

Monthly magazine of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

# in session



Vol. 14 ISSUE 4 April/May 2014



## Legacy of 4<sup>th</sup> Parliament

Success stories and challenges





**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Mace** of National Assembly

## Vision Statement

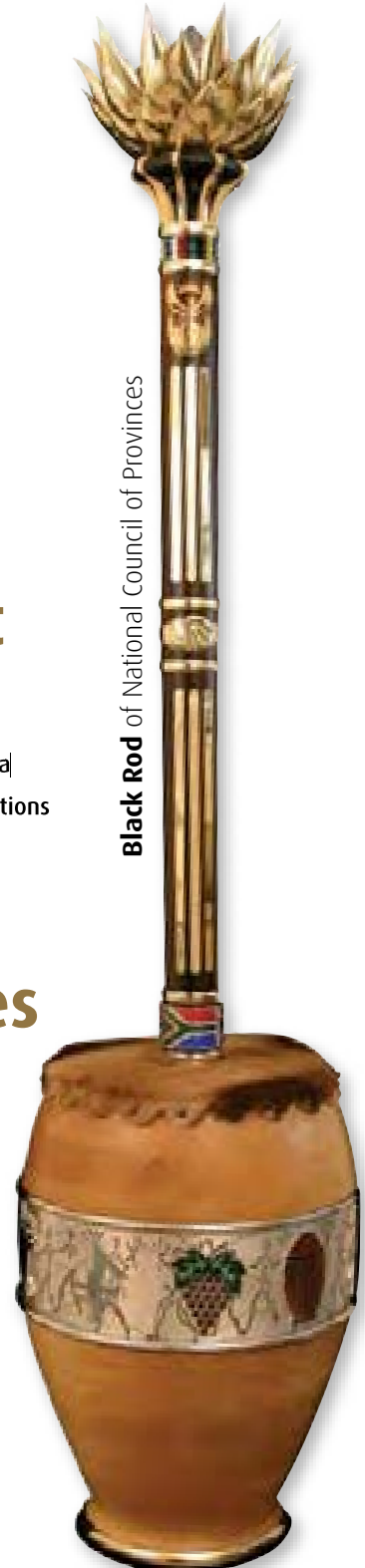
To build an effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people and that is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people of South Africa.

## Mission Statement

As the freely elected representatives of the people of South Africa, our Mission is to represent, and to act as a voice of the people, in fulfilling our Constitutional functions of passing laws and overseeing executive action.

## Strategic Objectives

1. Strengthen oversight
2. Build a People's Parliament
3. Strengthen co-operative government
4. Improve international participation
5. Build an effective and efficient institution

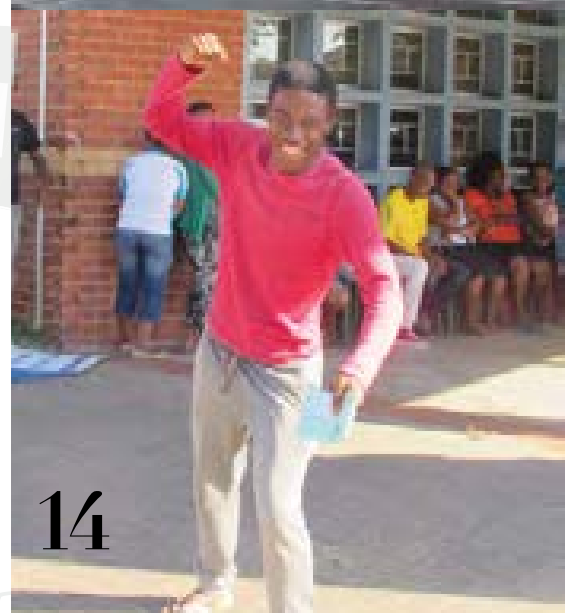


**Black Rod** of National Council of Provinces

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Letšatši la Tokologo



COVER: One success story of the National Council of Province's Taking Parliament to the People programme is the Diyatalawa Agri Village near Harrismith, which provides employment to Mr Dyke Mofosi.

