



MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER – Learning from Madiba

# in session



The official newsletter of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

ISSUE 2 2018

Parliament pays tribute to  
**the Mother  
of the Nation**

Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela Mandela



**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.**

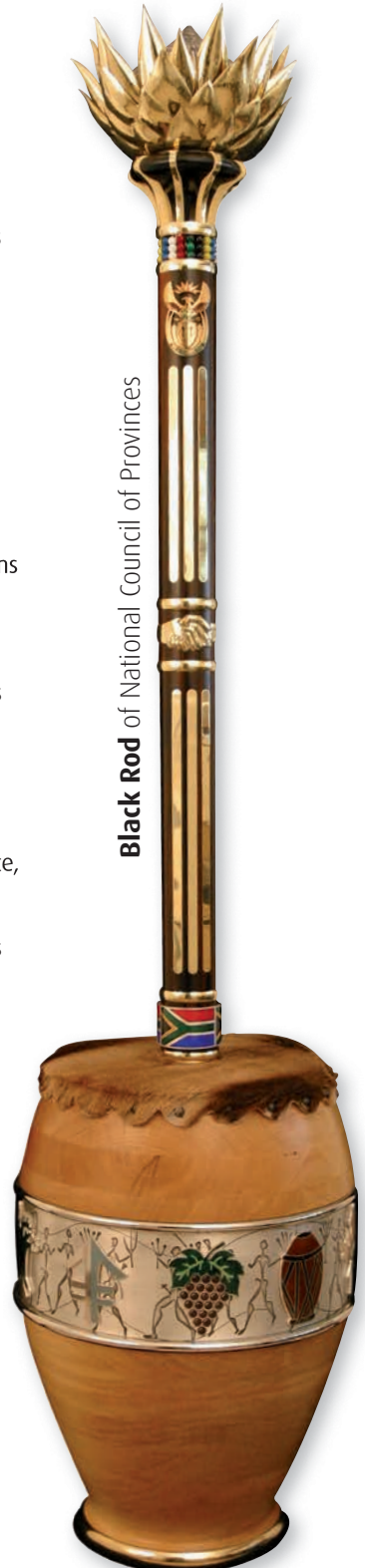
## Mission

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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**OUR IDEALS****Vision**

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

**Strategic Objectives**


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

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# Mourning a Leader, Celebrating a Legacy

1936 - 2018

**Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela Mandela**

# Human rights must be a societal culture

*As part of commemorations to mark Human Rights Day, the National Assembly held a debate, “Celebrating the centenary of N R Mandela by promoting and deepening a human rights culture across society”, reports **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

Human Rights Day on 21 March is the day South Africans remember the 69 people who were shot and killed in 1960 by apartheid police while protesting against repressive pass laws. In marking the day, the National Assembly held the debate, which was opened by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Adv Michael Masutha. He called on South Africa to celebrate human rights by realising the rights enshrined in the Constitution and by advancing radical economic transformation by implementing the National Development Plan (NDP).

“This debate provides an occasion to take stock of where the country is in our quest to deepen a human rights culture and advance especially socio-economic rights to reverse the devastating effects of poverty, inequality and economic deprivation which are the direct consequence of colonialism and apartheid. Said Adv Masutha.

Democratic Alliance (DA) Member of Parliament, Mr Ian Ollis, said his party was going to launch a school safety campaign to fight for the rights of children. “The DA’s Safe Schools campaign can and will vastly improve safety at our schools if we implement it properly.”.

Mr Ollis called on Adv Masutha to make sure that the National Register for Sex Offenders was properly maintained so that provincial education departments and the South African Council of Educators (SACE) can vet every teacher against that register.

Congress of the People’s Mr Willie Madisha said South Africa’s constitutional order was underpinned by the Bill of Rights. “Some of these

rights are political and civil in nature and others are socio-economic, but no less important. It is in the progressive realisation of our socio-economic rights that we will ensure that we achieve a society within which the divisions of the past are healed and of a society based on social justice, dignity and equality,” He said.

During the debate other Members of the National Assembly felt that poverty and inequality could potentially result in the violation of most rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

## Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day marks the events that took place in the township of Sharpeville in the then Transvaal (now Gauteng) on 21 March 1960, when apartheid police opened fire on a crowd that was protesting against the pass laws, which restricted the movement of black people into the cities. When black people over the age of 18 went into white areas to look for or go to work, it was compulsory to carry a pass book or “dom pass”, as it was called. The pass laws stipulated where, when and how long a person could remain in the city.

As many as 69 people were killed and about 289 were injured. Women and children were among the dead, mostly with gunshot wounds in their backs, as they were trying to run away. The protests extended to other parts of the country, including Langa township in Cape Town, where three people were killed and many others injured, also by the police.

The massacre sparked an international outcry, prompting the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution regarding the events of March 21 1960, voicing anger at the policies and

actions of the apartheid government. The Security Council also called on the government to initiate measures to bring about racial harmony based on equality and to abandon the policy of apartheid.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), established by the democratic South African government after 1994, found that the police actions of 21 March 1960 “constituted gross human rights violations”.

In memory of the Sharpeville massacre, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) marks 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. 🌍



*Minister of Justice and Correctional Services,  
Adv Michael Masutha*

# Eliminating pit latrines: Protecting the right to education and dignity of our children

*Every learner, irrespective of location, is constitutionally entitled to water and sanitation – and both are inseparable elements of basic human rights. They go to the heart of the dignity of every learner. Based on that reality, suitable and proper infrastructure for the provision of water and sanitation should exist at each and every school in South Africa irrespective of the location of a school. This was what the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education told the Minister of Basic Education Ms Angie Motshekga and the senior officials of the department at Parliament recently, reports **Rajaa Azzakani**.*





Ms Motshekga and senior departmental officials appeared before the committee to present the department's second and third quarterly reports. Members of the committee took the opportunity to ask questions on progress regarding infrastructure development. The questions on infrastructure were prompted by the death of a five-year-old learner, Ms Lumka Mkhethwa, in Mbizana in the Eastern Cape in a pit latrine at Luna Primary School.

Shortly after her death, President Cyril Ramaphosa directed Ms Angie Motshekga to conduct an audit of all learning facilities with unsafe structures, especially unsafe ablution facilities, within a month and to present him with a plan to rectify the challenges, as an emergency interim

measure, while rolling out proper infrastructure within three months.

The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Nomalungelo Gina, described the death of the child as a sad state of affairs. "Although the department has done a lot, challenges remain. We are in support of the President's call. Let the department give us a total audit so that we can see the big picture. Human dignity and the right to education is at the heart of the matter," reiterated Ms Gina.

Members of the committee asked Ms Motshekga to present plans to deal with the audit instruction. In her address to the committee, Mr Motshekga described the death as a freak accident and said it was

unfortunate that the school still had a pit toilet. She said the school had other working toilets that could have been used. Ms Motshekga told the committee that the provision of such infrastructure is the competency of provincial education departments.

