

MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER – Learning from Madiba

Insession



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

ISSUE 8 2018



Protecting Our Heritage



Celebrating
Heritage Month





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.

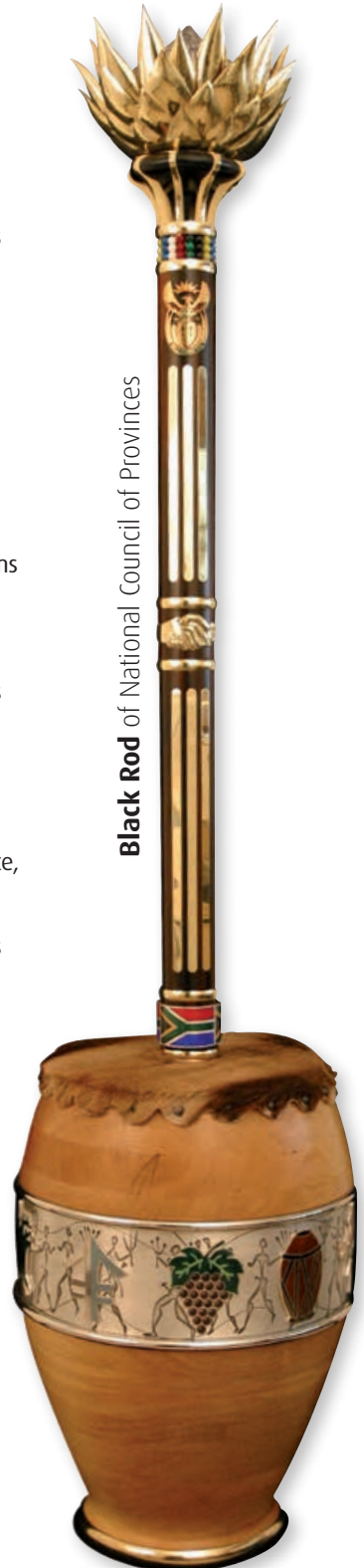
Mission

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.

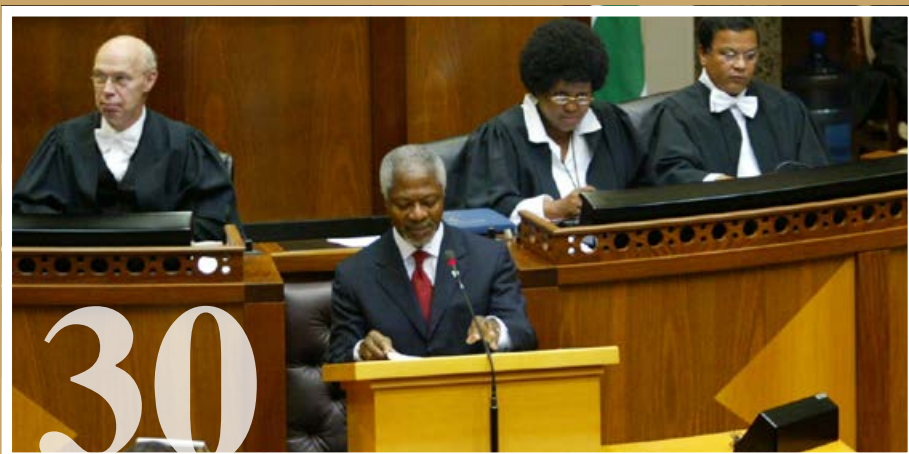
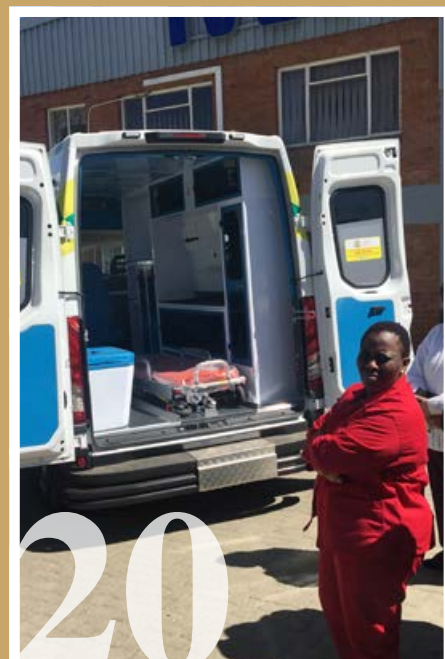
Strategic Objectives

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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Editor

Mr Brent Simons

Production editor

Mr Mava Lukani

Design and layout

Vishaal Lalla

Copy editors

Jane Henshall, Vusumzi Nobadula

Writers

Sakhile Mokoena, Abel Mputing, Mava Lukani, Malatswa Molepo, Rajaa Azzakani, Faith Ndenze, Brent Simons

Photography

Mlandeli Puzi, Zwelethemba Kostile

Distribution & subscriptions

Jacqueline Zils

Publisher

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Printer

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**Section Manager:
Publishing and Production**

Ms S Montsho

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EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

Telephone 021 403 8738

Fax 021 403 8096

E-mail insession@parliament.gov.za

Subscriptions zjils@parliament.gov.za

Post PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000

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Strategic Objectives

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

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We must protect our heritage

*The Select Committee on Education and Recreation was briefed by the National Heritage Council of South Africa on the state of the heritage sector. It also received a briefing from the Amafa Heritage KwaZulu-Natal on its achievements over the years, writes **Zizipho Klaas**.*

In welcoming the National Heritage Council (NHC) and Amafa officials to the meeting, the Chairperson of the committee, Ms Lungelwa Zwane, emphasised the importance of the roles of both organisations in the preservation of the South African heritage.

The committee heard that Amafa is doing a good job in preserving the heritage of KwaZulu-Natal, to such a degree that the committee said other provinces should follow its example.

However, it emerged during the briefing that it has a challenge with budget constraints, as in the past four years Amafa has had 40% of its budget cut.



Ms Lungelwa Zwane, Chairperson of the Select Committee of Education and Recreation.

The committee was told that as a consequence of budget cuts, some directorates in the entity are operating at 30% capacity. More resources are needed to ensure that heritage is preserved.

The committee was concerned and expressed its unhappiness about the fact that indigenous languages are not used in the documents produced by the NHC. This will create a problem when the entity tries to communicate with some communities. More work needs to be done for indigenous languages to be developed and used widely.

The NHC's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sonwabile Mangcotywa, told the

committee that a report from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) states that use of indigenous languages is diminishing and in 50 years' time many of them will become extinct.

The committee suggested that one way the NHC can promote South African heritage would be to profile the schools that were at the vanguard of the 1976 Soweto uprising, such as Orlando, Morris Isaacson and Naledi high schools. The committee told the NHC that if the NHC can do more work, South African young people will realise the richness of their culture and they may stop mimicking other cultures. 🙏



Public hearings: Mixed reactions to Customary Initiation Bill

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs conducted public hearings on the Customary Initiation Bill to hear from South Africans what they thought about it. The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Richard Mdakane, said the committee consulted widely to enrich the Bill, rather than to impose upon the people. Sibongile Maputi reports.

"This is just the beginning; we will continuously work on this Bill. The committee will go back and invite the chiefs to Parliament for further input. Initiation is a beautiful tradition. Help us to understand it. However, we must also ensure that no one dies during initiation. Tradition should be exciting

and should be a joyous thing that is celebrated. But sadly, rogue elements have hijacked our tradition," said Mr Mdakane.

The Bill was received with mixed emotions in the communities and they have serious reservations about the involvement of medical doctors and those who are not familiar with traditional circumcision as a custom. The Bill proposes, among other things, to outlaw circumcision in children younger than 16; to provide for the presence of a medical doctor during traditional circumcision and for payment for circumcision services.

It also proposes to provide for the registration of *iingcibi* (traditional surgeons) every three months and the alignment of the initiation season with the school calendar. It also proposes a 40-year age limit for care givers and a three-months' notice period before initiates go to the mountain.

A cultural and tradition expert in Rustenburg, Ms Grace Masuku, pointed out that there is a vast difference between medical and traditional circumcision. "As much as we appreciate the efforts of government, government should in turn respect our traditions. There is a reason why the tradition is performed in secret and secluded places. For many of us, circumcision and initiation is sacred and done with the concurrence of the chiefs."

Mr Fikile Tsibani, an *ingcibi* (traditional surgeon), said initiation is a treasure that had been passed on from our forefathers. It is important for Parliament to make legislation that sustains the tradition, he said. "It is advisable that you leave this tradition on the hands of people who know it," he said.

Mr Malusi Mkunkwana said it seemed that traditional societies who practise the custom were being modernised and Westernised against their will.



“If you involve medical doctors, they will take over and that will lead to stopping of our tradition and cultural practices. We need regulations and laws that are localised according to how the custom is practised in a specific area. This Act was brought here without anybody’s input,” he said.

People attending the public hearings also highlighted challenges with a lack of financial support, money wasted on medical male circumcision, invasion of bushes in urban centres, illegal traditional surgeons, crime in initiation schools, and use of drugs by initiates. The committee heard how young school boys were recruited and abducted in Flagstaff, and then circumcised against their will without their families knowing.

Mr Dumisani Mcosini said historically, the amaMpondo did not practise the tradition and hence it resulted in deaths in their region. “In this region, initiation was not practised; wrong people conduct this practice. This is not cultural practice in Pondoland. Isiko (tradition) is a family thing, one cannot just decide from the street, with no one knowing.” He said it was important that amaMpondo should adopt traditional initiation as their own so that families could do it officially and in the right way.

The Bill proposes to provide for the registration of iingcibi every three months and the alignment of the initiation season with the school calendar.

