

PARLIAMENT: Following up on our commitments to the people.

# in session



Vol. 16 ISSUE 3 2016



## Strengthening leaders

*House Chairperson addressed MPs graduation*



## Vision

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

## Mission

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

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

## Strategic Objectives

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



# contents

- 5** MESSAGE FROM **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**
- 6** **I PUT THE QUESTION**  
Questions asked in Parliament in April 2016
- 8** HIGHLIGHTS FROM **THE COMMITTEE ROOMS**
- 
- 10** **INSESSION INTERVIEWS NEW ANC CHIEF WHIP**
- 12** USING THE BUDGET FOR **HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION**
- 14** **POLICE BUDGET VOTE**  
Back-to-basics at SAPS gets nod of approval
- 16** **TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE REPORT BACK**  
*InSession* reports on the report-back on service delivery in Southern Cape
- 
- 22** **MPS GRADUATE WITH FLYING COLOURS**
- 24** GOVERNMENT ROLLS OUT **NEW PROCUREMENT REGIME**
- 26** **CONSTITUENCY WORK**  
National Freedom Party MP helps the destitute
- 28** DA MP SAYS SAVING WATER **IS NON-NEGOTIABLE**
- 30** YOUR VOTE IS A POWERFUL TOOL, **SAYS UDM MP**
- 31** ANC MP ASSISTS COMMUNITY **IN FIGHT AGAINST GANGSTERISM**
- 32** ACDP MP WORKS WITH **CONSTITUENCY IN GAUTENG**
- 34** **PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICE**  
Freedom Day
- 35** **HOFISI YO DYONDZISA VAAKI**  
Siku Ra Ntshuxeko



**COVER:** National Assembly House Chairperson: Internal Arrangements, Ms Thoko Didiza, was the guest speaker during the inaugural graduation ceremony of the University of Johannesburg's School of Leadership where MPs received certificates in Industrial Policy and Transitional Justice. The programme was facilitated by her office and the Speakers' Forum as part of Parliament's learning and development policy.

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**OUR IDEALS**

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

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

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

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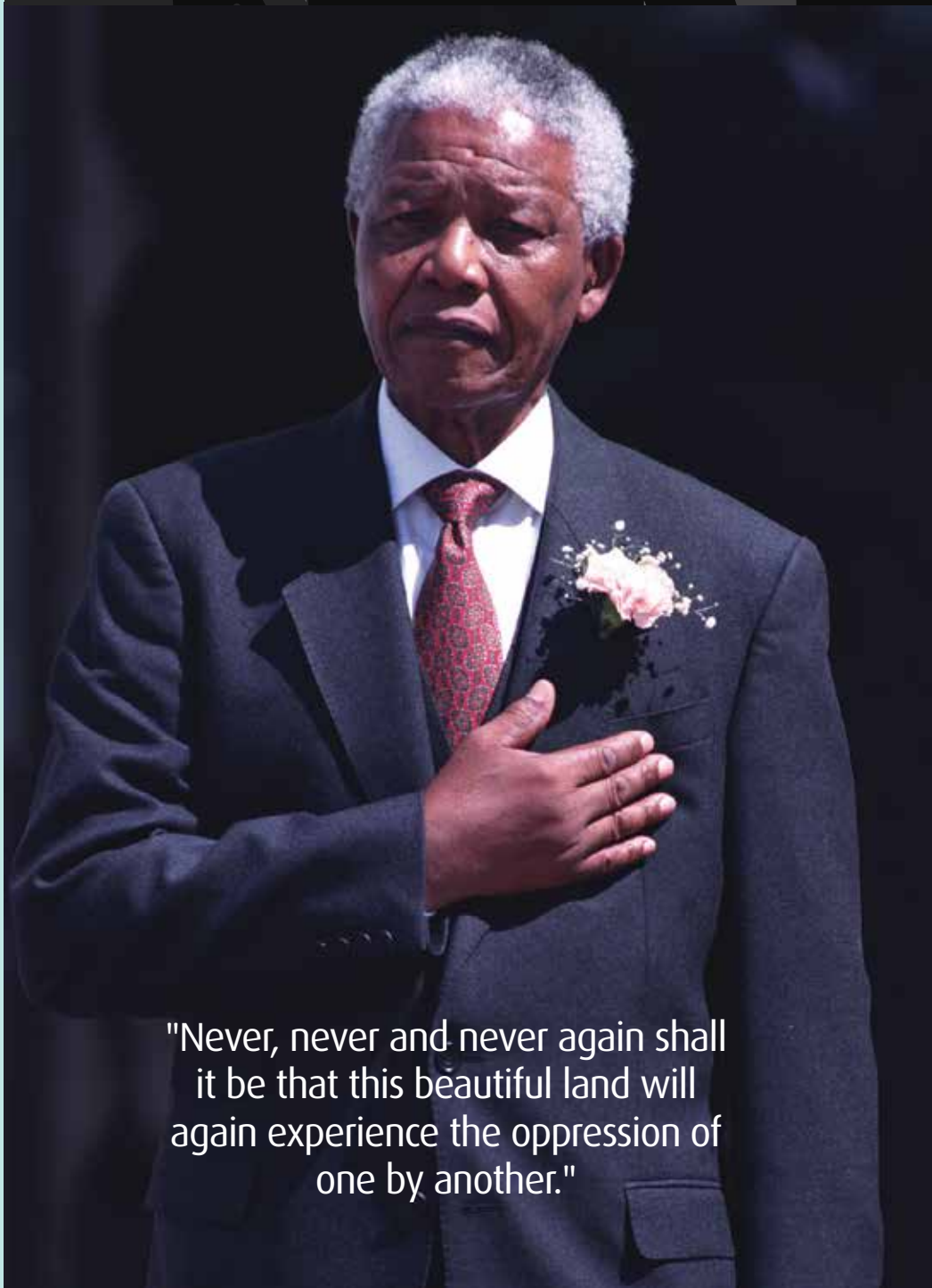
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# Parliament remembers Freedom Day



"Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another."



Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete

## MESSAGE FROM THE national assembly



**I** am delighted to join you at this, the 14th International Festival on Language and Culture. This festival is truly unique in that it is able to bring together youth – possible future leaders – from so many diverse countries and backgrounds to engage and find each other. So this is truly a multilateral moment. It is also a multicultural moment.

For me, culture is not just about the economic value of our creative industries, it is what defines us as a civilisation. Culture helps us understand the world around us, explain it, sometimes escape from it and even act as a catalyst for liberation, as was the case in South Africa. As Picasso put it so eloquently: “washing the dust of daily life from our souls”.

I agree with the objectives of the festival, “that the best way to combat violence and injustice is through education and sharing of cultural values”. It is through such learning and dialogue that the bonds of friendship are formed and lasting peace can be attained.

This year, South Africa celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution which underscores that we are one people, one nation, bound together by a common heritage and shared destiny, which is a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic South Africa.

Our Constitution also guarantees all our people the right to practise their culture, language, beliefs and customs. Everyone is also guaranteed the freedom of creativity without interference, as well as the freedom of expression.

In mainstreaming culture in our policies, we have placed the importance of culture within the national educational curricula, as well as in non-formal educational initiatives. We have also established a language policy that encourages the growth of all South African people’s languages, 11 to be exact and the 12<sup>th</sup>

being Braille within a multilinguistic framework. This also includes the preservation and development of all indigenous languages.

Importantly, compliance with these policies is monitored by Institutions Supporting Democracy such as the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB) and the Human Rights Commission, among others.

The world today is experiencing many challenges. Today, we are witnessing growing tensions between cultures and faiths. Often, we see the politics of polarisation and the targeting of migrants for stereotyping and violence.

At times globalisation can be seen as a threat to local cultures and cultural diversity. Therefore building peace and improving cross-cultural understanding is about negotiation and contacts among leaders. It is also about what happens on the ground, at grassroots level.

All countries are facing what is commonly called a “youth bulge.” Creative solutions to this ticking time bomb are needed. In this regard, I wish to suggest that investing in local cultural resources, including tangible and intangible heritage such as education, knowledge and skills, as well as music, dance, theatre and festivals, can develop sustainable creative economies, open up opportunities to youth and help strengthen identity and social cohesion.

Promoting creativity for and among youth and harnessing young people’s creative

potential and energy therefore needs to be a priority in finding creative solutions to today’s challenges.

Currently young people across the world are increasingly involved in heritage protection and promotion, recognising that heritage does not only belong to the past, but is also part of their current identity. Transmitting heritage values to young people favours intercultural understanding, respect for cultural diversity and helps create an environment conducive to a culture of peace.

Heritage-related initiatives pioneered by Russia and Cuba, for example, clearly demonstrate that culture is an indispensable driver and enabler of sustainable development.

Heritage provides testimonies to and links between the past and present. As one of the world’s few inexhaustible natural resources, creativity is a source of considerable potential in promoting sustainable socio-economic development for people of all ages.

Thus, the creative industries can serve as a springboard for new ideas and innovation, which can open up new opportunities for employment and learning, while at the same time promoting well-being and self-esteem and empowering entire communities.

Young women and men are increasingly engaged in proposing creative solutions to local challenges. This creative energy needs to be harnessed so as to maximise the positive impact it can have on society.

*This is an edited extract of the speech delivered by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, at the 14th International Festival on Language and Culture.* 🌍

# i put the question

Questions asked in Parliament in April concerned the teaching of Mandarin in schools, SA Tourism offices located abroad and the country's energy demands, among other issues.



Ms Elsabe Louw (EFF)

**Ms Elsabe Louw (EFF) asked the Minister of Energy, Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson,** what her department was doing to make it possible to generate energy from wind and solar energy. She also asked what initiatives the Energy Department had embarked on to achieve this goal.

**The Minister replied:** In order to meet the country's energy demand now and in the future in a reliable, cost-effective and sustainable manner, the promulgated Integrated Resource Policy Plan outlines a generation (energy) mix to follow. In addition to fossil fuel, nuclear and hydro power, the plan envisages that by the year 2030, 17.6 GW will be from renewable energy. This includes wind and solar technologies.

The department runs a world-renowned Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme which to date has produced around 6.2 GW of renewable energy from wind and solar power. Additional determination for 6.3 GW of renewable energy was issued by the Minister in concurrence with the regulator (Nersa) during the last quarter of the 2015/16 financial year. Preparations for the procurement of this energy, in line with system requirements, is underway.

**Mr Gavin Davis (DA) asked the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga,** how many schools across the country have introduced Mandarin as an optional subject since the start of the 2016 school year, what is the name

of each specified school and which province is it situated. He also asked how many schools does her department envisage will offer Mandarin as an optional subject in the next five academic years and which schools are earmarked to introduce Mandarin in the next five academic years. He also wanted to know how many Chinese teachers have been brought to South Africa to teach Mandarin in our schools to date, what was the cost of relocating the specified teachers and paying their salaries and is this cost borne by her department, the provincial government concerned or another source. He also asked how many South African teachers are currently qualified to teach Mandarin, will be trained to teach Mandarin in the next five academic years and will be sent to China to learn how to teach Mandarin in the specified period?

