

Monthly magazine of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

in session



Vol. 14 ISSUE 6 July 2014



Parliament belongs to all

Deputy Speaker invites senior citizen to participate



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mace of National Assembly

Vision Statement

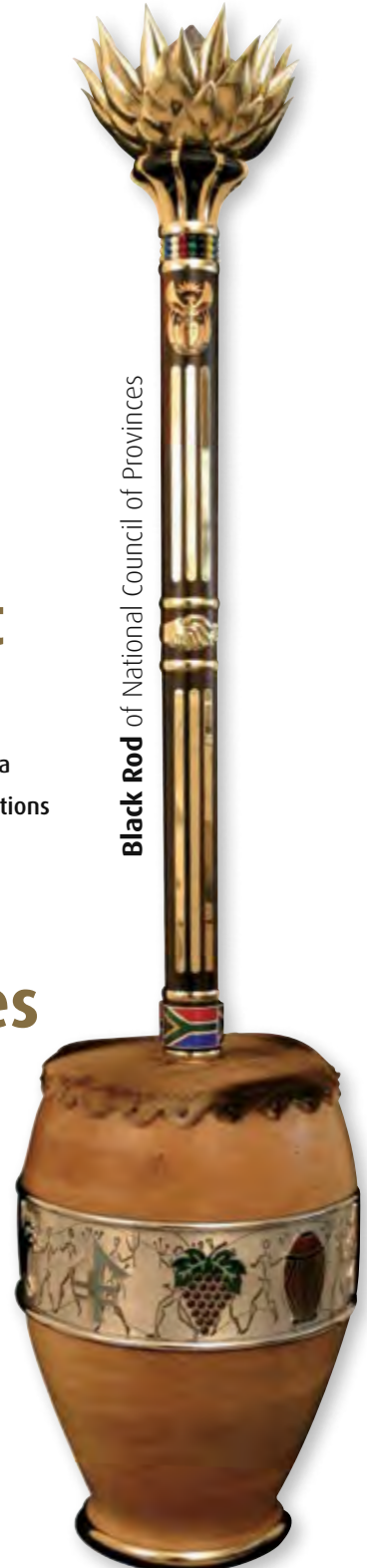
To build an effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people and that is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people of South Africa.

Mission Statement

As the freely elected representatives of the people of South Africa, our Mission is to represent, and to act as a voice of the people, in fulfilling our Constitutional functions of passing laws and overseeing executive action.

Strategic Objectives

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



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

contents

- 5 EDITOR'S **NOTE**
- 6 MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
- 7 I PUT THE QUESTION
A selection of questions raised in Parliament
- 9 COMMITTEES IN BRIEF
- 10 DEPUTY SPEAKER OF NA **WELCOMES SENIOR CITIZEN**
- 11 JOINT DEBATE AND REPLY TO
STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
- 12 FIFTH PARLIAMENT **SENDS REPS TO PAP**
- 13 TRIBUTE TO THE LATE **MS NOSIPHO NTWANAMBI**
- 14 PARLIAMENT DEBATES CHALLENGES
FACING SA'S YOUTH
- 16 WORKSHOP ON THE **NCOP'S MANDATE**
- 18 FIFTH PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**
And how to contact them
- 21 NCOP DEBATES **NEW LAND CLAIMS ACT**
- 22 LET'S GET **DOWN TO BUSINESS**
Two new Committees formed
- 24 NEW DEPARTMENT BRINGS HOPE
FOR **BETTER SANITATION**
- 26 **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IS KEY**
Economic Development Committee looks for growth
- 28 PARLIAMENT'S **BUDGET OFFICE**
Extracting maximum value from the budget
- 30 NEW MPs VISIT THEIR **CONSTITUENCIES**
- 32 THE COMMISSION FOR **GENDER EQUALITY**
Promoting gender issues in South Africa
- 34 **PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICE**
Parliament and Mandela Day
- 36 **KANTORO YA THUTO YA SETŠHABA**
Palamente le Letsatsi la Mandela

22



13



28



COVER: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mr Lechesa Tsenoli welcomed senior citizen Ms Anna Maria to Parliament recently.

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Publisher

Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Printer

Shumani Print World

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is published by the Information and Content
Development Unit of the Parliamentary
Communication Services of the Parliament of the
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VISION To build an effective people's Parliament
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ISSN 2227-1325 (Print)

ISSN 2227-3778 (Online)

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editor's note



Moira Levy

Public participation is one of the cornerstones of South Africa's Parliament. It is specifically stated in the Constitution that citizen participation in Parliament is required in our democracy. After all, the word "Parliament" comes from the French word meaning "to speak".

Parliament is premised on the idea of citizens making their voices heard in these hallowed halls of power. Our cover story demonstrates such participation in practice. We captured a meeting initiated by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, in which he invited a senior citizen, 100-year-old Ms Anna Maria, to visit him, to exchange views. "Mama Ouma" used the opportunity of having the ear of one of the Presiding Officers of the National Assembly to raise the issue of returning the land of the Khoisan people that had been taken by force under colonialism. For his part, Mr Tsenoli expressed his conviction that Parliament must open its doors to citizens (see story on page 10).

That is precisely the Parliament we aim to introduce to you, the reader, in these pages. *InSession*, Parliament's flagship magazine, "opens its doors" by telling you what is happening in your Parliament. For instance, Youth Month is over, but both the NA and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held Youth Day debates to explore whether the millions of rands allocated to develop and empower young people are really achieving those goals (see story on page 14).

From Parliament's perspective we unpack some of the statements made by President Jacob Zuma in his recent State of the Nation Address. We look at the oversight that will have to be exercised by the Committees of the two new ministries that he announced, Small Business Development and Telecommunications and Postal Services. We interview the Chairpersons of these Committees as they get down to business (see story on page 22).

We also look at the implications of President Zuma's creation of a Department of Water and Sanitation. The lack of proper sanitation for all citizens is a big problem that still exists in society 20 years after democracy. We interview the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services whose task it is to hold the Department to account on such concerns (see page 24).

InSession always includes a focus on some work of the Committees, as well as a regular Committees in Brief column (page 9). The central role of Committees in Parliament is highlighted by our centre spread on pages 18 to 20 in which we introduce you to the new Chairpersons of the fifth Parliament's Committees and we have included their contact details.

The NCOP held a workshop and induction process for its new members. *InSession* took the opportunity to cover it to remind readers of the work done, and accessibility created, at local and provincial level where most citizens engage with daily issues (see story on page 16).

One of our regular columns, I Put the Question (see page 7), serves the same purpose. Question time in Parliament is an opportunity for Members of all parties to call the Cabinet to account, and we include the virtually verbatim responses from the Ministers so that you, the public, are kept informed.

There is a lot more to read in this July issue of *InSession*, but we also want to hear what you have to say. Please send your inputs and comments to Parliament at insession@parliament.gov.za or contact us on 021 403 8442.

Enjoy the read!

Editor



Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete

MESSAGE FROM THE

national assembly



Twenty years after democracy, we stand as a proud nation, a self-assured nation, confident of its own capacity and its ability to mould its own destiny. Through the ballot box, the people of South Africa have once again given us a clear message on who they want as their elected representatives. We dare not fail them in carrying out this unequivocal mandate. We rise and fall as one nation, as one people.

Let us therefore resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness that has taken root of late in our political landscape. Let us summon a new spirit of patriotism and responsibility, where each one of us resolves to pitch in and work harder, smarter and faster, to ensure that our people enjoy a better quality of life, in their lifetime.

Robust debates and attacking each other's policies are part of a lively parliamentary process. It is, however, important that Members remain conscious that their interaction with each other does not create a perception in society that would divide a nation into polarised political positions.

I am not propagating for what is referred to as "sweetheart" debates rather than robust exchanges in Parliament, but I am raising the need to be aware of our influence on the public as their representatives. They expect us to act with decorum and we must do them that courtesy. Let each one of us, therefore, represent our people with dignity, purpose and honour.

Let Parliament continue to be a living embodiment of nation-building, purpose, solidarity and unity.

I know all Members of Parliament are a little fatigued after hard-fought election campaigns. There is, however, little time for a break, as there is much work that lies ahead of us. Nelson Mandela cautioned us to always remember that, and I quote: "What challenges us, who define ourselves as statespersons, is the clarion call to dare to think that what we are about is people – the proverbial man and woman in the street. These, the poor, the hungry, the victims of petty tyrants, the objectives of policy, demand change."

In the coming days, months and years, I look forward to working with the heads of all political parties to ensure that Parliament remains a vibrant, robust people's Parliament and a guide-post for nation-building and transformation: a Parliament that all South Africans are truly proud of.

This message is an edited version of Ms Mbete's acceptance speech when she was elected as Speaker of the National Assembly. 🇿🇦

i put the question

The first set of questions and answers of the fifth Parliament addressed the issues of new immigration policies and train safety, among other things.



Mr James Vos

Mr James Vos (DA) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Malusi Gigaba, whether his Department had consulted with other government departments to do a full impact analysis of the possible consequences of the new immigration regulations, which departments were consulted and the extent of the consultation.

The Minister replied: During the drafting of the new immigration regulations, the Department followed Section 7 of the Immigration Act 13 of 2002, which indicates that the Minister may make regulations after consultation with the Immigration Advisory Board (IAB). The composition of the IAB is described in Section 4 of the Act and includes key government departments and entities such as the South African Revenue Services, Trade and Industry, International Relations and Cooperation, Tourism, and the national Treasury.

Six meetings were held with the IAB to discuss immigration regulations, proposed amendments and possible consequences. In addition, the IAB submitted written comments and inputs to the Department, which were considered in the process of the amendment of the immigration regulations.

Mr Molapi Tlouamma (Agang SA) asked the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, if he intended to introduce legislation to combat the discriminatory practice of disqualifying jobseekers because of adverse credit profiles.

The Minister responded: Yes. The President has passed the National Credit Amendment Act into an Act of Parliament. The National Credit Amendment Act provides that there should be automatic removal of adverse consumer credit information. This will assist in that potential employees will not be adversely affected when they apply for jobs that do not involve handling of funds or do not involve high standards of honesty. Through monitoring and enforcement of the Notice/Regulations and Sections, the National Credit Regulator will encourage employers and credit bureaux/credit providers not to abuse the system any longer.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the National Credit Regulator will educate consumers about these developments so that they become aware of them and not become victims of abuse by credit providers.