Mr Ntsikelelo Luti, a teacher in Lusikisiki, said he had a problem with circumcision done in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and the Department of Health. “Children come back unhealed from these clinics and they hide their pain. At school teachers have to change and play a role of being amakhankatha.”

A health practitioner, Mr Bongani Xhonkxa, said medical circumcision and traditional circumcision were entirely different. “The two are mutually exclusive. Doctors cannot monitor tradition, they use different equipment, healing methods, and are required to account to their professional bodies. If anything goes wrong in the tradition they stand the risk of losing their practices and licences,” Mr Xhonkxa said.

He said most of the work relating to the tradition was often done by professional nurses and that it was “too

risky”. “Sometimes it is dangerous to attend to some of the incidents as we are called at night to the bush.

There is a high crime rate, and we find ourselves having to leave cars next to the road while you walk into the mountain,” he said.

Mr Siphesihle Dlamini, a cultural activist, said initiation is a tradition meant to be practiced by families, villages and communities.

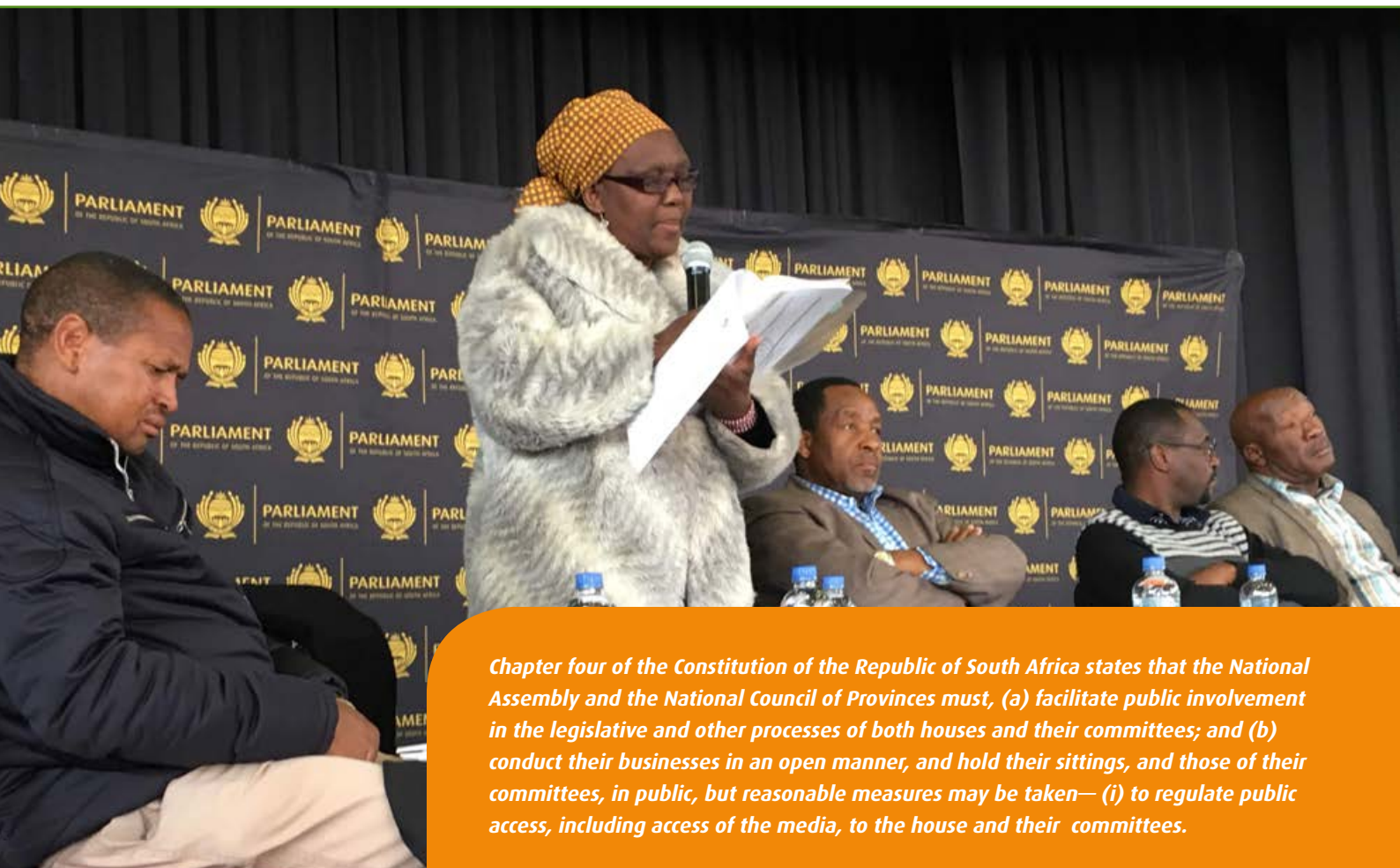
“Government has no role there. Families are failing our children and are not providing guidance. We would not be in this situation had they done so.”

He pleaded that the bill not replace the provincial male initiation acts in provinces like the Eastern Cape.

“We are different cultures and we are proud of this practice.

“That there are deaths cannot be a result of practising our culture. If the committee proceeds with this Bill, then they are taking away our culture, traditions and language, essentials which are components of an identity.

We need to embrace, respect and promote our culture,” he said.🙏



Chapter four of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa states that the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces must, (a) facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of both houses and their committees; and (b) conduct their businesses in an open manner, and hold their sittings, and those of their committees, in public, but reasonable measures may be taken— (i) to regulate public access, including access of the media, to the house and their committees.

Initiation does not exclude women

*Parliament is responsible for passing legislation, holding the executive to account through oversight and facilitating public participation in the law-making process. The public hearings on the Customary Initiation Bill in the Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape provinces were disrupted recently when people attending the public hearings refused to allow uncircumcised people, both men and women, from participating in the hearings, write **Mava Lukani, Sakhile Mokoena and Zizipho Klaas.***

There is a strong view in certain areas that participation in the Bill should be restricted to people who

are circumcised and uncircumcised people should be denied the right to participate. The view against the participation of uncircumcised people in the Bill contradicts the Constitution, which calls for the participation of all in the creation of legislation.

To talk more on these views about public participation in the Bill, Insession spoke to the Eastern Cape's former Head of the House of Traditional Leaders, Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima and Mpumalanga's Chief Mathibela Mokoena, who is the current President of the Congress of Traditional Leaders (Contralesa). Both provinces are hotspots for initiate deaths.

Asked to comment on the fast-changing socio-economic realities that impact on traditions and cultures in any community in South Africa, Chief Matanzima said: "The tradition of initiation is too old and its existence is traced from the beginning of the existence of humankind. Right from

those beginnings, the nations that have this gift of this tradition practise it in different ways. They have different unique versions of the tradition. I am a Thembu and AbaThembu do it the Thembu way.

"There is something which challenges people lately in this tradition, the issue of the death of initiates in the initiation schools and that death is attributed to circumcision, yet we know that the tradition of initiation doesn't and never killed anybody since it was started. We have never heard that from our forebears, since I became old as I am I never saw a grave of an initiate with my own eyes in my area.

This issue of the death of initiates is new, which makes others suggest that the tradition must be discontinued. Or perhaps those who practise it should be trained to practise it properly. But the problem is who is going to train them to practise their tradition?

Chief Ngangomhlaba
Matanzima.

“The tradition of initiation is a broad process of training and transformation of a boy from boyhood into manhood.”

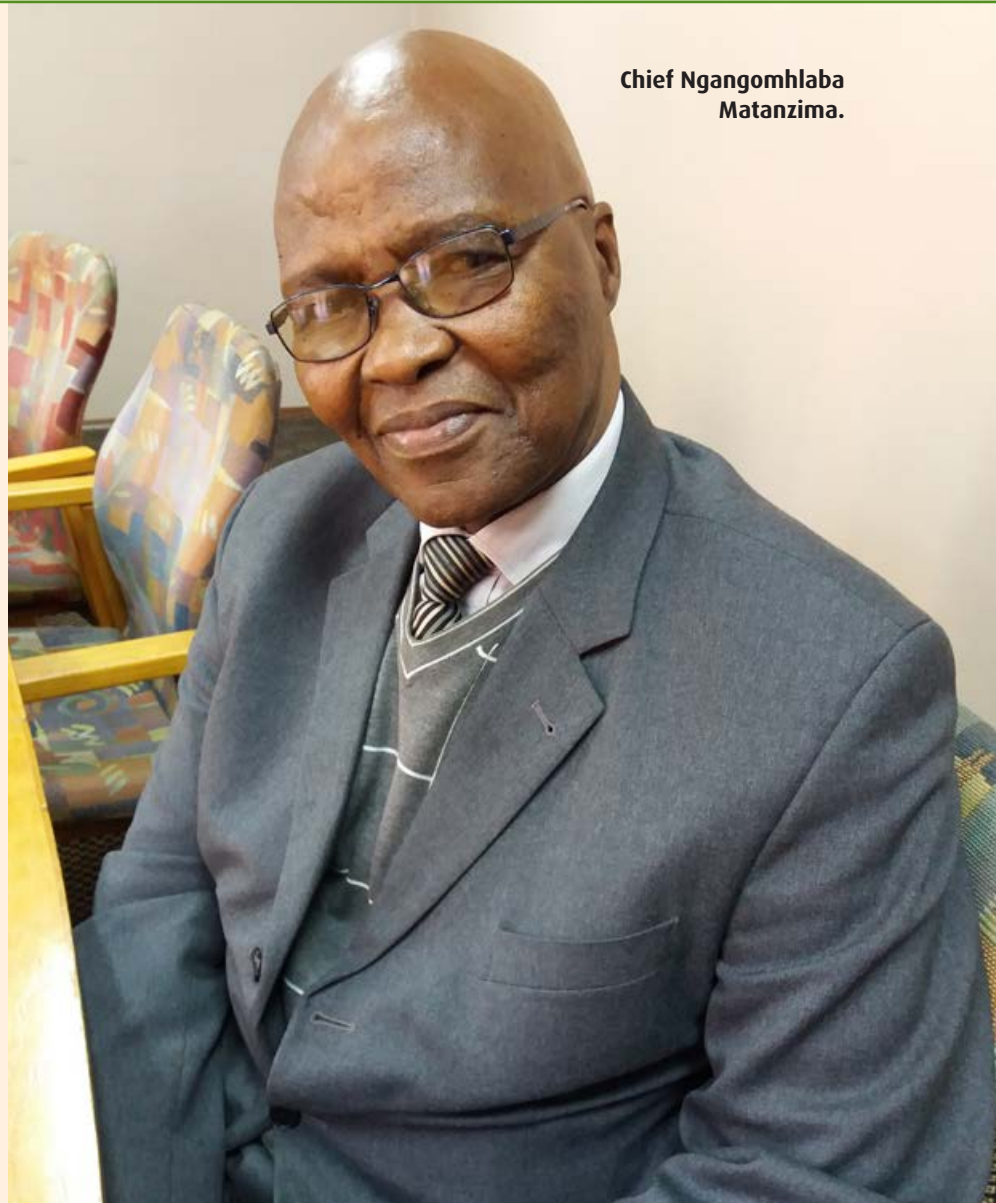
“Some people suggest that it should be the medical doctors who will provide training. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa under the Bill of Rights, protects all the traditions and cultures of the people. Given that, how can people who do not practise the tradition of initiation train the custodians of the tradition, it’s bizarre and that’s ridiculous. What I can say is that, the tradition is being undermined by its custodians.