**The Minister replied:** There are 15 schools across the country offering Mandarin using the CAPS (second additional language) curriculum – 10 in Gauteng, three in the Western Cape, one in the Eastern Cape and one in KwaZulu-Natal.

In the next five years, it is envisaged that 500 schools will offer Mandarin as a second additional language. Schools have not been earmarked as yet. To date, two new teachers have been brought in for the pilot programme. Three more teachers are currently in the process of being brought into the country.

The relocation arrangement of these

teachers is according to the China-South Africa Agreement and is paid by the People's Republic of China (PRC). Hence the Department of Basic Education has no data on this item. The salaries are being paid by the PRC. Salaries are not being borne by the Department of Basic Education. No costs are carried by the Provincial Education Departments. No other party is involved in paying for salaries.

Currently there is one South African teacher who is qualified to teach Mandarin. It is envisaged that 100 teachers per year will be trained in the next five years. Hundreds of teachers will be sent to China per year for purposes of methodological and cultural enrichment.

**Mr James Vos (DA) asked the Minister of Tourism, Mr Derek Hanekom,** if his department intends to reduce the number of its SA Tourism offices located abroad to prevent duplication of services.

**The Minister replied:** No, the department does not intend to cut down the number of SA Tourism offices. SA Tourism continuously looks at adopting the most effective operating model in each market to allow for maximum spend in-market, on both the traveller and trade. This approach includes setting up physical country offices in core markets, the hub approach, operating virtual offices and general marketing agencies (GMAs). Any office closures are considered on this principle.

South African Tourism's physical office in Milan will be closed in the 2016/17 financial year to maximise marketing investments across the entire South Europe territory. The Italian market will be serviced through a virtual office reporting to the South Europe Hub Office based in France.

**Mr Gregory Krumbock (DA) asked the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula,** for the names of the Ministerial Task Team appointed by her to effect a turnaround strategy for her department. He also asked for the terms of reference and time frames for the specified task team and cost implications for employing the specified task team.

**In response, the Minister said:** The steering committee members are Mr S Majombozi, Ms S Rabkin, Mr S Sokhela, Mr S Hamilton, and Lt-Gen (Ret) J Nkonyane. It is also assisted by a part-time resource panel composed of the following members: Ms S Hlapolosa, Mr T Kubu, Mr U Abrahamse, Brig-Gen (Ret) M R Fihla, Ms N Motlathlane, Ms N Mkwanazi, Maj-Gen (Ret) K Mokoape, Mr D Nadison and Dr S Zikalala.

The turnaround strategy is to focus on procurement, the organisational structure of the department, financial accounting and the legislative mandate. In addition, it has various work streams which deal with benefits to military veterans.

The task team has been established from 1 September 2015 to 31 December 2016. The Steering Committee is paid on the basis of meetings based on the National Treasury's determination, which is amended annually.

**Mr Yusuf Cassim (DA) asked the Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Dr Blade Nzimande,** the maximum loan amount that may

be awarded by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) in the 2016-17 financial year and when this was determined. He also wanted to know what body determined this amount and under what legislative or regulatory provision. He also asked what it costs on average to study at universities for the 2016 academic year.

**The Minister replied:** The maximum loan amount that may be awarded by NSFAS to a university student in the 2016 academic year is R71 800. The maximum loan awarded from the DHET general fund for university students is determined annually and approved by the NSFAS Board as part of the allocations process each year. For the 2016 academic year, the maximum loan amount was approved by the board in the third quarter of 2015/16 and communicated to institutions in December 2015.

The university loan amount is determined by the provisions of the NSFAS Act 56 of 1999 under Sections 4(a) and 4(b), which specify that it is the function of NSFAS "to allocate funds for loans and bursaries to eligible students; to develop criteria and conditions for the granting of loans and bursaries to eligible students in consultation with the minister". It is further provided for under Section 19(1) that "loans and bursaries granted by the board may be subject to such conditions as it may determine, either generally or in respect of a particular loan or bursary".

The maximum loan is calculated by taking into consideration factors such as the increase received from the national budget process and the weighted average full cost of study at universities.

According to data received from universities, the average full cost

of study across the 26 universities was R71 878,40. Based on the weighted average full cost of study, the maximum-capped award was determined as R71 800.

**Prof Belinda Bozzoli (DA) asked the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande,** to itemise the cost of the damage caused to property at each affected university resulting from student protests since 1 February 2016.

**The Minister replied:** University of Stellenbosch – R352 000; North West University – R1.5m; University of Limpopo – R1.7m; University of Johannesburg – R345 000; University of the Western Cape – R4.6m; Walter Sisulu University – R351 287; Tshwane University of Technology – R5m; University of KwaZulu-Natal – R82m; Cape Peninsula University of Technology – R689 850; University of Cape Town – R3.2m; University of Zululand – R 4.5m; Rhodes University – R250 000; University of the Witwatersrand – R1.4m and University of the Free State – R2.8m.

The following universities submitted damage reports, however, they did not provide estimates of the cost of damage, which will be requested from them: University of South Africa; Central University of Technology; Durban University of Technology and University of Fort Hare.

The following universities reported no or minor incidents of damage: Vaal University of Technology; Mangosuthu University of Technology; University of Venda; Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the University of Pretoria. All affected universities have not confirmed from which budgets these damages will be recovered. However, certain damages will be paid or recovered from insurance claims. 🌐

# highlights from the committee rooms



**Every** month Parliament's Committees exercise their law-making and oversight functions. Cedric Mboyisa compiled this summary of the Committees' deliberations in April.

**The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services** has appealed to the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services to urgently intervene in the Land Claims Court as it was not functioning optimally.

Dr Mathole Motshekga, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, said: "The Land Claims Court is not functioning well. I am informed the judges are not permanent and the majority of the judges are white."

Dr Motshekga elaborated by stating that he did not question the impartiality of the white judges. "But when an ordinary black South African comes in front of white judges and lawyers in the Land Claims Court, which deals with the sensitive issue of land, it creates perceptions of impartiality.

"It had also been observed that the Land Restitution Act is loaded against land claimants. We need to bring amendments to this Act as a matter of extreme urgency."

The Chairperson of the **Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform**, Ms Phumuzile Ngwenya-Mabila, has acknowledged that 1 305 803 work opportunities and 391 194 full-time jobs were created by the department. The challenge of

slow transformation in land reform was noted. However, the management performance assessment tool reports that the department presented showed an improvement in their performance, which was encouraging.

She said since 1994 the department had shown slow progress in land transformation and the targets of 1 million hectares of acquired land allocated to smallholder producers and the 200 000 hectares of land allocated to people living and/or working on farms may also not be met. There are 133 778 new claims which have been lodged as of 25 February 2016.

The concern of the Committee is the research capacity within the commission to fast-track the outstanding claims which were lodged before 1998. There has been good progress in the establishment of the land administration structures in line with the National Development Plan.

**The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services** has been briefed about the proposed introduction of cameras in cells and corridors at correctional facilities across the country. This is an attempt to eliminate crimes that occur in facilities after "lock-up" time, National Commissioner of Corrections Mr Zack Modise told the Committee.



Basic Education Acting Chairperson  
Ms Pinky Mokoto

"This will be an attempt to rid facilities of the horrendous crimes that occur after lock-up. Discussions around this issue have been finalised. We have already consulted the Human Rights Commission and the Inspecting Judge for Correctional Services. We will further engage with the National Commission of Corrections on the issue."

The Committee further heard that all new facilities that are to be built will have cellular phone detectors to ensure that no offenders are able to use smuggled equipment which is sometimes used to intimidate witnesses.

The number of offenders in custody has been steadily declining for several years and now stands at around 44 000 compared to the almost 70 000 a few years ago. The department indicated that it is working towards lowering the



figure further to around 30 000.

The Committee heard that the department had to realign its initiatives and budgets due to the budget cuts that have affected all government departments. Reductions totalling R427.5m in 2016/17, R1bn in 2017/18 and R1.2bn in 2018/19 have been implemented for wages and goods and services.

The Committee stated that dealing with overcrowding in facilities would ensure better rehabilitation of offenders. It interrogated the budgeted amounts for offenders and said the department should be providing more programmes for rehabilitation and social integration after inmates have been released from facilities.

The Committee has welcomed all the interventions by the department and said this will help in ensuring the safety of offenders.

#### **The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services**

has shortlisted candidates for vacancies on the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) as well as the Information Regulator. The Committee received a total of 73 applications for the positions. The Committee shortlisted candidates for the two vacancies at the SAHRC. These candidates will be called for interviews at a later stage.

The candidates are: Prof Rushiella Songca, Mr Andre Gaum, Mr Lindelwe Mabandla, Mr Edward Lambani, Mr Anandroy Ramdaw, Mr Kwena Ntsewa and Mr Hassen Ebrahim.

The Committee shortlisted 10 candidates for the five positions at the newly established Information Regulator. The candidates are: Adv Pansy Tlakula, Mr Johannes Weapond,

Mr David Taylor, Adv Lebogang Stroom, Mr Lindelo Snail, Mr Siyakhula Simelane, Ms Thav Reddy, Mr Francois Cronje, Ms Shamila Singh and Ms Tana Pistorius.

#### **The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements**

says even though it understands that miscommunication might have led to the non-attendance by some Members of the Executive Council (MECs) and mayors of its meetings, it still expects political principals to always honour Committee meetings.

“The Committee is obviously not pleased by the absence of the majority of MECs and mayors during this critical process, but accepts that the invitation processes between the Committee and the national department could have been handled better,” said Committee Chairperson Ms Nocawe Mafu.

Ms Mafu said this recently after it emerged that it was mainly heads of departments and municipal heads who attended the Committee’s two-day process of considering the 2016/17 strategic plans, annual performance plans and expenditure patterns of the Urban Settlements Development Grant for the national Department of Human Settlements, provincial human settlements departments and respective metropolitan municipalities.

Ms Mafu added that the attendance by political principals of Committee meetings was very vital, even more so when dealing with matters where the input and firm commitment from political heads was required to ensure improved performance.

Ms Mafu said the Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements was one MEC who attended on behalf of his department. She said other MECs contacted her to express their respective apologies and

said they cited the same reason of not having been properly informed.

#### **The Portfolio Committee on Basic Education**

had an encouraging engagement with the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, said Acting Committee Chairperson, Ms Pinky Mokoto. The Committee noted the comments by the Minister that when the report on the sale of educators posts (“Jobs for Cash”) was finalised next month, it will find its way to the Committee for further interaction. The Committee heard that the final report on the “Jobs for Cash” allegations was handed to the minister in March and her intention was to release it this month.

However, she highlighted that one of the labour unions in the education sector approached the department through its legal representatives because they wanted to see the report before it was released to the public. This will ensure that parties cited in the report did not read it in the media for the first time.

The lawyers acting for the minister agreed to a 21-day postponement as it will be legally correct for the parties mentioned in the report to peruse it before it is made public. The report is now likely to be released early next month. The Committee noted that the task team will not be dissolved yet, and that investigations were ongoing as more allegations are made as they probe further.

