

PARLIAMENT: Following up on our commitments to the people.

in session



Vol. 17 ISSUE 2 2017



MPs build their skills

Celebrating graduation in human settlements studies



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mace of National Assembly

Vision

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

Mission

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

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

Strategic Objectives

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



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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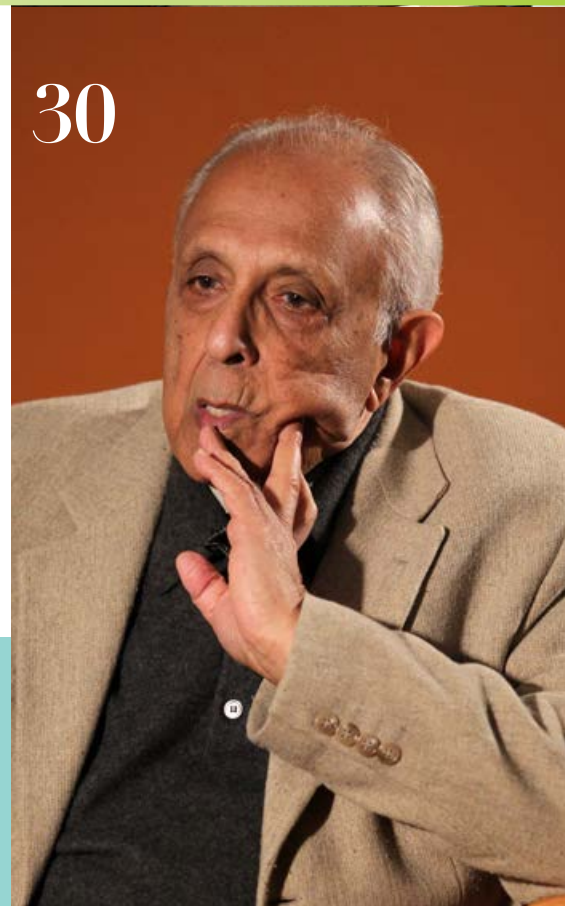
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GRADUATING IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Ms Bertha Mabe, is congratulated on her achievement by a representative from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

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OUR IDEALS

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES


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MESSAGE FROM THE

national assembly



It is a humbling experience and great honour to be afforded an opportunity to share my thoughts with fellow legislators and other eminent persons on the pressing need to foster collective growth through people-centred legislation.

The topic is much more relevant today than ever due to the growing income inequalities between the rich and the poor globally, compounded by the growing refugee crisis occasioned mainly by civil wars in the Middle East.

We need to reflect on whether the people are at the centre of our collective efforts as legislators and whether they are the ultimate beneficiaries of the law-making process in general.

I had to reflect deeply on this topic and chose to draw inspiration from a simple, yet profound statement made by one of the greatest African statesmen, Mr Julius Kambarage Nyerere [former president of Tanzania]. He said the following: "If real development is to take place, the people have to be involved."

Embedded in this statement is the view that the people must always be at the centre of the legislative process and must be its main beneficiaries.

The Commonwealth provides an appropriate platform to reflect on the work we have done individually and collectively as legislators coming from the whole area called the "Commonwealth".

The critical question we need to pose to ourselves, as law makers, is whether we have been true to the commitments and declarations we have made in the Charter of the Commonwealth with regard to sustainable development.

Allow me to quote extensively from the Charter. The Charter reads as follows with regard to sustainable development: "We stress the importance of sustainable economic and social transformation to eliminate poverty and meet the basic needs of the vast majority of the people of the world – and reiterate that economic and social progress enhances the sustainability of democracy.

"We are committed to removing wide disparities and unequal living standards as guided by internationally agreed development goals."

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the basis of our common effort to foster collective growth through people-centred legislation among the Commonwealth countries. The SDGs give a measurable and concrete expression to the declarations stipulated in the Commonwealth Charter.

We need to revert to the question I posed earlier regarding the impact and relevance of the laws we pass in our normal course of work, to the attainment of the SDGs.

As Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chair of the Speaker's Forum of the Republic of South Africa, I have

commissioned a High Level Panel led by the former president, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, to traverse the length and breadth of South Africa to assist us in understanding the impact of our legislation on the lives of our people.

Establishing the High Level Panel was guided by our abiding view that our people are central to our legislative work and that they are the motive force for the struggle for the attainment of deep and lasting transformation of the lives of our people for the better.

Allow me to remind us of the various elements of the SDGs. I have to do so recognising that the Commonwealth Charter has made specific declarations with regard to gender equality, access to health, education, food and shelter.

I also believe it is appropriate to turn our collective eye on issues affecting women, as we have just marked International Women's Day. The Commission on the Status of Women is currently sitting in New York.

The Charter states the following with regard to gender equality: "We recognise that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential components of human development and basic human rights. The advancement of women's rights and the education of girls are critical preconditions for effective and sustainable development."

Having cited the Charter, I would like to deal with a particular issue that deeply troubles and shocks me; the issue related to honour killings of women. As an activist and freedom fighter,



PUTTING PEOPLE AT CENTRE OF LEGISLATION: The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, was a special guest at the Commonwealth Africa Summit 2017.

I am really aggrieved by the so-called “honour killings” of women. There is no honour in killing your own sister for marrying a lover of her choice. The family honour and democratic values we deeply cherish cannot be associated with the taking of a life. Punitive legislation has to be passed to deal harshly with perpetrators of this kind of crime.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) correctly states that “ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it is also crucial to accelerating sustainable development.

It has been proven time and again, that empowering women and girls has a multiplier effect, and helps drive up economic growth and development across the board”.

As legislatures we must undertake, as stipulated by the UNDP, reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources. We need to share experiences on how we have dealt

with this matter as different Commonwealth countries.

That shared experience should provide a basis for collaborative efforts in this area. It is only through collaborative work that we can foster collective growth with the people at the centre.

We have all witnessed the rising income inequalities in our societies. The UNDP indicates that the richest 10% are earning up to 40% of total global income, whilst the poorest 10% earn only between 2% and 7% of total global income.

Clearly, these levels of inequalities are unsustainable and pose a serious threat to the stability of our societies and legitimacy of our democracies.

Therefore, I fully support the UNDP’s goals of reducing inequalities by removing discriminatory laws, policies and providing appropriate legislation, among other interventions. We need to share experiences on how different Commonwealth countries have attempted to address this challenge.

We have achieved great things acting together as Commonwealth countries. I am confident that our unity will propel

us to greater heights. However, we dare not linger on our achievements, for much is expected from us.

This is an edited version of the speech made by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, as a special guest at the Commonwealth Africa Summit 2017: Collective Growth, in London.

The Commonwealth Africa Summit is an annual summit organised as part of the activities to celebrate the Commonwealth Week in London. Ms Mbete was invited to speak during the Parliamentary Roundtable on Fostering Collective Growth through People Centred Legislation in the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Africa Summit is a high-level, multistakeholder event that annually brings together government and business leaders from across the Commonwealth and allied nations to facilitate dialogue and action on key and relevant issues ranging from trade and investment, entrepreneurship and job creation, economic development, security and counterterrorism, energy and power among other matters relevant to Africa. 🌍

Members of Parliament graduate in course on human settlements

Relevant *knowledge is a key resource that must be available before there can be any hope of conducting effective oversight. This was the view of the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Ms Nocawe Mafu, who was addressing Members of Parliament (MPs) and parliamentary staff receiving certificates for a course in human settlements at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), reports Mava Lukani.*

"Human settlements is a very complicated sector and is not only about the business of building houses, as some people think. It involves a lot of other things and it becomes more and more complicated daily," said Ms Mafu.

She said members of her Committee realised that the application of effective oversight over the Department of Human Settlements demanded MPs who were knowledgeable in the sector. "We realised that we can't claim to do effective oversight without understanding the pros and cons of the human settlements sector," she added.

The MPs and staff officials who enrolled at NMMU were able to register for the course because of the existing partnership between the Department of Human Settlements (DHS) and NMMU. According to the DHS, during 2012, the DHS and NMMU sealed a Memorandum of Agreement on professionalisation of Human Settlements education in South Africa. A Chair for Education in Human Settlements Development and Management was established at NMMU in 2013.

The Committee had to gather 25 students to make up a class for the course.

"We were unable to make that number," Ms Mabe explained. "However, the university insisted that before we could become a class we needed to make the 25 students threshold. We realised that MPs need to be supported by officials who also understand the human settlements sector and so we marketed the course beyond MPs and included staff," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the 23 recipients of certificates in the human settlements course at a ceremony at the Old Assembly Restaurant at Parliament, Ms Mafu said the students had been empowered by the course and now hoped to make a difference in the way they go about their work.

Ms Mabe said the course had informed the Committee about the issues relating to human settlements and had boosted their understanding of the sector.

"We are very excited, proud and feel

better positioned now than before by this achievement," said Ms Mafu.

According to NMMU's Director of the Chair for Education in Human Settlements Development and Management, Prof Sijekula Mbanga, the students studied and passed modules that included Human Settlements Management, Integrated Development Management (Sustainable Human Settlements Planning), Construction Management for Public Managers, Project Management and Property Development.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor of NMMU at the certification ceremony, Prof Winston Shakantu congratulated the certificate recipients on their achievement. He described the aims of the course as achieving professionalism in the human settlements sector.

"I hope that some of the lessons from the short learning programmes can be applied in the resolution of some of South Africa's and the continent's human settlements development and management of pressing problems," Prof Shakantu said.

He highlighted the importance of MPs understanding the human settlements sector, given the fact that parliamentary Committees have a critical role to play in the achievement of the National Development Plan's and African Union's Agenda 2063 goals. 🌍

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS: The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, presides over a sitting of the House.

Celebrating 20 years of Constitution and human rights

The *debate in Parliament celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Constitution and human rights served as a barometer to gauge how far the democratic transition has embraced the principles that underpin South Africa's Bill of Rights and how the Bill has bridged the divisions of the past, reports Abel Mputing.*

"The celebration of our Constitution and culture of human rights takes place in the year that we celebrate the life and times of our icon, Oliver Reginald Tambo, affectionately known as Oliver Tambo (OR). In particular, we must celebrate OR's contribution to the development of our constitutional jurisprudence and the Bill of Rights. OR was informed by the human rights culture developed by his forebears," said Dr Mathole Motshekga, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development.

"OR realised and acknowledged the need to develop a post-apartheid South African constitutional policy informed by the human rights culture. To this end, OR established the Department of Legal and Constitutional Affairs and appointed Dr Zola Skweyiya as the head of the department.

The department moved swiftly to mobilise the democratic lawyers movement and this saw the emergence of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers in 1986.

"The democratic breakthrough of 1994

demonstrated the capacity of South Africans to work together to find home-grown solutions to their problems. The South African Constitution adopted in 1997 has been correctly hailed as one of the best in the world," he said.

The two main fundamental issues that the constitutional negotiations addressed were those of racism and land redistribution and restitution, but its crafters failed to pass legislation that criminalises racism, he said.

Mr James Selfe of the Democratic Alliance said: "It is natural that the Bill of Rights should be the heart of the Constitution. As we approach Human Rights Day, we must ask whether South Africans enjoy these rights.

"The answer must be an overwhelming no. Anyone who has been to a mud school with a pit latrine will know that some South Africans are denied the right to basic education and to dignity.

"Anyone who has stood in a queue at a clinic and gone home, still sick, and without having seen a doctor or a sister, will know that access to health care services needs vast improvement.

And anyone who has visited a prison will know that the conditions, particularly for remand detainees, do not remotely conform to what the Bill of Rights prescribes," he said.

The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr John Jeffery, said: "Our Constitution stands like a stark refuge against the evils of our past. Many of us recall elements of those dark moments in our history – the *dompas*, the pencil test and forced removals.

"Today, we are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. The Constitution is a national compact that seeks to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights."

