

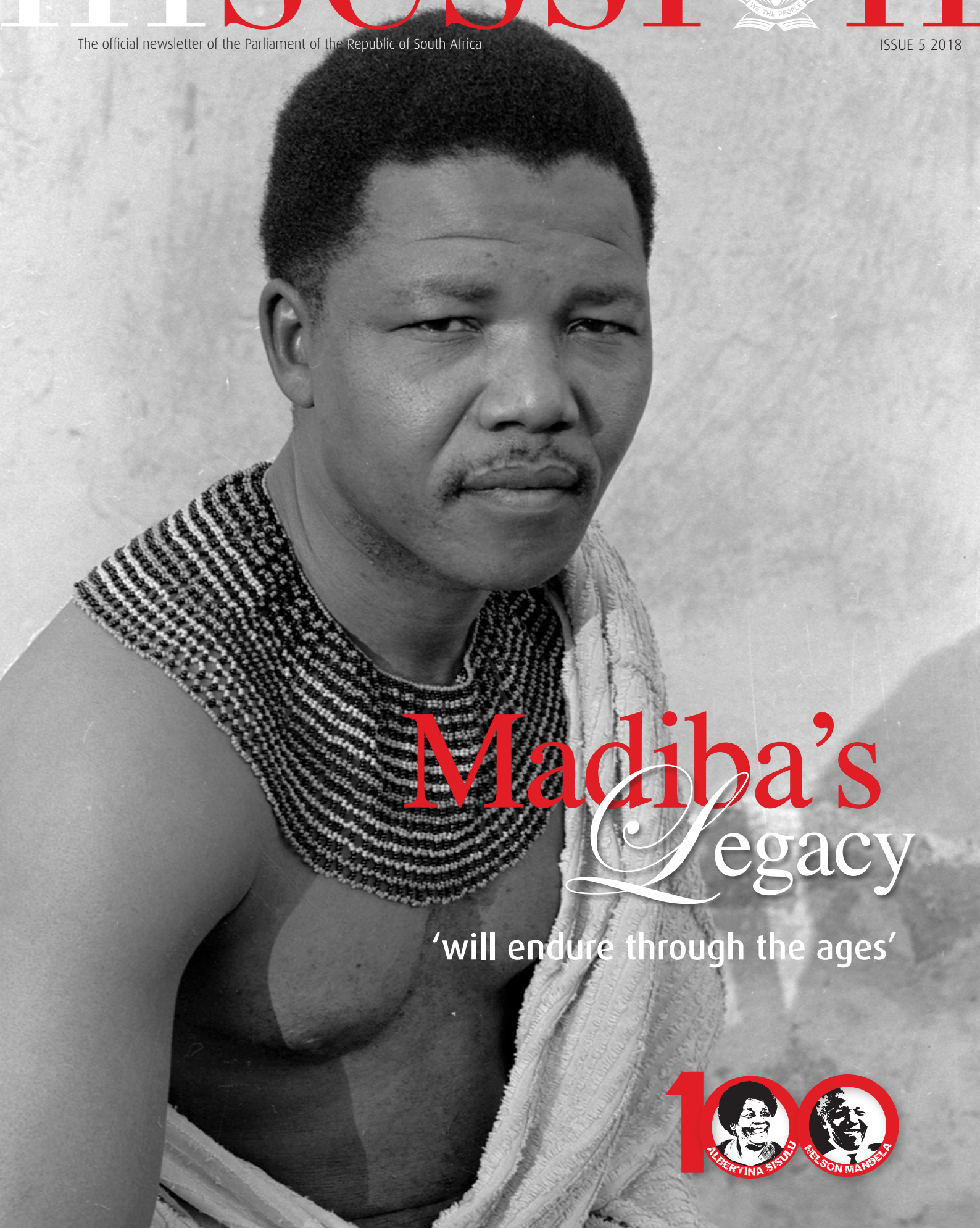
MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER – Learning from Madiba

in session



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

ISSUE 5 2018



Madiba's *Legacy*

'will endure through the ages'





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.

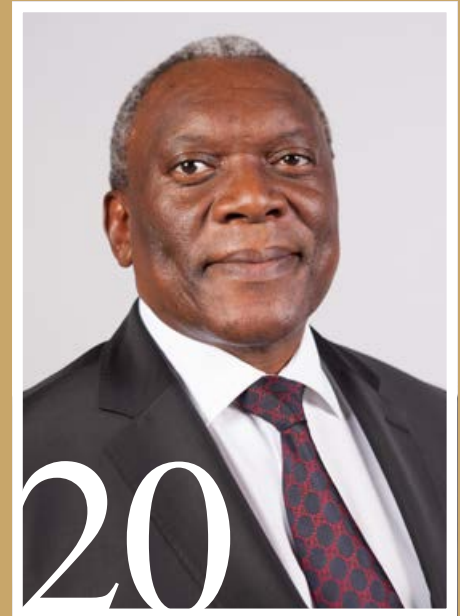
Strategic Objectives

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

Contents



- 5. Madiba's name and legacy 'will endure through the ages'
- 6. Celebrating Madiba and MaSisulu two giants of our liberation struggle
- 8-9 Parliamentary memories of Madiba
- 10. Tsenoli: We are an activist Parliament
- 12. Scopa chairperson calls for ethical governance to counter mismanagement of public funds
- 14. Parliament begins new public participation process on Restitution of Land Rights Bill
- 16. Public hearings to review Section 25 of the Constitution to be held between June and August
- 18. Taking Parliament to the People brings life to the legacy of Madiba
- 20. Committee moves to develop e-skills through iNeSI Bill
- 22. Placing women at the forefront of economic transformation and the fourth industrial revolution
- 24. Committee concerned about the Office of Health Standards Compliance report on serious challenges in the health sector
- 26. Committee tells Post Office and Sassa to revisit the roadmap of their partnership
- 28. Scopa and NCOP asks hard questions of Water and Sanitation department
- 29. Committees in brief
- 31. Tribute to Mr Sibusiso Radebe

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

Strategic Objectives

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

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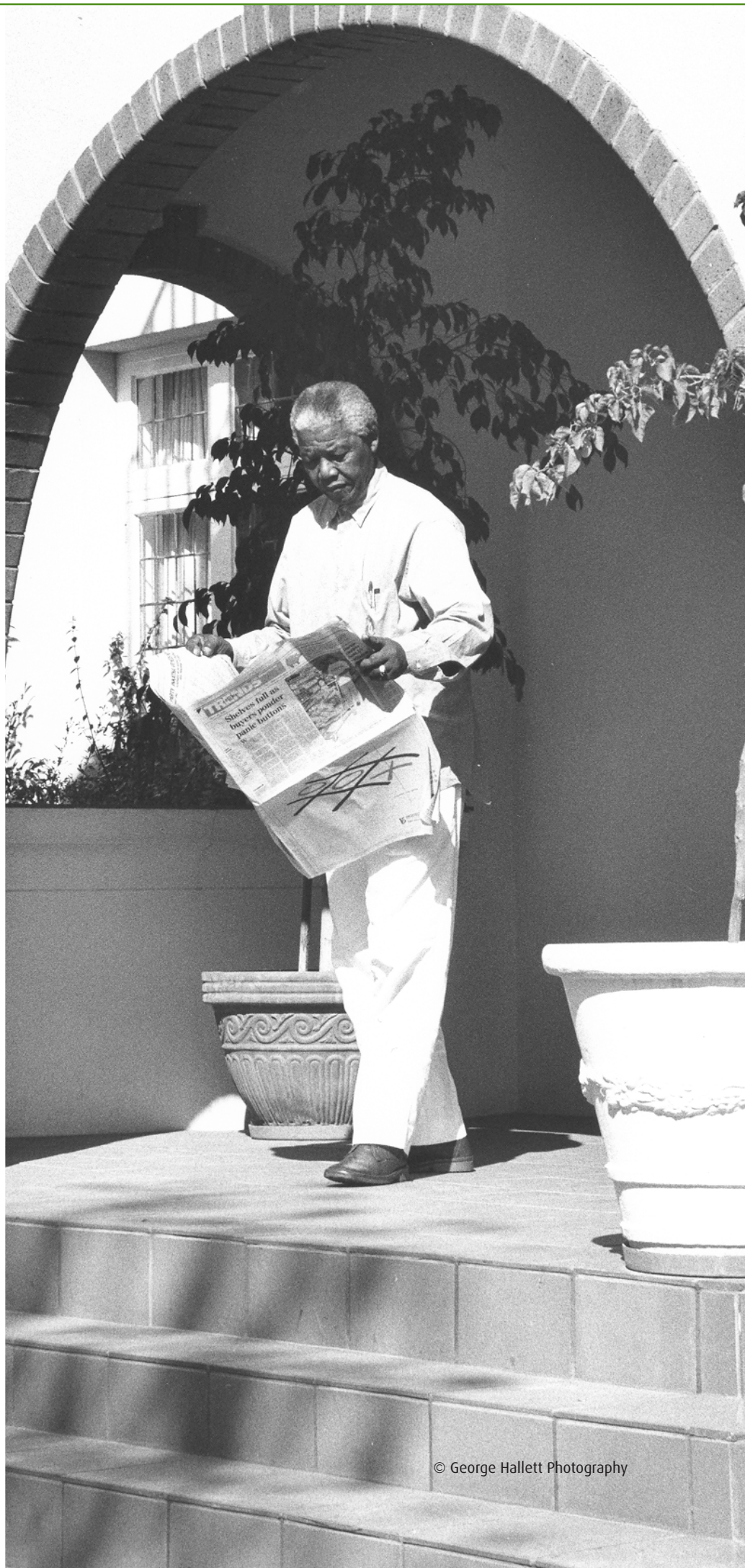
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Madiba's name and legacy

