

Monthly magazine of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

in session



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South Africa welcomes its neighbours
Hosting the 37th SADC Parliamentary Forum



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mace of National Assembly

Vision

An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society.

Mission

Parliament aims to provide a service to the people of South Africa by providing the following:

- A vibrant people's Assembly that intervenes and transforms society and addresses the development challenges of our people;
- Effective oversight over the Executive by strengthening its scrutiny of actions against the needs of South Africans;
- Participation of South Africans in the decision-making processes that affect their lives;
- A healthy relationship between the three arms of the State, that promotes efficient co-operative governance between the spheres of government, and ensures appropriate links with our region and the world; and
- An innovative, transformative, effective and efficient parliamentary service and administration that enables Members of Parliament to fulfil their constitutional responsibilities.

Strategic Objectives

1. Strengthening oversight and accountability
2. Enhancing public involvement
3. Deepening engagement in international fora
4. Strengthening co-operative government
5. Strengthening legislative capacity



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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JOINING FORCES: The countries of the Southern African Development Community gathered in Durban for the 37th SADC Parliamentary Forum.

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OUR IDEALS

VISION An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strengthening oversight and accountability; enhancing public involvement; deepening engagement in international fora; strengthening cooperative government; strengthening legislative capacity.

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Parliament pays tribute to the youth of the 1976 generation

On Youth Day we remember what started as a peaceful protest was met with unrelenting police violence. Instead of turning back, the youth of Soweto said "enough is enough". That spirit soon spread across the country.

The courage and determination showed by the youth on that day, and in the dark times that followed, changed the trajectory of our history forever.

We honour the youth who have given their lives for freedom in South Africa.





Editor's note

Each year South Africans regard June as an important month. For us, it has become an historical milestone in a number of ways. In this June issue of *InSession* we take the opportunity to pay some important tributes.

Firstly, of course June is Youth Month, and we celebrate and commemorate the youth of the '76 generation who stood up to the might of the apartheid regime, thereby forever changing the course of our history.

In this issue we are fortunate to have a deeply considered piece on the state of the youth today, in particular their education, by one of those who left the country in the wake of June 1976 to seek military training. This is none other than one of Parliament's Presiding Officers, National Council of Provinces Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise.

She returned to South Africa to fight as a trained combatant of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), and now in her position as one of Parliament's Executive Authority, she writes a thoughtful piece on what it means to be one of the generation who had to forego schooling to become MK cadres. (See story on page 24.) Looking back, through a lifetime of struggle, she reminds us of the value of education.

She repeats one of the central tenets in the Freedom Charter: "The doors of education and learning shall be open to all," which brings us to the next tribute Parliament remembers at this time.

On June 25th 1955, the Freedom Charter was drawn up – and June 2015 marks its 60th anniversary. We are reminded of the rigorous and inclusive process by which it was collated all those years ago. Volunteers went from door to door, to churches, mosques, schools and public spaces, and invited ordinary South Africans to make their demands.

On scraps of paper, thousands of citizens' demands from around the country were collected and through a thorough process of consultation, province by province, they were collated into what eventually became our Freedom Charter.

This issue of *InSession* marks the 60th anniversary of the Congress of the People where the Freedom Charter was adopted and we include an interview of a past Member of Parliament (MP) who was there on that auspicious day.

Prof Ben Turok, now retired from Parliament, reminds us of the tens of thousands of people who gathered at Kliptown, near Johannesburg, to make their voices heard. He remembers too the scores of security police who also gathered there, who tried to turn this collective expression of the people into an act of treason, using the evidence they gathered for the Treason Trial. Read Prof Turok's account on page 28, where he recalls his pride in being the one who wrote the economic clause of the Freedom Charter.

He makes the point that the Freedom Charter remains the bedrock of our policy today, but in a challenging piece by Dr Mathole Motshekga, MP and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, we are reminded that South Africa and circumstances have changed. In an article on page 30, he looks at the current policy – the National Development Plan – to see where its roots lie in the Freedom Charter.

This issue of *InSession* therefore does not only look back at the milestones of our history, it looks forward as well. And on page 14 we have a feature on the launch of the new Strategic Plan of the fifth Parliament, looking also at Parliament's budget vote which outlines the plans that lie ahead.

One of the most important principles of the fifth Parliament is its international role, and on page 10 we report on recent talks by Brics – the bloc of emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – who met recently in Moscow to launch itself as a Parliamentary Forum. The theme of the talks was a shared commitment to international cooperation.

In that spirit we welcome to South Africa the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum, which held its 37th plenary as this issue of *InSession* went to press. We were honoured to welcome our neighbours to our country in a demonstration of Parliament's uncompromising rejection of xenophobia and our commitment to working together as a successful and united development community.

Enjoy the read

Moira Levy
Editor



The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise

As I stand before you to present the 2015/2016 Budget of Parliament, I am conscious of the enormity of the responsibility and expectations on us by those who sent us here to represent them. Last year, in this similar occasion, we committed ourselves to a number of efforts to improve our performance in this institution. I am pleased to report that we have implemented most of what we committed ourselves to.

Parliament has completed a five-year strategic plan for the 2014-19 term. Parliament will focus on the following objectives: strengthening oversight and accountability; enhancing public involvement and participation; deepening engagement in international forums; strengthening cooperative government; and strengthening legislative capacity.

Our strategic plan will be broken into double goals intended to empower Members of Parliament to build capacity to understand and interpret our mandate, taking into consideration the volume of work, the limited numbers and the complicated clustering system of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The National Development Plan (NDP) epitomises the basic edicts of the Freedom Charter. In our efforts to build a developmental state, the adoption of the NDP serves as a foundation for a partnership across society to achieve our long-held dreams as articulated in the Constitution. The NDP argues that to achieve a capable state, we must among other things “strengthen delegation, accountability and oversight and make it easier for citizens to hold public servants and politicians accountable, particularly for the quality of service delivery”.

As Parliament, we must make sure that the executive, state-owned enterprises, direct foreign investment, and the various spheres of government show the planned activities and resources that will

breathe life into the NDP.

Questions to the executive give us this important tool. A total of 549 questions were put to the executive – 356 of these were for written replies and 194 were for oral replies. A total of 18 questions were put to the Deputy President and 196 directed at the ministers.

We are spending time focusing our strategies on the core business of Parliament. This means revisiting and reviving and even establishing business frameworks to support our core business. Parliament’s own Act on financial management necessitates that we move into implementation of the structures and models in this parliamentary term. The parliamentary oversight and accountability model, the public participation model, cooperative government and intergovernmental relations mechanisms, as well as the legislative model of Parliament, are all getting attention.

A new approach to coordinate all support services to both Houses and Committees will be introduced to enhance the administration to both Houses and to the Members of Parliament. This will see a one-stop shop approach for Committees where all services will be coordinated from one source. Public involvement is an essential tool for maintaining close contact with the people, and enables the promotion of an active citizenry. “Taking Parliament to the People” is

a mass participatory programme that gives our people the opportunity to actively participate in our oversight activities. This programme also gives government the opportunity to account to our people. This programme affirms our commitment to the principle: “The people shall govern”.

The Select Committees and any other Committees we may establish must monitor and register any progress on issues raised during the “Taking Parliament to the People” or the “Provincial Week” programmes. This means follow-ups, more resources for travel, lodging, administration and less time in Cape Town.

We must continue to forge relations with the provincial legislatures. It is important that this process is done collectively to bring all state and civil society structures on board. This, we hope, will help reposition and clarify the role of the NCOP into the future.

Part of our responsibilities is to accommodate the interests of local government on a national platform. We received five notices of interventions, for Mpopana, Inkwanca, Makana and Mtubatuba Local Municipalities and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. I am worried about the quality and the speed with which the NCOP interacts with these interventions. The ability of the NCOP to qualitatively and independently consider these interventions will ultimately measure the maturity and impartiality of this House.

This is an edited extract of the speech delivered by the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise, on the occasion of the parliamentary budget vote 2015/16. 🗣️



bill tracker

Bills tabled in Parliament in March

The Bills that came before Parliament in June included a Bill to appropriate additional funds to increase the State's stake in Eskom and another that amended the Children's Act.

Eskom Special Appropriation Bill

The Bill aims to appropriate an additional amount of money for the requirements of the Department of Public Enterprises to increase the State's equity investment in Eskom.

Subject to the payment into the National Revenue Fund of the requisite revenue from the sale of assets of the State in the 2015/16 financial year, an amount of R23bn was appropriated out of the National Revenue Fund for the requirements of the Department of Public Enterprises in the 2015/16 financial year to enhance electricity generation capacity and security of supply by Eskom.

Subject to the Public Finance Management Act, 1999, the accounting officer of the Department of Public Enterprises must transfer to Eskom the amount in such portions and on such dates as the Minister of Finance determines, taking into account the cash requirements of Eskom as verified by the National Treasury.

The Minister of Finance may impose conditions on any part of the appropriation in order to promote and enforce transparency and effective management in respect of revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of public entities as required by the Public Finance Management Act and stop the use of any part of the appropriation in respect of which conditions have been imposed. The stoppage of an allocation

must be disclosed in the National Treasury's next quarterly report to the relevant parliamentary Committees.

Eskom Subordinated Loan Special Appropriation Amendment Bill

This Bill is to amend the Eskom Subordinated Loan Special Appropriation Act (2008/09-2010/11 Financial Years), 2008, so as to convert the subordinated loan to Eskom to shares for the State.

Children's Amendment Bill

The objective of this Bill is to amend the Children's Act, 2005, to cover the following:

- * a person convicted of a sexual offence, or an offence for the possession of child pornography be deemed unsuitable to work with children;
- * afford a child offender an opportunity to make representations as to why a finding of unsuitability to work with children should not be made;
- * that the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service must forward to the Director-General all the particulars of persons found unsuitable to work with children;
- * a child offender to apply in the prescribed manner to have their particulars removed from the Register;
- * the review of a decision to remove a child without a court order;
- * to extend the circumstances as to when a child is adoptable;
- * to extend the effects of an adoption

order by providing that an adoption order does not automatically terminate all parental responsibilities and rights of a parent of a child when an adoption order is granted in favour of the spouse or permanent domestic life partner of that parent.

Children's Second Amendment Bill

This Bill also seeks to amend the Children's Act, 2005, so as to extend a definition and to insert new definitions:

- * to provide that the removal of a child to temporary safe care without a court order be placed before the children's court for review before the expiry of the next court day;
- * to provide for the review of a decision to remove a child without a court order; to provide for the provincial head of social development to transfer a child or a person from one form of alternative care to another form of alternative care;
- * to provide that an application for a child to remain in alternative care beyond the age of 18 years must be submitted before the end of the year in which the relevant child reaches the age of 18 years.

Rates and Monetary Amounts and Amendment of Revenue Laws Bill

The objective of this Bill is to fix the rates of normal tax; to amend the Transfer Duty Act, 1949, so as to amend rates of transfer duty and monetary thresholds; to amend the Income Tax Act, 1962, so as to amend rates of tax and monetary amounts; to amend the Customs and Excise Act, 1964, so as to amend rates of duty in Schedule 1 to that Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

i put the question

Questions asked in Parliament in May covered issues related to arrangements for the South African Social Security Agency, the general upkeep and tidiness of South African townships and the system for the issuing of visas.

