

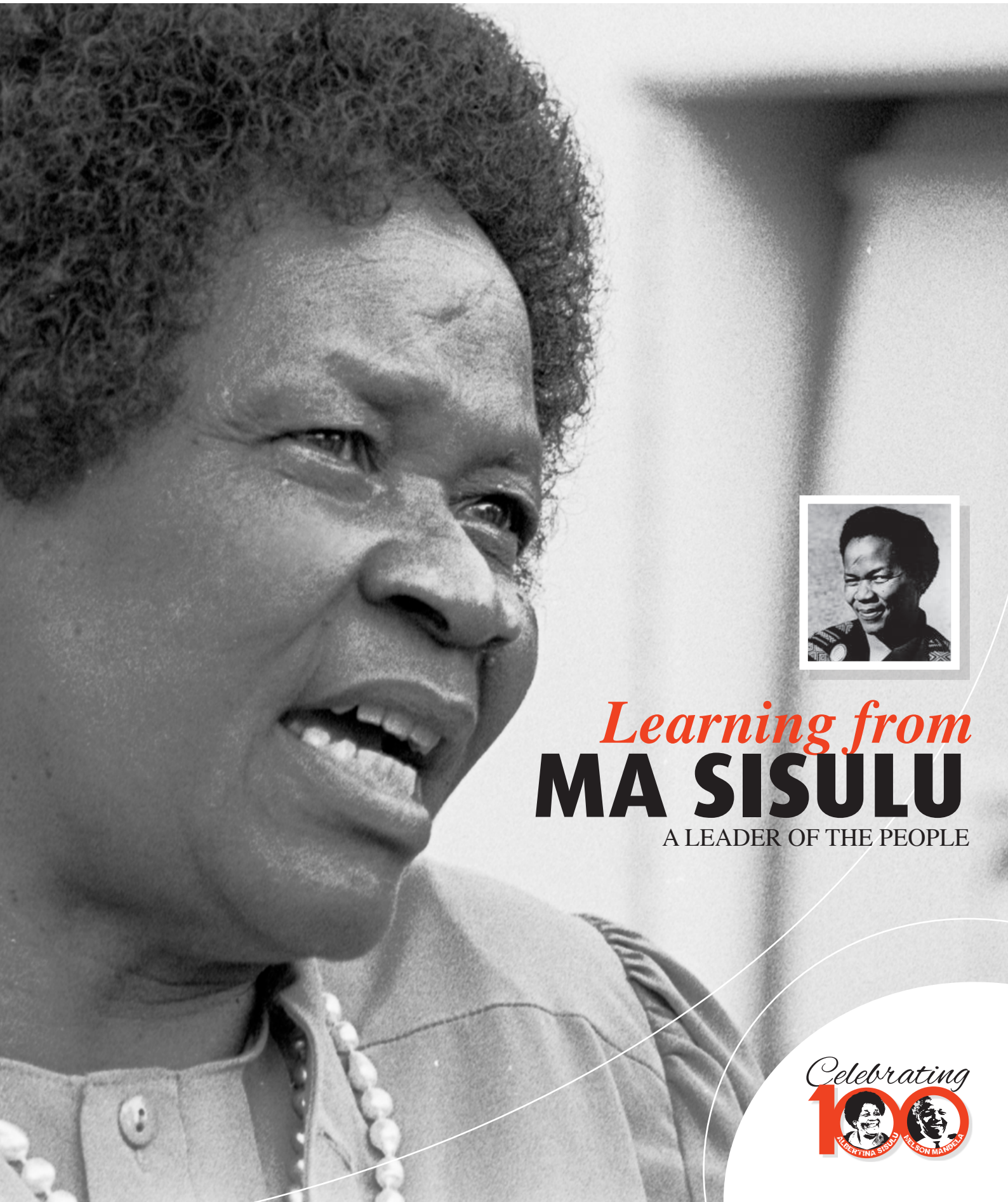
MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER – Learning from Madiba

in session



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

ISSUE 9 2018



Learning from
MA SISULU
A LEADER OF THE PEOPLE





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.

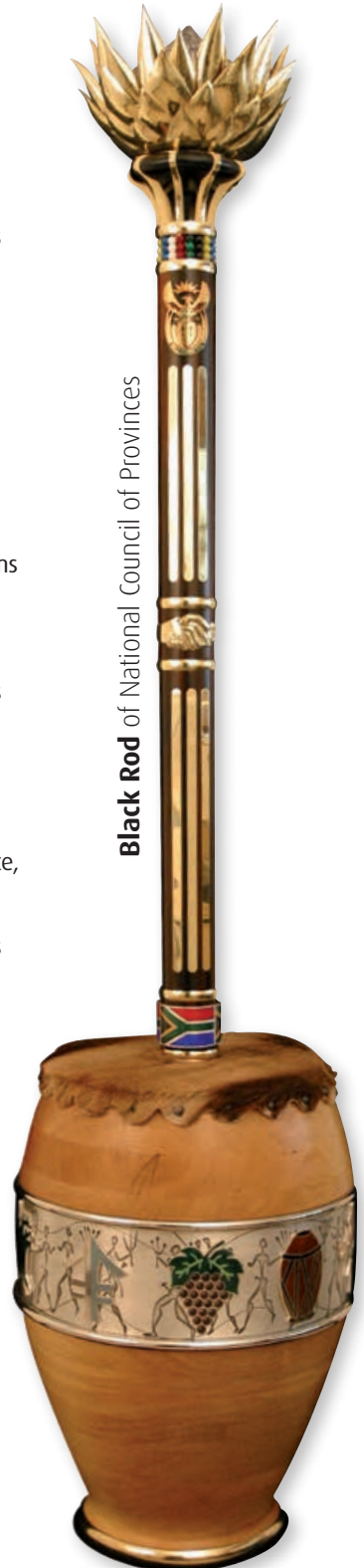
Mission

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

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Speaker Mbete calls on citizens to draw inspiration from both Ma Sisulu and Madiba



“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we led.” (22 May, 2002)

We are now well into the throes of the centenary celebrations of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. In 1994 Nelson Mandela was nominated to become President of the Republic, by his fellow centenarian, Ms Albertina Sisulu, a woman he regarded along with her husband, Walter Sisulu, as a mentor in life, in and out of prison.

Mama Albertina Sisulu, as she is fondly remembered, dedicated her life to fight for the emancipation of women and the liberation of South Africa. Her contribution to our country traversed the personal, professional and political life. She navigated the demands of her personal and family life at a time when the pervasive power of patriarchy was unimaginable. In 1956, she was instrumental in leading about 20 000 women from across South Africa to march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria against the carrying of passes by women. As a Member of Parliament, her nursing background was put to full use with the passing of several pieces of legislation that afforded women reproductive rights such as the Choice on Termination Act and access

to affordable medicines through the Medicines Control Act, among others.

As the world is experiencing a wave of uncertainty and populism, there is no better time to reflect on the life and work of both Nelson Mandela, and Ma Sisulu, who embodied the highest values and principles of freedom and democracy.

It is for this reason that our government has called on all South Africans, including the international community, to join in the centenary celebrations in their parliaments, workplaces, schools, churches and civic organisations, as we reflect on the immense contribution these icons bequeathed our democracy and the world.

Almost anywhere I have travelled in the world, both rural and urban, when I say I am from South Africa, both children and adults will immediately shout out the name, “Mandela!” even when they understand little English. Nelson Mandela’s name has travelled to far corners of the world, giving South Africa pride and an example and legacy that will endure and stand the test of time.

Let us all continue, each day, to draw inspiration from both Albertina Sisulu and Nelson Mandela’s lifelong example and his call to never cease working to build a better world for all. Upon his retirement from public life, in July 2017, he reminded us that: “It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it.” (July 2007: Hyde Park, London)

Indeed, it is.🌟

* Edited version of Ms Mbete’s speech on Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu



RALLYING ISSUES: Mama Sisulu addresses the masses of the people.

Celebrating the centenary of a gentle, humble and selfless giant – Mama Albertina Sisulu

*Progressive people across the length and breadth of South Africa, Africa and the world are this year celebrating the centenary of the birth of Mama Albertina Sisulu, their great daughter, Mother of the Nation, leader of the Mass Democratic Movement, the liberation movement in general and a mighty pillar of the women's movement for the total emancipation of women, writes **Thandi Modise**, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.*

The name of Mama Sisulu is strongly linked to the heroic struggles of the South African oppressed against colonialism and apartheid for the triumph of the peoples' democratic revolution and the building of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous country.