Rev Kenneth Meshoe (ACDP) asked the Minister of Transport,

Ms Dipuo Peters, whether the “closed-door” policy, which seeks to ensure that trains do not leave platforms if commuters are hanging on the outside trains and before all doors have been closed, had been successful.

The Minister answered: The “close-door” safety directive that was issued by PRASA Rail in April 2014 has had satisfactory success, despite the problems around unsafe and high-risk commuter behaviour.

The policy is being implemented and enforced through a combination of strategies, including safety awareness campaigns and education amongst commuters. Metrorail has prioritised high-risk stations and is deploying security at those stations to enforce the door-closing safety intervention.

Since April 2014, 27 people have been arrested for contravening the safety rules contained in the Legal Succession Act of 1989. No one has been prosecuted for hanging on the outside of the train since the policy was introduced.

Mr Narend Singh (IFP) asked the Minister of Finance, Mr Nhlanhla Nene, whether, with regard to the current international economic

climate and recent 0,6% contraction in the quarterly gross domestic product, the country is heading for another recession, and what steps he will take to ensure that South Africa remains ahead of a recession.

The Minister replied: The contraction in the domestic economy in the first quarter of 2014 was driven by the mining and manufacturing sectors. The rest of the economy recorded growth of 1.4%. At this point, signals are that growth in the second quarter will be slow but positive. Recent economic data supports some rebound in the manufacturing and mining sectors, which grew by 3.5% and 7.9% respectively month-on-month in April. Many of the problems holding back South Africa's growth are of a supply nature and this implies that a fiscal response will not be sufficient to accelerate growth.

Adv Anton Alberts (FF Plus) asked the Minister of Transport, Ms Dipuo Peters, to clarify the legal basis in terms of which the Gauteng traffic police, the Johannesburg Metro Police and other traffic police units in Gauteng can use equipment belonging to the SA National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral). He also asked why traffic officials were asking motorists whether they have registered for an e-tag if it was not a legally required item.

The Minister responded: The road traffic enforcement actions that involve Sanral are conducted by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety (GDCS). The officers perform their duties in terms of the powers in the National Road Act, 1996 (Section 31). The equipment, max ID scanners and automatic number plate recognition equipment on board the vehicles assist GDCS in carrying



Mr Narend Singh

out its duties. Neither Sanral nor its appointed service provider perform any law enforcement activity in terms of stopping, engaging or issuing instructions/fines. Traffic officials will not question any road user with regard to e-tags as an e-tag is not compulsory for using the e-roads.

Ms Désirée van der Walt (DA) asked the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, whether she had taken action to ensure that the outstanding undelivered textbooks were delivered to the relevant schools in Limpopo and other provinces.

The Minister replied: The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is closely monitoring the delivery of reported textbook shortages. The Limpopo Department of Education (LDoE) placed an additional textbook order with publishers for 406 527 textbooks in January this year. This constituted textbook shortages which were only reported by schools at the beginning of the 2014 academic year. The LDoE again placed an additional

textbook order with publishers for 387 040 books on 20 March 2014. This order comprised schools that did not inform the LDoE of learner numbers or of shortages in December 2013. These have been delivered to schools.

Mr Khethamabala Sithole (IFP) asked the Minister of Transport, Ms Dipuo Peters, what plans were in place for Ward 24 in Winterveld and Ward 40 in Mamelodi for the development of road infrastructure.

The Minister responded: The plans for the development of road infrastructure in Ward 24 in Winterveld are on course and several designs for surfaced roads with stormwater drainage have already been completed. The project implementation will commence as soon as funds are available in the medium-term expenditure framework.

The road over the railway bridge, Serapeng Road, connecting Mamelodi and Nelmapius township from Tsamaya Road through Ward 40 was built a few years ago.

Currently the construction of the 1.4-km road is in progress. It will connect Serapeng Road in Ward 40 to Alwyn Street, via Koropo Street. The construction work will provide pavements and facilities for buses and taxis (stops and loading bays).

Furthermore, the local streets in Nelmapius Ext 6, Ext 7 and Ext 8 are currently being upgraded to surfaced streets with stormwater drainage as part of the housing development and approximately 50% of work has been completed. The overall construction work is scheduled to be completed by the end of December this year. 🇿🇦

Committees in brief

Every month Parliament's Committees diligently exercise their law-making and oversight functions. Cedric Mboyisa compiled this summary of a selection of Committee deliberations.

- **The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations**, Mr Siphosizwe Masango, received a memorandum on behalf of the government regarding the killings of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers from the Muslim Judicial Council, the Congress of the South African Trade Unions and academics from the University of Cape Town.

- **The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations**, Mr Siphosizwe Masango, has welcomed the establishment of the New Development Bank, aimed at aiding BRICS' – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – infrastructure projects. "Parliament is excited about this initiative and the potential it promises to improve infrastructure on the African continent. The establishment of the bank will lessen the impact of the obstructionist conditionalities attached to loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank," he said.

It was announced at the BRICS summit in Brazil that the BRICS countries had agreed to establish a bank, which would begin operating by 2016. The main objective of the bank is to fund infrastructural projects not only in BRICS countries, but throughout the developing world. Mr Masango said this was good news for Africa and particularly South Africa, as its Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission objectives would benefit immensely. "Infrastructure projects in such varied sectors as energy, rail, road and harbours will no longer be

hampered and held back due to a shortage of funding. This will enhance intra-Africa trade and connectivity and also increase direct employment opportunities as a result of infrastructural projects," he said. An amount of US\$100bn has been set aside to start the bank.

- **The Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests** has extended the deadline from 17 July to 15 August for Members of Parliament to disclose their financial interests. The joint rules stipulate that MPs must make the disclosure 30 days after the opening of Parliament, but the Committee deemed it appropriate that the deadline be extended in order to afford MPs, especially new ones, sufficient time to familiarise themselves with the process so as to disclose accurately.

- **The Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture** extended its condolences to the family and friends of the late renowned author and Nobel laureate Ms Nadine Gordimer. "She was one of those people who were rich repositories of our heritage as a nation. Future generations will benefit from her writings," said Ms Xoliswa Tom, the Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee appealed to South Africans to follow the example set by Ms Gordimer in ensuring that South African culture and heritage is immortalised by writing their lifetime experiences. "The only way we can guide future generations is to write our unique experiences so that they will learn from them," Ms Tom added.

- **The Portfolio Committee on Transport** has called on the Department of Transport (DoT) to prioritise the scholar transport policy this year. The Committee Chairperson, Ms Dikeledi Magadzi, said the policy had to be fast-tracked and that the DoT needed to take full responsibility for the function of transporting learners. "Learners, especially those attending farm schools and travelling long distances to access education, suffer as a result of the absence of this policy. Their safety and their lives are forever in danger because they travel in converted bakkies that are perpetually used in rural provinces like the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal," Ms Magadzi said.

- **The Independent Communication Authority of South Africa (Icasa)** uses 65% of its annual budget on salaries. This was revealed in a joint meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Communications and the Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications and Postal Services earlier this month. Four entities – Icasa, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the Media Development and Diversity Agency and Sentech – appeared before the Committees to present their strategic and annual performance plans.

During his presentation, Icasa CEO Mr Pakamile Pongwana conceded that Icasa employees were highly paid. He said Icasa management had set up an investigation into organisational structural realignment and had also embarked on a review of remuneration. 🗣️

‘I feel honoured to be invited to Parliament’

Putting *commitment to parliamentary participation into practice, the Deputy Speaker invited a 100-year-old Western Cape citizen to South Africa’s people’s Parliament to meet him for a chat. Mzingewzi Plum was there.*

“MPs must do their work with deep passion and do it for all generations. Doing that will attract all South Africans to Parliament and they will see it as an important place in their society.” That was what the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, told *InSession* after he welcomed a 101-year-old Mitchell’s Plain-based South African citizen, Ms Anna Maria, to Parliament recently.

Mr Tsenoli emphasised the importance of public participation and the fact that it is one of the core principles of the National Development Plan (the government’s plan to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030).

“The promotion of public participation in the affairs of Parliament is our collective responsibility as MPs. And 2014 being the 20th anniversary of freedom, it is crucial that we as MPs do our work in a manner that impacts on all generations, old and young. Our people must feel

that Parliament is a place worth going to and recognise its importance in their respective communities,” he said.

To demonstrate public participation, Mr Tsenoli invited Ms Maria to Parliament. “There is no doubt that the location of Parliament in Cape Town makes access to it difficult to many ordinary South Africans, as travelling to Parliament is expensive. That diminishes the involvement and participation of ordinary South African citizens in their Parliament,” Mr Tsenoli said.

He said Parliament needs to find alternative ways to ensure public involvement and participation by ordinary South Africans in their Parliament. “Our predecessors made great achievements and we need to continue in their footsteps to have the intended results.”

Mama Ouma, as she is fondly called, was born on 6 June 1914 and grew

up in Carnarvon, near Upington in the Northern Cape. At the age of 19 she moved to De Aar where she met her husband and they were blessed with five children. In 1945 Mama Ouma and her husband relocated to Cape Town and eventually stayed in Mitchell’s Plain, where she still lives.

“When Parliament called to invite me, I was excited about the fact that I was invited by the leading law-making institution in our country and that was a very important occasion for me,” Mama Ouma said.

“The conversation I had in Parliament with the Deputy Speaker, Mr Tsenoli, broadened my limited understanding of Parliament. I now have an understanding of its mandate. I am delighted to be in Parliament and feel honoured as not everyone would have this privilege to come to Parliament and share views with parliamentary Presiding Officers,” Mama Ouma added.

Mama Ouma said although she was invited in her personal capacity, she came not for herself but on behalf of her community. She also said she was optimistic that the land of the Khoisan people that was taken by force by colonialists would be returned to them one day.

Mama Ouma hoped that Members of the democratic Parliament would be driven by a deep commitment to do the right thing every time they do it. “That was our school motto: ‘Do one thing at a time, and do it well,’” she explained. She said this kind of attitude would translate into the passing of the correct legislation. 🌱



LET’S TALK: The Deputy Speaker of the NA, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, and Ms Anna Maria.