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**OUR IDEALS**

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# editor's note



**There** was a definite sense in Parliament in April and early May of a transition being underway, although the National Assembly (NA) continued to function until the day before the election, and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) remained in operation until the day before the Provincial Legislatures were reconstituted. The fourth Parliament was closing up shop: the signs were everywhere, with Members packing up and vacating their offices. There was a sense of new beginnings as things picked up momentum in preparation for the fifth Parliament, which swore in members of the NA on 21 May and members of the NCOP on 22 May.

This transition occurs every five years, within 14 days of the release of the election results (read the story on page 32), and the 20th anniversary of a democratic Parliament was a good time not only for a paint-and-polish to get the physical Parliament into shape, but also for taking stock of the work of the country's premier institution.

To mark Freedom Day, Parliament unveiled a giant bust of Madiba to commemorate 20 years of freedom. Dignitaries, including members of the Mandela family, were present to hear President Jacob Zuma announce: "There can be no better 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift for South Africans than to have this symbol of Mandela in Parliament. The unveiling of this bust confirms that our Parliament, once a symbol of white domination, has now been transformed into a progressive institution that upholds the values of unity, equality, freedom and the dignity of all South Africans" (story on page 6).

Attended by more than 1000 members of the public (page 8), the event left one with a strong feeling that the fourth Parliament had left an enduring symbol of the Madiba legacy.

On the legacy left behind by the fourth Parliament, we examined the NCOP's *Taking Parliament to the People* programme. *InSession* returned to a number of sites where Parliament went out to engage the people of South Africa on their own turf, to hear them out on their specific local needs and problems. We report where Parliament heard what the people said and as their representatives, how they acted on these concerns. (See pages 21 to 24.)

Another critical legacy of the fourth Parliament was the creation of the Office of the Institutions Supporting Democracy. The Office has given momentum and direction, plus some practical assistance, to the 11 institutions envisaged in the Constitution to underpin the democratic workings of Parliament (pages 25 to 28). The fifth Parliament will carry this work forward, as it will with that of the Budget Office (page 29).

As the fifth Parliament begins its term, we look back at what it has inherited. Significantly, just before the close of the fourth Parliament the precinct was also declared a national heritage site, after a painstaking and protracted process. The South African Heritage Resources Agency granted Parliament this status in part on the grounds that "its highest value lies in its ability to absorb the strains of history and its ability to move from a site of political, social and cultural exclusion to a site valued by all and held in the highest esteem because of its role as a site of universal inclusivity" (story on page 9).

That is an appropriate starting point from which to launch a new term of parliamentary office. This issue of *InSession* demonstrates that the fourth Parliament will be a hard act to follow. We welcome our new Members, and welcome back those returning. We wish them well as they take our country through its 20<sup>th</sup> year of freedom and into the future. 🌟

Enjoy the read!

Moira Levy  
**Editor**

# Global icon a local hit

Bust a symbol of his greatness

**On** 28 April, Parliament unveiled the Mandela bust to commemorate 20 years of freedom and of a democratic Parliament. This historic occasion was graced by scores of dignitaries who came to pay tribute to a global icon, the guardian of the institution of Parliament for the past 20 years, reports Abel Mputing.

Most of all, the celebration of two decades of a democratic Parliament was a fitting moment to reflect on how far Parliament has come, but more importantly, how far it still has to go. Reflecting on the significance of Mandela's bust to commemorate 20 years of a democratic Parliament, President Jacob Zuma said that there was no better way to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a democratic Parliament than the unveiling of Mandela's image.

"There can be no better 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift for South Africans than to have this symbol of Mandela in Parliament. The unveiling of this bust confirms that our Parliament, which was once a symbol of white domination, has now been transformed into a progressive institution that upholds the values of unity, equality, freedom and the dignity of all South Africans. As we celebrate freedom, we recall that it is this very Parliament that played a key role in dismantling apartheid laws.

"During the first 10 years, 789 laws or amendments aimed at reconfiguring South African society were approved by the democratic Parliament. Thanks to the implementation of many of these laws, we are able to say that South Africa is a much better place to live in today," President Zuma said.

