

Monthly magazine of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

in session



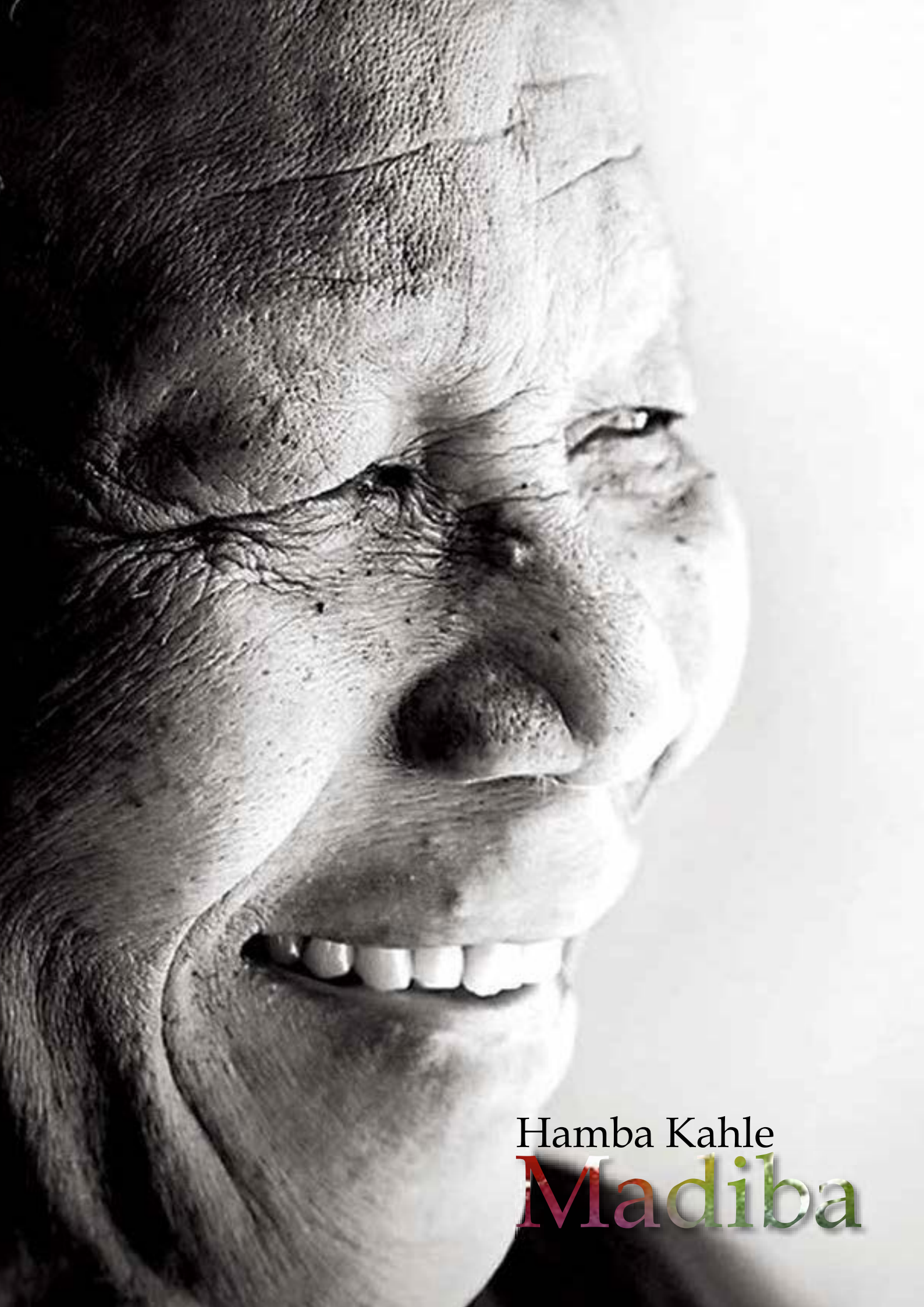
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Born free

First time voters at State of the Nation Address





Hamba Kahle

Madiba

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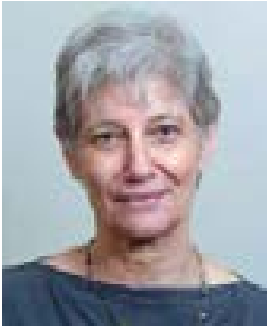
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editor's note



This issue of *InSession* is the first one to be published in a world without Madiba. Parliament opened early in January this year with constituency work. On the surface everything continued unchanged – except that in one fundamental way South Africa became a different place.

President Jacob Zuma made this poignant point in his 2014 State of the Nation Address on 13 February, in which early on in his address he made reference to the fact that for the first time former President Nelson Mandela was not on the presidential guest list. (For detailed coverage of the State of the Nation Address, see pages 8 to 15.)

This fact is made clear in pages 16 to 20 of this edition where Parliament honours and pays tribute to the former President under the theme “Mourning a leader, celebrating a legacy”.

Not since the Madiba presidency has the parliamentary precinct been opened to the public; it is an almost unprecedented practice worldwide. But the current parliamentary leadership decided that for the period of mourning Madiba’s death the People’s Parliament would open its doors to all because, as the Presiding Officers reminded the public, that it is how Madiba would have wanted Parliament to remember him.

For a week, members of the public in their thousands streamed through the parliamentary precinct, filling a total of more than 30 condolence books with tributes and words of love and respect. They also shared their feelings by writing on the Wall of Memory which was created in the grounds of Parliament. Parliament was adorned with banners, and not only did the Mandela family pass through its exhibition, so did other prominent figures, like UK singer Annie Lennox. More importantly, many ordinary citizens visited the flame of remembrance to place flowers and pay their respects. This was the People’s Parliament that Mandela sacrificed so much to achieve.

This issue of *InSession* introduces extensive coverage of the “engines” of Parliament, its committees. This used to be published separately in a bi-annual parliamentary magazine, *Oversight Forum: Committee News from a People’s Parliament*. However, it has become clear that doing justice to the oversight and law-making functions of Parliament’s more than 50 committees needs more regular coverage.

InSession will from now on publish regular articles in a series on committee news. For example, the National Council of Provinces’ Select Committee on Arts and Culture, at a recent meeting, approved the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, describing it as a “promising tool for economic development” (see page 21). The Charter, signed by the South African government at Africa Day celebrations in 2012, was designed to complement existing cultural practices and support economic development and job creation.

Much of the committee work takes Parliament out of Cape Town, into remote rural areas to encourage public participation, especially by those who cannot visit their Parliament.

The Portfolio Committee on Basic Education visited two poorly performing schools in the Eastern Cape to find out why their matric results were so bad. The Committee declared it wanted to “monitor, support, guide and improve” institutions of basic education in the provinces that were struggling (see pages 22 to 23).

InSession also reported on the extensive process of public consultation conducted by the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform to canvass citizen input on the all-important Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill, which seeks to reopen lodgement claims for another five years (see page 30).

Another regular *InSession* feature is coverage of Parliament’s rapidly growing engagement in international affairs. On pages 24 to 25 read about a conference organised by the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation in solidarity with the citizens of Palestine, Cuba and Western Sahara. A declaration towards a Parliamentary Plan of Action to achieve peaceful resolution of the conflicts in these countries was drafted. 🇵🇸

Enjoy the read!

Moira Levy
Editor



MESSAGE FROM THE

presiding officers

Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu

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

Our *planning for the State of the Nation Address began last year. This year's State of the Nation Address, a key event on our national calendar, was again delivered in the evening, allowing many more people to follow proceedings, form an opinion about government's plans and engage with these.*

The State of the Nation Address this year, like any other such Address since 1994, is not the "opening of Parliament". Parliament resumed work a month earlier with a constituency period, followed by an intense parliamentary committee programme.

Each year's theme aims to capture the essence of Parliament's focus in exercising its responsibilities. Our theme for 2014, "20 years of a democratic Parliament", reflects a milestone of our democracy. We have a separate project to mark this milestone and we will publicise the details of the commemorative programme, which we are finalising, in due course.

The Address by the President provides Parliament with the opportunity to enhance its oversight responsibility, to identify key aspects of this oversight programme for the coming year and to plan how to facilitate public involvement in this.

Parliament also provides a forum for debate on the President's message, which was held on 18 and 19 February followed by a reply by the President on 20 February.

In a general election year, like this one, there are two State of the Nation Addresses – one in February and another one after the election and the establishment of a new Parliament.

This year's address was a bittersweet moment. While we are celebrating our 20th year of democracy, it was also the first such address without the possibility of former President Nelson Mandela gracing the occasion with his physical presence.

With the dawn of our democracy in 1994, Parliament's doors opened to all. The State of the Nation Address became a celebration of our nation and public participation was added to the ceremony. It was our first democratically elected President who introduced the civilian component into the State of the Nation Address and it is one of the many legacies he has bequeathed to us. Parliament also hosted the winners of a national radio campaign, run to raise awareness about the State of the Nation Address. The competition was broadcast on nine radio stations in eight official languages.

Important guests included members of the judiciary, representatives of statutory and constitutional institutions, heads of mission (the diplomatic corps) and their partners, guests of the President and representatives of the House of Traditional Leaders of South Africa. Also invited as VIPs were the Mayor of Cape Town, representatives of civil society organisations, religious bodies, state-owned enterprises, business and trade organisations, trade union federations, academic and research institutions and Directors-General of national government departments.

The State of the Nation Address is broadcast live every year on radio and television and at public viewing sites in all provinces, while Parliament's debate on the address and the President's reply is streamed live on Parliament's website, and broadcast live on Parliament's DSTV television channel and on Parliament's YouTube channel. 📺

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, delivered this address at a briefing for the media on 12 February in preparation for the State of the Nation Address the following evening.

Committees in brief

Every month Parliament's committees diligently exercise their law-making and oversight functions. **Cedric Mboyisa** compiled this summary of some committee deliberations that are not covered in more detail elsewhere in this publication.

* **The Portfolio Committee on Police** has accepted Minister of Police Mr Nathi Mthethwa's nomination of Mr Robert McBride as the Executive Director of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID).

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the process followed, was confident that Mr McBride was adequately skilled and the most suitable person to deliver on the mandate of the IPID. The procedure followed in nominating and appointing Mr McBride included short-listing six candidates from 49 applicants.

