, deepening poverty and mushrooming informal settlements in the historically marginalised communities constitute a direct opposite and antithesis of the expected features of a democratic and coherent South Africa. *By Mava Lukani.*

The expected hallmarks of the democratic South Africa whose construction was anchored on a constitution that contains a Bill of Rights included tolerance, affluence and harmony. That was what Members of Parliament (MPs) highlighted at the end of March at Parliament in the National Assembly (NA) chamber during a debate on human rights.

One after another, MPs pointed at the non-existence of meaningful cooperation between all South Africans to respect and treasure all the hard-earned rights and freedoms that are enshrined in our Constitution. They said the evolving culture of the violation of human rights through crime, poverty, suppression of the following freedoms: freedom of expression, association, religion, expression – and other enemies of human rights diminish the essence of the fruit which the tree of the South African freedom is supposed to bear.

The ability of the Institutions Supporting Democracy, also referred to as Chapter 9 Institutions, was put under the microscope by MPs during the debate to establish whether these institutions still serve their purpose of ensuring the promotion and entrenchment of the ethos of democratic principles in the entire South African society. MPs questioned

their relevance when the scales of the promotion of human rights are beginning to be outweighed by the violation of human rights.

Mr Mntomuhle Khawula of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) urged other MPs to ask themselves whether these institutions, 21 years into our democracy, are still serving the democratic purpose for which they were established, whether they still operate freely, independently and without any interference – are they still observing the principles of impartiality and do they perform their functions without fear, favour or prejudice? He said these institutions remain very important and strategic tools for the promotion of the culture of human rights in South Africa. "The value of safeguarding human rights is an important contribution to the survival and stability of future generations to come in our country," said Mr Khawula.

The unending scourge of corruption and the failures of the government to deliver services to the people were also highlighted as undisputable threats to the South African democracy and the serious violations of human rights.

According to MPs, corruption, crime, poverty and the suppression of rights

cannot co-exist with the culture of human rights as they are diametrically opposed to each other. They said human rights tie with the concept of *ubuntu* – widely revered as an ancient philosophy for a caring society. "When we look at the many social protests flaring up in our beloved country almost daily and consider the dignity of households still having to use the bucket system, we realise that our country has a long way to go before we can say that human rights are entrenched," said Mr Sibusiso Mncwabe of the NA.

Mr Mncwabe said a caring society cannot be brought about by solely the state giving effect to human rights. "It also requires a paradigm shift by people themselves. Just as the Bill of Rights binds the state in vertical application, so does it bind individuals in horizontal application. Just like charity begins at home so does respect for and adherence to human rights have to start at home," said Mr Mncwabe. He said he believes that rekindling the values of *ubuntu* would constitute the starting point of the slow process of entrenching a human rights culture in South Africa.

Members of the NA and NCOP said all this in their Joint Sitting session which was convened to debate the Human Rights Day which is commemorated on 21 March in SA. Human Rights Day, which MPs also referred to as "an iconic day is a commemoration of the massacres that took place in Sharpeville, Langa and other places in South Africa on 21 March 1960 where many defenceless people were killed



CELEBRATING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: The Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, opened the debate in the National Assembly.

by apartheid police in defence of the apartheid pass system.

Parliament of the Republic of South Africa accords great importance to Human Rights Day, and based on that, the fifth Parliament, right from its inception, started a tradition of debating the Human Rights Day in a Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament under different themes.

This year MPs debated Human Rights Day under the theme: "Building a caring society by entrenching human rights for all". Opening the 2015 Human Rights Day debate, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, noted the striking historic coincidence of the departure of the former minister of Public Service and Administration and the former Member of Parliament, Mr

Collins "Ohm" Chabane who, according to those who worked with him in the first Parliament, made an indelible mark in all the parliamentary Committees he served on. Mr Mthethwa thanked the opposition MPs for the tributes he said were moving and befitting the stature of the late "unassuming, towering and gentle giant of our time". According to Mr Mthethwa, no one knew better the struggle for equal human rights for all than the late Mr Chabane.

Mr Mthethwa told MPs that the government commemorates Human Rights 2015 under the theme: "Celebrating the Freedom Charter, enjoying equal human rights for all". He said the government celebrates the Freedom Charter as one of the building blocks of the South African Constitution and the Bill of Rights as adopted in

1996. "We are celebrating an unbroken legacy of human rights," said Mr Mthethwa. He said all South Africans have an inalienable right to ownership of land, equality before the law, equal political rights and finally, "all should have an equal share in government".

According to Mr Mthethwa, the South African government is doing its utmost best to improve the quality of life of all the people of South Africa. "It is doing so cognisant of the fact that such actions will further bolster equal human rights for all the people," said Mr Mthethwa. Consistent with its commitment to uphold human rights, Mr Mthethwa said the government provides basic needs to all communities such as social grants, access to electricity, water, health services and to libraries. 📺



It's all systems go ... to Take Parliament to the People

This is Taking Parliament to the People (TPOTP) month. In preparation in March the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) conducted site visits to five local municipalities in the Eden District Municipality and held a public meeting at the Thembaletu Community Hall in George to hear directly from the citizens about their service delivery challenges. **Elijah Moholola, Mzingizwi Plum and Tebatso Vusi Mabilisa** travelled with the NCOP.

The Eden District Municipality comprises five municipalities on the coastal side – Bitou, George, Hessequa, Knysna and Mossel Bay – and two on the Karoo side – Kannaland and Oudtshoorn. The total population is approximately 580 000. Here we highlight some of the issues raised by community members at the TPOTP preparatory visits:

Memry Booysen, Executive Manager: Bitou Municipality

A challenge in the Eden District Municipality is the cost of processing solid waste. If a railway line is made

available, that would bring the costs down. Also, the South African Police Service has facilities there but it is understaffed. The Ministry of Police must please assist in increasing staff numbers, as facilities are available.

Derik Jacobs, a Houriqua/Heys Khoisan representative

The last time houses were built in the area was more than 10 years ago. They (the affected group) have been waiting for them since they were promised by government. The group has submitted land claims but there are developers interested in the area,

so they might be given preference. They feel that officials are colluding with the developers to take the land away from them. Community claims cannot be submitted, only individual land claims. There is a big problem of unavailable land in the southern Cape. Also, there are few job opportunities available to the community and the Khoisan community is being excluded from projects in the southern Cape.