TWO HOUSES: The Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise, presides over the State of the Nation Address debate during a joint sitting in the National Assembly.

Both houses hold joint debate

Provides broad platform for participation

Since *it was launched 16 years ago, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) has questioned why the debate on the State of the Nation Address was only held in the National Assembly (NA). This year, for the first time, the fifth Parliament decided to hold the debate in a joint sitting of both Houses. Mzingezwi Plum reports on the gains this change has brought.*

The Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Raseriti Tau, said holding the State of the Nation debate and the President's reply in a joint sitting of Parliament had been the product of fruitful discussion between the previous and the current parliamentary Presiding Officers and Joint Whipper. "It was finally agreed by all political parties, including those represented in the NCOP," Mr Tau said.

Mr Tau explained that the debate in the joint sitting did not diminish the individual mandates of the Houses but instead provided a broader parliamentary platform to enable Members of Parliament of both Houses to highlight issues falling within the mandates of their Houses. "For example, NCOP MPs were able to raise local government issues during the debate."

He said the debate in a joint sitting also provided a strategic opportunity for the Premiers to express some of the challenges confronting their provincial governments.

"The joint sitting situation created a platform for more participation by Premiers to reflect on the state of their provinces and to profile the interests of their respective provinces, so it was not just national issues that were debated," Mr Tau explained.

"This will elevate and reinforce the character and role of local municipalities and government. It will provide a platform for them to share with the nation the state of local municipalities and also bring these to the attention of the President," Mr Tau said.

The NA's Deputy Speaker, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, also emphasised the importance of the joint sitting for the debate. He said the joint sitting promoted working relations between the two Houses of Parliament and integrated aspects of their mandates. "The two Houses are different and have different responsibilities. The Constitution conceives of them differently, but that doesn't stop them from working together, as they have done with the debate on the State of the Nation Address," Mr Tsenoli said.

He mentioned that President Jacob Zuma had praised the Presiding Officers for ensuring that the first State of the Nation debate of the fifth Parliament had taken place in a joint sitting of Parliament. President Zuma said: "Having Members of both the NA and NCOP has certainly enriched the debate and has given meaning to the fact that the State of the Nation Address takes place during a joint sitting of Parliament."

InSession spoke to people who had attended both the State of the Nation Address and the debate and asked them for their views. One of these was Mr Sakhiwo Rorwana from Cape Town. Mr Rorwana said: "It was exciting to see the new MPs engaging the President unapologetically and robustly. That sent a clear message to the President that the new MPs were not going to deal with the government in the same old way."

Also sharing her views with *InSession* was Ms Lindiwe Mda, who watched the address and the debate that followed on TV. After that, she had decided to attend the President's reply in person. "That kind of debate attracted me to come and see the President. The debate and the reply of the President boosted my spirit of patriotism," Ms Mda said. 🇷🇵

Fifth Parliament sends reps to PAP

Five *Members of Parliament (MPs) have been designated to serve as members of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), writes Elijah Moholola.*

The five MPs who will serve in the PAP are the new NCOP Chief Whip Dr Hunadi Mateme, the former NCOP Deputy Chairperson and the current Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women in the Presidency, Ms Thandi Memela, Dr Pallo Jordan, Ms Santosh Kalyan and Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa.

They will serve in the PAP over the term of the fifth Parliament until 2019, and one of their responsibilities will include attendance of the continental legislative body's ordinary sessions in March and in October each year.

The newly designated MPs from the South African Parliament will be sworn in at the next PAP Ordinary Session that is expected to take place in October. As members of the PAP, the five South African MPs will be part of a structure that was established to ensure full participation of African people in the development and economic integration of the continent.

The legislative body, which consists of 47 member states, has its headquarters in Midrand, South Africa. The first PAP Parliament was inaugurated on 18 March 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Though the ultimate aim of the PAP is to "evolve into an institution with full legislative powers, whose members are elected by universal adult suffrage", it currently only has consultative and advisory powers. The process of changing the PAP into a legislative body is under way through the amendment of the Protocol establishing the body by member states.

The work of the PAP is of importance to the South African Parliament in promoting the African agenda. The participation of the South African Parliament in the PAP involves observing elections in African states, which is premised on the need to deepen and broaden parliamentary democracy on the entire continent towards people-centred political and economic integration in Africa.

In 2014 PAP – which is led by President Bethel Amadi from Nigeria – turned 10.

The objectives of the PAP are to:

- * Facilitate the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union and the African Economic Community.
- * Promote the principle of human rights and democracy in Africa.
- * Encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in member states.
- * Familiarise the people of Africa with the objectives and policies aimed

at integrating the African continent within the framework of the establishment of the African Union.

- * Promote peace, security and stability on the continent.
- * Contribute to a more prosperous future for the people of Africa by promoting collective self-reliance and economic recovery.
- * Facilitate cooperation and development in Africa.
- * Strengthen continental solidarity and build a sense of common destiny among the peoples of Africa.
- * Facilitate cooperation among regional economic communities and their parliamentary forums.

Member states are represented in the PAP by five parliamentarians, at least one of whom has to be a woman. The South African Parliament's representation exceeds this requirement by far, with three out of the five PAP members (60%) being female. In the previous Parliament, South Africa also had a 60% female representation in the PAP.

The PAP also requires the representation of each member state to be "reflective of the diversity of political opinions in each national Parliament or other deliberative organ". In this regard, the South African Parliament is also way above the target with the five Members being drawn from three political parties. 🌍

tribute *to*

Ms Nosipho Dorothy Ntwanambi

25 September 1959 to 8 July 2014



In his poem, *Song of Myself*, one of the great writers of the 18th century, Walt Whitman, writes: "Behold I do not give lectures or little charity, when I give, I give myself." These sentiments encapsulate the life lived by Ms Nosipho "Spakes" Dorothy Ntwanambi, who dedicated her life to serving the people of South Africa.

Ms Ntwanambi was born in Gugulethu, Cape Town, on 25 September 1959. She regarded the year of her birth as significant as it was the same year that former president Nelson Mandela delivered an important speech criticising the apartheid government for legalising separate settlements for blacks, and was also the year of the birth of the Pan Africanist Congress.

Ms Ntwanambi had a deep concern for the situation faced by many black people, particularly women. She started her political life when she joined the African National Congress (ANC) as a student during the 1976 uprisings, which saw millions of students across South Africa protesting against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black schools.

By the age of 22 she was already a strong political tactician and had become what she would remain all her life, a determined and committed public leader. Her vision and ideals

were to fight for the rights of women who were ostracised and shackled to grim conditions of poverty, underdevelopment and gender discrimination. She went on to become a teacher at Siyazingisa Primary School from 1983 to 1997, teaching English, geography, history and Xhosa.

In 1983, she joined the United Women's Organisation and in 1985 was one of the pioneers of the Democratic Teachers' Union, which later merged with other teachers' unions to form the South African Democratic Teachers' Union.

Ms Ntwanambi's dedication to the struggle against apartheid and discrimination against women saw her rise from the streets of Gugulethu where she grew up to serving in various political leadership structures, including the ANC and its Women's League.

Her commitment to gender and human rights issues in the ANC resulted in her election to the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the National Working Committee of the ANC Women's League (ANCWL). In 2003, she was elected convener of the ANCWL NEC deployees in the Western Cape Province. She also served in the Provincial Executive Committee and the Provincial Working Committee of the ANC in the same province.

Ms Ntwanambi joined the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in 1999 and was elected Chairperson of the Select Committee on Economic and Foreign Affairs in 2004.

In 2005, she was elected Chairperson of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus and served in various international structures such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the South African Development Community Parliamentary Forum. She was elected to the NEC of the ANC at its 2007 National Conference held in Polokwane, Limpopo.

In 2008, she was elected the Deputy President of the ANCWL and in the same year she became the first woman to be elected the Chief Whip of the NCOP, a development that was hailed by several gender organisations as a major milestone in the representation of women in key decision-making structures in Parliament.

The death of Ms Ntwanambi on 8 July 2014 in Gugulethu robbed South Africa and the ANC of one of the most outstanding and humble servants of the people. She leaves behind two daughters, two grandchildren, her mother, two sisters and a brother. 🕯️



Are government efforts helping SA's youth

Government's *massive investment in developing the young is being dwarfed by the ever-increasing challenges facing young South Africans. This was the view of many during the debate in Parliament on '20 years of democracy – together advancing youth development and empowerment'.* Sakhile Mokoena reports.

President Jacob Zuma announced during the State of the Nation Address that youth empowerment would be prioritised in the government's economic transformation programme. The government has allocated millions to develop and empower young people in the 20 years since the advent of democracy, but it seems all these efforts are inadequate as the challenges facing young people today

continue to increase. These views came out of debates on Youth Day in the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

Ms Cheryllyn Dudley of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) in the NA said for too long specialised and prioritised attention had been focused on youth development through policies, institutions and

programmes, and yet the challenges and needs of young people continue to increase. "Even where there are good policies, we lack the capacity to implement them. The Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) created some years ago to address issues of skills development have not had the impact envisioned or required and, adding insult to injury, some SETAs continue to under-spend their budgets," Ms Dudley said.

While the newly introduced Youth Wage Subsidy had been hailed as successful as more businesses use it to employ young people, Ms Dudley said MPs had mixed feelings about the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), with some calling for a serious revamp.

"The NYDA needs a serious revamp to include young people from all walks of life and different political parties if it is to become a credible body. We will not achieve the necessary goals if young people are not central to the entire process



FUTURE HOPES: The government has allocated millions of rands to develop and empower young people.

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Monitoring in the Presidency, Mr Buti Manamela, said that government must, through education, effectively capacitate youth to take part in all the areas targeted for development. "Making education fashionable will be central if we are to invest in human capital, as a core to our development strategy and in breaking the vicious cycle of unemployment, poverty and inequality. If energy, agriculture, manufacturing or ICT are priority areas of development in the coming years, we should direct all our resources to integrate young people in those economic streams," the Deputy Minister said.