The Committee was further informed by the Minister that the nomination and appointment of Mr McBride was conducted in accordance with Chapter 2, section 6.1 of the IPID Act, which states that the Minister must nominate a suitably qualified person for appointment to the Office of Executive Director to head the Directorate.

* **The Portfolio Committee on Police** went on an oversight visit to various police stations in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape. The Committee visited East London, Mdantsane NU 1, Berlin and Zwelitsha police stations. The Committee also visited the provincial IPID offices.

According to the Committee Chairperson, Ms Annelize van Wyk, the

objective was for Committee members to see how well police stations were implementing various pieces of legislation pertaining to policing, and also to inspect the resources at the targeted police stations.

The Committee was accompanied by the provincial commissioner and representatives from the commissioner's office and cluster commanders.

* **The Portfolio Committee on Tourism** has supported the Tourism Bill. The Bill aims to provide for the development and promotion of sustainable tourism for the benefit of the Republic, its residents and its visitors; to provide for the continued existence of the South African Tourism Board; to provide for the establishment of the Tourism Grading Council; to regulate the tourist guide profession; to repeal certain laws; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Chairperson of the Committee Mr Donald Gumede said: "Tourism in South Africa has, until now, been regulated by the Tourism Act of 1993. Although effective, this Act fell short of some enabling provisions as it was passed just before the advent of the democratic dispensation in 1994. It will be remembered that the tourism industry fell under the erstwhile Department of Environmental Affairs

and Tourism and thus did not receive adequate attention."

* **The Portfolio Committee on Labour** has instructed the management of the Department of Labour in the Eastern Cape to compile a report detailing the challenges they face and how they plan to address these.

This took place after the Committee visited the Department and its entities in the Eastern Cape and interacted with officials and the public. Places visited were: Mount Aylif, Lusikisiki, Mthatha, Cofimvaba, Queenstown, Fort Beaufort, and East London's sheltered employment factory and labour centre.

The purpose of the trip was to gain understanding of challenges at the provincial office and labour centres, the contingency plans in place and possible forthcoming assistance. Committee members met management, officials and members of the public.

* **The Portfolio Committee on Communications** paid tribute to the outgoing Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) CEO, Mr Lumko Mtimde. "As the parliamentary committee charged with oversight responsibility on the Government Communication and Information System and its entities, MDDA being one of them, it is only fitting to convey our best wishes to the outgoing CEO. Mr Mtimde's contribution to community media, be it television, radio or print, has been impeccable," said Committee Chairperson Mr Eric Kholwane.

Mr Mtimde's term of office expires at the end of June 2014. 🌐

President recounts 'good stories'

in State of the Nation Address, 2014

Delivering *the State of the Nation Address on the evening of 13 February, President Jacob Zuma said South Africa had come a long way in building democracy in the past 20 years. Abel Mputing reports.*

"We buried the undemocratic, unrepresentative, oppressive and corrupt state that was serving a minority ... and instead we have built strong institutions of democracy," the President said at his final State of the Nation Address of the fourth Parliament.

This was a fitting moment in this year's commemoration of democracy for a thorough introspection on how far our country had come, and how far there is to go, he said. "We formed a unitary, non-racial, non-sexist democratic state, answerable to and representative of all South Africans. We created a thriving constitutional democracy, with well-functioning arms of the state – the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. We have Chapter 9 institutions, which support democracy and protect the rights of citizens. Liberation and democracy have also created space for an active civil society and a free media. All these attributes have made South Africa a much better place to live in now than it has ever been," President Zuma said.



20 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY: President Jacob Zuma addresses the nation for the final State of the Nation Address of the fourth Parliament.

He stressed the need for a more concerted effort in dealing with the triple socio-economic challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. These were now the priorities of the Planning Commission, which was expected to come up with pragmatic calculations of commitments and resources to deal with these three challenges.

"We created two key functions, long-term planning and monitoring and evaluation. We established the National Planning Commission, which produced the landmark National Development Plan, the country's socio-economic blueprint and one of the major achievements of this fourth administration. The Plan outlines what we should do to eradicate

poverty, increase employment and reduce inequality by 2030.

"The resilience of South Africa's economic fundamentals should be commended for helping the country to withstand the global recession, shoring up our national wealth index and contributing to job creation. On average, the economy has grown at 3.2% a year from 1994 to 2012 despite a global recession that claimed millions of jobs. Working together as government, business, labour and the community sector, we nursed the economy to a recovery. The national wealth, measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP), has grown to more than R3.5 trillion. Jobs are being created again: there are now 15 million

people with jobs in the country, the highest ever in our history. Over 650 000 jobs were created last year, according to Stats SA. This is still not good enough. Unemployment is still a concern here, as it is worldwide.”

In dealing with this, various instruments such as the Employment Tax Incentive Act, the National Youth Accord and the Community Work Programme were intended as interventions to cushion the effects of joblessness, the President said.

“We are taking a number of measures, including the Employment Tax Incentive Act, which encourages employers to hire younger workers. Regulations will be passed to ensure that this does not adversely affect unsubsidised or older workers. We have created 3.7 million work opportunities over the past five years. Our people obtain an income and skills from the public works programme, which they use to seek formal employment. Cabinet has set a target of six million work opportunities from this year to 2019, targeting the youth.

“But the major intervention in this regard comes from the strategic frameworks created by the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) to coordinate the efforts of critical stakeholders – government, business and labour – in their endeavours to boost economic growth.

“We have to work together as government, business and labour to grow our economy at above 5% to create the jobs we need. Fortunately, this collaboration is already taking place. It is taking place at Nedlac, which is one of the key institutions of cooperation in our democracy between government,

business, labour and the community sector. We have engaged with the business community. Last year, I started taking specific steps to make it easier to do business in our country.”

The President praised the Deputy President, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, for playing a leading role in normalising the mining sector, which had been plagued by violence. “The right to protest, peacefully and unarmed, is enshrined in the Constitution. However, when protests threaten lives and destroy valuable infrastructure intended to serve the community, they undermine the very democracy that upholds the right to protest,” he said.

“Besides mining, we had identified five other job drivers in 2009. These are tourism, agriculture, the green economy, infrastructure development and manufacturing. The tourism industry has grown dramatically. In 1993, South Africa received a mere three million foreign visitors. By 2012, the figure had grown to 13 million. We will continue to grow this industry, given its potential for job creation. In 2012, we unveiled the National Infrastructure Plan, led by the President through the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission, involving one trillion rand in public infrastructure over five years.”

According to the President, the massive investment made by government in education was also “a good story” to tell. “Student enrolments at universities have increased by 12% while further education and training (FET) college enrolments have increased by 90%. We have increased the budgets of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) to R9bn to meet the rising demand. Another major achievement of this term has been

the establishment of two new universities, Sol Plaatje University in the Northern Cape and the University of Mpumalanga. Twelve new FET colleges are being built in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.”

The turnaround on HIV and Aids indicated major improvements in the country’s health care system, the President said. “It is one of the biggest achievements of this administration and we are used as a model country by the United Nations Aids Programmes. Mother-to-child transmission of HIV has declined sharply and we have doubled the number of people who are receiving anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment, from one million to 2.4 million people in 2013. More than 20 million South Africans have tested for HIV since 2011, which indicates confidence in the health system. Life expectancy is now firmly on an upward trend. The target for the next administration is to ensure that at least 4.6 million people are enrolled in the ARV programme.”

What still afflicts these good stories is the spike in corruption, despite the dismissal of those found guilty of corruption, President Zuma said. A new central tender board would be established to adjudicate tenders.

“By means of the National Anti-Corruption Hotline, the government has recovered over R320m from perpetrators and 1 542 officials have been dismissed from the Public Service. To prevent corruption in the supply-chain system, the government will establish a central tender board to adjudicate tenders in all spheres of government. This body will work with the chief procurement officer whose main function will be to check on pricing, adherence to procedures, and fairness,” the President said. 🌟



A VERY SPECIAL GUEST: Mrs Rebecca Kotane (left), 102, who was a guest of President Zuma, with her friend and helper, Ms Ruth Mompoti.

Second special invite, at 102!

President invites struggle stalwart to address

It is not often that veterans get an opportunity to visit Parliament. It is even more unusual when, to mark your 102nd birthday, you get a second invitation from a serving President of the country to visit the country's premier institution as his guest at his State of the Nation Address, reports Sakhile Mokoena.

Mma Rebecca Morwa Kotane was born on 12 February 1912 in Thaba Nchu, Free State, a month after the establishment of the African National Congress (ANC) in nearby Bloemfontein.

She became an activist, and married long-time General Secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP) Mr Moses Kotane. Together (and apart) they sacrificed most of their lives to the struggle against apartheid.

To mark her 90th birthday, she was invited by then-President Thabo Mbeki to his State of the Nation Address in 2002. It was thus doubly special to receive an invitation from President Jacob Zuma to be a guest at

his final State of the Nation Address of the fourth Parliament, and to be seated in her wheelchair where he could see and greet her on the night.

Earlier, to mark her centenary-plus-two birthday, the President helped her cut a huge birthday cake.

Rebecca Morwa, together with her five siblings, spent her early years in Thaba Nchu, where she attended St Paul's Mission School. In 1945, she married the late Mr Moses Mauane Kotane, who served for 39 years as the General Secretary of the SACP and also for some years as the Treasurer General of the ANC.

In the 1930s, Mma Kotane's own conviction and her husband's political

activities helped to draw her into South Africa's liberation struggle. She bravely bore the resultant trials and tribulations of constant police harassment, arrests, banning orders, and the seemingly endless trials her husband had to endure, along with other leading figures of the ANC.

When the Freedom Charter was adopted in 1955, at the Congress of the People in Kliptown, MmaKotane was there. She was also part of the Women's March on the Union Buildings in 1956, to protest against the introduction of the *dompas* for African women. Together with others she was subsequently detained for a fortnight at the Fort, in Hillbrow, Johannesburg.

Mma Kotane last saw her husband, who was one of the first people to be banned under the Suppression of Communism Act, when he went into exile in early 1963. In 1990 she visited Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow to pay her last respects to her husband, where he lies buried with another struggle patriot, Uncle JB Marks.