Mr Jan Esterhuizen (IFP) asked the Minister of Energy Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson whether, given the unionised and volatile labour market in the country which has contributed to significant delays and financial losses on both the Medupi and Kusile power stations, the country can afford the proposed nuclear build programme.

The Minister replied: As with any democracy, unions and labour disputes are part and parcel of our socio-economic system. Government would ensure that labour is involved in any major infrastructure project, such as the nuclear new build programme. The high localisation targets set for the nuclear build programme are meant to address the matter of ensuring jobs for the local labour market and to mitigate against possible labour unrest. For example, we have seen in countries where labour unions previously focused on coal mining they have become integrated into the nuclear industry and have a predominantly pro-nuclear stance.

Mr Pebane Moteka (EFF) asked the Minister of Labour, Ms Mildred Oliphant, what plans are in place to ensure that employers comply with policies on domestic workers.

The Minister responded: Domestic workers, like all other workers, are covered by the labour laws of this country, and are not ghettoised into a separate set of labour market policies. The majority of domestic workers do not belong to any trade union, hence they are open to exploitation and cannot collectively negotiate their working conditions. It is for these reasons that the Minister of Labour uses the Sectoral

Determination Dispensation to set minimum conditions for domestic workers and it is working very well.

The Department of Labour, by law, cannot conduct negotiations on behalf of the domestic workers as that is the function of trade unions. However, domestic workers are encouraged to join unions as that is the only way in which they can negotiate working conditions over and above what the Minister sets out through the sectoral determinations. The domestic workers *izimbizo* were used to inform domestic and farm workers about their rights and how they can derive maximum benefit.

Mr Moses Tseli (ANC) asked the Minister of Communications, Ms Faith Muthambi, to give a progress report on the broadcasting digital migration.

The Minister answered: The Ministry of Communications has already signed Memoranda of Understanding with neighbouring countries, namely Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. In June the Minister of Communications was in Mozambique with her technical team for a bilateral meeting on the Broadcasting Digital Migration project. All these bilateral meetings followed immediately after the Minister of Communications' Budget vote speech in May where she promised to embark on bilateral meetings with the neighbouring countries on the broadcasting digital migration project.

The Cabinet approved the amended broadcasting digital migration policy in March this year which, among other things, allows for five million poor TV-owning households to receive free set-top boxes. The department

is currently preparing for the launch of the broadcasting digital migration public awareness campaign, which is anticipated to start shortly.

Ms Deidre Carter (Cope) asked the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, whether the government was investigating why the price of brown bread was not 20% to 30% lower than white bread, considering that brown bread is exempted from value-added tax, requires less milling and refining and there is greater extraction of meal per kilogram of wheat.

The Minister replied: The EDD agency responsible for enquiries into the market conduct is the Competition Commission. It derives its mandate from the Competition Act. The information in the possession of the Commission indicates that during the period January 2008 to April 2015, 600g brown bread was on average 15.5% cheaper in price than white bread and the 700g brown bread was on average 11,7% cheaper than white bread.

There are two ways in which the Commission investigates allegations of anti-competitive conduct. Firstly, any person may provide information concerning an allegation of a breach of a prohibited practice to the Commission. When a complaint is received, the Commission directs an inspector to investigate the complaint. Second, the Commissioner may initiate an investigation if he has some information pointing to anti-competitive conduct.

While no investigation has been conducted on the price of brown vs white bread, the Commission investigated anti-competitive conduct previously, resulting in a finding against Tiger Brands, Foodcorp and Pioneer Foods, all of whom were found to have taken part in a cartel that manipulated the price of bread. 🍞

SADC-PF regional parliament roadmap



Secretary to Parliament Mr Gengezi Mgidlana

As the Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum's (SADC PF's) 37th Plenary Assembly gets off to a start in Durban, Secretary to Parliament Mr Gengezi Mgidlana gives some background on the role of industrialisation as the vehicle for accelerated economic growth in the region.

South African Parliament hosts the Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) 37th Plenary Assembly in Durban from 5– 10 July, with the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), the Hon. Ms Baleka Mbete leading the South African Parliament's delegation.

The tight schedule starts with a meeting of the Executive Committee, including two Subcommittee meetings on Parliamentary Business matters. The official opening the next day is followed by a roundtable discussion, open to the general public, on the state of migration in the region.

Plenary Sessions follow for the rest of the week – allowing only for a break for delegates to enjoy a guided tour of the beautiful EThekweni (Durban) area.

This year's theme is Industrialisation and Regional Integration: The Role of Parliaments. These sessions focus on its significance for the National Development Plan (NDP), the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP), (the country's industrialisation plan) as well as the SADC Master Plan.

Industrialisation is regarded as the vehicle for accelerated economic growth. It has been suggested that the use of industrial, trade and technology policies have been the main component in virtually all successful economic transformations. The SADC Heads of State and Government, through their adoption of the *Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015 – 2020* and the *SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2016 – 2063* in April 2015, recognises

the importance of industrialisation for SADC's regional integration and development.

The *Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020* emphasises industrialisation as key above all its other priorities. As the implementation plan of the region's industrialisation efforts for the next five years, the *SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2016 – 2063* focuses solely on industrialisation through value-addition in the context of the current economic and policy conditions prevailing in SADC countries.

The *SADC Industrialisation Strategy* envisions the region moving up the value-chain from producing and exporting basic manufactured and semi-finished goods to producing final consumer and industrial goods. The Strategy notes that this can be achieved through a shift from the current dependence on the mining and agricultural sectors.

In particular, it refers to the current practice of exporting raw minerals and agricultural produce, which have undergone little or no beneficiation.

Through industrialisation, the region aims to achieve the following:

- Increased regional growth rate of real GDP to a minimum of 7% year.
- Doubled share of manufacturing value added (MVA) in GDP to 30% by 2030 and to 40% by 2050, including the share of industry-related service.
- Increased share of medium-and-high-technology production in total MVA from less than 15% at

present, to 30% by 2030 and 50% by 2050.

- Increased manufactured exports to at least 50% of total exports by 2030.
- Increased global market share of exports of intermediate products to reach the East Asian market levels of around 60% of total manufactured exports.
- Increased share of industrial employment to 40% of total employment by 2030.

The Strategy emphasises the role played by member states in its implementation. National policies and strategies should therefore be complementary to the *SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap*, and their outcomes should contribute to achieving both national and regional goals. In this regard, it is important for South Africa to understand how it should contribute to achieving industrialisation in the region, as well as ensuring that national policies are in line with the region's policies.

There is a clear alignment between SADC's Strategy and South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 and the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) (the country's industrialisation plan). Both the *SADC Industrialisation Strategy* and IPAP identify agro-processing and mineral beneficiation as sectors of priority due to their potential for growth and job creation. Therefore, specific interventions are put in place for these sectors, among others.

Although the development and adoption of the *Revised RISDP* and *SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap* fell within the mandate of the Executive, Parliament's role in terms of overseeing its implementation has now commenced. With the advent of globalisation and regionalism, the distinct roles of the executive (signing international agreements and adopting

- ▷ regional policies) and parliaments (ratifying international agreements and overseeing the implementation of regional and international policies) have become increasingly blurred.

As a result, parliaments are required to broaden their scope when it comes to international relations in order for them to effectively play their oversight role over the adherence to regional and international commitments by national government. In the absence of a regional parliament, SADC national parliaments can be proactive when it comes to overseeing regional policies. Through the following possible mechanisms:

- Relevant parliamentary committees are proactively noting and engaging with the *SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2063* and *Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020*. Encouraging the programming of a debate on the *Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020*, as the updated blueprint of SADC's Vision 2050
- Parliamentary committees that update them on the implementation progress of *SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2020* and *Revised RISDP 2015 – 2063* on a regular basis.
- Establishing a formal relationship with the SADC National Committee (SNC) to ensure that there is regular engagement between Parliament and the Executive on SADC matters.
- Organising information sessions with other Members of Parliament to create awareness among all parliamentarians about the content of the *SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2063* and *Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020*.
- The SADC-PF, as the only forum that brings together the representatives of SADC Parliaments, can deliver regular updates from the SADC Secretariat regarding the policies. 🌐

SA takes its part in BRICS' first Parliamentary Forum

The *five BRICS countries held their first Parliamentary Forum in Moscow during June, signalling a major step forward for this international bloc of major emerging economies, Moira Levy reports.*

Having the status of a Parliamentary Forum provided the talks with a strong basis for cooperation between the legislative bodies of these countries. It gives impetus to projects like the founding of a new Development Bank and the development of multi-level currency agreements.

An eight-person, multi-party delegation of South African parliamentarians, led by Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Ms Thandi Modise and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, joined their BRICS counterparts in Moscow.

The role of the UN came under the spotlight at the talks, where its role as international peace monitor was recognised. The BRICS Parliamentary Forum paid tribute to the UN on its 70th anniversary, and declared its unanimous commitment to "safeguarding the just and fair international order based on the UN Charter".

At the same time, while emphasising BRICS' role within the UN, participants underlined the need for the international body to enforce its role in conflict resolution to preserve and defend its fundamental

principles. Calls were made by the BRICS member countries for the need for comprehensive reform of the UN, especially its Security Council.

This was emphasised by Ms Modise in her input to the deliberations, where she said: "We appreciate the role of the UN in facilitating global governance reform. We appreciate further that the UN must itself undergo some adjustment if it is to continue to help build stability and the necessary conditions for development across the world."

She reminded the gathering that the South African delegation felt that "as Africans we are guided by the African Union's Agenda 2063, which appreciates the great role of the UN in advancing peace and security in the world."

Plans to form a BRICS Parliamentary Forum were first mooted in March 2015. Planning proceeded speedily and under the Russian chairmanship diplomatic notes of invitation were extended to the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation and other Heads of Chambers of the National Parliaments in BRICS.



BUILDING BRICS: Members of the South African delegation at the Moscow talks, (from left) representing the United Democratic Movement Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, Deputy Speaker of Parliament Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, behind him Mr Geordin Hill-Lewis of the Democratic Alliance and standing next to the Chairperson of the Russian Council of Federation, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Ms Thandi Modise (in red).

Participants of the Forum recognised the importance of the inter-parliamentary dimension of BRICS and the need for its member countries to cooperate across international platforms.

In a statement it confirmed BRICS' "joint initiatives on peace and security, peaceful settlement of conflicts, development of international institutions, reforms of the global governance architecture, combating international terrorism, racism and neo-nazism, and other modern challenges."

In this the Parliamentary Forum

reflects South Africa's foreign policy which, underpinned by the Freedom Charter, declares that "South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation – and not war".

One of the key principles of the Parliamentary Forum is its commitment to pro-poor policies, and the need for upliftment projects in developing countries.

BRICS aims to strengthen its role as an influential player in global economics and politics, initially setting itself up as something of an alternative

to the existing centres of world power, including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The interests of emerging economies like those that comprise BRICS will be promoted by its mutual assistance and cooperation. According to its declaration, BRICS is based on the principles of openness, pragmatism, solidarity, mutual assistance, inclusivity and non-confrontation.

It is a symbol of a "fair, multi-polar world, based on the principles of dialogue, democracy, non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the sovereignty of states". 🌐

Minimum wage consultations come to a close

The extensive round of country-wide public consultations on minimum wages held by the Portfolio Committee on Labour ended in Cape Town this month at a workshop where workers and small business owners could come together to share their conflicting concerns, *Obert Plum* reports.