“I think the problem now is that people do not take the tradition of initiation holistically, the circumcision part is isolated from the entire tradition. And we are made to believe that we should keep our focus on circumcision – and it causes death. By being shaken by death, people speak about a lot of things that can mislead if they can be followed, like the suggested training I have mentioned or the discontinuation of the tradition.”

Defining the tradition according to its original version, Chief Matanzima said, according to the original version of the tradition of initiation, the circumcision part of a boy is just an aspect not the tradition. The tradition of initiation, he said, is a broad process of training and transformation of a boy from boyhood into manhood.

At the initiation school, the initiates are under the mentorship of a traditional nurse (a man who has proven himself). The traditional nurse would mentor the initiates on the meaning of manhood. Some of the things they are taught include the observance of morality, leadership, responsibility, dignity, honesty, and protection of the family.

On the involvement of women in the tradition, Chief Matanzima said



the involvement of women is an inherent feature in the tradition and an irremovable element. When the boy wants to become a man, he tells his mother and asks her to ask his father that he wants to be a man and that he is psychologically and materially ready for that step.

Chief Matanzima said this is the first important step in the whole process, as the child is the product of the contact between a woman and a man and that contact delivered God’s creation. These people, according to Chief Matanzima, are tied by this child forever.

That is why when the boy wants to become a man, he will tell his mother because according to nature, the mother is the only person between the two parents who has an emotional connection with the child, something more than just mere affection. The man doesn’t have that natural affection, as

the child comes from his mother and were linked by the connection of the umbilical cord.

The best thing to do to improve customary initiation is to go back to the original version of the tradition. “I am puzzled by the argument of the separation of men and women on this tradition of initiation.”

Chief Matanzima said they heard from a woman called Dr Nxiweni of Port Elizabeth that initiates were dying in the initiation schools. “Dr Nxiweni came to us and said where are the men, I am a medical doctor of diseases, there are men who bring initiates to me.”

Chief Matanzima called on the people to locate the discourse on the tradition of initiation in the paradigm of original morality of ubuntu. “By and large, we have lost track of our origins, the kind of morality by which the tradition was



Left: Kgoshi Mathupa Mokoena.

done. Let us revive our foundations, especially of morals," he said.

He said as we celebrate the centenary anniversary after Madiba was born, "We must reverberate the call he made during the launch of the Moral Regeneration Movement in 1997."

Kgoshi Mathupa Mokoena, President of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa), said it was undermining the tradition and culture to discuss matters of initiation in the presence of women and "uninitiated" men. He says there are some clauses in the Bill that they were unhappy about, but the main issue is the process of consultation.

"In the Bill itself there are some clauses that we are not happy with and even the process itself, it is so flawed that it talks about us (traditional leaders and practitioners of initiation) but we are not properly consulted, the process is

just going without us, so we are not happy at all," he said.

Kgoshi Mokoena feels that the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should have consulted traditional leaders before the public hearings. He said inviting them to a public meeting without prior consultation was "undermining" the institution of traditional leadership.

"Our take is that we are the ones that were supposed to be consulted first. Let them hear our view first before calling public meetings. We are the ones who are conducting this ritual, we say if Parliament, the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council NCOP) feel they can just continue without us, it is fine, let them do so."

They do not agree with the clauses of the Bill where women will be allowed to serve in established structures that will be responsible for the governance

and regulations of customary initiation, adding that it was culturally taboo to discuss issues of initiation in the presence of women.

"This discrimination is fair in terms of our law. I cannot talk about what's happening in the mountain in the presence of my own wife, she does not even want to hear that. Even my own sister will feel offended if I start a topic about what's happening in the mountain in her presence. Our women don't want to be involved in these matters because they understand and respect our culture.

"We thought in these public hearings, as Contralesa, they wanted us to tell them exactly what is it that is causing the deaths at our initiation schools. Some are caused by negligence that is happening there. We were going to identify some of those things, but how do you talk about those things in the presence of women? It cannot be, it would be in violation of the secrecy clauses of the custom," he said.

If the process continues and the legislation is passed without the participation of traditional leaders, they should not be expected to honour and implement the legislation in their communities.

"Even if they can pass this law, I can tell you we are not going to respect it, we are not going to implement it and we won't even encourage our people to honour whatever that is coming with this law. How do I enforce or implement something which I was not part of?

"Surprisingly, some of these leaders, when they get a platform they will say 'we respect traditional institutions

MAKING A POINT: A community member expresses his view.

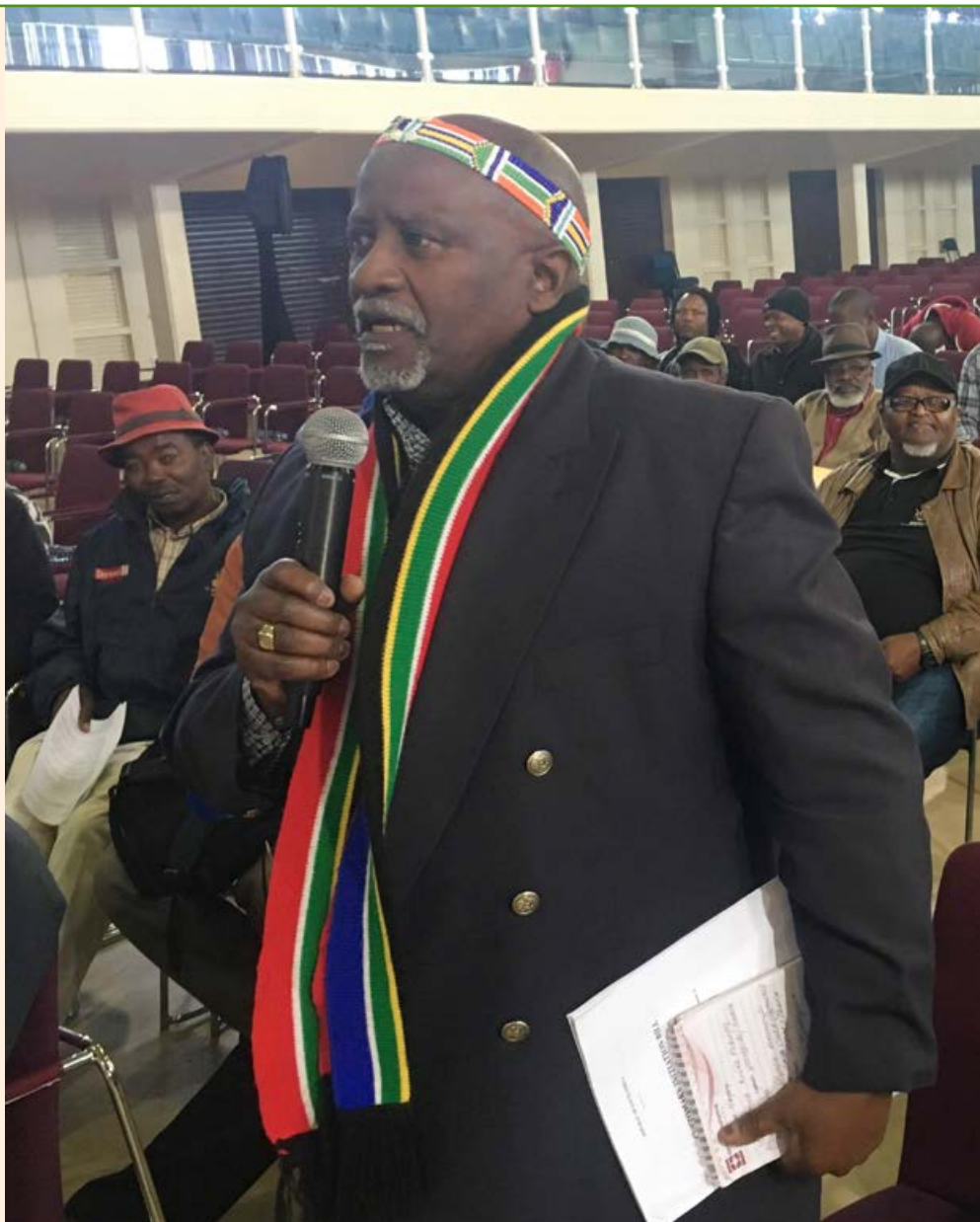
and we promise to work with them' and go to an extent of saying 'we can't do anything without consulting our traditional leaders' – but here we are."