Mma Kotane remains an indomitable ANC veteran. "I feel blessed that I have lived long enough to witness the dawn of democracy and the first two decades of freedom of our country," she said. 🌟



BORN FREE: Ms Winnie Precious Lekhuleni (third from left), Mr Kagiso Metswamere (fourth from left), Ms Winnie Mataha (fourth from right), Mr Kagiso Dinkebogile (second right) and Mr Asanda Nkululeko Africander (far right) pose with other 'born frees' on the red carpet.

'Born frees' bring new energy to Parliament

Guard of honour groups lining the red carpet to welcome President Jacob Zuma to this year's State of the Nation Address included a canoeing sports club, members of the Girl Guides of South Africa, fire fighters, disaster planners and a special group of two 'born frees' from each of the nine provinces. 'Born frees' is a term used to describe people born since the beginning of South Africa's democracy in 1994. *Kim Barlow and Kuhle Mkize report.*

The 18 "born frees" loved the pomp and ceremony as President Jacob Zuma and his entourage moved along the red carpet laid out along Parliament Avenue to the National Assembly.

They were selected to represent all the young men and women who will be able to vote for the first time in the forthcoming elections on 7 May 2014, which will usher in the fifth democratic Parliament later this year. These 18 youngsters were also invited to attend the State of the Nation Address as part of Parliament's bid to encourage public participation in its proceedings and important events.

Among this group were two young women born on the very day, 27 April 1994, when South Africans voted for the first time in democratic elections. They share a name. Their parents

named them Winnie in honour of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the then wife of former President Nelson Mandela. Also present at the State of the Nation Address were two boys born on that special day, both named Kagiso ("peace" in Tswana) by their parents.

We asked Kagiso Dinkebogile and Kagiso Metswamere, Winnie Mataha, and another member of the group, Asanda Nkululeko Africander, for their thoughts about the big occasion.

Kagiso Dinkebogile

"I am so grateful I could be part of something like this, because I got to meet people from different provinces. It was really nice to finally see the President and a whole bunch of people who were probably famous but that I didn't recognise. I have never experienced something like

this and I am very happy that I was part of it."

Kagiso Metswamere

"I am very proud to be a South African and even prouder that I share a birthday with the democracy. I live in a shack with my grandmother who receives a pension from the government every month. I appreciate South Africa more because the pension buys food and pays school fees."

Asanda Nkululeko Africander

"I am excited and nervous at the same time to be voting for the first time, but the fact that I have the opportunity to actually put my X is more than a privilege. It will be an honour to cast my vote. As I am experiencing the State of the Nation Address, I am very optimistic as it portrays a bright future. It might not be in the next two to three years, but we have a goal to reach."

Winnie Mataha

"I think more job opportunities should come in the next 20 years. The government should also cut child support grants and direct the funds to support companies in order to create more jobs. More youth fall pregnant and stop going to school because of the grant, which they misuse. Pensioners should continue receiving their grant because they use the money effectively and most of them come from poor backgrounds." 🇿🇦



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT: President Jacob Zuma addresses a Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament and invited guests at the 2014 State of the Nation Address.

Hear what we have to say

Selected *individuals identified as making a significant contribution in South Africa's nine provinces were at the State of the Nation Address as Eminent Persons, and several of them shared their ideas about what they would like to hear in President Jacob Zuma's speech with Mava Lukani.*

There was general consensus among them that if there is real commitment to fighting crime and poverty, it must be shown in the government's actions. Mr Joe Motsoahae of Free State wanted President Zuma to throw more light on the empowerment of rural South Africans to become successful farmers. "We have been at the stage of emerging farmers for a long time. The President must tell the nation what the government is going to do differently to accelerate the development of emerging farmers into successful and well-developed producers of food. This would also be a solution to the government's commitment to fighting poverty," he said.

Mr Sazi Ngcongco of Kwazulu-Natal called corruption "the cancer that accompanied the beginning of the democratic government in 1994. As the government is celebrating 20 years of democracy, the cancer of corruption is fully blown and is the source of most of the challenges that

face this government. The President must outline the concrete strategies his government has in place to defeat corruption."

Ms Nombulelo April of the Eastern Cape said the government was giving social grants to the poor to ensure that all, including the most vulnerable, had at least a meal a day. "But," she said, "South Africans abuse the right to social grants. It promotes pregnancy among young people, which is an unacceptable consequence of social grants. The President must say something to curb the abuse." Ms April suggested that no grants be given to people with more than two children.

Mr Samuel Nzima of Mpumalanga pointed out that the Constitution allowed South Africans to protest as part of their democratic right to express their dissatisfaction on an issue. "But they do not have the right to destroy property, including public property. A worrying feature of the

new dispensation is violent protests, where schools, libraries and town halls are destroyed by protesters on a daily basis. We wish to hear what the government has developed to fight this unacceptable and unconstitutional trend."

Ms Morebudi Poopedi of Limpopo said municipalities in the rural provinces at all levels, district and local, had not achieved much in the past 20 years. "People still do not know their roles in their local governments. Many think their responsibility is limited to receiving services. The government must educate people about their role in seeing that the municipalities become real vehicles of service delivery," she said.

Ms Mumtaz Bapoo of the Western Cape said the President should tell those South Africans who feel ignored or marginalised to be patient. "Those who feel ignored or marginalised because of the slow pace of service delivery must hear that it is being accelerated and will reach all people equally."

Mr Benjamin Itumeleng of Northern Cape and Ms Ntombi Mfenyane of Gauteng said the young people of today recognised the differences between the democratic government and apartheid. "Services do not reach everybody at the moment, but they are on their way. We wish the President to give that assurance and to see that the laws of the country are strictly applied."

Ms Nomalungelo Dubula of North West was concerned about urbanisation. "We wish to hear the President saying something on the creation of employment, especially in the rural communities to stop the influx of the young people to urban areas." 🌍

EMINENT PERSONS: (clockwise, from top left) Mr Sazi Ngcongco (KwaZulu-Natal), praise singer Mr Nditsheni Saul Nephawwe, Ms Morebudi Poopedi (Limpopo), Mr Sam Nzima (Mpumalanga), Mr Benjamin Itumeleng (Northern Cape), Mr Joe Motsoahae (Free State), Mr Mninwa Mahlangu (NCOP Chairperson), Ms Nombulelo April (Eastern Cape), Ms Ntombi Mfenyane (Gauteng), Ms Mumtaz Bapoo (Western Cape), Ms Nomalungelo Dubula (North West) and Mr Max Sisulu (Speaker of the National Assembly).





Through the lens

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STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Opposite page: President Jacob Zuma takes the national salute, flanked by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and MaKhumalo Zuma. Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Memela, is on the far right.

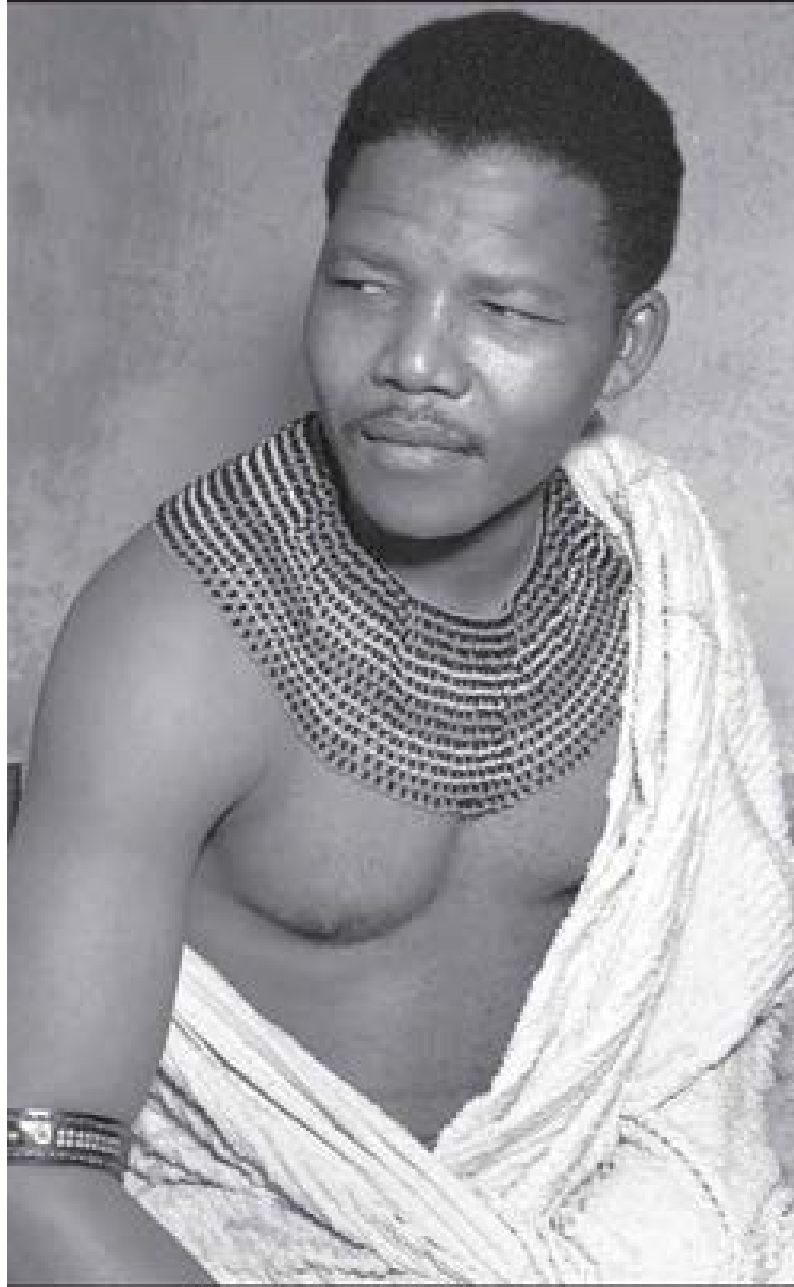
This page, clockwise from top: President Zuma with Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu; South African Airforce jets fly over Parliament in the run-up to the State of the Nation Address; Six invitees, born in 1994, with IDs to prove it; Scholars form part of the guard of honour along the red carpet; Eastern, African and Cape Carnival cultural dancers do their best to impress.

Mourning a
leader,
celebrating a
legacy



Thank you
Madiba

Parliament pays
tribute to
Nelson Mandela



Hamba Kahle
Tata Madiba



PARLIAMENT MOURNS MADIBA

Opposite page: The two banners that hung on either side of the National Assembly during the week of mourning.