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Labour assured small businesses that the introduction of a national minimum wage is not aimed at killing the small business sector but at improving the lives of the people.

The Committee invited small business organisations and trade unions to discuss the details of the national minimum wage at a two-day workshop held at Parliament.

The workshop was the last leg of an extensive consultation process with different stakeholders, according to the Committee Chairperson, Ms Lumka Yengeni. She said the Committee invited small business organisations and trade unions to help it craft national minimum wage legislation for the country.

"The public consultation follows a directive issued by President Jacob Zuma during the State of the Nation Address to investigate the modalities of the National Minimum Wage," said Ms Yengeni.

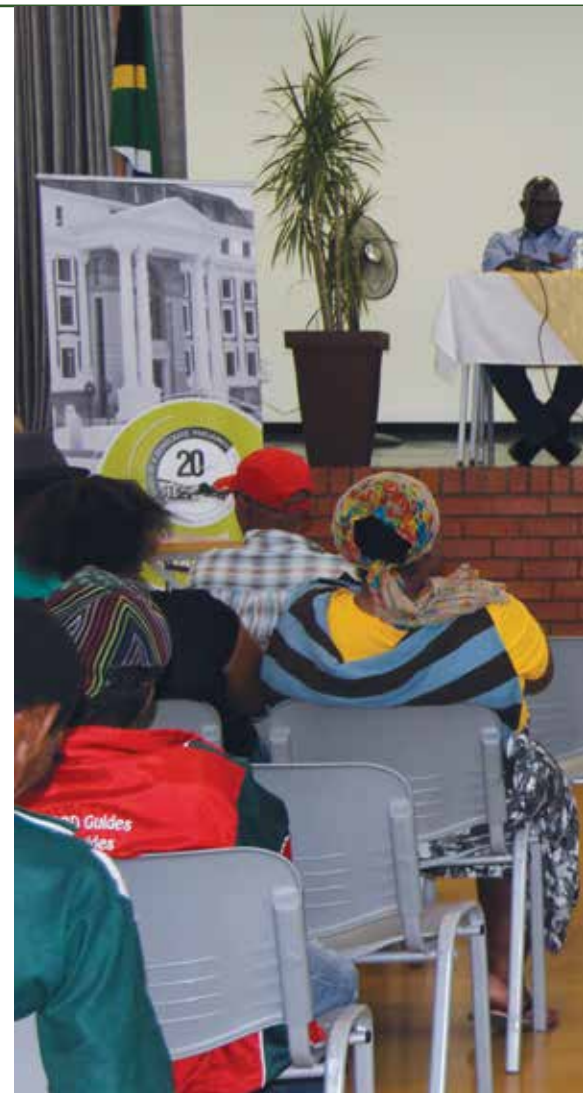
The Congress of South African Trade Unions' national coordinator, Mr Neil

Coleman, said there is no evidence anywhere in the world that the introduction of a national minimum wage would result in the loss of jobs and killing of small businesses.

"The issue of small business is not about wages but really about access to financial support, to markets and limited resources," said Mr Coleman.

Mr Coleman added that research around the world, in particular Brazil and Germany, indicates that passing minimum wage legislation results in the increase of workers' wages and this in turn increases people's ability to buy goods. "The wheel of the economy will start spinning. The growth of the country's economy is healthy for small businesses to thrive and stay alive."

He said currently "collective bargaining is under attack, the apartheid wage structure is not fundamentally altered – the majority of black workers, particularly in the private sector, continue to live in poverty, many bargaining council agreements are way below the minimum living level (about R4 500



to R5 500 pm) and there are huge, and increasing, inequalities between the levels of the wage structure".

Mr Coleman said he agreed with a statement made by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa in an address to a National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) workshop on inequality and labour instability held in Johannesburg last weekend.

There Mr Ramaphosa had said: "South Africa needs to find an approach to a national minimum wage that significantly improves the lives of workers, that reduces inequality, that lifts people out of poverty, and that contributes to economic growth and job creation."

A different view from the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sacci) is that South Africa is not ready to introduce a national minimum wage. Mr Andrew Layman, Sacci's executive consultant, said: "The country's slow economic growth



HEAR OUR DEMANDS: At one of the public hearings on minimum wage legislation.

and high unemployment rate are indicators that we should wait until our economy is at the right level and is stable before we introduce the national minimum wage."

He said South Africa has too many impediments to employment – legislation, red tape, wage demands, adversarial employer/employee relations, strikes and demonstrations – making this not a good time to introduce a national minimum wage. He said the focus now should instead be on achieving accelerated economic growth.

"The national minimum wage will discourage employers to hire more people. It does not help to have few people with wages that are too high [while] the majority of the people in our country are out of jobs and small business is suffocating," he said.

A number of other issues were raised on the best approach to implement the national minimum wage in a way that supports small businesses and

helps them thrive, grow the economy and bring down unemployment.

Mr Christo van der Rheede, Chief Executive Officer of the African Trade Institute, rejected the one-size-fits-all approach to the national minimum wage and said his organisation believes that sectoral determination in which different minimum wages are applied to different sectors is the way to build a strong economy.

"We must be very careful of making policies that will undermine the dignity of our workers and we must do everything to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship as this is one of the key solutions when it comes to building an economy."

Small businesses proposed that they be exempted from the national minimum wage to avoid having to pay wages that are too high for them to afford. However, Portfolio Committee members remained firmly of the view that the national minimum

wage is not aimed at collapsing small businesses but at genuinely improving the lives of poor people.

The legal adviser and programme coordinator of the Confederation of South African Workers' Unions, Ms Rene Govender, said her union would support any approach taken by the Committee as long as it does not negatively affect the economy. "Our concern is job losses for our workers. The national minimum wage must address the economic challenges and we don't want to see small businesses struggling to survive – this could negatively affect the growth of our economy," she said.

According to Mr Michael Bagraim, a member of the Portfolio Committee, trade unions are simply demanding that people must be paid, without any meaningful suggestions and contributions to the economy of scale, that is, a proportionate saving in costs gained by an increased level of production. 🇿🇦



Fifth Parliament launches strategic plan

The fifth Parliament takes the work of Parliament initiated in the first, second, third and fourth parliaments to the next level. The work deepens the values and ethos of democracy in South Africa as defined in the constitutional mandate of Parliament. That was what the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise, said when she welcomed Members of Parliament (MPs) and other guests at the launch of the fifth Parliament's Strategic Plan at Parliament at the beginning of June, writes **Mava Lukani**.

The launch of the fifth Parliament's Strategic Plan concretises a new vision, approach and revived impetus to the work of Parliament. The fifth Parliament's new vision is: "An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality

of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society."

Ms Modise told Members of Parliament that the democratic Parliament has succeeded in its role of being at the forefront of the

project of the democratisation of South Africa. "Parliament is the pillar of democracy in South Africa and has never wavered in carrying out its work to new heights according to its mandate."

She said that work resulted in the development of the oversight and accountability model, which included the review of parliamentary rules, the adoption of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, and a significant increase in research and content capacity related to oversight activities.

South Africa's first two democratic Parliaments directed their legislative efforts at repealing apartheid legislation and removing all traces



LINE UP AT THE LAUNCH: (From left) House Chairperson of the NCOP Ms MC Dikgale, Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP Mr Raseriti Tau, Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Baleka Mbete, Chairperson of the NCOP Ms Thandi Modise, House Chairperson of the National Assembly Mr Cedric Frolick, House Chairperson of the NA Ms MG Boroto, House Chairperson of the NCOP Mr AJ Nyambi and the Secretary to Parliament Mr Gengezi Mgidlana.

The launch of Parliament's Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2019 was the climax of a process of in-depth deliberations that had started soon after the May 2014 election. From 18 to 20 August 2014, the National Council of Provinces hosted a parliamentary workshop on key issues and policy priorities. This was followed by the formation of a multiparty working group in the National Assembly, which conducted planning sessions in October and November of that year.

The result was a new policy priorities document, derived from the Constitution, public mandate and the long-term objectives that were identified for the fifth term and beyond. Addressing Members of the National Assembly (NA) during Parliament's 2015 Budget Vote debate that took place in the NA on the eve of the launch of the fifth Parliament's Strategic Plan. The Speaker of the NA, Ms Baleka Mbete, told MPs the fifth Parliament's new vision is a fitting one for the institution, which according to her, must have a new approach and have a new impetus in deepening democracy in South Africa.

Ms Mbete said in providing orientation for the work of MPs in the fifth Parliament and along the development path of the National Development Plan (NDP), Members have been influenced by the injunctions of the Constitution: that is, "the quest for Parliament to serve the people by supporting the Members and the desire to fulfill the needs of our people".

She said this meant the fifth Parliament's strategy and objectives are aimed at ensuring that MPs accelerate the pace of development by passing enabling laws, exercising effective oversight on the plans of government, facilitating meaningful participation of the public in the

legislative processes and facilitating the participation of Parliament in international affairs for the realisation of its objectives.

According to Ms Mbete, the objectives of the fifth Parliament have been carefully considered "to enable a process of re-engineering the parliamentary administration in order to gather the necessary skill sets; provide the appropriate leadership; contribute towards effective policy making, monitoring and evaluation; and facilitate the implementation of the NDP by exercising effective and rigorous oversight".

She said the parliamentary administration is expected to align its Annual Performance Plans accordingly to see Parliament performing its role in leading the rigorous oversight of key government policies through its oversight and accountability mechanisms.

In his opening remarks at the launch of Parliament's Strategic Plan programme, the Secretary to Parliament, Mr Gengezi Mgidlana, said the fifth Parliament is ready to continue the transformation agenda to build an equal society that reflects the national aspirations set out in the Constitution – aspirations that include the creation of an open society in which government is based on the will of the people and commitment to building a united and democratic South Africa. He said overseeing the implementation of the NDP will be the central theme of the fifth Parliament.

The following strategic priorities were identified for the fifth Parliament: strengthening oversight and accountability; enhancing public involvement; deepening engagement in international forums; strengthening co-operative government; and strengthening legislative capacity. 🇿🇦

of it from the statute books. These 10 years were focused on nation-building, reconciliation and unity. The third and fourth Parliaments were characterised by an activist approach to its work. This was the start of building a Public Participation Framework for national and provincial legislatures. The focus at this time was responding to the expectations of the public, and building greater participatory democracy.

"Building on the work done by the previous parliaments, the fourth Parliament in particular concretised instruments to strengthen oversight and accountability. These included the establishment of the Parliamentary Budget Office to provide independent, objective and professional analyses and advice to Parliament on matters related to the Budget and other money Bills," Ms Modise said at the launch.

Parliament uses budget in fight for better life for all

Parliament's *Presiding Officers, National Assembly (NA) Speaker Ms Baleka Mbete and National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise, declared their commitment to translating the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Freedom Charter into actual economic development and a better life for all during the term of the fifth democratic Parliament, writes Sakhile Mokoena.*

They were speaking at Parliament's Budget Vote in late May. This is Parliament's opportunity to say how it intends to spend the allocation granted to it in the Minister of Finance's Budget released in February. Parliament's Budget Vote debate brings to an end the annual season of budget vote debates in which each government department, the Presidency and Parliament are required to outline their spending plans for the 2015/16 financial year.

All the budget votes demonstrated that government departments' plans and projects are aligned to the NDP, which the Presiding Officers explained was adopted by the fourth Parliament as a plan to end hunger and poverty in South Africa. The NDP found its first expression in the Freedom Charter of 1955, which was signed in Kliptown, Johannesburg.