'will endure through the ages'

*2018 is a significant year in the history of our country. It is significant, as it is the centenary year of the birth of Nelson Mandela, whom many historians and political analysts describe as our country's greatest leader. However, we celebrate Madiba's centenary as a pressing issue faces all of us: land expropriation without compensation. **By Brent Simons***

So one will be forgiven for asking what wisdom Madiba, who believed in dialogue as a vital instrument for addressing critical social issues, would have provided on this very important debate currently gripping the entire South African populace? To this end, we need to heed Madiba's warning in June 1998 that "peace would only be guaranteed if land was fairly redistributed to its former black owners".

As the founding father of our democracy, Madiba advocated that government's land reform programme must strive to help "redress the injustices of apartheid" while fostering "national reconciliation and stability". According to Madiba, dealing decisively

with the issue of land redistribution would simultaneously tackle the issue of poverty!

Thus he regarded the return of land to its former owners as "an important task because it is one way of addressing the injustices of apartheid". Madiba's view on land redistribution was clear that it reinforced economic growth, leading to improved household welfare and food security. "With freedom," he said, "comes restoration of the right to land."

However, Madiba made it clear that the solution being sought had to be generally acceptable to all! This he said, had to entail an approach that eliminated suspicion, mistrust, and anger amongst South Africans. It is under his stewardship that the South African government enacted the Restitution of Land Rights Act in 1994. This Act sought to promote the sustainable, "effective and productive use of land as a resource" to take our country forward.

Taking heed of Madiba's warning and wisdom, President Cyril Ramaphosa recently introduced the concept of an "agriculture revolution to ensure that land reform resulted in a productive outcome". President Ramaphosa stated that expropriated land had to be put to productive use for the sake of the people and our economy.

It is, therefore, significant that we have to emulate Madiba's life! After all he emerged from 27 years in prison to lead South Africa as our country's first black president and won the Nobel Peace Prize [together with former deputy President FW de Klerk] for his policy of reconciliation. He was of the view that land reform required proper management and proper engagement and that a simplistic, punitive approach would be unproductive for all.

As part of his value system, Madiba believed that we all had to commit ourselves to overcoming poverty: "Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity; it is an act of justice. Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings."

It is therefore fitting to use the words spoken by Frederick Engels at the graveside of Karl Marx on 17 March 1883: "The gap that has been left by the departure of this mighty spirit will soon enough make itself felt."

Madiba "... died beloved, revered and mourned by millions" and as declared by Engels in honour of Marx: we, too, can rest assured that the name Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela "will endure through the ages, and so also will his work". His legacy will continue to inspire many generations to come! 🌍



Celebrating Madiba and MaSisulu two giants of our liberation struggle

*As part of the centenary celebrations for former President Nelson Mandela and Ms Albertina Sisulu, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held a debate on the theme: "Celebrating the life and times of two great giants of our liberation" just as the second parliamentary term of 2018 drew to a close, writes **Abel Mputing**.*

Opening the debate, the Minister of Communications Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, stated that the legacy of Mr Nelson Mandela and Ms Albertina

Sisulu will endure forever and they will remain shining beacons for the society we are striving to build. "Throughout their lives, our icons faced numerous obstacles, yet they never once waived in their fight for a better South Africa. Living in a democracy as we do today with our human rights and dignity protected by the Constitution, it's all too easy to forget the circumstances they faced," she said.

This centenary, according to Ms Mokonyane, gives all South Africans an opportunity to recommit to the principles of social cohesion, freedom and democracy, which these two icons represented tirelessly and selflessly for all their lives. "Both Mama Albertina Sisulu and Madiba dedicated their lives to ensuring a better and more united South Africa. The 100th-year

anniversary of the lives of these two remarkable people is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to their principles by building the nation we envisioned at the start of our democracy."

Also taking part in the debate, the Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise, said they may be gone, but their sacrifices and contributions are engraved in our country's political fabric. This debate, she said, allowed the Members of the NCOP an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of their contribution to freedom and democracy.

"It is befitting that we gather today to pay respect and reflect on the lives of South Africa's two giants: Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. It is important to reflect on who and what



they stood for. They may be gone, but their sacrifice and contributions are engraved in the townships and villages of our country.”

Their fight for non-racialism and non-sexism, she said, constitutes one of the lasting legacies of their contribution to our social make-up. “They were freedom fighters leading the oppressed from all sides. They were Africans leading all cultures and languages, they were non-racial, leading the apartheid-defying progressive forces: the tripartite alliance [between the African National Congress (ANC), the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party] and the Federation of South African Women (Fedsaw) among other organisations, eventually leading us all towards non-sexism and non-racialism.”

Ms Modise said Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu remain points of reference because of their personal values of honesty, frankness, dependability, consistency, patience, humbleness and diligence, and embracing the plight of others.

“They stood for liberties and rights. They stood for correction and advancement of others, not their own. They were both hard task masters. They would not relent or let you be, if you were not up for the task. They were rough on behalf of the people on matters of the advancement of the majority as well as the minority. They focused on the majority, but did not leave the individual out of the loop.”

The leader of the Western Cape delegation to the NCOP, Ms Cathlene

Labuschagne, said the history of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu is indeed a history to be respected, remembered and most of all, it should be the foundation upon which South Africa is built.

“Albertina Sisulu’s legendary work as anti-apartheid activist, [including] the roles she played in various organisations and structures such as the ANC, Fedsaw, the United Democratic Front and as a Member of Parliament, as well as her more than 50 years’ commitment to the liberation struggle. The Albertina Sisulu Foundation is, and will always be, inspirational not only to women, but to all those who believe in freedom and the dignity of all people,” she said. 🙏

“ Let us never be unmindful of the terrible past from which we come - that memory not as a means to keep us shackled to the past in a negative manner, but rather as a joyous reminder of how far we have come and how much we have achieved. The memory of a history of division and hate, injustice and suffering, inhumanity of person against person should inspire us to celebrate our own demonstration of the capacity of human beings to progress, to go forward, to improve, to do better.

Parliament is the voice of the people and you, the presiding officers, bear a heavy responsibility in ensuring that that voice is clearly heard in national affairs and that its role be protected and defended. Similarly, our congratulations to all the Members of Parliament in whom the nation has put its trust. Yours is the almost sacred duty to ensure government by the people under the Constitution. ”

Nelson Mandela's last speech to Parliament on 10 May 2004 - joint sitting of Parliament to mark 10 years of democracy

Parliamentary memories of **Madiba**



Tsenoli: We are an activist Parliament

South Africa's Parliament is an activist Parliament and that is not about to change. This is evident in the number of marches civil society, trade unions, religious bodies and many other organisations direct to Parliament. Sibongile Maputi sat down with the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, for a perspective on parliamentary international relations and diplomacy.