The Chairperson of the National Council

of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, said Mandela was all the more worthy of such an honour because his humility was a gift to humanity and the world.

"It is befitting of our democratic Parliament to honour the leader who was a gift to mankind. As a popular organ of people's power, we salute the late father of the nation. We treasure the moments he spent with us. In celebrating 20 years of this democratic Parliament, we are proud to have been led by a leader of Nelson Mandela's stature. He graced these walls with his majestic figure that belied his profound humility. He towered over the birth of a new democracy, leading Africa's last nation to be free," Mr Mahlangu said.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu, stated that the unveiling of Mandela's bust coincided with the declaration of Parliament as a heritage site (see story on pg 9), and he hoped that it would provide a perfect backdrop for Parliament to honour our country's cultural heritage. "As Parliament has also been declared a National Heritage Site, our 20-year celebration is the perfect backdrop against which to debate, shape and define a heritage strategy which we can all be proud of."

The launch of the Madiba bust marks the highpoint in a series of workshops, lectures and discussion



fora that Parliament plans to organise over the next 12 months under the theme "Twenty Years of a Democratic Parliament". One such lecture on this theme was recently delivered by the Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, at the University of Fort Hare, Alice, Eastern Cape.

Another idea being mooted is an exhibition to showcase Parliament's role in the founding of our democracy. Parliament is hoping part of this exhibition will feature the Art Against Apartheid collection currently housed at the Mayibuye Centre at the University of the Western Cape. The aim is to also use other items in Parliament's own vast collection and to bring the exhibits to life using a combination of artworks, video and music. It could culminate in a catalogue of artworks that have been donated to Parliament over the years.

At the front of the Old Assembly there are three beadwork panels depicting scenes from each Parliament. It is proposed that a fourth panel be commissioned to mark the end of the



**INSPIRING LEADERSHIP:** Nelson Mandela's grandson, Mr Mandla Mandela, addressed dignitaries and guests after the unveiling of the bust.

Fourth Parliament and to focus on the 20 years of a Democratic Parliament celebrations.

The commemoration of 20 years of a democratic Parliament programme is a project that will be used as a yardstick to assess Parliament's gains and challenges. "This project will reflect and draw lessons on the gains we have made in the past 20 years of our young democracy. The 20-year celebration programme will among other things review the impact of legislation that Parliament has passed.

"The review will be interactive and we will engage the views of a wide range of South Africans through various discussion forums. We also undertake to release our findings in a publication at the end of the 12-month programme. The 20 years of celebration is also an opportune time for us to reflect on our oversight and public participation processes, which are core to our mandate. We will use our findings to further strengthen our work in these important areas," the Speaker said.

The Deputy President, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, said the enduring presence of the Mandela bust in front of the National Assembly would serve as a constant reminder to legislators of the ideas and principles that the big man stood for. "The bust should be a source of inspiration and guidance because Madiba lived on strong principles and so if we honour or respect him we must always try to emulate what he represented. In that, this bust serves as a reminder to the legislators that they should follow in his footsteps," he said.

Mandela's grandson, Mr Mandla Mandela, said the bust was the recognition not only of his grandfather's striving for freedom and democracy, it also served as a reminder of where we came from as a nation. "This bust is not only a recognition of my grandfather but of the ANC leadership from its inception in 1912, with its first president being John Langalibalele Dube to whom he paid tribute when he executed his first democratic vote in Inanda in KwaZulu-Natal, where

Dr Dube was born. After casting his vote he went to Dr Dube's grave and said 'Mr President, I am here today to report to you that now South Africa is free' (see story on pg 12)."