This page, top left and right: Mourners wrote messages to Madiba on the Wall of Memory, while a brief shower did not deter visitors.

Above: The Information and Content Development Unit and the Public Education Office produced commemorative publications for visitors.

Left: The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, greeted Annie Lennox, lead singer of the popular 1980s band, The Eurythmics, who is also a passionate human rights activist and philanthropist.

Below: Some of Mandela's grandchildren, Mr Kweku Mandela (far left), Mr Mbuso Mandela (second from left) and Mr Ndaba Mandela (third from right) joined other visitors to Parliament, who had come to pay their respects.



An icon passes, his legacy lives on

One of the first parliamentary actions that followed the passing of former President Nelson Mandela on 5 December was to organise a Joint Sitting of Parliament on 9 December where Members of Parliament and provincial premiers could pay respect to the man and his legacy, reports *Abel Mputing*.

Nelson Mandela rose to iconic status as the architect of South Africa's constitutional democracy and in death his reputation continued to soar. In his opening remarks at Parliament's Joint Sitting, Deputy President Mr Kgalema Motlanthe said the weight of moral responsibility that Mandela left behind was almost unbearable. Would those entrusted with political power, not only in South Africa but throughout the world, be able to face up to these demands? It would take a leap of faith, he suggested.

The best those in power could do to honour the late President was "to ensure that the younger generation inherit the fruits of our freedom", said Western Cape Premier, Ms Helen Zille. "Our political debate should focus on how each South African child, whatever the circumstances of their birth, can inherit freedom that they can use. Let his death open that new chapter," she said.

Perhaps our sadness for his passing stemmed from uncertainty about whether we would be able to emulate his astute yet humble and principled ideals, said North West Premier Ms Thandi Modise. "We could find that we lack the honesty, determination, strength and vision of this extraordinary being. As individuals and as a nation, are we ready to follow in his footsteps? The

answer from the North West is: 'Yes, and yes again, because our actions will be motivated by the vision that drove his life – a life dedicated to giving and to transformation'," she said.

"It will now be strange that we are made to face the future without the father of the nation who taught us how to build a united and peaceful South Africa, but all we can do is to follow steadfastly in his giant footsteps," said the leader of the Congress of the People, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota. "We must now face our future without this individual who was central to the issues directing our nation for a long time, but he has taught us well. We must take up the struggle and soldier on with the task he gave us, to search for a better life for all."

According to the leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Ms Lindiwe Mazibuko (Democratic Alliance), Mandela had warned us of his imminent departure and given us time to prepare for such an eventuality. "In the winter of this year (2013), we held our breath and wondered how we would continue without him. We prayed, we meditated, we stood vigil outside his home and his hospital ward, and we laid flowers to honour the great man who led the founding of a great nation."

The best that Parliament could do was to safeguard the letter and the spirit of our Constitution, said the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe. "One of the best of our institutions is the Constitution, which we helped to craft and are all obliged to safeguard. This was Madiba's way of giving us time, letting us know in advance, in his generous way, that we must begin to prepare ourselves for his departure," he said.

The day Mandela died was not an ordinary day, said Independent Democrat Mr Joseph Mngulwa: "The 5th of December 2013 will be remembered as the day our world stood still, because a giant amongst us has fallen," he said.

United Democratic Movement member Mr Lawrence Kwankwa said Mandela had warned that "we should not squander the victory he brought to us with so much sacrifice, conviction and courage. The best present we can give him is to see that the torch of freedom and democracy, for which he fought so courageously, continues to burn."

The African Christian Democratic Party leader Rev Kenneth Meshoe said Mandela was an honest broker, as he showed when the country was on the brink of a civil war following the death of African National Congress leader Chris Hani. "That, for me, was when he truly showed leadership," he said. "When the prominent ANC and South African Communist Party leader was assassinated fear and uncertainty



FAREWELL, YOU TOUCHED US: Mr Leon Michaels, Parliament's head chef, mourns at the Flame of Remembrance in the parliamentary precinct.

filled the air. His comrades were questioning the sincerity and commitment of the former apartheid government to a peaceful settlement. This great man, who had a vision of a peaceful, prosperous and united nation, stepped forward and called for calm," he said.

Mandela's death had ushered in a paralysis that could not be expressed, said United Christian Democratic Party leader Mr Isaac Mfundisi. "Words cannot express the emptiness, dryness and sadness that have befallen the country, though we knew it had to happen. This is one man, we believed, who deserved to be immortalised, not only in thought, but also in flesh."

The Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Nosipho Ntwanambi, said Mandela had restored the dignity of black people and the dignity of their oppressors, and taught us that

we are all human beings. So remarkable was Mandela's character that it was unlikely there was "one among us here who would spend 27 years in jail and come back carrying the torch of forgiveness and reconciliation," proclaimed Inkatha Freedom Party spokesperson Prince Mbongiseni Zulu. "The whole nation has lost its national hero. Mr Mandela will always be remembered by thousands of people across the globe for what he did for South Africa."

Nothing could have prepared the country for the death of the father of the nation, claimed the President of the Azanian People's Organisation, Mr Koti Dikobo. "We hoped that this would not happen. The big tree has fallen and the birds that used to nest there are left stranded. We all knew that President Mandela had been sick for some time and yet that was not enough to prepare us for this."

The President of the African People's Convention, Mr Themba Godi, said Mandela stood head and shoulders above his political peers in his fight for a better life for all. "He was an expression of the best of that generation. In his life, we celebrate freedom."

For the leader of the Pan Africanist Congress, Mr Senyane Mphethi, Mandela had achieved so much to advance the ideals of freedom and democracy, but much still needed to be done. "He left behind a country that was at a crossroads. He departs this world with a lot of work still to be done. The unemployment rate is still high. Poverty is still the same for African people. African people are still landless. The moral values of this society have declined. The rate of abuse of children and women is high. Self-enrichment and greed have reached unacceptable levels. These are trying times indeed," he said. 🌍



IN CONSULTATION: Mandela consults with Deputy President at the time, Mr Thabo Mbeki. Rev Stofile sits behind Mandela while Dr Kader Asmal sits behind Mr Mbeki.

saying that the source of the leaks would be investigated and whoever was responsible would be harshly dealt with. The leaks continued unabated and mistrust reached crisis proportions. "This continued until one morning when a journalist told me that the venue used by the ANC caucus for meetings was directly linked to the media desks in Parliament. The venue was changed, but the President stuck to his ultimatum that he would deal harshly with those who leaked caucus deliberations."

This was not the only time Madiba issued an ultimatum. "Madiba did not like heckling in the House. I had the task of making him understand that it was acceptable parliamentary behaviour to heckle during sittings. He still objected to it; Madiba wanted opposition MPs to be accorded more respect.

"Another time, when he was attending the wedding of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, the caucus discussed the national anthem. The consensus was that the Afrikaans and English parts of the anthem should be done away with. He read about it in the media and became very angry. Madiba later changed his views and apologised to caucus after some in the Afrikaans media were in support of a change. He joked that he was as rightwing as the Afrikaners."

When there was no agreement at caucus, Madiba followed his democratic beliefs and allowed other leaders to make decisions. He was a man who did not want to be feared, but simply wanted people to treat each other with respect. "The man always gave *umkhomba-ndlela* (a way forward) in caucus on what the ANC was, what it stood for and how it dealt with issues. Every opinion was welcomed at the caucus and anyone was expected to make an input," Rev Stofile said. 🌟

Memories of Madiba

Former *president Nelson Mandela is honoured the world over for his statesmanship, but the Chief Whip of the 1994 African National Congress (ANC) caucus, Rev Makhenkesi Stofile, recalled some stormy times in the early days of the democratic Parliament that required some careful negotiation. He spoke to Sibongile Maputi.*

The year was 1994. The ANC had just won the first democratic elections with a big majority in a Government of National Unity. Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela was President, Rev Makhenkesi Stofile was the Chief Whip of the ANC caucus and Mr Bulelani Ngcuka was the Whip in the Senate (later the National Council of Provinces). All was going well but then the President announced the list of new ambassadorial postings in a caucus meeting.

"That shook the caucus' relationship with Madiba," recalled Rev Stofile. "The first generation of ambassadors in the democratic government was largely comprised of individuals from opposition parties, such as the National Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party and even General Constant Viljoen's Conservative Party."

Caucus members grumbled while Madiba announced the list, which made him angry. The job of calming him down fell to Mr Ngcuka and Rev Stofile, who recalled that the short 50 metres from

their office to the Tuynhuys felt more like a kilometre. "Calming Madiba could be a daunting task. He asked us if Members did not realise that his intention was to deepen nation-building and advance reconciliation. In true Mandela style, he was later able to explain his strategy to caucus in a diplomatic fashion."

Another issue that put Mandela on a collision course with the caucus was a tender for an Aids campaign that had been awarded to theatre director Mr Mbongeni Ngema. "Members were angry about the manner in which the tender was awarded, saying it was not transparent. Madiba believed Members should accept what the leadership decided. He was angry that they did not support the then Minister of Health, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and would not stop questioning her."

Rev Stofile also recalled a time when sensitive issues discussed in closed sessions were finding their way to the media. Mandela issued an ultimatum,



A TOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT: Cultural Charter raises hopes in Africa.

Green light for cultural Charter

The *Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, which was recently approved by the Select Committee on Arts and Culture, has been hailed as 'a promising tool' for economic development, reports Mava Lukani.*

The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance raised the hopes of millions of people on the African continent who were bound by the shackles of poverty and could become an added tool for economic development, Members of the Select Committee on Education and Recreation recently told the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Joseph Phaahla.

The Committee Chairperson, Ms Wendy Makgate, proposed that the Department of Arts and Culture "continuously improve and strengthen its strategies of promoting culture," to ensure that it is regarded more seriously in South Africa, especially at school level. Members of the Committee were unhappy that culture was only taught until grade 9, which they believed was linked to the stereotype that it was backward to use culture as a tool for promoting unity and economic development.

"Culture is one of the important tools to undo the legacy of centuries of colonialism in Africa. It should be part of the curriculum at our schools to grade 12," Ms Makgate said. Ensuring that it

was part of the school curriculum would make the implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance easier, she said.