What should be the attitude of Parliament when people march to Parliament to register unhappiness with their struggles. We have recently seen many of these marches, such as #FeesMustFall, labour unions, religious formations, and most recently the organisations supporting Palestine.

Parliament is a people's tribunal. It comes about as a result of the people who are voters and the majority of them elect Members to the House. The things we talk about in Parliament have to be about the concerns of those people. When we say we aspire to be an activist Parliament, it also means when people protest about issues, it is a right in the Constitution. Members of the public should participate in Parliament and seek to help.

In the past, when people protested they were roughed up. Now, when they come to Parliament, they must know they are welcome and their memorandums will be accepted and processed accordingly. Sometimes what the interest groups bring to Parliament are issues that are already in the process of being addressed in the committees of Parliament. It is our pride that people are able to protest and that we are able to attend to those issues as well.

We come across some of the issues that people raise in our constituencies, and we bring them to Parliament either through Members' statements or in committees where Members often raise concrete issues for discussions from their constituencies. Parliament is the depository of people's wishes, concerns, and often protests. This is an image of what an activist Parliament should be.

On the Middle East conflict, do the parliaments of the world discuss this issue in their forums, or it is relegated to governments? We have seen our own Department of International Relations and Cooperation acting decisively. Was this an act Parliament supported wholeheartedly?

Many parliaments, such as South Africa, have taken resolutions on this matter. We have consistently called for a resolution of the Middle East issues. There is a resolution that involves Palestine, Cuba and Western Sahara that Parliament adopted some years back. We act in solidarity with the oppressed, and this year is particularly significant because Madiba himself once said our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the people of Palestine.

We must act in solidarity with the people who are in any way oppressed and discriminated against in their own countries. Boundaries should not be used as an excuse to hide oppression, exploitation and brutality. Any gross violation of human rights is unacceptable. When we act in that way we are expressly doing so as mandated by our Constitution.

South African diplomacy and international relations is based on the principle of Ubuntu. It asks every one of us to take every opportunity we get to express and act humanely towards others, particularly those who we see being harassed and discriminated against, as one sees is happening in the Middle East. In areas that belong to the Palestinians, the Israelis are building walls and keeping people away from conducting their ordinary lives. We really take exception to that and we have expressed our protest worldwide. This is a matter that is on the agendas of many other parliaments as well.

Does the South African Parliament consider our diplomatic relations with an eye on investment, or do we condemn transgressions, such as with Israel and its supporters, no matter the risk to our interests?

It does not matter how powerful the friends of Israel are. Despite Israel and the United States voting for apartheid South Africa, we defeated apartheid despite their collaboration. We will not change our view because of that. We want countries of the world to understand that our relations are with those who advance human rights and humanness in all societies, no matter how powerful they might be. Our relations must be principled and not opportunistic. Our friends must know this. If they behave in ways that are inconsistent with South Africa's Constitution, we will cross paths with them and we will be on the other side.

What is Parliament's official standpoint on the withdrawal of our ambassador from Israel?

We do not get involved. We are Parliament and have registered our objections to what is happening in the Middle East. When they act unilaterally, consistently using violence, they make it impossible for us to act in a way that is not partisan. In these instances, we have to take sides with those who are weak against whom Israel acts with its powerful support from the United States. We take umbrage at that kind of conduct.

What is Parliament's view on Members of Parliament visiting Israel?

Members of the opposition have visited Israel, in their private capacities. However, it is fruitless and will not achieve the results we could achieve if we were to act together around principles of peace.

The actions of the Israelis are such that even the concept of the two-state solution has become meaningless. The two-state solution has been South Africa's position for years.

It is an intractable position because they are supported by the American administration and some of the lobbyists, who have huge influence and resources. This is what is prolonging the conflict. If it did not have these resources, the conflict would have been long resolved.

How is Parliament faring on the international stage?

Parliament is a critical participant in the global and Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, including its branches such as the Commonwealth Women's Parliament.

We still have a degree of influence and we work with others consistently in solidarity on issues that advance African issues. We do not often pursue issues that others will see as individual issues to South Africa, but issues that affect us collectively, especially in the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum jurisdiction and the Pan-African Parliament.

In certain instances, we have sent experienced public representatives to serve in those forums. Generally, people respect South Africa, and in those institutions we are trusted to be firm, politically clear, and raise issues as agreed to by parliaments of the world 🌍

Scopa chairperson calls for ethical governance to counter mismanagement of public funds

*Many government departments and their entities recently appeared before Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa). Scopa Chairperson Mr Themba Godi noted afterwards that irregular, unauthorised, wasteful and fruitless expenditure is on the rise in government. He spoke to **Abel Mputing** about the role of the committee and the steps that have been taken to deal with the challenges that lie ahead.*

How critical is Scopa's oversight mandate in the management of our country's public purse?

It is at the centre of the struggle to institutionalise proper and ethical financial management in the public sector. What is more, it is the only committee that is mandated in terms of the rules of Parliament to do just that.

What is your impression on how the public purse is managed, given the trends in the Auditor-General's quarterly and annual reports on the financial management of government departments?

The reports of the Auditor-General do not make for good reading. There is a need for a massive improvement. If you look at irregular, wasteful and fruitless expenditures, if you look at the arbitrary expansions of tenders and deviations of budgetary allocations, they clearly tell you that officials of

government departments would rather bypass or breach rules and procedures in order to award and expand tenders to their friends or people with whom they are connected.

What is at the heart of the mismanagement of funds in government departments? Can this be attributed to ulterior motives or is it incompetency on the part of the officials charged with the task of safeguarding public funds against mismanagement and maladministration?

At the heart of it are ulterior motives. Even where you find incompetency, it is placed there at a particular point in the management or administration of government departments for the sole purpose of achieving devious ends.

As a committee charged with the task of overseeing our country's public purse, what do you think needs to be done to right these wrongs?

First and foremost, we need political leadership. Our ministers and our president must be people who set up a government with the sole intention of serving the people. Secondly, we need to appoint capable and ethical people in the management structures of government. Thirdly, we need to make sure that the laws and rules are fully implemented and complied with. Those who do not comply should be made to pay a heavy price for that. Then you would have resolved the problem.

Much public graft has been attributed to a lack of sanctions against officials found to have breached the rules and laws that govern the management of public funds. What can be done to address

non-compliance in the public sector to bring an end to what has been referred to as an era of impunity?

We can happily say that the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces has passed the Public Audit Act Amendment Bill, which will give the Auditor-General more powers to enforce investigations, as well as to make claims to accounting officers for the purposes of recovering money lost negligently.

This is a new terrain where the Standing Committee on the Auditor-General must be praised for its foresightedness. Because at last, it means the Auditor-General will not only just report irregular expenditures, but will be able to direct the head of a department to investigate it, failing which the state will have to claim money personally from the head of the department. The Auditor-General can also direct the Hawks [Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigation] and the Special Investigation Unit to do further investigations. So everybody must know now that corruption will be investigated and the era of impunity is behind us.

What are the prescripts of the new amendments and is Scopa confident that they will curb graft and the maladministration of public funds in government departments?

We have absolute confidence in the integrity and professionalism of the Auditor-General. I think he is going to use this new instrument to break new ground. As a committee, we are extremely happy with this new development.

This bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. We now wait

*SCOPA Chairperson
Mr Temba Godi*

for the President to sign it into law. Scopa hopes this Bill will be operational by September. If that is the case, the new audit outcomes that will come to Parliament will be accounted for within the prescripts of this amendment.

During your recent interaction with departments you raised a concern with their use of deviations and expansions, which divert funds from their intended budgetary allocations to others deemed urgent. This accounts for much of the reported irregular and wasteful expenditures in various departments. What did you find to be at fault with this?

Deviations and expansions were introduced to assist departments in instances of emergency and exceptional cases. What we have noted is that departments use deviations as a norm, not as an exception.

When you deviate, it means you do not follow competitive processes and we feel this can be used to advance corruption and exclude some people. We have also seen that in large measure, where you find that deviations have been done, by and large it is white-owned companies that benefit from these deviations. This can serve as a hindrance to economic transformation and inclusive economic growth.

What are reasons advanced for deviations and expansions?