Ms Motshekga told the committee that the Eastern Cape Department of Education does not have a budget for school infrastructure and relies on the equitable share for that. She said that she held meetings with MECs of Education to discuss the matter. The committee heard that there are some schools with no sanitation at all, while others use pit toilets. Ms Motshekga said some schools have decent toilets, but have not demolished the pit ones. 🙄



# NCOP – Advocating for the delivery of services to the people

*In an ongoing effort to advance the effectiveness of oversight through the Taking Parliament to the People programme, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held a report-back session on the programme's visit to the Eastern Cape in 2016 to make sure that government has implemented the NCOP's recommendations and the affected communities receive feedback.*

In 2016, the NCOP and the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature undertook a preliminary visit to Matatiele, Mbizana, Umzimvubu and Ntabankulu local municipalities in the Alfred Nzo District municipality and a month later the main Taking Parliament to the People programme was held in Buffalo City. During this oversight visit, citizens interacted with ministers and mayors and participated in a formal sitting of the NCOP.

NCOP delegates were joined by Members of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature and other legislatures to conduct oversight to several schools, healthcare centres, agricultural projects, institutions of higher education and correctional service centres. The NCOP also held public hearings where citizens spoke freely about service delivery issues, such as poor road infrastructure, poorly constructed RDP houses, asbestos structures in some schools and a lack of classrooms, among other things.

*SUSTAINABLE USE: Ms Zukiswa Ncitha (second woman from right) listens as an East London IDZ official explains how they support emerging businesses.*



Residents urged the NCOP to get government to enforce compliance with existing policies on local procurement, so as to help local companies create more jobs and grow the economy.

After the visit, the NCOP compiled a report and called for interventions from national ministers where appropriate. The report was debated in an NCOP parliamentary sitting, in which members of the South African Local Government Association (Salga) and MECs from all nine provinces participated. The NCOP uncovered huge backlogs in the delivery of basic services and heard numerous reports of corruption, bribery, nepotism, maladministration, inefficiency, poor communication and leadership, underspending and lack of infrastructure maintenance. The report was also shared with relevant provincial and national

departments for implementation, and in March the NCOP was scheduled to spend a week in the province to follow up on the recommendations. During the report-back visit in March, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Raseriti Tau, shared observations with members of the media in East London. He said the report-back visit gave NCOP members an opportunity to see first-hand the challenges that face the various communities that live in this large and diverse province.

To reach as many people as possible in the province during the report-back visit, the 50 NCOP delegates and their provincial legislature counterparts were divided into seven groups, with three based in Buffalo City and four in Alfred Nzo District. These teams then re-visited those projects that had been visited during the initial Taking Parliament to the People programme to

discuss progress since the last visit.

Municipalities visited in the Alfred Nzo District presented heart-breaking findings, Mr Tau said. This was compounded when the group based in Mbizana was alerted to the tragic death of five-year-old Lumka Mkhethwa, a learner at Luna Primary School, who died in her school's pit latrine.

Mr Tau said little Lumka's horrific death highlighted the terrible infrastructural conditions learners, especially those in deep rural villages, have to endure. "Despite numerous commitments made when we visited this province in November 2016, it became apparent that almost 16 months later, in some areas of Alfred Nzo District, no finger was lifted to implement certain aspects of our recommendations. Water and sanitation facilities remain scarce commodities in the district's rural



**OVERSIGHT:** Mr Mandla Rayi (second from left) asks questions to officials during a site visit at IDZ in East London.



*SUCCESS: An employee at the Ncera macadamia farm explains production methods to the NCOP delegation (this page and opposite).*

schools, even though the Eastern Cape Department of Education has contracted the Amatola Water Board to provide bulk water and sanitation services to the schools in Alfred Nzo District," he said.

Some of the 2016 undertakings were to improve a range of basic education-related infrastructural service delivery issues, such as the maintenance of access roads to primary and junior secondary schools; building temporary classroom structures, proper fencing and playing fields; improve staffing; health-related issues; non-delivery of textbooks; pupils without birth certificates; learner teacher ratios; teacher-aid allowances in the case of special schools; renovations of old school building structures; proper water and sanitation systems, to mention just a few.

Mr Tau said Parliament is set to debate budget allocations for various

government departments and the NCOP will prioritise allocations for rural schools' infrastructure.

Not all was doom and gloom, however, Mr Tau said. "Visits to Buffalo City also exposed us to a gem called the Ncera macadamia farming enterprise. The project moved from struggling due to erratic funding to a more sustained funding and business model, which has ensured that the business does not suffer from cash-flow challenges. They have also built a factory [in Willowvale], but funding is now needed for machinery and sustaining the second plant," he said.

The NCOP was also pleased with the good progress made in implementing the recommendations on early child development centres and special schools that were operating under unacceptable conditions during the Taking Parliament to the People programme in 2016.

One such school is St Thomas School for the Deaf, situated outside King William's Town. In 2016, the school was situated on land belonging to the church, which meant that the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Education was unable to assist the school in any way. "The Eastern Cape Department of Education has bought the land from the church, as recommended, and they are now renovating the school as committed to us during our visit in 2016. The department has also delivered on its promise by buying minibuses for Fundisa Special School to ensure the learners have access to King William's Town," said Mr Tau.

Mr Tau said going forward, the NCOP will invite the provincial executive to come to Parliament to engage them about some of the issues that are still outstanding. 🌟



# "Taking Parliament to the People" A key oversight mechanism

Since its inception in 2002, the Taking Parliament to the People programme has evolved into an effective oversight and service delivery tool. It provides a platform for public participation and enables interaction between ordinary people and government representatives on service delivery and governance issues affecting communities.

The African Peer Review Mechanism Country Review of South Africa cited the programme as a best practice in promoting democracy and political governance. The programme allows

Parliament to assess the impact of the legislation it has passed on the development and empowerment of the people and also helps promote transparency and accountability.

The Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise, says the Taking Parliament to the People programme allows the NCOP to enhance its engagement with the public and gives people an opportunity to share their experience of being governed.

"The advantage of the programme

is that it involves the participation of the three spheres of government. This is our contribution to promoting cooperative government. The programme assists us to get an understanding of the challenges that our people face in the different corners of our provinces," she said.

Through the programme, the NCOP has been instrumental in pushing government to speed up delivery of services, especially in rural and historically disadvantaged areas. 🌍



**INSPIRING LEADERSHIP:** Delegation leader Ms Lungelwa Zwane meets children in one of the schools visited during a Taking Parliament to the People visit.



**MEMBERS OF THE NCOP AT OVERSIGHT WORK:**

1. A member of group one looks at the note book of a learner
2. The leader of group two Mr Mandla Rayi points at the work that needs to be done at a Dimbaza agricultural project
3. Members of group three are listening to a presentation from an educator at one of Mdantsane based special schools
4. The leader of group one addresses members of St Thomas School for the Deaf management near King William's Town.