Through their tabling of Parliament's Budget Vote, Ms Modise and Ms Mbete pledged to ensure that Parliament continues to fight for a better life for ordinary citizens. Coming as it did the day before the launch of the fifth Parliament's strategic plan, the vote was a timely

commitment to Parliament's plans for the future.

Ms Modise said Parliament must make sure that the executive and other spheres of government demonstrate how they will breathe life into the NDP through their planned activities and resources in their strategic plans, annual performance plans (APPs) and budgets. She said the NDP epitomised the basic edicts of the Freedom Charter. Parliament's adoption of the plan, she said, served as a foundation for a partnership across society to achieve the long-held dreams articulated in the Constitution.

"Recent events show that we can't relax – low and slow economic recovery, accelerating global warming, and increasing world disasters have not enabled South Africa and the rest of the world the space to address the increasing levels of joblessness and accompanying poverty, resource and skills scarcity, and escalating levels of conflict across the world," Ms Modise said.

The NDP argues that to achieve a capable state, South Africa must

"strengthen delegation, accountability and oversight and make it easier for citizens to hold public servants and politicians accountable, particularly for the quality of service delivery".

Ms Mbete said according to the NDP, "South Africa must translate political emancipation into economic well-being for all in order to accelerate progress, deepen democracy and build a more inclusive society." She said the plan encapsulates the country's aspirations to eradicate poverty, increase employment and reduce inequality.

"It has elevated the task of building a capable and developmental state to a higher priority. It is our role as Parliament to ensure that the ideals in the Constitution and the vision of the NDP are translated into accelerated action," the Speaker said.

Ms Mbete said that no democracy can endure and flourish if the majority of the people remained in poverty, without land and without tangible prospects for a better life.

"Persistent systemic challenges mean that we must confront the fundamental, structural and distributional inconsistencies that impact on poverty, inequality and unemployment. Our ongoing task continues to be to accelerate progress, deepen democracy and translate political emancipation into economic inclusion and well-being for all our people. These immense challenges require parliamentary action on a



Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Baleka Mbete



Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Ms Thandi Modise

broader level and on an ongoing basis," Ms Mbete said.

She said Parliament recognised the urgency to do things differently and more effectively to realise the ideals of the Freedom Charter and the Bill of Rights in the Constitution.

"In light of the tenuous situation in some municipalities, we must use the instruments of the Intergovernmental Relations Act to engender calm and stability, and ensure a sharper focus on service delivery so that we can all work single-mindedly to achieve the strategic goals of the NDP. For the fifth parliamentary term, we have undertaken to further consolidate and deepen the legislative sector's collaboration and focus, in particular the implementation of the NDP."

Contributing to the debate on Parliament's Budget Vote, NA Member for the National Freedom Party Mr Mandlenkosi Mabika said Parliament's budget allocation represented a nominal increase of 3,95%, which is below the inflation rate. "But in effect this represents a reduction of 0,86% in real terms over the 2014/15 budget. This reduction might impact negatively on the proposed rollout of Parliament Democracy Offices (PDOs) to the remaining six provinces where such offices have not yet been established. [There are PDOs in Limpopo, North West and Northern Cape provinces.] Public participation in the functioning of Parliament is

of utmost importance if we truly wish to claim that our democracy is grassroots-based.

"It is not enough for citizens to go to the voting polls once every five years and then claim that there is democracy. Democracy is much more than merely making a cross on the ballot paper every five years. Real democracy means that the people shall govern, and not only through their elected representatives, but also through a mechanism which will afford them a direct voice in Parliament," Mr Mabika said.

House Chairperson: International Relations in the NA, Ms Mmatlala Boroto, said there was a need for Parliament to ensure that the people it represents at national level are also represented at international level.

"The National Development Plan gives impetus to our international participation, and has clearly defined strategic objectives. Parliament, in pursuit of its role in international relations, co-operation and participation, and as guided by South Africa's foreign policy, actively participates in various regional, continental and international forums to promote the African Agenda and to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063. Chapter 7 of the National Development Plan makes it clear that South Africa must establish strategic partnerships among individual partners based on strategic

and political priorities," the House Chairperson said.

The United Democratic Movement's Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa said: "I believe there is scope for our Parliament to partner with sister parliaments on the continent in the campaign against illicit financial flows, transfer pricing, tax evasion and other problems that confront the African continent."

Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP Mr Raseriti Tau said parliaments "are one of the key institutions of democracy that play an important role in terms of legislation, oversight and representation. Taking cognisance of the relevance of the Freedom Charter today, the South African Parliament and the NCOP in particular must continue to play a decisive role through its oversight mechanisms in order to make our developmental agenda implementable," Mr Tau said.

Parliament's budget allocation for the 2015/16 financial year is R2070.1bn compared to the R1989.2bn allocated in the 2014/15 financial year. This budget is divided into five programmes: administration R459.6m; legislation and oversight R375.5m; public and international participation R133.2m; members' facilities R234.2m; associated services R364.5m. In addition, Parliament has a direct charge to the National Revenue Fund for member's remuneration amounting to R503.1m. 📊

Cuban Five show solidarity with Parliament



FISTS HIGH IN TRIBUTE: Visiting Robben Island, the Cuban Five, from left Mr Rene Gonzalez, Mr Fernando Gonzalez, Mr Ramón Labañino, Mr Antonio Guerrero and Mr Gerardo Hernández.

The visit of the Cuban Five to Parliament was in itself something of a mini-diplomatic revolution. For a single day representatives of a far-off country, with its own development challenges, but with whom we share a history of struggle, were guests of the democratic Parliament of the post-apartheid South Africa that their ongoing support has helped to build. *Sibongile Maputi* was there.

"The struggles and resoluteness of the Cuban people are an embodiment of South Africa's struggle for a fair and just society. Your suffering has shown the world that a just society is possible," Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, said in welcoming the delegation.

He said he struggled to express in words the excitement the Cuban Five's presence had generated in the country,

and emphasised that the South African Parliament had, in solidarity with the international community, passed resolutions calling for the release of the Cuban Five, and an end to the trade blockade that the United States imposed on Cuba for more than 50 years.

The Cuban Five were arrested in 1998 and charged for espionage activities in the US. They were charged and sentenced to lengthy jail terms and life

sentences, resulting in an international campaign for an end to their unjust imprisonment in 2013 and 2014.

A special committee meeting under the stewardship of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation was set up to arrange this meeting at Parliament.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Siphosizwe Masango, acknowledged Cuba's "internationalist and progressive approach in international politics".

"Cuba worked hard in ensuring that former colonies, mostly African, attained independence. Notably in South Africa's case was the Cubans'

involvement in Angola. Cuba sent well over 300 000 soldiers to fight the South African Defence Force (SADF) when it sometimes invaded neighbouring countries in search of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) bases in its resolve to eliminate MK soldiers," he said.

The historic battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988 in which the Cuban intervention in Angola defeated the SADF was one of the turning points in Southern African history. It led to the withdrawal of the South African presence in Angola, and ultimately forced South Africa to withdraw from Namibian territory.

Mr Masango acknowledged that three of the Cuban Five were among the 300 000 Cuban soldiers deployed in Angola at various times in history. "The battle was so decisive. Cuba, indeed, had fought over many years on various international platforms for a free and democratic South Africa," he said.

Cuban Ambassador, Mr Carlos Fernandez de Cossio Dominguez, contextualised the significance of the visit, saying Cuba "is proud to have South Africa as a friend".

"The next step is to develop a relationship of trust and of sharing experiences. The Cubans appreciate the fact that this Parliament passed resolutions calling for both the release of the Cuban Five, and the end to the blockade," he said.

All portfolio Committees in the Peace and Security cluster as well as the Committees on Culture and Health attended the meeting. Members were unanimous in recognising Cuba's role in attaining freedom in South Africa. A member of the Cuban Five, Mr Gerardo Hernandez Nordelo, told the Committees that like South Africa, Cuba has suffered the loss of too many lives.

"We [fought] for independence, true independence," he said. "We are willing

to have respectful relations with the US; America never accepted the reality that Cuba had to be independent and sovereign. Cuba has a right (to be) in existence. And part of its genetic make-up is to be in solidarity with the people of the world," he said.

"We will not stop doing this even if the relations are warm or cold with the US."

He said Cuba has stood in solidarity with the people of Africa since the earliest anti-colonial struggles. "It will continue to be that way," he said. In thanking the Five, Health Committee member Dr Patrick Mayisela said the Cubans were willing to sacrifice their greatest possession, which is life, for the freedom of the Southern African region.

"Their involvement brought about the decisive moment in our struggle; otherwise we'd still be struggling even today. These were the people who fought side by side with us without expectations for reward. We can't really thank you," he said.

Committee member Mr Mosiuoa Lekota said the visit puts faces to the Cuban Five. "That you are here shows that the remnants of the Cold War are still there. Our collective duty is to clean them out, to ensure a world free of oppression," Mr Lekota said.

The leader of the Cuban Five delegation, Mr Fernando Gonzalez Llort, related his experiences in a US prison and said the torture was unbearable.

"One of my brothers here served two life sentences and 15 years in prison. That means he dies in prison, comes back, dies again in the next life, and serves 15 years in prison. This was a complicated situation and tough," he joked.

"We are here today because of

you, because of the huge solidarity movement that was built all over the world. Cubans have a high responsibility with the people of Africa. The most important resource in our country is human beings; this is what makes a revolution possible," he said.

He said former President Nelson Mandela was both a teacher and inspiration for the Cuban Five, and that they kept pictures of him in their cells alongside those of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro.

"Mandela taught the world peace and how not to be vengeful. The struggle continues. We are now facing a more complicated world; we have to fight terrorism. The (trade) blockade is intact in Cuba," he said.

Committee member Mr Bheki Radebe said Africa will forever be indebted to the Cuban people, who assisted Southern Africa attain its independence, but never then rushed to set up businesses that would plunder African resources.

Committee member Mr Steven Mokgalapa had previously called on the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to establish foreign relations from the perspective of economic diplomacy.

"South Africa has invested so much in Cuba-South African relations and yet it is not receiving the returns. Our involvement in Cuba had been politically focused and not oriented towards business relations. South Africa should move aggressively in this area," Mr Mokgalapa said.

The Cuban Five were later taken on a tour of Robben Island where they visited Mandela's cell. They said that setting foot on the Island was like meeting former president Nelson Mandela in person. 🇿🇦



UNITE AGAINST NYAOPE: Learners gather around Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications, Ms Nkhensani Kubayi, at a meeting of an anti-drugs campaign she is spearheading in her constituency.

MP leads war on nyaope

A campaign against nyaope – an addictive drug which is a concoction of heroine, dagga, ARVs (antiretroviral drugs) and other substances – is bearing fruit in Tshwane townships. **Cedric Mboyisa** joined a Member of Parliament on her constituency work where this was raised.

The “Unite Against Nyaope Campaign” is spearheaded by Ms Nkhensani Kubayi, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications and Postal Services. The initiative has become one of Ms Kubayi’s key priorities of her constituency work. She has partnered with the Judith Sephuma Foundation. Ms Sephuma is a renowned singer who is passionate about issues pertaining to youth development.