One of Mama Sisulu's greatest contributions to the world and the revolutionary movement was a correct and profound understanding of the nature of apartheid and how to defeat it.

Mama Sisulu was the embodiment of a true revolutionary, a life wholly and completely dedicated, an unswerving loyalty to revolutionary principles, exemplary, a consistent freedom fighter, a determined champion of the poor, a valuable contributor to the

struggle for women's emancipation in particular, and people in general.

She showed immense courage and daring in the face of adversity. She possessed rare qualities and displayed an extraordinary ability to face danger and endure hardship. She spent all her life in revolutionary work.

There is no struggle of the poor and the oppressed with which the name Mama Sisulu was not associated.

She fought hard for the demand that South Africans, both black and white, should have an equal right to elect a government of their choice. She fought relentlessly that the wealth of the country must be shared by all people black and white. She fought and lived to participate in the building of a democratic South Africa.

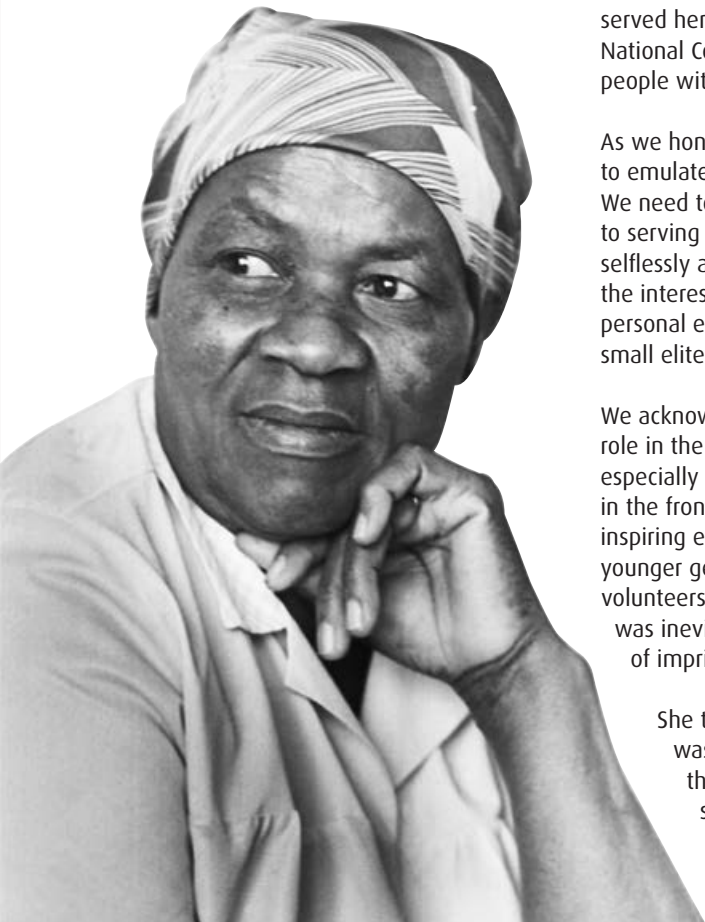
She was a tried and tested leader in her own right, and never lived in the shadow of her towering husband, the late icon of our liberation struggle Tata Walter Sisulu.

She is counted among the titans such as OR Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Dorothy Nyembe, Francis Baard, Greta Ncapayi and many others.

She was a mother, a health worker, a care giver to orphans and the vulnerable. She was a provider to the needy and the homeless. She was a wife, a community builder, a mentor, congregant and a protector of the defenceless, and a voice to the voiceless.

While she was a mother to her own children, she was generally accepted, recognised and acknowledged as a "Mother of the Nation".

Her name will be forever written in the galaxy of names of heroes and heroines who sacrificed themselves with what they possessed as a price for the liberation of all from all forms of oppression in South Africa.



"She was a tried and tested leader in her own right, and never lived in the shadow of her towering husband, the late icon of our liberation struggle Tata Walter Sisulu."

Thandi Modise, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

She will remain in the annals of history as a dynamic anti-apartheid activist and one of the revolutionary titans, who served her organisation, the African National Congress (ANC) and her people with distinction.

As we honour Mama Sisulu, we need to emulate her humanity and activism. We need to rededicate our commitment to serving the people of South Africa selflessly and impart a sense of duty in the interest of the people rather than personal enrichment or interest of a small elite.

We acknowledge and recognise her role in the struggle for liberation, especially her absolute involvement in the front lines of our struggle, inspiring everyone around her, inspiring younger generations: first among the volunteers in situations where there was inevitability of arrest, torture and of imprisonment.

She taught us that her struggle was never separate from that of the organisation she dutifully served, the ANC.

She made an important and lasting contribution to the lives of many in her community and beyond. She will be counted amongst the giants of our liberation struggle – and a gallant fighter in defence of her people.

We are proud that South Africa produced a leader of profound courage and indomitable spirit. Generations will remember her as an outstanding leader committed fully to the struggle for liberation; a beautiful human being – a Mother of the Nation.

On this memorable occasion of the centenary of her birth, the South African freedom-loving people, democrats, progressives and revolutionaries have good cause to honour the name of Mama Albertina Sisulu and her legacy.

We must further honour her by responding to the clarion call of working tirelessly in reversing the scourge of poverty and underdevelopment felt by the overwhelming majority of our people and reflect on the sobering reality that South Africa remains a society divided along racial lines and one in which the oppression of women takes various forms – and be reminded of our commitment to the struggle for a humane, just, equitable and democratic South Africa, a better Africa and a better world.

Long live the undying spirit of Mama Albertina Sisulu.

Aluta Continua!🇷🇵



FEARLESS LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE: Ma Sisulu with other heroines.

Leader of the people

Ms Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu was a permanent source of moral support and pillar of strength to millions of South Africans during the long and dangerous struggle for freedom in South Africa. Although she was part of a collective of heroes and heroines during that long and painful struggle, she distinguished herself by her own courageous actions in that collective. Notwithstanding the difficulty of the struggle, Ms Sisulu remained at the side of the people carrying her leadership responsibility even at times when that responsibility threatened her life and that of her children, writes Mava Lukani.

Parliament is celebrating the centenary year of this great daughter of the African soil, Mama Sisulu, who dedicated her life to fight for the liberation of South Africa. As Parliament celebrated International Women's Day, it remembered the sacrifices women such as Mama Sisulu made to build a democratic society that respects and celebrates the crucial role of women.

The constitutional democracy South Africa enjoys is built on the strong foundations laid by Ma Sisulu and other heroes of the struggle, such as former president Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. These foundations will empower future generations to continue with the fight to make South African society a better place to live in.

Mama Sisulu displayed great courage and is hailed for being a unifying leader during the apartheid era. In 1956, she was instrumental in leading 20 000 women from across South Africa

to march on the Union Buildings in Pretoria. The women were protesting against the so-called "pass laws", which made it an offence for black people not to carry their identity documents when visiting areas designated for white people only. Their act of defiance will forever be ingrained in the hearts and history of South Africa.

Nothing stopped or intimidated Mama Sisulu from taking part in the struggle against oppression, even threats of death to her and her children.

The more pressure applied by the apartheid state, the more her conviction and commitment grew to the liberation of South Africa.

Ma Sisulu was also instrumental in the formation of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and led the organisation at a time when being a leader of the struggle was a threat to life.

Nothing stopped or intimidated Mama Sisulu from taking part in the struggle against oppression, even threats of death to her and children.

Parliament is celebrating the centenary year of this great daughter of the African soil, Mama Sisulu, who dedicated her life to fight for the liberation of South Africa. As Parliament celebrated International Women's Day, it remembered the sacrifices women such as Mama Sisulu made to build a democratic society that respects and celebrates the crucial role women played in all walks of life.

With the late Mr Oscar Mpetha and Mr Archie Gumede, she was elected as the President of the United Democratic Front (UDF) responsible for the then Transvaal at its launch in Mitchells Plain in 1983.

As a veteran of the struggle, Ma Sisulu emulated the values of the revolution: discipline, accountability, commitment to the people and the creation of better life for all.