Sometimes it is a reflection of poor planning, because all of a sudden there are tight timelines to be met. This might indicate that project management is not up to scratch because they did not see that a contract was coming to an end. In other instances, it could be a matter of poor planning, but we believe it has more to do with devious intentions rather than poor planning. 🌟





Left: Parliament will address all concerns raised by South Africans at the public hearings on the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill. This assurance was given by Member of Parliament, Ms Nosilivere Winnie Magadla, to people attending the public hearing at the City of Tshwane's Council Chambers. "We are here to consult and involve citizens in the process to reopen and resolve land claims," she said.

Parliament begins new public participation process on Restitution of Land Rights Bill

*In response to a Constitutional Court judgment that nullified the 2014 Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, citing inadequate public involvement, the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform is hard at work conducting a thorough and extensive public consultation process to allow as many South Africans as possible to make inputs on the redrafted Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill, reports **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

The Restitution of Land Rights Bill, which was reintroduced as a Private Member's Bill by National Assembly Member, Mr Pumzile Justice Mnguni, seeks to reopen the land claims process after the December 1998 closing date. Mr Mnguni believes it will be a redress for millions of South Africans who lost their land through the notorious 1913 Natives' Land Act, but who failed to

lodge land claims before the 1998 closing date.

"There is huge injustice that is facing us if we do not reopen the lodgment of land claims. In order for justice to be achieved, let's reopen the land claims in order for the people who did not claim to participate in the process," Mr Mnguni said in motivation for the reintroduction of the Bill.

Parliament passed the Restitution of Land Rights in 2014 to reopen the lodgment of land claims for a period of five years. The Land Access Movement of South Africa (Lamosa) took the matter to the Constitutional Court, which declared that the Act was invalid, because "Parliament failed to satisfy its obligation to facilitate public involvement in accordance with section 72 (1)(a) of the Constitution".

It is reported that only about 80 000 land claims were lodged by 1998 and a further 163 000 were lodged but "frozen" during the interdicted period from 2014 to 28 July 2016 (date of the Constitutional Court judgment), out of a potential 7.5 million dispossessed South Africans. This means that the number of claimants left out stands at about 98%,

Right: Also in Vereeniging: The Speaker of the Midvaal Local Municipality, Councillor Freddie Peters, called on all South Africans to find common ground and to move forward together. He rejected moves to extend the deadline for land claims as “it impacts negatively on farmers, labourers and their families, the broader community and the South African economy”.

versus the 2% that have claimed. In June 2018, the committee began nationwide public hearings, spending at least two days in each province gathering inputs from the people on the Bill. The committee split into two groups to cover all the nine provinces as quickly as possible, with one group led by the Chairperson Ms Phumuzile Ngwenya-Mabila and the other by committee Whip, and initiator of the Bill, Mr Mnguni.

During public hearings in Postmasburg in the Northern Cape, Mr Boniface Masiane told a committee delegation that it would be discriminatory and undemocratic not to reopen the land claims period to allow for more South Africans who missed out on the initial claims period which closed in 1998.

“I support the reopening of the land claims process so that people who missed out can also have an opportunity to lodge claims for their land that was forcefully taken by the old government as a result of the Natives’ Land Act of 1913. Let the people get their land back,” said Mr Masiane during the public hearings.

Also voicing her support for the intended reopening of the land claims, which the Bill seeks to do, Ms Ida Kock from De Aar thanked Parliament and the portfolio committee for involving the public in processing the proposed law.

The Bill also received overwhelming support in the Free State province, with some submitting that it must be amended to also consider land that was taken before 1913. “The 1913 cut-off date will still leave out others. We need to include people who lost their

land long before the enactment of the Natives’ Land Act,” said community member Mr Teboho Rasebona.

The public hearings gave the committee an opportunity to hear what South Africans wanted on the land issue.

“It’s 100% support for the Bill and the reopening of land claims. There was not even one person in the hall who was against the reopening of the land claims period,” said Mr Mnguni, during one of the public meetings in the province.

Committee Chairperson Ms Ngwenya-Mabila dismissed some suggestions that the public hearings on the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill were a waste of time in the context of the impending Constitutional Review Committee’s consideration of amending section 25 of the Constitution.

“It must be stated clearly that the public hearings on the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill were initiated following a Constitutional Court ruling instructing Parliament to enact an Act within 24 months. As a result of the ruling, the committee, through the public hearings, is implementing a decision of the highest court in the land,” she said. She emphasised that the issue of land reform remains on top on the public agenda and must be taken seriously.

Some citizens wanted to know what was happening with claims lodged between 2014 and 2016. As a result of the constitutional court judgment, all those approximately 160 000 claims, have been frozen and will only be processed after the Bill has been passed. 🙏





Public hearings to review Section 25 of the Constitution to be held between June and August

*The Joint Constitutional Review Committee recently hosted a colloquium on section 25 of the Constitution. **Mava Lukani** attended.*

On 27 February 2018 the National Assembly (NA) instructed the Joint Constitutional Review Committee to embark on a process of reviewing section 25 of the Constitution in order to make it possible for the state to expropriate land without compensation in the interest of the public and to consult widely in that exercise. That was what the Co-Chairperson of the Joint Constitutional Review Committee Mr Vincent Smith told members of the committee, invited guests and media at

Parliament during the opening session of a colloquium that was hosted by the committee on section 25 of the Constitution last week.

Mr Smith said the committee is expected to report back in the NA on 28 September 2018 on the mandate. He said there is a universal acceptance that there is a need for the acceleration of the land reform programme in South Africa, which will also provide restitution for the majority of South Africans who lost their dignity during the ruthless colonialism and apartheid eras.

The NA's adoption of the motion for land expropriation without compensation immediately after the 2018 State of the Nation Address was

a remarkable, ground-breaking and historical progressive move in dealing with the huge legacy of colonialism and apartheid. Mr Smith said the committee is aware that the move has created a excitement and heightened expectation in some circles, but anxiety and panic in others.

The committee is committed to ensuring that it pursues its mandate on the issue of section 25 of the Constitution with sober and mature minds. The colloquium is aimed at informing the committee on the issues involved in carrying out its mandate. Calls to amend the Constitution for the purposes of expropriation without compensation have also created a dichotomous reality. On the one hand, Mr Smith said there is a school of

*JCRC co-chairpersons
Mr Vincent Smith and
Mr Lewis Nzimande*



thought that the Constitution as it is currently is not an impediment to land reform, and does not need to be amended. On the other, another school of thought holds that it does impede land reform and must be amended.

“At this stage,” Mr Smith explained, “the committee is just arming itself with information before it goes out for public hearings to listen to the public. Those in favour of an amendment of Section 25 of Constitution must convince us why and those appose to an amendment must also bring forward the argument against it.”

Among the guests at the colloquium was struggle veteran, constitutional architect and the former South African Constitutional Court judge Mr Albie Sachs, who was invited to speak on the implications of the review of Section 25 of the Constitution. The former judge emphasised that the Constitutional Court has not pronounced on land expropriation without compensation.

Furthermore, he told the committee that he was neutral on the issue, but participated on grounds that he was

invited to speak on section 25 of the Constitution.

The former judge said section 25 of the Constitution was not drafted at the 1992 Congress for the Democratic South Africa (Codesa) nor by the Constituent Assembly, which drafted the Constitution. He said section 25, which promotes and facilitates the redistribution of the land, was drafted by Parliament.

He emphasised the primacy of the principle of the judicial review tradition in a constitutional democracy to avoid the situation of the abuse of power. The former judge emphasised that the conclusion of the process of the review of section 25 of the Constitution must avoid producing legislation that allows someone in a powerful position to see a beautiful farm and decide to take it, as has happened in other parts of Africa.

He said the preamble of the Constitution and section 25 of the Constitution create a sound basis for the expropriation of land without compensation. “There must be

meaningful engagement with the public to get the buy in of the people” Mr Sachs emphasised. He said a new expropriation Act that is contextualised is urgently needed.

“I am not taking a position, but am just suggesting a creative way that will get a bigger buy in.” He said reviewing of section 25 of the Constitution must be done in a manner that brings the nation closer rather than dividing it.

The Co-Chairperson of the committee, Mr Lewis Nzimande, said expropriation without compensation will go ahead. The question is the modalities.