The Chairperson of the Mandela Foundation, Mr Njabulo Ndebele, said the erection of the Mandela bust would ensure that the memory and meaning of Mandela endured eternally. "Twenty years of a democratic Parliament is an important milestone to recognise. The erection of Mandela's bust to commemorate Parliament's milestone serves as a marker of Mandela's leadership and will ensure that Parliament is a site upon which the memory and meaning of Mandela stays alive perpetually. And now that he is part and parcel of the landscape of Parliament, he enters into the trajectory of Parliament's history in a significant way. And it also highlights Parliament's status as a place that represents our collective memory, which will continue to carry forward the miscellaneous emblems of our new nationhood." 🇿🇦

# Parliament honours Madiba

## Mandela bust inspires reverence

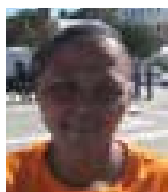
**More** than 1 000 members of the public, some of them from religious and community organisations in Cape Town, attended Parliament's celebration over the Freedom Day weekend of 20 years of a democratic Parliament, which featured the unveiling of the bust of former President Nelson Mandela. *Mzingezwi Plum* spoke to some of those present.



**Ms Sera Fadie,**  
representing the  
**Movement for Rural  
Development**

"I feel privileged to be here and to

witness the unveiling of the Mandela bust. This bust will eternally represent Madiba. When I see it, I feel as if Mandela is alive here with us. This bust reminded me of the years and suffering he endured in jail to attain this democracy we all enjoy. Being invited to Parliament to see this bust unveiled is an indescribable honour."



**Ms Selina  
Maqwazima,**  
representing the  
**Salvation Army**

"Coming to this event has brought

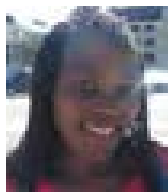
peace in my life: I am unable to explain the way I feel right now. At the moment of the unveiling of this bust, I felt as if I was being saved. I was excited and could not contain myself, the tears just ran down on my cheeks. I am glad that the bust of our hero, not just a certain race, is erected and located here at Parliament, which is a very important site of democracy in South Africa."



**Ms Gadija  
Booranodien,**  
representing the  
**Walking Ladies for  
Health**

"Coming to witness the unveiling of the bust of Madiba

and the celebration of 20 years of a democratic Parliament today is a great honour. I feel deeply honoured to have been part of this important occasion. Mandela brought peace in this country. Without him the country would have slipped into bloodshed, given the serious political tensions between the apartheid government and the liberation movements. Looking at the Mandela bust makes me feel like I am with Mandela."



**Ms Sindiswa  
Mtyulubi from  
Gugulethu**

"I was overcome with emotion when I saw the big bust of

Tata Mandela being unveiled. I wanted to go and touch it. The bust erected in front of Parliament symbolises Mandela not just in Parliament but in the whole province of the Western Cape, like nothing else could. I salute the decision-makers and the sculptors for the erection of the bust, which brings the spirit of Madiba to life.



**Thembile Mxinwa,**  
representing **Africa  
Unite**

"I am very happy to be here on this day of the unveiling of the

Mandela bust. In the past, black people were not allowed to have busts and statues of their leaders. It is evidence that there are lots of positive changes that are happening in our country and I want to say to our President Zuma that he must keep up the good work. The first 20 years of freedom in our country should be celebrated in honour of Mandela. Mandela has done so much, and may fellow South Africans follow in his footsteps." 🙏

The Women of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa, the Roman Catholic Church, the Pride of Church of Zion and the Utopian Church of South Africa agreed that Nelson Mandela and other liberation leaders understood the role of the church in the liberation struggle. That is why we are here to pay tribute to Mandela and to thank the Lord for giving us a leader like him. Mandela represented unity, sacrifice and democracy. Unveiling the bust of our beloved father of our democracy is what South Africa needs, and this is an achievement for all the people of South Africa, they told InSession.







# Parliament takes its place in history

**In** a fitting celebration of 20 years of parliamentary democracy, the Parliament of South Africa was recently declared a national heritage site by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). This was done in terms of Section 27(5) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999. *Lila Komnick reports.*

The SAHRA is responsible for the identification and protection of national heritage sites. In its notification to the parliamentary Presiding Officers earlier this year it said: “the property known as the Parliament of South Africa and the parliamentary precinct ... has been identified as a heritage resource with qualities so exceptional that it is of special national significance and it is therefore deemed worthy of National Heritage Site status.”