The preamble to the Constitution clearly states that the Constitution is intended to, among other things, heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights, said Mr Moses Mbatha of the Economic Freedom Fighters.



But in the same breath he asked: "Twenty years after the Constitution was enacted, are we truly in a position as a country to proudly claim that we are healing the divisions of the past, while the single most important indicator of those divisions, the land, is still in the hands of those who benefited from the divisions of the past?"

Mr Mncedisi Filtane of the United Democratic Movement said: "Our Constitution envisaged a good and just society, not necessarily an idealistic utopia, but a modern society where the basic human rights are honoured and observed. Should a Constitution be cast in stone?" he asked.

Mr Mandlenkosi Mabika of the National Freedom Party said: "We must guard our Constitution and the principles it espouses at all cost, but it does not mean that it is a dead piece of paper. It should rather be a responsive living document, which helps us to reach the goal of a good and just society," he said.

Twenty years on, our Constitution has stood the test of time and has

entrenched our human rights and has set clear guidelines for transparent and accountable governance, "It is to the Bill of Rights stipulated in our Constitution which we turn for the protection of our dignity and equality, and it is to our Constitution which we turn as our first and last line of defence against the abuse of state power," he said.

The Inkatha Freedom Party's Mr Mangaqa Mncwango said: "In a report released by Human Rights Watch, it was stated that South Africa continued to face a number of human rights challenges, and that public confidence in the government's ability to deal with these challenges had eroded.

"Xenophobic violence has once again erupted in South Africa, and as before threatens to become a national crisis. Government must take decisive steps in combating such violence. It has no place in this country and yet this government does not seem overly committed. Xenophobia if allowed to take firm root, will destroy the rule of law and all social cohesiveness gains made in South Africa since democracy."

Referring to the existing stalemate over the municipal demarcation dispute in Matatiele, Mr Mandlenkosi Galo of the African Independent Congress said we should never take for granted the aspirations of the people. "The people of Matatiele recognise that the Eastern Cape Province has no legitimate claim over them," he said.

Rev Kenneth Meshoe, the Leader of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), said: "Even though the ACDP was the only political party to vote against the Constitution in 1996, for its failure to balance human rights with responsibilities, and its protection of criminals while failing to protect innocent unborn babies, we fully support our constitutional democracy and wish to give credit to those men and women who helped to stabilise a nation that was plagued by fear and uncertainty about its future."

He went on to add: "It gives me a great sense of pleasure and fulfilment to remember that I was part of the historic process that produced a Constitution that afforded me and my fellow South Africans the many rights that we all enjoy today." 🙏

U pembela Minwaha ya 20 ya Mulayotewa na pfanelo dza vhatu

Khanedzano *ya u pembela anivesari ya minwaha ya 20 ya Mulayotewa na pfanelo dza vhatu yo farelwaho Phalamendeni yo shuma sa tshikalo tshi kalaho n̄ila ine tshanduko ya demokirasi ya katela milayo ine ya khwaṭhisa Mulayotibe wa Pfanelo dza Vhatu wa Afurika Tshipembe na zwe Mulayotibe wa fhungudza phambano dza tshifhinga tsho fhelaho, hu vhiga Abel Mputing. Yo pindulelwa nga Mudau Ntshengedzeni Edward.*

“U pembela Mulayotewa washu na mvelele ya pfanelo dza vhatu hu khou itea kha ṛwaha unera khou pembela vhutshilo na tshifhinga tsha muhali a ṭhompheaho, Vho Oliver Reginald Tambo, vha ḡivheaho nga u pfi Vho Oliver Tambo (OR). Nga maanḡa, ri tea u pembela u shela mulenzhe ha Vho OR kha mveledziso ya sisiteme ya zwa mulayo ya ndayotewa na Mulayotibe wa Pfanelo. Vho OR vho vha na tshedza tshi bvaho kha mvelele ya pfanelo dza vhatu yo bveledzwaho nga vho vha rangaho phanḡa,”ho amba Dr Vho MatholeMotshekga, Mudzulatshidulo wa Komiti ya Phothifoljo nga ha Vhulamukanyi na Mveledziso ya Mulayotewa.

“Vho OR vho pfesesa na u ṭanganedza ṭhōḡea ya u bveledza mbekanyamaitete ya ndayotewa ya Afurika Tshipembe ḡa nga murahu ha tshiṭalula ḡo ṛewaho tshedza nga mvelele ya pfanelo dza vhatu. U swikela izwi, Vho OR vho thoma Muhasho wa zwa Milayo na Ndayotewa vha thola Dr Vho Zola Skweyiya sa ṭhoho ya muhasho. Muhasho wo shuma nga maanḡa wa kuvhanganya dzangano ḡa vhoramilayo vha demokirasi zwe zwa ita uri hu thomiwe Dzangano

ḡa Lushaka ḡa Vhoramilayo vha Demokirasi nga 1986.

“U swikelwa ha demokirasi nga 1994 zwo sumbedza vhukoni haMaafurika Tshipembe ha u shumisana na u wana thasululo dza thaidzo dzavho nga vhone vhane. Mulayotewa wa Afurika Tshipembe we wa ṭanganedzwa nga 1997 yo dzhiwa, zwo tea, sa muṛwe wa ya vhuḡisa ḡifhasini,”vho amba.

Mafhungo mavhili mahulwane a ndeme e nyambedzano dza zwa ndayotewa dza a tandulula o vha ayo a khethululo nga murafho, u khovhiwa hafhu na mvusuludzo ya mavu, fhedzi vhasiki vhayo vho kundelwa u phasisa milayo i itaho uri khethululo nga murafho hu vhe mulandu, vho amba.

Vho James Selfe vha Democratic Alliance vho amba vha ri: “Zwi a pfesesea uri Mulayotibe wa Pfanelo u vhe tshivhindi tsha Mulayotewa. Musi ri tshi khou ya kha ḡuvha ḡa Pfanelo dza Vhatu, ri tea u vhudzisa arali Maafurika Tshipembe vha tshi khou ḡiphina nga pfanelo idzi.

“Phindulo itea u vha hai hu si nau timatima. Muthu o no dzhenaho

tshikolo tsho fhaṭiwaho nga mavu a shumisa bunga ḡa dindi u ḡo zwi ḡivha uri Maafurika Tshipembe vhaṛwe a vha na pfanelo ya pfunzo ya mutheo na tshirunzi. Muthu o no folaho muḡaini kiliniki a ya hayani, a tshi kha ḡi lwala, a songo kona u vhona dokotela kana muongi, u a zwi ḡivha uri u swikela tshumelo dza ndondolo ya mutakalo zwi ṭōḡa u khwiṅiswa nga maanḡa. Na muthu o no dalaho kthothoni u a zwi ḡivha uri nyimele, nga maanḡa dza vhafariwa vho lindelaho u gwevhiwa, a dzi tevhedzi zwine Mulayotibe wa Pfanelo wa themendela,”vhoamba.

Mufarisa Minisiṭa wa Vhulamukanyi na Mveledziso ya Mulayotewa, Vho John Jeffery, vho amba vha ri: “Mulayotewa washu wo ima sa tshiiṁiswa tsha tsireledzo tshi si na vuhali tshi lwaho na vuhvi ha tshifhinga tsho fhelaho. Vhunzhi hashu ri a elelwa zwiwo zwa zwifhinga zwija zwi si zwavhuḡi kha ḡivhazwakale yashu – dzibasa,ndingo ya penisela na mipfuluwo ya u kombetshedzwa. Ṇamusi, roṭhe ri na ndugelo dzi lingana kha pfanelo dza vhatu hu si nakhethululo. Mulayotewa ndi mulangawa lushaka une wa ṭōḡa u fhelisa phambano dza tshifhinga tsho fhelaho na u thoma tshitshavha tsho ḡisendekaho nga maitete a demokirasi, vhumukanyi kha zwa matshilisano na pfanelo dza vhatu dza ndeme.”

Mvulatswinga ya Mulayotewa ibula zwi khagala uri Mulayotewa wo livhiswa kha, vhuḡati ha zwiṛwe, u fhelisa phambano dza tshifhinga tsho fhelaho na u thoma tshitshavha tsho ḡisendekaho nga maitete a demokirasi, vhumukanyi kha zwa matshilisano na pfanelo dza vhatu dza ndeme, ho amba Vho Moses Mbatha vha Economic Freedom Fighters.

Zwi tshe zwo ralo vho vhudzisa uri: “Kha minwaha ya mahumi mavhili Mulayotibe wo phasiswa sa mulayo,



ri kha tshiimo, sa shango, hune ri nga amba ri tshi qihudza uri ri khou fhelisa phambano dza tshifhinga tsho fhelaho, ngeno hu na uri tshisumbi tshithihi tsha phambano idzo, mavu, tshi kha qi vha zwanqani zwa avho vho vhuwaho nga phambano dza tshifhinga tshofhelaho naa?"

Vho Mncedisi Filtane vha United Democratic Movement vho amba vha ri: "Mulayotewa washu wo vha na bono ja tshishavha tshavhuqi na u luga, tshi si tsha khumbulelwa lini, fhedzi tshishavha tsha maguvha ano hune pfanelo dza vthathu dza mutheo dza thonifhiwa na u tevhedzwa. Mulayotewa u a tea u vha u sa shanduki naa?" Vho vhudzisa.

Vho Mandlenkosi Mabikavha National Freedom Party vho amba vha ri: "Ri tea u tsireledza Mulayotewa washu na zwine wa zwi imela nga hune ra kona, fhedzi a zwi ambi uri ndi tshipiqa tsha bambiri tshi si na mushumo. U tea u vha jirwalo ji tshilaho jine ja fhundula, zwine zwa ri thusa u swikela ndivho ya tshishavha tshavhuqi na u luga," vho amba.

Nga murahu ha mirwaha ya mahumi mavhili, Mulayotewa washu wo kunda ndingo ya tshifhinga nahone wo sima midzi ya pfanelo dza vthathu dzashu na u vhea nyendedzi dzi pfallaho dza vhuvhusi vhu re khagala na u vha na vhuqifhindleli, "Ndi Mulayotibe wa

Pfanelo we wa dodombedzwa kha Mulayotewa washu unera ya khawo ri tshi toqa tsireledzo ya tshirunzi tshashu na ndinganyelo, nahone ndi kha Mulayotewa washu hune raya hone sa tshiga tsha tsireledzo tsha u thoma na u fhedzisela musi hu tshi shumiswa maanga a muvhuso nga ngila i si yone," vho amba.

Vho Mangaqa Mncwango vha Inkatha Freedom Party vho amba vha ri: "Kha muvhigo wo bviswaho nga vha Human Rights Watch, ho sumbedzwa uri Afurika Tshipembe ji khou xangana na khaedu dza pfanelo dza vthathu, na uri vthathu a vha tshe na fulufhelo kha vhukoni ha muvhuso ha u tandulula khaedu idzi.

"Khakhathi dza nyofho dza vhabvanqa dzo dovha hafhu u vha hone Afurika Tshipembe, sa zwiqa dzi khou vhonala dzi tshi qo vha tshiwo tshi si tshavhuqi kha lushaka. Muvhuso u tea u dzhia maga o teaho a u lwa na khakhathi dzo raliho. A dzi toqei kha shango ili na uri muvhuso a u sumbi wo qimisele nga maanga. Arali nyofho dza vhabvanqa dza tendelwa u vha hone, dzi qo tshinya mulalo na vthuthi ha matshiliso ho swikelwaho Afurika Tshipembe u bva tshe demokirasi ya vha hone."

Zwi tshi qa kha u sa pfesesana hune ha vha hone kha phambano ya mukano wa masipala ngei Matatiele,

Vho Mandlenkosi Galovha African Independent Congress vho amba uri ri songo dzhia madze lutamo lwa vthathu. "Vthathu vha Matatiele vha a zwi qivha uri Vundu ja Eastern Cape a jina mbilo ya vhukuma khavho," vho amba.