# Poems Honouring the life of Mama Winnie Mandela

## Your Spirit

*Tribute to the Mother of the Nation from  
the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete*

Born a Princess  
for the path  
you were to tread  
you grew  
into a Queen  
whose spirit continues  
to hover over us  
having declared  
your satisfaction  
with the new dawn

We here will do our part  
as we must  
to figure out your  
Mona Lisa face  
as we scrutinise  
your book of life  
absorbing your moments  
of pain or pleasure  
getting to know your  
regrets

slicing your anger and  
bitterness trembling with  
wonder at how in  
a single lifetime  
it all fitted and  
passed before us  
how it co-existed  
with angelic beauty  
only you could  
master it all with  
majestic ease  
Yes born a princess  
you grew into a Queen  
looking over all of us

Every detail that  
afflicted your body  
or move to make you  
bow to some or other  
protocol was handled  
with elegant contempt  
only intention to  
map out a direction  
for your convictions  
was your preoccupation  
as you cruised over  
the last part of your life  
The rules of Parliament  
'Oh is that so'  
and we mortal  
souls had to work  
on a motion to  
settle the needs  
of ruledom

Only a Queen  
had no room  
for petty jealousy  
or enmity life  
had too much  
to be attended to  
whether in hospital  
or at home  
a lifetime is too short  
to waste on grudges  
there continued to be  
matters to tidy up  
to avoid too much  
turning in the grave  
surely you must  
be granted what  
you deserve an  
elaborate  
REST IN PEACE

Thank you for  
that last burst of sun  
laughter and dance  
as we struggled to  
contain  
our disbelief that  
eighty could be so  
beautiful!  
Like a sunflower  
to the end you  
graced our surroundings  
issuing this that  
and the other concern  
and wish  
letting us know the  
dos and donts  
sending your gems of  
unlimited care scooping  
again and again  
from the deep well  
God blessed you with  
you were born a princess  
You leave us a Queen! 🌻

# Aaaah Nobandla!!!

*Tribute to the Mother of the Nation from the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise*

South Africa's flags are flying at half mast everywhere to mark your passing Mother of the Nation. Our hearts are heavy and our heads are bowed since you left us Mpondozaki!

Zamie, you left as you lived with style, composure and respect to the almighty. You left emotions high as friends, foes and comrades gather and say something. Whatever we are saying we acknowledge your courage, your love for the people and your tireless work toward the emancipation of woman. A brave and courageous fighter for the poor and the marginalized. We salute you Zanyiwe.

In the years after the banning of African political activity by the apartheid regime, which jailed and exiled our mothers and fathers, you took the challenge and became the voice rallying us, the youth of the 1970s. You were the voice calming and guiding in a country of anguish, despair and anger. You were fearless, a symbol of hope and the face of defiance and resistance against an unjust system.

When I met you, I was overwhelmed by your warmth and your easy tears. The hug from those strong arms gave me strength. I knew that you had borne two daughters, but that you were mothering millions across the world: a true symbol of resilience!

I had heard of your torture from Dorothy Nyembe whilst still in prison. I understood the pain of the torture, of the humiliation, of going without food in detention and just longing to hear your children's voices or any other voice other than those of the tormentors.

I have dealt with the "public" birthing of my daughter with my breasts forcibly bandaged to prevent bonding and breastfeeding, because you had gone through as deep a humiliation and a separation from your own children.

We faced many challenges when we were elected as the President and Deputy President of the ANC Woman's League (ANCWL), but I am happy we were up for those challenges. We did not compromise on the aspirations or the demands of women. Often times we were ridiculed for simply relaying what our constituency demanded – the representation of woman to the 50:50, the criticism of the quality of services to the rural poor and the autonomy of the ANCWL.

It was under your leadership that the only conference for the former woman combatants was convened;

my interest and participation on conflict resolution leading up to the advocacy and drafting and popularising of the UN resolutions on woman (1325; 1880, etc.).

Mam' Winnie was a champion for education. Her scholarships have steadily produced young graduates who must one day testify by multiplying themselves and serving the people.

Our country and its woman will always remember the defiant laughter, the dramatic entrances and the clinched fist of one Nomzamo Mandela.

We will admire her ability to forgive those who humiliated her and her strength to smile through her tears while telling us to focus on the PEOPLE.

I am forever grateful to you Mam Winnie and baba Gwala for encouraging me to speak up, even against yourselves if it was in the interest of the truth and the people.

You were not just a leader and a comrade. You were a counsellor, mother, teacher and a friend as you were always listening, advising, scolding, hugging and feeding us. You were a feminist who did not declare herself. You believed in yourself and in other women.

You were so great and yet so simple at ease with Presidents of great countries and at home with the poor and destitute.

**Hamba Kahle Mkhonto!**  
**Aaaah Nobandla!** 🌹



**STATE CEREMONY:** The funeral procession enters the stadium accompanied by a guard of honour (this page and inset opposite).

## Immortalised

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was immortalised at her last day on Earth. The President of the Republic of South Africa told mourners that he will personally “propose at the next African National Congress’s (ANC) National Executive Council meeting that she be awarded the greatest honour her movement could bestow, *Isithwalandwe/Sehaparankwe*”. A Member of Parliament, and leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Mr Julius Malema, proposed that the Cape Town International Airport be named after her. ANC Women’s League President proposed that there be a Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Day in her honour. Places like the Winnie Mandela squatter camp are named after her, #IamWinnie Movement and various other campaigns got started in her remembrance. At her death, she was the honorary president of the Congress of the South African Students (Cosas), and had the freedom of being the first citizen of Namibia. There surely can be no higher honours, writes **Sibongile Maputi**.



At exactly 16h00, on the 13th of April 2018, Soweto came to a standstill. The occasion was momentous. It was the return of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's remains, a veteran Member of Parliament, to her township home in Orlando West for one last time. Sowetans, young and old, came from afar to witness history. In the infiniteness of the moment, people of the world joined to salute the fallen soldier of the former armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), a radical feminist, an iconic Sowetan, a first black female medical social caregiver and, an undisputable mother of the nation. All this was no more.

Mama Winnie's send-off would have been anywhere and would have attracted the same number of attendees and more, but the Orlando Stadium, a mere three kilometres from her house, was the chosen venue. She lived in Soweto all her life, and wanted to be there among the people on her last day. She lived like a servant of the people, just behind a hill in the dusty Mtipha Street, no guards and no boom gates.

Delivering a eulogy at the funeral of Ms Madikizela-Mandela, the President of the Republic, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said Mama Winnie's life was about service to the people. "She felt compelled to speak out when others were rendered silent."

Mr Ramaphosa reminded mourners about the fact that Ms Madikizela-Mandela joined the ANC at a time when the generation before her, the generation of Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu and others shifted the struggle to a radical terrain. Mr Ramaphosa listed some of the historical highlights of the struggle, the famous 1956 Women's March, the 1956 Treason Trial, 1963 Rivonia Trial, the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre, the 1976 Soweto Uprising, the 1993 Chris Hani assassination, the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission and more. "Mama Winnie was a witness to the truths and horrors of our nation, not only because of her own hardships but because of her courage," said Mr Ramaphosa.

According to Mama Winnie's daughter, Ms Zenani Mandela, being of service to the people, is her (Mama Winnie's) legacy, and her legacy ought not be compared to Nelson Mandela's.