Ma Sisulu herself said that her introduction to politics was influenced by her relationship with her late husband, Mr Walter Sisulu.

After the 1994 general elections, Ma Sisulu was among the first Members of the democratically constituted National Assembly and it was she who, during the election in the National Assembly of the President of the Republic of South Africa, suggested the name of Mr Mandela for President. At the end of 1999 Ma Sisulu and her husband left Parliament and retired from politics completely. 🌱



“I sincerely hope that one day the nursing categories will be a phenomenon that belongs to the past.”

This is one of the last written speeches this great leader made in the National Assembly (NA) on 13 March 1997 during a debate on the Nursing Amendment Bill, where she supported the adoption of the Bill by the NA.

Mr Chairperson, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, it gives me great pleasure to rise in support of the Nursing Amendment Bill. The Nursing Amendment Bill before us paves the way for the election of a representative, democratic, transparent and accountable Nursing Council.

The SA Nursing Council served the interests of an elite group of nurses who were well-paid and skilled. This Bill is the first step towards the transformation of the nursing profession, to enable nurses to be proud professionals and workers. In the past we had a situation in which black nurses were excluded from the council and marginalised in every way possible.

The Nursing Act of 1957, for example, excluded direct representation of blacks on the council. It made provision for the indirect representation of black nurses by their white counterparts. Separate nursing registers for the different racial groups were kept, and advisory boards for the various racial groups were set up to discuss matters referred to them by the council. By 1992 20 whites, five blacks, two coloureds and two Indians were given representation on the council. The fact that black nurses were in the majority was not considered important.



For us as black nurses the council was not democratically constituted and it was seen as just another apartheid structure.

I believe that the transformation of the SA Nursing Council, and the nursing profession itself, is long overdue. The nursing profession has many facets which reflect the contradictions within our society. On the one hand nursing is perceived as a caring profession, but, on the other hand, nurses are exploited. They work long hours and are poorly paid.

I recall the enforcement of the Colour Bar system in our hospitals and clinics. As black nurses, we were not allowed to treat white patients. In turn, most white nurses were not prepared to treat black patients. The nursing categories which we have today are the creation of the NP which could not cope adequately with the urbanization of the black nurses and the deterioration of their health. They did, however, require a healthy and cheap labour force. Their solution was to partially train black nurses as nursing aids. In the process, these nurses were denied a proper education, privileges and certification.

I sincerely hope that one day the nursing categories will be a phenomenon that belongs to the past. I recall with great sadness how, as black nurses, we were treated as a virtually invisible workforce in the wards, regardless of our rank or the amount of work which we did. We were required to run the wards, treat our patients, and act as domestic labour, while the white nurses sat in their offices and wrote out reports, without a clue as to what was really happening in the wards.

“The SA Nursing Council served the interests of an elite group of nurses who were well-paid and skilled.”

“The Nursing Act of 1957, for example, excluded direct representation of blacks on the council.”

I recall with great sadness the Nursing Act of 1957 that stipulated that black nurses were not allowed to give orders to white nurses, except, of course, in an emergency. Today I recall the squalor which we black nurses were forced to live in, the segregated hostels, the overcrowded hospitals and clinics, as well as ill-equipped facilities and the draconian conditions of service that we had to work under.

But I stand here today, proud to be one of the many nurses who resisted the racist policies that were so inhumanely enforced upon us. I recall the brave stance of African nurses in particular and organisations such as the ANC Women’s League, which organised nurses to resist the council’s implementation of the pass laws.

The Nursing Amendment Bill before us brings the council into line with the Government’s policy of providing primary health care, as the Bill makes provision for representation on the council, and participation in it, of community members.

As we pass this Nursing Amendment Bill today, I pay tribute to all the nurses who made enormous sacrifices for the love of nursing. Today I pay tribute to pioneer Cecilia Makiwane, who was the first black professional nurse in this country. She undertook to train black nurses and at last gained admission at Victoria Hospital. I am happy today, because I am able to witness the progress we are making in this country.

This legislation makes the transformation of the nursing profession inevitable. It is something we fought for. I urge all nurses to support this Bill...🌱



Mr Trevor Manuel.

Former Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, remembers the heroes of the liberation struggle against apartheid, who played a pivotal role in the formation of a democratic South Africa, Albertina Sisulu and Nelson Mandela.

Context is important when talking about relationships between comrades. So permit me a few contextual points. Firstly, I am of the 1976 generation, 38 years the junior of this phenomenal pair of centenarians; secondly, politically our generation felt the discontinuity because the leadership before us was imprisoned, exiled, and banned; thirdly, I grew up in the Western Cape – classified as “coloured” by apartheid – but with guidance from the Black Consciousness Movement, declared myself as “black”; fourthly, from 1975 I was part of a generation of activists who initiated student,

youth, civic, worker, church, and community mobilisation, and finally, 1980 provided a watershed period – starting with contact with the external African National Congress (ANC), the growth of political organisations, and the beginnings of new forms of mass organisation defined that period and beyond. All of these features were understood by these veterans of our movement; to them, race was not an issue and youth was an advantage.

We created opportunities for mass campaigns so that even the first South African Indian Council elections in 1981 was a rallying point. Curiously, the Indian electorate in the Western Cape was miniscule, but we went ahead and organised a rally in Athlone. Ma Sisulu travelled from Soweto to address the rally, and it was the first time I heard her speak with such conviction and power. This was my first close contact with her.

There were many more opportunities to visit Johannesburg, and on many of these trips I would make an effort

Wonderful reflections Ma Sisulu, Madiba and I

to visit Ma Sisulu at home in Orlando West. It sounds strange to say it now today, but back then she would refer to me as “my baby”. Just that simple term so endeared her to me. It was on these visits that she shared the pain of a family torn apart by apartheid: Uncle Walter was in prison and the children – all of whom were detained and tortured at various points – were now split by exile, with Max and Lindiwe abroad. Her joy was in her ability to focus on the children who were around here – Jongi, Zwelakhe, Beryl and Gerald – to which were added a number of relatives as a distinct part of the family.

Beyond family, another matter that occupied these chats was the organisation of women. Ma Sisulu firmly believed that this would be an important platform for mobilising communities. One needs to bear in mind the repression that Ma Sisulu faced as an activist. One of her banning orders was lifted in June 1983, and this allowed our then-Transvaal comrades to approach her to become United Democratic Front (UDF) President. We did not want a contest, so Ma Sisulu, Archie Gumede and Oscar Mpetha made up the presidential troika. We met at UDF meetings and at various rallies. By early 1984, Ma Sisulu and 15 male comrades were charged with treason. This took almost two further years of activism from her as the charges were withdrawn.

Ma Sisulu retained a humble lifestyle and worked at the surgery of Dr Asvat in Soweto. He was later murdered – allegedly by members of the Mandela United Football Club – and this both deeply hurt and angered her. From 1985 until about 1989, the repression was very

severe. She was either detained, banned or restricted. She got police permission to visit Uncle Walter occasionally, and it was on one of these visits that she learnt of his imminent release. I missed that release because I was detained at the time. The bond between us remained strong and redeveloped from 1990 onwards. She was on the balcony when Madiba made his speech on the Grand Parade and, famously, used her spectacles.



We remained in the same broad circle, but our attentions were elsewhere. Ma Sisulu had her husband back after 26 years and the children returning from exile could recreate the sense of family, lost for so long. Notwithstanding this, she served in the first democratic parliament, where she nominated Nelson Mandela to be the first President of a democratic South Africa. That was an act of great joy for all of us. We spoke often at Parliament, and she maintained the same caring, maternal interest in me as she had since we first met.

What was a common feature of my political life was that Ma Sisulu treated me as a son and Nelson Mandela had a similar relationship with me. I only met him almost a decade after I met Ma Sisulu – our first meeting was during the UDF leadership's visit to Victor Verster prison on 9 February 1990. Because so much is known of the life and work of Madiba, I would like to highlight our relationship by sharing a few memorable interactions, as well as the distinct privilege I felt in working with him in the ANC and government.

Tata Madiba was one of the most disciplined people I have known. Two early incidents come to mind. On 10 February 1990, when Comrades Dullah Omar, Saki Macozoma, Bulelani Ngcuka and I visited Madiba to talk about his release, he was completely in control of the situation. As a disciplined member of the movement, he took guidance on the best way to handle his release. Then, at 4 am on 12 February 1990, which was the morning after his release, he called me to find out where

we had put his weights because he needed to exercise, as he had done each morning for the previous 27 years.