This is not the first time the buildings of Parliament have received heritage protection through national legislation. In 1993 it was declared a National Monument in terms of the National Monuments Act of 1969. A bronze plaque to this effect was issued by the National Monuments Council and is still in place at the main entrance door of what is now the National Council of Provinces building. In its nomination of Parliament, SAHRA noted Parliament’s historical, aesthetic, scientific and social value, as well as its rarity and representivity.

By “social value”, SAHRA was referring to: “The site has importance as a place highly valued by all South African communities (interest groups) and cultural groups for social, cultural, political, symbolic, aesthetic and educational reasons. But its highest value lies in its ability to absorb the strains of history and its ability to move from a site of political, social and cultural exclusion to a site valued by all and held in the highest esteem because of its role as a site of universal inclusivity.”

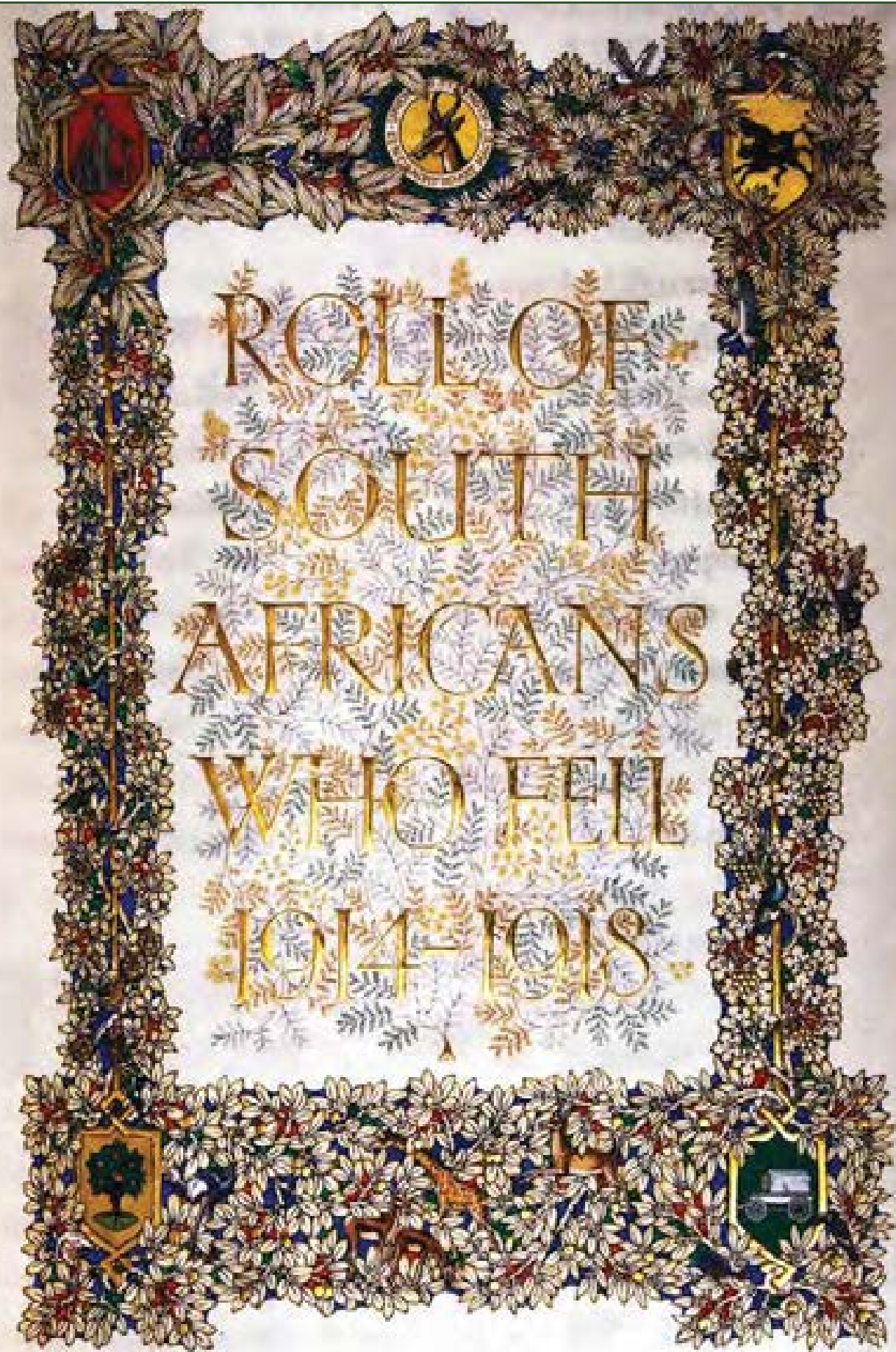
With regard to representivity, SAHRA motivated as follows: “The site of the Parliament Buildings and related precinct ... has importance in demonstrating one of the principal characteristics of human activities, the exercise of political will and rights, derived from the Greek *polis*. These activities include a way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique pertaining to the evolution of South Africa as a nation.”