Ms Mokoto said as soon as the relevant processes have been completed, the Committee will find the time to discuss the matter. “The Committee welcomes the fact that the Minister has agreed that once the report is released to the public, the Committee will get a detailed briefing and can then discuss the report in a meeting.” 🗣️



## New ANC sheriff plans to crack whip

**The** *recently appointed ANC Chief Whip, Mr Jackson Mthembu, is a no-nonsense veteran politician with impeccable liberation struggle credentials and is now in charge of 248 African National Congress (ANC) Members of Parliament in the National Assembly, one of Parliament's two Houses. He spoke to Cedric Mboyisa.*

A man who does not beat about the bush, Mr Mthembu was clear about his mission.

"I am going to ensure that the ANC government delivers on its promises to the people. We are not going to treat the ANC government with kid gloves.

"We will do our job without fear or favour. I disagree with the notion that because we are ANC MPs we are unable to hold the executive to account," said Mr Mthembu during a wide-ranging interview with *InSession*.

He added: "It is in our interest, and more importantly, in

the interest of the people that our government works. The President and his ministers must account.”

Mr Mthembu said the ANC owes it to the mandate given to it by 11 436 921 people who voted for them (and gave the ANC 62% representation in Parliament) to see to it that Parliament represents their aspirations.

“As an ANC MP, I cannot disappoint those 11.4 million people who voted for us. We need more time with our people on the ground. We must serve our people better. We must go to them and get their issues, which will inform the work of Parliament. Our legislation must not be above our people. It must speak to them and their needs.”

It will no longer be business as usual as Mr Mthembu places more emphasis on the significance of constituency work.

“I have never heard us debating our constituency work. We should set aside time to debate constituency issues in the House,” he said.

Turning his attention to the recent Constitutional Court ruling regarding the actions of the National Assembly on the issue of Nkandla, Mr Mthembu admitted that the judgment raised some important issues for Parliament.

“We recently had a meeting with the Presiding Officers and other political parties regarding the Constitutional Court ruling. We have lost credibility as Parliament. How do we regain our credibility? When we return from the local government elections in August, our caucus will discuss the matter and work on the way forward to ensure

better oversight over government.”

The twelfth ANC Chief Whip since democracy in 1994 said he is honoured to work with “very good men and women” in his caucus.

“They have given me an overwhelming respect. I have always worked in a collective,” said Mr Mthembu, who sits on the ANC’s National Executive Committee, the ANC’s highest decision-making body.

He said all ANC MPs know they have to prioritise their parliamentary work. “They attend all their Committee meetings and are present in the House when there are sittings. We were not sent here to play truant. We will act against those who do not prioritise their work as MPs.”

One of Parliament’s constitutionally defined mandates is to make the laws of the country. South Africa has experienced a number of racist incidents in the recent past and Mr Mthembu is certain that legislation to criminalise racism will be passed during his term of office.

“This is a matter for everyone in society. As South Africans, we should have a sense of non-racialism wherever we are, be it in churches, workplaces and so on.”

He added that the war against racism is ongoing. “Our Constitution disallows this behaviour. Let us treat each other with respect as human beings.”

He pointed out that the late former President Nelson Mandela left us a legacy of reconciliation. “We live in

a country that has a history, but we must do everything in our power to reconcile with each other.”

On the acrimonious verbal exchanges that have come to characterise some debates in the National Assembly since the last general election in 2014, Mr Mthembu explained that the ANC is in discussions with the other 12 political parties represented in Parliament to arrest the degeneration of debates in the House. “We don’t want a Parliament that is at war with itself.”

Issues such as this are constantly discussed in the Chief Whips’ Forum, which meets once a week. Mr Mthembu regards this meeting as important for the functioning of Parliament, as it also deals with critical issues relating to the programme of the House.

Mr Mthembu stressed that all 13 political parties represented in Parliament have one common mandate – to work for the people of South Africa. It is with this in mind that all MPs must be true servants of the people.

Parliament is set to rise at the end of May to enable MPs to return to their constituencies around the country to interact with the people and get a fresh mandate from them in the local government elections on 3 August.

“We as MPs must do what is expected of us by the people. Our programmes must serve the interests of the people all the time. We have done pretty well so far, but more needs to be done. Our duty is to ensure that services are delivered to the people,” Mr Mthembu concluded. 🌟



# Reconstructing a new higher education system in SA

**Dr** Blade Nzimande emphasised the need for real transformation in the higher education sector when he presented his budget vote speech in Parliament recently, writes **Abel Mputing**.

In his budget vote speech, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, admitted that the higher education sector is currently facing multiple challenges. However, he said this should not diminish the strides that have been made in shaping a new higher education system.

"I rise to address this House as our higher education and training system is grappling with significant challenges

and is under intense public scrutiny. But I rise, Speaker, confident that despite the challenges we face as a developing country with a history and legacy of national oppression and super-exploitation, we have made enormous strides in building post-school education and training, the likes of which have never been seen before in South Africa," he said.

As such, higher education remains a

beacon of hope for the advancement of our individual and societal needs. "Our system provides diverse and very real opportunities for our people to empower themselves for the future. And we have a clear and powerful vision of how to continue to build this system to serve the needs of individuals, the economy and society."

Dr Nzimande said that the challenges this sector is now faced with will be addressed by the department's 15-year plan. "We are currently developing a 15-year plan for the entire system, based on the vision captured in the



**INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING:**  
The University of Cape Town.

partnership to swell our country's skills base, he said.

In the 2016-2019 budget, R5.7bn has been allocated to higher education to ensure that the fees freeze does not hamper the operations of universities. Added to that is R4.57bn for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), the minister said.

"An amount of R4.57bn has been allocated to NSFAS in 2016/17, made up of R2.54bn to ensure that 71 753 students who were not funded or insufficiently funded from 2013 to 2015 can pay their debt, and R2.03bn to ensure that these students, as well as poor students entering universities for the first time, can study."

The minister assured Parliament that the money will be well spent. "The money voted for higher education and training is going where it should, towards empowering our young people with the skills and knowledge to build a future for themselves."

"Given the mounting financial challenges the department is faced with, the Committee welcomes the R49.2bn allocated to the department for the 2016/17 financial year," said the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training, Ms Yvonne Phosa.

"We welcome the increase of R7.3bn in the department's budget from R42bn in 2015/16. We value the increase in budgetary allocation because we strongly believe that education can arrest the cycle of poverty, unemployment and inequality," she said.

She also said the already strained public purse cannot meet the rising financial demands of our higher education sector without assistance. "The public sector

alone cannot fund the provision of education adequately. We appeal to the private sector to provide funding for the benefit of our society."

The recent funding will not bring about any substantial injections, but will go some way to paper over a 20-year neglect of higher education, said Prof Belinda Bozzoli of the Democratic Alliance. "In the light of these 20 years of neglect, the budget increase we see today is nothing more than an ad hoc, partial, expensive fix to a much bigger educational and political disaster."

Mr Siphon Mbatha (Economic Freedom Fighters) claimed that the higher education system has not transformed as expected. "The higher education system has not moved an inch from its apartheid past. This manifests itself in the demographic structure of higher education even today. For instance, white males still dominate professorship at our universities. White males lead the research agenda and knowledge sector and white males are better paid across the higher education system."

Earlier, the minister underlined the need to intensify transformation in higher education. The Higher Education Bill currently before Parliament seeks to speed up this process.

"University transformation remains a critical task. We need to intensify the struggle to build transformed and non-racial universities. I continue engaging on accelerating transformation agreed by the second Higher Education Summit, and we have told the institutions we expect their implementation plans for the summit resolutions by the end of June. The Higher Education Bill now before Parliament tasks university councils with driving transformation much more vigorously," said Dr Nzimande. 🗣️

White Paper on Post-School Education and Training I released in 2014, and on the National Development Plan."

A key part of our system is technical and vocational education and training, known as TVET. Expanding this historically small system has been a priority, he said.

"We have made strides in consolidating a much improved culture of teaching and learning in these institutions. To this end, the University of the Western Cape is ready to deliver its first postgraduate programme for TVET lecturers. It is the trailblazer for several more universities developing similar programmes."

However, government cannot achieve the academic aspirations alone. There is a need for a public-private

# Back-to-basics at SAPS gets nod of approval

**The** *strategy is based on three fundamental pillars: discipline, enhanced visibility, as well as the deployment of operations resources to ensure the optimal utilisation of the limited resources that the police have at their disposal, to ensure that they are applied to the maximum effect, writes Sakhile Mokoena.*

The South African Police Service's (SAPS's) back-to-basics strategy and the establishment of a narcotics unit and a firearms unit, have been applauded by members of the National Assembly as great interventions in the fight against crime.

During a debate on the budget votes of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPIID), the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Mr Francois Beukman, said the creation of the two special units was in line with crime fighting efforts as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP).

"We welcome the creation of the special units to deal with narcotics and firearms respectively, which will be based inside the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI). We believe that this initiative will go a long way in fighting organised crime," he said.

In supporting the R80.8bn allocation to the police, Mr Beukman said the funds would be used to procure specialised equipment for public order policing capacity, such as cameras for aircraft, video and recording equipment, water cannons and armoured vehicles.

"This allocation will ensure that the SAPS will be able to commence with the procurement of the equipment and specialised devices as indicated in the Farlam Commission recommendations. "From the Committee's side, we welcome the additional capacity in public order policing units – the department will receive an increase of R242m in the 2017/18 financial year and R335m in the other financial year.

However, Mr Beukman said the Portfolio Committee was not happy about the reduction of IPIID's budget, saying this would impact negatively on investigative capacity. "We are seriously concerned about the reduction of R18m in the baseline allocation to the department (IPIID) over the medium term and a further R23m to come.

"We believe that the reduction to the baseline budget allocations should be reviewed. IPIID is one of the important institutions that are provided for in the Constitution to promote oversight and accountability," said the Chairperson.

He said the Committee recommends that the policing model should make provision for equity of policing services in urban, rural and deep rural areas and geographic divides. This should include

clear provision of police resources to historically disadvantaged areas and not discriminate against areas which have disproportionately high crime rates or are economically disadvantaged, he said.

"Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the policing model for preventing, investigating and combating crime must make accommodation for timely and regular feedback to all victims of crime, irrespective of their socio-economic status," he said.

Mr Beukman also called for the finalisation of the debate on whether the DPCI should be a programme or sub-programme within the SAPS. "We believe that the time has come to reach finality on the matter. The Committee therefore recommends that the department should commence discussions with National Treasury to establish the DPCI programme as a separate budget vote in future. The establishment of a separate vote will further strengthen the operational independence of the DPCI," he said.

He said such a change will necessitate an amendment to the SAPS Amendment Act, which currently provides that the DPCI must be located as a unit within the SAPS with the National Commissioner as the responsible accounting officer.

Police Minister Nathi Nhleko announced the back-to-basics strategy, which, he said, "focused on every member of the SAPS reverting to the established regulatory framework, or simply put, doing the basics of policing properly and consistently".