“We realise that a lot of work still lies ahead and therefore this is just the start. We will be going to the communities to listen to them. The consensus is that the access to land is not there and there are needs for land. The constitution needs to give expression to this.”

Public Hearings started in the Northern Cape on June 26 and will conclude in the Western Cape on 4 August 2018. 🌍

Taking Parliament to the People brings life to Madiba's legacy



*When Ms Puleng Mofolo entered the Kaiser Sebothelo Stadium Hall in Botshabelo in August 2017 in Free State carrying her 13-year-old daughter, Khalemo, on her back, she had no idea that their lives were about to change. She was among thousands of people in the Mangaung metropolitan municipality who had come to meet Members of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), and representatives of the national, provincial and local governments to as they gave answers on service delivery issues, reports **Modise Kabeli**.*

This meeting was presented by the NCOP's Taking Parliament to the People programme, which was hosted by the Mangaung metropolitan municipality. Ms Mofolo has over the past 10 years watched helplessly as her once bubbly daughter's health changed due to an illness that she does not understand. According to Ms Mofolo, doctors say her daughter has cerebral palsy but to her, it is a disease that has rendered her daughter immobile and wheelchair-bound.

"When we first went to a doctor, I was told that one of her legs was dislocated and that she would need to be operated to fix that. I was told that after the operation that leg will be shorter than the other," said Ms Mofolo, adding that she was assured that after the operation Khalemo would be able to walk.

In 2017, when she heard that the NCOP would be in Botshabelo and there was

a possibility that she could get a new wheelchair for her daughter, Ms Mofolo borrowed money to hire a car to take Khalemo to the stadium to seek help from the Members of Parliament. "I went there to get help because I was struggling. I had to borrow money, R50, to hire a bakkie to take her there. However, the wheelchairs that were there were not suitable for Khalemo's condition."

Khalemo can no longer sit up straight due to her illness and a normal wheelchair would hurt her even more. Mofolo then carried Khalemo to the public submissions table and pleaded for help.

The NCOP Chairperson, Ms Thandi Modise, who was chairing the public hearings part of the programme when Ms Mofolo brought her daughter to the stadium, undertook to assist Ms Mofolo to secure a specialised wheelchair for Khalemo and approached a private company Ikageng Electrical Contractors, which offered to get a special wheelchair for Khalemo.

Recently during the Youth Month in a handover ceremony in Botshabelo, Ikageng Electrical Contractors delivered on the assurance it made to provide the specialised wheelchair to Khalemo in the presence of the NCOP House Chair, Ms Masefako Dikgale, who represented the NCOP Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise.

Thanking Ikageng Electrical Contractors, Ms Dikgale said: "We are deeply thankful to Ikageng Electrical Contractors for heeding our call of keeping the legacy of Ntate Nelson Mandela alive, by contributing to great love and humanity through improving the lives of the people living with disabilities. We have no doubt that the specialised wheelchair will help Khalemo to live a fulfilling and productive life," said Ms Masefako Dikgale, the NCOP's House

Chairperson for International Relations and Members' Interests, during the wheelchair handover ceremony.

Ms Dikgale said the event symbolises the NCOP's efforts to mainstream disability imperatives in the Taking Parliament to the People programme. "The project of reaffirming our humanity and that of the people living with disabilities is in our hands. Collectively, we are its masters and captains," she said.

Ms Mofolo said she was happy that she finally received the new wheelchair, which has been designed especially for Khalemo. "I am very happy. I will now be able to take her to the clinic and everywhere she needs to go. She has not even been to the nearby mall because we could not push her around in her old wheelchair, which was donated by a white lady my granny used to work for many years ago. Khalemo did not fit in it anymore."

The Taking Parliament to the People programme was initiated in 2002 to promote education about Parliament and to enhance public participation, to provide the public with an opportunity to have a say on matters affecting them.

Through this programme, thousands of ordinary South Africans, mostly from marginalised communities, have an opportunity to interact with Members of Parliament on issues of service delivery and governance. The NCOP will be returning to the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality in August to report back on the progress made in relation to the commitments undertaken during the visit last year.

The main intention of the follow-up visit is to ensure progress is made by provincial departments to address challenges identified by the community during the initial visit a year ago. 🌟

Committee moves to develop e-skills through iNeSI Bill

To accelerate e-skills capacity development and to make South Africa e-literate by 2030 in line with the National Development Plan (NDP), the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) drafted the iKamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) Bill, writes Justice Molafo.

After being published in the Government Gazette in November 2017 interested parties were invited to submit written comments on the Bill within a 30-day period. The department considered all comments, redrafted the Bill and published it for the second time in Government Gazette number 41851 on 20 April 2018.

The objective of the iNeSI Bill is to provide for the promotion of the use of information, communication and technology, and integrate the DTPS's three information and communications technology (ICT) skills development-related entities of the DTPS into one. The three entities are the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (Nemisa), the eSkills Institute (e-Si) and the Space and Software Applications (SSA). They will be integrated into one entity called the iKamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI). The institute will be a juristic person and Schedule 3 public entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). It will be subject to the applicable provisions of the PFMA and any other applicable legislation.

In March 2018, the DTPS Minister, Mr Siyabonga Cwele, tabled the Bill before Parliament and on 7 May the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, referred it to the Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications and



Mr Siyabonga Cwele

Postal Services. Fifteen days later, on Tuesday 22 May 2018, the DTPS briefed the committee on the Bill. Members of the committee asked clarity-seeking questions and expressed commitment to process the Bill with due diligence. They remembered that the iNeSI Bill was the only piece of legislation that came before the committee in the fifth Parliament.

The committee resolved to publish the Bill on various media platforms, including the Parliament website; radio and newspapers, in which interested parties would be invited to submit written comments by no later than 12 June 2018. The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Jabu Mahlangu, said it was imperative for the committee to receive a large number of written comments in order to hear diverse views on how the Bill should be formulated. "We need a diversity of



Mr Jabu Mahlangu

South Africans in underserved villages, should provide comments in any language of their choice," said Mr Mahlangu.

In his presentation to the committee, Minister Cwele said the affairs of the iNeSI will be managed by a board

4th INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



which will consist of a chairperson, deputy chairperson, not less than six and not more than 10 members and three ex-officio members, including a chief executive officer, chief financial officer and chief officer responsible for training and academic affairs.

The committee raised a concern with regard to the proposed number of board members. "We must engage further on the need for the proposed number when we deal with the Bill clause-by-clause. It is our constitutional duty to ensure that financial resources appropriated by Parliament to entities through the department are utilised in a cost-effective manner," said Mr Mahlangu.

According to the Bill, the DTPS Minister must publish a notice in the Government Gazette and three national newspapers, calling upon members of the public to nominate persons to serve on the board. It states that the Minister must then appoint an independent panel to compile a shortlist of not more than 20 persons from the nominees. Section 6(6) states that: "If the Minister receives no nominees or an insufficient number of nominations within the period specified in the notice referred to in section (5)(a), the Minister may, after consulting with the panel referred to in subsection (5)(b), either re-advertise or in any other transparent

manner, appoint the required number of qualified persons."

Mr Mahlangu said the importance of the iNeSI Bill cannot be overemphasised, as it addresses developments arising from the fourth industrial revolution. "The fourth industrial revolution is based largely on artificial intelligence, which will facilitate e-government, e-commerce, and the production of goods and services.

South Africa will be required to have citizens who possess e-skills in order to participate meaningfully in the global market. A nation that possesses e-skills will not be susceptible to cybercrime and cybersecurity," said Mr Mahlangu.

At an institutional level, Parliament has also discussed the implications of the fourth industrial revolution. It held a roundtable discussion during which Ms Mbete highlighted that in the absence of a national policy and legislation, there should be a national blueprint to address issues arising from the changes this revolution brings about. The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, participated in the discussion on the role of women in the technological revolution at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Women in Leadership Dialogue on the

theme: Women at the centre of radical transformation.

The Director-General of the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Mr Robert Nkuna, said that in terms of the Global Information Technology (IT) Report on e-Readiness published at the 2013 World Economic Forum (WEF), South Africa dropped from 47th place in 2007 to 70th position in 2014. "Out of 10 components of e-readiness, the WEF IT report identified that South Africa lacks affordability, skills, individual usage, government usage and social impact when compared to its global counterparts in the medium income group," said Mr Nkuna.

