



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National Assembly Rules Committee

Study Tour to the United Kingdom

July 2023



**MAKING YOUR FUTURE
WORK BETTER**



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Objectives of the Study Tour

The Rules Committee has been considering how best the Assembly can enhance its oversight over Vote 1 – The Presidency, mindful of the unique role of the Presidency. This matter was referred to the Subcommittee on Review of Assembly Rules (the Subcommittee).

The Subcommittee requested the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) to analyze Vote 1 to determine which aspects of the Vote were currently not subjected to scrutiny.

The PBO concluded that Parliament should strengthen its oversight, but that further research would be beneficial. In so doing, the PBO reflected on international practices including those employed in the UK to oversee the Office of the Prime Minister.



Objectives cont...

In April 2023, the Rules Committee agreed that it would be instructive for members to undertake a study tour to engage counterparts in the UK. The delegation is comprised of -

Mr CT Frolick (Leader of the Delegation)

Mr QR Dyantyi

Mr AHM Papo

Dr A Lotriet

Mr N Singh

Dr C Mulder

The delegation will be supported by the Secretary to the National Assembly and three other officials including the Director of the PBO.



Objectives cont...

The delegation will seek to engage political representatives and procedural experts from Westminster, as well as relevant institutions in order to establish, among other things -

- The procedures and conventions relating to the oversight mandate of the Commons and the accounting responsibilities of the Prime Minister;
- The structure/s employed to scrutinize the Office of the Prime Minister within Westminster; and
- Any procedural challenges encountered by the Commons and its committees in exercising oversight over the Office.



Objectives cont...

In addition, members also identified a number of other subjects to be pursued. These include -

- Procedures followed in conducting committee inquiries;
- Procedures and processes related to the passage of government budgets, as well as the support provided to committees to analyze budgets;
- Public participation in law-making; and
- The mandate and role of the Environmental Audit Committee and the Climate Change Committee (Commission).

A briefing paper has been prepared which introduces the subjects referred to above. The South African High Commission has also provided a profile for the UK.



Programme of the Study Tour for 18 July

A detailed programme has been developed by Parliament in collaboration with Westminster. Engagements will cover three days from the 18th- 20th of July 2023.

Members will be hosted by Westminster on the 18th (refer to attached programme). Members will hold meetings with the –

- Procedures (Rules) Committee;
- Financial Scrutiny Unit (on the budget process);
- Programme Director of the Parliamentary Commonwealth Association
- Liaison Committee; and
- The Clerks of the Grand Committee and Environmental Committees.

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Programme of the Study Tour for 19 July

Meetings on the 19th of July will be held outside of Westminster. Engagements will be held with -

- The Institute for Government (a non-profit organization that works with Government and monitors Parliament)
- Sir Malcolm Jack (the former Clerk/Secretary to the House of Commons).

Both the Institute and the former Clerk of the House of Commons will be able to provide an outside assessment of the efficacy of the House of Commons in performing oversight and specifically over the Head of Government.

We are also attempting to confirm a meeting with the Climate Change Committee (Commission) for the morning, before the Institute for Government.



Programme of the Study Tour for 20 July

Meetings have been arranged in the morning of the 20th with –

- Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)
- Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR)

The IFS is an economic research institute which specializes in taxation and public policy. It produces both academic and policy-related findings.

The OBR is the UK's official independent economic and fiscal forecaster (similar to the PBO).

These institutions will be able to expand on the information provided on budget proceedings by the relevant parties in the UK Parliament.

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Logistics

- All Delegates have been issued with UK Visas.
- As confirmed by the UK Embassy in Pretoria, there are currently no COVID-19 restrictions or requirements for entering the UK.
- All Flights have been confirmed on Emirates Airlines via Dubai to London departing South Africa on 16 July 2023 and departing from London, UK on the 20th July 2023. Mr Frolick and Mr Jantjies have an extended Programme in London, UK and will depart London on 21st July 2023.
- All Delegates have been issued with their E-Tickets for the Emirates Flights.
- Transport to and from the Airports in South Africa and London, UK have been booked and confirmed with Emirates Chauffeur Drive (details have been included on the E-Tickets)



Logistics con....

Members will be staying at the Royal Horseguard Hotel, (2 Whitehall Crt, London SW1A 2EJ, as recommended by the South African High Commission, London, UK). **Check-in** at the Royal Horseguard Hotel is at **16:00**.

The Delegation flights land at 12:25pm & 14:25 and depending on the length of the drive from Heathrow Airport to the Royal Horseguard Hotel, there maybe a short waiting period before the Hotel Rooms will be ready for occupancy.

Bed and Breakfast has been confirmed at the Royal Horseguard Hotel.

Dinner for the duration of the Delegation's stay (17th, 18th, 19th July) has been pre-paid at the Royal Horseguard Hotel @ R1 650 per night per person.

Laundry will be paid for and should be signed to your room.

Check-out from the Royal Horseguard Hotel will be at **11:00am** on 20th July



Logistics con....

Daily transport from the Hotel to meetings as per the Delegation Programme on the 18th, 19th and 20th July 2023 have been confirmed with Londinium Services.

Vehicles will be 2 x 5 seater Mercedes V-Class Minivan and Mercedes E-Class Sedan.

The workshop on the 19th July will be held at The Tower – A Guoman Hotel, St Katharine's Way, London E1W 1LD, UK, 12th Floor, Conference Room.

Please remember to inform your Bank that you will be travelling internationally.



Thank you!