He also announced that the NYDA Act would be reviewed. "This legislation is under review because we noted that in its current configuration it is wholly inadequate to address the structural challenges of youth development in our country. Critical to the review will be, firstly, acknowledging that the problem of youth development cuts across all sectors of the economy and spheres of development and that, owing to this reality, youth development must be integrated into all spheres of our national, provincial and local government. It cannot be that we configure youth development in piecemeal fashion outside the various mega-projects on infrastructure development, such as power generation, road construction or the beneficiation of our mineral resources," he said. He also said the NDP would not succeed if "it is not for, with and about the youth of this country".

Mr Seiso Mohai of the African National Congress (ANC) in the NCOP said the youth of 1976 had a mission to fight and liberate South Africa and today's youth must work hard and fight to equip themselves with skills that

must advance national development. "Today's youth must lead the struggle against unemployment, poverty, disease, crime and substance abuse, and put South Africa forward," he said.

Mr Makashule Gana of the DA in the NA said: "If we are to address the youth unemployment crisis, we have to encourage, support and celebrate innovations by our young people so we can industrialise the products they develop."

Ms Tasneem Motara of the ANC in the NCOP said education remained the key priority of the fifth Parliament and it was up to young South Africans to take the lead in his or her own lives. "Education is a necessary tool and form of advancement for any individual who takes his or her own empowerment seriously," she said.

Mr Lehlohonolo Mokoena of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in the NCOP said there was not a single programme in the world that could lift the disenfranchised youth out of perennial hopelessness, if land was not the core driver. "Landlessness has rendered them victims of harsh conditions of crime, bad health, squalor and displacement in apartheid-style demolitions and evictions. We give them temporary relief through archaic labour programmes such as the Extended Public Works Programme and the Youth Wage Subsidy, while to them quality service delivery seems but a distant dream. Their overarching plight of homelessness and landlessness continues to render them permanent tenants indebted to their historical landlords." 🗣️

What do you think the government could do to help empower the youth of South Africa? Email insession@parliament.gov.za and let us know your thoughts.

of youth development. There also need to be synergies between youth development machineries and civil society organisations to ensure that integrated youth development is implemented in order to attain sustainable youth livelihoods and ensure that young people do not play a mediocre role in the development of the country," Ms Dudley said.

During the debate, MPs called for the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP), which received support from both opposition benches and the ruling party.

Mr George Michalakos of the Democratic Alliance (DA) in the NCOP said the NDP has outlined constructive plans to change the way South Africa's economy functions, to restructure the economy in such a way that would see growth and job creation across all sectors. "The Youth Wage Subsidy has already proved to be successful as businesses make use of this opportunity to employ and develop young people," he said.

Core business of the NCOP unpacked

The *National Council of Provinces (NCOP) remains unique in that unlike the National Assembly, its mandate straddles the three spheres of government: national, provincial and local. This is a triangular framework of responsibilities that its members have to grapple with. Abel Mputing reports.*

The NCOP held a workshop to familiarise its new Members with these triangular responsibilities, which inform the constitutional mandate of the NCOP. This was to ensure Members have a clear understanding of what is expected of them and how they can give expression to their constitutional responsibilities, said the newly elected Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise.

“The purpose of this workshop is clear: it is to elaborate on the constitutional role or mandate of the NCOP and how it has been given expression over the years by its structures, systems and procedures that govern its processes and programmes of law-making, overseeing executive action, promoting co-operative governance and intergovernmental relations flowing from the Constitution. That is critical because the success of the NCOP will be judged on whether it succeeded in ensuring that the government acts in a co-operative manner across the three spheres of government,” she said.

“The success or failure of this House should be measured by whether it is able to contribute to effective co-operative governance. And even the

manner in which the representatives of the three spheres of government are represented in it clearly shows that we have a role to play in ensuring that the government acts in a co-operative manner. That will be the basis of how we should be measured.”

But the major responsibility for the effectiveness of the NCOP in undertaking its responsibilities that emanate from its constitutional mandate lies with its Chairperson, its former Chairperson, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, said.

“The overall responsibility of the Chairperson of the NCOP is to ensure that the Council carries out its mandate as determined by the Constitution. He or she must exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Office of the Chairperson guided by the Rules of the NCOP, as provided for in terms of Rules 7 and 8. These include presiding over and maintaining the decorum of the House, ensuring the smooth running of the House business and that of its Committees and ensuring the development and management of the programme of the House,” he said.

In her overview of the NCOP, the one-time Chairperson of the NCOP and

the current Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, pointed out that the NCOP came into being as a result of the political decision to have a South Africa that is based on a model of co-operative governance rather than a federal one. This is actually a governance framework premised on the German model.

“After much debate about whether a democratic South Africa should be constituted on federal lines, the 1996 Constitution adopted three ‘distinctive, interdependent and interrelated’ spheres of government. Co-operative governance followed the German model, emphasising concurrency, provincial delivery of national policies, and provincial representation at the centre.”

She said the NCOP had since developed a range of procedures and mechanisms to give effect to its co-operative mandate. “The mandate is complex yet stark in its simplicity. The NCOP’s role is to ensure that the provincial interest is considered and incorporated into the national forum. In addition to being the national forum for provincial interests, the House was given a range of legislative tasks. The tools for exercising this mandate are public hearings, questions, Committee research and review.”

But since its inception it has continued to be faced with the need to maximise and deepen its

PROVINCIAL INTERESTS: The newly elected Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise.



public participation footprint as a means of giving expression to its participatory oversight. "One of the main areas of concern in the NCOP's work has been how to deepen public participation in its work, because public participation is vital in a democracy. As a result, when I was chair we established the Taking Parliament to the People programme. This was an effort to include marginalised communities in law-making to avoid the likelihood of Parliament becoming an elite institution."

Other than the Taking Parliament to the People programme, the NCOP has since initiated Provincial Week to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government, Local Government Week to facilitate the participation of the South African Local Government Association (Salga) in the processes of the NCOP and the NCOP Public Lecture to enhance its ability to give expression to its participatory oversight mandate, the NCOP Deputy Chairperson,

Mr Raseriti Tau, said in his presentation. "The Taking Parliament to the People programme has now become a prominent feature in our country's political calendar and it has caught the public's attention as one of the most effective participatory oversight programmes that Parliament has come up with.

"This programme was initiated in 2002 to enhance public participation and to facilitate public education. It consists of different activities such as public hearings, site visits, sector meetings and formal sittings of the House. Since its inception, the programme has enabled the NCOP to facilitate public accountability," Mr Tau said.

However, in the third Parliament an independent survey was conducted as a means to further sharpen its impact. As a result of the findings it was remodelled, he said. "Now it comprises a fact-finding exercise at technical level, followed by a committee oversight programme and a public meeting to enable the people

to influence the main programme and engage with the executive. Now, its main programme consists of public hearings, site visits and sector meetings. And there is also a follow-up exercise done mainly by committees or designated teams," he added.

To mark its 15th anniversary, the NCOP Public Lecture was launched to ensure that its public participation mandate filters through all spheres of public influence.

"A decision was taken to initiate a public lecture programme targeting tertiary institutions because higher education institutions make significant contributions to democratic processes through fostering informed citizenship, critical debate and public institutional life. The decision was to start the programme by working with institutions that already have a rich history of advancing the struggle for freedom, which are in turn playing a significant role in the transformation of South African society under the new democratic dispensation," Mr Tau said. 🌍

Meet your Committee

Parliament *has established a total of 50 Committees, which are the engines that will drive the fifth Parliament and exercise oversight over the Executive. There are 32 Portfolio Committees from the National Assembly, 11 Select Committees from the National Council of Provinces, four Standing Committees and three Joint Committees.*



Portfolio Committees



Select Committees



Standing Committees



Joint Committees



PC on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Ms MR Semanya
021 403 2975



PC on Arts and Culture
Ms XS Tom
021 403



PC on Basic Education
Ms N Gina
021 403 2674



PC on Communications
Ms JC Moloi-Moropa
021 403 2911



PC on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Mr MR Mdakane
021 403 2943



PC on Defence and Military Veterans
Mr MS Motimele
021 403 3134



PC on Economic Development
Ms EM Coleman
021 403 2968



PC on Energy
Mr FZ Majola
021 403 3189



PC on Environmental Affairs
Mr JM Mthembu
021 403 2672



PC on Health
Ms ML Duniwa
021 403 3086



PC on Higher Education and Training
Ms YN Phosa
021 403 2983



PC on Home Affairs
Mr BL Mashile
021 403 2671



PC on Human Settlements
Ms NN Mafu
021 403 2728



PC on International Relations and Cooperation
Mr MSA Masango
021 403 2675



PC on Justice and Correctional Services
Dr MS Motshekga
021 403 2593

Chairpersons



PC on Labour
Ms LE Yengeni
021 403 2716



PC on Mineral Resources
Mr S Luzipho
021 403 3209



PC on Police
Mr F Beukman
021 403 2873



PC on Public Enterprises
Ms DB Letsatsi-Duba
021 403



PC on Public Service and Administration as well as Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
Ms BP Mabe
021 403 3059



PC on Public Works
Mr BAD Martins
021 403 2718



PC on Rural Development and Land Reform
Ms PC Ngwenya-Mabila
021 403 3113



PC on Science and Technology
Dr MB Goqwana
021 403 2303



PC on Small Business Development
Ms NR Bhengu
021 403 2399



PC on Social Development
Ms RN Capa
021 403 3077



PC on Sport and Recreation
Ms BN Dlulane
021 403 3092
PC on



Telecommunications and Postal Services
Ms MT Kubayi
021 403 2333



PC on Tourism
Ms BT Ngcobo
021 403 3122



PC on Trade and Industry
Ms JL Fubbs
021 403 3224



PC on Transport
Ms DP Magadzi
021 403 2911



PC on Water and Sanitation
Mr M Johnson
021 403 2979



PC on Women in the Presidency
Ms TC Memela
021 403 2726

Committee Chairpersons Continued

- Portfolio Committees
- Select Committees
- Standing Committees
- Joint Committees



Select Committee on Appropriations
Mr SJ Mohai
021 403 8670



Select Committee on Communications and Public Enterprises
Mrs E Prins
021 403 3207



Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Mr J Mohopi
021 403 2911



Select Committee on Economic and Business Development
Mr L Suka
021 403 2432



Select Committee on Education and Recreation
Mrs LL Zwane
021 403 3967



Select Committee on Finance
Mr CJ de Beer
021 403 3970



Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources
Mr OJ Sefako
021 403 2898



Select Committee on Petitions and Executive Undertakings
Mr S Thobejane
021 403



Select Committee on Security and Justice
Mr DL Ximbi
021 403 2848



Select Committee on Social Services
Ms LC Dlamini
021 403 2878



Select Committee on Trade and International Relations
Mr ER Makue
021 403 3055



Standing Committee on Appropriations
Mr SP Mashatile
021 403 3198



Standing Committee on Auditor-General
Mr VG Smith
021 403 2661



Standing Committee on Finance
Mr YI Carrim
021 403 3984



Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Mr NT Godi
021 403 3917



Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests
Mr NA Masedo
021 403



Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests
Mr A Singh
021 403 3136



Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence
Ms C September
021 403 2911



Joint Committee Multi-Party Women Caucus
Ms M Morutoa
021 403 3039

NCOP debate told land reform could boost economy

Successful *land reform will not only restore dignity to victims of land dispossession, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) heard during a debate in the NCOP. It also has the potential to grow the economy and create desperately needed jobs, especially in rural areas. Sakhile Mokoena reports.*

During the debate, NCOP MPs welcomed the announcement by the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Gugile Nkwinti, that the government had opened the lodging of land claims from 1 July 2014 to June 2019 to accommodate those people who missed out on the first phase, which closed in 1998.