The plan to establish iNeSI was adopted by the Department of Communications in 2012 as a flagship project in an effort to address the lack of capacity in e-readiness and e-skills in collaboration with government, education and civil society.

The Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications and Postal Services will consider all written comments, invite interested parties to make oral presentations and deliberate on the Bill clause by clause. The committee will vote on the Bill before tabling it to the National Assembly for debate and adoption. 🌐



Placing women at the forefront of economic transformation and the fourth industrial revolution

*The Eastern Cape Provincial Branch of the Commonwealth Women's Parliament (CWP) held its Women in Leadership dialogue session at the Maluti Civic Centre in Matatiele in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape province where it discussed the implications of the fourth industrial revolution, among other issues, writes **Abel Mputing**.*

The branch's parent body, the CWP, has come a long way since operating on the margins as an unrecognised lobby group with no political standing in the affairs of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). It now claims centre stage as the vanguard

of the gender mainstreaming agenda in all Commonwealth parliaments. As such, it has given women a credible voice in its resolve to foster gender parity in decision-making positions.

This two-day gathering of the Eastern Cape Provincial Branch of the CWP's session on Women in Leadership, is making the most of this achievement to further the cause of women. Its theme: Women at the Centre of Radical Transformation, is indicative of the new resolve to change South Africa's economic status quo and put women on the forefront of economic transformation to bring about an inclusive growth.

Addressing the CWP, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, said all South Africans, women and youth in particular, had major roles to play in the fourth industrial revolution. He also emphasised the international character of this topic and of the contribution

of the struggle stalwart the district is named after.

Mr Alfred Nzo worked tirelessly with his comrade, Mr Johnny Makhathini, to expose the South African problem to the world and together they waged a campaign that led to the declaration of apartheid as a crime against humanity, Mr Tsenoli reminded delegates. "When we deliberate here in the Alfred Nzo district, we must be mindful of that. That is important to remember, given the international character of this event. But most of all, we would be proud to see what happens in their district and what you do as a tribute to these revolutionaries who added strength to the cause of the people of South Africa."

He emphasised the critical role of municipalities and their districts in advancing service delivery and the attendant need for good governance in how they manage this responsibility. He also expanded on the notion of good

governance, which is often confined to the management of money, keeping of books and reporting. "That is good, but good governance does not end there," he explained.

He used the United Nations' Declaration of Good Governance to illustrate his point. "Good governance also has a human development perspective. It seeks to ensure that people have a say and hold decision-makers to account. It is inclusive, women are equal in private and public spheres of life. Also, it ensures that the needs of future generations and the socio-economic choices that people have, are reflected in politics."

Speaking of the fourth industrial revolution was of a socio-economic system that is known for reinventing itself when faced with a crisis. However, it is also known for social disruptions. "There are already fears that it may deepen poverty, inequality and unemployment" cautioned Mr Tsenoli. The fourth industrial revolution is one of these processes of reinvention.

Artificial intelligence, advanced automation and robotics are some of the key manifestations of the 4th industrial revolution. This will have both positive and negative impacts on people's lives. As a country we will have to adapt as all spheres of life, even education will not be immune from its disruption. "Research also shows that the kind of jobs and careers that our kids are studying towards won't exist in future. This will have a profound impact on their future."

He said one of the major beneficiaries of this revolution will be the health sector. "Through artificial intelligence, there will now be machines that will detect diseases in children before they are even born. They will administer medication to avert any possibilities of mental or other diseases they may have been born with."

The pace of change is fast and it is crucial for the government and the legislature to build a state of readiness to harness the benefits of this revolution on behalf of the people and to avert its inevitable disruptions, Mr Tsenoli concluded. 🇿🇦



Committee concerned about the Office of Health Standards Compliance report on serious challenges in the health sector



*Only five of the 696 hospitals and clinics it inspected in 2016-17 nationally achieved an 80 percent on compliance with the Department of Health's (DoH's) norms and standards. This is according to the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) report, which was presented to the Portfolio Committee on Health at Parliament, writes **Yoliswa Landu**.*

The OHSC is a statutory body charged with assessing the quality of the South African hospitals and clinics. It will also shortly be assuming responsibility for determining whether healthcare facilities meet the grade to be accredited for providing services under the National Health Insurance (NHI).

The Chief Executive Officer of the OHSC, Dr Siphwe Mndaweni, presented data to the committee showing there had been little or no improvement in the overall score awarded in the majority of provinces.

The OHSC conducted repeat inspections in facilities that scored below 50% during previous inspections, and found non-compliance in many hospitals and clinics. Three of the health establishments that achieved 80% are in Gauteng. Laudium Clinic received the highest score of 83%, followed by Paarl Hospital in the Western Cape at 81%, and Danville Clinic in Pretoria. "A score of 80% and above is given to health establishments that are fully compliant when they were inspected," said Dr Mndaweni.

Non-compliance was worst in Limpopo and Eastern Cape provinces, with the lowest score of 20% given to Limpopo's Lephepane Clinic. Issues of non-compliance were mostly around leadership and corporate governance, especially in supply-chain management, human resources and finance. Despite this non-compliance, these facilities are still providing health services. In other words, they are still functional and provide services, but there are areas of concern.

The Chairperson of the portfolio committee, Ms Lindelwa Dunjwa, welcomed the report, saying it is important to note that the results do not reflect the entire state of health establishments, but rather highlight serious challenges. However, the committee was also of the view that the report failed to provide solutions to the challenges identified and also noted that challenges were mainly at provincial level. The committee also expressed its dissatisfaction with the OHSC's recommendations, saying that they should be directed to the provinces, not to the national department.

Subsequent to the tabling of the OHSC's annual inspection report, the committee conducted hearings with the eight provincial departments of health during which it was briefed on the state of provincial public hospital services. The provincial departments acknowledged the challenges highlighted in the OHSC's report and made a commitment to deal with the challenges identified.

The committee expressed concern with the accruals incurred by provinces, as these have a negative impact on health services delivery and indicate that departments start each financial year on a deficit. In Limpopo, about 40% of the 2017/18 accruals are due to over-spending on the R863 million budget allocation for medicines.

The committee also expressed dissatisfaction with the widespread irregular and wasteful expenditure, coupled with budget underspending. The National Treasury reported that

Mpumalanga's health department accumulated unauthorised expenditure increased to approximately R200 million, and irregular expenditure still awaiting condonation amounts to R6.7 billion. Provincial departments are also failing to pay outstanding accounts on time. The Gauteng Department of Health told the committee that at the start of the 2017/18 financial year, accruals amounted to R6.9 billion.

The committee is also deeply concerned by the number of legal claims against provincial health departments. The Northern Cape Head of the Department of Health, Mr Stephen Jonkers, told the committee that R1.4 billion in legal claims have been made against the department.

Many of these claims relate to cerebral palsy cases, some of which date back to 2004. The Mpumalanga Department of Health faces similar medical negligence claims, amounting to more than R7.6 billion, mostly for obstetrics and gynaecology cases, and children born with cerebral palsy.

The Eastern Cape Head of the Department of Health, Dr Thobile Mbengashe, told the committee that the province has cumulatively paid R1.1 billion for legal claims since the 2010/11 financial year, R432 million of this during the current financial year. An additional R44.5 million was paid to the state attorney in legal fees.

Provinces also highlighted the difficulty in attracting specialist doctors, particularly in rural provinces. 🇿🇦



Committee tells Post Office and Sassa to communicate better with beneficiaries

*The beginning of the month of July saw a lot of the vulnerable South African Social Security Agency's (Sassa's) social grants beneficiaries stuck in long and cumbersome queues at the Post Office waiting for their social grants, writes **Faith Ndenze**.*

The Portfolio Committee on Social Development called the Department of Social Development to brief it on, among other things, reasons for long queues at Sassa pay points and a strategy to deal with the problem of queues and on interventions taken to deal with the escalating statistics of rape and kidnapping of children. Also appearing before the committee to brief the committee on the same matter of interventions taken to deal with the escalating statistics of rape and kidnapping of children, were the Commission for Human Rights and the Commission on Gender Equality.