Presenting the Charter to the Committee, the Chief Director for International Relations in the Department of Arts and Culture, Ms Louise Graham, told the Committee that the Charter was endorsed by the first African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Culture in Nairobi from 10 to 14 December 2005 and was adopted by the AU Assembly in Khartoum, Sudan, in January 2006.

Ms Graham highlighted the economic, political, social and cultural imperatives of the Charter and listed the obligations under each. The economic obligations included support of cultural development by way of incentives in fiscal, legislative and administrative plans, she said.

The Charter stressed the role of culture in political and economic development. "Cultural exchanges and initiatives contribute to mutual enrichment, understanding between human beings

and maintaining peace between states," Ms Graham explained. Highlighting the strategic focus of the Charter, Ms Graham said it pursued a number of outcomes in a combination of culture, arts, cultural values, language, heritage and cultural and creative industries as central to sustainable development.

Following the ratification of the Charter by the South African government as a response to the declaration on cultural renaissance and shared values at the 16th Ordinary Session of the AU heads of state and government in Equatorial Guinea in January 2011, the South African government signed the Charter during Africa Day celebrations in May 2012.

The Charter was designed to complement and strengthen existing cultural policies and cultural engagements in Africa. It was aligned to the South African government's strategy for economic development and job creation, including the Industrial Growth Plan, the National Development Plan and the Mzansi Golden Economy Strategy.

After establishing that the Charter was consistent with the Constitution and following legal opinion from the Department of Justice confirming that it was in line with international laws and did not contravene domestic laws, the Committee approved it. Ms Makgate said the Department of Arts and Culture had appeared before the Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture, and the Portfolio Committee had already approved the Charter. 🌍



Schools get back to basics

Following *the Eastern Cape's poor matric results in 2013, members of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education visited the province on a week-long fact-finding mission to the worst performing schools in the Qumbu and Sterkspruit districts. Sibongile Maputi reports.*

The Portfolio Committee on Basic Education Chairperson, Ms Hope Malgas, said the visit by the six-member delegation was intended to “monitor, support, guide and improve” basic education in the province. The group visited Jongilizwe and Welsh Senior Secondary schools, which achieved a 15 and 24 percentage pass rate respectively for Grade 12 last year. Both schools blamed disruptions caused by lengthy community protests, which robbed learners of class time.

The Committee heard that at Welsh Secondary School there was a shortage of teachers, which began in May 2013 after students locked teachers in the principal's office and attempted to set

the office alight. The students demanded a refund of the R100 their parents had volunteered to pay for school refurbishments and protested against the principal's decision to deny access to students who failed to pay.

One Committee member, Mr Jake Dikobo, warned against involving children in financial arrangements between school principals and parents.

“The principal cannot send children away because their parents have failed to honour their promise. These are mainly quintile 1 (no-fee) schools, so the learner should not even know that his or her parent owes the school money,” he said.

Children in the Sterkspruit area were affected by service delivery protests. “When parents protest, they should not use children. The learners are in school for a purpose. When they waste time protesting they lose valuable school time and a year missed at school is such a long time,” Ms Malgas said.

Rationalisation, which does away with junior secondary schools (JSS), is vital as JSS schools are still very prevalent in this district. “Rationalisation is crucial; success in Grade 12 requires a clear programme from Grade 8. This is where many schools in these districts are challenged,” Ms Malgas said.

Committee member Ms Nomalungelo Gina said that even though rationalisation was desirable, the province was not ready for it. “It is better in the Sterkspruit region because schools had not begun to rationalise. In Qumbu, it has resulted in confusion about learner movements and teacher deployments. Senior secondary schools blame their failure rate on the JSS schools. For the benefit of the child, circuit officials need to be in touch with how the schools are managed,” she said.

In highlighting some of the challenges, the MEC for Education, Mr Mandla



TOP PRIORITY: Members of the Basic Education Portfolio Committee visit Upper Tyirha Primary School in Qumbu. In the middle is Committee Chairperson Ms Hope Malgas.

Makhuphula, said that before the Department was placed under administration “there were no funds – the system had collapsed and scholar transport and nutrition were stopped.”

Other issues in Sterkspruit included problems with scholar transport, learner numbers, a lack of incentives to attract teachers to rural areas, and inefficient management of stationery. Sanitation, school management and administration, and temporary and additional teachers were other problems mentioned. The moratorium on teacher employment, had affected recipients of the Fundza Lushaka bursary scheme (which provides funds for student teachers who must then pay back the bursary by working in public schools). The way in which subjects such as maths and science were taught was also raised as a problem.

Ms Annette Lovemore said poor management and administration could not be blamed solely on principals. “None of the schools we visited appeared well managed. This is not always directly the fault of the principal. In some cases, good people are trying their best and failing. The circumstances under which they manage are simply too testing, and the support they get is minimal.”

The South African Democratic Teachers Union, the National Alliance of Professional Teachers of SA, Professional Educators Union, Suid-Afrikaanse Onderwysers Unie, and the National Education and Health Allied Workers Union indicated that consultation in the province was poor.

The unions said their members were frustrated by, among other things, the provision of posts that did not respond to the needs of the curriculum or the personnel at schools. There was also a shortage of suitably qualified subject advisors; unwillingness to employ temporary educators; non-implementation of a rural allowance; a shortage of support staff and infrastructure; and failure to pay temporary teachers.

Mr Makhuphula had earlier told the Committee there was a moratorium on employing temporary teachers until additional educators were moved. “We will not move until the system has been cleared. Employing those educators will be done according to national policy where educators are profiled in line with available vacancies. Sadly some of the affected are maths educators and others are foreign nationals who have challenges with the Department of Home Affairs,” he said.

Mr Dikobo said educators of maths and science should not be affected by this, as they were in short supply. He cautioned the province that it should lift the moratorium on employment when it came to these subject teachers, and also of educators who were beneficiaries of the Fundza Lushaka bursary scheme.

“The province should move with speed and permanently employ those teachers because once the three-month period stipulated in their contract has lapsed they will be lost to the system.

The condition in the bursary says the Department will place teachers within three months of the completion of their studies. Failure to comply with this would be a waste of government money as teachers would be relieved of their contractual obligation,” Mr Dikobo explained.

Members were unanimous that some of the problems raised could be easily resolved and they urged the province and the districts to attend to them urgently. Ms Lovemore said the issue of sanitation and ablution facilities in schools was urgent, and not something for a five-year programme. Mr Dikobo suggested that schools in the region be insured, as they are often damaged by natural disasters. He said he knew of no aspect of law or policy that prevented insuring schools. “This should be looked at; schools cannot be built only to be lost every two years through disasters.”

Ms Lovemore said it was also of concern that the only turnaround strategy teachers in the area appeared to know was extra lessons. “The extra classes are used to cover the syllabus in two terms. But because learners walk long distances, the extra classes are poorly attended, yet teachers see fit to continue with them. Most children are in the dark about the contents of the subjects, which is unacceptable.”

Ms Malgas said there were issues that did not have to wait for the report of the Committee and most of the schools had their learner support materials and appeared ready to start the year. “The oversight visit was an eye opener for the Committee. Although the province performed well in the Annual National Assessments, it continued to fail in Grade 12. Officials were honest in assessing challenges the province faced, and how they were being addressed,” Ms Malgas said. 🙏

Reaching out across borders

A strong call for the lifting of the economic blockade of Cuba, the release of political prisoners and the right to self-determination for Western Sahara and Palestine rang out at the 2014 Solidarity Conference, which was hosted by Parliament recently. *Temba Gubula reports.*

The conference, organised by the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, was held in support of the people living in these places and was attended by ambassadors, religious groups, trade unions, Members of Parliament and advocacy groups. All of them called in one voice for an end to the atrocities suffered by the people of these nations and territories, and said change was long overdue.

Some delegates called on South Africa to identify products produced in countries such as Israel and boycott these products. They encouraged South Africa to stop trading with Israel and Morocco. Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Head of International Relations, Mr Bongani Masuku, echoed these sentiments and said, "We support all calls for the boycott of Israeli goods and the termination of all relations with the state of Israel. We welcome all other countries which have demonstrated seriousness in isolating Israel."

The United Nations (UN) declared 2014 the Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and in honour of this a representative from the Embassy of the State of Palestine, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Mr BSS Elhussiny, called for South Africa to join countries including France, Spain and Britain which have a boycott in place against Israel. Mr Elhussiny said Israel should stop illegal settlements

in Palestinian villages and lands. He said there were about 600 000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

The Cuban Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, reaffirmed South Africa's call for the release of the so-called Cuban Five – political prisoners detained in the United States since 1998 "without fair trial". The former Member of Parliament and struggle veteran Mr Ahmed Kathrada said he hoped that the conference would achieve an international campaign towards the release of 5 000 Palestinians languishing in Israeli prisons.

In discussing the situation in Western Sahara, the South African Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman, said South Africa supported the inalienable rights of the Saharawi people to self-determination and regrets the violations of the UN Security Council and International Court of Justice resolutions committed by Morocco. Mr Fransman said some of the principles underpinning South Africa's position on Western Sahara included the right to self-determination, decolonisation and the sanctity of colonial borders, respect for human rights and humanitarian support as well as international legality and the centrality of the UN. Delegates described Western Sahara as the last colony in Africa and said it should be



given its independence as a matter of urgency.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Tisetso Magama, said the South African Parliament had been working hard in a number of areas to assist the struggles of the people in these nations to free themselves from all forms of oppression. He said the conference was a culmination of extensive work carried out by the Committee in response to the call by President Jacob Zuma in successive State of the Nation addresses since 2010 that solidarity should be a strong element of South Africa's international relations.

"The Committee's activities have resulted in Parliament adopting conscious resolutions in support of the respective campaigns by these nations for equal treatment and the right to self-determination," Mr Magama explained. He said the focus of the conference was to make South Africans aware of the challenges facing the people of Cuba, Palestine and Western Sahara. "As a product of international solidarity itself, South



SUPPORT ACROSS BORDERS: Delegates attending the 2014 Solidarity Conference, which was hosted by Parliament.

Africa is thus committed to working with the international community and campaigning towards a tangible and lasting reprieve to the suffering peoples of the three nations," he added.

One of the conference's aims was to produce a declaration that would form a Parliamentary Plan of Action taking the solidarity campaign forward towards a peaceful resolution of the challenges facing the three nations.