The second story relates to Tata Madiba's treatment of ordinary people. I was driving with him after he had addressed a crowd in Khayelitsha in Cape Town. After the rally, the crowds closed in on the car, to celebrate his presence. His security detail panicked and one protector jumped out with a sjambok to try to open a path. Madiba, with no thought to his own safety,

“What was a common feature of my political life was that as Ma Sisulu treated me as a son.”

emerged from his car, went up to the protector and said: “No, you can't hurt the people. They mean us no harm, they are merely excited. Put that thing away and I never want to see it again.”

On another occasion, I travelled with him from an NEC meeting in Kempton Park back to Soweto, where he'd invited me to stay with him. He asked the driver why we were driving so fast, asking if we were under threat. The driver explained that he was trying to keep up with the lead car. Madiba asked them to radio the lead car, and proceeded to ask its driver whether he did not think that we should be concerned about the safety of other road users.

The third story relates to his proposal in Cabinet that it would be far more efficient if Parliament moved to Pretoria. A number of Ministers from

Cape Town, including me, were interviewed separately, and we expressed our preference for Cape Town. We were called in by Madiba and berated us for our stance on the matter. He told us that the best chance of moving Parliament was to have this decision taken during his first term. We left the meeting understanding clearly that being part of a collective was not optional. Heads of state tend not to be that candid; in my case, his candour worked.

The fourth story relates to Madiba as a fatherly figure. Maria and I would visit him at home in later years, and on many occasions he would remind me, “You see, Trevor, you are much taller than Maria and when you walk, you take these big strides, and she battles to keep up with you. It doesn't look good, my boy.” Enough said.

The last story relates to my appointment as Finance Minister. Madiba had called a number of senior business leaders to inform them of my imminent appointment; I had no idea about this. Soon after the formalities of my appointment, he shared what each of them had said. Some businessmen

were blunt that he was making the biggest mistake yet of his presidency.

Perhaps 15 years later, when he was already battling with his health, he said to me, “I am glad we were able to prove them wrong because, by your conduct, you opened the door for other young black women and men to be more easily accepted.” I had never seen it in this way, but he had contemplated the matter all those years. This is what makes the relationship I enjoyed so very special; I am indeed privileged.

Trevor Manuel served as Minister of Finance from 1996 to 2009, during the presidencies of Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe, and subsequently as Minister in the Presidency for the National Planning Commission from 2009 to 2014 under former president Jacob Zuma. 🇿🇦

Theme Books

a fitting celebration of our Constitution and centenary birthdays of Madiba, Ma Sisulu



*President Cyril Ramaphosa, together with the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), Ms Baleka Mbete, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Ms Thandi Modise, launched six theme books on the Character of the Democratic State; the Structure of Government; the Relationship Between Spheres of Government; the Judicial System in our New Democratic Dispensation; and the Specialised Structures of Government, to celebrate the drafting of the Constitution and the centenary birthdays of Madiba and Ma Sisulu at Parliament recently, writes **Abel Mputing.***

The launch coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Constitution, which came into effect on 4 February 1997 – and the establishment of the NCOP on 6 February 1997. These are key milestones of South Africa's democratic transition. The Constitution is the basis of our human rights culture and it is acknowledged around the world for its strength and progressiveness. Its principles have contributed to the drafting of other constitutional democracies in Africa.

Our constitution has set South Africa apart and even mature democracies benchmark their civil liberties against it. The mandates of the NCOP are set out in the Constitution, which Ms Modise acknowledged at the launch of the books. The Constitution provided the historic bridge between South Africa's past and future, she explained.

The launch was also an opportunity to celebrate the centenary celebration of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, two giants of the liberation struggle. The launch of books commemorating



MOMENT OF CELEBRATION: President Cyril Ramaphosa with representatives of Mandela and Sisulu's families at the launch of the Theme Books.

the drafting of the Constitution is a befitting honour to both of them, Ms Modise said.

The South African legislative sector has followed a year-long centenary programme to celebrate their legacy. "We started a range of activities in March last year to commemorate 20 years of the Constitution and the establishment of the NCOP. In 2016 we had a 20-year anniversary of the signing into law of the Constitution by former President Nelson Mandela on 10 December 1996 and the inception of the NCOP on 6 February 1997."

Of the 490 Members of Parliament (MPs) involved in the drafting of the Constitution, only 19 are still serving as MPs. One of these is the Speaker of the NA, Ms Mbete. Delivering an address at the launch, Ms Mbete said the drafting of the Constitution had been a deeply personal experience, character building and an enriching process for all involved.

"It did not only change each one of us, it also changed the edifice of our country. The restoration of the dignity of our people was at the centre of this Constitution. The Bill of Rights has helped to advance the quality of life of the vulnerable and the marginalised," she said.

These gains would not have been achieved if Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu had not stood tall against all odds. "They stood tall in our darkest moments and we now enjoy the fruits of their unconditional sacrifices," she said.

Ms Mbete quoted Mandela, who said: "Those who drafted the South African Constitution chose a legal path and are in the vanguard for change of an instrument fashioned for a better life for all."

House Chairperson of the NA, Ms Thoko Didiza, also spoke at the launch. She described the launch as historic, in that it took place during Heritage Month, with the theme #WriteYourStory. "Through this launch, we are writing our story as a nation. We are writing the history of our democracy."

Through these books, Ms Didiza said: "We are building a library to be utilised by current and the next generations to better understand our country's transition from apartheid to democracy."

A comic book was also among the new books. "The comic book on our Constitution is meant to present it in an easy-to-read format, and it is recommended that it should be in all our constituency offices," Ms Didiza said.

Delivering the main address at the launch, Mr Ramaphosa said: "We have come to launch that which tells the story of our democracy and the constitutional journey we embarked upon more than two decades ago. There were many challenges, which we had to grapple with. And we had a country that had a different look and feel politically," he said.

"But when it was concluded, our Constitution gave us fresh air. It should not be reduced to an archival function,

"As we seek to heal the wounds caused by the deprivation of land from its rightful owners, we want to be filled with the spirit of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu."

President Cyril Ramaphosa

but should always be used to inform, to empower and to provide a better interpretation of our constitutional rights," he said.

As we celebrate it, we are conscious of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu's contribution to its realisation. They both belong to the special generation that dared to have imagination. "They imagined a future and society that was very different in every respect from the one they occupied. They imagined a society that has a right to life, to security, and to justice as an unalienable universal right," he said.

"It is a living document that can change our country and create a better and brighter future for all our people. Our Constitution has now taken centre-stage in our endeavour to secure equitable land redistribution. If there was a moment in which South Africans engaged in constitutional speak, it is this one.

"As we seek to heal the wounds caused by the deprivation of land from its rightful owners, we want to be filled with the spirit of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. This should inform us as we chart our way forward," Mr Ramaphosa concluded. 🌍

At the launch of the Theme Books, *InSession* writer **Zizipho Klaas** spoke to **Mr Enver Surty**, who is the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, a Member of the National Assembly and the coordinator of the production of the Theme Books. *InSession* also spoke to **Ms Sheila Camerer**, who was among the drafters of the Constitution, and also to school children from different schools around the City of Cape Town who were invited as guests.

Asked about his feelings on the historic delivery and the launch of the Theme Books at Parliament, Mr Surty said: "Well, I am extremely excited listening to the content of the speeches by President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Baleka Mbete and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise, and the House Chairperson of the National Assembly, Ms Thoko Didiza.

"It was very clear that this has been an incredible journey, a great value that we are launching this in our Heritage Month, something that has value for the current generation and future generations. I just met with the Minister of Justice and he has indicated his excitement. The departments of Justice; Arts and Culture; and Education played an important role in terms of promoting the Constitution and its values.

"...it's not an academic series of books, but a political expression of the views of the people."

Mr Enver Surty

"What these big books do quite differently is that they capture the reality or the perceptions by the negotiators themselves at a tactical level. It's not an academic series of books, but a political expression of the views of the people. I am probably

The Theme Books are a political expression of the views of the people – Enver Surty

excited and happy that we have been able to complete this journey together, and we certainly had a wonderful team of men and women who made this possible."