Kgoshi Mokoena said the consultation must not just be done for compliance with the Constitution, adding that in the past inputs had been ignored when Bills were processed. He said the consultation would be a waste of time and money if the public hearings were just a formality instead of seeking different views to improve the legislation.

He mentioned the processing of the Traditional Courts Bill as an example of Parliament ignoring inputs from stakeholders and doing as it pleases when passing laws. "We travelled from the various provinces as Contralesa to Cape Town to express our disquiet about the 'opt out clause' in the Traditional Courts Bill.

"We spoke to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee and the leader of Government Business (the Deputy President) and again the President, only to be told now that they are going ahead. That opt out clause is still there. Simply because some white non-governmental organisations that are funded by some imperialists came here and formed some organisations to oppose anything to do with traditional institutions. We know about this."

Mr Justice Mahlangu from the House of Traditional Leaders in Nkangala was present when public hearings on the Bill were disrupted, and he echoed Kgoshi Mokoena's sentiments that issues relating to "ingoma" (initiation) cannot be discussed in the presence of women and men who haven't undergone the custom.



"Before the disruptions, the men in the hall said to the committee: we cannot discuss issues that relate to ingoma in the presence of women. As custodians of the tradition and custom, traditional leaders should have been the first to be consulted by the portfolio committee.

This topic is very sensitive, there are contents that cannot be discussed with persons who haven't undergone customary initiation," he said.

He also reiterated their support for the Bill's intentions of introducing regulations, which he said will minimise the deaths of initiates.

The traditional leaders said they were willing to participate in the processing of the Bill should Parliament realise the mistakes and come back to them. They said they can contribute to improve the Bill and ensure proper regulation of customary initiation.

"Before the disruptions, the men in the hall said to the committee: we cannot discuss issues that relate to ingoma in the presence of women. As custodians of the tradition and custom, traditional leaders should have been the first to be consulted by the portfolio committee. This topic is very sensitive, there are contents that cannot be discussed with persons who haven't undergone customary initiation."

Heritage: Initiation starts with women

*Insession spoke to women during Heritage Month, to hear what they had to say in response to the view that they should not participate in public hearings on the Customary Initiation Bill, reports **Zizipho Klaas**.*



Ms Nobandla Jakeni of Nkalane Village near Mthatha said: “Those who say that uncircumcised people, especially women, should not participate in the Customary Initiation Bill public hearings need to be educated, first of all, about the role of women in the whole tradition of initiation.

They must be told that tradition, by its nature, is a community tradition. Based on that, no section of the community can be denied participation in it. There is only one thing men can claim and which is an undisputable historical reality, their leadership in the implementation of the tradition. So to say women must be denied the right to participate in it is ludicrous. Above all, the Constitution of South Africa enshrines public participation in law-making processes.”



Ms NoTranskei Ngqalo said: “It’s only people who don’t understand the tradition who say that women should not be allowed to participate in something to do with their children. My husband passed away 10 years ago and I was left with the responsibility of raising three boys.

When they were ready for initiation, they told me and I in turn told the male members of the extended family about that. I was at the centre of all that.

They are now fully graduated men and I am proud of them. The fact that a women raised three boys who are now successful men is enough evidence for the participation of women in all the laws about the initiation of boys.”

“The fact that a women raised three boys who are now successful men is enough evidence for the participation of women in all the laws about the initiation of boys.”



Ms Nomsa Mehlomabi said: “My husband and I have two boys and one of them has already undergone initiation. I played a very critical role before, during and after the boy graduated from initiation. I was like a pillar in the processes. My husband knows that.

I am sure he can dispute the view that women should not participate, given the role I played in our son’s initiation. First, he agreed with our son when our son wanted to undergo circumcision at the age of 16 years.

I said no, he was still young. I advised the boy to undergo the tradition at least when he was 18 years old, something to which he agreed.”



PREPARATORY WORK: Villiage women carrying dry pieces of wood for initiation ceremonies.

Ms Mangqasana said: “The idea that women or uncircumcised people should not get involved in the issues around the tradition of initiation is not properly thought out. Even the actual circumcision is no longer a confidentiality. Men must not waste their time. They must instead promote the participation of women.”

“The exclusionist view cannot be allowed in a constitutional democracy. The involvement of women was created by God, no man under the sun can stop that. Furthermore, we are living in a fast-changing technological world. Technology exposes everything, including circumcision. There is no way you can avoid that.”

Mava Lukani spoke to a traditional surgeon, **Mr Siphelo Mangqasana**, who said: “The exclusionist view cannot be allowed in a constitutional democracy. The involvement of women was created by God, no man under the sun can stop that. Furthermore, we are living in a fast-changing technological world. Technology exposes everything, including circumcision. There is no way you can avoid that.

Women know the circumcision part, which some men think it should be hidden from the eyes of uncircumcised people, including women. Those men are very late. Women know everything about circumcision.

When the initiate doesn't heal, he would be taken to a medically knowledgeable person, a female nurse or doctor. At that level, gender is not an issue, it is the assistance that would be required. But I agree that they must not be involved in the circumcision part of the tradition. This is exclusively men's area.🙄

**Traditional surgeon:
Mr Siphelo
Mangqasana**





2018 PBO group photograph.

PBOs must ensure public participation in budget process

*Parliament is committed to be part of the African Union's 2063 Development Agenda, said the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, when she spoke at the conference delegates of the third African Network of the Parliamentary Budget Offices held at Parliament, report **Mava Lukani** and **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

"We are happy to host you in the Mother City, Cape Town. Many of you travelled from abroad, from other continents, from Africa and long distances within the country, which serves to remind us how important it is for us to create a better and safer Africa in a better world," said Ms Mbete.

Members of Parliament (MPs) and provincial legislatures joined PBOs from across the African continent, as well as those from Canada and the United Kingdom, for two days of deliberations on the theme: "The Role of PBOs in African Parliaments' Fiscal Oversight: Contribution to the African



Applying their minds: Ms Mbete and House Chairpersons.

Development Agenda". Parliament of the Republic of South Africa hosted this conference in August.

The aim of the conference was to share best practices and experiences on how to strengthen oversight on good governance and financial management. The emergence of the PBO concept in recent times has seen more parliaments from developing countries playing a more active role in the budgeting process of their countries, and called on them to defend their credibility.

The conference also discussed the fact that in many developing and transitional countries, parliaments are moving in the direction of greater budget activism, occasioned by democratisation and constitutional reforms, thereby creating opportunities for legislatures to redefine contributions to public budgeting.

Ms Mbete told the conference that they are satisfied with the impact that the South African Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has made since its inception in 2013. "We will share our experiences with the setting up of

our Parliamentary Budget Office and the successful implementation of the Office's legislative mandate. But, we also want to learn from our esteemed guests from the African continent and beyond."

Sharing with the conference an overview of what this oversight function entails and why the South African Parliament established its Budget Office, Ms Mbete said subsequent to the introduction of the budget, including the fiscal framework, the Division of Revenue Bill, the Appropriation Bill and tax and other revenue proposals, the fiscal framework and revenue proposals are referred to the committees on finance, which are required to hold joint public hearings.

"This provision gives effect to the constitutional right to participate in the budget process. The process of referral, consideration, hearings, comments from the Minister if amendments are proposed to the fiscal framework, reporting and adoption by the respective Houses must be done within 16 days after the introduction of the fiscal framework," she said.

After the adoption of the fiscal framework, the Division of Revenue Bill and the Appropriation Bill are referred to the Committee on Appropriations of the National Assembly to follow the legislative procedure as set out in the Constitution.

"In considering these Bills, the respective committees must also conduct public hearings, consult with other parliamentary committees, and allow affected Members of Cabinet, provinces and local governments to respond to the proposed amendments, as provided for in the rules."

Ms Mbete told the conference that Revenue Bills, such as taxation Bills, are referred to the Committee on Finance of the National Assembly, and



PBO Conference Plenary in progress.

after approval, to the National Council of Provinces for consideration by its Committee on Finance.

In its support to Parliament, Ms Mbete said the Parliamentary Budget Office must also ensure that it supports the implementation of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act by undertaking research and analysis for the Finance and Appropriations Committees in both Houses of Parliament. "This is what the office is doing and many more initiatives, such as the analysis on the implementation of the National Development Plan, are making an impact on Parliament's oversight role in transformation."

At a time when many public institutions are facing a decline in public trust, it is important for PBOs to maintain the credibility they gained in their early years of establishment, by continuing to provide quality support to parliaments in pursuit for better governance, fiscal oversight as well as economic development.

PBOs were also encouraged to play a role in ensuring public participation in the budget-making process. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr Yunus Carrim, said PBOs continue to be the link between national treasuries and legislatures, and must be protected from undue influence.

Parliamentary Budget Offices – established in several countries to enhance legislative oversight over the budget – should also play a supportive role in enhancing public participation in budget processes. This is because these offices, by enhancing the capacity of MPs to engage more fully with budget processes, are also serving the people who MPs represent.

The AN-PBO is a platform for African Parliamentary Budget Offices and similar institutions to share ideas and experiences about strengthening support for parliamentary fiscal oversight. The inaugural conference, held in August 2016, established the AN-PBO and laid the foundation for information sharing among African countries that have PBOs and those considering establishing them.