Vhafunzi Vho Kenneth Meshoe, murangaphanda wa African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), vho amba vha ri: "Naho hu na uri dzangano ja ACDP jo vha jone ji jothe ji songo voutelaho Mulayotewa nga 1996, ngauri wa kundelwa u linganyisa pfanelo dza vthathu na vhuqifhindleli, na uri wo tsireledza magevhenga ngeno u tshi khou kundelwa u tsireledza tshetshe dzi sa athu u bebiwa dzi si namulandu, ri tikedza tshothe demokirasi ya ndayotewa yashu na u tama u khoqa vhanna na vhafumakadzi vhe vha thusa uri hu vhe na vhudziki lushakani lwe lwa vha lwo qala nyofho na u sa vha na vhuqanzi nga vhumatshelo halwo."

Vho isa phanda nga uri: "Zwi ntakadza mbilu na u ita uri ndi fushee musi ndi tshi elelwa uri ndo vha tshipiqa tsha maitela a qivhazwakale e a bvedza Mulayotewa we wa netshedza nge na vhanwe Maafurika Tshipembe pfanelo nnzhi dzine ra qiphiqa ngadzo namusi." 🙏



Human rights must drive transformation agenda

The South African local government sector believes that despite the high rate of unemployment and the backlog in service delivery, South Africa has made significant progress in improving the human rights of citizens. This observation was made by Ms Jester Sidell, a member of the South African Local Government Association's (Salga's) national executive committee, when she participated in a parliamentary debate on Human Rights Day, in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) recently, reports **Sakhile Mokoena**.

"Despite the fact that the country continues to face significant challenges in providing access of services to the poor and vulnerable people, it is recognised that significant progress has been made in terms of meeting human rights by local government since 1994," said Ms Sidell, Chairperson of the Community Development Working Group at Salga.

"On this Human Rights Day, we must reflect on the progress we have made in advancing human rights and consider what we still need to do in future to promote human rights even further.

"Local government is the sphere of government that interfaces with communities the most. As such, the White Paper on Local Government (1998) puts forward a vision of a developmental and accountable local government that is able to address the human rights of communities. It declares that municipalities must continuously engage with all stakeholders within their respective areas of jurisdiction in municipal planning processes," she said.



HUMAN RIGHTS: The Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise, presides over the debate.

The debate was led by NCOP Deputy Chairperson, Mr Raseriti Tau, who said human rights must fundamentally dictate the terms and conditions of South Africa's radical transformation agenda.

"We must do so, bearing in mind that South Africa is globally recognised as a country that is still at the forefront to advance a global transformation agenda. Parliament seeks to cement the work done by our forebears, who sacrificed everything to ensure that South Africa upholds its principles of human rights.

"The nation should also act in partnership with government and Parliament to ensure that price collusion by the private sector should come to an end. Each sector must contribute to the realisation of the common good," Mr Tau said.

"South Africa is the only country to date to have voluntarily and unilaterally destroyed its nuclear weapons and we remain convinced that the possession of

these weapons – or the pursuit of such possession by certain states – does not enhance international peace and security and lastly, it violates human rights, hence this Parliament continues to call for disarmament of weapons of mass destruction through structures like the IPU [Inter-Parliamentary Union].

"In striving to demonstrate its commitment to advancing the precepts of a safe and peaceful world order, the dawn of democracy in South Africa inspired a definitive move towards nuclear disarmament as an apex objective," said Mr Tau.

North West's African National Congress delegate to the NCOP, Mr Tekoetsile Motlashuping, said the dignity of South Africans cannot be protected and guaranteed until every citizen is free to find work and enter trades and professions of their choice.

"Notwithstanding government's interventions, our country's unemployment rate remains one of the highest in the world. We believe that these freedoms that area guaranteed in the Bill of Rights will remain meaningless, unless radical socio-economic transformation happens. We must mobilise all South African citizens behind the radical socio-economic transformation programme of the government. It is the only way to guarantee the meaningful enjoyment of human rights by all," said Mr Motlashuping.

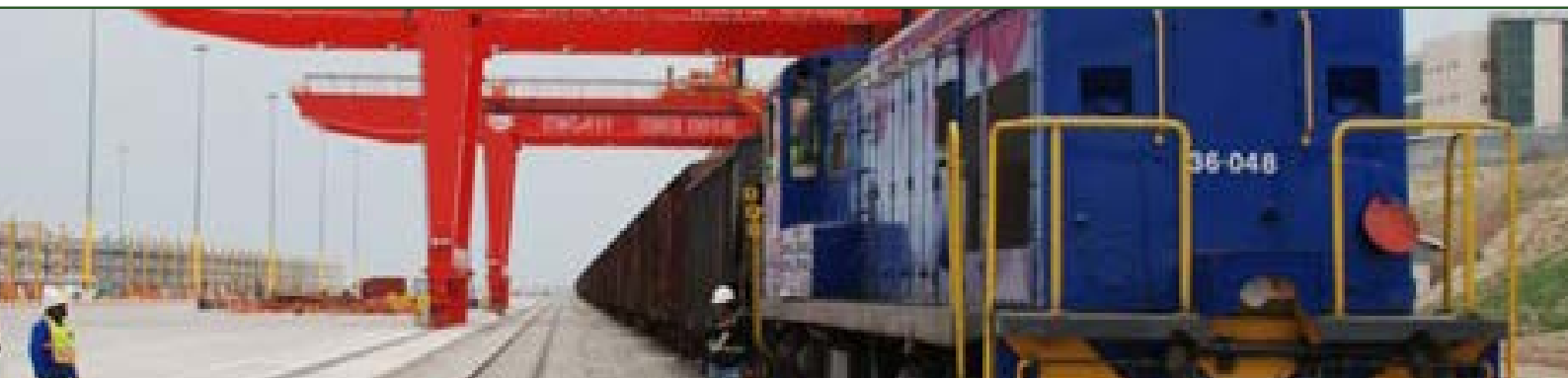
Mr Jacques Julius, a Democratic Alliance

and Gauteng Province Delegate in the NCOP, urged his colleagues during the debate to use this year's celebration of Human Rights Day as an opportunity to assess the status quo and to see how people's lives have changed over the past 23 years since the dawn of our democracy.

"Poverty is the worst form of human rights violation. The gap between the rich and the poor is not improving as promised. My assessment is that the African National Congress, after 23 years, has proven that it is not interested in respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling these rights," he said.

Mr Mntomuhle Khawula of the Inkatha Freedom Party representing the province of KwaZulu-Natal said: "The forebears of our country who left this legacy and laid a solid stone for the future generations of our country, had a glorious vision for South Africa. The question we need to be confronted with today is whether this present generation gathered in these premises today, is implementing this vision in accordance with the original template."

Economic Freedom Fighters' MP and Mpumalanga Province's Permanent Delegate to the NCOP, Dr Younus Vawda, said: "Today, 20 years after the Constitution was enacted, we are truly in a position as a country to proudly claim that we are healing the divisions of the past, while the single most important indicator of those divisions, the land, is still in the hands of those who benefited from the divisions of the past." 🇿🇦



Scopa says it is satisfied with Transnet management, turnover and profit

The *Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) has commended Transnet for being one of the few state-owned enterprises that are well managed and financially healthy, writes **Faith Kwaza**.*

This was noted when Transnet appeared before Scopa for irregular expenditure amounting to R25m and fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounting to R3.9m for the 2015/16 financial year. Scopa Chairperson Mr Themba Godi said that, despite this, the Committee was nonetheless satisfied with the financial health, viability and general management of Transnet.

“This is one of the few cases where a state-owned company has shown a good turnover of more than R60bn and profit of almost R400m,” he said.

This sentiment was echoed by the Minister of Public Enterprises, Ms Lynne Browne, who was present at the meeting.

“In the recent World Bank report of 2016, among the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, Transnet is viewed as a leader on the continent. [South Africa is not a signatory of the OECD, but participates in some of its activities). It is the only company on the continent that can actually do Africa-wide logistics and rail,” she said.

Members of Scopa raised concerns about Transnet making use of private auditors, rather than the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). Scopa has been vocal in discouraging public entities using private auditors. Mr Godi said Scopa’s problem with private auditors is that they treat public entities like a business.

“There is a fine line between maintaining standards and ensuring that they can still do business. We see that although the Auditor-General says he sets the standards, the differences are quite substantive and they remain. For purposes of oversight, if you look at audit reports from private audit firms, they are not user-friendly. They are also highly summarised, and oversight can’t do anything with that level of reporting,” said Mr Godi.

It does not comfort Members of Parliament when they read a private company’s audit report of a public entity, saying that all is well, Mr Godi said. “If you look at the report of a private audit firm and you still find statements of concern, then it really makes us worry. This is because if the Auditor-General went there, it may be five times worse than what we are reading. If you look at your annual report, the private audit firms complain about performance information as well as performance management.

“If we fail on those two, then we have a problem in confirming the information about the deliverables you

have done. If you can’t verify them, then you have all sorts of challenges. And if you can’t manage performance, it means managers are not managing effectively or appropriately,” he said. Ms Browne said the point about the AGSA was well made. However, the department meets with the AGSA as often as possible and will take this concern into consideration.

Transnet Group Chief Financial Officer Mr Garry Pita assured Scopa of Transnet’s financial viability, stating that Transnet doesn’t take a cent from the fiscus, relying on its own balance sheet instead.

Ms Brown agreed with Mr Pita, saying that Transnet has not asked for a government guarantee since 1998. She added that it will not do so in the future either. “They have a guarantee of about R3.5bn and Transnet’s debt stands at about R120bn.” Minister Browne said that Transnet and Eskom have an asset base of approximately R800bn. “So it’s very important that they are managed properly,” she said.

Mr Godi said Scopa is happy that despite the points raised, the overall picture is a positive one. “That is the kind of narrative we want to hear from public entities. It must not be that every time we talk about a state-owned company, it is due to a crisis or a bailout or all these negative things that imply that public ownership is wrong. We want more public ownership beyond this 30% footprint,” he said. 🌍

Scopa se a re se kgotsofaditswe ke boitsamaisi, tlhotlhwathekelo le poelo ya Transnet

Komitikemo ya Diakhaonto tsa Setšhaba (Scopa) e tlotlomaditse Transnet go bo e le nngwe ya dikgwebo tsa puso tseo di tsamaisiwang sentle mme di na le itekanelo ya ditšhetele, go kwala Faith Kwaza. E fetoletswe ke Lebogang Mafulako.

Seno se etswe tlhoko fa Transnet e ne e ithagisitse fa pele ga Scopa ka tshenyegelo e e sa tlhomamang ya bokana ka R25m le tshenyegelo e e senang mosola e bile e sa tlhokege ya bokana ka R3.9m mo ngwageng wa ditšhelete wa 2015/16. Modulasetilo wa Scopa Rre Themba Godi o rile, go sa kgathalesege tseno, Komiti e itumeletse itekanelo ya ditšhelete, bokgoni le botsamaisi ka kakaretso ba Transnet.

“Eno ke nngwe ya dikgetse di le mmalwa tseo khampani ya puso e tlhagisitseng tlhotlhwathekelo ya go feta R60bn le poelo e e ka lekanyediwang go R400m,” a rialo.

Tona ya Dikgwebo tsa Setšhaba, Mme Lynne Browne, yo o neng a le gona kwa kopanong o na le maikutlo a a tshwanang. “Pegelo ya Banka ya Lefatshe ya 2016 ya moragonyana, mo gareng ga Thulaganyo ya Tirisanommogo ya Ikonomi le Tlhabololo ya dinaga (OECD). [Aforika Borwa ga se leloko la OECD, fela e tsaya karolo go dingwe tsa ditirwana tsa yona]. “Ke yona khampani e e nosi mo kontinenteng eo e kgonang tsamaisa le go akantsha ka bonako go Aforika ba bophara,” a rialo.