The strategy is based on three fundamental pillars: discipline, enhanced visibility as well as the deployment of operations resources to ensure the optimal utilisation of the limited resources that the police have at their

**HERE TO SERVE:** The South African Police Service gets back to basics.

disposal, to ensure that they are applied to the maximum effect.

“In addition, those areas of chronic under-performance are being corrected through specific recovery plans targeting visible policing and detective service capabilities of the SAPS,” the minister said.

In a prepared speech read by a colleague, Mr Albert Mncwango (Inkatha Freedom Party MP) also praised the strategy. “To the Acting National Police Commissioner, your back-to-basics approach has been a breath of fresh air as SAPS has veered off over the years of serving under two teachers and a social worker-cum-banker,” he said.

He lamented the killing of police officers and called for harsher action against the perpetrators. “The killing of our police officers remains a huge concern, and must be dealt with harshly. Our policemen and women are dying in the streets because criminals are out of hand in South Africa. A strategy must be formulated as soon as possible to deal with this.”

Mr Ahmed Shaik Emam (National Freedom Party) also praised the interventions by the new Acting Commissioner to introduce the back-to-basics programme and professionalism in the SAPS. “This is already bearing fruit and the Acting Commissioner must be commended for the initiative. We also welcome the planned paperless docket system initiative, which we believe will enhance delivery of service by the SAPS,” he said.

“Our police officers must be well compensated and be issued with adequate protective gear. There is a war going on against the state, and our police are not just fighting crime, they are fighting for survival and their lives are constantly in danger,” he said. 🇿🇦



# NCOP addresses housing crisis in Mossel Bay

*A challenge brought before the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) during the Taking Parliament to the People report-back in the Southern Cape Eden District was the issue of shoddily built houses in KwaNonqaba. One particular matter which the delegation asked the municipality and the provincial government to give urgent attention to is the case of an elderly woman who lives with a sewerage drain inside her house, writes Sakhile Mokoena.*

Residents have welcomed the intervention by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in the housing challenges in Mossel Bay, including mediating in the prolonged stand-off between the community of Power Town informal settlement and the local municipality over a council decision to relocate the residents from the banks of the Little Brak River along the N2 in the Eden District of the Western Cape Province. There are divisions among the

residents over the planned relocation with some preferring to stay in the wetland which gets flooded during the rainy season or high tide, and others accepting moving to new houses to be built in Sonskyn Valley, a few kilometres from the current location.

Another group of residents who are not entirely against the relocation have identified their own preferred land for relocation very close to Power Town.

Although Western Cape MEC for Human Settlements Mr Bonginkosi Madikizela and the local municipality told the NCOP that the decision to move the residents was informed by studies by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, which they said proved that the area was a “wetland and not suitable for human habitation”, the community is adamant that the decision was based on discrimination.

During a follow-up visit of the Taking Parliament to the People programme, the residents questioned why their wealthy neighbours who live in expensive houses in the same area were not identified for relocation.

“Our white neighbours are not being

**MOSSEL BAY:** Residents of this informal settlement outside Mossel Bay are at odds with the municipality about relocating to new houses in another area.





relocated, why is the municipality only moving us? If indeed the area is not safe for human habitation let them move everyone, including our white neighbours,” said Mr Cedric Jansen, the Chairperson of Power Town Residents Association.

“How will our kids attend school? The fact that there are no schools in the identified area where they want to move us is another big challenge,” said another resident during a public meeting with the NCOP at Imekhaya School Hall.

“The preferred land where they want to be moved is also not suitable for human habitation as it is in a ‘sensitive area’, according to the studies,” said Ms Marie Ferreira, the Mayor of Mossel Bay Local Municipality.

Another reason given by many people for their refusal to be relocated include that they have graves of family members in Power Town and would prefer to live closer to their deceased.

Mr Madikizela said the provincial government will not force anyone to accept houses in Sonskyn Valley if they do not want them, but “we are not going to build houses in an unsafe area”.

This matter, along with an ongoing dispute in nearby Khayelitsha, in KwaNonqaba Township, also over a planned relocation, will be referred to Parliament’s Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), to facilitate the way forward.

In Khayelitsha, the municipality was forced to abandon the planned relocation after residents refused to be moved to the identified area, citing reasons of flooding. Mr Madikizela said the concerns given by the residents were valid and people will no longer be moved to the identified site.

However, the municipality said the site will now be used as a transitional location area, where the community will be settled for a short period of time while houses were being built on suitable land. “The original plan was that the people were going to be moved here, and when they raised their objections, I had a meeting with them. We decided that the plan to move people here permanently has been abandoned,” said MEC Mr Madikizela.

The municipality wanted to temporarily move the people while houses were being built – and move them back once the building of those houses has been completed.

“One other issue that was raised by the community is that when it rains, the area gets flooded and that was a real concern for me, even though we were looking for space to relocate people temporarily. We could not relocate people to a site that gets flooded when it is raining. Together with the municipality we need to find an alternative site that will be used as a transitional site, so that we can deal with that challenge,” he said.

The Mossel Bay Local Municipality admitted to the NCOP that it is facing a shortage of land for building houses.

Delegation leader Mr Edwin Makue said the NCOP was committed to ensuring that cases were resolved as soon as possible. “We are interested in the delivery of services but we also cannot allow people to live in an unsafe environment. We cannot allow houses to be built on unsafe land,” said Mr Makue.

NCOP members advised the municipality and the provincial government to consider integrated settlements instead of moving people to the periphery. “We must guard against repeating what the apartheid government did when they moved people against their will to areas far from economic activities,” said NCOP

delegate Mr Dumisani Ximbi. Another challenge brought before the NCOP was the issue of shoddily built houses in KwaNonqaba, in particular the case of an elderly woman who lives with a sewerage drain inside her house.

Local residents reported that it is one of many badly built houses that need to be fixed. Mr Makue asked the authorities to find a way to get the drain out of the old lady’s house while waiting for a solution to all the faulty houses.

Mr Madikizela blamed the delay in fixing the houses on the community whom he said demanded that all houses be demolished and be built from scratch. “We have a situation here where houses are not occupied by the original beneficiaries. Obviously we need to understand who is in that house. There are some community members who are against that. We can’t just go in and rectify a house without us knowing who is in that house.

“Even if the house needs to be rectified, the person who is occupying the house may either have benefited before or is now outside the salary requirement. Now the bone of contention is that the community members want us to just ignore all the policy provisions and demolish all the houses and start from scratch – that is where the problem is. We have a report about a number of houses that need to be fixed and that will be made available to the NCOP. For us to just demolish every house and rebuild it is not feasible, which is what some of the people here are demanding,” said Mr Madikizela.

“We will refer this matter to the Select Committee that is dealing with CoGTA, so that they can take it further with the provincial government. Our proposal is that the MEC will give a report to the Select Committee on CoGTA and they will take the matter up further,” said Mr Makue. 🗣️

# NCOP's actions benefit children in Oudtshoorn



**OUTDSHOORN:** Zanaxolo early childhood education centre is facing deregistration because of a number of structural problems.

**O**n a follow-up visit to the Oudtshoorn municipality as part of the Taking Parliament to the People programme, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) delegation found, among other things, a crèche on the verge of deregistration and a municipality under administration. Decisive action by the NCOP averted the deregistration when the crèche was moved to an alternative venue while upgrades took place in the current facility, writes *Sibongile Maputi*.

NCOP members were not impressed by the conditions at the Zanaxolo crèche. Nothing had been done at the facility since the complaints about leaking

drains, infrequent subsidy payments, lack of sanitation and clean water were first heard when the NCOP visited in 2015. Instead, an anonymous official

had telephonically threatened the crèche with deregistration within 14 days. Management member at the crèche Ms Monica Loots told the delegation that there was no future for the kids of Oudtshoorn if the Zanaxolo facility was closed.

“We are so concerned about the pending deregistration of the crèche because getting registration is a challenge. We are not asking for money, as the municipality is financially

challenged. All we are asking for is support wherever the municipality could assist," Ms Loots said.

"It does not make sense to have good primary and secondary schools in Oudtshoorn, if the foundation phase is not of a good standard. The subsidy from the province is not paid on time sometimes and it is too little for the needs of the children. 80% of the budget goes to salaries," she said.

NCOP members ordered the Department of Social Development to halt deregistration, and said that the children must be moved to another facility while upgrades are being carried out at the current site.

The Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP and leader of the delegation, Mr Raseriti Tau, urged the delegation to take up the challenges at Zanoxolo crèche. "We should follow up on this and do whatever needs to be done. The worrying issue is that these issues were raised last year and are still not being addressed," Mr Tau said.

NCOP Member Ms Tabiso Wana said it appeared that there was no service delivery in the area. "This facility is particularly affected. Look at the drain that is overflowing, and children could easily drink this dirty water. The children could easily be affected by germs," Ms Wana said. She also said that the two toilets are not enough for the 80 children at the crèche.

Member of the Provincial Legislature Mr Lennit Max noted that the municipality was experiencing many operational difficulties. "The approach being applied (at the Zanoxolo crèche) seems to be too fragmented. They (government departments) are working in silos, hence there is no progress," Mr Max said. He urged time frames be applied

to get the crèche to a functioning level.

The Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Legislature, Ms Sharna Fernandez, committed to bring together all the relevant departments in three months' time to assess progress on the challenges at Zanoxolo crèche.

Ms Wana said there was a need to audit all early childhood development (ECD) centres in the area so as to curb the growth of new centres that did not meet the regulations for ECD facilities. Stakeholders agreed that the children should be moved to Bongoletu Community Hall, and that upgrades to the site begin as soon as possible.

The delegation also visited the Rose Valley Housing Project just outside Oudtshoorn. The administrator of the municipality, Mr Kim Chetty, told the delegation that despite being under administration, the municipality had made good progress on complaints raised by the community during last year's Taking Parliament to the People visit.

"The municipality is bankrupt, but it is dealing with issues the people have raised, including high-level corruption, housing challenges and title deeds. A forensic investigation team has been assembled to deal with what seems to be a major challenge for the municipality – corruption. A new municipal manager for human settlements has been appointed following the resignation of a manager," said Mr Chetty.

Mr Chetty said the new manager, Ms Shehaam Sims, is from outside Oudtshoorn and has much experience in housing issues.

Ms Sims said the work of updating the list is at an advanced stage and that

all new housing developments will be allocated according to the list. "What we have done was to update the list based on the list that was provided by the province. The initial list had about 18 000 beneficiaries, but that number had since decreased to about 13 000. In the process of cleaning the list, it was discovered that some beneficiaries were deceased and some had already been allocated a subsidy," Ms Sims said.

The Rose Valley Housing Project has about 410 completed houses. Phase Two of the project – with a high school and a primary school – might be finished by July 2016. Mr Chetty said the municipality could not accelerate housing provision until now, as the waste water treatment plant had not been at full capacity.

"With the new upgraded plant that challenge has been resolved. The sewerage plant now has capacity to support all of the town's population," he said.