The third conference advanced the goals of strengthening support given to parliamentarians in their fiscal oversight role within the continent. Delegates came from countries in Africa and across the world, including those with PBOs and representatives of international organisations, which support legislatures' oversight of public funds. Panel discussions at the conference focused on Progress in African PBOs, public finance and development in Africa and PBO governance structures: International experiences lessons of best practices. 🌍



Bills debated in Parliament

Several Bills, including the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Amendment Bill; the National Forests Amendment Bill; the Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill; and the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Amendment Bill, came before the National Assembly for debate after which they were approved and referred to the National Council of Provinces for consideration before they are sent to the President for his consent.

The Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Amendment Bill came before the National Assembly after the Constitutional Court raised concerns about the inconclusive description of

the phrase “person” in clause 11 of this Act. This, it read, could include a Member of Parliament and, if so, it needed to be amended, for it would infringe the privileges and immunities granted to parliamentarians in Section 58 (1) and 71 (1) of the Constitution.

After the Constitutional Court Judgement, the committee decided to review the Act in its entirety to consider other possible amendments that may arise. To that effect, it requested a comparative study on best practices and conventions regarding parliamentary powers and privileges of Members of Parliaments of countries such as the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Kenya and Canada.

Reflecting on this process, Member of Parliament for the Democratic Alliance Ms Juliana Killian said: “The process followed was thorough and informative. I thank the Legal and Constitutional Services of Parliament for their commitment to scrutinise the Act and for other technical corrections that arose out of this process.”

For a multi-party democracy to thrive “and give practical meaning to the lives of the ordinary citizens, there must be no hindrance on the extent to which their representatives can discharge their mandate” said Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, for the United Democratic Movement.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill repeals the National Key Points Act 102 of 1980, which was enacted by the apartheid regime. By definition, critical infrastructure is everything that is considered critical to keep our society functional and our economy running.

One of the improvements to the old Act is that now there is a Critical Infrastructure Council that advises the Minister of Police on policy issues and that recommends to the Minister for such a declaration. This council consists of “relevant government departments, as well as five persons suitably knowledgeable about critical infrastructure from the private sector and civil society,” said the Minister of Police, Mr Bheki Cele, during the debate on this Bill.



The establishment of a council and the precepts thereof in the Bill provide us with the necessary comfort, said Mr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party. "This council, which will report to this house, provides us with comfort that all matters related to this matter will be dealt with in an open, transparent manner and will empower the Members of Parliament with the mechanisms of enacting accountability."

Mr Sibonakaliso Mhlongo, for the Economic Freedom Fighters, agreed that every state has a responsibility and obligation to protect its critical infrastructure to avert any possible infringement to the security of the state or hindrance to economic or social obligations. But he cautioned: "We must always be on guard against the abuse of such legislation to create a state run by securocrats, which will in a long run undermine our constitutional democracy."

He is relieved that "In this Bill, all possible avenues which government would have used to abuse it have been closed and have been addressed through the consultation process with various stakeholders, which ensured that this Bill meets the requirements of our Constitution and democracy."

The portfolio committee went

beyond the bounds of its duty to accommodate the concerns of civil society, business and departments who made submissions to the committee, said Mr Leonard Ramatlakane of the African National Congress. "We are satisfied that we have a strong piece of legislation and we have taken into account very strong arguments from organisations, who argued that the public interest defence should be accommodated."

Enlisting a number of amendments to the previous Bill, he stated: "We have changed the clause which did not allow for photographing of a critical infrastructure, changed the offences and penalties thereof. We were guided on a number of clauses in this Bill that would have infringed constitutional rights. As such, we have listened to legal opinions and we are now convinced that we have a Bill that will serve South Africa's best interest and it now allows far more than when we started the process."

The National Forests Amendment Bill, which amends the National Forests Act of 1998, provides for clear definitions of forests and woodlands; for public ownership of these; to increase promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest management; and to control and remedy deforestation; to provide for appeals against decisions

taken; and reinforces offences and penalties.

The Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Amendment Bill amends the 2009 Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act. The amendment Bill, which the National Assembly has approved, clarifies and amends the procedure, resultant reporting and periods involved in amending money Bills and division of revenue Bills and related fiscal instruments; and establishes the Parliamentary Budget Office as a juristic person.

The approved Bills will now be sent to the National Council of Provinces for consideration.🇿🇦

"In this Bill, all possible avenues which government would have used to abuse it have been closed and have been addressed through the consultation process with various stakeholders, which ensured that this Bill meets the requirements of our Constitution and democracy."

Mr Sibonakaliso Mhlongo,
Economic Freedom Fighters



Constitutional Review Committee hears oral submissions on land expropriation

*The Joint Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) has heard the views of members of the public on Parliament's motion to change section 25 of the Constitution. In September, the committee gave an opportunity to organisations and individuals who had previously submitted written submissions to come to Parliament to make oral presentations to the committee. **Abel Mputing** attended the hearings.*

At these hearings there were those who claimed that such a move would be a long-overdue moral correction



Citizens taking part during hearings.

that could restore the dignity of black people, who were dispossessed by the 1913 Natives' Land Act with devastating effects on their economic status and which reduced them to cheap labour.

This view holds that the property clause in the Constitution protects the interests of white people, who have land, while continuing the dispossession of black people, who mostly do not.



Dr F.B Madhlopa speaks at the CRC Hearing in Jozini.

If the views of the banking sector are to be taken seriously, tampering with the Constitution by changing the property clause will have far-reaching negative economic impacts. Expropriation without compensation will wipe away the billions of rand banks have lent farmers, bank say. This, in turn, will make it difficult for the banks to repay the money they have loaned from global markets. The resulting disinvestment in the economy will compound South Africa's already stagnant growth forecast, banks predicted in their submission to the committee.

One of South Africa's leading land experts, Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza, on behalf of the Foundation for Human Rights said in his presentation that changes to the subsections of section 25 will be required to legalise expropriation without compensation, as land expropriation without compensation would be difficult to defend before the Constitutional Court at present.

This prompted questions from various Members of Parliament (MPs), who asked if it was possible that changing this clause could be challenged in court. Would it be better to draft legislation rather than change the Constitution, they asked? That possibility exists and it cannot be avoided, said Adv Dumisa Ntsebeza, also representing the Foundation for Human Rights. Any route would still be tested in a court of law.

Despite the history of dispossession, voices against a change of section

25 of the Constitution are gaining momentum. The South African Catholic Bishops' Conference and Every Nation Church added their voice to this position. They pledged that they would play a reconciliatory role by calling upon farmers to hand over unutilised land to farm workers. Some MPs commented that this would be too little and too late. The land issue is a national issue that warrants a national solution. It cannot be at the behest of good Samaritans, MPs said.

In its submission, the House of Traditional Leaders explained that it will object to any attempt to expropriate land belonging to traditional authorities. And they are not content

with the 13% of the land in their jurisdiction, they want the remaining 87% that belonged to them in days gone by. They cannot be subjected to colonial laws that the current government uses to administer their affairs, they said.

Most interest groups cited the state's failure to properly account for the billions of rands spent on land reform and land restitution.

Also during the hearings, some people asked why there is so much resistance to changing this part of the Constitution, when 17 amendments have been made previously.🗣️



Land expropriation impacts all South Africans.



MPs ON OVERSIGHT: NCOP and senior government officials at a health service delivery sight.

Taking Parliament to the People aims to improve service delivery

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) continues to take seriously the improvement of service delivery to the people. One way it does this is through the Taking Parliament to the People (TPPTP) programme, which sees Members of Parliament (MPs) travelling to communities, particularly in remote areas, to check up on delivery, writes Sakhile Mokoena.

Through the programme, Members of Parliament assess the performance of various government departments, as per the commitments made by the government in the last State of the Nation Address and budget allocation speech.

The Taking Parliament to the People programme enables the NCOP to straddle all three spheres of government, and allows ordinary

people to interact with their government and parliamentary representatives. It also gives them an opportunity to ask questions about accountability directly to their representatives on a wide range of issues.

The MPs also go to service delivery sites to assess the quality of service delivery and ensure that government spending is done in accordance with legislation, including the Public Finance Management Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act.

After Taking Parliament to the People visited Free State province in August 2017, with a special focus on healthcare services, provincial and local government made commitments to address challenges identified by the NCOP. A year later, the NCOP once more visited the same health clinics and hospitals for a report-back session and to assess delivery on the commitments made. The visit was hosted by the Mangaung and Xhariep district municipalities.

Members of the NCOP were joined by Members of the Free State Provincial Legislature (MPLs) and of the South African Local Government Association (Salga). Together they constituted a high-level delegation to assess progress at facilities that had previously been identified as requiring intervention.

The multidisciplinary delegation split into eight groups and visited clinics and hospitals in the Mangaung and Xhariep district municipalities. Members were left disappointed as very little progress has been recorded, one year after the NCOP made recommendations to the government.

During the August 2017 visit, more than 1 450 concerns, undertakings and recommendations were registered and channelled to a series of executive structures, including national and provincial departments and ministries, local municipalities, Chapter 9 institutions, state-owned enterprises, as well as independent entities for interventions.

The verdict of the NCOP following the visits and various engagements with



NCOP MPs inspect an ambulance.

legislative oversight should be explored, with citizens at the centre of their design and execution.

After the report-back visit, the NCOP reassured South Africans that every effort will be made to ensure that the value of Parliament is not diminished and that its capacity to hold the executive to account is strengthened. In considering the benefits of the fourth industrial revolution, the NCOP will also explore how the convergence of information and communication technology with artificial intelligence can assist it in its interactions with citizens as it executes its mandate. 🇿🇦

stakeholders, including the public, in six public meetings, was that health services remained a mixed bag of pockets of excellence and on-going failure.