Maloko a Scopa a tlhagisitse matshwenyego malebana le Transnet go bo e dirisa baruni ba poraefete, go na le Moruni-Kakaretso wa Aforika

Borwa (AGSA). Scopa se tswelletse go rotloelatsa ditheo tsa puso go tlogela tiriso ya baruni ba poraefete. Rre Godi a re bothata ba Scopa ka baruni ba poraefete ke gore ba tsaya ditheo tsa setšhaba jaaka e kete ke kgwebo.

“Go na le pharologanyo e e sa bonaleng magareng ga go tshegetsatsa boemo le go netefatsa gore ba santse ba ka kgonang go dira kgwebo. Re lemoga gore le fa Moruni-Kakaretso a baya boemo, dipharologanyo di a bonala e bile di santse di le gona. Mo ntlheng ya okamelolo, fa o lebelela dipegelo tsa thuno go tswa go difeme tsa boruni tsa poraefete, o fitlhela di sa tlhologanyege bonolo. Gape, di sobokantswe thata, e bile okamelolo ga e kgone go dira sepe ka boemo joo jwa pegelo,” go rialo Rre Godi.

Maloko a Palamente ga a fitlhelele boiketlo le go bua gore tsothle di siame fa ba buisetsa setheo sa setšhaba pegelo ya boruni ya khampani ya poraefete, Rre Godi a rialo.

“Re a tshwenyega tota fa re lebelela pegelo ya feme ya boruni jwa poraefete re bo re santse re fitlhela dipolelo tse di tshwenyang. Seno ke ka fa re itse gore fa go ka bo go ile Moruni-Kakaretse, go ka bo go le maswe gatlhano go feta seo se re buisang ga jaana. Fa o lebelela pegelo ya ngwaga le ngwaga, difeme tsa boruni tsa poraefete di lela ka tshedimisetso ya tiragatso le tsamaiso ya tiragatso.

“Fa re palelwa mo go tseo ka bobedi, go raya gore ke tlile go nna le bothata go netefatsa tshedimisetso e e ka ga diphithlelelo tseo di kwadilweng. Fa o palelwa ke go di netefatsa, go kaya gore o na le dikgwetlho tsa mefuta yotlhe. Mme fa o palelwa ke go tsamaisa tiragatso, go raya gore

batsamaisi ga ba tsamaisa ka nonofo kgotsa ka tshwanelo,” a rialo. Mme Browne o rile ntlha ka ga AGSA e tlhagisitswe sentle. Le fa go le, lefapha le kopana le AGSA makgetlho a a kgonagalang mme le tla tsaya ntlha eno tsia.

Motlhankedimogolo wa Ditšhelete tsa Setlhopha, Rre Garry Pita o netefaditse Scopa bokgoni jwa tšhelete ke Transnet, ka go bua gore Transnet ga e tseye sente go tswa go matlotlo, ka e ikaegile tshalelo ya yona.

“Transnet e ipela tota ka e ikagetse boemo jwa krediti ka boyona, eo e leng mo boemong jo bo lekanang le jwa Moody’s le Standard & Poor’s,” a rialo.

Mme Browne o dumalana le Rre Pita, fa a re Transnet ga e ise e kope dithuso go tswa go puso go tloga ka 1998. A bo a tlaleletsa ka gore seo se ka se diragale fa gautshwane.

“Ba na le bokana ka R3.5bn ya tshegetso mme sekoloto sa Transnet e ka nna bokana ka R120bn.” Tona Browne o rile Transnet le Eskom di na le dithoto tse di ka fopholediwang go R800bn. “Ka jalo, go botlhokwa tota gore di tsamaisiwe sentle,” a rialo.

Rre Godi o rile Scopa se itumetse ka maemo a ga jaana le mororo go tlhagisitswe matshenyego. “Ke ona mofuta wa kgang eo re ratang go e reetsa go tswa go ditheo tsa puso. Ga go a tshwanela gore nako le nako fa go buiwa ka khampani ya puso, e bo e le ka ntlha ya bothata kgotsa go tlhoka thuso kgotsa dilo dingwe tse di sa siamang tseo di neelanang ka tumelo gore fa puso e le mong go phoso. Re batla puso e nna mong go feta 30% e e fitlheletsweng,” a rialo. 🗣️

Urgent call for gender equality in the legislative sector

Efforts *by the Multi-Party Women's Caucus in Parliament to lobby for amendments in the country's electoral laws to make the equal representation of men and women in Parliament and provincial legislatures a legal obligation received a major boost with the launch of the South African Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Chapter, whose mandate is also to campaign for gender equality in the legislative sector, writes **Sam Khetheng**.*

During the launch of the CWP Chapter at Parliament recently, the Chairperson of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus, Ms Rosalia Morutoa, called the lack of legislation on gender quotas "a surprise".

"It is surprising that at this time of our lives in South Africa we still do not have legislation mandating gender quotas for national and provincial elections. We only have discretionary legislation for local government elections, like the Municipal Structures Act, and for national and provincial elections we are at the mercy of voluntary gender quotas set up by political parties, the African National Congress to be specific," she said.

The Multi-Party Women's Caucus is planning on having an engagement with the South African Local Government Association (Salga) women's commission on women representation in local government.

"We are also going to engage the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) to lobby and advocate for possible review of the Electoral Act in preparation for the 2019 national and provincial elections. I would like to encourage all women in this Parliament from both Houses to stand up with one voice and fight for 50-50 representation and participation.

"We need to ensure that there is proper legislation in place compelling all

political parties to ensure that there is 50-50 representation and participation in all party activities and party lists," said Ms Morutoa.

The Launch of the CWP Chapter in Parliament happened in the same week as International Women's Day. The theme for this year's international Women's Day was "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030".

Ms Morutoa said this theme speaks directly to the mandate of the CWP, of ensuring that there is 50-50 women representation and participation in Parliament and provincial legislatures.

Also speaking at the launch, Member of Parliament Ms Thoko Didiza, who was elected Chairperson of the CWP Africa Region in August last year, assured members of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus that one of her main focuses and plans was to see an increase in women participation in provincial legislatures and Parliament in South Africa and the African continent.

Ms Didiza, who is also National Assembly House Chairperson: Internal Arrangements, said the CWP will drive its programmes to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Multi-Party Women's Caucus and the Portfolio Committee on Women will continue to advocate for more women

in provincial legislatures, Parliament and municipal councils, she said.

"Looking back at the work of the CWP, it is clear that through the advocacy and engagement of political parties, progress is being made in increasing women representation in Parliament. Noting this progress does not mean we should relent, but rather work even harder to ensure that mechanisms are found to ensure that we make progress all the time," said Ms Didiza.

She also said it was important to acknowledge that the perspectives on issues and legislation brought by women have ensured inclusivity and also represented the interests of all.

"It is also encouraging that women have been appointed into positions of power, as Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees, as well as in the Executive – and they have performed well in these roles," she said.

Ms Didiza said the presence of more women in Parliament and provincial legislatures brings a particular dimension into law-making and resource allocation.

Members of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus called for the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, which lapsed at the end of the last parliamentary term, to be reintroduced. They argued that the Bill will enforce compliance with women representation in both the private and public sectors.

WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF WORK:

Chairperson of the CWP Africa Region
and also National Assembly House
Chairperson, Ms Thoko Didiza.

The Bill, which was introduced by the former Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, aimed to give effect to section 9 of the Constitution insofar as the empowerment of women and gender equality is concerned and to establish a legislative framework for the empowerment of women. It also seeks to align all aspects of laws and implementation of laws relating to women empowerment, and the appointment and representation of women in decision-making positions and structures.

If it is reinstated and passed into law, it will introduce measures and targets to strengthen existing legislation on the promotion of women empowerment and gender equality. In its summary it says: "The proposed legislation carries forward the constitutional vision of equality by requiring the development and implementation of plans and measures to redress gender imbalances."

Ms Didiza said: "In 2015 we formed part of the community that assessed programmes made by countries in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In our assessment it was clear that a number of countries had attempted to meet one or more of the set goals. However, a number of goals were not met for a variety of reasons."

She said one of the concerns for women was to ensure that the SDGs must explicitly ensure that they are inclusive and that at least one of the goals addresses gender equality. "It is with pride that women were able to have Goal 5 on the Sustainable Development Goals list, as it talks to gender equality. Interestingly so, almost all the goals do have an impact on the lives of women," she said. 🌍





Pitso e potlakileng bakeng sa tekano ya bong sekethareng ya ketsamelao

Matsapa a Lekomo la Basadi la Mekga e Mengata Palamenteng a ho susumeletsa diphetoho melaong ya dikgetho ya naha ho etsa hore boemedi bo lekanang ba banna le basadi Palamenteng le matlong a ketsamelao a diporofensi e be settlamo sa molao a fumane tshehetso e kgolo ka ho thakgolwa ha Kgaolo (CWP) ya Bommopalamente ba Mokgatlo wa dinaha tsa selekane wa mona Afrika Borwa, eo matlataelo a yona e leng ho thaothela tekano ya bong sekethareng ya ketsamelao, e ngotswe ke Sam Khetheng. E fetoletswe ke Thapelo Lebona.

Nakong eo ho neng ho thakgolwa Kgaolo ya CWP mane Palamente nakong e sa tswa feta, Modulasetulo wa Lekomo la Basadi la Mekga e mengata, Mme Rosalia Morutoa, o boletse leqeme la melao e mabapi le dipalo tse sehetsweng moedi tsa tekano "le makatsa".

"Ho a makatsa hore nakong eo re phelang ho yona ya jwale mona Afrika

Borwa re sa ntse re sena melao e fanang ka matlataelo a dipalo tse sehetsweng moedi tsa bong bakeng sa dikgetho tsa naha le tsa porofensi. Re na le feela melao e ka sebediswang ho ya ka moo ho bonwang ho lokela dikgethong tsa mmuso wa bomasepala, jwalo ka Molao wa Dipopeho tsa Masepala, mme bakeng sa dikgetho tsa naha le tsa porofensi mme re mohaung wa dipalo tse sehetsweng moedi tsa

bong tseo e leng tsa boithaopo tse theilweng ke mekga ya dipolotiki, African National Congress ka ho qolleha," a rialo.

Lekomo la Basadi la Mekga e Mengata le rera ho ba le dipuisano le komishene ya basadi ho tsa boemedi ba basadi mmusong wa selehae ya Salga (Asoseishene ya Mmuso wa Selehae wa Afrika Borwa).

"Re boetse re tlo buisana le IEC (Komishene ya Dikgetho ya Afrika Borwa) ho susumeletsa le ho buella kgonahalo ya tekolobotjha ya Molao wa Dikgetho e le ho itukisetša dikgetho tsa naha le tsa porofensi tsa 2019. Ke batla ho buisana le basadi kaofela Palamenteng ena ho tswa Matlong ka bobedi e le ho ema ka ntswe leng le ho



Iwanela boemedi le bonkakarolo ba 50-50. Re lokela ho netefatsa hore ho na le molao o nepahetseng o teng o tlamang mekga yohle ya dipolotiki ho netefatsa hore ho na le boemedi le bonkakarolo ba 50-50 mesebetsing yohle ya mekga esitana le manane a mekga,” ho rialo Mme Morutoa.

Ho thakgolwa ha Kgaolo ya CWP mona Palamenteng ho etsahetse bekeng eo ka yona lefatshe le neng le keteka Letsatsi la Basadi la Matjhaba (8 Hlakubele). Mokotaba wa Letsatsi la Basadi la matjhaba selemong sena ke “Basadi ho fetoleng Lefatshe la Mosebetsi: Polanete ya 50-50 ka 2030”. Mme Morutoa o itse mokotaba ona o bua ka kotloloho le matlataelo a CWP, a ho netefatsa hore ho na le boemedi le bonkakarolo ba 50-50 mona Palamenteng le matlong a ketsamelao a porofensi.