Piet Leiters, former councillor of the Eden District Municipality

According to radio interviews, the ostrich industry is extremely important but businesses cannot provide jobs for the community. Every year, 10 000 work seekers enter the job market.

Mandlenkosi Hlothwa, a community representative from Groot Brak

Our people are treated like pigs. They don't have housing because



ENGAGING: The Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Mamela (second from right), chairs the public meeting at the Thembaletu Community Hall in George on the last day of the Taking Parliament to the People pre-visit programme.

of their political affiliations. The municipality is corrupt in Mossel Bay and we request that government communicate with the people and go to them.

Pretty Godfrey, Mossel Bay, representing Afrikaans Christian Women's Association

We do not have money to pay for rent. Also, we require specialised modes of transport.

Peter Noah, Chairperson of George High School

We have a problem of overcrowded classrooms. There needs to be a proper working solution to address educational needs in George. Please address sporting needs.

Velile Waxa, Knysna ANC

Sanral [South African National Roads Agency] was invited to a meeting with the community of Knysna but they did not come. Whenever we send cases of corruption to the Public Protector, we do not get any feedback from her office. There are no public schools in these needy communities. National government must force local government to present an integrated

plan before getting funding. NCOP Chairperson, Ms Thandi Modise, replied to these issues, promising the people of the Eden District Municipality that the NCOP, the Deputy President and Cabinet ministers will be present at the April TPTTP programme to engage with them on the issues raised during the pre-visit. Giving her keynote address at the public meeting at the close of the pre-visit, Ms Modise said: "Since we established the TPTTP programme in 2002, our aim is to embark on creating an opportunity for communities to engage actively with their representatives through public participation, as is enshrined in the Constitution."

Ms Modise assured the packed Thembaletu Community Hall that no democracy can be sustained unless the people have a say in matters and issues affecting them. "We come to you not because we have all the solutions and powers to resolve the problems and issues in your communities. We come here because we trust and believe that by engaging directly with you, this will give us intelligence to know what the problems are and how we can assist in addressing your issues," Ms Modise said.

She told the community that one of former president Nelson Mandela's dreams was to prioritise people's issues and needs. She said the NCOP upholds this dream by taking time to understand why municipalities are failing and by holding those responsible to account, as representatives of the people.

"We are coming closer to you to be close to the problems [and] to

understand how your representatives and departments are addressing people's issues. We call upon the MEC of Water and Sanitation to inform us about the challenges in this area so that when we come back on 17 April, we are able to look at a progress report and how the issues were resolved."

Ms Modise said during the pre-visit the NCOP had heard about worrying issues, such as housing problems, the increase in crime, school dropouts and abuse of alcohol, especially in Kannaland. "We have identified the issues and will convey the message to the Deputy President and relevant ministries, such as Social Development and other government departments," Ms Modise said.

She described the NCOP as a "glue" to bring the people closer to government, adding: "We are bringing the whole NCOP and the executive to you." She told the large gathering that if the municipality is not doing its job, the NCOP will not be apologetic about that. "Our mandate is to build a healthy society for all communities and for all municipalities."

She referred to military officials who committed crime and violated the rights of the people, with specific reference to the Oudtshoorn Local Municipality, and noted that military officials are trained to protect the nation and communities. She said allegations that they abuse citizens are unacceptable. "I have informed the Defence Minister on this issue and the matter is being attended to."

Ms Modise ended the meeting by saying that the "first boss" of the

public representatives is the people. “We must give you the undertaking that we will come back from time to time and say this is the progress that has been made in areas that have been identified. Even if we run up against a wall, we will come back and be honest about it,” she said.

She appealed to the people of the Eden District Municipality to come to the TPTTP programme on 17 April and raise their issues. She promised them

that the NCOP will continue to hold public hearings during the TPTTP as part of its mission – and in pursuit of its mandate of oversight.

Concerned stakeholders committed themselves to working collaboratively to deal with service delivery issues in the Eden District Municipality in the Western Cape. Speaking on behalf of the hosts, the George Local Municipality, Executive Mayor Mr Charles Standers said the public

meeting provided members of the NCOP with an opportunity to “look at service delivery through the eyes of the residents”.

“It is only when you take the issues and challenges that are affecting the very lives of the people on the ground level into consideration that they will experience a sense of belonging,” Mr Standers said.

The leadership of the Eden District Municipality expressed confidence that the NCOP’s TPTTP programme will lead to improved service delivery in the area. At the meeting after the citizens had spoken, the Eden District Municipality Executive Mayor, Mr Wessie van der Westhuizen, said they were “definitely going to make sure that we attend to the problems that we can handle at this specific stage”.

He added: “No specific problems will be swept under the carpet. We will deal with the issues that we can handle and liaise with provincial and national government on other issues to make sure that we better the lives of people in every way possible.”

Mr Van der Westhuizen identified two major challenges common to the seven municipalities. One is unemployment, which mostly affects the youth. “A huge concern is that a large percentage of our youth do not have access to jobs. The statistics at police stations indicate that suicide has become a big issue because young people feel that they don’t have a reason to live.”

Mr Van der Westhuizen said they were grateful for the intervention of national government through initiatives such as the Extended Public Works Programme, while more opportunities were expected to be created by the provincial government



HEAR ME: A community member shares his concerns with the NCOP during the public hearings.



TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE: Community members have an opportunity to share their views.

following the provincial budget speech. He said they also tried to accommodate young people in their disaster management programmes in the district.

The second big problem in the Eden District on the Karoo side is water, Mr Van der Westhuizen said. He mentioned a dam that is being planned in Kannaland and another water project in Oudtshoorn. He also said that the district is working with partners on the water challenges and that the provincial government has allocated R2.2m to help with the water issues in the Zoar area.

As far as electricity, access to water and sanitation services are concerned, Mr Van der Westhuizen stated that approximately 90% of the residents in the area receive these services. He singled out lack of stability at leadership level as having the

potential to derail service delivery. "When there is no stability in municipalities, there cannot be efficient service delivery. We have to make sure there is stability because playing games with the lives of the people cannot be the way to go. I believe the way forward is to form very important partnerships and I believe we can only do it if we stand together," he said.