On Palestine, the Portfolio Committee called for Israel to immediately end its aggression against Palestine and lift the blockade imposed on Gaza.

On Western Sahara, the Committee wanted the international community to strengthen its action on pressurising the UN to enforce its resolution on the holding of a referendum in which the Saharawi people could exercise their right to self-determination. On Cuba, the Committee requested an increase in

the international campaign to free the Cuban Five and an end to US economic sanctions against Cuba.

Mr Magama urged the delegates to embark on a broad public participation campaign to highlight the plight of all oppressed countries. The Conference produced a draft declaration which will be ratified by the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation. 🌍

The draft declaration included:

On Palestine:

1. Urge the international community to intensify efforts to launch a global campaign to bring an end to Israeli occupation, realise the inalienable rights of the Palestine people, and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive negotiated peaceful settlement.
2. Mobilise world support to ensure the immediate end to the blockade of Gaza, its inaccessibility with respect to humanitarian aid and the humanitarian problem that is caused by the blockade.

On Cuba:

1. Urge the United States to end the economic embargo on Cuba, as it is the main obstacle to meaningful economic activity with Cuba.
2. Mobilise support to end the embargo and respect for the economic rights of Cuba as a sovereign nation.

3. Express concern at the continued persecution of the Cuban Five.

On Western Sahara

1. Support the view that Western Sahara is the "last colony" on African soil, and that Africa is not fully free until Western Sahara is granted independence.
2. Urges the Kingdom of Morocco to recognise the right to self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.
3. Calls on the international community to strengthen its action to pressurise the United Nations to enforce its resolution on the holding of a referendum where the Saharawi people can exercise their right to self-determination.
4. Mobilise forces in the international community to ensure solidarity be intensified against the looting of Saharawi natural resources by Morocco and its allies.



Let there be light

The *KwaZulu-Natal communities of Msinga, Maphumulo and Ndwedwe share the goal of the Portfolio Committee on Energy to have grid electricity in their areas, but the road to electrification is not an easy one, reports Kim Barlow.*

The three municipalities are traditional settlement areas and are underdeveloped, disadvantaged and poor. The Portfolio Committee on Energy conducted an oversight visit to the communities in these areas in order to assess progress with the installation of non-grid electrification programmes and to meet with the concessionaires and beneficiaries of solar electricity home systems.

The demand for basic needs, such as fridges and electric lighting, is

increasing in remote rural areas but the majority of households are not connected to the national grid. Besides, electricity provided by Eskom is costly. The non-grid, solar electrification programme gives remote rural communities access to limited electricity functions until grid connections are possible.

Khukanya Energy Services (Kes) has been operating a solar electricity service in central KwaZulu-Natal since 2001. Kes installs, operates and maintains the systems and

has installed more than 29 000 solar energy systems to date. Kes was awarded a contract with the Department of Energy (DOE) to install solar power home systems in KwaZulu-Natal's Umvoti district and after the first 4 000 solar home systems were installed in the Tugela Ferry and Pomeroy areas, Kes expanded provision to Maphumulo and Ndwedwe.

According to Mr Serame Moeketsi of the DOE, the current solar power home systems are more powerful than the initial offering and use the latest LED lighting technology. It can electrify a primary household building and one outlying building. It can also power a colour television, something the previous systems could not do.



BRINGING POWER TO RURAL AREAS: The Energy Portfolio Committee visited KwaZulu-Natal to inspect solar energy projects.

system as backup, but our policy is that, once the grid connection arrives, the solar system will be removed and given to individuals without a grid connection.”

The Committee visited Ms Nokwanda Mkhize and her family in Msinga who have a solar power home system. It has wiring and outlets for small appliances, a battery and fluorescent lights. Ms Mkhize does not have any appliances, but the system is able to power a black and white television for four hours and a radio for 10.

Mr Xolani Zolo of Macabeni Ward Six was unhappy that some areas in his municipality were receiving grid electricity while other villages like his only had solar systems. Mr Zolo said he was not ungrateful, but he needed to have uninterrupted, all-hours electricity. Mr Njikelana explained that the programme was a temporary solution.

“As part of government’s responsibility to ensure the supply of electricity to all its citizens, solar systems are a step in the right direction to grid electricity,” he said. However, without the combined efforts of Eskom, the DOE and the municipalities, grid electricity was a long way off, he said.

Mr Njikelana said it was important for municipalities to be fully functioning and competent in order to steer the non-grid electrification programme. “When we met with the communities, they asked for the upgrading of the solar systems and to accelerate installations. Although we criticise and reprimand the DOE, it is the responsibility of the municipality to guide the process. It is not only Parliament which should perform an oversight duty. It is also the

responsibility of the municipalities to conduct oversight visits and monitor the progress of these systems.”

Mr Njikelana said monitoring concessionaires’ performance was important to ensure progress and also to remedy any problems. Member of the Portfolio Committee Mr Sbusiso Radebe highlighted the importance of information dissemination among municipalities. He said without knowledge sharing, users were reluctant to accept off-grid electrification solutions and as a result they had a bad reputation, not only because of the allure of grid electrification, but also due to ignorance. In reality, the energy needs of the community were not met, he said, and so the fight for grid electricity increased.

Mr Njikelana said Eskom had a major role to play in the supply of electricity to rural areas, but he highlighted Eskom’s capacity constraints as a problem in providing villages with grid connection. If Eskom did not have the capacity, it could not supply industries as well as rural communities with grid electricity, he said. The fundamental issue inhibiting the progress of grid electricity, he said, was not financial ability, but capacity.

Stakeholders such as Eskom, municipalities and the DOE should meet to discuss the way forward in an open manner, he said. “We have to be realistic. In order to electrify an area like this with no infrastructure, it is logical to have non-grid systems for a while. But for this to be a success, it needs the co-operation of municipalities, the Department of Energy and Eskom. Only in such platforms will the difficulties be made known to all stakeholders,” he said. 🌍

Because the system requires long-term maintenance, Kes in partnership with the DOE and municipalities signed contracts with each user to facilitate the installation and maintenance of each system. The user pays a R89 monthly fee, which is regulated by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa, and in return, the user receives a service which includes the free replacement of equipment, such as batteries. This eases the financial burden on the user and also ensures the system will be repaired when necessary.

During the oversight visit the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Energy, Mr Sisa Njikelana, asked what would happen to the systems once the villages receive grid electrification. Ms Vicky Basson of Kes explained: “Some residents, who already have a grid connection, asked to keep the solar

Pinning down debt

Many *South African households are in a perpetual cycle of debt and Parliament heard that the situation is becoming desperate for both borrowers and credit providers, reports Abel Mputing.*

Judging from presentations at Parliament's week-long public hearings on the National Credit Amendment Bill, affordability assessment procedures intended to assist credit providers and lenders were being flouted on a regular basis, as both groups come under increasing pressure from escalating credit costs.

What is more, these procedures appear to have contributed to escalating credit costs, giving further impetus to the perpetual debt cycle that hounds many South African families. It could lead to severe problems in society, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Industry Ms Joanmariae Fubbs said in her opening remarks as she contextualised the rocketing price of credit and the reasons for amending the Bill.

"We have to deal with the rising cost of credit accrued through administration costs, initiation fees and compound interest rates, which hit the most vulnerable sector of our society. All of this can amount to social genocide," she said.

She assured credit providers that "it is not our intention to destroy credit providers, but we want to make legislation that is equitable, fair and will ensure an economy that is efficient and impacts positively on our country's development agenda. We are mindful that credit providers have a critical role to play in that regard."

The Amendment Bill currently before Parliament will introduce new and standardised baseline regulatory procedures and institutions to curb irregular conduct. The Department of Trade and Industry, which drafted the Bill, said South Africa was the first country in the world to come up with a National Credit Act to help cushion the impact of a global credit crunch "which has engulfed the world's leading financial sectors. Without it, South Africa would have been in a worse position," said Deputy Director-General of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Ms Zodwa Ntuli.

Ms Ntuli said the purpose of the Bill was to devise regulations that ensured a sustainable credit sector and

encouraged growth. DTI representative Mr Andisa Potwana explained that the Bill emphasised coordination and aligned the sector to complement the strategic vision of the country's economic growth plan. "The Bill seeks to strengthen the arm of the National Credit Regulators by giving them the power to register and deregister companies, ensuring that they fulfil their financial responsibilities and observe regulatory measures. It also seeks to establish the National Consumer Tribunal to deal with 'reckless' lending. In addition to courts of law, the Tribunal will now be in a position to make a declaration of reckless lending. When this Tribunal is in place borrowers will not have to go to court to settle disputes because that process is costly to households already (experiencing) the distress of indebtedness," he said.

The Managing Director of the Banking Association of South Africa, Mr Cassim Coovadia, was against registration as contained in the Amendment Bill. "Our preference continues to be that a credit provider's code of conduct should emanate from a credit provider (and be) approved by a regulator. This encourages the lending industry to be an active partner in developing the industry, maintaining high standards



and ensuring efficient industry without government intervention,” Mr Coovadia said.

The National Clothing Retail Federation of South Africa said in its submission that there seemed to be a broad definition of what constituted reckless lending, which borrowers could use as an excuse not to honour their credit responsibilities. “We are concerned that this new section may make it easier for consumers to allege that credit was granted recklessly,” said Executive Director Mr Michael Lawrence.

“If the Tribunal is approved, its staff must have the requisite skills to undertake its legal and technical responsibilities, with similar qualifications to that of an officer of the courts, to ensure a proper consideration of the legal and technical issues that are raised,” he said.

Portfolio Committee member Mr Zanoxolo Wayile explained that the code of conduct was meant to ensure that role players were responsible. “Self-regulation and the lack thereof has had a far-reaching impact on the escalating cost of credit and the perpetual indebtedness of many households. I don’t know why there is so much resistance to a code of conduct,” he said.

The Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank, Mr Lesetja Kganyago, stated that the regulations proposed in the Bill were meant to ensure that promises made to depositors by the financial sector were met. “The Reserve Bank’s responsibility is to ensure that there is prudent action and financial stability in the financial sector, because if it goes under it will pull the entire system down with it,” he said. However, the Bill should not allow what he called “regulator shopping: this is where they look for loopholes in various regulatory mechanisms to bypass regulations or pit one regulatory system against another,” he said.