Democratic Alliance MP Mr Christiaan Smit said that if the land reform programme was managed well, land restitution would boost the rural economy and create desperately needed jobs. "Equity share schemes in farming can work in South Africa, but this can only happen if the process is managed fairly without corruption and nepotism," he said.

Gauteng MEC for Infrastructure Development, Ms Nathi Mayathula-Khoza, welcomed the signing into law of the Restitution of Land Rights Act. "The government is now empowered to prioritise and accelerate the settlement of not only the remaining 8 471 land claims submitted before the 1998 cut-off date, but also of all descendants of those who were forcibly removed from the land of their birth as a result of the notorious 1913 Natives' Land Act and other discriminatory laws and policies of the past regime," she said.

In the past, the willing buyer, willing seller principle was blamed for delaying the land reform programme

and under the new law it has been replaced by a system of equitable and just compensation. "We believe that land reform has the potential to radically transform rural and urban economies to empower the poor and create jobs," Ms Mayathula-Khoza said.

Economic Freedom Fighters MP Dr Younus Vawda said land ownership lay at the heart of South Africa's socio-economic inequality. "Closing the gap is not only in the best interest of people dispossessed of land or the poor. It is in the best interests of all of us, including the fortunate wealthy ones," he said.

Dr Vawda said land should be restored to its rightful owners, who should then receive appropriate skills development. "Due to a lack of post-settlement support in the past, some individual beneficiaries of land reform had to sell back their land to the government," Dr Vawda said.

The Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Nkwinti, said land claims could be lodged through an electronic system in any one of the 14 lodgement offices throughout the country. In remote areas, he explained that mobile units will visit communities to assist with claims. Furthermore, he explained that there would be no claim forms other than those available at the lodgement sites or mobile units. "This is to curb the

selling of claim forms by unscrupulous criminals who have already started to take advantage of our people by charging them for assistance to lodge land claims. Lodging a claim will be a free government service," he explained.

During the debate, MPs questioned the use of the 1913 Natives' Land Act to determine the cut-off date for land claims, as it left some victims, especially the Khoi and the San, out of the land claims process. "The Department has been working on exceptions to the 1913 Natives' Land Act cut-off date, initially focusing on organising and mobilising the Khoi and the San communities throughout the country," Mr Nkwinti said.

Eastern Cape Premier Mr Phumulo Masualle said more than 250 years before the enactment of the 1913 Land Act, indigenous African people had been engaged in protracted wars in defence of their land. "The Act itself came only to legitimise that which had been forcefully taken without any compensation. It is only logical that an approach that secures genuine redress to land ownership is an unavoidable necessity. Our people and the country need action now and not later. All of you must be restless as a nation until a lasting solution is found and that solution cannot only be by ensuring compensation, we need to look at measures to ensure this redress," Mr Masualle said. 🌱



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CHAIRPERSON: Ms Ruth Bhengu.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES CHAIRPERSON: Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi.

Let's get down to business

Two new Committees formed

Two new Portfolio Committees have been established following President Jacob Zuma's announcement during his State of the Nation Address in June that he was establishing two new departments, reports **Elijah Moholola**.

The two Committees – Telecommunications and Postal Services and Small Business Development – were quick to get down to business at the start of the fifth Parliament. The newly elected Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications and Postal Services, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, explained the reasoning behind the establishment of the Committee.

"The Committee was established after President Zuma announced in his State

of the Nation Address that there would be a division of communications and telecommunications. The oversight function of this new Committee will focus more on telecommunications and postal services, leaving the Portfolio Committee on Communications to focus on communications.

"The Committee is important because, in the past, telecommunications and postal services issues have been overshadowed by other things, such as broadcasting, when it came to the

discussions of the Portfolio Committee on Communications."

The new Committee was therefore borne out of the necessity to ensure that telecommunications and postal services issues received the attention they deserved, Ms Kubayi explained. "Previously under the Portfolio Committee on Communications there were too many entities and the Committee's work was too clustered. Even in the public domain, you would not find much discussion on telecommunications issues, as broadcasting got all the attention. The establishment of the new Department and Committee gives us an opportunity to focus on telecommunications issues," Ms Kubayi said.

The Committee will have oversight over the South African Post Office, Telkom, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, the State Information Technology Agency, the Universal Service and Access Agency of SA, Sentech, the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa, the .za Domain Name Authority, and the eSkills Institute.

One of the Committee's duties will be making sure that South Africans are able to access the services offered by these entities, even for people living in remote areas. "We need to maximise the use of these services to ensure that South Africa becomes a more connected country. This is important, considering the key role technology plays in our lives today."

Ms Kubayi said the Committee would focus on digital migration and connectivity issues. She also mentioned that social media tools could enhance public participation in the business of Parliament, which is one of its key priorities. "Social media can be used as an effective tool to penetrate communities. You find many young people in the social media space and through this medium you can disseminate the message directly to the recipients without it being changed or distorted.

"More and more, parliaments need to start using social media. This is not to say that once you have used social media, you have ensured public participation. However, you can use it to enhance the work of Parliament. For instance, you can send out an alert to inform people about an event or a programme of the Committee."

Addressing the unregulated nature of the social media world, Ms Kubayi

said the Committee would look at this issue, if the need arose. "We need to ensure that even in our usage of such media channels, we still take into consideration the aspect of *ubuntu*. We should not lose the sense of who we are. Social media has its own advantages, but if it is not used properly it can have negative outcomes."

The other new Committee in the fifth Parliament is the Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development, chaired by Ms Ruth Bhengu. "This Committee and the Department of Small Business Development will be working on transforming the economy of this country to create a balance between the haves and have nots," Ms Bhengu explained.

"Good policies have been passed. We will ensure that more policies are passed, where necessary, in order to have a situation where small businesses have a good market and to ensure there is a balance between supply and demand," she said.

One important issue identified during discussions with stakeholders, Ms Bhengu said, was the time taken by government departments to pay small businesses. "We all know that payment is supposed to be made within 30 days, but some small businesses even get to a point of closing down because they are not paid within that time frame. This affects the businesses negatively, because they don't have capital. It will be our responsibility to change this practice within government and the private sector," she said.

The Committee will focus on safeguarding the interests of small businesses, Ms Bhengu promised. She also added that despite political

party affiliations, Committee members would work together towards the common goal of improving the state of small businesses in the country. "We will be working together to ensure that, during the next five years, we will bring about change in terms of transforming the economy in this country. I am confident that this Committee is made up of capable members deployed by the various political parties."

Ms Bhengu was Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport during the fourth Parliament and has always been passionate about small business development. "I am passionate about small business development and cooperatives, in particular. My background is community development and I take a keen interest in economic development," she said.

The two Committees form part of the National Assembly's 32 Portfolio Committees. A further four Committees were either merged or had more functions added to them in the fifth Parliament. The Justice and Correctional Services Committees have merged, while the Water and Sanitation Committee now has the added function of overseeing sanitation (see page 24). The Public Service and Administration Committee will now also deal with performance monitoring and evaluation, while the Portfolio Committee on Women will take on the responsibilities that used to lie with the now-defunct Women, Children and People with Disabilities Committee. The National Assembly also has four Standing Committees – Auditor-General, Finance, Public Accounts and Appropriations – a Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests and a Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence. 🌐

New Department brings hope for better sanitation

The continued existence of the bucket sanitation system and the lack of any proper sanitation in many poor, black communities is one of the saddest indicators of the deep inequality that still exists in South African society. **Mava Lukani and Mzingezwi Plum** spoke to various stakeholders about the challenges facing the Select Committee on Social Services.

“It is among the stark and haunting features of shame that demands the urgent and prioritised attention of the newly created Department of Water and Sanitation and parliamentary Committees, including the Select Committee on Social Services, to turn that feature of inferiority into a feature of equality that will make all South Africans proud,” said Ms Landulile Dlamini after she was elected Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services.

Ms Dlamini said she was looking forward to listening to the strategy and work plan of the new Department, which was formed by President Jacob Zuma at the start of the fifth Parliament and which will prioritise the provision of sanitation to historically marginalised communities. “The Department should unapologetically be driven by the understanding of where we come from. If they fail to understand our socio-economic and political genesis they won’t be able to meet their mandate,” Ms Dlamini said.

She said the Select Committee would not accept excuses if there was the budget to provide water and sanitation

to those who needed them. “The budget should be dedicated to eradicating the bucket system and installing sanitation infrastructure where it doesn’t exist. That is non-negotiable,” Ms Dlamini added.

Although sanitation now falls under the new Department of Water and Sanitation, the Acting Director-General of Water and Sanitation, Mr Trevor Balzer, told the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation during a briefing that effectively sanitation still falls under the Department of Human Settlements because President Jacob Zuma has not signed the proclamation transferring sanitation to the new Department.