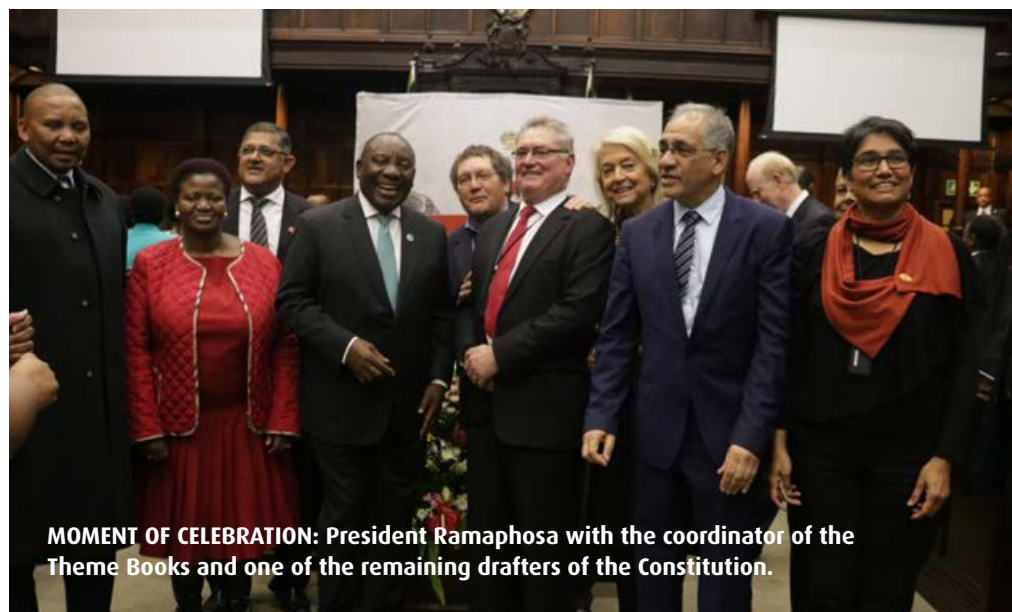
One of the 19 drafters who are still alive and who attended the launch of the Theme Books was Ms Sheila Camerer, who was also asked by *InSession* about her feelings on the occasion of the launch.

She said: "I was thrilled that the books were compiled and launched and I was delighted to be a contributor to the book on the Judiciary (Theme Committee 5). I remember the last evening in the Old Assembly Chamber when we had finally put the Bill of Rights to bed, and Cyril (I think) put on some music and Zwelinzima Vavi (of all people) waltzed me around the floor of the Chamber."

On the fact that the Constitution is at the centre of the Republic of South Africa, she said: "So far, so good. Our Constitution is admired and followed

internationally and the way our Constitutional Court has interpreted its provisions, is also admired and followed. Perhaps with hindsight, we should not have had so much faith in the capacity of the President to make good decisions, but we had President Mandela in mind. However, I think any inadequacies can be fixed with new legislation."

Regarding the debate and public hearings on the amendment of section 25 of the Constitution, she provided a small extract of her speech on the section given in the debate on the final Constitution in April 1996, which appears in the big book launched that night. She said: "We have to get it right, because there will be no peace or stability in our country unless we have land reform. But equally, we will not have the economic growth we so vitally require unless this Constitution inspires both domestic and foreign investor confidence. I am against tinkering with what is a finely balanced clause and a product of long negotiations. It just needs to be implemented properly." 🌟



MOMENT OF CELEBRATION: President Ramaphosa with the coordinator of the Theme Books and one of the remaining drafters of the Constitution.



Group photograph of the Legislative Sector leadership.

Speaker's Forum defers the High Level Panel report to Sixth Parliament for processing

*The Speakers' Forum, a body that oversees the coordination of legislative sector programmes to ensure effectiveness and cohesion, has decided to include the report by the High Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and Acceleration of Fundamental Change as part of its legacy report for the 6th Parliament for adequate processing, writes **Malatswa Molepo**.*

The forum held its quarterly meeting in Kimberley recently and acknowledged that time constraints mean that the report cannot be processed to conclusion within the current parliamentary term, which ends next year. The report will be used as an oversight tool and as a base to close legislative gaps identified by the panel, with the sole aim of improving the lives of South Africans.

"We have to acknowledge the good work that the panel has done, but also be realistic that we will not

be able to adequately process the report within the remaining term of the fifth Parliament. Including the report in the legacy report will ensure proper processing and adoption by the legislative sector," said Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Chairperson of the session, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli.

All provincial legislatures gave a detailed brief on implementing the forum's resolution to process issues relevant to specific provinces.

A majority of the provinces had decided to convene internal researchers to glean from the report issues that affect provinces specifically. This process was completed when the forum held a legacy summit at the end of November 2018.

Despite the resolution that the fifth Parliament will hand the report to the next Parliament, the legislative sector recognised the invaluable debate sparked by the High Level Panel Report.

"It is only through dialogue and debate that the country will be able to reach consensus on workable solutions to many of the social and economic ills facing the country," remarked

Mr Lehlogonolo Masoga, the Deputy Speaker of Limpopo legislature.

The adequate funding of the legislative sector remained a hot topic of discussion at the last Speakers' Forum, as the sector remains of the view that the mandate of the legislature is inadequately funded and that this issue must be speedily resolved.

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly will write a letter to the Minister of Finance with the view of taking the discussions on funding forward.

The delay in processing the Legislative Sector Bill was also highlighted as a contributing factor that delays adequate funding of the legislative sector. The speedy processing of the Bill was cited as a necessity if the sector is to have a legal framework that can be funded.

The forum also resolved to hold a legacy summit intended to consolidate the work of the fifth Parliament and to ensure that the work done is not lost. The summit will also be used to reflect on successes and weaknesses, and will highlight areas of further action and development for the attention of the sixth Parliament. 🌟



LONG LIVE MANDELA: President Ramaphosa at the unveiling of Mandela's statue at the UN Headquarters.

Installation of Madiba's statue at UN headquarters an unprecedented honour bestowed on a Leader

After leading a high-powered delegation of Chief Whips and other Members of Parliament to Cuba on a week-long official parliamentary visit, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, went to New York in the United States of America to attend the 73rd United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

The theme of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, which took place from 25 to 27 September 2018, was: "Making the United Nations relevant to all people: global leadership and shared

responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies".

Ms Mbete attended a wide range of meetings and addressed sessions relating to the global fight against tuberculosis (TB). The sessions included a side event on Africa, organised by the African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) with a focus on tuberculosis. The event was called United to End Tuberculosis in Africa: A continental response and TB Communities and Celebrities, organised by Stop TB.

Earlier this month, Parliament launched the South African Chapter of the Global TB Caucus of Parliamentarians. In their resolutions to launch the TB Caucus, the two Houses of Parliament noted that TB is the leading cause of death in South

Africa and that a South African Chapter of the Global TB Caucus was necessary to raise awareness and support efforts to accelerate the elimination of the disease by 2030.

This is in line with targets set by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The caucus provides a platform for Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Legislatures to champion the treatment for TB in their constituencies and drive political action to end the disease.

Ahead of the start of UN General Assembly, President Cyril Ramaphosa and other leaders unveiled a statue of Mandela at the UN headquarters, an unprecedented honour bestowed on a leader.

“The Mandela statue at the UN headquarters in New York will be a constant reminder and an inspiration that the uncharted waters sailed by Madiba in order to deserve this unprecedented honour by 193 nations of the world, is still possible for today’s and future leaders.”

On the unveiling of the statue, the Presiding Officers of Parliament said Parliament takes pride in its rich heritage represented by the dynamic and exponentially growing legacy of our first democratically elected President.

“The unveiling of the statue of Tat’ uMandela at the UN headquarters in New York on Heritage Day is one of the greatest symbolic actions by the nations of the world to affirm our great living heritage,” the presiding officers said.

“The deep-seated passion and appreciation of the value added by Madiba and his contemporaries, such as Ms Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu, inspires us to multiply our efforts to advance world peace, security, human rights and development.

“This too is a fitting tribute to these two leaders who would have been 100 years old this year. On behalf of Parliament, the legislative sector and millions of democracy-loving South Africans, the Presiding Officers welcomed the special unprecedented honour bestowed on Madiba by the United Nations.