Setho sa Palamente Mme Thoko Didiza, ya ileng a kgethwa ho ba Modulasetulo wa CWP Lebatoweng la Afrika ka Phato selemong se fetileng, ha a ne a bua moketeng wa ho thakgola, o netefaleditse ditho tsa Lekomo la

Basadi la Mekga e Mengata hore o mong wa maikemisetso le merero wa sehloho ke ho bona keketseho seabong sa basadi matlong a ketsamelao le Palamenteng mona Afrika Borwa mmoho le kontinenteng ya Afrika.

Mme Didiza, eo hape e leng Modulasetulo wa Ntlo ka hara Ntlo ya Seema ya Naha: Ditlhophiso tsa ka Hare, o itse CWP e tla qhoba mananeo a yona hore e fihlelle Merero ya Ntshetsopele ya Mileniamo (eo ha jwale e seng e bitswa Merero ya Ntshetsopele e Bolokeheng ya Matjhaba a Kopaneng – diSDG). Lekomo la Basadi la Mekga e Mengata le Komiti ya Potefolio ho tsa Basadi di tla tswelapele ho buella basadi ba bangata matlong a ketsamelao a porofensi le Palamenteng mmoho le makgotleng a bomasepala, a rialo.

“Ha re sheba morao mosebetsing wa CWP, ho hlakile hore ka tshetso ya setjhaba le dipuisano tsa mekga ya dipolotiki, tswelopele e teng ho eketsweng ha boemedi ba basadi mane Palamenteng. Ho elahlolo tswelopele ena ha ho bolele hore re lokela ho nyahlatsa, empa re lokela ho sebetsa ka thata le ho feta ho netefatsa hore ho fumanwa mekgwa e tlang ho netefatsa hore re etsa tswelopele ka dinako tsohle,” ho rialo Mme Didiza.

O boetse o itse ho bohlokwa ho ananela hore maikutlo ka maikemisetso le melao e tlišwang ke basadi a netefaditse hore ho kenyeletswa le ho emelwa ha ditabatabelo tsa batho kaofela.

“Ho a kgothatsa hore basadi ba se ba hirilwe maemong a nang le matla, jwalo ka Baduladitulo ba Dikomiti tsa Potefolio, mmoho le Moifong wa Phethahatso – mme ba sebeditse hantle haholo mesebetsing ena,” a rialo.

Mme Didiza o itse boteng ba basadi ba bangata mane Palamenteng le matlong a ketsamelao a porofensi bo tliša seabo se itseng ho etsweng ha melao le ho ajweng ha disebediswa.

Ditho tsa Lekomo la Basadi la Mekga e Mengata le ile la etsa boipiletso ka Bili ya Matlafatso ya Basadi le Tekano ya Bong, e felletsweng ke nako mafelong

a kotara ya ho qetela ya Palamente, hore e boele e tsebiswa. Ba ne ba phehisa hore Bili ena e tla qobella ho ipapisa le boemedi ba basadi disekehareng ka bobedi tsa poraefete le ya mmuso.

Bili ena, e ileng ya tsebahatswa ke Letona la Basadi, Bana le Batho ba sa Itekanelang, e ne e ikemiseditse ho kenya tshebetsong karolo ya 9 ya Molaotheo ho matlafatsweng ha basadi le tekano ya bong mmoho le ho thea moralo wa ketsamelao bakeng sa ntshetsopele ya basadi. E boetse e habile ho bapisa maikemisetso ohle a melao le ho kenngwa tshebetsong ha melao e amanang le matlafatso ya basadi, mmoho le khiro le boemedi ba basadi maemong le ditheong tse etsang diqeto.

Haeba e boela e tsebiswa mme e fetiswa ho ba molao, e tla tsebahatsa mekgwa le diphihlello ho matlafatsa molao o teng o tshetsang matlafatso ya basadi le tekano ya bong. Kakaretsong ya yona e re: “Molao o hlalisitsweng ona o tsamaisa pono ya molaotheo ya tekano ka ho batla ntshetsopele le ho kenngwa tshebetsong ha mekgwa e tlang ho lokisa ho sa lekane ha bong.”

Mme Didiza o itse: “Ka 2015 re ne re le karolo ya setjhaba se ileng sa lekola mananeo a entsweng ke dinaha phihlellong ya Merero ya Ntshetsopele e Bolokeheng. Tekolong ya rona ho hlakile hore dinaha tse ngata di lekile ho fihlella o le mong kapa ho feta wa merero o beilweng. Le ha ho le jwalo, merero e mengata ha ya ka ya fihlellwa ka mabaka a fapaneng.”

O itse e nngwe ya dingongoreho tsa basadi ke ho netefatsa hore ha ho tswelwapele, Merero ya Ntshetsopele e Bolokeheng e lokela ho netefatsa ka bobatsi hore e kenyeletsa bohle mme le hore bonyane o le mong wa merero o sebetsana le ditaba tsa tekano ya basadi. “Ke ka boikgantsho hore basadi ba kgonne ho ba le Merero wa 5 lenaneng la Merero ya Ntshetsopele e Bolokeheng, kaha e bua ka tekano ya bong. Ka tsela e kgahlang, boholo ba merero ena bo na le kgahlamelo maphelong a basadi,” a rialo. 🙌

Public hearings to ensure a traditional leadership law that will stand the test of time

Disputed *traditional leadership claims and all outstanding applications for recognition as traditional leaders made to the Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims must be resolved as soon as possible, Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs heard recently during public hearings on the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill in Thohoyandou, Limpopo, writes **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

The Portfolio Committee resumed the last leg of nationwide public consultations on the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill in the Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. The Bill seeks to give recognition to Khoi-San communities and their traditional leaders, as well as address limitations in existing traditional governance legislation.

Though the draft legislation continues to receive mixed reviews from the public, the intention to integrate Khoi-San traditional leaders into the South Africa traditional system was generally accepted by the public.

Community member of Thohoyandou, Mr Ben Masiye, said: "We appreciate the approach of consulting the citizens in the process of making law and the intentions to recognise Khoi-San traditional leaders are welcome, but don't forget the outstanding applications made to the Nhlapo Commission.

"I read this Bill and my problem is that now we are jumping into recognising the Khoi-San leadership while we have many other unrecognised traditional leaders in our communities.

"When apartheid took our land, they also took away our traditional leadership. We still have a backlog of leaders who are not recognised."

He said the affected leaders have been advised to refrain from acting as traditional leaders until they receive the results of their applications. "Doing so will be illegal. Wait for the result until your names are gazetted and proclaimed before resuming responsibilities of a traditional leadership."

Another community member, Mr Bejani Hlungwani, said: "I am challenging the Act of 1927. It created traditional leaders by recognising people who were never born to be royals and made them traditional leaders."

The Committee Chairperson, Mr Richard Mdakane, said: "The views of the public are very important in terms of the proposed Bill. It is not a law yet. We need your views in order to come up with a law that will stand the test of time," he said.

He said the Bill was introduced by the Cabinet to address the grievances of the Khoi and San traditional leaders who have been excluded from participating in the traditional system in the country.

The Committee heard in Mbombela, Mpumalanga, that the proposal in the draft Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill to only allow families that have lost their traditional leadership status after 1 September 1927 to reclaim their status will

disadvantage many eligible leaders who were stripped of their status long before that date.

A representative of the Vatsonga-Machangana Traditional Communities, Mr Ernest Khosa, told the Committee during public hearings on the Bill in Mbombela that some kings were stripped of their status as early as the 1600s. He advised Members of Parliament (MPs) to consider reviewing the cut-off date.

"Other than the good job that you are doing for the Khoi-San in the Bill, there are other citizens that were excluded from kingship by certain technical aspects of colonialism. Some of the events that affected traditional leadership go beyond the borders and we did not participate in the drawing of the borders," said Mr Khosa.

He added that the September 1927 deadline will alienate a sizeable number of people and could create the impression that some people are not South African enough. Mr Khosa, however, accepted the Bill, saying it will bring social cohesion.

Mr Collen Mnisi said the recognition of the Khoi and San is long overdue. "It was unfair to leave the Khoi-San out of the country's system of traditional leadership while the Constitution recognises them. They have been

TRADITIONAL AND KHOI-SAN LEADERSHIP BILL PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A member of the public in Gauteng has his say on the Bill.

crying out for a very long time for their traditional leaders to participate in the system," he said.

Some traditional leaders lost their status when they were driven by wars from Mozambique and Mr Mnisi wanted to know if they can lodge claims to be traditional leaders on that side of the border.

"They were traditional leaders back in Mozambique, but lost their status through wars. What happens to those people?" asked Mr Mnisi.

Ms Bessie Viljoen, who also participated in the public hearings, warned against identifying all coloured people as Khoi-San. She said some, like her, were the products of white and black people. "Some of us are products of black and white people. I'm really not a Khoi-San. What are you going to do with us, because we do not have chiefs or kings? They must not look down on us. I am not a Khoi-San. I am coloured. We know we are coloured and we didn't bring ourselves here. If God didn't want my granny to conceive from a white man, I shouldn't be here," she said.

The Chairperson of the Lowveld Khoi-San Council, Mr David Petersen, told the Committee that they cannot talk of nation-building when a key component of the society is excluded.

"We oppose this Bill. We believe the exclusion is unforgivable. We are the first indigenous people of this country. We believe unless the First Nation issue is comprehensively dealt with, there can't be any social cohesion," he said.

The Committee heard that the role of traditional leaders is not clearly defined in the Constitution and any other laws, and as a result many traditional leaders are still using the Bantu Authorities Act of 1951.



Mr Mdakane told the participants in Mbombela that it was true that some traditional leaders were not born leaders, but were put in place by the apartheid government to divide people.

"We agree that some chieftaincies were created by the old government, but the institution of traditional leadership was not created. Yes, other leaders were imposed by apartheid and others were removed. That is why we have the Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims, which traces the origins of chieftaincy or kingship and restores it to the rightful people," Mr Mdakane said.

On the issue of leadership status lost as a result of the drawing of borders and fleeing from wars, Mr Mdakane said the African Union took a resolution not to tamper with existing borders, as doing so would have the potential to create chaos.

"We know that the borders have divided communities. Some kings are on one side of the border with their people on the other side in another country. Nonetheless, we respect the borders and cannot have two kings on both sides of the border for the same nation," the Chairperson Mr Mdakane explained. 🙏



Mining in spotlight during oversight visit

The *role of mining in the region of Enkangala in Mpumalanga came under the spotlight during a meeting between the Select Committees on Economic Business Development and Trade and International Relations with the Enkangala District Municipality, writes Sibongile Maputi.*

During the March oversight period, the Committees visited big infrastructural projects in Mpumalanga, including the Moloto Rail Development Corridor, the Kusile power plant, the Ekandustria Industrial Park, and Evraz Highveld Steel.

Members of the Committees voiced dissatisfaction with the role of mining companies in the South African economy. They encouraged the municipality to put forward a resolution forcing the mining houses to contribute meaningfully to the economic development of the Enkangala district.

Committee Co-Chairperson Mr Eddie Makue said the mining sector's role was a concern.

"We need to understand the mining sector's role. People are suffering as a result of mining. What is being done to address the impact of mining on agriculture? This might be an opportunity to advise us on what it is we can do, so that we could govern in a responsible manner," Mr Makue said.

Committee member Mr Boingotlo Nthebe said that the state of mining in Mpumalanga reflects what is happening nationally.

"This resistance by mining houses to comply with social labour plans is happening nationally. We should move away from appreciating mining houses donating chairs to crèches when they are making billions. This is not the kind of intervention we want to see," Mr Nthebe said.

"We should be able to extract maximum benefits from mining activity and actually dictate to mining houses the conditions they ought to meet in upskilling our people, and how they must contribute to the economy," he said.