"The two of them were our parents. And all we ask is: no matter how tempting it maybe to compare and contrast them, just know that sometimes it is enough to contemplate two historical figures and accept that they complemented each other, far more than any popular narrative might suggest," said Ms Mandela.

Sharing his tribute to the person he regarded as his pillar of strength and a source of revolutionary spirit at the funeral, Mr Julius Malema told

mourners that many youth activists were personally received by her from custody. "She confronted gun-carrying white males who were sworn killers of the apartheid defence force," he said.

"I am here to invoke the spirit of the one who put the country first above personal safety when it was not fashionable to do so. Mama Winnie died a perfect death, a death of a revolutionary as she did not betray the revolution," he said.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's star will not wane a bit, instead it will continue to glow in death as it happened in life. She led a distinctly activist life, as manifest in her send-off, which was gloriously distinct in song, culture, energy, camaraderie, activism and colour. Mr Malema said he came not so much to bury Mama as queen mothers do not die. "They multiply into million red flowers of love and freedom. 🌺"



**STATE CEREMONY:** The funeral procession enters the stadium accompanied by a guard of honour (this page and inset opposite).

# Protect vulnerable migrants, particularly women and children- Mbete

*South Africa is committed to cooperating with other nation states to ensure the creation and implementation of more progressive policies to alleviate the international refugee crisis. Addressing the 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly (IPU-138) held in Geneva, Switzerland, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, proposed that parliaments worldwide must “ensure that their respective countries put in place mechanisms, including legislation and budgets to implement the commitments enshrined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the United Nations Summit on 19 September 2016”.*

Ms Mbete also used this opportunity to remind delegates of the late Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela’s view that dealing with the issue of refugees and displaced people was “inextricably linked to achieving peace, upholding the rule of law and entrenching a human rights culture and democracy”.

“The solution”, Ms Mbete reminded the IPU, “is in effective global governance with rules . . . supported by appropriate policies . . . in both birth and host countries”. To achieve this, Ms Mbete called for international cooperation to protect vulnerable migrants, particularly women and children.

Using South Africa as an example, she said, refugees and asylum seekers were entitled to social services and certain social grants, employment, healthcare and education. To this end, the IPU condemned what it termed “hate crimes against migrants and refugees” and called on parliaments to defend organisations which support and protect them.

The 744 Members of Parliament (MPs) who attended the IPU Assembly also condemned the discrimination and abuse of refugees and migrants while calling on greater participation of youth and women in politics.

The Assembly’s theme, “Strengthening the Global Regime for Migrants and Refugees: The Need for Evidence-Based Policy Solutions”, emphasised the critical role of parliaments in transforming the aspirations of the two Global Compacts – one on migrants and the other on refugees – into national laws.

According to the IPU, this declaration

“asserted that migration, when properly managed, contributes to greater wellbeing and prosperity”. Recognising that the flight of refugees from persecution and conflict was not new, it called on “those who provide them with the protection and assistance they need” to be supported by the international community.

The South African delegation, led by Ms Mbete, included the following Members of Parliament: Mr Raseriti Tau (Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces [NCOP]), Ms Mmatlala Boroto, (House Chairperson of International Relations in the National Assembly), Mr Seiso Mohai, (Chief Whip of the NCOP), Mr Michael Waters, Mr Manuel de Freitas, Ms Peace Mabe, Mr Pumzile Mnguni, Mr Mogamad Paulsen and Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa.

MPs who attended the IPU Assembly also “tackled sustainable development issues related to health, renewable energy, and conflict prevention”. They, according an IPU statement, reminded governments of their responsibility to “leave no one behind” in their development efforts.

In addition, young MPs who attended the Assembly denounced barriers faced by young people worldwide regarding access to health services, in particular, those related to the treatment of HIV/Aids. They “reiterated calls for an internationally recognised target for youth participation in parliaments and called on the IPU to take the lead on this issue”.

To this end, the IPU amended its statutes and rules to allow member parliaments “to increase the number of representatives attending an Assembly

# Observing the Russian Presidential Election

with the critical stipulation that one of them is a young parliamentarian. The IPU hopes that this will inspire more youth participation in politics.

Delegates “also put forward a comprehensive list of actions that parliaments can take to promote the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” –reminding the international parliamentary community “that the use of these weapons is prohibited by international law”.

“MPs attending the Forum of Women Parliamentarians denounced the obstacles blocking women from participating in politics, foremost among them, being inadequate education. The session concluded with an urgent call for concrete actions to increase women’s participation and representation in politics.”

The 139th IPU Assembly will also examine the possibility of adopting a declaration that encompasses the principles and ideals that define Nelson Mandela as part of celebrating the Centenary of Nelson Mandela. For this to be achieved, South Africa is expected to compile and submit a document describing the principles and ideals that Nelson Mandela stood for to the IPU by July 2018.

Members of the South African parliamentary delegation actively participated in the discussions. Their report will be submitted to Parliament for discussion and formal endorsement. 🌐

*Parliament sent an election observer delegation to the Russian Federation to monitor that country’s presidential elections, which were held on 18 March 2018*

The multiparty delegation was led by Mr Archibold Jomo Nyambi, National Council of Provinces’ House Chairperson for Committees, Oversight and Inter-Governmental Relations. The delegation visited a number of polling stations ahead of the voting day and also went to a number of polling stations on the day of voting, 18 March, within central Moscow. They were warmly received by polling station chairpersons, who were eager to show the delegation around.

The delegation further attended announcements of voting processes at the headquarters of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation (CEC). In the presence of international observers and journalists, the Chairperson of the CEC and her team presented a report on the voting process around the country, citing particular instances in some polling stations.

The elections concluded with President Vladimir Putin emerging as the successful candidate by an overwhelming majority. The elections were declared free and fair.

The delegation concluded its business on 19 March 2018 with

two meetings with Ms Savostianova of State Duma, an equivalent to the South African National Assembly. The delegation further met with the Chairperson of the Council of Federation Committee on House Rules and Parliamentary Performance Management and Member of Friendship Group with the NCOP, Mr Andrey Kutepov.

The South African delegation emphasised bilateral cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of South Africa based on the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in September 2006, as well as the Joint Declaration on the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership signed in March 2013.

Apart from Mr Nyambi, who led the delegation, other South African delegates included Mr Zondi Makhubele, an African National Congress Whip in the National Assembly; Ms Moji Moshodi an African National Congress Provincial Whip in the National Council of Provinces; Ms Desiree Van der Walt, a member of the Democratic Alliance in the National Assembly; and Ms Makoti Khawula, an Economic Freedom Fighters member in the National Assembly. 🌐

# Empowering rural women and young girls through protecting their rights

*The parliamentary delegation to the 62nd session of the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) participated in the opening plenary and several roundtable discussions on the promotion of the interests of rural women and girls.*

Parliament's six-member multiparty delegation, led by the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Ms Thandi Modise, was at the CSW's 62nd session that took place in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018. The delegation included the NCOP House Chairperson, Ms Masefako Dikgale, and four other Members of Parliament: Ms Nthabiseng Khunou, Ms Grace Tseke, Ms Denise Robinson and Ms Delisile Ngwenya.