At the meeting where the Department of Social Development appeared before the committee to account on the problems of long queues at Parliament recently, the committee highlighted the importance of stakeholders, including the government and parliamentarians revisiting the roadmap that was presented by the South African

Post Office (Sapo) and Sassa on the implementation of the process of dissemination of social grants.

The committee Chairperson, Ms Zoleka Capa, said members of the committee were made aware of the weaknesses and strengths within Sapo and Sassa before this process was implemented. "Because weaknesses in the implementation of the payment process are now becoming manifest, the committee wants to revisit the roadmap that Sapo presented to the committee and to hear about the progress Sapo has made in its checklist for disbursements," said Ms Capa.

According to Ms Capa, weaknesses include, among other things, long queues, stampedes in post offices, the inability of staff to cope with large numbers of people and the unavailability of enough cash in most areas. "This is why the committee wants to understand how far both

entities are working together to ensure that grants are paid successfully in future," emphasised Ms Capa.

One of the complaints from the public around this matter, is the lack of proper communication by Sassa. The committee urged Sassa to improve the way it communicates with the recipients and to do so timeously, particularly when challenges are anticipated. "The committee urges Sassa to ensure that frontline staff dealing directly with the public are kind and courteous," said Ms Capa.

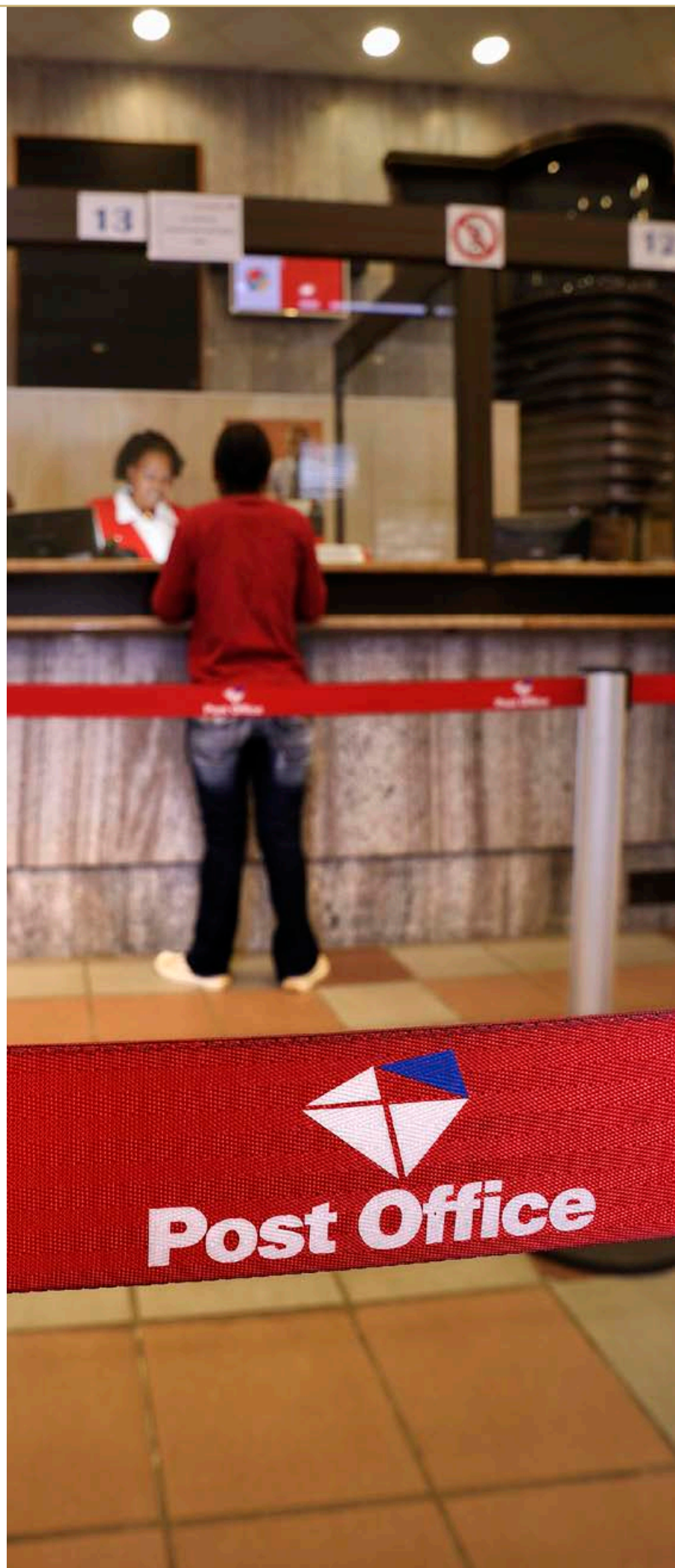
Some members of the public have written to the committee complaining about the long queues caused by the delay in payments of social grants. Ms Lena Ndaba wrote to the committee saying: "We are unemployed and our grannies and siblings are starving because of not getting their grants, children are crying because they are also hungry."

This was echoed by Ms Cindy Ludick from Pretoria, who wrote to the committee asking it to reconsider the partnership between Sassa and Sapo. "Please reconsider the option of partnering with Sapo. The Post Office in Pretoria North operates for only one week a month and is closed for three weeks every month. Imagine how the social grants beneficiaries who will have to go back home because that Post Office is closed," she said.

Ms Capa said the committee also believes that Sassa should consider alternative ways of using a PIN number to access the social grants. It has transpired through provincial reports that a lot of grant beneficiaries, particularly the elderly, easily forget their PIN numbers and there was no support system, as had been promised before implementation.

The scourge of sexual assault on children is also something that the committee is seized with. Some of the Chapter 9 institutions such as the Commission for Gender Equality and Human Rights Commission suggested that poor coordination is failing these vulnerable groups. The committee has resolved to ask the Minister of Social Development, Ms Susan Shabangu, to take up the matter with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete and the Leader of Government Business, the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr David Mabuza. "This serious social challenge requires a response from the government, particularly from within the Department of Social Development, which should champion this response," said Ms Capa.

The committee has appealed to government, faith-based organisations, traditional leaders and community organisations to join hands against this scourge of sexual assault of children and gender based violence that is plaguing our society. 🌟



Scopa and NCOP asks hard questions of Water and Sanitation department

*Water and Sanitation policy debate in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) presented the new Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Gugile Nkwinti, with an opportunity to outline the department's new turnaround strategy to ensure that water and sanitation are delivered to the people, writes **Abel Mputing and Sakhile Mokoena.***

However, the debate in the NCOP was dogged by allegations of bad financial management that has driven the department to bankruptcy under the leadership of the previous minister. Mr Nkwinti stated outright that he has inherited a department beset by challenges arising from wasteful and fruitless expenditure.

Previously, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) also expressed its concern about the losses suffered by the Department of Water and Sanitation as a result of procurement through deviations and expansion of contracts without the approval of National Treasury. The concerns that were raised in a report of the National Treasury. Scopa Chairperson Mr Themba Godi said: "Our lamentation about the department and its entities is about the weakness and absence of leadership and our call is that all these matters must be investigated so that responsible people should be held accountable."

To stop the rot, Mr Nkwinti told the permanent delegates to the NCOP that he has now introduced a strategy that is firmly based on five pillars to ensure that his department restores effective governance and its responsibility as a custodian of South Africa's water resources. "We have incepted the National Water Service Regulator,

a value chain, a master plan, an institutionalised alignment control and management."

He said they have also streamlined the department's organogram to ensure that it is easy to manage. "There is a challenge posed by not having a hierarchy, which has led to a lack of clear accountability. As a result, we have now appointed a Chief Operations Officer, and we have now the planning, monitoring and evaluation unit within the department. This in addition to the integrated financial governance approach we have now adopted."

Serious budgetary challenges still exist, however. "There are still historical contracts and accruals to be honoured, and wasteful and irregular expenditures which have to be borne by the current department budget of R15.5 billion."

He said they will nonetheless ensure that their current budget advances the notion of a developmental state. "In achieving that, we will involve people in formulating our policies, in monitoring and evaluating our performance."

Participating in the debate, the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services, Ms Landulile Dlamini, said they have no choice but to support the department's budget, because water is a basic human right. "We support this budget because we have a social contract with our people. Not to support it is tantamount to betrayal."