“The Mandela statue at the UN headquarters in New York will be a constant reminder and an inspiration that the uncharted waters sailed by Madiba in order to deserve this unprecedented honour by 193 nations of the world, is still possible for today’s and future leaders.”

The unveiling of the statue was followed by the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, a high-level plenary meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly, Ms Maria Espinosa, in honour of the centenary birthday of democratic South Africa’s founding President. Ms Mbete, attended the summit on Parliament’s behalf. 🌍



NCOP concludes a successful oversight and public participation visit to Gauteng

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) embarked on a successful week-long oversight and public participation visit to the Gauteng province in September to prepare for the Taking Parliament to the People programme, which will be held in November 2018, writes Abel Mputing.

Permanent delegates to the NCOP, together with Members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (MPLs), divided themselves into eight groups and visited various service delivery sites. They also met with government officials and held public meetings with Gauteng residents to assess the impact of migration on service delivery. The theme for the visit was: Impact of migration – deepening cooperative governance for accelerated service delivery and development.

Addressing a Soweto public meeting, the Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise, said: “We are not saying that South Africans must not move around across their country; we fought for that freedom of movement. What we are trying to look at is what effect your movements have on the planning and budget allocations for our various provinces. Gauteng seems to be the worst affected by this.”

The NCOP groups visited over 60 service delivery sites, including schools, Department of Home Affairs immigration offices, hospitals, police stations and early childhood development institutions. The NCOP also held five public meetings in Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, Tshwane

and the West Rand District to hear from residents about their service delivery issues.

Migration impacts on the ability of the province to provide services such as health, education and economic development opportunities. It also places a strain on the police.

Among the discoveries made during the visit, the NCOP heard that 723 of the 2 207 schools in the province have a shortage of 5 554 classrooms. 3 166 of these are primary schools and 2 388 are secondary schools. This means that the province needs a total of 142 new schools (85 primary and 57 secondary) to accommodate existing learners properly. This excludes the schools required in new residential developments, plus the 114 000 additional learners flocking to the province each year.

The Gauteng Department of Education told the NCOP that 44.4% of its 2 207 schools are in a state of disrepair because of the strain of exponential population growth due to the influx of students from various provinces.

On health, the NCOP heard about one hospital where 58% of out-patients are non-South Africans along with 62% of in-patients, with 842 of approved hospital beds being occupied by foreign nationals.

On the impact of migration on crime and law enforcement, the NCOP heard how it is difficult to prosecute criminal cases involving foreign nationals, due to language barriers and the lack of a permanent address. Foreign-national-owned business people are also an easy target for criminals, as they often sleep in their shops and keep their money on the premises.



Ms Modise urged Soweto residents: “I beg you; don’t take the law into your hands. Don’t go for foreigners. Not all of them are here doing bad things. Some are here as asylum seekers,” she said.

“Those who are beneficial to us must be protected. We need to deal with criminals whether they are foreign or our nationals, we need to deal with rapists whether they are priests or ordinary people,” she said.

Ms Modise said they will send a technical team to relook at the housing issues raised by the residents of Soweto during the public meeting yesterday. “Those whose houses were stolen must give us full details so that we can investigate,” she said.

“We want to say to the people of Gauteng, we have heard you. When we return in November we must be challenged to produce evidence of this. When we return, we will bring all relevant stakeholders in government including the National Youth Development Agency, Home Affairs, and the department of Small Business Development to answer to the resident’s demands.”

Taking Parliament to the People includes a report-back session, which enables the NCOP to monitor progress in implementing undertakings and accountability on the part of the executive. 🗣️

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT: Members of the community express themselves to the Members of the NCOP.



NCOP sorts out housing problems in Soshanguve

The small-scale subcontractors that built RDP houses in Soshanguve, Tshwane, have finally been paid following an intervention by the NCOP. During visits to the housing development project, the NCOP discovered that some subcontractors had not been paid for three years because the main contractor had not been paid by the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements.

According to one of the main contractors, the decision not to pay the subcontractors was in order to “put pressure on the department”. A delegation of the NCOP, led by the House Chairperson for International Relations Ms Masefako Dikgale called a meeting with the department, the subcontractors and one of the main contractors of the housing projects.

In that meeting, the department made a commitment that the main contractor, Vharanani Properties, would be paid by 17 October. A signed letter of commitment was handed over to the NCOP and the main contractor. The NCOP has received confirmation that 11 subcontractors have now been paid by the main contractor, after getting an assurance of payment from the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements.

“We would like to thank the Chief Executive Officer of Vharanani Properties, Mr David Mabilu, for his cooperation and commitment in resolving the matter and making sure that the sub-contractors got paid,” said Ms Dikgale.

The House Chairperson was disappointed in the department’s failure to invite the main contractors to the oversight meetings of the NCOP. She also appealed to the other main contractor, Value Max, to come forward to find solutions to challenges identified at Thorn Tree housing project.

The NCOP has welcomed the commitment by the subcontractors to fix faults identified during the oversight visit at extension 19 and will wait for Value Max to come forward, as some faults were also identified at Thorn Tree. 🗨️

Orlando and Morris Isaacson High Schools are part of national heritage sites



The permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) visited Morris Isaacson and Orlando High Schools as part of the preliminary visit of the Taking Parliament to the People to the Gauteng province before the main November programme, writes
Abel Mputing

Both Morris Isaacson and Orlando High Schools played a pivotal role in the 16 June 1976 Soweto Uprising that had such a significant impact on South Africa's liberation struggle.

Leading one of the groups of the NCOP delegations visiting the two schools, Ms Lungelwa Zwane said: "We are here today to pay tribute to the youth and the role that these schools played in the liberation struggle of this country. We recognise them as heritage sites of our democracy and freedom."

The NCOP delegation voiced its disappointment that despite the historical role these schools played, they have not been properly profiled by the Gauteng Education Department as heritage sites. "When we leave Gauteng, we want a commitment from the department that it will ensure that these schools are properly profiled. We will follow up on that and it will be part of our report," she added.

According to Ms Zukiswa Ncita, who is a permanent delegate to the NCOP, the two schools should have close ties with the National Heritage Council to "ensure that they are profiled properly as heritage sites".

The delegation heard from the Gauteng Department of Education that both schools are underperforming. “Every school that has a passing rate that is below 65% is regarded as an underperforming school by the department. These schools fall under this category, for they have a passing rate that is below 65%,” Johannesburg West Director of Education, Mr Dennis Macuacua said.

The contributing factors for the underperformance at Morris Isaacson are complex. One of these, according to Mr Macuacua, is the difficult relationship between the school governing body (SGB) and the principal, which began when a new principal, Mr Steven Khanyile, was appointed. Furthermore, there are also tensions between the principal and the school’s management team, but the provincial education department has intervened and things have improved.

Upon hearing of the SGB’s direct involvement in the running of the school, the delegation asked if the SGB is aware of its mandate to play an oversight role on governance. Mr Macuacua assured the delegation that the SGB has attended training workshops and that SGB members

are now fully informed about their roles and responsibilities.

Both schools lamented the lack of security and their exposure to crime and vandalism. At Morris Isaacson, parents monitor the school premises every morning to ensure that pupils are safe. The school cannot afford professional security guards due to budgetary constraints, the principal of Orlando High, Ms Thozama Mrwetyana, told the delegation.

Ms Mrwetyana mentioned that the school buildings are old, as they were built in 1939. Some of the buildings are dilapidated and lack electricity, while the sanitation system is also inadequate.

The Provincial Education Department admitted to these changes and the effect they may have on the performance of these schools. But the Johannesburg North District Director, Mr Siphon Mkhulise, assured the delegation that academically they have applied a holistic diagnostic analysis of these schools to determine “which subjects, and which teachers are at risk of not meeting set targets for the current matric exams. And what interventions are needed to mitigate

these scenarios”. One intervention involves extra tuition in the form of study camps.

The delegation also heard that a small number of foreign nationals and pupils from other provinces are enrolled in both schools, but as they are few in number, their impact is not significant. The University of Johannesburg was visited by the NCOP delegation to determine the impact of migration on its planning and infrastructure capacity. According to the presentation of the Internationalisation of Academic Services, Dr Hlulani Mabaso, migration has no negative impact on the university. When pressed to explain why, when there are a number of foreign nationals on the staff and in the student body, he replied that the university aspires to have a national and international profile. “Those internationals that are part of our academic staff are lecturers or researchers who are experts in their fields and contribute to the international profile of the university.”