Issues affecting rural women and girls took centre-stage at the CSW's 62nd session, which was held on the theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".

The parliamentary delegation took part in discussions on the following topics: "Good practices in the empowerment of rural women and girls, including through access to education, infrastructure and technology, food security and nutrition" and "Good practices in the empowerment of rural women and girls, including through prevention of gender-based violence and through access to justice, social services and healthcare".

Ms Modise stressed that the importance of empowering rural women and girls and the realisation of their human rights cannot be over-emphasised. "Women, who constitute a large proportion of the rural population, have limited, if any, access to the means of food production and remain vulnerable to food insecurity. Often, rural women are under-represented in local and national institutions, which inhibits their voices and participation in decision-making processes. Generally, rural women and girls continue to

bear the brunt of structural barriers, discrimination, oppression and gender-based violence," Ms Modise said.

"We need to intensify our efforts to end poverty, eradicate hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture, achieve full employment and decent work for all, and combat climate change. Integral to this is the ability of rural women to access land and have land tenure security, as well as their ability to be free from all forms of violence, discrimination and harmful practices. As the South African Parliament, through oversight, we must ensure that the goals of the National Development Plan to create 11 million jobs to reduce unemployment, and significantly reduce poverty and inequality by 2030 are met," she said.

Since 1994, the South African Parliament has passed a number of progressive laws designed to advance the development of women in all spheres of their lives. However, much more needs to be done. "We need to reject backward and harmful practices perpetrated under the guise of culture. Advancing issues of women and economic empowerment must also include ensuring that land distribution programmes benefit rural women in terms of land ownership," Ms Modise said.

The delegation also participated in the discussion organised by the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and United Nations (UN) Women on the subject: "Parliaments deliver for rural women and girls". Ms Modise addressed one of the side events, together with UN Women Executive Director, Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and other speakers.





**UNITED NATIONS:** The delegates to the UN's Commission on the Status of Women.

Addressing a dialogue organised by the non-governmental organisation Ilitha Labantu on the topic "Expanding opportunities of rural women and girls to prevent and respond to threats of violence", Ms Modise said ending violence against women and girls needs a multi-pronged approach, involving the enforcement of laws prohibiting violence, raising public awareness of such laws and constitutional rights, and involving men in a concerted campaign to end the violence.

Ms Modise began her address by paying tribute to Ms Marielle Franco, a leading human and women's rights activist, who was shot and killed in Brazil in March. She observed: "Violence against women and girls cuts across ethnicity, race, class,

religion, education and international borders. Statistics on the prevalence of violence vary," she said, "but the scale is tremendous, the scope is vast, and the consequences for individuals, families, communities and countries are devastating."

"In rural villages, public spaces can pose a serious threat to the safety and wellbeing of women and girls who live there. Because of this, women's and girls' ability to move around their community is restricted in an attempt to keep them 'safe'. But everyone has the right to live their life without the threat of violence, and violence against women and girls is not inevitable. There are many ways to prevent violence in the first place and to stop cycles of violence repeating," Ms Modise said.

South Africa's Constitution protects women's rights and the country's laws and government programmes elaborated on those rights. Despite this, South Africa is still a deeply violent society and violence against women, including rape and domestic violence, remains high. "We reportedly have one of the highest per capita rates of rape in the world," Ms Modise observed.

Parliament must intensify its oversight role and involve the public in combatting violence, Ms Modise said. The National Development Plan, which is aimed at building an inclusive economy and prosperous society, could serve as a guide for acting more decisively against the high levels of violence. 🌍



**WOMEN'S ISSUES:** The delegation was led by NCOP Chairperson, Ms Thandi Modise.



## Committees in brief

**The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services** continued public hearings on the Traditional Courts Bill, where the question of an option to opt out of the system came under the spotlight. The purpose of the Bill is to provide a uniform legislative framework for the structure and functioning of traditional courts in line with constitutional imperatives and values. The Bill provides inhabitants of traditional communities with the option to either submit themselves to the traditional courts system or to opt out by using the conventional courts system.

The committee heard views that the opting-out clause could bring disorder to the system, with some saying that it could render traditional court systems obsolete. Questions were also raised about how opting out would occur and the legal status of traditional courts. The question of introducing legal representation into the system was also widely debated, with concerns expressed that this would change the tone of the system.

The committee also heard from the Centre for Child Law that matters such as abuse and domestic violence should be referred to magistrates' courts and that this should be made mandatory.



Chairperson of PC on Justice and Correctional Services, Dr Mathole Motshekga

**The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry** started its inquiry into compliance with the localisation and local public procurement policy, with a focus on bus procurement. The inquiry is set to determine whether government and state-owned entities are complying with local procurement policy, as designated by National Treasury, and to investigate other challenges in the transport sector.

The committee Chairperson, Ms Joanmariae Fubbs, said this is an ongoing process that will also include the procurement of rail rolling stock. Various products will be identified that can be procured locally, with the intention to increase demand for local production and create jobs, and in this way expand local capacity and skills in an inclusive manner.

The committee heard from metropolitan municipalities that have issued bus tenders as well as companies that have been awarded tenders to build buses. One of the issues that emerged from the inquiry is that there is a lack of clarity on the verification of local content of bus manufacturing.



Chairperson of PC on Trade and Industry, Ms Joanmariae Fubbs

**The Multi-Party Women's Caucus (MPWC)** urged all government departments to ensure gender-sensitive budgeting. Committee Chairperson Ms Masefele Story Morutoa told the MPWC that as departments will be presenting their annual performance plans (APPs) and budgets for the 2018/19 financial year, Members of Parliament should be vigilant when they scrutinise these, to ensure that the issue of gender equality is prioritised. "We are relying on you, as our eyes and ears on the various portfolio committees, including the select committees in the National Council of Provinces," said Ms Morutoa.

The MPWC also received a briefing from the Ministry of Women in the Presidency on progress with implementing the South African Integrated Programme of Action Addressing Violence Against Women and Children (2013 – 2018).



Chairperson of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus, Ms Masefele Morutoa



Parliamentary Committee at work

**The Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources** recently called for harsher consequences on the Sibanye-Stillwater mine if the mine could be found to have neglected measures to avert fatalities and loss of life prior to the seismic events that occurred there recently where seven mine workers died underground and six more sustained injuries as a result of the seismic events.

The committee extended its heartfelt condolences to families of the deceased and wished for a speedy recovery to the injured workers.

“Although seismic events are a course of nature, it is high time that mining companies face serious consequences for neglecting measures for detecting early warning signs. Investigations on the accident should seek to establish the extent to which priority was given to health and safety at the mine,” said Mr Olefile Sefako, Chairperson of the committee.

The committee believe that the right technology for detecting early sings of seismic events could be found if sufficient resources to conduct research were to be made available.



Chairperson of the Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources, Mr Olefile Sefako

**The Select Committee on Social Services** has urged the legislative sector to look at changing the concurrent nature of health services as it applies to the powers of national and provincial government, as this has presented challenges to the proper functioning of the health sector. The committee was briefed by the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, of various issues in the department, including the Annual Performance Plan for the 2018/2019 financial year.