A representative of the National Debt Mediation Association, Ms Magauta Mphahlele, said South Africans’ spiralling indebtedness was often exacerbated by a lack of access to debt counselling and the high cost of debt reviews. She said non-governmental organisations (NGOs) could play an effective role in this regard. “NGOs need to be given the capacity to play an active role and act as a safety net for millions of consumers who cannot afford to fight for their own rights. NGOs should also be better placed to provide impactful and sustainable education and redress programmes. Awareness workshops are not sufficient because consumers need to be able to approach well-resourced local NGOs

or the National Debt Mediation Association’s helpline for detailed and objective information on credit issues.”

Another issue that the Bill aimed to eliminate was “paperless lending”, that is, lending which is conducted electronically. Its rationale is that electronic affordability assessments are not reliable.

The country’s first online credit provider, Wonga, gave a presentation on the effectiveness of on-line lending and explained how it assessed a potential client’s ability to afford credit. Wonga CEO Mr Kevin Hurwitz believed digital finance was the way of the future and said manual documents were not necessarily legitimate. He said most contested cases were related to credit that had been manually processed. Like many other financial institutions, Wonga believed the Bill’s proposal to remove adverse credit information from a client’s record would have a negative impact on both the client and lending institutions, and would increase risk.

At the time of going to print the Portfolio Committee indicated its support of the Amendment Bill and it is now before the National Assembly. 🇿🇦

New issues raised by reopening land claims

The *Khoisan community feel they are being left out of the land claim process, while many others who missed out in the first round of land claim applications will have another opportunity to lodge a claim, as Sakhile Mokoena and Elijah Moholola report.*

Parliament is processing a measure that will reopen the lodgement of land claims, but the Khoisan community feels it is still being unfairly excluded from the programme. The new Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill, as with existing legislation, only allows for land claims after 1913. The government realised that some people had not had an opportunity to claim before the 1998 deadline and the Bill sought to re-open the lodging of claims for a period of five years.

The Khoisan, who are also fighting for recognition as the first indigenous people of South Africa, say they are disappointed that the new Bill “still uses the 1913 Natives’ Land Act as a benchmark”. This means they will have to wait for an unknown period before they can lay claim to their ancestral land, comprising most of the old Cape Province.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Jerry Thibedi, assured the Khoisan that the Bill in no way suggested that the legislators considered the Khoisan people to be extinct. During public hearings on the Bill in the North West and Northern Cape provinces, Mr Thibedi said the issue of the Khoisan people would be dealt with in terms of a separate policy to be developed in due course by the government to be formed after the forthcoming elections. “For many years they have suffered systemic

exploitation and exclusion from the mainstream of society. We are pushing very hard to have this resolved as soon as possible,” Mr Thibedi said.

In the past 20 years, the Khoisan community had made successive appeals to presidents Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe for acceptance as the first indigenous people of the land and for inclusion of their needs in the national budget. “The way we have been treated is a crime against humanity: our people are deeply traumatised and need to start the process of healing,” said a representative for the Khoisan group, Dr William Langeveld. The Khoisan want to use the Castle in Cape Town as a place for spiritual healing from historical traumas.

They are also calling for a Ministry of Indigenous Affairs (not traditional affairs) and are totally against Chapter 12 of the Constitution, which deals with traditional leaders. They favour Convention 169 of the International Labour Organisation, which champions the development of indigenous people.

The Deputy Commissioner of the Restitution of Land Rights Commission, Mr Thami Mdontswa, said the commission was engaging with the Khoisan to find urgent solutions to their land challenge.

During the recent public hearings,



the Portfolio Committee heard from frustrated land claimants about long waits for claims to be settled. There were even suggestions that all outstanding claims should be finalised before opening the new phase, with fears that outstanding claims might be abandoned when the new phase opened.

The Committee held hearings in all nine provinces, culminating in a session held in Parliament where organisations such as AgriSA, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the Centre for Law and Society and various Communal Property Associations (CPAs) gave their thoughts on the proposed legislation. The Portfolio Committee will consider all these inputs as it works on the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill.

On the issue of how the opening of the second lodgement period would affect outstanding claims from the first period, between 1994 and 1998, Mr Thibedi assured citizens that



RESTORING LAND RIGHTS: Public hearings gave members of local communities countrywide an opportunity to air their opinions on land restitution.

outstanding claims would not be delayed by the second lodgement.

“The second lodgement period will start at a time when the Department is moving faster in dealing with existing claims. The claim process will be re-opened for a five-year period during which time, the commission will continue to deal with outstanding claims.”

Mr Thibedi said claims would be processed electronically during the second lodgement and this would deal with the problem of missing claims documents, which was another issue raised during the hearings. Another challenge Mr Thibedi referred to was the shortage of land. “The land that was taken when dispossession began in 1913 is still the same size as it was. It does not fall pregnant and give birth to more pieces of land. However, the population has increased and the number of people who need the land has increased drastically.” He urged the Restitution of Land Rights Commission

to deal with issues such as capacity and budget, while issues such as “political will” would be dealt with by the Committee.

At the hearing in Parliament, Cosatu’s deputy parliamentary co-ordinator, Mr Matthew Parks, said: “We do not support compensation for theft. We believe that if somebody took the land illegally they should not be paid for it.”

Dr Aninka Claassens of the Centre for Law and Society said the Bill would obstruct the resolution of existing claims. “Some are saying that they made claims and 15 years later they are still waiting. In 15 years, most of the rural claims have not been processed.” Dr Claassens added that the Bill would allow traditional leaders to open counter claims against the CPAs, which could create false hope and prejudice those already in the queue.

The Legal Resources Centre called for the establishment of an independent commission, the ring-fencing of prior

claims and the transfer to happen within 12 months unless directed otherwise by the courts.

A resident of Gugulethu in Cape Town, Mr Sizwe Mputing, told the Committee: “My family has been struggling for six years to secure the rights to ownership of land in the Eastern Cape. Please intervene and help us to find a way forward. It’s been too long and the people who first made this claim are no longer with us. We, as the sons and daughters of that family, are also ageing.”

Among the proposed amendments in the Bill are that once a claim is made, it must appear in the district, provincial and national newspapers; that fraudulent claims be punishable by a fine or six months’ imprisonment; and the establishment of a Valuer-General Office. It also proposes discarding the “willing buyer, willing seller” system in favour of “just and equitable compensation” for land expropriated for public interest use. 🌱



GENDER ISSUES: The Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill aims to draft legislation that will bring real power to South African women.

Making gender law work

For a country that only attained democracy 20 years ago, South Africa has made giant strides in empowering women, but many challenges to total female emancipation remain, reports *Malatswa Molepo*.

The Women Empowerment and Gender Equality (WEGE) Bill championed by the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities is intended to act as a bridge that delivers South African women to total female empowerment. In 20 years, South Africa has passed important laws such as the Domestic Violence Act, the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act and the Employment Equity Act, which have sought to realise, respect and protect the right to gender equality in the country.

“When it comes to implementation of these gender-related legislations, policies and programmes in South Africa, there is an urgent need for effective coordination, monitoring, networking and technical support as well as adequate resource allocation to ensure implementation. We hope that this Bill will assist in fixing these challenges,” the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Mrs Dorothy Ramodibe, said.

At public hearings in Parliament she said while most public and private organisations agreed that a shift in gear was needed in this area, they were

worried that the WEGE Bill would not deliver on its promises, mainly because of a lack of clarity on how the Bill would be integrated with other relevant laws.

Business Unity South Africa (Busa) suggested that the 50% female representation target in all decision-making structures would weaken existing laws and would also overlap with provisions in the Employment Equity Act and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act.

“The labour pool from which employers draw their employees does not contain 50% of women in all instances, and this will result in unfair penalties being imposed on organisations. The unintended consequences could include job losses, slow economic growth and (slow) investment,” said Busa Executive Director: Social & Transformation Policy Ms Vanessa Phala.

This sentiment was echoed by the Legal Resource Centre’s Ms Charlene May. “Women are not a homogenous group and legislation focused on formal equity as opposed to substantive equality will not in any meaningful way

begin to address gender discrimination and inequality in South Africa. The model proposed in the Bill will simply amount to formal equity, which really is gender equity, in fact and law. In order to achieve true substantive equality we need to begin to look further than the 50% quota system and look at meaningful transformation and empowerment of the individual woman,” Ms May said.

Another problem raised was that the definition of gender in the Bill is limited, contrary to what the Constitution prescribes. “The definition of gender in the South African Constitution speaks to so much more than merely women, men, girls and boys. The Constitution is inclusive, extending protection and obligations to women, men, girls, boys, lesbians, gays, bisexual, and transsexual and intersex persons. The Bill therefore should not limit issues of gender equality and inequality as being issues between men and women and boys and girls,” Ms May said.

Despite these challenges, the recognition of recommitment to women’s empowerment was welcomed by the Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Ms Lulu Xingwana. “We will work to refine this Bill as an effective tool for empowerment. We hope to engage communities in all the provinces,” Ms Xingwana said. 🌟

tribute *to*

Mr Ben Skosana

7 May 1947 – 11 February 2014



On the evening of 11 February, as South Africans commemorated the day 24 years previously when the late Mr Nelson Mandela was released from prison, Parliament lost one of its veteran Members, Mr Ben Skosana, who collapsed and passed away during a parliamentary dinner in Cape Town.

The sudden death of Mr Skosana, who was also the House Chairperson of the National Assembly since 2007, happened on the eve of the final State of the Nation Address of the fourth Parliament as the country celebrates 20 years of democracy.

A former teacher by profession, Mr Skosana was born in Sharpeville township, Gauteng, on 7 May 1947. He played a meaningful role in building democracy in South Africa by serving Parliament as a member of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) since the first democratic Parliament in 1994.

As part of the promotion and deepening of reconciliation between South Africans, the interim constitution of the Republic of South Africa dictated the formation of a Government of National Unity after the first democratic elections in 1994. In this spirit, the IFP, which was one of the bigger political parties to contest the first democratic election, became part of that Government of National Unity. Mr Skosana was appointed as Minister of Correctional Services in 1998 by former President Nelson Mandela and held that position until 2004.

More recently, he served as the House Chairperson of the National Assembly, responsible for Members' Interests. As a Member of Parliament, Mr Skosana worked tirelessly to place at centre-stage the interests of the nation and the imperative of a common effort to strengthen democracy. In this, he achieved a great deal. Parliament will always remember him as a South African committed to entrenching the democracy for which so many sacrificed so much.