The new Department of Water and Sanitation has been created at a time when the problem of sanitation is increasingly in the spotlight and the need for a solution has reached a crisis point. In January 2014, a five-year-old boy died in a pit latrine in Limpopo Province’s Mahlodumela Primary School.

InSession spoke to some leaders of community organisations that are demanding better sanitary conditions in historically neglected communities.



Mr Alpheus Ndimba of Philippi’s Kosovo informal settlement in Cape Town told *InSession* that Kosovo residents are demanding flush toilets from the City of Cape Town. He said the national government had launched a programme to eradicate the use of bucket toilets in 2005, but the programme had never reached Kosovo. “As of March 2008, 91% of the country’s bucket toilets were replaced with flush toilets, but Kosovo is not part of this percentage.”

The leader of the Ses’Khona People’s Rights Movement in Cape Town, Mr Andile Lili, said people were hoping for the accelerated eradication of the bucket system and the creation of modern sanitation infrastructure. He said the communities he represents were expecting the government to work closely with the communities to provide acceptable sanitation facilities. “In 2011, the Court made a ruling that never again shall any type of toilet



BASIC HUMAN RIGHT: It is people such as these who so desperately need to be provided with sanitation services by the newly created Department of Water and Sanitation.

be constructed and installed without consulting the people of the affected area or community,” Mr Lili said.

Mr Lili is one of the community leaders who threw human waste on the steps of the Western Cape Provincial Legislature and at the Cape Town International Airport to put pressure on the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Government to replace the bucket toilets with flush ones.

InSession also spoke to the Deputy Director-General of the Eastern Cape Department of Education, Ms Philiswa Mdikane, whose responsibilities include the provision of sanitation in schools. According to the Human Rights Commission (HRC), there are 1 049 schools in the Eastern Cape that are currently without adequate sanitation facilities and services. Ms Mdikane admitted that there were schools without sanitation in the Eastern Cape,

but she said the Department was trying its level best to ensure no school was without sanitation. She said the lack of sanitation in Eastern Cape schools should be understood within the context of many years of deepening inequalities, and with the knowledge that the Eastern Cape was one of the provinces hardest hit by colonialism and apartheid.

Ms Mdikane also mentioned the many changes in government policy as a contributing factor to the slow pace of the provision of sanitation services to communities where the services were urgently needed. “For example, the norms and standards policy before November 2013 allowed pit toilets, but the November 2013 one stipulates the direct opposite of this,” Ms Mdikane explained. Such changes disadvantaged the efforts of the Department to ensure the existence of proper sanitation at all Eastern Cape schools, she said.

Ms Mdikane also attributed the problem of the lack of sanitation at schools to insufficient budget. She said the R1.3bn the Department received for the 2013/14 financial year had to cover many things, including sanitation, making the Department unable to meet the stipulations of the current norms and standards.

Asked about the Department’s plans to deliver proper sanitation to the schools mentioned by the HRC, Ms Mdikane said the Department was trying to find out if the 1 049 schools were covered by the national Department of Basic Education’s Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Intervention. 🗣️

What changes are you hoping to see in sanitation services? Email insession@parliament.gov.za



DECENT WORK: Reaching our economic growth targets depends on developing the skills of the country's workers.

Job creation is the key

Economic growth will follow

The *Portfolio Committee on Economic Development believes the target set by President Jacob Zuma of 5% economic growth by 2019 in his State of the Nation Address could be achieved through quality skills and infrastructure development programmes, reports Sakhile Mokoena.*

Economic Development Committee Chairperson Ms Mmathulare Coleman said skills development would be the major enabler for the successful implementation of any plans to grow the economy and create more jobs. "Even with the grandest plans, if certain things are not dealt with, you are not going to get results. For instance, we have a problem with skills in the country and the Department of Higher Education and Training is looking into that. We are happy with the campaign

the Department has come up with of increasing the number of skilled artisans by 30 000. That is a lot and it might help with economic infrastructure development. When we look at other programmes the government has devised, these give us an indication that more jobs could be created," she said.

During his State of the Nation Address, President Zuma said that the government had put in place a programme of action based on the African National Congress's Manifesto and the National Development Plan (NDP). "It remains our strong belief that the most effective weapon in the campaign against poverty is the creation of decent work and that creating work requires faster economic growth," the President said. "We have set a growth target of 5% by 2019. To achieve this, we will embark on various measures and interventions to jump-start the economy. We have set this target during a difficult period. The economy has grown below its potential over the past three years and many households are going through difficulties."

The global economic slowdown, domestic conditions such as the prolonged and sometimes violent strikes, as well as the shortage of energy were all responsible for the slow growth, President Zuma said during his speech. "Given the impact of the untenable labour relations environment on the economy, it is critical for social partners to meet and deliberate on the violent nature and duration of the strikes. The social partners will also need to deliberate on wage inequality. As for the government, during this term we will investigate the possibility of a national minimum wage as one of the key mechanisms to reduce the income inequality," he said.

Ms Coleman said the Committee would be vigorous in its oversight to ensure that government plans are properly implemented to achieve the 5% economic growth by 2019 and to create more jobs for the people.

"I believe there are plans in place to ensure the target is met. Our role as the Portfolio Committee is to look at the plans before us and see whether they are feasible. At the moment, we are still looking at the plans as tabled prior to the general elections. We are looking at the plans and strategies that were put in place then to make sure certain programmes are implemented in an accelerated manner," the Chairperson said.

The Committee's oversight programme is driven mainly by the priorities as put forward by the Department of Economic Development, which forms part of the economic cluster with other programmes such as the Industrial Policy Action Plan, the New Growth Path and the NDP. The Chairperson said she hoped the new Infrastructure Development Act would ensure that the implementation of infrastructure development was fast-tracked. "Our task will be to look at that and plan how we will oversee the work of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Committee through the Infrastructure Development Act. The New Growth Path has various drivers but for now we are looking at infrastructure and the creation of industries supported by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)," she said.

During his State of the Nation Address, the President also spoke about the Expanded Public Works Programme that has been providing jobs, particularly among the youth. In reference to this, the Chairperson said: "There are measures in place and as Parliament we will be vigilant in overseeing them so that we keep pace with what

the government is doing. What I am more concerned about is the enablers, because without those all the plans will not be realised. Number one is skills, but also the need to create an environment that is conducive for everybody to play a role. That is why the President mentioned that there has to be cooperation between the public and the private sectors and the communities. Skills development is of crucial importance, as well as how government provides those services. Are we sensitive towards the needs of the people and do we understand what is before us? If we don't understand that, we won't enable these plans and programmes," she said.

Ms Coleman said that another area identified by the President in his State of the Nation Address for economic growth and job creation was agro-processing, which employs many women and young people.

Following harsh criticism of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Ms Coleman appealed for the agency to be given more time. "The Youth Accord was only signed last year. We should give the NYDA some opportunity to work on the mechanisms before we say this is not working," she said.

Ms Coleman also said the Committee would continue to keep a close eye on the textile industry which had suffered during the economic recession. It will also monitor the government funds set aside to assist companies in distress. "Most of the affected companies were in the textile and clothing industry, mostly as a result of internal challenges, not external factors. We recommended that the Department and the IDC make sure they assist these companies in building their internal capacities." 🙏

How do you think we can achieve 5% growth by 2019? Send your suggestions to insession@parliament.gov.za

Extracting maximum value from the budget

The *Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) received a boost when two parliamentary budget office experts, seconded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), visited South Africa recently. Abel Mputing reports.*

The IMF seconded the previous Canadian Parliamentary Budget Officer, Prof Kevin Page, and Ms Phyllis Makau, Director of the Kenyan Parliamentary Budget Office. The pair spent a week with the PBO's staff, sharing experiences and best practices. They made inputs on the PBO's strategy and operational plans and shared best practices and international lessons of experience with regard to fiscal oversight functions.

The Director of the PBO, Prof Mohammed Jahed, explained the purpose of the visit was to ensure the PBO's advice to Parliament could be used as a benchmark to enhance the efficiency of Parliament's fiscal oversight so that Parliament upholds the letter and spirit of the Money Bills Act efficiently and effectively.

"The purpose of the visit was to share information on the mandate, functions and strategy of the PBO. The visitors shared information on the importance of supporting parliamentary Committees with appropriate technical support in exercising the fiscal oversight function. The visitors also contributed by providing guidance on economic, fiscal and policy methodologies and made available the sharing of information and peer reviews in this regard. The lessons learnt during our engagements will contribute to our role of strengthening Parliament's fiscal oversight," Prof Jahed explained.

Paramount to the work of the PBO is its independence providing objective and professional advice. Hence, the organisational and functional arrangements have been developed to

meet these objectives. In this regard, the PBO institutional developed under the guidance of the Executive Authority, the PBO Advisory Board and the Money Bills Act.

Another critical element for success is a working relationship with other institutions that make up South Africa's fiscal infrastructure, one of which is the Auditor-General's Office, Prof Jahed explained.

"The Auditor-General is an important contributor to our oversight work and we need a strong relationship with that office. But we also need a very strong relationship with other institutions, such as the national Treasury, the Financial and Fiscal Commission and other institutions that are part of our country's fiscal infrastructure. The reason for this is to ensure that Parliament is aware of what they produce and to determine how their work can enhance Parliament's fiscal oversight responsibility.

"We are a Parliament of the people and we will, therefore, provide a platform for various civil society stakeholders' voices as a means to improve Parliament's fiscal oversight. We want to provide a platform for a collaboration that will make a meaningful contribution towards Parliament's fiscal strategies and which will go a long way towards enhancing Parliament's fiscal oversight and the social value of our country's Budget," he said.

Prof Jahed added that although there was much emphasis on the PBO's role

in budgetary matters, equally important was its role in ensuring a correlation between South Africa's budgetary allocation and its policy priorities. These may seem mutually exclusive, but were, in fact, intrinsically connected, he said.

Prof Page explained the scope of their visit. "We had the honour of building parliamentary budget offices in our countries. The challenge of building such an office and putting together the right people to carry its mandate and operational procedures is immense. We are here, therefore, to share the lessons of our experiences, and the best practices and methodologies we learnt so that we can learn from each other. We are here to assist in reviewing the strategic plan of South Africa's PBO and to have discussions about its capacity in relation to data and analytic methodologies needed to ensure that the office runs efficiently and effectively."