Through its many oversight visits to provinces, the committee has witnessed first-hand the challenge presented by the inability of the Minister of Health to intervene in provinces, due to national government’s lack of legislative authority in provinces. It is concerning that the Minister can only intervene at a much later stage, which impacts on dealing with challenges effectively.

“While the committee understands why the legislative prescripts governing the sector are the way they are now, it is of the view that amendments have to be made to ensure a system that is fit for purpose,” said Ms Cathy Dlamini, the Chairperson of the Committee. The concurrent nature of health services also poses a challenge in the standardisation of delivery of infrastructure. In some provinces this is affected by lack of capacity, which then impacts on the overall delivery of services.

Furthermore, the delegation of authority especially in finances and the recruitment of human resources continue to present challenges, especially at the coal-face of service delivery. The committee reiterates its position that the approval of

appointments only at provincial department level is cumbersome and unsustainable. As a remedy, the committee has recommended that the authority to appoint, particularly medical personnel, be devolved to hospitals. Also, the Minister must play an advisory role in the appointment of provincial heads of health departments to ensure that people with adequate skills are employed.

The committee resolved in future to invite the national department together with provincial departments and their MECs to account on concurrent issues affecting the two spheres of governance. This will ensure that answers are heard from both at one time and will strengthen oversight. The committee also welcomed the improvement in provincial health departments’ audit outcomes, despite the fact that the North West provincial health department has regressed, when it was one of the best performers in previous financial years. The support given by national government in this regard is welcomed, as good governance represents the first pillar of quality service delivery. 🙌



Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services, Ms Cathy Dlamini

# Bills before Parliament

The National Assembly recently passed the Division of Revenue Bill in one of its sittings before the end of the first parliamentary term in March. The Bill provides for the equitable division of revenue raised nationally among the national, provincial and local spheres of government for the 2018/2019 financial year. It also provides for the determination of each province's equitable share of the provincial share of that revenue and any other allocations to provinces, local government or municipalities from the national government's share of that revenue. The Bill also covers the conditions on which those allocations are made.

The Standing Committee on Appropriations' report to the Assembly states that the committee agreed to the Bill without amendments. However, the committee made a number of recommendations on the Bill to the Minister of Finance, the Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, National Treasury and to the Ministers of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Human Settlements, Basic Education and Transport. These executive authorities are required to send Parliament their responses to the recommendations within 60 days. To read the committee's full report on the Division of Revenue Bill, starting on page 11, please click: <https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Docs/atc/95af1030-8453-43b0-8baf-cfa039cee20f.pdf>. The Bill will now be referred to the National Council of Provinces for consideration.

Also, the National Assembly approved the Political Party Funding Bill before the end of the first parliamentary term. The Bill will now go to the National

Council of Provinces for consideration. The Bill proposes, among other things, regulating and making transparent private donations to political parties represented in Parliament and the provincial legislatures. It is the culmination of extensive public consultation, involving written submissions and public hearings.

In June 2017, the National Assembly resolved to establish a multi-party ad hoc committee to inquire into and make recommendations, by 30 November 2017, on the funding of political parties represented in Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures. On 28 November 2017, the committee tabled the Political Party Funding Bill in the Assembly and recommended that Parliament pass the Bill. The Bill lapsed at the end of 2017.

On 28 February, the Bill was revived and the committee re-established with a mandate to consider and report in more detail on the financial implications of the proposed Bill.

It tabled a report on these on 20 March 2018 and the Assembly considered and approved this report today. In this report, the committee proposed no amendments to the Bill tabled on 28 November 2017.

The regulation of political party funding is key to our constitutional democracy and will improve transparency, accountability and fairness in political party funding. To read the committee's report considered today (from page 90) please click <https://tinyurl.com/ycqckldf>. To read the committee's 28 November 2017 report to the National Assembly (from page 27).





**The Bills that are before the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces include the following:**

1. Expropriation Bill [B4D-15 (s76)]
2. National Forests Amendment Bill [B11-16 (s76)]
3. Traditional Courts Bill [B1-17 (s76)]
4. Cybercrimes & Cybersecurity Bill [B6-17 (s75)]
5. Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill [B7-17 (s76)]
6. Marine Spatial Planning Bill [B9B-17 (s76)]
7. Communal Property Associations Amendment Bill [B12-17 (s76)]
8. Copyright Amendment Bill [B13-17 (s75)]
9. National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill [B14-17 (s76)]
10. Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill [B19-17 (s76)]
11. Sanral Amendment Bill [B20-17 (s76)]
12. Agricultural Product Standards Amendment Bill [B21-17 (s76)]
13. Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill [B22-17 (s75)]
14. National Research Foundation Amendment Bill [B23-17 (s75)]
15. Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill [B30-17 (s75)]
16. National Minimum Wage Bill [B31-17 (s75)]
17. Labour Relations Amendment Bill [B32-17 (s75)]
18. Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill [B34-17 (s76)]
19. Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill [B23B-15 (s76)]
20. Extension of Security of Tenure Amendment Bill [B24B-15 (s75)]
21. Indigenous Knowledge Bill [B6B-16 (s76)]
22. Border Management Authority Bill [B9B-16 (s75)]
23. Traditional Leadership & Gov Framework Amendment Bill [B8B-17 (s76)]
24. Labour Laws Amendment Bill [B29-17 (s75)] 🇷🇷



# Legislative sector critical for implementation of National Development Plan – Mbetse

*During the launch of the fourth phase of the South African Legislative Sector and the European Union development partnership, the Chairperson of the Speakers' Forum, National Assembly Speaker, Ms Baleka Mbete, said the legislative sector is at the centre of improving democracy, reports Sakhile Mokoena.*



Ms Mbete believes Parliament and the provincial legislatures play a central role in the implementation of South Africa's plan to alleviate poverty and inequality by the year 2030, the National Development Plan (NDP). During the launch of the fourth phase of the South African Legislative Sector (Sals) and the European Union development partnership, Ms Mbete said the legislative sector is at the centre of improving democracy. "These institutions have played a pivotal role in improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness of government to the needs of our people," she said.

The Speakers' Forum is an organisation of Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly and the provincial legislatures as well as the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven Mimica, announced a R140 million partnership programme aimed at strengthening the legislative sector and enhance law-making and public participation.

Mr Mimica said the partnership programme is aimed at enhancing legislative oversight while also strengthening citizen participation in legislative processes. Calling the launch of the partnership programme

"a new phase of the European Union's commitment to support democracy in South Africa", Mr Mimica said relations between Europe and South Africa in the field of parliamentary collaboration date back to 1994 when the European Parliament sent an election observer delegation to the first democratic elections in South Africa.

Before 1994 the European Union Parliament had supported the Anti-Apartheid Movement – and together with the European Union Commission financed humanitarian aid via civil society organisations in South Africa. In 1989 when Nelson Mandela was still in prison, the European Union Parliament honoured him with its prestigious Sakharov Peace Prize, and after his release from prison Mr Mandela addressed the European Union Parliament in June 1990.