Mr Mabaso raised the deficiencies the university experiences with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and urged members to intervene where possible. 🌍



OVERSIGHT: NCOP MPs at Morris Isaacson High School.

Land ownership will restore the dignity of women

Minister of Women in the Presidency, Ms Bathabile Dlamini



*The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) puts the plight of rural women under the spotlight with a debate on International Day of Rural Women themed: “The Time is Now: Improving Food Security and Eradicating Rural Poverty”, reports **Abel Mputing**.*

In her opening address, the Minister of Women in the Presidency, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, who sponsored the debate stated that land “is about our pride and independence as women and as such must be utilised to improve the position of black women in the economy, ownership and management of rural land”.

She also stated that her department has advocated for the state to be the custodian of the land. “No land must be sold to foreigners. If rural women can be given access to land, their dignity could be restored and that could help in enhancing their economic activities and in eradicating the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality they are currently faced with”.

She singled out expropriation of land without compensation as one measure that could build sustainable infrastructure to empower women and girls in rural areas.

According to Minister Dlamini, there is a need to change the view that associates rural women with backwardness; in fact, rural women were at the forefront of South Africa’s liberation struggle during the colonial and apartheid eras.



Government departments also need gender sensitive budgeting mechanisms, she said. "There is a need to have mechanisms for gender budgeting in various departments, and this mechanism should be evaluated and monitored constantly. This to ensure that the cause of rural women is not a responsibility of one department, but cuts across all departments."

MPs taking part in the debate heard that more than 70% of the African population depends on agriculture, which is the heartbeat of African economies and which is about power, politics and profit.

According to Ms Bronwynn Engelbrecht, who is a permanent delegate to the NCOP for Gauteng, lack of access to schooling and healthcare are contributing factors to the cycle of poverty. "These women live without access to affordable healthcare and education. Such challenges are deeply rooted in poverty and hopelessness, and tackling their cycle of poverty is most urgent in a developing country."

This is compounded by their lack of access to credit, she said. "We need to ensure that women are given title deeds. Without security of tenure, these women won't be able to access the economy and will remain in the cycle of poverty."

The continued developmental bias in favour of urban areas, she said, has exacerbated the plight of rural women. Even councillors from rural areas "leave their respective rural communities behind and live in urban areas and forget about the plight of their constituencies".

As long as corruption remains, the poor will remain poor. The problem is that the black population, especially rural women who are providers of food, are landless. "As a result, rural women end up eating cheap food and are unable to feed their children healthy nutrition," Ms Engelbrecht said.

Ms Lungelwa Zwane, a permanent delegate to the NCOP for KwaZulu-Natal, said a lesson could be learnt from people like Ms Albertina Sisulu who grew up in a rural area, but who was able to rise to great heights. Ms Zwane said Ms Sisulu is the one who is recognised today for her tireless fight for women's emancipation. Ms Sisulu's vision was of a democratic society in which all citizens have equal opportunity to determine their own destiny, but also by ensuring that people have economic opportunities and the ability to make choices about their own lives.

Ms Zwane called on the Minister of Agriculture to make sure that rural

women get what they need to work the land. She further said that women also need access to markets.

"We can say that today we are turning this around: 39 agro-processing entrepreneurs were trained on processing norms and standards, 123 cooperatives were supported with Farm Together Training and the market opportunity profile report for the meat sector has been completed."

Ms Pindiwe Samka, a permanent delegate to the NCOP for the Eastern Cape, said: "If we could make sure that the opportunities are given to women first, then there can be a difference in our economy".

She added that now is the time to restore dignity to rural women and develop strategies and solutions to poverty alleviation in rural areas.

According to Minister Dlamini, there is a need to change the view that associates rural women with backwardness; in fact, rural women were at the forefront of South Africa's liberation struggle during the colonial and apartheid eras.

Bill tracker

The Protection and Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge Bill and National Credit Amendment Bill were adopted by the National Council of Provinces and the National Assembly recently.

The National Assembly (NA) during one of its plenary sittings during the recent parliamentary term passed the **National Credit Amendment Bill**. The bill aims to provide for capped debt intervention to promote a change in the borrowing and spending habits of over-indebted South Africans. The bill will provide relief to over-indebted South Africans who lack effective or efficient options to extricate themselves from over-indebtedness.

The bill further provides for mandatory life insurance on all credit agreements over more than six months and to a value of no more than R50 000, to prevent lower income groups from falling into over-indebtedness due to changes in their financial circumstances.

The bill also aims to further limit the abuse of consumers by unscrupulous lenders and to allow for simpler and more rigorous enforcement of the Act by, amongst other things, providing for criminal prosecution of persons who contravene the Act. The Bill will be submitted to the National Council of Provinces for consideration and concurrence.

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) passed the **Protection and Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge Bill**. The Bill provides for, among other things, the establishment and functions of the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office, and management of the rights of indigenous communities.

The bill further provides for the establishment and functions of the advisory panel on indigenous knowledge, and conditions of access to the knowledge of indigenous communities. Furthermore, the bill calls for the establishment of a register of indigenous knowledge, accreditation of assessors and certification of

indigenous knowledge practitioners, as well as facilitation and coordination of indigenous knowledge-based innovations.

The National Credit Amendment Bill aims to provide for capped debt intervention to promote a change in the borrowing and spending habits of over-indebted South Africans.

Also approved by the National Assembly was the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) Amendment Bill. The bill was tabled as a Committee Bill on 1 March 2018 and published for public comment on 1 June 2018. The Ipid Amendment Bill aims to amend the existing Ipid Act to align it with Constitutional Court provisions inserted by the court's judgment of 2016.

NCOP sitting.





NA sitting.

These included the powers of the Minister of Police to take disciplinary steps or to remove the Ipid Executive Director, among other things. The amendments will provide, among other things, for greater independence of the Ipid Executive Director and greater certainty on the process of suspending and removing the Executive Director. The Bill will now be sent to the NCOP for concurrence.

The National Assembly also approved the recommendation of the report of the Public Works Portfolio Committee that the House not approve the **Expropriation Bill** at this stage.

The Minister of Public Works tabled the Expropriation Bill in Parliament in February 2015. The bill went through all relevant statutory processes and was sent to the former President for assent. The former President twice returned the bill to Parliament on procedural grounds, on 20 July 2016 and on 14 February 2017.

In its report on the bill to the National Assembly, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works said it had originally planned to recommence public hearings

on the bill, in collaboration with the NCOP's Select Committee on Economic and Business Development.

The Protection and Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge Bill provides for, among other things, the establishment and functions of the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office, and management of the rights of indigenous communities.

However, this approach was overtaken by the 27 February 2018 resolution of the National Assembly and NCOP, which mandated the joint Constitutional Review Committee to determine whether a review of section 25 of the Constitution and other clauses is necessary to make it possible for the state to expropriate land in the public interest without compensation and to propose constitutional amendments,

where necessary. The Expropriation Bill does not provide for expropriation without compensation and will create confusion and duplication of the current Constitutional Review Committee public hearings.

The portfolio committee, therefore, recommended that the National Assembly not approve the Expropriation Bill, pending the conclusion of the process regarding the possible review of Section 25 of the Constitution.

The bill can be re-introduced at a later stage, should it become necessary to do so. 🇿🇦

The National Assembly also approved the recommendation of the report of the Public Works Portfolio Committee that the House not approve the Expropriation Bill at this stage.



Committees *in brief*

A roundup of some of the work that took place in Parliament's committees in September.

The **Portfolio Committee on Police** expressed its concern about South Africa's increasing murder rate after it received the annual crime statistics from the Department of Police.

"It is unacceptable that the murder rate has been on an upward trajectory since the 2012/13 financial year. The increase of 6.9% from the last financial year points to the ineffectiveness of interventions implemented by the South African Police Service (Saps). Significantly more targeted interventions must be implemented to reverse this worrying trend," said Mr Francois Beukman, the Chairperson of the committee.

The committee emphasised the need for a strategic intervention from Saps, not merely operational or tactical responses.

As a remedy, the committee has recommended that Saps management strengthen cluster and station management, especially in the top 30 crime hotspots. This will improve the strategic and tactical intervention in fighting crime, especially contact crime.