She was pleased to hear that the new minister has devised a new turnaround strategy that is in line with the National Development Plan (NDP). "The NDP identifies access to water and sanitation as a contributory factor to socio-economic development." She also congratulated the department on its role in developing water artisans, 148 000 of which have gained employment and contributed to our country's economic development.

Ms Thandi Mpambo-Sibhukwana, who is the permanent delegate to the NCOP for the Western Cape, said they are glad to hear the admission from Mr Nkwinti that he inherited a department that has been wrecked by bankruptcy. "In this House, I asked the previous minister whether the department was bankrupt or not; she denied that. We now know that the department has experienced wasteful and irregular expenditures running into billions of rands. As a result, the department has failed to meet its strategic goals under her leadership."

Ms Delisile Ngwenya, who is the permanent delegate to the NCOP for Gauteng province, said the minister has not suspended any official in the department for all these wrongdoings, which means the minister has failed to "reassure us that he is serious about dealing with financial irregularities in the department". Ms Ngwenya said the future of water sustainability needs bold leadership.

Mr Mntomuhle Khawula, who represents KwaZulu-Natal in the NCOP, said it is sad to realise that R1.5 billion of the R5.5 billion of the department's budget will have to service an overdraft from irregular expenditures and financial mismanagement. "The R1.5 billion is a huge chunk of this department's budget that should have been utilised to provide water services to those who are deprived of water and sanitation," emphasised Mr Khawula.

Additionally, Scopa questioned why the department knowingly continued with deviations that were not approved by National Treasury. Mr Godi said deviations and expansions without approval from Treasury, were very serious and that is why Scopa has taken it up and reached an agreement that National Treasury will be reporting to the Committee quarterly on the matter. 🌱



Committees in brief

Parliament's committees have been hard at work, conducting oversight over government departments and drafting and adopting legislation. This is a summary of committee work in June.

The Select Committee on Finance adopted the Public Audit Amendment Bill without amendments just before the end of the second parliamentary term. The Bill will give the Auditor-General greater powers to act against those found to have wasted public funds.

The Bill seeks to amend the Public Audit Act, 2004, so as to insert new definitions; to provide for certainty on the discretion of the Auditor-General with regard to certain audits; and to authorise the Auditor-General to provide audit or audit-related services to an international association, body, institution or organisation. It will also allow the Auditor-General to refer undesirable audit outcomes, arising from an audit performed under the Act, to an appropriate body for investigation; and to provide for the Auditor-General to recover losses in certain instances against the responsible persons.

The Bill also seeks to provide for the establishment, powers and functions of a remuneration committee; and to provide for consultation between the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers

and the remuneration committee. The Bill will also provide for additional reporting requirements; and to provide for a maximum amount or percentage of audit fees that can be defrayed from the vote of National Treasury. The Bill also seeks to revise the provisions relating to the appointment of an audit committee for the Auditor-General; to empower the Auditor-General to make regulations on specific issues; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation has said it is satisfied with the progress made in the Foreign Service Bill. The committee had started doing clause-by-clause deliberations on the Bill, following an oversight visit to Canada where the committee sought to learn best practices late last year.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Siphosizwe Masango, said the Bill is complex and requires that all stakeholders apply their mind. "This is not an ordinary piece of legislation, as it encompasses all government departments and seeks to manage how and what kind of services are provided at embassies abroad. The input from all stakeholders is high-level, sophisticated and invigorating," he said.

The Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources commended the Minister of the Department of Mineral Resources, Mr Gwede Mantashe, for his prompt visit to the Sibanye-Stillwater mine, following the deaths of four mine workers.

The committee noted with interest that after meeting with mine management and organised labour, Mr Mantashe mentioned that the Department of Mineral Resources will investigate the accident and take drastic action, should this be necessary.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Olifile Sefako, urged the Minister to ensure that the investigation is conducted as a matter of urgency, with the requisite due diligence. "The deaths at the Sibanye-Stillwater mine have long passed alarming proportions and required a different approach," said Mr Sefako.

The Select Committee on Security and Justice has applauded the work of the Magistrates Commission, following the adoption of seven committee reports by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). All the reports entailed the work of the commission, which was presented to the committee by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Michael Masutha.

"Although we always held the commission in the highest esteem, our view is that the NCOP has put its stamp of approval to its sterling work.

Parliament will stop at nothing in its commitment to ensure that justice is not just done, but is also seen to be done. This is universal across all and sundry, irrespective of a position held by a person found to be in conflict with the law," said Mr George Mthimunya, the Chairperson of the committee. →

The Select Committee on Education and Recreation was briefed by Education MECs on matric results, the centralised Learner Teaching Support Material (LTSM) procurement systems and the national school nutrition programme.

Committee Chairperson Ms Lungelwa Zwane said the meeting follows oversight visits where the committee picked up a number of problems. “During the oversight, we did not find space in our programme to verify and attend to the issues, hence the meeting to get a report on what provinces are doing on matric results, the centralised LTSM procurement systems and the national school nutrition programme.”

“We are sitting with provinces that are not performing well with regard to their matric results, we need plans and mechanisms on how provinces will move forward in addressing the challenges the committee has identified during the oversight,” said Ms Zwane.

The committee welcomed the teaching of African languages in Gauteng and called on other provinces to use Gauteng as a benchmark and learn from their methodology as it is performing well.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Mr Francois Beukman, has condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the attacks on the Eersterus police station by criminals recently.

He said the police must take the necessary steps to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to book. “Anarchy in the name of community protest cannot be allowed. Any attack on a law enforcement location is an attack on the constitutional order and should be dealt with accordingly,” said Mr Beukman.

Mr Beukman urged the police management to implement the necessary security measures at high-risk police stations, including perimeter fencing, security gates and CCTV cameras. He said from an operational perspective, it is crucial that a specialised unit capability, either Public Order Policing or Tactical Response Team, should be available in each police cluster at all times. 🇿🇦



Tribute *to* Mr Sibusiso Radebe

4 March 1978 to 19 June 2018

Parliament lost one of its Members just as the second parliamentary term of 2018 was drawing to a close in the final weeks of June. Mr Sibusiso Radebe died near Roodepoort in Gauteng. The Presiding Officers of Parliament: the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise, expressed their heartfelt condolences on behalf of Parliament to the Radebe family, his relatives, friends and his party, the African National Congress (ANC).

Mr Radebe was deployed to Parliament after the 2009 general elections and was sworn in as a Member of the National Assembly. He was deployed to the portfolio committees on Communication; and on Higher Education and Training. He was also an alternate at the Portfolio Committee of Public Works and the information and communication technology focus group of Parliament. In 2010 he also served on the Portfolio Committee on Energy. After the 2014 general elections, he was deployed to the Portfolio Committee on Transport.

Remembering his legacy after working with him since the beginning of the fifth Parliament, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport Ms Dikeledi Magadzi described Mr Radebe as an excellent leader and highly knowledgeable member of the team. "He would be robust in asking questions of accountability to the departmental officials when they appear before the committee for accountability. Vivid in my mind was when we were discussing the challenges in Prasa [Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa]. His input brought about the committee's decision to investigate Prasa, focusing on procurement and human resource management."



Before joining Parliament, he was active in politics and held leadership positions in a number of youth organisations, including the Mpumalanga Congress of South African Students, the South African Students Congress, the Young Communist League and the Mpumalanga Provincial African National Congress Youth League.

Sharing his political profile with *InSession* when he joined Parliament in 2009, Mr Radebe said his political life began at Lembede Street in Orlando West. "My mother grew up in Lembede Street in Orlando West in Soweto. Lembede Street is just a street above Ngakane Street where Nelson and Winnie Mandela lived and which is now called Mandela Legacy House. My

father was an ANC courier during its days of underground activism during the apartheid regime. I only became active in 1987 when my house was raided and my two siblings, Lesedi and Arthur, were taken away."

Mr Radebe was assigned the Elukwatini constituency in Mpumalanga where he left a remarkable legacy of constituency work. Part of his work included building a home for a child-headed household in that constituency. During other constituency periods, Mr Radebe distributed wheelchairs and blankets to the elderly. He died at a time when he was planning to furnish one of the best performing schools in his constituency with a science laboratory. 🌱



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.