Next year it will be 130 years since the oldest of the Parliamentary buildings was inaugurated in 1885 as the seat of the Cape Colony Parliament. Today it houses the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The second oldest of the buildings in the Parliamentary Precinct is the original section of Marks Building. Other sections in the same style were added on later. This building is named after Sammy Marks, the well-known Johannesburg entrepreneur who bought the land in 1895 and commissioned the building as his Cape Town offices in 1902. The architects were the well-known Herbert Baker and Francis Massey. A few years later Marks sold his building to the Department of Public Works.

The newest of the Parliamentary buildings, the National Assembly Wing, was completed in 1985. Sometimes it is still referred to as “New Wing” although it will be 30 years old next year.

It is the right of the buildings’ occupants and visitors to enjoy the beauty and importance of this national heritage site, but it is also all of our shared responsibility to ensure that the buildings remain protected for future generations to appreciate. 🌍



# Parliament recalls 'Great War'

Project on SA's role in WW1

**I**t is 100 years since the start of World War One (WW1) and South Africa's role and contribution is being researched by Parliament's Knowledge Management and Information Services Division. The project will culminate in an exhibition in September 2014 aimed at providing interesting information on this landmark event. Parliamentary Researcher Jennifer Thorpe reports.

Parliament's Knowledge Management and Information Services Division, Library and Multimedia Section, will be involved in producing research papers, posters and brochures on a range of topics related to this momentous event, as well as exhibiting rare artefacts related to South Africa's involvement in the war.

Topics to be covered will include the historical and political context of South Africa's entry into WW1, the role of Parliament in South Africa's entry into WW1, the impact of WW1 on the status of women in South Africa, the role of black South Africans in WW1, the sinking of the *SS Mendi*, various theatres of war, the Dellville Wood memorial in Belgium, and personal and family histories.

In September 1914, the government of South Africa under the leadership of Prime Minister Louis Botha and Defence Minister Jan Smuts joined forces with Britain against Germany. Parliament supported this decision by 92 votes to 12.

The Union Defence Force, South Africa's military force at that time, played a significant role in military operations against Germany in a number of areas across Africa (including German South West Africa, now Namibia) and in Europe. South African efforts resulted in a number of successes for Britain and its involvement secured South Africa's inclusion into the Commonwealth.

WW1, known as the "Great War", began in July 1914 with the declaration of war on Serbia by Austria-Hungary following the death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

**TRAGIC LOSS:** A page from the Book of Remembrance/Roll of Honour of South Africans who fell in World War I 1914-18. Calligraphy by William Gaily Hewitt. From the collection of Parliament.

in June 1914 at the hand of Serbian assassins. Alliances between states saw the escalation of this war to include Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side, and Serbia, Russia, France, Britain (and its colonies including Australia, Canada and South Africa), along with Japan on the other. WW1 lasted from July 1914 to November 1918.

WW1 was characterised by trench warfare and as a result there was a high number of dead and wounded. There were more than 37 million casualties, including civilians. Of the dead, 12 454 were South African.