The collaboration between the politician and singer saw them visit Mabopane High School in Tshwane to create awareness about the dangers of using nyaope, which has wreaked havoc among young people in the Tshwane area. “You must say no to drugs and alcohol abuse,” Ms Kubayi told learners. Ms Sephuma had some advice for the youngsters: “Live your life and live it well. You have the power to change your life for the better.”

The event at the school included a play about the dangers of using nyaope,

a motivational talk by Ms Sephuma and a talk by the South African Police Service. Learners were encouraged to stay away from nyaope as it had an effect on users to the extent they end up committing crimes and making mistakes which could cost them their lives. Some learners confessed to being addicted to the drug and came forward seeking help and asking to go to a rehabilitation centre so they could get their lives in order. Ms Kubayi appealed to learners to report those who were peddling nyaope. Sponsors such as Pick n Pay, Danone, SAB (South African Breweries) and Nestle made contributions towards the event.

As part of her constituency work, Ms Kubayi has been going from school to school and holding public meetings in her endeavour to fight the dangerous drug. Her efforts have led to some police officers having to face the music after it came to light that they were in cahoots with those who sold nyaope to young people. “This (nyaope) is a

big problem for our youth. This could destroy their future. Nyaope remains a big challenge in townships around Pretoria. We need to stand together and fight this horrible drug,” said Ms Kubayi.

Ms Kubayi said it was a daunting task to fight nyaope at first. Nyaope was initially not classified as an illegal drug. She had to enlist the services of the provincial (Gauteng) government in her fight against the destructive drug. Many community members complained that nyaope peddlers were arrested but released soon afterwards without any explanation from the police. Through Ms Kubayi’s relentless efforts, it was later discovered that some police officers were somehow involved. As a result, some police officers were suspended or axed.

Meanwhile, Ms Kubayi is also helping academically gifted learners from the Tshwane region to get bursaries or scholarships to further their studies. She and her parliamentary constituency office are planning a career day for learners to help them decide what fields to pursue after school. 📚

KZN village has ‘never had service delivery’

Villagers *who call themselves the neglected and forgotten people in a KwaZulu-Natal community expressed their bitterness at the fact that their village has never received any service delivery in any form from the provincial government, Cedric Mboyisa tells their story.*

Residents of KwaNcazolo, a rural village in Mzumbe on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal, say their place has never had any “proper development” since the advent of democracy in 1994. “We have no proper road, no electricity, no RDP (Reconstruction and Development Programme) houses, no water, no clinic, no community hall and no sports ground,” said Ms Nobuhle Cele.

Inkatha Freedom Party Member of Parliament, Mr Mntomuhle Khawula, visited the community as part of his constituency work. Due to lack of facilities in the area, the community meeting had to be held in an open field with sun-scorched grass near Ebumbeni Primary School, the only school in the village. They call the meeting spot “a hall”. Sometimes it rains while they are

holding public meetings.

The locals did not mince their words as they lamented their current situation. “We drink water which reeks of cows’ urine,” said Mr Methenjwa Dlamini, a headman. He added that his village had never seen any proper development. “We are neglected. My grandfather dreamt of a proper road for this village. Then my father wished for the same thing. It never happened. My generation is pursuing the same dream. Nothing has happened yet,” said Mr Dlamini.

Community member after community member rose to complain about the lack of development in KwaNcazolo. Nobody had anything positive to say. Those in attendance were the youth and old people. The women and girls

expressed their concern about Ebumbeni Primary School, saying the school does not have Grade 7, the highest grade there is Grade 6. This situation forces local learners to travel long distances in pursuit of education. Hence, they said, there is a need for the provision of learner transport.

There is a huge forest called Ntimbankulu which locals said was being used by ruthless criminals as their hideout. Nobody dares walk next to the feared forest – residents claim people have been killed in the forest and had their body parts cut off. They want something done about the forest because it has become a source of fear for many villagers. One of their suggestions is that a road, which will cut through the forest and connect them to the main road, must be built.

In his response, Mr Khawula said he would take up the issues of the community with the relevant people, authorities and departments. But he stressed that some issues such as the one relating to the local school have to be dealt with by the school governing body so that they can have Grade 7 classes. He said he would raise some of their problems in Parliament. He will also write to the Premier of the province (KZN) alerting him to the plight of the residents of KwaNcazolo.

Regarding the learner transport matter, he will bring it to the attention of the Education MEC. As for the clinic issue, he said he would speak to the Ugu District Municipality. He promised community members he would give them feedback once he had heard from the relevant authorities pertaining to the community’s problems. 🙏

GETTING TO THE GRASSROOTS: IFP Member of Parliament Mr Mntomuhle Khawula addressing the villagers. He promised to take up their issues with the relevant authorities.



Improving the lives of young people

Access *to both education and employment opportunities were identified as the common issues that young people are grappling with during a Youth Day debate that took place in June, reports Elijah Moholola.*



REMEMBERING JUNE 16: Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa makes a point

Held under the theme “Progressively implementing the Freedom Charter by advancing our collective efforts for sustainable national youth development by 2030,” Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Mr Buti Manamela, outlined some of the measures that have been put in place by the government to ensure that young people’s lives are improved.

“The Presidential Working Group on Youth (PWG) represents the first giant step by the President to take further work that has been done for the last 21 years to change the quality of life of young people. The PWG with a task team of 17 deputy ministers will not only ensure that the national youth policy (NYP) is implemented, it will also ensure that youth development becomes the business of everyone in government, civil society, business and in all our communities.

“We have listened to young people,

through the consultative process of the NYP 2020, who called upon government to accelerate action in jobs, education, skills development, support for youth business, and the fight against drugs and substance abuse. Thus, the PWG has instructed us to accelerate the implementation of the Youth Employment Accord, and many other government policies in responding to the challenges facing young people,” Mr Manamela said.

He added that the immediate target was the finalisation of the National Youth Service Framework, which seeks to recruit one million young people within the next two years. Mr Manamela said the government would lobby for additional funding for youth businesses and co-operatives as an add-on to the R2.7bn allocated by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Small Enterprise

Finance Agency (Sefa) together with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

According to Mr Manamela, one of the challenges giving the government “sleepless nights” is that “one in three young people are unemployed” and “more than 2.5 million young people are idling and not economically active”.

Quoting the words of the late opposition leader Mr Harry Schwartz “Freedom is incomplete if it is exercised in poverty”, the Democratic Alliance’s Ms Terri Stander said political freedom was meaningless to young people if there was no opportunity. “There is a young man in Daveyton, Gauteng, who completed his first year of study successfully at Tshwane University of Technology on National Student Financial Aid

Scheme (NSFAS) funding in 2011. He was doing information technology and passed all his subjects with high grades.

"However, when he applied to renew his funding for a second year, the NSFAS offices told him they were too busy with first-year applications and he would have to come back at a later stage. He went back and queued at their offices no less than 12 times, only to be told there was no funding for him. He was forced to drop out. What is he doing now? Just sitting. Is this the future you have to look forward to as a young person in South Africa? No, it is not!"

Mr Floyd Shivambu, the Economic Freedom Fighters' Chief Whip, said in the transition from childhood dependence to adulthood independence, young people need access to – among other things – education, healthcare, land and economic opportunities. "The transition in South Africa is longer than usual because the majority of our people do not have access to basic opportunities. There were less than 300 000 spaces available at first-year level in all the TVET colleges and institutions of higher learning this year. But the system at secondary level had produced more than a million children who need access to education."

The Inkatha Freedom Party's Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa referred to the youth of 1976, who he said were a victim of a systematic and well-orchestrated assault on their education and future which, had it been left unchallenged, would have prolonged apartheid. "Similarly, 21 years into our freedom and democracy and 39 years since 16 June 1976 the education system is a far

cry from what is needed to respond positively to the collective needs of the job market, leaving the youth in an economic wilderness, jobless, hopeless and unable to contribute," he said.

The lack of youth empowerment was also pointed out by Mr Sibusiso Mncwabe of the National Freedom Party. "Firstly, we believe that youth empowerment can be attained through access to empowerment opportunities. Poverty is the biggest threat to our democracy and unemployment the single most important obstacle in the way of our young people realising their full potential. Secondly, we believe youth empowerment can be attained through quality education."

The United Democratic Movement's Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa had different statistics to Mr Manamela's, saying that approximately six out of 10 young people were unemployed. "I will never forget the day in 2012 when 10 000 people, mainly young people, queued for hours in Durban to apply for 30 learnership programmes. In addition to the unemployment problem is a poor education system that does very little to help our young people to break the cycle of poverty. It educates our young people for a permanent existence in the second economy."

The African Christian Democratic Party's Ms Cheryllyn Dudley pointed out that the MPs had to consider the mantra, "nothing about us without us" as they debated. "Sadly, with no Youth Parliament on the agenda, this debate will be seen as old people talking about the youth without the youth," she said. Regardless of the challenges faced by the youth, Ms Dudley said South Africa's potential to

develop and grow depended on the degree to which this generation rose above obstacles to find solutions to problems facing society.

The youth of today are expected to be future leaders who can contribute fully towards social and economic transformation, said Mr Steven Jaftha of the African Independent Congress. "We need to encourage the youth to follow the good example of the youth of 1976. The youth of South Africa is still facing challenges like poor-quality education and unemployment, and many live on the streets," he said.

For Mr Andries Tlouamma of AgangSA, the educational and economic development of the youth should not be politicised. "The government has opened a lot of doors for our young people. Unfortunately they gave the keys to the wrong people. We believe that quality education is the foundation for resolving the youth unemployment crisis."

While expressing support for the concept of youth development, the Pan-Africanist Congress's (PAC's) Mr Luthando Mbinda pointed out that the structure the government had in place could not make such development sustainable. "The PAC has all these years called for a youth ministry and we still would like to persuade this government to move away from these loose arrangements of some desk in the Presidency or a youth development agency that floats – today it is part of the Labour Department, tomorrow Trade and Industry and the next day Small Business Development. Structurally we must get cohesion." Mr Mbinda also called for free education up to the first degree or diploma, saying this was not a privilege but a right. 🇿🇦

The great value of education

Ms *Thandi Modise, now Parliament's Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), was one of those young people who fled South Africa in the wake of the June 1976 uprising and took up arms to fight against the apartheid regime. She writes this article in memory of that day.*

Education, if looked at beyond its conventional boundaries, forms the very essence of all our actions. What we do is what we know and have learned, either through instructions or through observation and assimilation. When we are not making an effort to learn, our mind is always processing new information or trying to analyse the similarities as well as the tiny nuances within the context which makes the topic stand out or seem different.

This interpretation of what education is, when linked with the profound statement made by the late president of the African National Congress (ANC), Oliver Reginald Tambo, who said: "Any society that negates the responsibility of investing in its youth, does so at its own peril", bears testimony to the importance of 16 June 1976, a day violently etched on the South African conscience.

On that fateful day, around 800 unarmed Soweto school children were either injured or killed when armed security police fired at them. Their crime: demanding an education equal to their white counterparts and that they be taught in a medium understood by them, to afford them an opportunity to escape the poverty trap and empower themselves.

The rationale behind the killing of young unarmed Soweto children has never been fully explained nor understood. However, it is critical to note that in

1976, the apartheid government had forcefully introduced the compulsory use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction from Grade 7, then Standard 5. This meant that subjects like maths and social sciences were to be taught in Afrikaans, while general science and practical subjects like home craft and woodwork would be taught in English. The reasoning behind this decision by the apartheid government was that African children were fast becoming "assertive" and with the pending introduction of television in 1976, it was felt that teaching young African children in Afrikaans would be a useful form of "discipline". It was no mistake that the apartheid government systematically designed the education of the African child to be of inferior quality to keep Africans at the lowest strata of the economy.