Prof Page said the absence of a PBO in South Africa had lowered the level of discussion about the management of the public purse. "Theoretically, the absence of a PBO lowered the level of the budgetary discourse in the South African Parliament and the healthy oversight tension between the Legislature and the Executive, which is important for democracy, has been missing. But now that the PBO is in place there will be additional information on policy proposals and economic analysis, which will enrich the debates around budgetary planning, allocation and oversight."

Ms Makau shared her view that a PBO can grow public trust in a country's legislative framework and its Parliament, because it ensures there is efficient allocation of resources and also facilitates the delivery of public services. "The critical thing driving PBOs in Africa is that there is a need for better delivery of public services. PBOs are one way of improving efficiency in the allocation of a country's resources. It is also a way of improving the scrutiny of the Budget to ensure that Parliament is capable of making the right decisions on the allocation of a country's resources and has the ability to monitor and evaluate those resources. A PBO is an office that does the number crunching so people can make the correct policy decisions."

Ms Makau explained that MPs had been approving the Budget all these years, but questioned how much information they had on it. "Although the South African Parliament had the power to approve the Budget, were its members approving a Budget that they knew? The PBO comes in here because often budget reports amount to thousands of pages and an MP has many other things to worry about. He or she has no time to look at every page, but the PBO has time to go through those reports. The PBO will be of great help to Parliament in this regard."

Ms Makau said the only thing that would guarantee the independence of the PBO was to ensure that the office was not part of the drama of politics. "The independence of the office means that it must not be swayed by the politics of the day or parties that make up Parliament. It must ensure that whatever advice it gives is objective and precise, and is aimed at improving the efficiency of the allocation of budget and resources." 🌱



ENHANCING FISCAL OVERSIGHT:
Parliamentary Budget Office Director
Prof. Mohammed Jahed.

New MPs take Parliament to the people

As some of Parliament's newest MPs started work by visiting their constituencies in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, **Cedric Mboya** travelled with two of them as they met with the people who had elected them and heard about the issues that were most important to the community.

Democratic Alliance (DA) Member of Parliament Mr Makashule Gana is a man on a mission – he wants to bridge the gap between the public and Parliament. “I want to bring people closer to Parliament. I am here for them so they can raise their issues through me in Parliament. People tend to think that their role (in a democratic state) ends with voting, but that is just the beginning,” Mr Gana said.

Mr Gana is a new MP in the fifth Parliament that was formed after the 7 May general elections. His constituency includes areas such as Eldorado Park and several parts of

Soweto in Gauteng. Mr Gana's main concern is with the Elias Motsoaledi informal settlement, situated near the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto and which he says has been neglected for a long time. It is an area bedevilled by poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

But it is not all gloom and doom – there are now new RDP houses to accommodate some of the impoverished residents. However, Mr Gana says the houses will not accommodate even half of the population of the informal settlement and the quality of some of the houses

is also questionable. A visit to the informal settlement revealed a sorry state of affairs for its residents. Mr Gana knows the place well as he has been working with the community since his days as a local councillor in the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.

How does he intend to make sure his constituency benefits during his five-year term of office as their MP? He will see to it that councillors represent the community diligently and that there are regular feedback sessions. He will embark on a public education campaign to create an awareness of what Parliament is all about and how it can benefit ordinary citizens. “The important thing for me is to be the representative of the people, not the DA. I serve the public, irrespective of their political affiliation,” he added.

He admitted that unemployment is a critical issue and he would like to see more projects in his constituency which could provide jobs for the people. He is also intent on changing the public perception of Eldorado Park, which is synonymous with drugs and drug dealers. He hopes that at the end of his five-year tenure as an MP he will have made a difference in the constituency he serves. “As I perform

Constituency work in a nutshell

Members of Parliament from both the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces are there to serve the public. That is why the institution is called the Parliament of the People. Constituency work remains a critical aspect of the duties of all MPs, who represent people from all over the country. There are constituency offices in all nine provinces. For example, the governing party, which has 249 MPs in the NA, has 249 constituency offices to ensure that the voices of ordinary people are heard and represented.

Most constituency offices employ an administrator to be available to the public. Parties are entitled to a monthly

allowance for each MP to run a constituency office, and each political party makes its own constituency arrangements.

Constituency work by MPs enables public participation in the business of Parliament. During constituency work MPs interact with their constituencies to find out what their challenges are. The MPs then undertake to find solutions to these challenges. They usually work with local councillors in addressing residents' issues. Other challenges are referred to relevant authorities, either at provincial or national government level. Some issues are raised by MPs in one of Parliament's two Houses.



HELPING HAND: NFP MP Mr Sbusiso Mncwabe talks to Ms Nomvuselelo Ntsazane (57) who lives in a tiny shack with her five grandchildren aged one, two, three,

my duties, I will prioritise issues of the community. I will also make sure councillors in my areas do the same," he said.

The issue of jobs and unemployment is also on the minds of the young people of Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal, who told National Freedom Party Member of Parliament Mr Sbusiso Mncwabe that the issue was a ticking time bomb. In a public meeting characterised by frank talk, the youth warned that it was just a matter of time before the issue of youth unemployment exploded.

Mr Mncwabe is also a new MP in the fifth Parliament and is thoroughly enjoying his new role of representing his KZN constituency's interests in Parliament. He said he would leave no stone unturned in his bid to properly address the concerns of the community.

Community members claimed that many business owners in Durban would sarcastically tell them to "go ask Zuma" when they applied for

or enquired about jobs. "We have a situation whereby we have attained political freedom, but we are still suppressed financially. Those with economic power are basically saying 'let them have political freedom while we retain our economic superiority'," said local councillor Mr Wiseman Mcoyi.

The other major issue for people living in the community is the proliferation of drugs. The issue mostly affected the youth – their poison of choice is whoonga, a highly addictive drug composed of substances such as heroin, marijuana, ARVs, rat poison and detergents. It is said the drug is wreaking havoc in this part of South Africa. "The government must treat this drug issue as a matter of emergency. It is a disaster. Hence this is a disaster area," Mr Mcoyi told the meeting.

Other issues raised by the community included the lack of recreational facilities for the youth; no local hospital; no high school for the big

area of Tshelimnyama; a lack of houses; an erratic supply of water; jobs being reserved for some people at the local municipality; no local police station; some police are allegedly in cahoots with drug dealers; young people reverting to crime because of being unable to find jobs due to criminal records; hawkers or vendors in townships allegedly being harassed by Metro police for having no permits; and Okhazini Primary School's sports grounds being sold by a local chief to a businessman to build a business complex.

Another issue that came out of the meeting was that the media had reported in 2009 that a school called Tshelimnyama Primary School had been constructed, but construction had, in fact, only started in 2013. Residents now suspect funds may have been stolen from the government by unscrupulous elements claiming the school had been in existence since 2009. "There has been a ghost school with ghost teachers here. We want the truth," Mr Mcoyi told Mr Mncwabe. 🗣️

Promoting gender equality

Chapter *Nine*
Institutions are organisations established in terms of Chapter Nine of the Constitution to defend democracy. The Office on the Institutions Supporting Democracy is running a series of articles in InSession. This issue features the South African Commission for Gender Equality (CGE).

The Constitution grants the CGE “the power to monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advise and report on issues concerning gender equality.” It has the mandate to promote, attain and protect gender equality in government, civil society and the private sector. In order to promote gender equality and make any recommendations deemed necessary to Parliament, the CGE is also mandated to monitor and evaluate the policies of organs of state at any level, as well as those of statutory bodies and functionaries, public bodies and authorities and private businesses, enterprises, and institutions.

During April and May 2014, the CGE undertook two critical projects – hosting a National Gender Summit and monitoring the May 2014 general elections. The gender summit was held from 9 to 11 April 2014 in Benoni, Gauteng, and was convened by the Commission, in partnership with United Nations (UN) Women, the UN Population Fund, the UN Development Programme, Oxfam, the national



GENDER EQUALITY: The CGE has a duty to promote, attain and protect gender equality at all levels of South African society.

Department of Public Enterprises, the then Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, the South African Broadcasting Corporation and Alexander Forbes. The aim was to reflect on 20 years of democracy in South Africa, to celebrate gains, and to find solutions for gender inequality. The summit was attended by 350 people from all nine provinces, representing civil society organisations and networks, government departments, Chapter Nine Institutions, private sector entities, and representatives from UN Women and the African Union. Speakers addressed the significance of the struggle for democracy and the recognition of women's rights and the importance of the human rights entrenched in South Africa's Constitution.

Participants referred to significant victories for women, including the creation of the National Gender Machinery, which saw the establishment of the CGE and the renamed Ministry for Women in the Presidency. The National Gender Machinery lobbied effectively for the creation of an enabling legislative framework to correct the imbalances and discrimination of the past and the inequality and abuse still experienced by women. New legislation includes the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Act, the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, and the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act.

Participants also discussed the challenges and obstacles that persist as a direct consequence of patriarchy, based on fundamental gender inequality and discrimination, including gender-based violence. This applies in particular to violence against sex workers and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersex people. It includes women's inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health rights and services; not recognising the importance

of women's unpaid care work and contribution to the economy; their inadequate access to land, finances and economic decision-making (particularly those living in rural communities); and harmful traditional practices.

Participants noted with concern that the Gender Equality Project was being undermined through under-resourcing, including inadequate support for civil society organisations that provide services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Participants also reflected on the backlash against feminism and the critique of gender-equality interventions, the lack of radical activism within women's movements, and the state's inadequacies in mainstreaming and budgeting for gender issues. This results in policies and interventions failing to recognise experiences and vulnerabilities particular to women.

The role of organisations working with men and boys was recognised as critical in shifting attitudes and behaviour necessary to eradicate discrimination and gender-based violence.

As a way forward, the summit developed a programme of action involving the need for significant interventions in each of these areas. Participants released a declaration on deliberations at the summit, their commitments and intentions, and their expectations of the state, the private sector and civil society regarding the response to the recommendations.