The Deputy Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association in the Western Cape, Mr Edward Njadu, acknowledged the significant role played by the NCOP in local government matters. "The NCOP plays a unique role in the promotion of inter-governmental relations and ensuring that the three spheres work together in performing their functions and in so doing, that they do not encroach on each other's areas of competence," he said.

Mr Njadu said it was important for the community to be involved in the decision-making processes concerning developments in their areas.

The Speaker of the Western Cape Legislature, Ms Sharna Fernandez, urged those in the packed hall to become active citizens, rather than waiting for the NCOP to come before raising complaints. "Public participation is the cornerstone. If we don't talk to each other we are never going to find solutions," she said.

Issues raised during the public meeting will also be dealt with by the legislature, said Ms Fernandez. "The one thing we need to take cognisance of is that what has happened today cannot simply become a talk shop. It is incumbent on us as legislators to take this back, work on the issues and deal with the areas that need immediate attention." ■

Matatiele dispute raises cross-border problems

The *drawing of municipal boundaries and the demarcation of provincial borders has always been politically charged. The recent debate on the Challenges with Demarcation of Geographic Areas as provided for by the Thirteenth Amendment Act (No 23 of 2007) at Parliament unravelled aspects of the issue, writes Abel Mputing.*

The complexity of redrawing municipal boundaries was illustrated by the dispute in Matatiele. Mr Mzameni Mdakane, a Member of Parliament for the African National Congress (ANC) warned that, "If we were to concede to the will of the people of Matatiele, it would mean that Matatiele would be a cross-border municipality."

He urged Members of Parliament to be cautious and consider the historical precedents set by the concept of cross-border municipalities and their impediments. In his view, it is one thing to honour the will of the people, but another to ensure that such a will is feasible.

He said the very Act that is now being vilified was meant to rectify the anomaly of cross-border municipalities.

"It is a fact that it is difficult to administer cross-border municipalities. For instance, the cross-border municipality of Sekhukhune was jointly administered by the MECs for Local Government in the provinces whose boundaries it straddled. Different provincial laws were applicable to the same municipalities. That resulted in different service delivery standards, which made it difficult to have in place workable administrative and legislative systems that were conducive to creating sustainable municipalities."

At the centre of the debate was the use of the Act to incorporate the people of Matatiele into the Eastern Cape Province against their will. This led to a protracted dispute that went as far as the Constitutional Court. Ultimately, the dispute led to the formation of the African Independent Congress (AIC), a regional political party founded by the people of Matatiele and the surrounding communities, which won three seats in the National Assembly on the back of this dispute.

The debate in Parliament was initiated by the AIC. Mr Mandlenkosi Galo, a AIC representative, alleged that the will of the people of Matatiele has been repressed because the drawing of municipal boundaries is aimed at fulfilling a particular political position or to reflect the needs of a dominant political group. Had that not been the case, this matter would not have ended up in the Constitutional Court.

"The dignity, rights and the freedom of choice of the people of Matatiele have been undermined and they have been treated like four-legged animals when the Thirteenth Amendment Act (No 23 of 2007) was passed against their will. And If the ANC was led by values-based leadership, it should have been ashamed of being taken to the Constitutional Court by the poor ordinary people of Matatiele. This

dictatorial style of leadership in the ANC is the outright reversal of democratic gains upon which the new South Africa was founded."

"We are aware that loyalty to party politics rather than constituencies is the cause of the disgruntlement," alleged Mr Mahlubanzima Jafta, also a member of the AIC. "Whose democracy is this? Who must enjoy it and who must not? These communities were betrayed and robbed of their rights as citizens of this country when the Act was passed against their will and against the principles of democracy. We say the fifth Parliament must correct this and not allow it to continue," he said.

Mr William Madisha of Cope echoed Mr Jafta's sentiments that the lack of public consultation in the enactment of the Act which was used to decide unfairly the fate of the people of Matatiele, symbolises the majority party's disloyalty to the will of its electorates. "Our present government purports to be loyal to the people, but the Thirteenth Amendment Act and all the manoeuvring that preceded it prove the opposite. And consequently, the communities of Matatiele were banished to the Eastern Cape Province despite their strong desire to remain part of KwaZulu-Natal for emotional, economic and service delivery considerations."

"What more can the people of Matatiele do?" asked Ms Annette Steyn of the Democratic Alliance (DA), "because they have exhausted every available constitutional avenue to force the government to concede



Mr Mandlenkosi Gato

to their democratic will, but to no avail. The residents of Matatiele have used every possible democratic avenue to get their voices heard. They went to the courts three times, always at their own cost. They even won a Constitutional Court case to force government to listen to their voices. They have also taken part in a referendum and have apparently voted overwhelmingly to go back to KwaZulu-Natal. I say "apparently" because this result was never made

public. What more can they now do for the government to concede to their democratic will?"

Given the current setbacks, Parliament must guard against committing other mistakes by conceding to the government's request to Parliament to amalgamate dysfunctional and functional municipalities through the current Amendment Bill, warned the DA's Mr Kevin Mileham. He said this idea is not a solution to the lack of

service delivery, but it will instead further exacerbate its backlog.

Mr Modikela Matlhoko of the Economic Freedom Fighters said no matter where the people of Matatiele are placed, the fact is that they will still be subjected to an inferior service delivery regime caused by deficiencies in the current municipal funding structure.

"At the moment municipalities only receive about 9% of funds allocated to the three spheres of government, with the rest going to the national and provincial spheres of government. To fulfil the rest of their functions, municipalities are expected to source their funding from rates and taxes. For most of the rural municipalities this form of revenue collection is just not feasible."

Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) said despite all the arguments forwarded for the incorporation of Matatiele into the Eastern Cape Province, the repressing of the will of the people in the Matatiele matter is tantamount to government turning its back on one of the principles that inform our country's legislative process: public participation.