This was a ploy by the apartheid government to ensure that the African child remains illiterate, set up for a life of poverty, misery and ignorance. Armed with this knowledge, young Soweto children braved a cold winter morning on 16 June 1976, cognisant of the fact that in order for them to escape the shackles of poverty, they required an education.

Fast forward 39 years to 2015 and the ramifications of that day still reverberate through our consciousness and our daily reality. The class of 1976 dropped out of school in their thousands, while thousands of others fled their country of

birth, opting to wage an armed struggle against the repressive system through the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe. When we commemorate Youth Day, we need to ask ourselves the following: if children as young as 10 could march in the dead of winter demanding an equal education in 1976, have we, 39 years later, instilled the importance of education in the youth of today?

In 2013, during a memorial lecture in honour of the late ANC President General, Dr Alfred Bitini Xuma, President Jacob Zuma gave an overview of this truly remarkable man, whose life was influenced by a deep desire for education. Dr Xuma was born in 1893 into an aristocratic Xhosa family in Transkei. He was educated locally and rose from herd boy, houseboy, horse trainer, teacher, shipping clerk, hotel and train waiter, to eventually being one of the country's most influential black thinkers and leaders.

When he had completed his local primary school education, Dr Xuma went to the Maritzburg Training Institute to study teaching, later teaching at various schools and earning 14 pounds a term. His love for education saw Dr Xuma read in a self-help book about the numerous educational opportunities available in America. So in 1913 he sailed for New York, where he entered various institutions and universities, studying at night while working at the Alabama Steel Mills.

After graduating as a medical doctor, Dr Xuma went to Europe where he specialised in gynaecology and studied further in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Upon his return to South Africa in 1927, Dr Xuma opened a surgery in Sophiatown



COMMEMORATING THE YOUTH: Parliament is currently holding an exhibition of the iconic photographs by Mr Peter Magubane who was there at the start of the demonstration in Soweto. MP Mr Mnyamezeli Boozi and official from the Deputy Chairperson's Office Mr Kwazikwenkosi Mthethwa view the exhibits

and recruited into the ANC a large element of young educated people like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo, who would later form the ANC Youth League.

Listening to President Zuma's lecture on Dr Xuma, I was astounded that even in the midst of oppression and colonialism, education had changed Dr Xuma's life. Like him, many leaders of the ANC understood the pivotal role education had in transforming one's life for the better. Just as in 1976, our children also understood that the complete emancipation of the African would come through education.

In 1971, the founder of the Black Consciousness Movement Steve Bantu Biko said: "The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed." This is a profound statement, as indeed the shackles of our oppression can be removed through the liberation of our minds. The education we acquire affords us an opportunity to empower ourselves and with that comes the liberty to dream and have hope. Education is therefore the key to unlocking our complete emancipation as a people from the legacy of apartheid.

This year, as we celebrate 60 years

since the adoption of the Freedom Charter, which declared "the doors of learning shall be open and education accessible to all", a fitting tribute to those who died on that cold winter morning of 16 June 1976 would be to encourage young people to grasp all educational opportunities afforded to them by the government. Let us encourage children to learn and thus to dream, knowing that with education nothing is impossible. Let us educate children and ourselves, so that we indeed become "assertive", as feared by the apartheid regime and claim our rightful place in society, as an educated, skilled and proud people. 🇿🇦

Statues should tell story of all South Africans

During *a parliamentary debate on the relevance of symbols in a new democratic society, Members of Parliament were reminded that while they sat in the Chamber, just metres away were statues of colonial and apartheid leaders that served as daily reminders of South Africa's painful past, writes Abel Mputing.*



NEVER FORGET THE STRUGGLE: Parliament is lucky to have on loan a statue of Walter and Albertina Sisulu, created by Lungisa Kala and Tania Lee, from the National Heritage Monument Collection.

In his address to open the debate, the Minister of Arts and Culture Mr Nathi Mthethwa said that a Legacy Project which was started in 1998 it has been working to transform South Africa's heritage landscape to honour events and people who have played an important part in the country's history.

He commended the University of Cape Town's (UCT's) students for championing this cause, but condemned the destruction and defacing of statues. "The recent spate of vandalism of apartheid and colonial symbols should be discouraged. No statues should be destroyed. We must commend UCT students for taking up the issue of the transformation of these symbols, but we must condemn those who rode on

the bandwagon of an important matter affecting our society to advance their political ends."

He added that in response to the vandalism, the Department of Arts and Culture had formed a consultative forum of cultural and political stakeholders who were able to assess the shortcomings of the existing legislative framework meant to transform South Africa's heritage landscape. More importantly, he said, there was agreement about the need to promote key national symbols to improve civil awareness and national consciousness.

"As part of the response to these events, a national consultative meeting held a dialogue with various cultural and

political stakeholders. This meeting was also open to the scrutiny of the legislative framework meant to transform our heritage landscape. There was agreement that although there is an existing legislative framework on the transformation of our country's heritage symbols, the pace is slow. There was also agreement that whatever we do, it should be done within the rule of law.

"One of the major outcomes of this meeting was the drafting of 20 resolutions to popularise South Africa's key national symbols in schools to improve civil awareness and national consciousness, and ensure that we use existing laws to remove, transfer or replace public symbols and place names. The defacing of statues is criminal and

unlawful," the Minister said.

The parliamentary debate took place following the recent campaign to remove certain statues. Members of the National Assembly were divided between those who supported the removal of colonial symbols and those who wanted them to stay as a reminder of how far South Africa's democratic dispensation has come. The debate raised once again the relevance and significance of public history in upholding our country's national reconciliation and nation-building agenda.

Parliament should drive the debate about our shared public spaces and their discourse, said Member of Parliament for the Democratic Alliance Ms Phumzile van Damme. "It is absolutely important that we as parliamentarians have constructive discussions about our shared public spaces and what they need to look like. No one has a monopoly on the truth. Universities as intellectual hearts of our country should also be leading constructive debates on this important issue. Flinging poo and singing 'one settler, one bullet' is not helpful."

National Freedom Party MP Mr Maliyakhe Shelembe underscored the need to respect our Constitution and legislation as it makes provision for the protection of our collective heritage for purposes of nation-building. "While we support the revolutionary change that seeks to address the negative history of the past, we should be cautious that we do not divide our society. We favour an evolutionary approach based on well-considered intentions and the rule of law. It cannot be said that the recent defacing of statues and flinging of human waste at them resembles a pragmatic approach to change. Most significantly, we do not believe that such an act has contributed to nation-building either."

The debate on statues must be driven by the interest of reconciliation and nation-building. Hence, we should not allow anger and bitterness over our evil past to dictate South Africa's future, argued the leader of the African Christian Democratic Party Rev Kenneth Meshoe. "As we erect new statues and create new symbols, we should keep as much of the past as possible in the interest of national reconciliation and nation-building. Statues and monuments are part of our history that our children and future generations should learn about and remember."

The leader of the Congress of the People, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, urged: "We juxtapose symbols of both the present and our past to show the triumph of the human spirit over evil and oppression." He quoted former Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs to underscore his point. "Instead of extinguishing Rhodes, we should have kept him alive on the campus and forced him, even if posthumously, to witness surroundings that tell him and the world that he is now living in a constitutional democracy."

United Democratic Movement's MP Mr Mncedisi Filtane differed sharply with this view. "We don't need statues that insult us and remind us of our past, any more than Israel needs a statue of Hitler to remind Jews of how their state came into being. No, we have history books and classes to teach us that."

"We know that the history of our past is bad and painful to others and therefore it would be best if they are kept in museums and heritage sites not in public spaces," said Mr Steven Jafta of the African Independent Congress. "We support the idea that those symbols or statues representing the apartheid era, which are offensive to other citizens of this country, must be taken away from public sites and kept in special

museums and heritage sites for those South Africans believing in them and for historical records."

"History must be depicted correctly and accurately," claimed Mr Luthando Mbinda of the Pan-Africanist Congress. "We currently live in a society that is reflective of a false history, a highly incomplete history that reflects white supremacy. We support the removal of statues of apartheid. The history of a transformed nation cannot be depicted by the prominence of individuals who perpetuated genocide. Where are the statues of our African heroes?"

The incompleteness of our history places the burden on transformation to correct the wrongs of the past, said Mr Gregory Grootboom, a Democratic Alliance MP. "The history of South Africa has been unkind to people of colour. In the past the contribution made by black people to the collective history of the world was ignored. We are here at this particular time in history to ensure that there is fairness in the way in which history is portrayed."

The resistance towards transformation is a betrayal of our liberation struggle. It is our duty to continue to fight until South Africa's heritage landscapes tell a story of all South Africans, said the African National Congress's Ms Sibongile Tsoleli. "Statues of Jan Smuts and Jan van Riebeeck down Adderley Street in Cape Town, just behind us, are a painful reminder to an African, coloured or Khoisan person of colonial subjugation. When we raise the need to transform the [heritage] landscape to feel accommodated, we get lame excuses about the excessive cost implications and inconvenience to the city maps and directions. The guardians of white monopoly do not care about the painful feelings of the previously marginalised groups in this country," she said. 🌍

Tracing Freedom Charter roots go back 60 years

June marks the 60th anniversary of the Congress of the People, held in Kliptown outside Johannesburg, where the Freedom Charter was officially adopted as the policy of the ANC and its allies. To mark this historical cornerstone **Abel Mputing** spoke to a former Member of Parliament Professor Ben Turok who was there on that day and actually contributed to one of its clauses.

A long-standing member of the ANC who spent years in exile, Professor Turok, described the significance of the document upon which South Africa's political freedom and constitutional democracy is based as our country's "political bible".

"All our documents – whether it's our Constitution, the New Growth Path or the National Development Plan – have certain basic assumptions to fight poverty and to ensure that there is equality, economic development and human rights for all. All those principles and values emanate from the Freedom Charter."

Such significance does he attribute to the Freedom Charter that he says he would like to see a huge score sheet on Parliament's grounds with of the Freedom Charter and every year we should measure our achievements against them. Not through the erection of yet another statue or monument. I am against such tokenism," he said.

Professor Turok pointed out: "There is no political speech or policy document in South Africa today that does not locate itself within the vision of the Freedom Charter. Even the preamble of our Constitution is derived from it. It is our political bible, and it will continue to be."

To this day the Freedom Charter remains one of the policy documents adopted

by the ANC that has not been amended since its inception.

"I have been to all ANC policy conferences since freedom and one of the things that has interested me is that in all these conferences the Freedom Charter has always been reaffirmed in its original form; it has never been amended. That is quite remarkable for a document so old to endure the current South African political turbulence without any amendments. I find that quite pleasing and remarkable."

Although the concept of the Freedom Charter was a brainchild of the ANC Western Cape Chairperson at the time, Professor ZK Mathews, and was organised by the ANC, Professor Turok emphasises that it was a non-sectarian effort.

"In 1953, the ANC held a conference in Queenstown. I was there helping a journalist from the New Age newspaper. At this conference Prof ZK Mathews made a speech in which he proposed that there should be a conference that will lead to the inception of the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter was in essence his brainchild.