The committee has for a while now called for the re-introduction of

specialised units, as it is of the view that they are vital in focussing the crime prevention plan. It is high time that Saps management urgently implement the National Development Plan recommendation on the National Police Board, as well as re-introduce specialised units trained to deal with specific crime.

"The committee is of the view that the need for specialised units to deal with gang and taxi-related crimes is long overdue. Safety and security is one of the important pillars of an economically growing country that is able to create job opportunities for the people of the country," Mr Beukman said.

Furthermore, the committee has encouraged the review and renewal of the Saps Act and the Fire-Arms Control Act to bring them in line with new crime developments and to ensure a policing framework that is able to deal with changing crime trends.

Also, the National Development Plan made recommendations on a framework for a community-based plan to fight crime. "Crime is a societal problem and the police must develop and urgently implement a new model for police community interface that will galvanise the entire society to the fight against crime," Mr Beukman said.

The committee reiterated its call that policing should move towards intelligence-led policing as a key approach to deal with serious and violent crime. Also, the use of technology as an operational tool and force multiplier must be urgently considered, budgeted for and implemented.

The **Portfolio Committee on Communications** has welcomed the South African Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC's) strategic roadmap that highlights, among other things, the possibility of implementing section 189 of the Labour Relations Act (Act No. 66 of 1995) as a measure to cut costs.

The roadmap is anchored to six strategic pillars, including financial sustainability, content and digital platforms, human capital, governance, and partnerships. The committee heard that the public broadcaster is currently consulting with organised labour, in order to find an amicable way to implement this section.

The SABC's Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr Madoda Mxakwe, said that the wage bill for the 2017/18 financial year amounts to R3.1 billion, 42% of the SABC's total expenditure of R7.3 billion.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Humphrey Maxegwana, said that a follow-up meeting should be arranged with the board to hear a progress report on the implementation of the roadmap. "The strategic roadmap has highlighted some critical aspects, which could bring about positive results. However, the issue of Section 189 should be approached with due diligence and be concluded expeditiously in order to restore certainty among the workers," said Mr Maxegwana.

Mr Maxegwana also commended the SABC for coming up with turnaround plans to improve collection of the television license fees.

The **Select Committee of Finance** was briefed by the City of Cape

Town Metropolitan Municipality on the alignment of its Integrated Development Plan (IDP) to the National Development Plan (NDP).

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Charel de Beer, commended the city for its unqualified audit report over the past 11 years. He emphasised the importance of improving inter-governmental relations, specifically in the local government sphere to enhance service delivery.

The City of Cape Town reported that it faces a major challenge in building a safe city, as Cape Town continues to experience the highest number of contact crimes and robbery with aggravated circumstances in the country. The city's high murder rate is closely linked to high levels of gang activity, linked to the drug trade.

The city also reported that it needs to address apartheid spatial planning

to meet housing needs. New urban developments have to be linked to available and future transport networks. The city has identified open spaces and released 16 pieces of land to bring about integration. Cape Town currently has 203 informal settlements around the metro, mostly due to the forces of urbanisation. The city must work closely with the Department of Human Settlements nationally and provincially to ensure that new housing developments meet the people's transport needs, as people spend about 40% of their salaries on transport.

The city reported that rail transport is reaching a state of collapse with only 50 working trains out of 82 to service the city. The city needs to engage with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa to deal with this crisis. The city has lobbied Parliament for support to acquire the interim assignment with Golden Arrow Bus Services (Gabs) to provide services to the city, which

is currently with the Western Cape Province.

The city plans to integrate the MyCiti and Gabs services and therefore will need to design MyCiti infrastructure and systems to accommodate Gabs. The city has applied for the assignment to rationalise and integrate public transport, however, this is with the Minister of Transport.

Amendments with regard to the National Land Transport Act are before the National Council of Provinces.

The drought in the Western Cape has meant that the city had to increase water tariffs and reduce the daily consumption of water per household. Collection rates have dropped due to the reduced water consumption. However, the city's net cash flows have improved overall year-on-year, due to savings and underspending incurred on operating costs. 🌱



Tribute to Nokhaya Mnisi



Ms Mnisi was deployed to Parliament by her political party, the African National Congress (ANC), after the 2009 general elections. She was sworn in as a Member of the National Assembly. As a Member of the NA, she was deployed to a number of parliamentary committees.

Most recently she served on the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans and the Joint Standing Committee on Defence. She was also a member of the Multiparty Women’s Caucus.

Ms Mnisi diligently carried out Parliament’s constitutional obligations – exercising fearless oversight over the executive, law-making and enhancing public participation in the work of Parliament.

She also served her Mpumalanga’s Balfour and Empuluzi constituencies with dedication, and ensured their challenges and aspirations found expression on the agenda of Parliament.

Ms Mnisi was born on the 24th of September 1968 in Standerton. She was a professional teacher who taught at a number of schools in South Africa.

After the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, she joined it and its Women’s League. She served the ANC’s branch as Chairperson and Branch Chairperson of the of ANC Women’s League and served in its regional executive committee.

Taking the struggles of workers too close to her heart, Ms Mnisi also joined the South African Communist Party. She passed on at hospital after a short illness on 18 September 2018. 🌹

Parliament’s Presiding Officers: the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), Ms Baleka Mbete and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Ms Thandi Modise, expressed their heartfelt condolences on behalf of Parliament to the family of Ms Nokhaya Adelaide Mnisi after her passing after a short illness.

Presiding Officers express condolences to late Members of Parliament

Tribute to Edna Molewa

The National Council of Provinces paid tribute to the late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa, for her unrelenting determination to champion sustainable co-existence between humans and their environment.

In paying tribute, the Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces, Mr Seiso Mohai, said South Africa's history would be incomplete without acknowledging the pivotal role Ms Molewa played in championing the environment. "She was a leading voice in the development and subsequent adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals. It was under her leadership that South Africa formulated its first National Climate Change Response Policy and National Adoption Strategy.

"Our country's response to climate change had its genesis at the COP 17 Summit in Durban in 2011, which laid the groundwork for the historic Paris Agreement [on climate change] in 2015, which Minister Molewa worked tirelessly to ensure was concluded and ratified."

Ms Molewa was a courageous leader, Mr Mohai proclaimed. One who played a pivotal role in defining the political and social fabric of a post-apartheid South Africa. "Her illustrious political involvement in the struggle against apartheid is the epitome of a community leader who rose and surmounted the travesties of growing up in a repressive apartheid society characterised by a deep-rooted racial and gender discrimination."

She was one of the first women parliamentarians in the democratic Parliament and the first woman Premier of the North West Province. "She will always remain a symbol of rare social and political activism who

remained a voice of the people against racial oppression and segregation," said Mr Mohai.

The African National Congress (ANC) and South Africa have lost a dedicated and humble servant who remained true to the founding values the ANC and its ideals, said Mr Mohai. "We have lost a formidable icon and a true environmentalist who remained on the forefront of our national and global efforts for the realisation of environmental integrity and of sustainable planet Earth that can be shared and enjoyed by all nations and most importantly, the future generation."

Also speaking during the tribute, Ms Cathlene Lauschagne, who is a Whip for the Democratic Alliance in the NCOP, said that Ms Molewa made history, not only for being the first female premier of the North West, but also by becoming the first female Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry.

She will be remembered and honoured for her service to the country and to the people. And we "thank her for her dedication to her portfolio and the work that she accomplished".

The news of Ms Molewa's passing came as a great shock to Mr Mntomuhle Khawula, a permanent member of the NCOP representing KwaZulu-Natal for the Inkatha Freedom Party, due to her relatively young age youth. "In the few years I have known her, she was one of the few ministers "who would always show dignity to this House by personally honouring and gracing it with her presence when required".

Above all, she pointed out, she was a polite and humble person and "never displayed any arrogance of power when engaging even with the



opposition benches. I was touched by her son's remarks at the funeral, when he said that even at home she was always talking about saving rhinos. May her soul rest in peace."

The late minister may have presented a brave face, but she had gone through so much hardship in her life, said the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise.

"It is times like these that compel us to take courage and pick up the spear and continue where she left off. It's a good leader that allows themselves to be led and be corrected. We have seen such qualities in her and young women could learn the lessons of total emancipation of these rare qualities from her exemplary life."

Members of the National Assembly also paid tribute to Ms Molewa, describing her as a selfless servant of the people. 🌱



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.