Parliament extends its heartfelt condolences to Mr Skosana's family, his friends and his party, the IFP, in this time of sadness and loss. His presence will be sorely missed among his parliamentary colleagues. When his colleagues paid tribute to Mr Skosana in the National Assembly, Mr Cedrick Frolick, House Chairperson: Committee, Oversight & ICT, described him as an astute and experienced Member of Parliament who was committed to his work.

Parliament says *Lala ngoxolo Mhlanga*. May your soul rest in eternal peace. You have played your part and for all you have done we are forever grateful. Tears are shed at the absence of your physical presence in Parliament, especially in the National Assembly. 🌹



Two decades of democracy

Parliament's *theme for 2014 is '20 years of a democratic Parliament'. The President's State of the Nation Address highlighted the achievements and challenges of the past year. To reach the widest possible evening audience, the address was delivered to a joint sitting of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces at 7 pm on 13 February 2014.*

The theme seeks to encourage public participation of citizens in matters of lawmaking and oversight. Parliament wants to reinforce its role of representing the people, to ensure that Parliament is not only elected by the people as stipulated in the Constitution, but also strengthened through public involvement. To boost public participation in the lawmaking processes, Parliament has devised a new Public Participation Framework, designed to strengthen public interest and voice in the country's legislative processes.

Since February 2010, the State of the Nation Address to the people was held in the evening, thus affording more working South Africans an opportunity to witness, listen and view the proceedings and the President's address from the comfort of their homes. Parliament includes a traditional praise singer and diverse cultural entertainment groups such as poets, praise singers and dancers in the proceedings of the State of the Nation. This practice from the time of the late President Nelson Mandela

continues today. A citizens' Guard of Honour that receives the President is another initiative to make the event more inclusive. The Guard of Honour comprises school learners, civic organisations and eminent persons who have contributed to the development of the nine provinces of South Africa.

After the State of the Nation Address proceedings and ceremony, political parties from both Houses of Parliament debate the speech. Political parties raise questions and make comments, and highlight issues of concern. Thereafter, the President responds to all issues raised during the debates. The public is invited to observe the debates.

A fortnight after the State of the Nation Address, the Minister of Finance is scheduled to deliver his Budget for the coming financial year (2014/15). The objectives and key deliverables outlined by the President in the State of the Nation Address form the basis of what government departments are expected to do. Parliament uses the standards set by the President to hold government accountable to the people for the basic

services it delivers, how funding is allocated and how the money is spent in the coming year.

Holding government accountable is an oversight function bestowed on Parliament through the Constitution. Parliament holds government answerable at national, provincial and local level. It checks whether government operations are transparent, whether laws are adhered to when implemented and whether government officials are running departments effectively. The success of Parliament's oversight over government will help build public trust in government departments.

Parliamentary programmes are in place to increase participation and involvement of citizens in the work of Parliament. These include the *Taking Parliament to the People* programme and the People's Parliament, in which face-to-face discussions take place between communities, Members of Parliament, government ministers and local councillors on issues of service delivery. These programmes seek to realise a Parliament that is an effective people's Parliament responsive to the needs of the public.

Arrangements can be made to meet Members of Parliament, attend Committee meetings and public hearings or observe debates of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces. Parliament has received tens of thousands of visitors in the past 20 years. Tours must be arranged in advance by calling 021 403 2266 and are free of charge. 🇿🇦

MIŊWAHA YA 20 YA DIMOKIRASI

Thero ya Phalamennde ya 2014 ndi “*Minwaha ya 20 ya Phalamennde ya dimokirasi*”. Mulaedza wa Muphuresidennde kha Lushaka wo sumbedzisa zwe zwa swikelwa na khaedu dza n̄waha wo fhiraho. U kona u swikela v̄hunzhi ha v̄hathetsheseli nga madekwana, mulaedza wo n̄tshedzwa kha dzulo la thanganelo la Buthano la Lushaka na Khoro ya Lushaka ya Mavun̄du nga 19:30 nga la 13 Luhuh̄i 2014. Yo pindulelwa nga **Nkhelebeni Neguyuni**.

Thero i t̄oḁa u t̄utuwedza u shela mulenzhe ha nnyi na nnyi ha v̄hadzulapo kha mafhungo a u sika milayo na v̄hulavhelesi. Phalamennde i t̄oḁa u khwaḁhisa mushumo wayo wa u imela v̄hathu, u itela uri Phalamennde i si v̄he yo khethiwaho nga v̄hathu fhedzi sa zwe zwa bulwa kha Ndayotewa, fhedzi i v̄he hafhu yo khwaḁhiswaho nga u shela mulenzhe ha tshishavha. U khwaḁhisa u shela mulenzhe nga tshithavha kha maitele a u sika milayo, Phalamennde yo thoma Muhanga wa V̄hudzheneli ha Tshishavha muswa, wo itelwaho u khwaḁhisa dzangalelo la tshishavha na v̄hupfiwa kha maitele a v̄husimamila yo ha shango.

U bva tsha Luhuh̄i 2010, Mulaedza wa Muphuresidennde kha Lushaka, wo v̄ha hone nga madekwana, ngauralo u n̄ea v̄hunzhi ha v̄hashumi v̄ha Afrika Tshipembe tshifhinga tsha u v̄ha th̄anzi, u thetshesela na u v̄hona matshimbidzele a mulaedza wa Muphuresidennde v̄ho ḁigeḁa mahayani avho. Phalamennde i katela tshirendi tsha sialala na zwigwada zwa u mvumvusa zwa mvelele dzo fhambananaho, u fana na v̄harendi, zwirendi na v̄hatshini kha matshimbidzele a Mulaedza wa Muphuresidennde kha Lushaka. Maitele aya a khou isa phanḁa namusi u bva tsha muḁahabvu Muphuresidennde V̄ho Nelson Mandela. Mufolo wa Khuliso wa v̄hadzulapo une wa t̄anganedza Muphuresidennde ndi v̄huh̄we v̄hurangeli v̄hu itaho uri v̄huh̄ambo

v̄hu katele muḁwe na muḁwe. Mufolo wa Khuliso u katela v̄hagudiswa v̄ha zwickolo, madzangano a v̄hadzulapo na v̄hathu v̄haḡivhaleaho v̄he v̄ha shela mulenzhe kha mveledziso ya mavun̄du a t̄ahe a Afrika Tshipembe.

Nga murahu ha matshimbidzele na v̄huh̄ambo ha Mulaedza wa Muphuresidennde kha Lushaka, madzangano a pol̄itiki u bva kha N̄ḁu dza Phalamennde mbili a hanedzana nga tshipitshi. Madzangano a pol̄itiki a swikisa mbudziso na mahumbulwa na u sumbedzisa mafhungo a v̄hilaedzaho. Nga murahu, Muphuresidennde v̄ha fhindula mafhungo oḁhe e a swikiswa nga tshifhinga tsha khanedzano. Tshishavha tshi rambiwa u lavhelesa khanedzano.

V̄hege mbili nga murahu ha Mulaedza wa Muphuresidennde kha Lushaka, Minisiḁa wa Gwama v̄ha tetshelwa u ḁivhadza Mugaganyagwama wavho wa n̄waha wa muvhalelano u ḁaho (2014/15). Ndivho na zwine zwa ḁo swikelwa zwiḁulwane zwe zwa sumbedzwa nga Muphuresidennde kha Mulaedza wa Muphuresidennde kha Lushaka zwi v̄ha mutheo wa zwine zwa lavhelelwa u itwa nga mihasho ya muvhuso. Phalamennde i shumisa zwiḁandadi zwe zwa v̄hewa nga Muphuresidennde u ita uri muvhuso u v̄he na v̄huh̄ifhinduleli kha v̄hathu u itela tshumelo dza mutheo dzine wa dzi ḁisedza, uri ndambedzo yo v̄hekanywa hani na uri tshedele i ḁo shumiswa hani n̄waha u ḁaho.

U ita uri muvhuso u v̄he na v̄huh̄ifhinduleli ndi mushumo wa v̄hulavhelesi wo n̄tshedzwa Phalamennde nga Ndayotewa. Phalamennde i ita uri muvhuso u v̄he na v̄huh̄ifhinduleli kha v̄huimo ha lushaka, ha vun̄du na kha muvhuso wapo. I sedza uri zwine muvhuso wa khou ita zwi khagala naa, uri milayo i khou tev̄hedzwa musi i tshi thoma u shuma na uri v̄haofisiri v̄ha muvhuso v̄ha khou tshimbidza mihasho nga n̄ḁila i bveledzaho naa. U bvelela ha v̄hulavhelesi ha Phalamennde kha muvhuso hu ḁo thusa u fhaḁa fulufhelo la tshishavha kha mihasho ya muvhuso.

Mbekanyamushumo dza Phalamennde dzi hone u itela u engedza u dzhenela ha v̄hadzulapo kha mushumo ya Phalamennde. Hezwi zwi katela mbekanyamushumo ya U Isa Phalamennde kha V̄hathu na Phalamennde ya V̄hathu, hune ha v̄ha na therisano v̄hathu v̄ho livhana zwifhaḁuwo v̄hukati ha zwitshavha, Miraḁo ya Phalamennde, minisiḁa dza muvhuso na v̄hakhantseḁara v̄hapo nga ha mafhungo a n̄ḁisedzo ya tshumelo. Hedzi mbekanyamushumo dzi t̄oḁa u v̄hona Phalamennde ine ya v̄ha Phalamennde ya v̄hathu i bveledzaho ine ya v̄ha na v̄hulondo kha t̄oḁea dza tshishavha.

Hu nga i twa nzudzanyo dza u t̄anganana na Miraḁo ya Phalamennde, u dzhenela miḁanganano ya Komiti dza phothifol̄io na v̄hupfiwa nga v̄hathu kana u lavhelesa khanedzano dza Buthano la Lushaka na Khoro ya Lushaka ya Mavun̄du dzi nga itwa. Phalamennde yo t̄anganedza v̄haeni v̄ha zwigidi kha miḁwaha ya 20 yo fhiraho. Nyendo dzi tea u dzudzanyiwa tshifhinga tshi sa athu swika nga u founela 021 403 2266. 📞



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