A second important CGE project was monitoring the general elections, which took place on 7 May 2014. CGE teams visited many polling stations in all nine provinces to establish whether the elections were free, fair and transparent from a gender perspective. As South Africa was celebrating 20 years of democracy, the CGE used the occasion of

the fifth national democratic elections to observe South Africans exercising their right to elect a government of their choice.

CGE observers focused on the opening procedures at polling stations, the voting process throughout the day, closing procedures, and technical management and overall conduct at the polls from a gender-equality perspective. It was imperative for the CGE to ensure that no systemic factors were allowed to impinge on the right of voters, irrespective of their gender, to exercise their democratic right.

CGE observers paid close attention to the level of participation by women and men, noting any factors that could potentially play a role in undermining or enhancing the right to vote. They observed participation in categories such as the disabled, young men and women, the elderly and rural communities. The CGE was pleased to declare that no formal/legal or political factors were observed undermining the right of both men and women to vote. It was also pleased to convey a message of approval and support for the work of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in managing the 2014 elections.

The CGE does, however, intend discussing its detailed observer report containing specific findings and recommendations with the IEC, in full recognition of the magnitude of its task, especially in South Africa, where socio-economic, geographic, literacy, financial and gender-related factors continue to define the quality of citizenship of millions. In pointing out the finer details, the CGE aims to contribute directly towards an improvement in the quality of citizenship of South Africans, irrespective of their gender. 🌍

The official CGE reports on these two projects will be available in August 2014.



Parliament & Mandela Day

T*o be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that enhances and respects the freedom of others.*
– Nelson Mandela

Every year on 18 July people celebrate International Mandela Day to mark the birthday of the late icon. On this day, around the world, we recognise former President Nelson Mandela, the first democratically elected president of South Africa, and his life-long devotion to the noble ideals of peace, freedom and human rights.

Background

In November 2009, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day. This was in recognition of his unrivalled contribution to the culture of peace and freedom all over the world.

The declaration of this special day was a realisation that the former statesman had devoted his life to serve humanity, firstly in his capacity as a human rights lawyer, secondly as a freedom fighter and prisoner and thirdly as a world-renowned peacemaker.

The General Assembly, according to Resolution A/RES/64/13, recognised Nelson Mandela's values and his dedication to serve humanity, particularly on issues relating to race relations, reconciliation, human rights and equality.

The UN then heeded a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to people all over the world to devote 67 minutes of their time to help those less fortunate than themselves. This was to mark the 67 years that this international icon had spent in the service of humanity, many of them while in prison.

Today, Mandela Day has grown to become a global movement with the aim of transforming the world into a better place. In the words of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "Nelson Mandela's achievements came at great personal cost to himself and his family. His sacrifice not only served the people of his own nation, South Africa, but made the world a better place for all people, everywhere ... He showed the way. He changed the world."

Significance of the day

18 July has gained prominence on the global calendar thanks to the selfless actions of one man who gave most of his life to the benefit of a nation. The significance of this day is best captured in the words of Nelson Mandela himself: "We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference."

Activities on the day

The campaign carries a simple message: Nelson Mandela gave 67 years of his life fighting for the realisation of human rights for all. Now, all we are asked in return is to give 67 minutes of our time to support a charity or to be of service to our community. These activities take the form of sports events, gala dinners, basic awareness campaigns, care-giving exercises and contributions to the arts, to mention a few.

These activities are undertaken by individuals, the business community, non-governmental organisations and government departments. There are no restrictions imposed on any of the above on this special day and many successful acts of care and support are acceptable yardsticks of human creativity and ingenuity.

In South Africa, an overwhelming outpouring of support was noted. Initiatives such as donating books to rural schools, establishing libraries with internet-enabled computers in poor communities, feeding the less fortunate and building 67 houses are among those remarkable acts.

Parliament and Mandela Day

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa always commemorates this special day. MPs and staff, in the past, have organised the following activities:

- Book donations to schools
- Donations of clothing and blankets
- Cleaning of schools and places of safety
- Donations of groceries and toiletries
- Planting trees at schools 🌳

Palamente le Letsatsi la Mandela

‘Go gololosega ga se go bofolola diketane fela, mme ke go tshela ka tsela eo e tokafatsang le go tlotla kgololosego ya ba bangwe.’
– Nelson Mandela. E rantoswe ke **Keagana Moloabi**.

Ngwaga le ngwaga batho ba keteka Letsatsi la Boditšhabatšhaba la Mandela ka 18 Phukwi. Ka letsatsi leno, lefatshe ka bophara, re gopola Moporesitente wa maloba Nelson Mandela, moporesitente wa ntlha yo tlhophilweng ka setemokerasi wa Aforika Borwa, le boineelo jwa botshelo jwa gagwe botlhe go kagiso, kgololosego le ditshwanelo tsa botho.

Lemorago

Ka Ngwanatsele 2009, Kokoano Kakaretso ya Kopano Ditšhaba (UN) e ne ya itsise 18 Phukwi go nna Letsatsi la Boditšhabatšhaba la Mandela. Seno e ne e le go lemoga seabe sa gagwe se se sa gaisegeng go kagiso le kgololosego lefatshe ka bophara.

Kitsiso ya letsatsi leno le le kgethegileng e ne e le temogo ya gore moporesitente wa maloba o ne a neetse botshelo jwa gagwe go botho, lwa ntlha fa e ne e le mmueledi wa ditshwanelo tsa botho, lwa bobedi e le molwela kgololosego le mogolegwa wa kgololosego mme lwa boraro e le rakagiso yo itsiweng lefatshe ka bophara.

Kokoano Kakaretso, go ya ka tharabololo A/RES/64/13, e amogela boleng jwa go Nelson Mandela le boineelo jwa gagwe mo go direleng botho, segolobogolo mo dintlheng tse di amanang le dikamano tsa mmala, poelano, ditshwanelo tsa botho le tekatekano.

UN e ne ya reetsa kopo ya *Nelson Mandela Foundation* go batho go ralala lefatshe ya go neelana ka metsotso e

le 67 ya nako ya bona go thusa bao ba seng lesego jaaka bona. Seno e ne e le go gopola dingwaga di le 67 tseo mogaka ono wa boditšhabatšhaba a di neetseng go thusa botho.

Gompiano, Letsatsi la Mandela le fitlhetse boemo jwa go nna letsholo la boditšhaba leo le isang seabe mo bothong go ngwagakgolo o montšhwa, ka maitlomo a go fetola lefatshe go nna lefelo le le botoka. Go ya ka mafoko a Mokwaledi Kakaretso wa UN Ban Ki-moon: “Diphithlele tsa ga Nelson Mandela di mo sotlile mmogo le balelapa la gagwe. Boineelo jwa gagwe ga bo a direla setšhaba sa gagwe fela, Aforika Borwa, mme bo dirile lefatshe lefelo le le botoka gore batho botlhe, gongwe le gongwe ... O nnile mosupatsela. O fetotse lefatshe.”

Botlhokwa jwa letsatsi

18 Phukwi e nnile botlhokwa mo khalentareng ya lefatshe ka ntata ya go bontsha tebogo ya ditiro tsa monna a le nosi yo neetseng bontsi jwa botshelo jwa gagwe gore setšhaba se ungelwe. Botlhokwa jwa letsatsi leno bo tseiwa mo mafokong a gagwe Nelson Mandela: “Re ka kgona go fetola lefatshe re le dire lefelo le le botoka. Go mo diatleng tsa lona go dira pharologano.”

Ditiragalo ka letsatsi

Letsholo le nnile le molaetsa o bonolo: Nelson Mandela o neetse dingwaga di le 67 tsa botshelo jwa gagwe a lwela go bona ditshwanelo tsa botho go botlhe. Jaanong, seo re se lopilweng

ke go neela metsotso e le 67 ya nako ya rona go bontsha boineelo jwa rona jwa botho ka go direla setšhaba sa rona. Ditiragalo tseno e nneile tsa kwa metshamekong, dikopano tsa dijo tsa motshagare kgotsa maitseboa, matsholo a bontshang botho, dithuso tsa dineelo go tsa botaki, go ka umaka di le mmalwa.

Ditiragalo tseno di dirilwe ke batho ka bongwe ka bona, lephata la kgwebo, mekgatlho eo e seng ya puso le mafapha a puso. Go ne go se na dithibelo tse di neng di dirilwe ka letsatsi leno le le kgethegileng e bile ditiragato tse dintsi tse di atlegileng tsa tlhokomelo le tshetsetso e ne e le mekgwa e e neng ya amogeselega go tlhamo ya botho le botlhale.

Mo Aforika Borwa, go nnile le tshetsetso e kgolo thata. Matsholo a tshwanang le go neelana ka dibuka go dikolo tsa kwa magaeng, go tlhomiwa ga dilaaborari tse di nang le dikhomputara tse di nang le inthanete kwa baaging ba ba humanegileng, go fepa ba ba se nang sepe le go aga matlo a 67 e nnile dingwe tsa dilo tse di atlegisitseng letsatsi.

Palamente le Letsatsi la ga Mandela

Palamente ya Rephabolike ya Aforika Borwa le yone e keteka letsatsi le le botlhokwa leno. MPs le badiredi, mo malobeng ba rulagantse ditiragalo tse di latelang:

- Go neelana ka dibuka kwa dikolong
- Go neelana ka diaparo le dikobo
- Go phepafatsa dikolo le magae a tshireletso
- Go neelana ka dijo le dilo tse di tlhapang
- Go jala ditlhare kwa dikolong 🌱



OUR SOUTH AFRICA – THE SUN

The sun heals the divisions of the past, improves the quality of life of all South Africans, frees the potential of each person and builds a united and democratic South Africa, taking its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.



OUR PEOPLE – THE PROTEA LEAVES

Our people, building on the foundation of a democratic and open society, freely elect representatives, acting as a voice of the people and providing a national forum for public consideration of issues.



OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM

The drum calls the people's Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to consider national and provincial issues, ensuring government by the people under the Constitution.



OUR CONSTITUTION – THE BOOK

Our Constitution lays the foundation for a democratic and open society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. It is the supreme law of our country, and ensures government by the people.

Produced by the Parliamentary Communication Services
Inspired by People

Visit our Parliament Website www.parliament.gov.za, Tel: 021 403 2911, Fax: 021 403 3786

ISSN 2227-1325