South Africa's troops during WW1 were racially segregated. From some segments of South African and British society there was resistance to the inclusion of black, Indian and coloured South Africans, fearing that if they were permitted to fight against white German troops they would lose their fear of their white oppressors on the home front, but their inclusion was inevitable. Of the total number of South Africans who died in WW1, 3 901 were black, Indian or coloured.

In September 1915, the Cape Corps comprising 23 000 coloured men were dispatched primarily to East Africa during 1916, and to Palestine in 1918. On 19 September 1918, the Battle of Square Hill in Palestine was fought entirely by members of the Cape Corps who defeated Turkish soldiers, allowing the British to pass. In another attack at Kh Jebait Hill (700 metres from Square Hill), the Cape Corps, without artillery support, suffered numerous casualties against heavily armed Turkish forces. During the 12-hour battle, 51 South African soldiers were killed, 101 were wounded and one was captured.

The South African Native Labour Contingent (SANLC) was established in 1916, and between 1916 and 1918 a total of 25 000 black South Africans enlisted for non-combatant duties. Many of them were shipped to France to work for the war effort. In February 1917, the SANLC experienced a tragic loss when their transport ship, the *SS Mendi*, was struck by the *SS Darro* off the Isle of Wight and sank with the loss of over 600 lives. The men bravely stamped and sang the dance of death together as the ship sank.

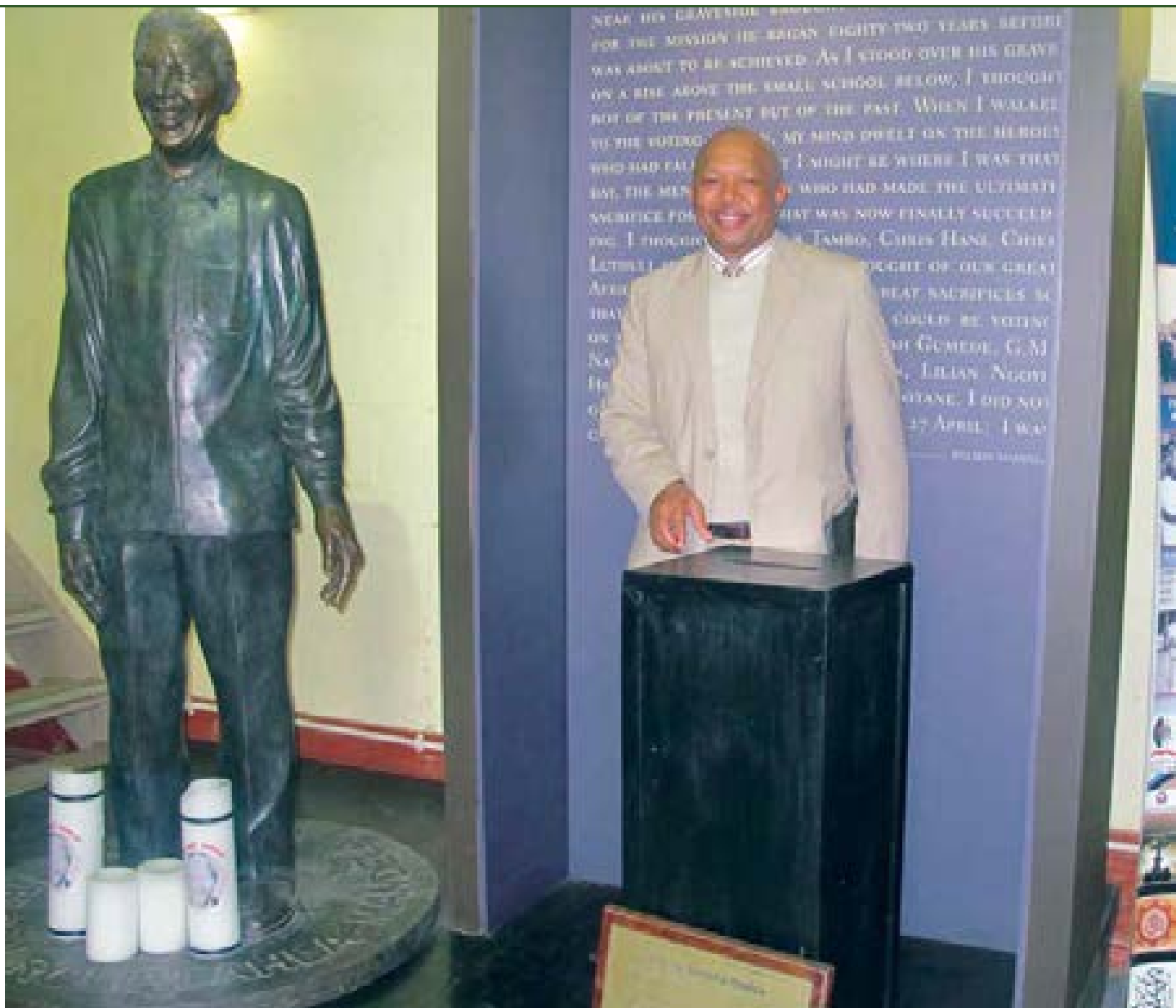
The South African army was dispatched to German South-West Africa where South African forces expelled German forces and gained control. A smaller military expedition was sent to German East Africa (now Tanzania) where it assisted in driving the German forces there towards Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) where eventually there was a ceasefire with German General Lettow-Vorbeck.