Mr Tau wanted to know how the municipality dealt with allegations that houses are being allocated to foreign nationals and that youngsters are getting housing ahead of elderly people. A member of the provincial legislature wanted to know whether prioritising informal settlement dwellers for subsidised housing would not encourage the growth of informal settlements.

Ms Sims replied that no foreign national had been allocated a house, but locals rent their properties to foreigners both for rental and business purposes. "The list we are working with is a municipal list and had been sent to the province for verification. People will now get houses according to where they appear on the list and this will be a transparent process," Ms Sims said. 🌟

# Impractical houses a challenge for residents of Bitou

**Despite** *the progress in building houses, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) delegation on its Taking Parliament to the People follow-up visit to the Eden District Municipality discovered that there are still a number of challenges impeding the delivery of the houses to the rightful beneficiaries in the area. At the centre of those challenges are alleged acts of corruption and manipulation of the beneficiary list, writes Malatswa Molepo.*

The completion of the Ukhana Housing Project in New Horizon, Plettenberg Bay, promised a new life free of worry and a good roof over Ms Liziwe Shizane and her children's heads. But she is left with an impractical house that she cannot move furniture into.

"It is a worrying factor that the houses that have been given to the people are problematic. It boils down to the dignity of our people, and efforts must be made to ensure that the houses are usable spaces," said Ms Ellen Prins, the Co-Chairperson of the NCOP delegation, after inspecting the house.

The NCOP visited Bitou Municipality in a report-back session under the auspices of Taking Parliament to the People (TPTTP) to assess if government departments have made good on the promise to deal with issues raised by the residents of the Eden District Municipality. While the delegation was happy that there is visible evidence of progress in delivering houses, it was worried about the functionality of the houses.

Ms Shizane is a beneficiary of a double

storey house in New Horizon that she shares with her three children. Her challenge is that she cannot move her new double bed to the second floor due to a narrow passageway. "Even in the second bedroom you can only fit a single bed, which means all my children cannot sleep on a bed. The space is so cramped that you cannot fit two single beds in the room," Ms Shizane said.

What is even more frustrating for her is that the shower is practically on top of the toilet seat, making it difficult to have a comfortable shower. "We are being told that this is the standard 40-square-metre house, but it means nothing to us if we struggle to use these houses," Ms Shizane said.

To move her new wardrobe upstairs she had to break it apart, take small pieces upstairs and refit it there. "These are challenges we have to face on a daily basis, but we are thankful nonetheless that we have a roof over our heads," Ms Shizane said.

Despite the progress in building houses, the delegation discovered that



there are still a number of challenges impeding delivery of the houses to the rightful beneficiaries. At the centre of those challenges are alleged acts of corruption and manipulation of the beneficiary list.

The executive mayor of the municipality, Mr Memory Booysen, said that even before the previous TPTTP they were already busy with investigations into the alleged corruption within the housing department of the municipality. "Unfortunately we have encountered problems with residents unwilling to come forward and share information with us so that we can effectively deal with the matter. We continue to ask for a collaborative effort that will ensure that no one is robbed," Mr Booysen emphasised.

The investigation has led to a



**NEW HORIZON:** A Taking Parliament to the People delegation visits the Ukhana housing project in Plettenberg Bay.

disciplinary process and dismissal of two officials within the housing unit. "We have uncovered that two community liaison officers have been engaged in unlawful acts with people paying from R500 to R5 000 to improperly get houses. That has caused us problems, as some people in the houses do not deserve to be there," Mr Booysen emphasised.

The mayor said that out of desperation some people had paid money, fearing that they might not get a house. "We have undertaken an eviction process to ensure that the rightful owners move into these houses. The deadline for those occupying the houses unlawfully is the end of May 2016 and the municipality hopes to fast-track the process to give the houses to their rightful owners."

The unhappiness with the provision

of housing caused a disruption of a meeting where the delegation planned to give residents a report-back on all the issues raised regarding the municipality. The delegation pleaded with the MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Bonginkosi Madikizela, in the Western Cape to assist the municipality to deal with the housing challenges faced by the municipality.

However, the delegation was pleased that the Department of Home Affairs has resolved eight of the nine issues raised by the residents, including the appointment of additional staff to assist with services. The department had also rolled out the smart card system to the site office at a cost of R2m.

The department has also engaged the municipality to ensure that it has access to the toilets at the community centre so that they can be cleaned

over the weekend. "We are now at the procurement stage to ensure that the offices are secured with burglar bars," said Mr Yusuf Simons, the Western Cape provincial manager.

There have also been improvements at Phakamisani Primary School. This was brought about by the building of a new primary school that has alleviated the pressure on the school. Currently the school has 1 055 learners compared to the more than 2 000 learners last year. The school, together with the municipality, changed the bus route to ensure the safety of the children.

The school is still facing challenges with burglaries, but in constant consultation with parents and the community, they are dealing with the matter. The delegation said they will keep an eye on the progress on the issues that still need attention. 🙏

# Members of Parliament graduate from university's School of Leadership



**GROWING LEADERS:** New graduates (from left) Mr Dumisani Ximbi, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Justice, Mr Mandlenkosi Galo, Ms Johanna Mmule Maluleke, Ms Sheila Shope-Sithole and Mr Imamile Pikiinini.

**Eighty-one** *Members of Parliament (MPs), former MPs and Members of the Provincial Legislatures received certificates in transitional justice and industrial policy from the University of Johannesburg's School of Leadership. House Chairperson Ms Thoko Didiza delivered the keynote address, writes Sakhile Mokoena.*

House Chairperson responsible for Internal Arrangements in the National Assembly, Ms Thoko Didiza, was the guest speaker during the first graduation ceremony of the School of Leadership at the University of Johannesburg's Kingsway Campus.

"As Parliament and Provincial Legislatures, within each legislative term, we support Members by equipping them with the necessary information in the function of Parliament and its Committees. Such training is done in-house, while another level is done with universities, such as the School of Governance at the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

"We also have a learning and

development policy that supports Members through a bursary to further their studies and thereby improve their skills. We do so because we are conscious of the role of education in development. The transformation of society is still in progress and it affects all sectors of society. It requires therefore that we should be better prepared to deal with new challenges that we face at any given time. During the month of May we will be celebrating 20 years of the adoption of our Constitution, our supreme law of the land.

"The significance of this celebration marks the path we chose as a country and a society. We chose a constitutional democracy where the Constitution

becomes the supreme law of our land which guarantees the protection of citizens from any form of abuse. As we celebrate our Constitution, it may be necessary to ask ourselves: have we been able to utilise this important instrument in the interests of our people and our quest for the democratisation of our society?"

Ms Didiza said it was important to acknowledge that 20 years on, the Constitution can protect the citizens and ensure that the socio-economic rights enshrined in the Constitution can be realised.

"Among us here we have Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Legislatures who came to the school in order to equip themselves with knowledge and tools of analysis that will empower them as they undertake their work as legislators in transforming our society.

"The role of universities in development remains critical. It helps to develop knowledge that will equip and mould the human resources base that our society needs. It will impact on skills that are necessary for economic development."

Members of the National Assembly who recently completed development programmes in transitional justice and industrial policy at UJ are confident that their newly acquired skills will improve their performance as Parliamentarians and as community leaders.

Eighty-one MPs, former MPs and Members of the Provincial Legislatures received their certificates during the first graduation at UJ's School of Leadership in April.

Mr Imamile Pikinini, who completed the transitional justice programme offered by the university, said the programme has been a turning point in his life and gave him a better perspective of Africa and the world in dealing with matters of transitional justice.

“This programme was really empowering, such that we are now able to formulate policies to assist our communities, particularly in our constituencies where it is already playing a major role.

“Things are not like they were before. We are now able to see things in a different perspective. You analyse and assess before you take any kind of a decision,” said Mr Pikinini.

Another graduate, Ms Sheila Shope-Sithole who received a certificate in the Industrial Policy programme, said: “The programme has empowered me already, made me understand how to make policy that will help our country to industrialise, because we need that (industrialisation). We need to compare ourselves with developed countries like the United Kingdom and United States.

“There is this Prof Ha-Joon Chang who says that countries of the North usually tell us what they did not do. They protected their industries but now they tell us to open up while we are still developing, we are not going to do that,” she said.

Ms Johanna Mmule Maluleke, who also completed the Industrial Policy programme, said the training has given her a better understanding of economic policy development which she believes will help her in her work in Parliament as well as in her constituency.

A visibly elated Mr Dumisani Ximbi, the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Justice, said the programme is going to make him a better Member of Parliament when carrying out his oversight

responsibilities, especially in the security cluster.

“It is actually empowering a great deal of us for our oversight responsibilities; this is a very big programme for us as lawmakers of this country,” he said.

Mr Mandlenkosi Galo said: “I think this programme has empowered me. I did the course in transitional justice. You will recall that as politicians or community leaders we are dealing with people who are full of anger and sometimes they do things that might jeopardise their kind of living, so this kind of a programme will assist in terms of guiding the people on how to resolve issues at community level and the nation as a whole.

“It will assist me a great deal when I do my constituency work and also when I lead my organisation, the African Independent Congress, in the National Assembly. It is empowering us also to be able to engage robustly even in the parliamentary Committees.”

Former MP Mr Gaolaolwe Selau said: “I am empowered already. I was dealing with industrial policy and research awareness for leaders. I am a much better researcher now than I was before this course and I now understand industrial policy as it links to the whole economic environment worldwide, continentally and locally.

“This makes sense in that you are now able to understand economic issues in this era, the period of economic development. People must follow the trend of studying economics.”

The Director: School of Leadership in the Faculty of Management at UJ, Dr Sydney Mufamadi, congratulated the MPs for their “search for knowledge and skills” and said the programmes will equip them to be of a better service to the country. He said the programme was aimed at cultivating leaders who were sought after for the

impact that they are expected to make in various fields of human endeavour.

“Our investment in academic rigour and social relevance is supported by five production arms, namely: consumer intelligence information systems; private sector management and leadership; public sector management and thought leadership; transport and logistics; as well as people management,” said Dr Mufamadi.

He said over the last five years the faculty has conferred close to 11 500 qualifications – of which almost 2 500 were at post-graduate level. This constitutes over 20% of UJ’s total output.

“The faculty has also achieved an average 93% graduate employment rate. We have also forged worldwide collaboration networks with other universities globally. This collaborative effort has helped improve the quality and quantity of our research output. Our job is to impart knowledge, to stimulate people to think as well as to train them in the skills and knowledge relevant to the modern world,” he said.

“You come to the university either sent by Parliament, your political party or out of personal motivation – of greater importance, you are here in search of knowledge and skills that will equip you to be of a better service to your country, to your party and to our continent. We walk with you in this historic moment of reclamation, a moment in which we together reclaim the idealism which brought us to where we are now,” he said.