The success stories included the re-engineering and re-modelling of Free State emergency services, which are set to reduce waiting periods for emergency services from six hours to less than two hours. This has been achieved through the purchase of 60 state-of-the-art ambulances, 40 of which had been delivered and branded for deployment. Each district has been allocated 10 ambulances. The Free State Emergency Management Services has also established three additional emergency control centres and is finalising the recruitment of 200 emergency support officials and drivers, who will also assist in taking over or insourcing of the contracted emergency services over a period of six months, starting from October 2018. The NCOP inspected the fleet of ambulances.

The Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital in Mangaung, which was experiencing major service delivery gaps at the time of the NCOP's visit in August 2017, has also turned the tide in many ways. More is still expected, but significant improvements have been made in the hospital infrastructure, including two fully functional boilers, seven back-up generators and electricity substations, lifts, theatres, biometric systems, security technology and perimeter

fencing to improve security. The Albert Nzula Hospital is now open and fully operational, and critical vacancies have been filled. The refurbishment of primary health care facilities in Xhariep have begun and will be closely monitored.

The NCOP was unhappy about progress in other facilities and believes that further methods of strengthening

The Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital in Mangaung, which was experiencing major service delivery gaps at the time of the NCOP's visit in August 2017, has also turned the tide in many ways.



NCOP House Chairperson Jomo Nyambi with NCOP delegation.

Members of Parliament join global effort to eliminate TB by 2030

Speaking during the debate on the launch of South Africa's Chapter of the Global TB Caucus of Parliamentarians in the National Assembly, the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, proclaimed that Members of Parliament must be at the centre of efforts to deal with the challenges facing the citizens they represent, writes Abel Mputing.

Dr Motsoaledi did not mince his words in describing the challenge posed by tuberculosis (TB) in South Africa. "We have a huge and complex multifaceted TB burden on our hands," he said. But the good news is that South Africa and the world are beginning to take TB more seriously. "Although we still have a long way to go, never have global leaders been challenged to end TB as is currently the case".

The battle cry now, Dr Motsoaledi said, is: "Wanted: Leaders to End TB", a call to all leaders in society to step up to the challenge posed by this curable disease.

Participating in the debate, Mr Ahmed Shaik Emam of the National Freedom Party, gave a medical context for TB. He said since 2009, South Africa is dealing with a dual epidemic of HIV and TB, with infection rates of 60%. Until South Africa wins the war on HIV, the chances of winning the war against TB will remain a dream. "The national strategic plan stabilised the epidemic, however, South Africa has the third-highest TB infection rate in the world. The rollout of antiretroviral treatment resulted in an improved TB case detection," Mr Shaik Emam explained.



Dr Aaron Motsoaledi

He attributed contributing factors to poor socio-economic conditions, and the lack of proper water and sanitation and health facilities. "The marginalisation and segregation of our people deprived of basic necessities and human rights has been the driving force behind the high HIV/TB infection rate," he said.

The Chief Whip of the Congress of the People, Mr Willie Madisha, also taking part in the debate, said there could hardly be any family in South Africa that has not been affected, in one way or the other, by TB. "It's against this background that we support the launch of South Africa's Chapter of the Global TB Caucus of Parliamentarians," he said.

Describing the severity of the problem, Ms Claudia Ndaba of the African National Congress explained that the impact of the associated illnesses of TB and HIV became the single largest cause of death between 2005 and 2010. She urged MPs to be active in ensuring that resources are made available to curb the spread of TB. "We implore Members of Parliament to be active agents of this campaign in both their day-to-day and constituency work, and be involved in raising awareness and mobilise communities to get screened and tested for any TB symptoms."

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) also held a debate on TB. In the debate, KwaZulu-Natal's permanent delegate to the NCOP, Mr Mntomuhle Khawula, said he subscribed to the measures to create awareness in communities and also "to commit the rank and file of our leadership, besides just parliamentarians, to the active programmes of fighting TB". That, he said, should ensure that "government should be serious about balancing the distribution of resources to both our urban and rural communities".

In Mr Khawula's view, the government principle of Batho-Pele should be at the centre of the fight against TB. He wished all the ambassadors of the fight against TB everything of the best and success in their endeavours.

Also speaking in the NCOP debate, Mpumalanga's permanent delegate to the NCOP, Ms Landulile Dlamini, who is also the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services, said: "We are particularly pleased with the establishment of the Global TB Caucus because it is in line with the [United Nations'] Sustainable Development Goals and will further enhance our national efforts to raise awareness and profile of this epidemic."

She said the caucus will support the acceleration of the elimination of TB by 2030, in line with targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals. The caucus, she concluded, will encourage the legislative sector to devise legislation to enhance South Africa's battle against TB. 🌟

"Although we still have a long way to go, never have global leaders been challenged to end TB as is currently the case".

Dr Aaron Motsoaledi

Parliament launches South African TB Caucus

*Parliament joined the global fight to eliminate tuberculosis (TB), when the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) Ms Baleka Mbete led the launch of the South African TB Caucus. The local caucus is part of the Global TB Caucus – a commitment by Members of Parliament (MPs) around the world to raise TB awareness and support efforts towards the elimination of the epidemic by the year 2030, writes **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

For the local launch, Members of Parliament from both the NA and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) became patrons of the TB Caucus and joined TB ambassadors, survivors, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Health Organisation.

Activities started with debates in both the NA and NCOP, where parliamentarians across party lines declared their undivided support for the fight against TB and resolved to establish the South African Chapter of the Global TB Caucus.

Ms Mbete was the first to sign the declaration, which makes several commitments including calling on MPs to raise awareness of TB in their communities, monitor the performance of government health programmes and the TB control programme, and support the development of policies and legislation that will create an enabling environment for the provision of healthcare services, TB services in particular. Ms Mbete called on MPs to be at the forefront in fighting TB to save thousands of lives.



Ms Mbete reading TB Caucus objectives.

In the declaration, the MPs also made a commitment to advocate for the necessary resources to accelerate progress to end TB, and support the voices of TB patients and vulnerable groups in order to lift the burden of stigma from patients and their families.

At the launch, the Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, said that he had been diagnosed with TB in 1984. However, he did not consider himself a survivor of TB, but rather “somebody who had TB and got cured after successfully taking treatment”.

“As public representatives often fail to recognise how our own stories can impact on the people we represent; I am happy to add my word in the campaign to increase TB awareness in our country and the world,” said Mr Tsenoli.

The programme director at the launch, Ms Gerry Elsdon, a long-time TB ambassador, said that the launch is a sign that the work of TB campaigners is finally being recognised by Parliament.

“We are making a historic jump by joining the world in championing the response to TB and efforts to eliminate TB by the year 2030,” she said.

The House Chairperson for Committees, Oversight and Inter-Governmental Relations in the NCOP, Mr Jomo Nyambi, said the fight against TB should become an integral component of all MPs’ constituency work and should feature regularly in Parliament’s programme.

Dr Brian Chirombo, a representative of the World Health Organisation, said a TB-free world will only be achieved when leaders spearhead awareness campaigns and efforts to eliminate TB in their countries and regions.

The launch was also attended by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health, Ms Lindelwa Dunjwa; Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi; Miss South Africa 2018 Ms Tamaryn Green; and musician and Nepad Agency’s Goodwill Ambassador for TB and Nutrition, Ms Yvonne Chaka Chaka, among other dignitaries. 🌍

Mine owners will have to explain to Parliament why graves remain nameless three years after oversight visit



Inkosi Mandla Mandela



Mr Sahlulele Luzipo - Chairperson of the PC on Mineral Resources

“It is unacceptable and insensitive that so many graves of miners remain unidentified three years after the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources first visited the Winkelhaak, Evander Gold Mines graveyard in Mpumalanga.” This view was expressed by committee Chairperson, Mr Sahlulele Luzipo and other Members of Parliament (MPs).

Brent Simons reports.

Committee members raised serious concerns with the more than 1000 still unidentified and nameless graves of mineworkers. Mine executives, according to Mr Luzipo, will be called to Parliament to explain why the graves, first identified during the committee’s official oversight visit in 2015, were still nameless three years later.

According to Evander Gold Mines’ General Manager, Mr Lazarus Motshwaiwa, they are doing everything within their power to identify and correctly allocate the names of the miners to each grave. He said the company had asked the Hawks (Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation) to assist in identifying the graves, some dating back to the 1960s.

However, Inkosi Mandela and other MPs were not impressed with this response and questioned why the Hawks were called upon to assist the mine owners with this task. Committee members pointed out that each grave is numbered and that this should have made the task easier as it could



Only numbered plates identify the graves of these mineworkers.



More than 1 000 unmarked graves next to a former mineworkers' hostel.

be compared to existing records. Mr Motshwaiwa, however, advised that proper records were not kept by the previous mine owners. "Even if records were kept, it will be difficult to locate the records because of the change of mine owners over the years," he added.

Expressing empathy with the team allocated to resolve this matter, Mr Motshwaiwa described the situation as sad "as someone's father, someone's husband, someone's brother, someone's family member" was lying in the unidentified graves. He conveyed the company's compassion to unknown family members spread all over the country and in some neighbouring countries, still awaiting the return of their lost family members.

According to Mr Motshwaiwa, the graveyard dates back to the early 1960s. However, there are suggestions that the graveyard was established in the late 1950s, with many buried there having died of natural causes, occupational diseases or accidents while working at the mine.

Mine management was also of the view that many of the workers buried at the site were migrant labourers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. Inkosi Mandela suggested that many of those buried at the graveyard might also be coming from KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and other provinces.

Most of the graves are identified by a number on a small plate while some are adorned with small mining equipment, including helmets and boots. The committee was informed that in most cases, previous mine owners would send a telegram to the family of the deceased. However, most

bodies were buried 10 days after the telegram had been sent to the family. In response, committee members advised that Post Office records, if kept, should also be checked.