He said young graduates were not being absorbed by the economy and yet the mining industry sat on billions of rands.

Members of the Committee asked questions about how manufacturing and mining contributed to job creation.

They also wanted to know whether communities are properly engaged in economic development and empowerment programmes. Committee members also suggested a workshop under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on how the Moloto Rail Development Corridor could be made a special economic zone, particularly in view of the proposed Nkangala airport.

Committee member Mr George Mthimunye said there would be many economic spin-offs that could be attached to the airport development and that could unlock economic opportunities for locals. "The benefits are potentially huge there and will help us address the issue of radical economic transformation. This will even help in the Black Industrialist Programme run by the DTI."

He committed to facilitating the workshop with the DTI, and said: "Let's begin to radically change the economy of the region and we have the law on our side to unlock the economic potential of the region." 🗣️

Parliament intervenes in Soweto electricity bills dispute

Parliament *has been asked to intervene in the ongoing dispute between national electricity supplier Eskom and the residents of Soweto, in Gauteng, over electricity bills' accuracy and the installation of pre-paid meters, writes **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

The matter was brought to Parliament through a petition by a group of pensioners, who asked fellow resident and Member of Parliament, Mr Tshepo Mhlongo, to submit the petition on their behalf. Recently, the Portfolio Committees on Public Enterprises and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) started consultations with Eskom and the residents of Diepkloof in Soweto in an attempt to find a solution to the matter.

In the petition, the residents accuse Eskom of inaccurate billing and forcing the pre-paid meters on them, which they don't want.

In a meeting of the Portfolio Committee and Eskom that took place in Johannesburg recently during the Committee's oversight week, Mr Mhlongo said the main concerns of the pensioners and other Soweto residents, was the lack of proper public participation before the installation of the new pre-paid meters, disputed electricity bills and a social package (free electricity) for indigent people.

He said between 2014 and 2016, the community submitted three petitions to Parliament, demanding the intervention of the national legislature after their attempts to engage Eskom failed.

"One of the main concerns was the lack of proper public participation, where it was not done properly, and the forceful installation of pre-paid meters," said Mr Mhlongo.

After listening to both the petitioners

and Eskom representatives, the Committee advised that Eskom must hold proper public consultations in the community and educate the residents about the benefits of pre-paid electricity.

Committee Chairperson Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba said the purpose of the visit was to come up with a solution to the issues raised by the residents in the community. "Eskom should develop a communication and public consultation strategy as soon as possible and also explain the advantages of pre-paid electricity. The Committee will investigate the use of more than one electricity supplier in one community, and lack of uniformity in social packages for indigent people," she said.

She said the electricity supplier should explain to the people the benefits of pre-paid electricity, which is aimed at managing consumption, and will also prevent illegal connections which often result in fatalities.

"The economy is also losing billions of rands through illegal connections and electricity theft. I think the pre-paid meters will help address that and ease the debt for the residents and address the billing dispute under the current conventional system," said the Committee Chairperson.

One of the pensioners, Mr Pat Moba, said some of the petitioners owed Eskom amounts as high as R300 000 for electricity, bills whose accuracies they claim are questionable.

Eskom Senior Manager for Operations

and Maintenance in Gauteng, Ms Daphne Mokoena, said billing for the conventional or post-use meters was based on estimates. "The monthly bills are based on estimates for three months, depending on consumption patterns. We only conduct meter readings on the third month," she said.

Committee member Ms Natasha Mazzone said the crux of the matter is that "we have a large community that does not understand how the pre-paid meters work. They are unhappy that they were not consulted and what is clear from the installation of these meters, indigent and pensioners are losing out on social benefits like free electricity."

It has also emerged that Soweto residents owe Eskom about R8bn in unpaid electricity bills and the installation of pre-paid meters was expected to manage the debts. With these meters, residents will only pay for what they owe and will not accumulate new debts. The community members are rejecting Eskom's proposal that if they accept the pre-paid meters, their outstanding bills will be suspended for three years. They demand a complete write-off of their debts as they claim the estimates are wrong.

The Portfolio Committees on Public Enterprises and Cogta will continue engaging the residents and Eskom and hope to report back to the National Assembly with a solution to the dispute. 🌍

CALLS FOR INTERVENTION: Farm murders came under the spotlight during a debate in the National Assembly.

Farm murders threaten stability of society, say MPs

The *killing of farmers and human rights violations against farm workers and farm dwellers came under the spotlight in the National Assembly, with Members of Parliament condemning these acts and calling for intervention, as they threaten the country's food security and may provoke an increase of racial hatred, writes **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

Freedom Front Plus Member of Parliament Dr Pieter Groenewald, who proposed the debate on the theme "The recent increase in farm murders and farm attacks in South Africa", said the discussion was "necessitated by the excessively high percentage of murders on farms and the brutality thereof in many instances."

Dr Groenewald said although white people make up the majority of the victims of farm killings, they are not the only ones who die in farm attacks.

"There is a perception that only whites are murdered in farm attacks. This is not true. Research shows that 40% of all victims of farm attacks are black. The generalisation that poorly treated farm workers are attackers is also not true. The police's research shows that less than 2% of the attackers and victims are known to each other. Furthermore, about 2% of the attacks are politically motivated," Dr Groenewald said.

Average figures for murder worldwide are seven murdered out of 100 000 people, he said, but in South Africa it is 33 in 100 000. Average figures within the South African police force is even higher, with 54 in every 100 000, while for farmers it is 133 for every 100 000

of the population. "This means that it is nearly three times more dangerous to be a farmer in South Africa than it is to be a police officer.

"Nearly everything you ate or drank today, apart from water, was produced by farmers. Former president Mr Thabo Mbeki undertook to establish something in the place of the commando system, which he had disbanded. Sector policing would have filled this role, however this is not effective enough," he said.

Ms Annette Steyn of the Democratic Alliance said the murder rate in South Africa is shocking. She accused society at large of keeping quiet when it comes to crimes against farmers and rural communities.

"Why are we quiet when it comes to crimes affecting farming and rural communities? Can I assume that we are quiet because these victims are farmers?"

"Some say these murders happen because farmers mistreat their workers or because 'they stole our land', but we have to agree that the torture of any human being is inhumane and barbaric. This is a fundamental human

rights issue. People living on farms must be treated equally in this country. Why does government refuse to take decisive action to protect farming and rural communities, to stand up and condemn all murders?" she said.

According to Mr Mangaqa Mncwango of the Inkatha Freedom Party, farm attacks appear to be "crimes fuelled by hatred, as they go way beyond robbery, with the perpetrators inflicting cruelty, torture, pain, suffering and in many instances death, upon their victims, who are more often than not, defenceless and elderly, with children being made to look on in horror, and then possibly be raped and killed themselves."

He called for visible policing in rural areas and farmlands to be increased and better resourced.

"All murder and serious crime must be prioritised by the South African Police Service (SAPS). The SAPS's comprehensive rural safety plan must also be structured so that it adequately deals with all murders perpetrated against people of all races," he said.

The National Freedom Party (NFP) also condemned the attacks on farmers,



especially the extreme violence that often characterises the attacks. NFP Member of Parliament Mr Ahmed Shaik Emam said: “One of the consequences of these farm attacks is the rising threat to our nation’s food security. Fewer farmers mean less food. It is as simple as that. As it is, South Africa is at the point where we import almost as much food as we produce. With every farmer killed, it means less food is produced. If we become reliant on imported food, the cost to the poorest of the poor will be high,” he said.

Fears about the threat to food security and food prices were shared by the leader of the Congress of the People, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, who said: “We have some 35 000 farmers who provide food for 95% of the population. As we reduce this number, food becomes expensive, and poor people are the most affected by this.”

Mr Steve Swart of the African Christian Democratic Party called the killing of farmers “a threat to our food

security and a serious disruption to our economy”.

From the African National Congress benches in the National Assembly, Ms Machwene Semenya said the alleged increase in farm murders and farm attacks should not be looked at in isolation to the human rights of all who live and work in farming communities.

“Any criminal activity in farming communities is a matter of concern, due to the negative impact that such activities may have on the sustainability of farming and food production for the country. In the interest of sustaining our agricultural sector and food security, we must discuss human rights violations in the agricultural sector, including the abuse of farm workers and farm dwellers,” she said.

Agang SA Leader Mr Andries Tlouamma said the unlawful evictions of farm dwellers and not allowing them to perform rituals to their ancestors is “harrowing”.

“We should stop trying to please white farmers, most of whom do not care about the working conditions of farm workers. AgangSA believes that white farmers should stop assaulting and murdering farm workers.

“They must assist in building social cohesion. White farmers should minimise their arrogance and recognise that they have to share with black people. They must embrace a non-racial society,” he said.

Mr Mncedisi Filtane of the United Democratic Movement also highlighted the plight of farm dwellers, who he said were exposed to physical danger and food insecurity, thus degrading their humanity and condemning them to poverty.

“The recent shooting of a farm worker in Limpopo by a farm owner, claiming to have mistaken him for a monkey, is another example of where farm workers and farm dwellers are treated as less than human beings.” 🙄

Die Parlement bespreek plaasmoorde

Die moorde op boere en menseregtevergrype teen plaaswerkers en plaasbewoners was die onderwerpe van 'n hewige debat in die Nasionale Vergadering, met Lede van die Parlement wat dié dade afkeur en om ingryping vra, aangesien dit die land se voedselsekureitheid bedreig en 'n afwaartse spiraal van rassehaat mag ontketen, skryf **Sakhile Mokoena**. Vertaal deur **dr Pieter Conradie**.

'n Lid van die Vryheidsfront Plus in die Parlement, dr Pieter Groenewald, wat die debat oor die tema aangevra het: "Die onlangse toename in plaasmoorde en plaasaanvalle in Suid-Afrika", het gesê dat die bespreking "genoodsaak is deur die buitensporige hoë persentasie moorde op plase en die brutaliteit daarvan in baie gevalle".

Dr Groenewald het gesê dat ofskoon wit mense die meerderheid uitmaak van die slagoffers van plaasmoorde, hulle nie die enigste persone is wat in die plaasaanvalle sterf nie.

"Daar is 'n aanname dat slegs wit mense in plaasaanvalle vermoor word. Dit is nie die waarheid nie. Navorsing toon dat 40% van alle slagoffers swart is. Die veralgemening dat plaaswerkers wat swak behandel word, is ook nie waar nie. Die polisie-navorsing toon dat minder as 2% van die aanvallers en slagoffers aan mekaar bekend is. Voorts, omtrent 2% van die aanvalle is polities gemotiveerd", het dr Groenewald gesê.

Die gemiddelde syfers vir moorde wêreldwyd is sewe moorde per 100 000 mense, het hy gesê, maar in

Suid-Afrika is dit 33 per 100 000. Die gemiddelde syfer in die Suid-Afrikaanse polisiemag is selfs hoër, met 54 per elke 100 000, terwyl vir boere dit 133 per elke 100 000 mense in die bevolking is. "Dit beteken dat dit byna drie keer meer gevaarlik is om 'n boer in Suid-Afrika te wees as wat dit is om 'n polisiebeampte te wees".

"Byna alles wat jy eet of drink vandag, buiten water, is deur boere geproduseer. Die vorige president, mnr Thabo Mbeki, het onderneem om iets in die plek van die kommandostelsel in te stel, wat hy ontbind het. Sektorpolisiëring sou dié rol vul, dog, dit is nie doeltreffend genoeg nie", het hy gesê.

Me Annette Steyn van die Demokratiese Alliansie het gesê dat die moordsyfer in Suid-Afrika skokkend is. Sy het die groter samelewing beskuldig dat hulle swyg as dit handel oor misdade teenoor boere en landelike gemeenskappe. "Waarom bly ons stil as dit gaan oor misdade wat boere- en landelike gemeenskappe raak? Kan ek aanvaar dat ons stil bly omrede dié slagoffers boere is?"