The UJ School of Leadership hosted the inaugural graduation ceremony – 81 members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures participated in the programme organised by the Speakers’ Forum in partnership with UJ and the National School of Governance. 🌟

# Government rolls out new procurement regime

**The** *primary objective of government procurement of goods and services is to deliver a better life to all South Africans. The establishment of the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer is meant to make the pursuit of this objective as efficient and effective as possible, writes Abel Mputing.*

The mismanagement of government procurement process is often cited in the Auditor-General's reports as one of the factors that contribute to qualified audit outcomes for various government departments and agencies. What is of great concern is that this practice is recurring, which makes it difficult for government to optimise procurement as one of the drivers of our country's economic growth, said the Chief Procurement Officer, Mr Kenneth Brown.

"Procurement of goods, services and works over the next three years will amount to R1.5 trillion across all spheres of government. This is an enormous amount of money. Wisely and efficiently spent, it can be a great force for good. It can spread wealth to hard-working entrepreneurs who successfully tender for government contracts."

The newly established Office of the Chief Procurement Officer (OCPO) seeks to mitigate the contributory factors to poor financial management, graft and misappropriation of the public purse, he said.

"This office will modernise and oversee the South African public sector supply chain management system to ensure that the procurement of goods, services and construction work is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective, in line with the Constitution and all relevant legislation."

The OCPO is not directly involved in procurement, but leads and manages procurement reform, maintains the procurement system and oversees the way in which government does business with the private sector, said Mr Brown.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Appropriations, Mr Ndabakayise Gcwabaza, welcomed these developments. "The Standing Committee on Appropriations believes that the report of the Chief Procurement Officer demonstrates the seriousness with which he and his team of officials take their mandate. They have set up systems which facilitate and co-ordinate government procurement of goods and services. These systems are making it easier, faster and more transparent for companies to do business with government."

One of the principal aims of this office is to untangle the web of transversal governance and monitoring governing the procurement services of government departments. Research has been conducted to streamline the dynamics that regulate government's supply chain management.

"Over the three years of our existence we did research on government's supply chain management. In this process we entertained and spoke to

different government departments and agencies and business. This consultation has helped us to come up with a review and a detailed synopsis that seek to deal with corruption in this process, but also to improve the transaction efficiencies that contribute to government's supply chain management," said Mr Brown.

That is crucial because procurement can enhance government's service delivery objectives, said Mr Gcwabaza. "The primary objective of government's procurement of goods and services is to deliver a better life to all South Africans. And so the establishment of this office is meant to make the pursuit of this objective as efficient and effective as possible."

To illustrate the significance of procurement to government's social and economic priority imperatives, in 2015 the office conducted a procurement review. Out of this emerged a diagnosis that helped the office to pin-point the contributory factors to the corrupt tendencies and graft that beset government's Supply Chain Management.

This diagnosis has led to the adoption of a reform roadmap, which seeks to harness procurement strategies and approaches to optimise suppliers' relationship management, that will herald the automation of procurement, enhance its governance and monitoring and improve transversal contracting.

To optimise suppliers' relationship management, the office embarked on a stakeholder engagement campaign that was meant to solicit views on the





practices and anomalies of the public sector's supply chain management, said the Chief Director of Stakeholder Management of the Procurement Office, Ms Rakgadi Motseto.

"We had interactions with business groupings and then there was the launch of the central supply database (CSD) on 1 September 2015. Then road shows began in all nine provinces. Also, training was provided for supply chain management practitioners and engagements on other forthcoming reforms were shared. This was followed by a three-month community and commercial radio programme, newspapers and billboards campaign on the introduction of the CSD registration and access to eTenders."

The office's recommendation for transversal contracting is to ensure that new procurement contracts are negotiated centrally, said Chief Director of Transversal Contracting of the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Mr Kenneth Pillay.

This will go a long way in curbing corrupt procurement practices. "In the past, national and provincial departments and municipalities were buying goods and services individually. The Office of the Chief Procurement Officer

was necessitated by government's acknowledgement that lack of central co-ordination of procurement gave rise to corrupt procurement practices," said Mr Pillay.

The newest innovation is the automation of government procurement processes through the inception of eTender. This digital system is set to improve efficiency and demand management, said the Director of Central Supply Database of the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Mr Tumelo Ntlaba.

eTender provides the organs of state with a web-based platform to advertise bids, publish bid notices, demand plans, tender documents, amendments or erratum. As a result of this, 2 758 tenders have been published so far.

This automated procurement system will enable government to take advantage of gCommerce (web-based commerce). The gCommerce will, in turn, not only make it easier for procurement officials to purchase, but will also set caps on expenditure and will track transactions, buying patterns and prices. Most significantly, gCommerce will enhance government's ability to leverage economies of scale, said Mr Ntlaba.

The Chairperson is pleased that

there is now an innovative way to exploit government's buying power to negotiate contracts and discounts through gCommerce to ensure that government gets value for its money.

"The Officer is developing the capacity to use scale to negotiate cheaper prices for bulk buying of goods and services. Of importance as well is its capacity to do research and compare goods and prices so that government is able to get value for money at affordable or reasonable prices without compromising quality," said Mr Gcwabaza.

To solidify this new procurement regime a new Bill is in the offing. It will serve as the legal framework of government Supply Chain Management in the future. The advantage is that it will make it easier for the Appropriations Committee to conduct its oversight, said Mr Gcwabaza.

He is of the view that this office will go a long way to strengthen the fiscal and risk management pillars that govern the management of the public purse. "The work of the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer will necessitate the existence of financial and risk management structures and ensure accepted standards of accounting as required by the Auditor-General." 🌐

# MP in bid to help haven

**National** *Freedom Party (NFP) Member of Parliament, Mr Sibusiso Mncwabe, visited a shelter for destitute people as part of his constituency work. He undertook to donate blankets to the shelter and also said he will approach a non-profit organisation for help, writes Cedric Mboyisa.*

It is widely known as a paradise for holidaymakers, but only few people are aware that the majestic Valley of a Thousand Hills is home to a young good Samaritan who has turned his modest home into a haven for the poor and the neglected.

Mr Sithembiso Chili is a young man of 35, but even so he is caring for 42 people (18 children and 24 adults) at his home in the KwaNyuswa village in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. Among those he and his wife, Hlengiwe, care for are people with disabilities, senior citizens, the abandoned, orphans and the sickly from all race groups.

He does all of this out of his own pocket. They are lacking a number of critical resources. It is the haven's challenges which prompted a visit by the National Freedom Party Member of Parliament, Mr Sibusiso Mncwabe.



The KwaNyuswa village is one of Mr Mncwabe's constituency areas as the elected representative of the people.

The haven has no washing machine, meaning hand washing is the order of the day on a daily basis. Some of the people here have no identity documents and not enough money for the medications they need. The monthly food bill amounts to R24 000 and the bill for nappies is R38 000. Other challenges include a lack of wheelchairs (currently, there are only 12 wheelchairs), insufficient blankets and beds. The supply of electricity is also problematic. Despite the work he does, Mr Chili is not receiving any help from government.

Ms Adele Walters was moved by Mr Chili's selflessness and has assisted the haven to some degree, but it is not enough. "We are on our own here," said Ms Walters.

She appealed to the Member of Parliament to assist the haven. Mr Chili heaped praise on Ms Walters, saying she did not mind driving from her home in Durban to KwaNyuswa whenever the haven needed her help or had an urgent situation which required her attention.

Mr Mncwabe undertook to donate blankets to the haven. He also said he will approach the Gift of the Givers



**GOOD SAMARITAN:** National Freedom Party MP Mr Sibusiso Mncwabe visits a shelter for the destitute in his constituency of KwaNyuswa in KwaZulu-Natal.

Foundation, a non-profit organisation, for help. He added that he will speak to the Departments of Health, Home Affairs, and other relevant government entities regarding the situation at the haven. He said it was very unfortunate that the haven was not given any form of support by government and the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. "I will also raise this issue in Parliament. As a young man, Mr Chili is doing a great job without expecting anything in return," said Mr Mncwabe.

Mr Chili related a story of how one of the people used to live before he became part of the haven. "This one child used to live like an animal. He

was kept in a cage but his relatives took his grant (money)," he said.

He decided to take the child away from the uncaring family. The child has since improved in terms of health and interaction with fellow human beings.

Mr Chili has been helping the less fortunate since 2004. He acquired his four-bedroom house in 2006 with the help of a philanthropist. He and his wife had to transform the house into a haven as the number of people who needed their help grew. The couple and their two children had to move out of their original house and build a smaller two-bedroom house on the same premises. Even their current

house is also home to some of the people under their care. Some senior citizens keep active and in shape by exercising under the supervision and guidance of Mr Chili.

What drives this man? "I have always had the urge to help fellow human beings. I am also a man of God. Christianity has been a major influence in my life. I thank God for my wife who has been very supportive of me," said Mr Chili.

He hoped that the visit by Mr Mncwabe will help shine the spotlight on the job they do and the challenges they face at the haven. Mr Mncwabe promised to go back to the haven to give updates on his efforts to assist them. 🙏



## Conservation of water is a must, says DA MP

**O**n her constituency visit to her community in the Eastern Cape, Member of Parliament Ms Terri Stander said the call by the government to use water sparingly and to promote a culture of water conservation should not be a meaningless slogan. She went on to say ‘the call should be taken by all very seriously because if there is no water, there is no life’, writes Mava Lukani.

The lack of regular maintenance of the water infrastructure in the rural communities of the Buffalo City Municipality in the Eastern Cape is the problem behind the loss of thousands of megalitres of water on a daily basis in certain communities of the municipality when the country is facing its worst drought in 100 years.

Despite the call by the Minister of Water and Sanitation and some civil society

organisations to use water sparingly and for the creation of a culture of water-saving in South Africa, large quantities of water are being wasted in the Buffalo City Municipality’s rural communities on a daily basis. That was what the Democratic Alliance’s (DA’s) Member of the National Assembly, Ms Terri Stander, told *InSession* during her visit to her constituency recently.

“People in my constituency complained

that service delivery shortfalls included the failure of the Buffalo City Municipality to maintain water and other service delivery infrastructure. Water pipes and taps are leaking badly in full view of the councillors and senior municipal officials. In certain communities in Wards 25, 33, 34, 36 and 49, some water taps have been removed and water still pours from the pipes for all to see,” said Ms Stander.

According to Ms Stander, water leaks and other service delivery shortfalls have been reported to the relevant authorities by DA councillor Mr Dillon Webb and by concerned residents, like Mr Thando Xhotongo after previous oversight visits. “I went back in this constituency period to the communities to check if the leaks we reported to the municipality were fixed and to hear about the new service delivery problems,” said Ms Stander.

She said the municipality had not fixed the leaks they had reported and according to her, the leaks are worse now than when they were reported. “When problems such as water leaks are



**WASTE NOT WANT NOT:** Democratic Alliance supporters point to drinking water that was pouring from a broken pipe in Buffalo City municipality in the Eastern Cape.

communal taps, water taps have been removed by the municipal officers completely. This worsened the water crisis and meant that the people in those communities are unable to get water, which is a serious breach of the Constitution.