"The IFP has long argued that by ignoring the will of the people of Matatiele as expressed in the public hearings and submissions, the ANC has effectively turned its back on public participation in law-making, which is one of its trumpeted objectives. In 2007, 5 685 signatures against Matatiele's ejection from KwaZulu-Natal to Eastern Cape were received by the Portfolio Committee for Local Government in the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, yet these voices were not heard. The people of Matatiele have found cold comfort in our democracy."



SA delegation attends Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Vietnam

A delegation of South African parliamentary leaders visited the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly, which was hosted by the Vietnamese Parliament in Hanoi on the 28 March to 1 April 2015.

This, the IPU's 132nd Assembly, focused on the themes of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and terrorism as subjects of global concern. Approximately 50 speakers from parliaments from around the world gathered to consider a wide range of decisions on issues that impact on global peace and security.

For 125 years, the IPU has served as the world organisation of parliaments and is a focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. Its aims are to work for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions.

The Speaker of the South African

National Assembly, Ms Baleke Mbete, addressed the gathering on the subject of SDGs. In a session titled "Turning Words into Actions" she made a number of references to South Africa's National Development Plan, describing it as an example of a practical plan for action. She elaborated on South Africa's collaboration with partners in the region, and on the continent and beyond, in pursuit of global development.

Ms Mbete is very much at home at the Assembly, having previously served as



the IPU President when South Africa hosted the 118th Assembly.

National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Deputy Chairperson, Mr Raseriti Tau, chaired a session on cyber warfare. Mr Tau was elected President of the International Peace and Security Committee of the IPU at the Union's Assembly in Geneva in 2014. Much of this year's discussion covered cyber warfare as it relates to the rise in a variety of types of terrorism worldwide.

The IPU is the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy. It supports the efforts of the United Nations, whose

objectives it shares, and works in close co-operation with it. There are currently 166 member countries and other international organisations of the IPU.

Among other issues that came up for discussion was the need to step up the gender equality work of the IPU and enhance its outreach programme. The IPU Women Parliamentarians celebrated its 30th anniversary this year and will engage in several activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Parliaments were requested to schedule debates on the SDGs on their return. A survey on SDGs was circulated to ensure all members participated during this stage of formulating the SDGs.

Ms Mbete led the South African delegation, which comprised Mr Tau, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces and President of the International Peace and Security Committee of the Inter Parliamentary Union; Mr Cedric Frolick, House Chairperson of the National Assembly; Mr Eddie Makue, National Council of Provinces delegate; Mr Mangaq Mncwango, National Assembly Member; Ms Ellen Prins, National Assembly Member; Mr Michael Waters, National Assembly Member; Ms Dorries Dlakude, National Assembly Member; Ms Thandi Mpambo-Sibhukwana; National Council of Provinces delegate and Ms SibongileTsoledi, National Assembly Member. 🇿🇦



‘Never give up hope’

In March, Ms Thandi Modise, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, met a high-level Palestinian delegation in Cape Town. She sent a message of support to the people of Palestine, encouraging them to continue the struggle for freedom from oppression, writes **Tsepiso Shuenyane**.



'WE STRUGGLE TOGETHER': The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise, and members of the visiting Palestinian delegation (clockwise from bottom left) Chief Editor of Maan News Agency Mr Nasser Al-Laham; Mr Iyad Alautyat from Al-Mayadeen Satellite Services; Director of the Palestine Museum, Cape Town, Dr Anes Daraghma; Chairperson of the Board of the Wafa News Agency, Mr Ali Hussein; Mr Tamer Al-Massri from the Embassy of Palestine, and Ms Rana Obeid from the Wafa News Agency.

the eyes of many, the international community should collectively use forums like the United Nations and the African Union to put pressure on Israel to resume negotiations with the Palestinian authority in good faith.

Ms Modise stated: "The struggle for self-determination by the Palestinian people and that of our people against apartheid is similar in many aspects. It requires us, as the people of South Africa, to galvanise our combined efforts behind this cause to ensure the liberation and self-determination of the Palestinian people."

During the meeting, Ms Modise shared her first-hand experience in Palestine during a parliamentary visit in 2000 where she saw that the discrimination of the Palestinian people was as evident and dehumanising as that against black people in South Africa during apartheid.

Sharing very personal and difficult experiences under the apartheid regime, Ms Modise said: "As a woman who was incarcerated for a lengthy period and forced to give up my own children so they could be raised outside prison walls, I am extremely moved by the plight of the people of Palestine, especially the children, who should never be forced to worry about living through a day, a month or even a year. We owe it to those innocent children to provide a place where they can dream and see their dreams realised."

Mr Tamer Al-Massri, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that

while many nations of the world had established Palestinian solidarity movements, the South African Palestinian solidarity movement was the single most important, as it provided the people of Palestine with hope as the victory of the South African people inspired the people of Palestine to continue in their pursuit for freedom from oppression and for self-determination.

"We look to your country for inspiration as our struggle is similar in many aspects. The National Party came to power in 1948. Israel resumed its occupation of our land in 1948. The ANC's armed struggle resumed in the 1960s when all other avenues had failed. The PLO [Palestine Liberation Organisation] also resumed the armed struggle against Israel during the same period.

Today, South Africa is a democratic nation, after negotiations and compromise. We therefore drew a leaf from that history book and agreed to negotiations with the Israeli state, to also seek freedom and self-determination for our people. And like the people of South Africa, we will continue until we are free," Mr Al Massri said.

Mr Al-Massri quoted South African President Jacob Zuma, who in a speech in Pretoria in 2011 said: "We were struggling together."

Mr Al-Massri said that statement by President Zuma was a testament to the unity shared by South Africa and the people of Palestine, which was shaped in the past and is to continue well into the future until freedom is attained in Palestine. 🌱

"Never give up hope. Never give up on your dream to be free in the land of your birth," Ms Modise said. Having lived through and struggled against apartheid South Africa, the actions of the Israeli state at times surpass even the barbarism of apartheid, Ms Modise said. With Israel considered a pariah state in

Committee vows to eradicate bucket system in formal areas

This year marks nine years since former president Thabo Mbeki made a call for the total eradication of the bucket system as a means of sanitation. The realisation of that goal has taken time to achieve but there is evidence of some light at the end of the tunnel. The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation has welcomed the department's progress in working towards providing proper sanitation facilities for all South Africans, writes *Malatswa Molepo*.