"At the Congress of the People there were people who were not members of the ANC. In fact, we went all out to make sure that people who attended this congress were not only members of

the ANC. We worked through the ANC but the Congress of the People included other organisations."

Organisationally, he links the Freedom Charter to the ANC's notion of a broad church that has allegiance to various ideologies that are bound by the conviction to attain freedom and democracy.

Professor Turok was the deputy chairperson of the Western Cape Action Council for the Congress of the People Committee that mobilised ordinary people in that province for participation in the Congress of the People.

"As a deputy chair of the Cape Provincial Action Council of the Congress, one of my tasks was to organise and prepare for the congress and contact many organisations to get them to the Congress of the People. I was active in many townships and we addressed the people and explained the purpose of the Congress of the People.

"We then called for demands that were written down on papers torn from exercise books, on scraps of foolscap and on the back of our own leaflets and sent them to Johannesburg to be inserted into the draft of the Freedom Charter."

He was asked to write the economic clause of the Freedom Charter, and to this day that remains one of the most memorable roles he played in the inception of this revered document. "I was asked to write a draft for the economic clause of the Freedom Charter. We were later invited to the meeting of the speakers where I presented my draft. I read it carefully

and while reading it I felt it was inadequate and I said so and somebody suggested I draft an amendment.

"I did and my amendment was supported by Billy Nair. It was then presented to an organising committee which approved it. To my pleasant surprise my contribution was adopted as the economic clause of the Freedom Charter and still is to this day."

He recalls that when he presented his economic clause at the Congress of the People in 1955 in Kliptown, Soweto, he was a nervous 28-year-old young man on the verge of finishing his engineering degree.

"I was made nervous by the fact that for the first time in my life I was going to address thousands of people

who came to witness the inception of the Freedom Charter. When my turn came to present the economic clause, I realised the presence of hundreds of security police on motor bikes and on horseback milling around the venue and that made me even more nervous.

"Fortunately, we did not have speeches because it was risky to be found to be in possession of a political speech then. We had summaries of notes. After our presentations, the police took our notes and presented them at the Treason Trial in 1956. But the police who took them were illiterate and we managed to evade imprisonment.

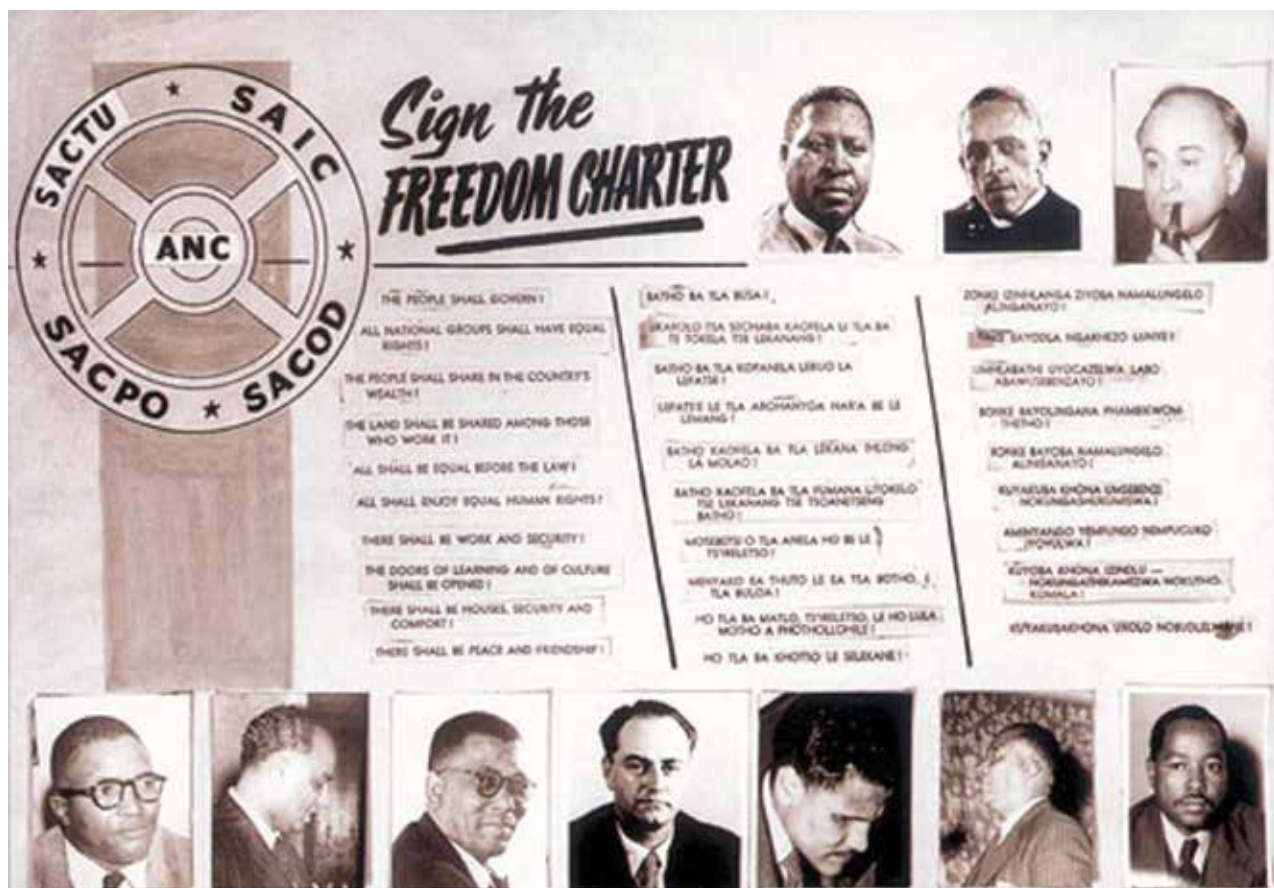
"The fact that there were no speeches and the notes we read from were confiscated makes this event part of

South Africa's oral political history."

The lasting legacy of the Freedom Charter is its vision and its concrete goals aimed to address the problems of the time, Prof Turok said.

"The importance of the Freedom Charter is that it sets up visions and goals for our future, many of which we have not achieved. I think the country is sleeping. There are too many crises. I think some of the leadership's decisions have to be questioned.

"On too many indexes we are underperforming. South Africa is growing at 1.5% while China is growing at 6%, India at 7% and Africa at 5%. Why are we the worst performer in Africa when we have a visionary document to guide us – that is what disturbs me greatly," he said. 🇿🇦





The road travelled from Freedom Charter to NDP

Dr *Mathole Motshekga, MP and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, looks back on 60 years since the Freedom Charter and concludes South Africa can, shall, and will become the country envisioned in the Freedom Charter and the National Development Plan (NDP), despite challenges he identifies in only one area, namely socio-economic development.*

The Freedom Charter is a very simple document, easy to read and understand, short and straight to the point. "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white," "No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial," and so on. Its detail is in its language which does not lend itself to any misinterpretation or confusion.

It was developed as a vision for ordering a free, democratic and a prosperous South Africa. It is what all South African parties should ideally regard as their manifesto. Its vision cuts across political, economic and social issues.

With the abolition of apartheid colonialism, the advent of democracy, the adoption of the Constitution and South Africa's multiparty system, we can proclaim that the political vision of the Freedom Charter has been achieved. It is only the socio-economic aspects that have not been fully attained.

On the other hand, the NDP is extensive and touches on the same socio-economic issues, with some considerable detail, on how to realise the South Africa we want by 2030.

These two documents were drawn up under different epochs. The one at the height of apartheid colonialism (60 years ago) and the other 18 years after South Africa had achieved its political freedom. The Freedom Charter continues to be a political programme for the majority

party as, after 21 years of democracy, we continue to seek to achieve many of its aspirations, especially the socio-economic aspirations. Some have proclaimed the NDP as the embodiment of the Freedom Charter, while others have unilaterally dismissed it as neo-liberal hotchpotch, ideologically miles apart from the Freedom Charter. However those who have rejected the NDP have not dealt with all its aspects, but the ideological, neo-liberal versus the socialist economic critique. Does this mean we should throw the baby out with the bath-water? Certainly not!

Since the NDP was adopted by the Cabinet in 2012 as the blueprint for South Africa's vision and development, we need to focus on what works and continuously revise what does not. This could be achieved through implementation. However, such implementation should not shut the door to critical policy reflection on those aspects of the NDP that remain contentious. It should be a living document, open to revision and improvement.

In June 2011, the National Planning Commission released a Diagnostic Overview together with five reports covering human conditions, material conditions, nation building, the economy, and institutions, and governance. The Diagnostic Overview was expanded when the draft NDP was released in November 2011 to include four additional thematic areas: rural

economy, social protection, regional and world affairs, and community safety.

This Diagnostic Overview identified nine key challenges that the country faces: too few South Africans were employed; despite the increase in access to and participation in education, the quality of education for poor black South Africans is substandard; inadequate and poorly located infrastructure limited social inclusion and faster economic growth; special challenges continued to marginalise the poor; the overreliance on the exploitation of natural and mineral resources was unsustainable to South Africa's growth; the ailing public health system confronts a massive disease burden; the performance of the public service was uneven; the breakdown of accountability created condition in which corruption thrived and this undermined state legitimacy and service delivery.

Finally, the diagnosis concluded that South Africa remained a divided society and high levels of inequality compounded these divisions, creating a fertile ground for crime.

This crime, according to the overview, encouraged the growth of gated communities which, in turn, generated a high degree of relational distance. Crime, according to the Planning Commission and contrary to the Durkheimian thesis on the functionality of crime in social life, undermined social solidarity.

The vision of the NDP with regards to the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster seems to be uncontroversial. Even the key critics of the NDP have been very silent on justice and security issues. The main issues of contention have been around the economy and labour.

All chapters of the NDP are of significance to the JCPS cluster as with rampant crime and corruption most of its goals would not be achieved. There could be no real growth, development and radical economic transformation under endemic conditions of violent crime and corruption. The JCPS cluster departments have linked their strategic and operational plans, as required by the government's Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), 2014-19, to the NDP priorities.

These plans include clear performance targets, indicators, outputs and actions. Of direct relevance to the JCPS are Chapters 12 and 14, respectively entitled "Building safer communities" and of course "Fighting corruption".

The NDP envisions a South Africa where people are and feel safe. It emphasises the protection of the most vulnerable groups in society such as women, children and people with disabilities from serious and violent crimes, as these are defenceless victims.

The NDP directs that safer communities would be achieved through strengthening the criminal justice system into an effective and an efficient machine that is able to prevent crime and increase public safety.

This would be done through the implementation of the seven-point plan which was developed following the Review of the Criminal Justice System exercise in 2007.

The seven-point plan entails: adopting a single vision and mission for the JCPS cluster, a single coordinating structure to enable improved communication between various cluster departments, improving the performance of the courts, improving capacity of the cluster, establishing an integrated and seamless information and technology database

for the Criminal Justice System (CJS), and modernising all aspects of the CJS and involving the public in the fight against crime by expanding the role of Community Policing Forums.

Safer communities would also be built, according to the NDP, by making the police force more professional and demilitarising it and adopting a more integrated and holistic approach in the fight against crime. The latter means that the focus should not only be on crime, but also on the causes of crime. As a country, therefore, we need to be tough on crime and tough on its causes through social crime prevention initiatives.