According to Ms Stander, the underground leaks and the removal of water taps led to serious water spillage from underground and caused soil erosion on the roads. "Streams of water created by leaks erode soil along properties basically "stealing" land from the person living there. These streams also cut along and across road infrastructure, placing a further burden on the taxpayer, municipal resources and already large service delivery backlogs" said Ms Stander.

Ms Stander devoted her constituency time in the communities of Wards 25, 33, 34, 36 and 49 to check the state of service delivery in those communities. The communities in these wards include Ndevana, Thubalethu, Phakamisya, Rayi, Bulembu, Kuni and Dimbaza.

"DA councillors and I conduct oversight to have a clear picture of service delivery shortfalls in our constituency and to ensure they are taken up with the relevant department," said Ms Stander.

Some of the villages where there is no service delivery produced struggle heroes and heroines who paid a heavy price for the liberation of South Africa from the system of apartheid. Those villages include Rayi village that produced the late combatants of the struggle Mr Griffiths Mxenge and his wife, Ms Victoria Nonyamezelo Mxenge, who were assassinated by apartheid secret police in 1981 and 1985, respectively.

Ms Stander used the last part of her constituency period in the first term promoting voter registration in her constituency communities. She educated people across her constituency about the importance of voting and appealed to the people to register to vote.

According to Ms Stander, a vote constitutes a person's constitutional power and responsibility to elect a government that will deliver services, and to preserve democracy in South Africa. "In the interests of freedom, fairness and opportunity, people deserve a government that will deliver on its constitutional mandate to deliver services such as water, sanitation, electricity, housing, health education to realise basic human rights such as dignity and life." said Ms Stander.

According to Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC's) voter registration officers, voter registration for the 2016 local government elections at certain voter registration centres in Ms Stander's constituency has increased compared to previous years.

Mr Mandlomzi Lalendle, who is the IEC's voter registration officer based at the Pirie Mission's Hoho Secondary School, said there are more people who registered to vote for the next local government elections compared to previous years.

Mr Lalendle said the promotion of voter registration and voting should be a responsibility of all – not just the political parties. "Members of Parliament should be at the forefront in the promotion of voter registration and voting. We should be mingling with them in our communities, especially in rural communities where the right to vote is still new and not clear with regard to its meaning," said Mr Lalendle. 🇿🇦

not fixed, or water infrastructure is not maintained, the problem worsens. You can never recover the lost water once it has run out," said Ms Stander.

She said the call by the government for the sparing use of water and for the promotion of the culture of water conservation in South Africa should not be a meaningless slogan. "It's a call that should be taken by all – starting from the government at all its levels – local, provincial and national, very seriously because water is a constitutional right and government is failing in its mandate to protect and conserve this precious resource and to ensure that communities have access to water," emphasised Ms Stander.

According to Ms Stander, the government should strengthen its water conservation and infrastructure maintenance strategies especially during droughts such as the one the country is currently experiencing. "To see water wasted in my constituency is unbelievable and unacceptable at a time of drought," said Ms Stander. Ms Stander said she was shocked to see that instead of repairing the damaged



**VOTE WISELY:** UDM MP Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa urged people in his constituency of Amagqunukhwebe to vote in the upcoming local government elections.

## Your vote is a powerful tool, says UDM MP

**During** his constituency visit to the Amagqunukhwebe villages, the Chief Whip of the United Democratic Movement, Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, told the people living there that voting in elections is an important responsibility for every South African, writes *Mava Lukani*.

South Africa is a constitutional democracy where people have a powerful right to vote for the election of their government representatives. Furthermore, the Constitution guarantees that a vote is cast during a secret ballot, so that no one will know which party you voted for.

“During elections people should make a critical examination of what their government representatives have done since the last elections. The record of what those representatives have done speaks more than what they say they will do when they are elected in the following elections,” the Chief Whip of the United Democratic Movement, Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, told people in his Amagqunukhwebe villages constituency.

Mr Kwankwa devoted his first-term constituency period to promoting voter registration for local government elections in most of the Amagqunukhwebe villages. According to Mr Kwankwa, although South Africa celebrates 22 years of democracy, the majority of South Africans who stay in remote villages still don’t understand the deeper meaning of votes and

elections. “People in the villages still don’t understand that their right to vote is a powerful tool to put [in power] and to remove a government,” said Mr Kwankwa.

Among the villages that Mr Kwankwa visited during the constituency period were Mngqaba (James Mama), Khulile, Ezigodlo, eThafeni, Kwa-Nonaliti, Emqumbu, Trust Number Two and Engcamngeni. In all those villages Mr Kwankwa encouraged people to register to vote in the next local government elections and ensure that they vote on the date that has been put aside for elections by the President of the Republic of South Africa.

“As I go around in my constituency promoting voter registration, people tell me about the failure of the government to deliver services to them and the corruption that is rising on an hourly basis in all the spheres of government,” said Mr Kwankwa.

One of his tasks during the visit was to report to the people on progress in service delivery the residents raised

during his previous constituency period. “This government doesn’t have ears to listen to poor service delivery complaints, but as a Member of Parliament responsible for this constituency, I ensure that the complaints people ask me to pass to the relevant sphere of government and department are passed on,” said Mr Kwankwa.

He told the people in his constituency that he does not just take the complaints to government officials, but also ensures that the complaints reach the senior political leadership of the relevant authorities. “I ensure that the complaint reaches the mayoral committee if the relevant government structure is the local government, the office of the Member of the Executive Council if it is a provincial competency and to the ministry if it is a national competency,” said Mr Kwankwa.

Mr Kwankwa told *InSession* that he was happy with the voter registration turnout for the next local government elections. “I am encouraged to note that in most of the voting stations the number of registered voters has increased since the last local government elections registration. This indicates that people are beginning to take elections very seriously and realise that the right to vote is a powerful right they have and which they must exercise to have the correct government,” said Mr Kwankwa. 🗳️

# Teenage gangs bring fear to once-peaceful township in Paarl

**Chicago** *is no longer the quiet and peaceful township it used to be many years ago. Since June last year, members of the community now live in fear after they witnessed with shock two rival teenage gangs from the township fighting each other with machetes, knives and screwdrivers, writes Justice Molafo.*

Violent fights between teenage gangs in the Western Cape, commonly taking place in Manenberg township on the Cape Flats, are starting to occur in Chicago township in Paarl East, in the Drakenstein Local Municipality. This came to the fore during the constituency work in the Paarl area of Mr Francois Beukman, who is a member of the African National Congress and is also the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police.

Mr Beukman started off his constituency work by holding a meeting with the police, councillors, and members of the community from Chicago. It became apparent during the meeting that Chicago is no longer the peaceful township it used to be. Since June last year, members of the community live in fear after witnessing the fighting between two rival gangs of teenagers.

According to the Paarl East Police Commissioner, Colonel Maputi Stefans, whenever police are called to stop the fights, the rival gangs team up against the police. He said the biggest problem they face is stone throwing by these gangsters.

“Now we have three vehicles that

were taken to the garage for repairs because they were stoned in Chicago during a police intervention in a gang fight,” said Col Stefans.

He said the unavailability of the three vehicles poses a serious challenge to their routine visibility operations in the area, thereby creating a fertile environment for other crimes such as illegal shebeens, robbery and housebreaking.

Mr Beukman expressed serious concern about the state of community safety in the township, saying that it was clear that more resources are needed in the area. He said if not curbed, the gangsterism could spiral out of control and spill into neighbouring communities.

“Although the root cause of the problem can be directly linked to the socio-economic conditions in the area, the management of the South African Police Service (SAPS) Provincial Intervention Unit still needs to analyse the current situation together with the management of Paarl East police and report back on the way forward,” he said.

As if the news that rival teenage

gangs fought each other over girls and over clothes labels was not enough, it was even more frightening to learn that boys, as young as 12 years old, smuggle drugs into schools while others drop out of school.

Mr Beukman’s constituency work also included a visit to the Rusthof Old Age Home in Chicago as well as meeting with the management of Mbekweni police station at the Desmond Mpilo Tutu Secondary School in Mbekweni, Paarl.

The Rusthof Old Age Home matron, Ms Alvira Kleinhans, told Mr Beukman that some of the windows at the home were in the firing line during a gang fight and were damaged. She said the elders were left traumatised by the incident.

On the other hand, Mr Beukman commended the good working relationship between police at Mbekweni and the principal of Desmond Mpilo Tutu Secondary School, Mr Ntsikelelo Allah.

Colonel Makhaya Mkabile, Commissioner at Mbekweni police station, said working together with the school management, the police routinely conducted body searches and patrols at the school.

He said the most dangerous weapon that was ever confiscated from a learner, resulting from a random body search, was a machete. 🗡️

# MP wants to ensure accountability

**Member** *of Parliament (MP) Reverend Kenneth Meshoe has vowed to get to the bottom of a fatal incident which claimed the life of a two-year-old boy and the alleged uncaring attitude by the local councillor and the municipality in Katlehong, Gauteng, which he heard about during his constituency visit to the area recently, writes Cedric Mboyisa.*



“The councillor lives in the same street but he never bothered to assist the grieving family,” Rev Meshoe told *InSession* during his visit to the affected area. At sunrise on the East Rand of Johannesburg, Rev Meshoe was in the area to do his constituency work, which forms part of his constitutional duties as an MP in the National Assembly. A number of residents came out to show support and express their gratitude to the Reverend for his intervention.

The Reverend heard about the death of Mpho Tshepiso Mthombeni, who died on 24 October 2015 when a communal washing basin fell on his head. The two-year-old boy was rushed to a nearby clinic, but unfortunately, he was pronounced dead on arrival. There were no visible external injuries and the child is believed to have succumbed to serious internal injuries and bleeding, according to his grandmother, Ms Dumazile Mthombeni (pictured above).

Ms Mthombeni said she and the family were disappointed and frustrated with their Ward 62 councillor for the manner in which he had handled the matter. She had approached the councillor asking the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality to intervene and assist the family with funeral arrangements and transportation of the body to Nquthu, KwaZulu-Natal, where the boy would be laid to rest.

The councillor allegedly told her that the municipality could not assist in situations where the person was to be buried somewhere else, not in Sunrise. Ms Mthombeni escalated the matter to the Speaker of the Municipality who also apparently echoed the councillor’s sentiments.

“My child died because of one of those loose washing basins, which were put up by our municipality, so they should have helped us. I lost a clever and cute grandson who still had much to live for,”



said Ms Mthombeni. Overcome with emotions, she could not hold back the tears when Rev Meshoe and his team of volunteers removed the washing basin which killed her grandson.

They replaced it with a brand-new bigger one which they cemented to the toilet structure, making sure that there was no possibility of it falling over or posing a danger to residents and children.

“I am happy that Reverend Meshoe has come to make sure that these washing basins are no longer loose. Our children are safe now because there will be no more deaths. Other children had their





**HELPING HAND:** Rev Kenneth Meshoe helps to install a communal washbasin in Katlehong in Gauteng.

legs broken because of loose washing basins," said Ms Mthombeni. Rev Meshoe said he was devastated when the crying Ms Mthombeni related the story of what had happened to her beloved grandson. "She is deeply hurt. We had to pray with her in trying to enable her to find inner peace," he said. He stressed that those who are responsible must be held accountable for the fatal accident.