"The Committee has always maintained that the use of the bucket system remains unacceptable, strips people of their dignity and contradicts prescripts of the Water Services Act. It is thus welcomed that the department is well underway to eradicate the bucket system in formal areas," the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Mlungisi Johnson, said following a presentation by the department on progress to eradicate the bucket system.

The Department of Water and Sanitation informed the Committee that there are currently 88 127 households using bucket toilets in formal areas. The current programme seeks to eradicate all those toilets within the 2015/2016 financial year at a cost of R975m. For the current financial year there are 185 projects across five provinces that seek to eradicate 43 127 toilets, which represents almost half of the total bucket system in formal areas.

While there is progress, some challenges persist. The Director-General of the Department, Ms Margaret-Ann Diedricks, said that despite South Africa reaching the Millennium Development Goals on sanitation by providing 78% of the

population with access to sanitation, about 2,2 million households are still using sanitation facilities below the basic level. These include pit latrines, septic tanks or chemical toilets.

"One of the challenges we have faced include a lack of credible sanitation backlog statistics to identify pressure points, a lack of bulk water infrastructure, the aspirations of communities to access a high level of service, such as waterborne toilets despite the topographical challenges and water availability to support this level of service," Ms Diedricks said.

In spite of these challenges, the Committee was reassured that the eradication of the bucket system in formal areas is possible. "In respect of bucket toilets in formal areas, I can put my head on the block and say that we will eradicate the system in formal areas. Our main challenge remains in the ever-increasing informal settlements," Ms Diedricks said.

The concern with sanitation in informal areas is heightened by the lack of reliable statistics in those areas and continuing urban migration. The department informed the Committee that there are an estimated 140 000

households in informal settlements that are still using bucket toilets as a form of sanitation.

"The Committee is cognisant of the challenges such as urban migration, availability of bulk infrastructure to service projects and decreasing funding, which continue to put an extra burden on the delivery of services, especially to informal settlements. The Committee is of the view that an integrated governmental approach is necessary to circumvent these challenges.

"The Committee urges the department to improve its working relationship with other government departments, such as Human Settlements, Rural Development and Land Reform, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Education and the National Treasury, to find workable solutions to these challenges," Mr Johnson said.

The Committee called on the department to realign and maximise various grants, such as the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant, that are available to deal with issues of water and sanitation. The realignment and maximisation of these grants will mitigate against unused funds being returned to the fiscus.

For its part the Committee has resolved to prioritise the eradication of the bucket system in its oversight programme to ensure that dignity is restored to people still using the system. ■

POSITIVE RESULTS: African People's Convention MP Mr Themba Godi addresses the people of Nombhedo in KwaZulu-Natal.



Rural KZN community learns about Parliament

Rural *people are often neglected, but they are an important constituency and they are an integral part of Parliament, which exists because of the people of South Africa. These are the words of African People's Convention Member of Parliament (MP) and Chairperson of the parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Mr Themba Godi, writes Cedric Mboyisa.*

Mr Godi was addressing the rural community of Nombhedo at KwaMseleku Hall in Ndwedwe (KwaZulu-Natal) as part of his constituency work. He was in the village to listen to residents and explain to them how he intended to resolve their problems and grievances.

"The service you get from government is not a favour. It's your right. It is people who have the power, not the politicians," said Mr Godi. Mr Godi is the only MP for his party so he does his constituency work all over the country. The local hall in this village was packed to capacity as the community came out in large numbers to have their say on a variety of issues affecting them. Never before had this remote community been visited by a Member of Parliament.

Mr Godi told them that Parliament was theirs as they were the ones who voted for MPs to represent them and their issues in the law-making process aimed at making their lives better. "It is the Parliament of the People. When I come here I am literally bringing Parliament to you. Don't be afraid of us because we are Members of Parliament. You are our bosses. You are the ones with real power," said Mr Godi. He explained to the community that the National Assembly comprised 400 MPs from 13 political parties which contested in last year's national and provincial elections.

Mr Godi's address was preceded by a presentation by a representative from the South African Post Office. The Post Office educated residents about the delivery of their letters and how the system of postal addresses worked in rural villages. Also in attendance was a local councillor. The main issues of concern for the locals are electricity and housing. Mr Godi said the issues would be referred to the local municipality to be dealt with. If the issues were not addressed properly, he added, he would escalate them to the relevant departments at provincial level. If this also yielded no positive results, he would then take up their issues personally and bring them to the attention of the National Assembly.

"We are in Parliament to help address people's issues. We are in Parliament to represent all the people of South Africa, irrespective of their political affiliations. You must demand services from the government. We as MPs hold the government to account," said Mr Godi.

One of the residents, Mr Langalakhe Mpanza, urged the community to be patient when it comes to issue of service delivery. "Just like when you have many wives, you cannot satisfy all of them at the same time," said Mr Mpanza.

Mr Godi made a call to the community not to resort to violence and destruction of public property, no matter how frustrated they were about the slow pace of service delivery. "Don't ever think of burning clinics or schools. If you burn a school, where will your children get education? If you burn a clinic, where will sick people get help? If you are really angry, use the power you have ... voting," he said. He was referring to recent service delivery protests which resulted in the burning down of public infrastructure such as schools and clinics.

Mr Godi promised the Nombhedo community that he would come back and give them feedback on the issues they had raised. 🌱



FIRST TIMERS: The people of Nombhedo turned out in numbers to talk to Mr Godi, as it was the first time an MP had visited their community.

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES: The people of Nombhedo turned up in numbers to talk to Mr Godi, as it was the first time an MP had visited their community.

NCOP tackles issue of lack of funds for poor students

Members *of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) have proposed a number of solutions for the challenge of insufficient funding for higher education and training, writes Elijah Moholola.*

During a debate in the NCOP titled “Finding a lasting solution for financial assistance for needy students in higher education”, Members of Parliament suggested to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, how the challenge of lack of funds for university and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges could be tackled.