Following the committee's oversight visit in 2015, the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) established a stakeholder task team consisting of the DMR, National Union of Mineworkers and the current mine owners. The task team has also consulted the National Heritage Council about commemorating the mineworkers, building a perimeter wall around the gravesite and erecting a memorial at the graveyard. To this end, the committee expressed its satisfaction with the progress made towards developing the memorial site. However, members insisted that the task team identify each grave and attach the correct name to honour the deceased miners.

Mr Luzipo instructed the DMR to better coordinate the task team and to ensure the graves are identified and correctly allocated.

The committee also revisited the Shaft 8 memorial site, where 177 mineworkers died in the Kinross disaster in 1986, to view progress made on the new memorial site. Members of the delegation interacted with mine management members and proposed ways to improve the site.

Additionally, committee members also questioned why Evander Gold Mines were destroying existing building infrastructure when these could be donated as housing, schools or health facilities to relevant departments and surrounding communities. Members of the committee expect the company to submit a revised infrastructure strategy when it appears before the committee again.

Once the committee is back at Parliament, it will also look at why mining licences are retained after companies had closed and decommissioned mines. This, committee members believe, can also assist in reducing illegal mining activities.🙏



Committee Members, mine management and DMR inspecting the developments at the Winkelhaak gravesite.



From a symbol of oppression, to a symbol of liberation – the Nelson Mandela Museum

*The Mthatha building that is now the home of the Nelson Mandela Museum has a long history of conversions for different purposes, from its beginnings as a native administrative centre in the 1920s to today as the place local and international tourists go when they want to know more about the late Tata Madiba, writes **Zizipho Klaas**.*

The Nelson Mandela Museum's tourist guide, Mr Zimisele Gamakhulu, says in 1963 the building was converted into the Transkei Self-Governing Territory building and in 1976 it became the Parliament of independent Transkei. In 1988, after the peaceful overthrow of the government of the late Ms Stella Sigcau by the Transkei Defence Force under General Bantu Holomisa, the building became the office of the Transkei Military Council.

In 1994, after the first democratic general elections, the building hosted the Kei District Council. Three years later, in 1997, it hosted Tata Madiba's medals he received from many countries. Tata Madiba wanted a place that would be accessible to the people,

where the awards and medals he received from different countries when he was in prison and after, would be shared. This would be the place that would keep alive his history in the struggle for the liberation of South Africa. In 2004 the building became a heritage centre and was named Nelson Mandela Museum.

The museum attracts international and local tourists alike. "During the summer season here in the Eastern Cape, we receive a high number of overseas tourists, a mixture of old and young people who run away from winter seasons in their countries. They all long to know more about the history of Tata Madiba and the history of struggle for liberation he was part of," said Mr Gamakhulu.

He said they receive the local tourists in the spring and summer seasons and the majority of those local tourists are school children who come to the museum as part of their History subject.

In other news, to mark Heritage Month, and as part of its Heritage Month programme, the Mthatha's Yokhe Multi-Arts Discipline visited Parliament of the Republic of South Africa recently.

According to the leader of the group, Ms Khuthala Mditshane, the group of young Xhosa teenagers who have been longing to see their Parliament

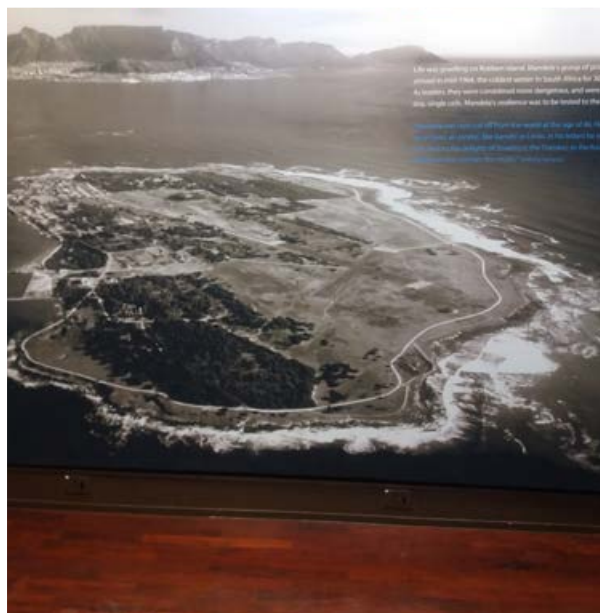
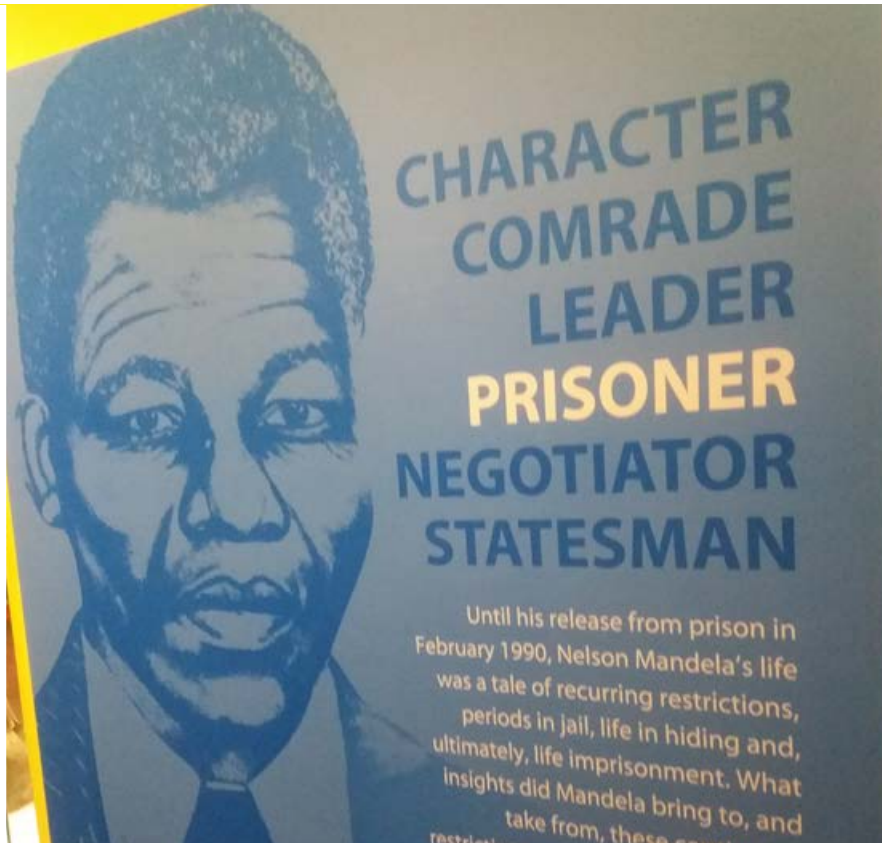
and to be inside its chambers to observe Members of Parliament when they engage each other, was in the National Assembly's gallery. "Indeed media platforms bring Parliament to us even in remote areas, but being in the Chamber is a totally different and exciting experience," said Ms Mditshane.

According to Ms Mditshane, the group of young virgin teenagers promotes, among other things, original Xhosa traditions on sex. It encourages young girls and boys to abstain from sex. "We do that also as a strategy to fight teenage pregnancy and HIV/Aids, as a large number of HIV/Aids victims are young people."

Ms Mditshane said the children want to know more about Xhosa culture, which they are told was a pillar of discipline among Xhosa communities in the past. But because of the fast-changing world and the domination of foreign cultures, some valuable aspects of Xhosa traditions withered away.

"One of the objectives of the group is to claim back those lost aspects of the Xhosa culture. They are told that in the past, teenagers used to go naked without fear of rape or sexual harassment. We are teaching them to reclaim that dignity of a girl child where they used to go naked without any fear," said Ms Mditshane. 🌟

The Nelson Mandela Museum's tourist guide, Mr Zimisele Gamakhulu





CPA Africa Region conference supports an African agenda

*The 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Elective Conference hinged on three diverse but interrelated issues, one of which was the departure of the former Executive Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region, Ms Lindiwe Maseko. Ms Maseko is one of its longest-serving leaders and is also a champion of the African agenda within the CPA, reports **Abel Mputing**.*

Ms Maseko agitated for a change of status for the CPA and the entrenchment of a gender agenda within the organisational structures of this body. Judging from the tributes bestowed on her for her 22 years of service in the CPA Africa Region, she has truly given everything to its success. For her contributions, she was awarded the Women of Great Esteem award, the first African woman to receive this American award. She was also inducted as a Nana, a Queen, one of Ghana's prestigious awards.

During her tenure as Executive Chairperson of the CPA, she successfully lobbied for the promotion of African women, such as Ms Emilia Lifaka who was elected chairperson of the CPA. For the first time, the CPA is under the

stewardship of not only a woman, but an African woman.

Ms Maselo said she is elated that she is leaving behind a united CPA Africa Region, united behind the CPA's commitment to the African Agenda 2063 and its change in status from a charity organisation to an international body with diplomatic and parliamentary status, so that it is able to hold member states accountable.

This work will now be taken forward by the new Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the CPA Africa Region and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Mr Justin Muturi. In his acceptance speech, Mr Muturi promised that he would continue the work of his predecessor.



CPA LEADERSHIP IN ATTENTION: Ms Lindiwe Maseko, second from left, the outgoing Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region with other CPA leaders at the Botswana CPA Africa Region Conference.

Ms Maseko's tenure as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) laid the ground for the elevation of the gender agenda in the CPA. This work is now the responsibility of current Chairperson and a Presiding Officer in South Africa's National Assembly, Ms Thoko Didiza.