"Since 1994 the European Union and South Africa saw rapidly expanded cooperation culminating in 2007 with the establishment of a strategic partnership and a joint action plan.

"A range of dialogues between South and the Europe Union allow us to share experiences in areas of common interest or where we face common challenges. Our partnership is broad and comprehensive and covers political, trade and developmental interests.



**LEGISLATIVE SECTOR:** The Chairperson of the Speakers' Forum, National Assembly Speaker Ms Baleka Mbete (right), the Chairperson of the NCOP Ms Thandi Modise, and the Acting Secretary to Parliament (centre), Ms Baby Tyawa (left).

Mr Mimica said since 1996 more than €50 million have been mobilised in this area to support the establishment of the new democratic legislatures at national and provincial level with a strong focus on institutional development.

Speaker Mbete said the new programme will assist the South African Legislative Sector in its efforts to give particular attention to the alignment of oversight instruments like the Sector Oversight Model and its ability to systematically track the implementation of the NDP.

"The NDP highlights the extent to which the oversight role of Sals can effectively be fulfilled and contribute to the realisation of an accountable and responsive state.

"It also highlights the need to improve the use of Parliament as a platform for a public consideration of citizen's issues and enhance law-making, including capacitating officials with specialist skills in policy research and other priority areas to adequately support," she said.

She added that Parliament and the provincial legislatures continue to strive to improve their approach to law-making, oversight and public participation, mentioning the sector's oversight model, which was adopted

and implemented from the fourth Parliament.

"We are appreciative of the historical role played by the European Union and its support to the anti-apartheid Movement. The EU was also there to walk with us when we set up our democratic institutions in the first democratic Parliament through capacity support and aid assistance taken through to the second Parliament," she said.

Commissioner Mimica said the outcomes of the partnership will enable the legislatures at national and provincial level to execute with vigour their oversight responsibilities and to provide opportunities for civil society to participate in the activities of legislatures as intended by the South African Constitution.

He said there has also been an increase of inter-parliamentary contact between the EU and South Africa, with the custom gradually developing into of holding two inter-parliamentary meetings per year.

"This frequency of meetings reflects the importance both partners attach to political dialogue in the post-apartheid era, but also the fact that the EU and South African relations are much wider in scope than traditional development strategy." 🗣️

**SOMLOMO:** Speakers' Forum Chairperson, Ms Mbete.



# tribute *to* **Dr Zola Skweyiya**

14 April 1942 - 11 April 2018



*Dr Zola Skweyiya, who died in April at the age of 75 after a long illness, was among the first Members of Parliament in the democratic South Africa and served as Cabinet minister in two portfolios. He was a Member of the National Assembly between 1994 and 2009 and served as Minister of Public Service and Administration in the first Parliament and later as Minister of Social Development in the second and third parliaments, a portfolio which he is hailed for excelling in, writes Sakhile Mokoena.*

As Minister of Public Service and Administration under the late former President Nelson Mandela, he had the responsibility of transforming the apartheid civil service into a new public service for a free and democratic South Africa. Among other major achievements in this portfolio, which he held between 1994 and 1999, Dr Skweyiya introduced the Batho Pele (People First) principles, a government initiative aimed at improving government services, accountability and public participation.

After the second general elections in 1999 he was appointed Minister of Social Development under the presidency of Mr Thabo Mbeki. He will be best remembered for pioneering the child support grant and equalising the ages of eligibility for old age grant between men and women, through amendments to the Social Assistance Act, which saw both men and women qualifying at the same age of 60 for the old age grant. In the past, men used to qualify at 65 and women at 60.

While paying tributes to Dr Skweyiya in a joint sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, Members of Parliament described him as the architect of the social security system, the child support grant, the nutritional feeding scheme programme in early childhood development centres and primary schools.

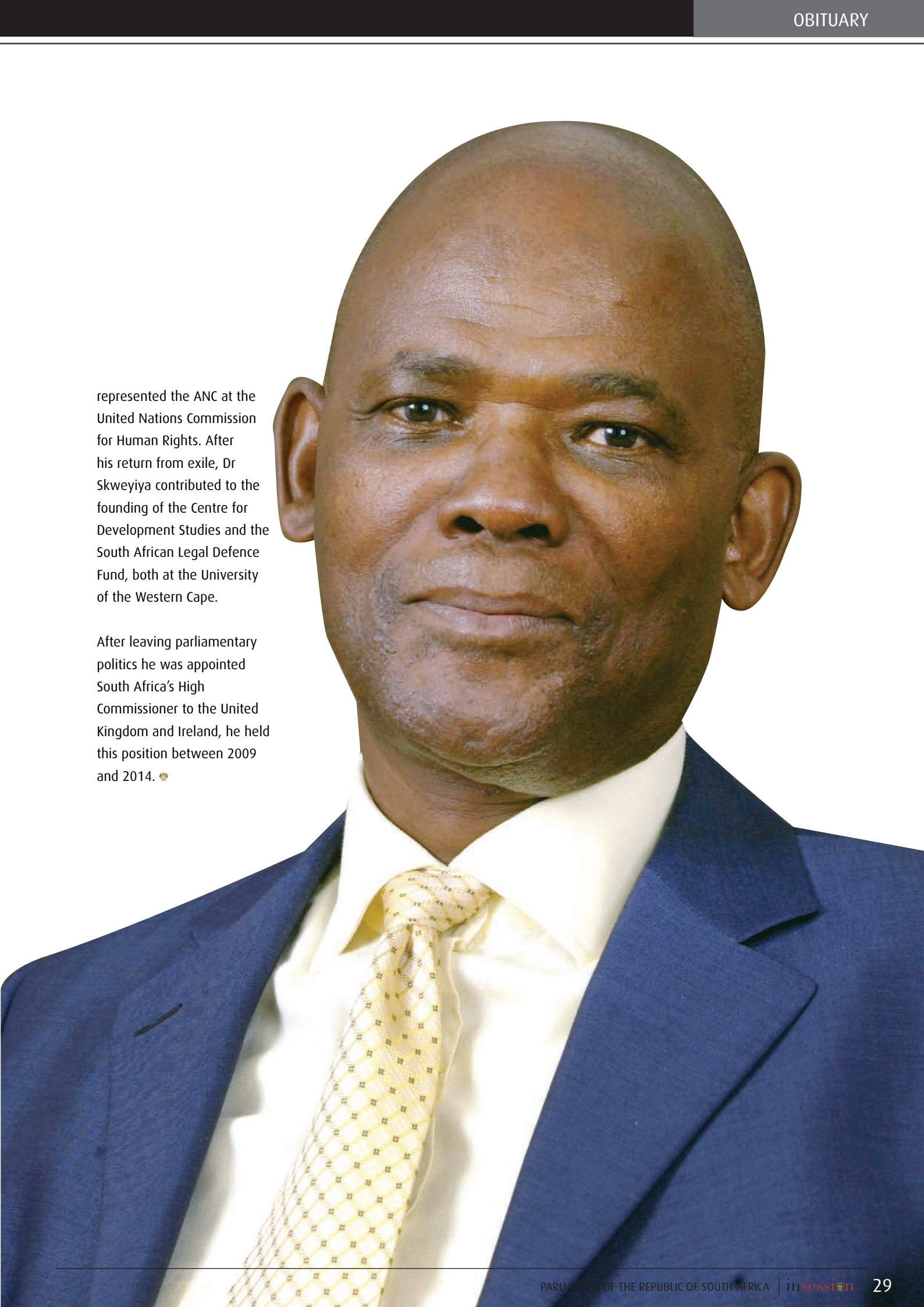
Dr Zola Sidney Themba Skweyiya was born on 14 April 1942 in Simonstown, Western Cape, and attended school in Port Elizabeth and Retreat in Cape Town before matriculating from the Lovedale School in Alice in 1960.