The Chairperson of the Select Committee on Education, Ms Lungelwa Zwane, said despite education being declared an apex priority by President Jacob Zuma, South Africa was spending only 5% of its gross domestic product on education and only 1.4% of this specifically on higher education. “We do want to acknowledge the fact that as much as a lot has been invested, we still have to cover a lot of ground in terms of ensuring that we reach out to many more students that deserve to be assisted. During the past 20 years of being in government, we’ve got many good stories to tell,” she said.

Ms Zwane highlighted, among other things, the introduction of a student-centred national financial aid scheme model. “We want to appreciate the

student-centred model that the department is introducing. The model will see students being funded not only for the first year, but actually taking them through until they complete their studies.”

An area of “grave concern” for Ms Zwane was student accommodation. “I am happy that when I looked through the budget, I saw a sum of about R1.6bn that has been set aside to ensure that student accommodation is being refurbished in some universities and TVET colleges, and in others it is being built from scratch,” she said.

Ms Zwane further said the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding has led to the number of students enrolled in TVET colleges increasing from 360 000 in 2010 to 670 465 in 2013.

Dr Nzimande also highlighted the expansion of NSFAS funding into TVET colleges as being one of the milestones of the past six years since the formation of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). He further pointed out how the NSFAS budget has kept increasing over the years, although the current total of R9.5bn for 2015

was inadequate. “Since its inception in 1991 as the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa, this fund has awarded approximately R41.5bn in loans and bursaries to about 1.4 million students between 1991 and 2014,” he said.

Dr Nzimande indicated that to fully fund all qualifying NSFAS students and meet the goals of the National Development Plan, an amount of R36bn for universities and R15bn for TVET college students was required over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

The Democratic Alliance’s Mr Hermanus Groenewald said one of the biggest obstacles to students seeking financial assistance was the lack of clear communication about NSFAS processes. “Having timely, honest and open communication with students could prevent the many student protests that flare up at the start of the academic year. Every academic year starts with a fight between students and the universities because of funds,” he said.

Mr Groenewald also said there was a need to assist those students who cannot be funded due to historic debt. Similarly, the issue of students from middle-class families also needed to be dealt with, he said. “While we focus on the needy students, we must also not forget the middle class. The family income threshold for a student to qualify for financial support is too low at R180 000 per year. It shows that one



FUNDING SHORTAGE: South Africa spends only 1.4% of its gross domestic product on higher education.

has to be desperately poor to receive it. "This affects many academically talented children of teachers, nurses, police officers and others who have an income that is above what is needed to qualify for NSFAS but too low to be able to afford university fees," he said.

Dr Nzimande said: "I have requested NSFAS to explore ways to fund students who traditionally did not meet the means test for the current funding criteria, but who also do not qualify for funding from commercial institutions. We are currently engaging some of the development finance institutions and other publicly held funds to find ways to address this challenge so as to expand access to education for academically deserving students who come from families that are poor."

Before calling for education to be made free up to undergraduate level and for all current student debt to be cancelled, Mr Younus Vawda of the Economic Freedom Fighters argued that "higher education in South Africa is commercialised and is more of a privilege for the elite than it is a basic human right".

He added: "Almost 50% of the applications from students who qualify for financial aid are declined, discouraging young people who don't have any other options for furthering their studies and pushing them back to the generational poverty cycle of which most South African families are unfortunately victims. Although the provision of NSFAS has quadrupled in the past five years, this increase is not able to cater for the increasing number of academically deserving and financially needy students in this country."

While acknowledging that more funds were needed, Dr Nzimande said the number of students catered for by NSFAS has been increasing. "This year, NSFAS will be assisting 205 000 first-time and continuing eligible students at our 26 public universities and 200 000 students at 50 TVET colleges, by providing student loans and bursaries," he said.

For Mr Mntomuhle Khawula of the Inkatha Freedom Party, two issues – weeding out corruption and increasing the NSFAS recovery rate

– needed to be dealt with. "Tens of thousands of genuinely needy students end up not getting the financial assistance due to them, partly because of people who do not qualify but are able to corrupt the system and end up benefiting irregularly. Those who do this must be made to pay the price," Mr Khawula said.

Dr Nzimande pointed out that the recovery of funds was a critical challenge. "The R453m we recover is not enough. We are improving on our systems [and] ... want to work with the South African Receiver of Revenue to address this problem," he said.

The issue of corruption would be tackled by the forensic audit set to be put in place by the DHET, Dr Nzimande said. The minister added that the department had started "paying attention to university fees", arguing that NSFAS has increased its funding by 4.6% but university fees have been increased by an average of 9%. He also urged the private sector to give more money to higher education. 📌

tribute *to*

Minister Collins Chabane

15 April 1960 – 15 March 2015



The late Minister Collins Chabane died in a car crash in the early hours of Sunday, 15 March 2015, along with his two security personnel, Sergeant Lesiba Sekele and Sergeant Lawrence Lentoane. They were returning from the funeral of a local Chief, Mr Albert Magona of Malamulele, in Mr Chabane's home village in Limpopo.

Mr Chabane, who was born on 15 April 1960 at Xikundu Village in Limpopo, is remembered for his incisive mind, sharp wit and easy humour. A true servant of the people, he joined the African National Congress (ANC) at the age of 17.

After completing his schooling, he registered for a BSc at Turfloop University, but after only one year he left the country to join Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK). He did his military training in Angola in 1980 and began working underground in 1981. His guerrilla name was Tom or iSilwane, which means animal or warrior.

Mr Chabane was arrested by the security police in 1984 and found guilty of terrorism. He spent time on Robben Island with the likes of Mr Tokyo Sexwale, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota and Mr Popo Molefe. During his time in prison he obtained a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Technikon South Africa and studied aircraft maintenance. Mr Chabane also holds a diploma in management from Erami Business School in Arusha, Tanzania, and a diploma in leadership and management from the Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership at Limpopo University.

It was in prison that he developed his interest in music. In the 1990s, he co-founded a mbira-based band, known as

Movement, and recorded two albums.

On his release from prison in 1990, he continued to serve the ANC in the former Northern Transvaal, where he was instrumental in re-establishing the ANC provincial structures. He served as ANC Provincial Secretary until 1998.