"Sommige sê dat dié moorde plaasvind omrede boere hul werkers mishandel of omdat "hulle ons land gesteel het", maar ons moet saamstem dat die marteling van enige menslike wese onmenslik en barbaars is. Dit is 'n fundamentele menseregte-aangeleentheid. Mense wat op plase woon, moet in dié land gelyk behandel word. Waarom weier die regering om beslis op te tree om boere- en landelike gemeenskappe te beskerm, om op te staan en alle moorde af te keur?" het sy gesê.

Volgens mnr Mangaqa Mncwango van die Inkatha Vryheidsparty, lyk plaasaanvalle na "misdade wat deur haat aangestook word, aangesien dit wyer as diefstal strek, terwyl dié wat moorde pleeg wreedheid, marteling, pyn, lyding en in baie gevalle die dood van hul slagoffers veroorsaak, wat dikwels weerloos en bejaard is, terwyl kinders verplig is om dit met afskug te slaan, en dan moontlik verkrag en self doodgemaak word".

Hy het 'n oproep gedoen om sigbare polisiëring sowel as 'n toename en beter toegeruste polisiëring in landelike gebiede en op plase. "Alle moorde



en ernstige misdaad moet voorkur by die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens (SAPD) geniet. Die SAPD se omvattende landelike veiligheidsplan moet ook gestruktureer word sodat dit op behoorlike wyse alle moorde wat op mense van alle rasse gepleeg word, hanteer”, het hy gesê.

Die Nasionale Vryheidsparty (NVP) het ook die aanvalle op boere afgekeur, veral die uiterste geweld wat dikwels die aanvalle kenmerk. NVP-lid, mnr Ahmed Shaik Emam, het gesê: “Een van die gevolge van dié plaasaanvalle is die toenemende bedreiging vir die voedselsekureit van ons nasie. Minder boere beteken minder kos. Dit is so eenvoudig soos dit. Soos dinge staan, is Suid-Afrika by die punt waar ons byna soveel voedsel invoer as wat ons produseer. Soos elke boer vermoor word, beteken dit minder voedsel word geproduseer. Indien ons op ingevoerde voedsel staatmaak, sal die koste vir die behoefstigste mense toeneem”, het hy gesê.

Vrese betreffende die bedreiging vir voedselsekureit en voedselpryse is deur die leier van die Congress of the People, mnr Mosiuoa Lekota, gedeel wat gesê het: “Ons het ongeveer 35 000 boere wat 95% van die voedsel aan die bevolking verskaf. Soos ons dié

syfer verminder, word voedsel duurder, en behoefte mense word die meeste hierdeur geraak”.

Mnr Steve Swart van die African Christian Democratic Party het die doodmaak van boere beskryf: as “’n bedreiging vir ons voedselsekureit en ’n ernstige ontwrigting van ons ekonomie”.

Uit die banke van die African National Congress in die Nasionale Vergadering, het me Machwene Semenya laat hoor dat die beweerde toename in plaasmoorde en plaasaanvalle nie in afsondering beoordeel moet word ten opsigte van die menseregte van almal wat in boerderygemeenskappe woon en werk nie.

“Enige strafregtelike optrede in plaasgemeenskappe is ’n saak van kommer, te wyte aan die negatiewe uitwerking wat sodanige optrede op die volhoubaarheid van boerdery en voedselproduksie in die lande mag hê. In die belang van ons landbousektor en voedselsekureit, moet ons menseregteoortredings in die landbousektor, met inbegrip van die uitbuit van plaaswerkers en plaasbewoners bespreek”, het sy gesê.

Die leier van AgangSA, mnr Andries

Plouamma, het gesê die onwettige afsit van plaasbewoners en die feit dat hulle nie toegelaat word om rituele te beoefen vir hul voorvaders nie is “marteling”.

“Ons moet ophou om wit plaasboere tevrede te probeer stel, die meeste wat nie omgee vir die werksomstandighede van plaaswerkers nie. AgangSA glo dat wit plaasboere moet ophou om plaaswerkers aan te rand en te vermoor. Hulle moet help om maatskaplike samehorigheid te skep. Wit plaasboere moet hul arrogansie afskaal en besef dat hulle met swart mense moet deel. Hulle moet ’n nierassige gemeenskap koester”, het hy gesê.

Mnr Mncedisi Filtane van die United Democratic Movement het ook die nood van plaasbewoners uitgesonder, wat hy gesê het aan fisieke gevaar en voedselsekureit uitgelewer word, en hul menslikheid degradeer en hul tot armoede verdoem.

“Die onlangse skietvoorval van ’n plaaswerker in Limpopo deur ’n plaaseienaar, wat beweer het dat hy hom vir ’n apie aangesien het, is nog ’n voorbeeld waar plaaswerkers en plaasbewoners behandel word of hul nie mense is nie”. 🙄

Nigerian delegation visits Parliament

High-level *delegations of law-makers from the Parliament of South Africa and the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria met at the South African Parliament to discuss matters of mutual interest and ways to deepen diplomatic relations between the two countries, writes Mava Lukani.*

The delegations from the two legislative bodies were led by the South African Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, and his Nigerian counterpart, the leader of the Nigerian House of Representatives, Mr Femi Gbaja-Biamila.

The delegations from the two institutions recognised that parliaments globally are the custodians of public dialogue, and increasingly assuming a critical role in strengthening diplomatic relations, over and above traditional roles of oversight and law-making. In this regard, speakers from the two delegations regretted the insufficient attention paid to strengthening the diplomatic legislative relationships between these two bodies.

This is despite the fact that South Africa and Nigeria enjoy close diplomatic relations based on a shared political history. The people of Nigeria provided unwavering support and solidarity to the people of South Africa in the fight against apartheid and the achievement of freedom and democracy.

In 2013, the then President of Nigeria, Mr Goodluck Jonathan, addressed a Joint Sitting of the South African Parliament and, in 2016, President Jacob Zuma was invited to address the Nigeria's National Assembly, indicating the strong ties enjoyed by the two countries.

The latest meeting took place against a backdrop of tension in some local South African communities towards

some foreign nationals. The matter featured prominently in the discussion in relation to the impact on Nigerian nationals. The discussion was frank, robust and cordial, focusing on both the recent and previous clashes between South Africans and foreign nationals, particularly affected Nigerian nationals and businesses.

The two national legislatures, noted the prevailing depressed global economic situation, which led to increased competition for scarce resources, but denounced any form of criminality, regardless of the target. They recognised that South Africans are generally a welcoming people, evidenced by the great number of South African communities living in peaceful coexistence with foreign nationals.

As the representatives of the two national legislatures met in Cape Town, their executive colleagues, the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, and her Nigerian counterpart, Mr Geoffrey Onyeama, were also meeting in Pretoria. Recently, former South African Home Affairs Minister and now Minister of Finance Mr Malusi Gigaba interacted with his Nigerian counterpart, the Minister of the Interior, Lt-Gen Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau and the Nigerian Ambassador to South Africa.

The two Parliaments, representing the two largest economies on the continent, committed themselves

to work collaboratively to bolster existing relations and present a united front, particularly in the context of economic challenges and rising global competition. The meeting agreed to further engage on issues of mutual interest within the ambit of their constitutional powers.

Mr Tsenoli emphasised that the perception created by the media and other social forces that Nigerians are targeted in South Africans is misleading. Furthermore, he said that xenophobic attacks are not targeted against a particular group of foreign nationals and are confined to certain townships in Gauteng.

He told the Nigerian delegation that the violence is caused by, among other things, South Africans protecting local economic opportunities and competition for limited opportunities. This competition for scarce resources sometimes turns into violence, he said.

South Africans are driven by the spirit of *ubuntu* to embrace their brothers and sisters from other African countries and also outside the continent, Mr Tsenoli told the delegation.

The xenophobic violence against foreign nationals in 2015 and 2017 occurred in Gauteng townships, he said. "But it is puzzling to note that an impression is created outside South Africa that there is xenophobic violence against foreign nationals in all of South Africa. That is incorrect," Mr Tsenoli explained. 🌍

Amanxusa aseNigeria avakashela iPhalamende

Amanxusa asezingeni eliphezulu abashayi bomthetho basePhalamende laseNingizimu Afrika kanye naweNdlu Emele i-Federal Republic yase-Nigeria bahlangane ePhalamende laseNingizimu Afrika ukuze bezoxoxa ngezindaba ezibathinta bobabili kanye nangezindlela zokuqinisa ubudlelwano bezombusazwe phakathi kwamazwe omabili, kubhala **uMava Lukani**. Ihunyushwe ngu-Lungile Khoza.

Amanxusa amabhodi ezishayamthetho ezimbili ayeholwa yiPhini likaSomlomo waseNingizimu Afrika weNdlu yesiShayamthetho kuZwelonke, uMnu Lechesa Tsenoli, kanye nozakwabo wase-Nigeria, umholi wabamele i-Nigerian House of Representatives, uMnu Femi Gbaja-Biamila.

Amanxusa azo zombili izikhungo abonile ukuthi amaphalamende emhlabeni jikelele, njengabaphathi bezinkulumo-mpendulwano zomphakathi, aya ekhula ekubambeni indima ebalulekile ekuqiniseni ubudlelwano bezombusazwe phakathi kwamazwe, phezu kwezindima ezijwayelekile zokuqapha imisebenzi yamaphalamende kanjalo nokushaya umthetho/ ukwenza umthetho. Mayelana nalokhu, osomlomo bamanxusa womabili baxolisile ngokunganakwa ngokwanele ukuqiniswa kobudlelwano bezombusazwe phakathi kwalawa mabhodi omabili.

Lokhu kushiwo yize iNingizimu Afrika ne-Nigeria bebuthokozela ubudlelwano bezombusazwe ngenxa yomlando abanawo kwezombusazwe. Abantu base-Nigeria banika abantu baseNingizimu Afrika ukweseka okukhulu kanjalo nokubambisana ekulweni nokubuswa abezizwe kanye nokuthola inkululeko kanjalo nentando yeningi.

Ngonyaka wezi-2013, uMongameli wase-Nigeria, uMnu Goodluck Jonathan, wakhuluma ePhalamende laseNingizimu Afrika lapho kwakuhleli zombili iziNdlu zePhalamende ngokuhlangana kanti, ngonyaka wezi-2016, uMongameli uJacob Zuma wayemenyelwe ukuzokhuluma eNdlini yesiShayamthetho yaseNigeria, okwakukhombisa ukubambisana okuqinile kwamazwe omabili.

Umhlangano wokugcina ubanjwe ngesikhathi esibi kubanjenwe ngezihluthu kweminye imiphakathi yaseNingizimu Afrika kubhekiswe kwabamazwe angaphandle. Udaba ludingidwe nzulu ezingxoxweni ezimayelana nomthelela kubantu baseNigeria. Izingxoxo zaziqonde ngqo, ziyinqabavu futhi zimnandi, zigxile ekunqubuzaneni kwamanje nokwezikhathi ezedule phakathi kwabantu baseNingizimu Afrika nabantu bamazwe angaphandle, ikakhulukazi ezithinte abantu baseNigeria kanye namabizininisi abo.

Zombili izishayamthetho zikazwelonke, zikuqaphelile ukukhula kwesimo somnotho esintengayo emhlabeni jikelele, okuholela ekwenyukeni kokuncintisana ngokuba yindlala kwezinsiza, kodwa zikuhlabele ubugebengu banoma yiluphi uhlobo, noma ngabe bubhekiswe kubani. Babonile ukuthi ngokujwayelekile abantu baseNingizimu Afrika bangabantu abemukelana kahle, okufakazelwa isibalo esikhulu sabantu baseNingizimu Afrika abahlalisana ngokuthula nabantu bangaphandle/ bakwamanye amazwe.