Other measures from the NDP include improving the programmes of rehabilitating sentenced offenders so that when they get released from prison they do not commit crime again. Recidivism, or repeat offending, is one of the great contributors to high crime rates.

The NDP envisages: "a South Africa that has zero tolerance for corruption...a society in which citizens do not offer bribes and have the confidence and knowledge to hold public and private officials to account, and in which leaders hold themselves to high ethical standards and act with integrity. Anti-corruption agencies should have the resources, independence from political influence, and powers to investigate corruption, and their investigations should be acted on."

There are a number of initiatives which are proposed by the NDP on how to achieve the above vision. Unfortunately an article of this size is unlikely to be able to do justice to these. One of the initiatives is to build a resilient anti-corruption state by creating a well-resourced and capable anti-corruption system free from political interference. In this regard, the NDP says that the

multi-agency anti-corruption system that we have, as represented by the Hawks, Special Investigating Unit, Asset Forfeiture Unit, the Public Service Commission and others, be retained. However, care should be exercised to ensure that there is no unnecessary duplication of functions.

Another important initiative is the strengthening of judicial governance and the rule of law, which has reached a pleasing stage with the establishment of the Office of the Chief Justice with a budget vote of its own.

As we celebrate 60 years of the Freedom Charter, it is important to reflect on the road that we have travelled since 21 years ago when the ANC government came into power. On Justice and the Law, the goals of the Freedom Charter and the NDP are not in contradiction at all. The goals are that all are equal before the law and the people are and feel safe. The NDP is therefore an embodiment of the Charter in this aspect.

The Fifth Parliament is hard at work intensifying its oversight role over the executive in order to ensure that the NDP is implemented, as commitments have been made in the MTSF and the strategic and the operational plans of departments.

Throughout this implementation phase, lessons should be learnt and shared so that improvements can be made. There is a recognition that South Africans live in fear and feel unsafe. This, as the MTSF contends, impacts negatively on economic development and undermines people's well-being and their ability to achieve their potential.

South Africa can, shall, and will become the country envisioned in the Freedom Charter and the NDP by 2030 or even earlier. 🌍

New PAC President will rebuild party



CONGRATULATIONS: After his signing in the new PAC Member, Mr Luthando Mbinda, with the Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Baleka Mbete.

New *Pan-African Congress of Azania (PAC) Member of Parliament (MP), Mr Luthando Mbinda, has a huge responsibility of rebuilding and uniting a party with a history in Parliament that has been marred by factional clashes over the party's only seat in the National Assembly, writes Sakhile Mokoena.*

The recalling of the party's sole member before the end of a parliamentary term has become a common feature in the PAC over the past few years. This practice and factional battles outside Parliament have been blamed for destabilising one of South Africa's oldest liberation movements and for failing to secure more than one seat in the national legislature.

Recent infighting led to the PAC's one seat in the National Assembly remaining vacant for about three months while the then MP, Mr Alton Mpheti, challenged his recall, delaying the swearing-in of a replacement. Mr Mphethi, a former PAC president, had replaced another former leader of the party, Mr Letlapa Mphahlele, who was also recalled before the end of his parliamentary term. The seat has now been occupied by the party's current President, Mr Mbinda, who was sworn in in March after two attempts to stop him by PAC factions failed after they lost a bid in court.

Mr Mbinda says the factionalism and the serial removal of MPs before the end of parliamentary terms have done huge damage to the party and was partly to blame for the failure to secure enough votes in the general elections to get more than one seat in Parliament. Mr Mbinda told *InSession* that in addition to representing the views of the PAC in Parliament, his

biggest responsibility is to rebuild and unite the party outside Parliament. "The PAC has not been vibrant. We have not been visible and I am hoping that we will attract members back to the party again," he said.

Asked why the vibrancy of the party's student wing, the Pan African Student Movement of Azania (Pasma) at universities was not sustained after graduation, Mr Mbinda said: "When they graduate they are supposed to join the Pan Africanist Youth Congress of Azania (Payco), but our youth wing is not very strong. It is one of the areas I am trying to work on so that we have these structures all over the country."

Luthando Richmond Mbinda was born on 24 May 1961 in Mekeni Township near East London. His ties with the PAC can be traced back to the then Azanian National Youth Unity (Azanyu) in the early 1980s – an organisation formed to advance the ideology of the then banned PAC. He was also a trade unionist, participating in the talks within the metal industry that resulted in the formation of the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (Numsa) and was a shop steward for the union.

Mr Mbinda was part of the union leadership that developed a package of human resource development

policies and initiated industry-level negotiations with employers that led to the establishment of the Automobile Manufacturers Industry Education and Training Board. It was during this time that he interacted with the late Mr Zephania "Zeph" Mothopeng, the second president of PAC who, he says, inspired him when he was released from prison in the late 1980s.

When the PAC was unbanned in 1990, Mr Mbinda was elected chairman of the Greater East London branch. He served as a councillor in the Amathole District Municipality and held several high-profile regional leadership positions in the PAC before joining the Eastern Cape-based Mayibuye Transport Corporation as chief executive officer. He believes the PAC should be the official opposition.

He has committed himself to tackling the problem of factionalism. "People don't understand that in the PAC we do not follow an individual, we follow an organisation, which has its own constitution and policies. It's not about me, it's about the party, but people are mischievous," he said.

"We have been having people and even leaders who were not accounting, who had no work ethic, but at least now the PAC is becoming an organisation," said Mr Mbinda. As party president, he feels it is time the PAC showed the people that the party still has much to offer. "It is time to show the people that the PAC is still with them, even today, and we will take issues affecting our people very seriously and they will see us all over the show," said Mr Mbinda. 🌟



tribute *to* Eugene von Brandis

9 May 1954 – 27 May 2015

Sadly, *in its first year of existence, the fifth Parliament has lost another Member of Parliament (MP), one of its Members of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Eugene von Brandis who passed away on 27 May 2015 after a long illness.*

Mr Von Brandis was sworn in as a permanent delegate of the NCOP responsible for the Western Cape immediately after the establishment of the fifth Parliament after the 2014 general elections.

Mr Von Brandis, who was not new in the legislative sector, first became a Member of the Western Cape

Provincial Parliament in 2009 after the general elections.

According to his colleagues who worked with him at the Western Cape Legislature, right from the beginning in the legislative sector Mr Von Brandis showed a remarkable commitment to the service of the people. Based on that, his political

party the Democratic Alliance deployed him to the national Parliament after the May 2014 general elections where he became a permanent delegate for the Western Cape to the NCOP.

He served on the Finance and Appropriations Select Committees in the NCOP and he was always ready to take any responsibility assigned to him by the NCOP leadership at any time.

His NCOP colleagues described him as a hard working, straight forward, no-nonsense character. There were no grey areas in the way he took up his duties – it had to be the right way or there was no way.

Furthermore, according to his colleagues, Mr Von Brandis was clear about the mandate of the NCOP and took the passing of legislation very seriously. His colleagues say he relied on well-researched information before a decision could be taken on what had to be changed in Section 76 bills.

His colleagues said the NCOP has lost a true patriot and someone who gave his life to serve the people of South Africa. “We honour the dedication which Hon Von Brandis gave to all aspects of his work in Parliament.” They said he leaves behind an indelible mark on the NCOP and the Western Cape Legislature.

Mr Von Brandis, who was born on 9 May 1954 in George, leaves behind his wife Ina, their children Eugene Junior, Jacqueline and Angelique, and their grandchildren. 🕊️

Youth moving South Africa forward

Youth *unemployment remains the single largest challenge facing South Africa today and has the potential to undo the gains we have recorded in the past 21 years of democracy, writes the CEO of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Khathutshelo Ramukumba in this article, which is one of an occasional column on the Institutions Supporting Democracy, a parliamentary office under the Speaker of the National Assembly.*

This year, 2015, marks the 39th anniversary of the 16 June 1976 uprisings in Soweto and other places. This year's commemoration is significant as South Africa marks 60 years since the adoption of the Freedom Charter in Kliptown in 1955. The Freedom Charter declared, among other things, that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people". That was a powerful visionary and reconciliatory statement, which set the tone for a non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous and democratic society.

During his 2015 State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma declared 2015 the Year of the Freedom Charter and Unity in Action to Advance Economic Freedom. It is the year of going the extra mile to build a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa. We must use this time to take stock of the road we have travelled since the advent of democracy and critically analyse the progress we have made against what we had set out to achieve.

While great work has been achieved, a lot more remains to be done. We each have a responsibility that

none of us can afford to postpone or outsource in case we let the opportunity pass us by. South Africa is seeking to liberate its youth from the bondage of poverty and unemployment. It is not an easy journey, but with our collective resolve, we are well on course to make the necessary impact. We need to collectively do more with the little we all have.

The NYDA takes pride in the work it has done within its short existence, both individually and through partnerships. It has been a mammoth task, but one that is worthy of the effort. Six years ago, on 16 June 2009 the NYDA was formed to coordinate efforts directed at developing young people.

Today we can celebrate the achievements of Mr Marcus Msomi of Car Wash Supreme from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, who in 2014 received R50 000 from the NYDA's Entrepreneurship Grant Programme to expand his car wash business. Today he operates his car wash from three different locations around Durban and employs 55 other young people in his business. We also celebrate the young people who operate 12 cooperatives in Nwanedi Village in Musina, Limpopo, specialising in tomato

farming, sugar beans and other cash crops. Through support from the NYDA, the young people received grant funding that helped propel their businesses towards success. They also entered into supply contracts with large companies like Tiger Brands and TechnoServe.

These are stories of hope that serve as a constant reminder that investing in our youth is an investment in the future. It affirms a strong message that with support and guidance, young people are ready and willing to take charge of their future and the future of the country.

More collaborations and partnerships will go a long way to ensure that the NYDA alleviates poverty and unemployment among the youth. It is critical to send a strong message that





cooperatives are not a preserve for rural areas and agricultural projects only. More young people in urban areas are also increasingly organising themselves into cooperatives to become more competitive and to take advantage of the many opportunities presented by the democratic dispensation. Through a partnership with the City of Tshwane, the NYDA recently provided a cash injection of close to R500 000 00 to 10 cooperatives within the City of Tshwane.

The grant funding will go towards equipping the cooperatives with equipment and operational costs needed to bolster their businesses and operations. The NYDA has partnered with the City of Tshwane as part of the City's Tshepo 10 000 initiative aimed at alleviating poverty

and unemployment among the city's youth. The City of Tshwane has assisted 600 cooperatives to register, each with a minimum of eight members. As part of the partnership, the NYDA has so far trained 62 of the 600 cooperatives on enterprise development training, life skills and job readiness. As part of this partnership, some of the NYDA-funded cooperatives have received contracts from the City to clean cemeteries, wash the cars in the City's fleet, and provide catering services.

South Africa, like most countries on the continent, has a youthful population. The test is how we turn this into an opportunity for our respective countries. To take full advantage of the demographic dividend will mean that young people must be healthy, qualified, skilled and

they need to be contributing to the economy through formal and self-employment.

As the NYDA continues in its work, it plans to streamline resources to upscale the Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund for academically deserving youth. It will increase the reach and impact of its programmes such as the successful career guidance programme and the National Senior Certificate Second Chance programme. Because entrepreneurship has proven to be the greatest driver of employment, it will increase the Entrepreneurship Grant programme so that more young people across the country are assisted to either start or expand their existing businesses. Young people are ready and willing; the NYDA will help them reach their potential. 🌱



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