After the 1994 elections, he was elected to Parliament where, as a Member in the National Assembly, he participated in a number of Committees, including the Joint Committee on Defence and Intelligence, and the Standing Committee: Finance, Minerals and Energy Affairs.

As a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee he has served in the National Working Committee, the Transitional Task Team, the National Deployment Committee, the Economic Transformation Sub-Committee, the Social Transformation Sub-Committee, the International Relations Sub-Committee and the National Disciplinary Sub-Committee. He was also chairperson of the Constitutional Affairs Sub-Committee.

In 1997, he was re-deployed to Limpopo and was appointed MEC in Premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi's office. There he was appointed MEC for Public Works and leader of government business in the

legislature. One of the highlights of his tenure in Public Works was the establishment of the Road Agency, which was the first institution of its kind in South Africa. Through this institution, the department managed to fast-track the upgrading of roads in the province. He also established Gungu Lashu, a labour-intensive road construction programme and a nucleus of the current Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

In 2005, he became MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. During his tenure, he embarked on an international awareness programme on the economic opportunities in the tourism, mining and agri-business sectors.

The late Mr Chabane returned to the national Parliament in 2009 and became the first Minister in the Presidency in charge of Performance Monitoring and Administration. In this capacity he led the planning of the international funeral of former President Mr Nelson Mandela. After the 2014 national elections, he was appointed Minister of Public Service and Administration.

Mr Chabane was a passionate golfer and continued to be known for his talent and interest in music. He was recently honoured for his contribution to indigenous music by the South African Music Rights Organisation. He gave an emotional speech in which he promised to use his leadership position to help struggling South African musicians.

Minister Chabane is survived by his wife, Ms Mavis Chabane, and two children. 🕊



Human Rights Day

What are human rights?

As the name suggests, human rights are rights that everyone must enjoy, by the mere fact that they are human beings. These rights are inalienable, which means that they cannot be taken away from you except in specific situations and according to due process. For example, the right to liberty may be restricted if a person is found guilty of a crime by a court of law and is sentenced to serve time in jail. Human rights are also interdependent and indivisible. The one right affects the other, and no one human right is more or less important than another human right. These rights also come with certain obligations, for example the obligation to respect the human rights of others.

What is Human Rights Day?

March 21 was declared Human Rights Day in South Africa to commemorate the 1960 Sharpeville massacre. This was the incident when unarmed people protesting against the humiliating and discriminatory "pass book", also referred to as a "*dompas*", for black South Africans, were massacred by the apartheid regime's police. This day has now also been declared International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by the United Nations.

Parliament and human rights

Parliament is the custodian of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Constitution), and as such subscribes to the culture of human rights. Parliament established the South

African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in terms of Section 184 of the Constitution. The mandate of the Commission is to promote, protect and monitor the development and observance of human rights in our country.

Parliament's role in promoting human rights

The Constitution lays the foundation for our democracy in South Africa, which has recently celebrated its 20th year. The Constitution which was passed into law by Parliament binds the State to "heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human right," according to the Preamble of the Constitution. Parliament has also passed laws that promote a culture of respect for human



rights and has repealed those laws which have undermined this. The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA) of 2000 is one such piece of legislation. This law aims to promote equality (as per Section 9 of the Bill of Rights), and importantly, it ensures that Magistrates' Courts become Equality Courts where cases of unfair discrimination can be tried.

Human rights instruments

South Africa is a signatory to a number of conventions which seek to protect the human rights of everyone globally and locally, especially those who are most vulnerable, including women and children. Firstly, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a predecessor to our Bill of Rights. Secondly, South Africa signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

The Bill of Rights

The human rights of all South African citizens are protected by the Bill of Rights contained in chapter two of the Constitution. The Bill of Rights is a cornerstone of democracy in South Africa and protects our rights pertaining to equality; human dignity; life; freedom and security; slavery, servitude and forced labour; privacy; freedom of religion, belief and opinion; freedom of expression, assembly, demonstration, picket and petition; freedom of association; political rights; citizenship; freedom of movement and residence; freedom of trade, occupation and profession; labour relations; environment; property; housing; health care, food, water and social security; children; education; language and culture; cultural, religious and linguistic communities; access to information; just administrative action; access to courts; arrested, detained and accused persons.

South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)

Parliament, as the custodian of the

Constitution which is the highest law in the land, strives to promote a culture of human rights in our country. Chapter 9 of the Constitution lists the State institutions supporting constitutional democracy of which the SAHRC is one. These institutions report to Parliament.

The SAHRC National Office:

011 877 3600/3750

Provincial offices:

Eastern Cape 043 722 7828/21/25

Free State 051 447 1133/30

Gauteng 011 877 3750

KwaZulu-Natal 031 304 7323/4/5

Limpopo 015 291 3500

Mpumalanga 013 752 8292

Northern Cape 054 332 3993/4

North West 014 592 0694

Western Cape 021 426 2277

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Hoe die Begroting vir ons werk Hoe die Begroting vir ons werk

HOEVEEL: Die Minister van Finansies, mnr Nhlanhla Nene, lê die begroting vir 2015 aan die Parlement voor.

Wat is 'n Begroting?

'n Begroting is die Regering se finansiële plan wat jaarliks opgestel word. In 'n begroting word alle vooropgestelde bestedings, inkomste en lenings oor die volgende drie boekjare (waarna verwys word as die mediumtermyn) aangekondig. Dit word ingelig deur politieke prioriteite wat in die mediumtermyn strategiese raamwerk vervat word en het dit ten doel om hulpbronne aan dié prioriteite toe te wys terwyl daar verbeterde gehalte van en doeltreffendheid met staatsbesteding verseker word. Die Minister van Finansies maak gebruik van die Begrotingsrede om die Parlement en die land betreffende die stand van die ekonomie, staatsfinansies en die vordering met die Regering se doelwitte op hoogte te bring. Die Begroting wys geld toe aan die drie

regeringsfere (nasionaal, provinsiaal, plaaslik) op grond van inkomste wat ingevorder is.