Njengoba laba abamele izishayamthetho zikazwelonke ezimbili bahlangana eKapa, abalingani abayiziphathimandla, uNgqongqoshe wezoBudlelwane bamaZwe nokuBambisana eNingizimu Afrika, uNks Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, kanye nozakwabo waseNigeria, uMnu Geoffrey Onyema, nabo babehlangene ePitoli. Okusanda kwenzeka, uNgqongqoshe weziNdaba zaseKhaya eNingizimu Afrika uMnu Malusi Gigaba waxhumana nozakwabo waseNigeria, uNgqongqoshe wezindaba zangaPhakathi (Minister of Interior), Lt-Gen Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau noyiNxusa laseNigeria

eNingizimu Afrika. Lezi zikhungo ezimbili, ezimele iminotho emibili emikhulu kuzwekazi, zizibophezele ekusebenzisaneni ngokubambisana ukuze ziqinise ubudlelwano obukhona kanye nokuncintisana okukhulayo emhlabeni jikelele. Umhlangano uvumelene ngokuthi uqhubeke uxoxisane ngezindaba ezibathinta bobabili ezinhlabeni zamandla abo ngokomthethosisekelo.

UMnu Tsenoli ukugcizelele ukuthi ukubona kwabezindaba nezinye izinkundla zokuxhumana kokuthi abantu baseNigeria yibo abaqondwe abantu baseNingizimu Afrika kuyadukisa. Uqhubeke wathi, ukuhlaselwa kwabokufika akuqondisiwe eqenjini elithile labantu bangaphandle kanti futhi kuphelela emalokishini athile e-Gauteng.

Utshela amanxusa aseNigeria ukuthi udlame lubangwa, phakathi kokunye, abantu baseNingizimu Afrika abavikela amathuba ezomnotho asekhaya kanye nokuncintisana ngamathuba amancane vele. Uthe, lokhu kuncintisana kwezinsiza ezinyindlala kwesinye isikhathi kuba udlame.

UMnu Tsenoli utshela amanxusa ukuthi, abantu baseNingizimu Afrika baqhutshwa umoya wobuntu ukuthi bamukele abanewabo nodadewabo bakwamanye amazwe ase-Afrika kanjalo nabangaphandle kwezwekazi.

Uthe, udlame olubhekiswe kwabokufika lwangonyaka wezi-2015 nowezi-2017 lwenzeke emalokishini ase-Gauteng. UMnu Tsenoli uchaze wathi, "Kodwa kuyamangaza ukuqaphela ukuthi ukubona kwabangaphandle kwaseNingizimu Afrika ukuthi kunodlame olubhekiswe kwabokufika kuyo yonke iNingizimu Afrika. Lokho akulona iqiniso." 🗣️

A generous man named Ahmed Kathrada

21 August 1929 – 28 March 2017

South Africa *has lost one of its heroes, a revolutionary cadre, patriot and a generous man of the people, Mr Ahmed "Kathy" Kathrada, who passed away on 28 March 2017. He was a man who, according to his peers, placed South Africa and the South African people above everything – including his personal life. He was a man who, as a result of his deep spirit of patriotism, chose to pay the heavy price of incarceration and a sentence of life in prison for the liberation of all South Africans from the shackles of colonialism and apartheid.*

"Uncle Kathy", as he was affectionately called, was one of the eight South African freedom fighters who were jailed for life in the 1963-1964 Rivonia Treason Trial. The other seven were former President Mr Nelson Mandela, Mr Walter Sisulu, Mr Denis Goldberg, Mr Govan Mbeki, Mr Raymond Mhlaba, Mr Elias Motsoaledi and Mr Andrew Mlangeni.

Mr Mandela recounted in his autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom* that in court "Kathy, in his sharp-witted testimony, denied committing acts of sabotage or inciting others to do so, but said he supported such acts if they advanced the struggle". Mr Kathrada and the other accused turned the tables on their prosecutors, putting the state in the dock by highlighting the brutalities of apartheid.

On Robben Island, where the Rivonia trialists were imprisoned, the prisoners turned the island into an informal "university". Many discussions on history, politics and other topics would take place. While he was in prison, Mr Kathrada obtained four degrees through the University of South Africa until studies were banned when a copy of Mr Mandela's autobiography was dug up in the prison yard.

Mr Kathrada was born in the small town of Schweizer-Reneke, now in the

North West Province. He was the fourth of six children of Muslim emigrants from Surat in Gujarat, India. There being no Indian schools in the town, his family moved to Johannesburg. At the time, the South African Indian community had been politicised by the activities of Mr Mahatma Gandhi and Mr Kathrada joined the struggle against apartheid under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Congress. He also joined the Young Communist League at the age of 12 and was soon taking part in passive resistance campaigns.

Leaving high school at the age of 17, Mr Kathrada went to work for the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council, then engaged in a battle against the "Ghetto" Act (1946), which restricted Asian land ownership. The measure was brought into law by the pre-apartheid government of General Jan Smuts, and Mr Kathrada spent a month in jail in Durban for his pains.

His studies at the University of the Witwatersrand were interrupted in 1951 to lead a multiracial South African delegation to Eastern European capitals. On his return home, he became involved in the gathering struggle against the apartheid state.

Mr Kathrada was arrested for treason, together with 155 other resistance leaders from all racial groups, but the

trial petered out after four years. In December 1961, the opposition to apartheid gave up peaceful protest and launched the armed struggle.

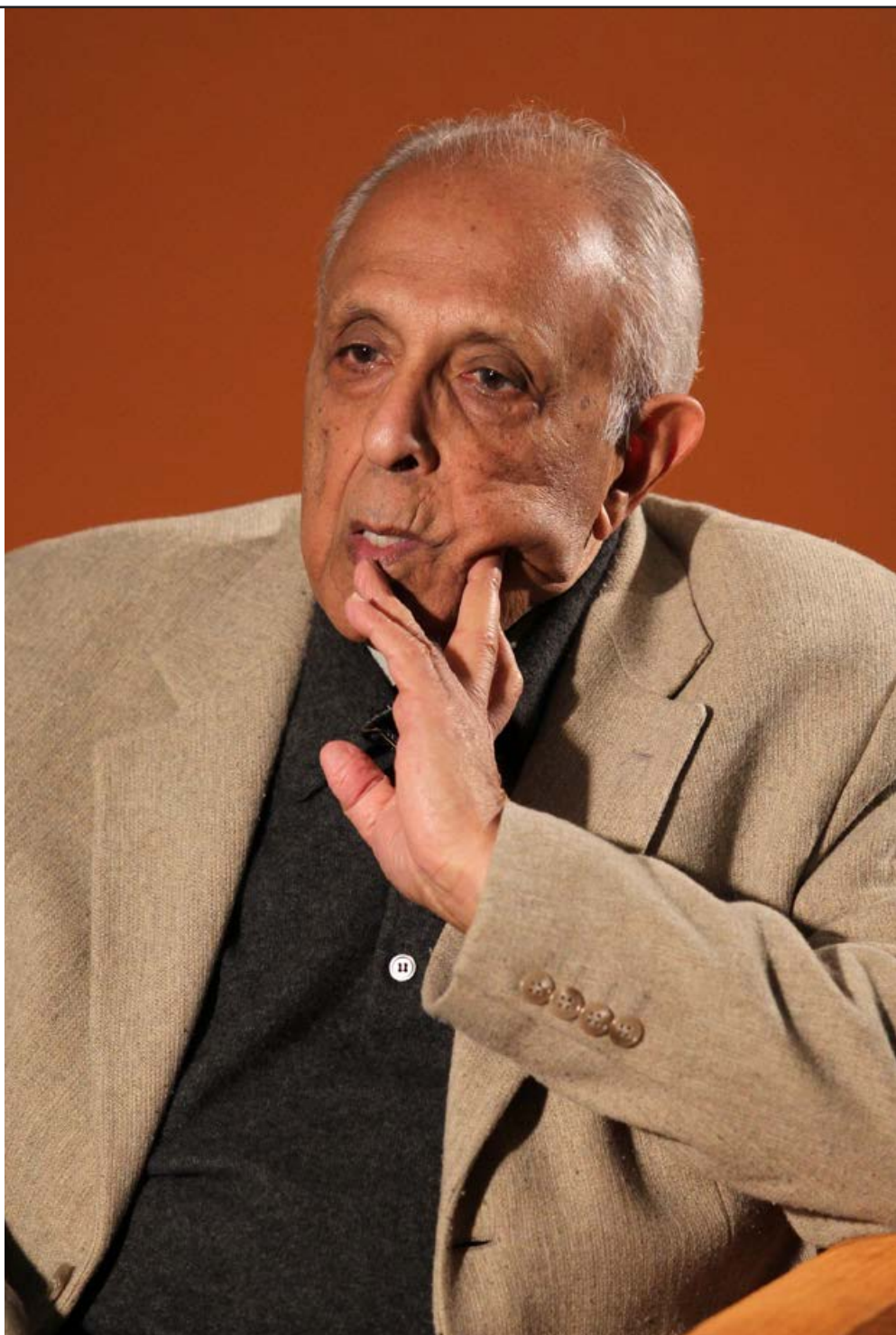
Mr Kathrada was placed under house arrest because of his struggle activities and this forced him underground, working for uMkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the ANC's military wing. He was involved in organising to smuggle Mr Mandela across the border into British Bechuanaland (now Botswana) en route to a meeting of African leaders in Ethiopia.

However, the armed struggle received a blow when members of uMkhonto we Sizwe high command were arrested at Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, Johannesburg, on 11 July 1963. Mr Mandela, already doing time at the Pretoria Local Prison and later for a short stint on Robben Island for a "lesser" sentence, was flown in to join the arrested men on trial.

After democratic elections in 1994, Mr Kathrada chaired the board of the Robben Island Museum, working to preserve the prison as part of the country's heritage. Soon after making the hajj pilgrimage to Mecca in 1992, he left the South African Communist Party. He also wrote several books including *No Bread for Mandela: Memoirs of Ahmed Kathrada, Prisoner*

STRUGGLE ICON AND PATRIOT:

Mr Ahmed Kathrada



No 468/64 (published in 2010).

Asked by *InSession* some time ago about his view on the institution of Parliament, Mr Kathrada said: "In the beginning everything was new to us. There was an office for me in the President's office and when I got there, the desk was clean – no computer, nothing, not even a ballpoint pen. I turned to the civil servant and said 'Please, I want a pen. I want paper, I want etcetera, etcetera'.

"The top echelons in the civil service, especially in Parliament and other places, were all white. There were those who were not white at lower levels, but in the President's Office, the senior civil servants were all white. We had to turn to them for everything, but I must immediately say that we got full cooperation. We didn't know what Parliament was like, we didn't know anything about procedure and we had to rely on them for everything from stationery to assisting us on how Parliament was run, how the President's Office was run, and so forth. Later, of course, the most senior person in our office was Prof Jakes Gerwel, who was the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the President's Office."

When asked by *InSession* about his role as a parliamentary counsellor to Mr Mandela, Mr Kathrada said: "Well,

one thing I must make clear, the title councillor to President Mandela didn't mean I was the only adviser. Madiba had his whole Cabinet and he had the National Executive Council of the ANC, so he had many advisers. I was just one among many, but I was there, on the spot full-time, so occasionally when he needed a rest, he used to speak to me about various things.

"During his term of five years, I also accompanied him on overseas visits: America, India, Great Britain and of course Canada. It was very interesting because every trip we took he saw to

it that he had a meal with the crew of his plane. Now, that was something they had never experienced before with other presidents. Needless to say, the aeroplane crews were always white because our people did not have the opportunity, but even so, they have never been treated as equals by a president before. To me, it showed the qualities of Madiba."

Mr Kathrada is survived by his life partner, Ms Barbara Hogan, who is also a former minister in former president Mr Mandela's cabinet and served 10 years in jail under apartheid. 🇿🇦



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



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



OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM

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