Ward 62 councillor Ms Grace Sibeko said the issue was thoroughly explained to Ms Mthombeni. "She seemed to understand my explanation to her. I told her that according to policy we were not allowed to transport the body of her grandson to

KwaZulu-Natal. We would have been able to help if the funeral took place within the Ekurhuleni area," she said. Due to her unhappiness with the explanation, Ms Mthombeni opted to approach the Speaker of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality who confirmed that Ms Sibeko's position on the matter was correct.

She added that she found it unfair that the family was now blaming the municipality for the death because the washing basins had been in place for more than 20 years. During those two decades, she said, there had never been any deaths due to the washing basins.

"This was an unfortunate incident," she added. She said the family had been negligent to let a two-year-old child walk some distance without their supervision to the washing basin, which fell on his head and killed him. Mpho met his tragic death while playing with other children. Ms Mthombeni showed *InSession* a letter she had previously written asking that the matter surrounding the death of her grandson be followed up and corrective measures be adopted.

*InSession* approached the municipality for comment on the incident, but at the time of going to print had not received any response. 🙏



# Freedom Day

## What is Freedom Day?

South Africa celebrates Freedom Day on 27 April every year to commemorate the first democratic elections which took place on 27 April 1994. This was the day that most South Africans voted for the first time in their lives.

## Why do we celebrate Freedom Day?

Freedom Day marks the establishment of a democratic government. It represents peace, unity and the restoration of human dignity to all South Africans. In addition, Freedom Day encourages South Africans to participate in the commemoration of the struggle to build a non-racial democratic South Africa with the freedom to prosper. In the spirit of nation-building, Freedom Day celebrations are intended to unite all South Africans to consolidate democracy.

## Parliament and Freedom Day

The attainment of freedom has enabled our country to have a democratic, activist and responsive peoples' Parliament that is accessible, open and accountable to its citizens and promotes public participation. Through voting, South African citizens can elect political parties to represent them in Parliament. The citizens can also interact directly with Members of Parliament during the constituency period.

The democratic rights of citizens are protected by the Constitution of the Republic of South (Act 108 of 1996). Parliament is one of the institutions

of state that are an expression of democracy in action. For example, Parliament held debates that had been preceded by an extensive consultation exercise to pass the Constitution of South Africa (which is referred to as Act 108 of 1996).

The freedoms that are enjoyed today came into being and are documented in the Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the Constitution. Today, South Africa has a Parliament that places citizens at the centre of its constitutional mandate. This is due to mechanisms that are in place for influencing decision-making in the legislative processes and other activities of Parliament. Some of these mechanisms are:

- \* Public hearings
- \* Stakeholder engagement
- \* Members meet the public in constituencies
- \* Committee meetings

## What does freedom mean?

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa protects basic freedoms. Some of the examples of freedom as explained in Chapter 2 of the Constitution (Bill of Rights) include:

- \* Freedom and security of the person
- \* Freedom from slavery, servitude and forced labour
- \* Freedom of religion, belief and opinion
- \* Freedom of expression
- \* Freedom of association
- \* Freedom of trade, occupation and profession

In its efforts to deepen democracy, Parliament is collaborating with provincial legislatures to develop a public participation process that will grant ordinary citizens the freedom to influence decision-making within all three spheres of government.

When Parliament holds public hearings, oversight visits, Provincial Week, and Taking Parliament to the People, among other programmes, it tries to give meaning to the concept of freedom of speech, especially when oral submissions are made. Through these initiatives, citizens have an opportunity to hold the government accountable, hence Parliament's theme for 2016 is "Following up on our commitments to the people".

A democratic Parliament enables South African citizens to enjoy free access to information about what happens at Parliament and to openly participate in the committee meetings of Parliament.

As a nation we are reminded to continue to respect and be grateful for the freedom that others were willing to die for. In order to enjoy this freedom, citizens need to stand up for their rights on a daily basis and take responsibility for their lives in collaboration with the organs of state. 🇿🇦

*For more information on the services offered by Parliament, contact: the Public Education Office on 021 403 3341 or e-mail [info@parliament.gov.za](mailto:info@parliament.gov.za)*

# Siku ra Ntshuxeko

## Xana Siku ra Ntshuxeko i yini?

Afrika-Dzonga yi tlangela Siku ra Ntshuxeko hi ti 27 Dzivamisoko ku tsundzuka no xixima nhlawulo wo sungula wa xidemokirasi lowu nga va kona hi ti 27 Dzivamisoko 1994. Leri a ku ri siku leri Maafrika-Dzonga yotala ma hlawuleke ro sungula evuton'wini bya vona.

## Hikwalaho ka yini hi tlangela Siku ra Ntshuxeko?

Siku ra Ntshuxeko ri funga ku tumbuluxiwa ka mfumo wa xidemokirasi. Ri yimela ku rhula, vun'we na ku vuyisiwa ka ndzhuti wa ximunhu eka Maafrika-Dzonga hinkwawo. Ku tatisela kwalaho, Siku ra Ntshuxeko ri hlohotela Maafrika-Dzonga ku nghenelela eka ku tsundzuka no xixima nkayakayo wo aka Afrika-Dzonga ro pfumala xihlawuhlawu xa muhlovo ra xidemokirasi leri nga na ntshuxeko wo humelela. Hi moya wo aka rixaka, ku tlangeriwa ka Siku ra Ntshuxeko ku kongomisiwile eka ku tisa vun'we eka Maafrika-Dzonga hinkwawo ku tiyisisa xidemokirasi.

## Xana ntshuxeko swi vula yini?

Vumbiwa bya Rhiphabuliki ra Afrika-Dzonga byi sirhelela mitshuxeko ya masungulo. Swin'wana swa swikombiso swa ntshuxeko tanihilaha swi hlamuseriweke hakona eka Ndzimana ya 2 ya Vumbiwa (Tsalwa ra Timfanelo) swi katsa:

- \* Ntshuxeko na vuhlayiseki bya munhu
- \* Ntshuxeko eka vuhlonga, ku tirhisiwa tanihi hlonga na ku tirhisiwa hi nsindziso
- \* Ntshuxeko wa vugandzeri, swikholwakholwana na mavonele
- \* Ntshuxeko wo humesela mavonele
- \* Ntshuxeko wo tihlanganisa na van'wana
- \* Ntshuxeko wo endla bindzu, ku tirha na ntirho wo dyondzeriwa

## Palamende na Siku ra Ntshuxeko

Ku fikeleriwa ka ntshuxeko ku endle leswaku tiko ra hina ri va na Palamende

ya vanhu leyi nga na xidemokirasi, musingiriki eka swa tipolitiki, erivaleni no va na vutihlamuleri eka vaakitiko na ku hlohotela manghenelelo ya vaaki. Hi ku tirhisa ku vhoti, vaakitiko va Afrika-Dzonga va nga hlawula mavandla ya tipolitiki ku va yimela ePalamende. Vaakitiko va nga tlhela va tihlanganisa na Swirho swa Palamende hi ku kongoma hi nkarhi wo tihlanganisa na vavhoti.

Timfanelo ta xidemokirasi ta vaakitiko ti sirheleriwile hi Vumbiwa bya Rhiphabuliki ra Afrika-Dzonga (Nawu wa 108 wa 1996). Palamende hi yin'wana ya mihlangano ya mfumo leyi nga ku humeseriwa erivaleni ka xidemokirasi lexi nga na xiendlo. Tanihi xikombiso, Palamende yi khome minjhekanjhekisano leyi vaka kona endzhaku ka ntirho lowukulukumba wo tihlanganisa ku pasisa Vumbiwa bya Rhiphabuliki ra Afrika-Dzonga (lebyi vuriwaka Nawu wa 108 wa 1996).

Mitshuxeko leyi ku tiphiniwaka ha yona namuntlha yi vile kona, naswona yi tsariwile eka Tsalwa ra Timfanelo, Kavanyisa ka 2 eka Vumbiwa. Namuntlha, Afrika-Dzonga yi na Palamende leyi vekaka vaakitiko exikarhi ka ntirho wa yona wa swa Vumbiwa. Leswi swi vangwiwa hi tindlela ta matirhelo leti nga kona to kucetela ku tekiwa ka swiboho eka maendlelo yo endla milawu na misingiriki yin'wana ya Palamende. Tin'wana ta tindlela ta matirhelo i:

- \* Tinhlangeletano to twa miehleketo ya vaaki
- \* Ku tihlanganisa na vanhu lava khumbhekaka
- \* Swirho swa Palamende swi tihlanganisa na vaaki lava vhotaka
- \* Tinhlangeletano ta tikomiti

Eka matshalatshala ya yona ya ku dzikisa xidemokirasi, Palamende yi

tirhisana na tihuvo to endla milawu ta swifundzankulu ku tumbuluxa maendlelo ya manghenelelo ya vaaki lama nga ta nyika vaakitiko ntsena ntshuxeko wa ku kucetela ku tekiwa ka swiboho exikarhi ka swiyenge swinharhu hinkwaswo swa fumo.

Loko Palamende exikarhi ka swin'wana yi khoma tinhlangeletano to twa miehleketo ya vaaki, tendzo ta vuangameri, Vhiki ra Xifundzankulu na Ku Yisiwa ka Palamende eka vanhu, eka tiphurogireme tin'wana leti nga kona, yi ringeta ku nyika nhlamuselo eka maehleketelelo ya ntshuxeko wa mbulavulo, ngopfungopfu loko ku endliwa swibumabumelo hi nomo. Hi ku tirhisa mapfhumba lawa, vaakitiko va na xivandlanene xa ku endla leswaku mfumo wu va na vutihlamuleri, hikokwalaho nkongomelo wa Palamende wa 2016 i "Ku landzelerisiwa ku tiboha ka hina eka vanhu".

Palamende ya xidemokirasi yi endla leswaku vaakitiko va Afrika-Dzonga va tiphina hi mfikelelo wa mahala eka vuxokoxoko mayelana na leswi swi humelelaka ePalamende na ku nghenelela loku nga erivaleni eka tinhlangeletano ta tikomiti ta Palamende.

Tanihi rixaka, hi tsundzuxiwa ku ya emahlweni hi xixima na ku khensa eka ntshuxeko lowu vanhu van'wana a va tiyimiserile ku wu fela. Ku va hi tiphina hi ntshuxeko lowu, vaakitiko va fanele va yimela timfanelo ta vona siku rin'wana na rin'wana na ku va na vutihlamuleri eka vutomi bya vona hi ku tirhisana na swiyenge swa mfumo. 🗣️

***Ku kuma vuxokoxoko hi xitalo mayelana na vukorhokeri lebyi nyikiwaka hi Palamende, tihlanganise na: Hofisi yo Dyondzisa Vaaki eka 021 403 3341 kumbe imeyilela [info@parliament.gov.za](mailto:info@parliament.gov.za)***



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