Die Begrotingsproses

Die nasionale en provinsiale begrotingsproses is 'n ononderbroke siklus wat jaarliks van April tot Maart strek. Die volgende is 'n oorsigtelike uiteensetting van die tydsraamwerk vir een jaar se begrotingsproses:

April: Die Nasionale Tesourie reik riglyne aan staatsdepartemente uit ten opsigte van versoeke vir die oorrol van onbestede kwalifiserende fondse uit die vorige boekjaar en aan die einde van die maand; dergelike versoeke word vir beoordeling aan die Nasionale Tesourie voorgelê.

Mei tot Junie: Briewe vir die toewysing van oorrolfondse word

aan departemente uitgereik nadat goedkeuring deur die Minister van Finansies verleen is. Gedurende dié tydperk reik die Nasionale Tesourie die mediumtermyn-bestedingsraamwerk (MTBR) se begrotingsriglyne (riglyne vir die begroting van uitgawes) aan die departemente uit.

Julie: Die departemente dien besonderhede oor beramings ten opsigte van hul besteding vir die komende begroting by die Nasionale Tesourie in. Gedurende dié tydperk vind die ontleding en goedkeuring van veranderings tot departemente se begrotingsprogramstrukture ook plaas. Die Kabinet-lekgotla word in dié maand gehou, waartydens beleidsprioriteite en -oorwegings vir inwerkingstelling bespreek en goedgekeur word.

Augustus: Die Begrotingskomitee vir Ministers (Mincombud) keur die voorlopige fiskale raamwerk en verdeling van inkomste en sektorale begrotingsprioriteite goed.

September: Die mediumtermyn-bestedingskomitee (MTBK) lê sy voorstelle vir befondsingtoewysings ten opsigte van die vernaamste regeringsprioriteite aan die Mincombud voor; finale voorstelle oor toewysings word dan vir goedkeuring na die Kabinet verwys. Die aansuiweringsbegrotingsproses neem ook 'n aanvang in dié maand, waartydens voorstelle vir die onvoorsienbare en onvermybare bestedings gemaak word. Daar word vir dié aangepaste toewysings in die volgende maand begroot.

Oktober tot November: Die Aansuiweringsbegrotingswetsontwerp en die Gewysigde Wetsontwerp op die Verdeling van Inkomste word ter tafel gelê. Die mediumtermyn-begrotingsbeleidsverklaring (MTBBV) wat klem lê op die vernaamste prioriteite van die Regering, die grootte van die bestedingspakket vir die volgende MTBR-tydperk, die voorgestelde verdeling van inkomste en die vernaamste provinsiale en plaaslike toewysings word ook in die Parlement ter tafel gelê. Toewysings aan die nasionale staatsdepartemente word afgehandel en in die middel van November aan die Kabinet voorgelê. Sodra die Kabinet dit goedkeur, word toewysingsbriewe aan die departemente uitgereik.

Desember tot Februarie: Die Minister van Finansies ontvang verslae oor die begrotingsoorsig en aanbevelings ten opsigte van die MTBBV, die fiskale raamwerk

en die verdeling van inkomste van die Parlement. Dié verslae word tussen Desember en Februarie vir terugvoering aan die Parlement ontleed. Die Nasionale Begroting, die Begrotingswetsontwerp, die Wetsontwerp op die Verdeling van Inkomste, die Beramings van Nasionale Besteding en verbandhoudende begrotingsinligting word afgehandel en dan deur die Minister van Finansies in die Parlement ter tafel gelê.

Maart tot Junie: Die Parlement beraadslaag en aanvaar 'n fiskale raamwerk vir die komende jaar en begin met verhoor oor die Wetsontwerp op die Verdeling van Inkomste, wat dan in die Parlement goedgekeur word.

Julie: Die Begrotingswetsontwerp word deur die Parlement goedgekeur en op grond hiervan word geld op 'n maandelikse grondslag aan departemente toegewys. Aangesien die Grondwet bepaal dat die Regering slegs geld kan bestee indien dit deur die Parlement goedgekeur is, stem die Nasionale Vergadering om die begroting deur middel van die Begrotingswetsontwerp goed te keur.

Hoe word die Staat se fondse ingevorder?

Die Staat se fondse word vanuit 'n verskeidenheid bronne ingevorder, met inbegrip van belasting, nie-belastingsverwante inkomste (soos die verhuring van myne en die verkoop van kapitaalbates), finansiële transaksies en lenings. Geld wat deur die Regering ingevorder is, word in die Nasionale Inkomstefonds inbetaal en word vir die doel van besteding deur middel van die Begrotingswetsontwerp onttrek.

Die Begroting en Toesighouding

'n Aantal prosesse bestaan ten einde te verseker dat daar toesighouding oor staatsbesteding en -prestasie is. Suid-Afrika beskik oor 'n Ouditeur-generaal wat 'n audit oor departemente se finansiële en nie-finansiële prestasie doen. Die bevindings vervat in dié auditte word aan die Parlement bekend gestel. Die Parlement se Staande Komitee oor Openbare Rekeningse verseker dat die kwessies wat deur die Ouditeur-generaal geopper is, dienoreenkomstig hanteer word. Die Parlement oefen ook sy toesighouding uit deur middel van verskeie Portefeuljekomitees wat die planne en die prestasie van elke departement evalueer en hulle verantwoordbaar hou.

Die Parlement se Staande Komitees, saam met die Nasionale Tesourie en die Departement van Prestasiemonitering en -evaluering (in die Presidensie), ontleed departementele verslae oor prestasie-aanduiders wat die vordering bepaal wat gemaak is ten opsigte van hul mandate waarvoor hulle hul deel van die begroting ontvang het. Dié monitering word kwartaalliks gedoen. Die Nasionale Tesourie hou departemente verantwoordbaar ten opsigte van begrotingstoewysings deur die waarde van die geld en ook bestedingspatrone rakende beleidsprioriteite te bepaal. Die Departement van Prestasiemonitering en -evaluering hou departemente verantwoordbaar ten opsigte van uitsette soos ingesluit in die diensleweringsooreenkomste wat deur die President en die betrokke nasionale minister onderteken is. 📄

*Bron: Nasionale Tesourie – Kaapstad
Vir meer inligting: 021 464 6100/012 315 5757*



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