While at school, he was involved in protests against bantu education, an apartheid policy of inferior education for black people, and he joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1956. He continued his ANC activities at Fort Hare University and mobilised support for Umkhonto we Sizwe until 1963, when he left for Tanzania.

He was sent to the German Democratic Republic to study law and in 1978 he obtained an LLD degree from the University of Leipzig. He worked for the ANC in various offices and capacities and was responsible for setting up the ANC office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Between 1982 and 1985, he represented the ANC at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), before he was recalled to Lusaka to set up the ANC Legal and Constitutional Department there. He headed this department until 1990 in Zambia, and again until 1994 in Johannesburg, after his return to South Africa in 1990. On his return, he also chaired the ANC Constitution Committee.

Between 1984 and 1993 he annually

A close-up portrait of a middle-aged Black man with a shaved head, looking slightly to the right of the camera. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a yellow tie with a small, repeating geometric pattern. The background is plain white.

represented the ANC at the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. After his return from exile, Dr Skweyiya contributed to the founding of the Centre for Development Studies and the South African Legal Defence Fund, both at the University of the Western Cape.

After leaving parliamentary politics he was appointed South Africa's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ireland, he held this position between 2009 and 2014. 🇿🇦

# tribute *to* Ms Beatrice Thembekile Ngcobo

18 July 1943 – 18 February 2018



her inclusive leadership style, saying that she was the glue that kept the committee united while making sure that the views of all political parties were taken into consideration in the recommendations made to government.

This created a collegial climate in the committee, which ensured that the Minister of Tourism and the department were always held accountable. As a result, the Department of Tourism and South African Tourism received clean audits over the four years Ms Ngcobo was at the helm of the committee.

On becoming Chairperson, Ms Ngcobo realised that tourism still reflected the imbalances of the past and she made transformation a central pillar in the work of the committee. At policy level, she ensured certainty about tourism regulations, especially around the immigration regulations threatening the growth of international arrivals in South Africa. She then recommended the formation of an inter-ministerial committee to deal with the unintended consequences of immigration regulations.

At a strategy level, Ms Ngcobo noted that the Department of Tourism and South African Tourism were not optimally delivering their mandate and she championed the restructuring of both organisations.

Her work resulted in the review of the National Tourism Sector Strategy introduced by the government in December 2017.

Her work also gave rise to a 5-in-5 strategy pursued by South African Tourism, which seeks to bring five million tourists to South Africa in the next five years. At the time of her passing, Ms Ngcobo had called for the amendment of the Tourism Act (Act No.4 of 2014) to reduce the regulatory burden; facilitate quality assurance through a credible tourism grading scheme; and promote inclusive tourism growth.

Giving the eulogy on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) Ms Baleka Mbete, the NA's House Chairperson Ms Thoko Didiza said Ms Ngcobo will be remembered as a dedicated public representative who was also active in the areas of disability, gender, women and reproductive health rights.

She said MaNgcobo was trustworthy and dependable to the end of her life to the cause of improving people's lives. "She has been an exemplary campaigner for women's emancipation, gender mainstreaming, advancement of social justice towards a society that is suitable for women, children and people with disabilities," said Ms Didiza. 🙏

Ms Beatrice Thembekile Ngcobo served as a Member of Parliament from 2004 until her death in February 2018. At her funeral in Umlazi in KwaZulu-Natal mourner after mourner extolled her virtues, and it was evident that MaNgcobo or Sis B, as she was affectionately known, had left a strong legacy behind her.

On becoming an MP, Ms Ngcobo became a Member of the National Assembly and served on the Portfolio Committee on Health until the end of the fourth Parliament in 2014.

At the beginning of the fifth Parliament in 2014, Ms Ngcobo was redeployed to the Portfolio Committee on Tourism where she was elected Chairperson. Members of the committee admired

# tribute *to* Ms Fezeka Loliwe

17 August 1964 - 05 March 2018



To be a Chairperson of a parliamentary committee is a critical part of the leadership of Parliament. The death of Ms Fezeka Loliwe, who was the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Labour, was the death of a critical person in the leadership of the fifth Parliament, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, told the Loliwe family and mourners at the funeral of Ms Loliwe in Frankfurt near King William's Town in February.

"Ms Loliwe was always driven by the agenda of putting the people first because she had a deep experience of the destitute and the poorest of the poor people," said Mr Tsenoli. He urged all the Members of Parliament who were at the funeral to emulate

Ms Loliwe's example. "That agenda of putting the people first, the electorate who sent us to Parliament, must not be lost because Ms Loliwe has passed on and Parliament must always keep in contact with the people."

Also speaking at the funeral, the Chief Whip of the majority party Mr Jackson Mthembu described Ms Loliwe as a good servant of the people who always chose the side of the people even when that choice threatened her life and her parliamentary membership. "Ms Loliwe fought at all levels for the retention of the glory of the South African nation and her movement, the African National Congress," he said.

Mr Mthembu appreciated the attendance of the large number of the Members of Parliament, including members of the opposition to the funeral of Ms Loliwe. "This is highly appreciated colleagues. Let's keep that spirit," stressed Mr Mthembu.

Ms Loliwe was the Chairperson of the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Labour. Members of the committee who bade farewell to her at her funeral described how she kept the committee united and on track on its oversight work. The Minister of Labour Ms Mildred Oliphant, who paid tribute to Ms Loliwe, said Ms Loliwe kept a very good relationship between her as the Minister of Labour and the

committee in a manner that promoted and added value to the work of the committee and the department.

Ms Loliwe became a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly after the 2014 general elections. She served on the Portfolio Committee on Labour and Ad Hoc Committee on the South African Broadcasting corporation Board hoc Committee. After her deployment as a member of the PC on Labour she was appointed as its whip. After the departure of Ms Lumka Yengeni, who was the previous Chairperson of the committee, Ms Loliwe was appointed to replace her as the Chairperson.

Ms Loliwe's constituency included the communities of Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality. She passed away in a car accident near the University of Fort Hare, coming from her constituency work in Fort Beaufort. 🕯️



#### **OUR SOUTH AFRICA – THE SUN**

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



#### **OUR PEOPLE – THE PROTEA LEAVES**

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



#### **OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM**

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



#### **OUR CONSTITUTION – THE BOOK**

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