The four topics debated during the conference all included a gender aspect: A Parliamentary Agenda for Combating Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery in Africa and the Promotion of Human Rights; Food Security and Sustainable Growth: The role of Agriculture in Triggering Economic Development in Africa; The Nexus Between Climate Change and the Incidences of Farmers/Herdsman Conflicts in Africa; and A Legislative Framework for the Regulation of Vigilante Groups, Private Security and Military Companies.

In her speech on The Role of African Parliaments in Fostering National and Regional Security, Ms Didiza emphasised the role of women in peace missions. Conflict and mediation

"is critical and therefore parliaments need to be conscious when composing such missions and laws that govern the defence and security sector, as well as the procurement of arms, to ensure that African parliaments exercise their oversight roles more effectively."

Now in the mid-term of her tenure, Ms Didiza believes the CWP has made some inroads in ensuring that the constitutions of CPA member states are in line with various gender equality instruments to which they are signatories. She has also re-energised regional gender advocacy workshops to overcome gender stereotypes embedded in African culture and tradition.

At the end of the conference there were resolutions on each topic. During the debate on human trafficking there was a consensus that there should be a call to African parliaments to monitor and evaluate their progress on industrialisation, which is part of the African Agenda 2063. On food security, there was a consensus that there is a need to fully exploit Africa's

agro-industry and its value chain. There was unanimous agreement that the critical role of African parliaments in ensuring that this is achieved cannot be overemphasised.

If African governments are not held accountable by their respective parliaments in this regard, they will undermine the potential of agriculture in turning the economic tide and in reducing poverty on the continent, which is one of the goals of African Agenda 2063.

On climate change, there was a strong view that the CPA should drive the development of treaties and protocols to encourage innovation to fight the effects of climate change in Africa.

On private and military companies' operation in Africa, it was resolved that there is a need for the regulation and oversight over these entities by African parliaments because Africa is full of resources that are a possible target for exploitation. Africa needs to improve the competency of its security forces to guard against that. 🌍



WORLD STATESMAN: Late Kofi Annan addresses the joint sitting of Parliament.

Annan: A true son of Africa

The former Secretary-General (SG) of the United Nations (UN), Mr Kofi Annan, was hailed as a simple man whose love for the people transcended boundaries. In the words of the Members of the National Assembly, he was a true man of the people, writes Zizipho Klaas.

The NA made time in its programme for Members of Parliament (MPs) to pay tributes to Mr Annan, who passed away at a hospital in New York in the United States on 18 August 2018. "The enduring compassion and regard for the true welfare of others is the hallmark that has stayed with Kofi Annan all his life," said Mr Luwellyn Landers, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

Mr Annan was born and grew up in Ghana, which prompted Mr Landers to remember him as the son of a proud nation, one that had tamed iron and mined gold from time immemorial. "A nation that is proud of its aristocracy and that is steeped in the traditions of ancient African traditional authority," according to Mr Landers.

Recounting Mr Annan's personal history, Mr Landers recalled that he was born on 8 April 1938, a descendant of generations of Ghanaian tribal chiefs, and one of twin sons of the manager of a chemical company, who was in line to become the chief of the Fante tribe.

Mr Annan was raised in the tradition of chieftaincy and many royal meetings in the traditional courts were an early basis of his later diplomatic upbringing. "The consensus-building format of conflict resolution was to stay with him throughout his adult life. He chose

diplomacy as the best possible career at a time where many chose politics, teaching, priesthood and the legal fraternity," he said.

According to Mr Landers, Mr Annan was schooled for leadership from boyhood and when the time came, he embraced the calling of service of humanity. "Rising through the ranks of the UN, from the lowest position to its ultimate helm, bespeaks a great feat and triumph of this genial soul. He carved a lasting niche for himself and his continent in those gilded corridors in New York and embosomed his name forever in its annals."

Mr Landers described Mr Annan as ever-conscious and ever-vigilant of his historic mission to promote the African agenda. "Kofi Annan broke down all the barriers of prejudice and race to assume and sustain the highest office in the UN with pride."

Right: Late Kofi Annan.

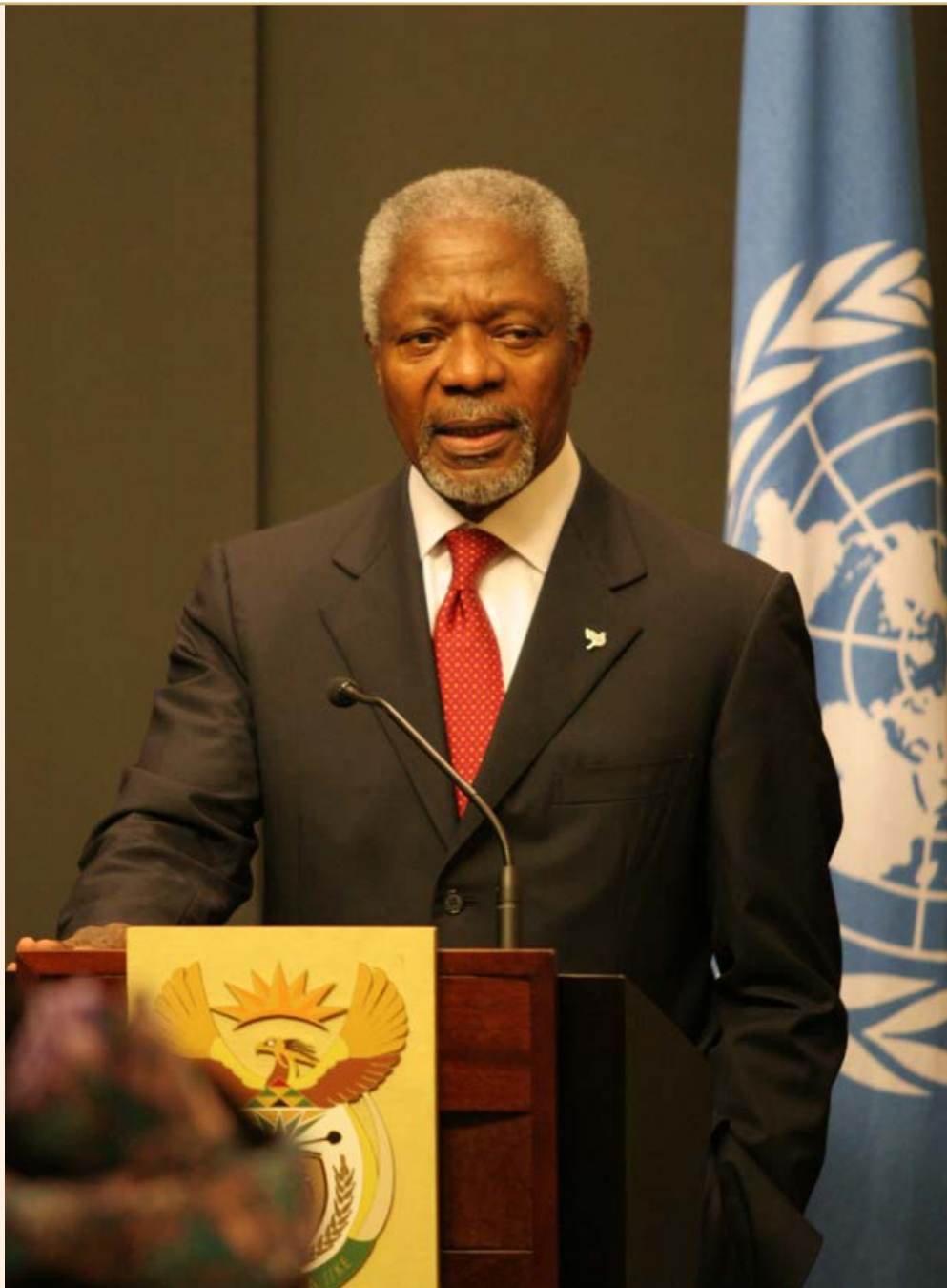
It was under his watch that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted and the UN Commission on Human Rights was transformed into a fully fledged Human Rights Council in 2006.

Also paying tribute to Mr Annan, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi (leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party) remembered his enormous capacity for empathy and deep concern for the suffering of the poor. "Like so many over the years, I have quoted Mr Annan many times, for I admire his wisdom. In 2013, when I responded in this House to the State of the Nation Address, I reminded us of Mr Annan's warning on the increasing damage being done by corruption."

Prince Buthelezi quoted Mr Annan as saying: "Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign aid and investment. Corruption is a key element in economic underperformance and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and [socio-economic] development."

Paying tribute to Mr Annan, Rev Kenneth Meshoe (leader of the African Christian Democratic Party) said Mr Annan had a way of quietly, but firmly reminding world leaders that they needed to put their duty to their citizens above their political agendas. "We can all learn from his caution and example in this regard. Mr Annan's legacy and contribution to our world will not soon be forgotten," said Rev Meshoe.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, who is leader of the Congress of the People, said history will count Mr Annan as among the best incumbents of his office. "He displayed ethical, principled, modest, forthright



and honest leadership. We can return to the ethical and selfless leadership and governance espoused by Mr Annan and promote and protect global statutes and institutions, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, established during his tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations."

Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa (MP for the United Democratic Movement) said Mr Annan worked hard to institute institutional reforms to make the UN a credible multilateral institution. "An ardent champion of peace and fundamental human rights, with great equanimity, he tackled global challenges with enthusiasm and persistence in the face of daunting challenges."

Mr Kwankwa reminded the House of Mr Annan's disappointment when the United States invaded Iraq in 2003 without the UN Security Council's approval.

"Tata Annan, utterly embarrassed and deflated by the arrogance of the US, carried himself with dignity and integrity. Remarkably, he showed no residue of bitterness although the actions of the US undermined his leadership."

In Tata Annan, Mr Kwankwa said, "we have lost a son of Africa, whose light shone like a beacon in the dark continent. He dedicated his life to the attainment of the Pan-African vision of building an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa". 🌍



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.