The South African First Infantry Brigade was sent to France where it fought on the Western Front. At the Battle of Dellville Wood in 1916, about 70% of the combatants were killed. Of the 3 153 men from the Brigade who entered Dellville Wood, only 780 survived. This bloody battle is commemorated by a museum and monument to fallen South Africans.

A number of South Africans (an estimated 3 000) also joined the Royal Flying Corps, the airborne wing of the British Army during the war. The South African Aviation Corps (SAAC) was established in 1915 in direct response to the need for air support for the British war efforts.

The SAAC was deployed in German South West Africa where its work focused on reconnaissance and leaflet-dropping missions. 🇿🇦

**Anyone with an interesting artefact or a relevant story to tell which relates to WW1 is urgently encouraged to contact the Project Co-ordinator, Dr Farieda Khan, at [fkhan@parliament.gov.za](mailto:fkhan@parliament.gov.za)**



# KZN recalls magic day

Crowds spellbound by Madiba

**Nobody** saw it coming! When it eventually happened 20 years ago, the violence-torn Inanda township in KwaZulu-Natal was brought to a standstill as the former President Nelson Mandela made his way to Ohlange High School to cast his vote on 27 April, 1994. **Cedric Mboyisa** visited the area shortly before the 2014 election.

“Signs (that an important person would vote at the school) were there, but we had no idea it would be Mandela himself,” said Mr Vusi Sangweni, who is now retired, but was the principal of the school at the time.

He was the presiding officer at the Ohlange High School voting station and a few days before the election,

the school was visited by intelligence officers, police officers and soldiers. But it never crossed Mr Sangweni’s mind that this was all preparatory work for Madiba’s visit.

At the time, Inanda was a politically volatile area, with Inkata Freedom Party (IFP) and African National Congress (ANC) supporters engaged in running battles. Not far from

the school was the notorious area of Mshayazafe (which, loosely translated, means “beat him to death”). Political protagonists viewed the school as off-limits. If combatants sought refuge at the school, their political foes (even if armed to the teeth) would never enter the premises. This was because the school was founded in 1900 by the respected Dr John Langalibalele Dube the founding president of the South African Native National Congress, which became the ANC. The precinct forms part of the Inanda Heritage Route, which encompasses key locations such as Dr Dube’s gravesite and a museum.



The Deputy Principal of Ohlange High School, Mr Thamsanqa Mtshali, stands in front of the ballot box in which Mandela cast his historic vote in 1994.

Sangweni's team in 1994, said the news threw them into a state of excitement. "My body just went into another state. I was not sure whether I was alive or not," he added. "Madiba was a humble and patient man. It was a great experience and one never to be forgotten," Mr Mtshali said.

Mr Sangweni received Madiba at the steps of the voting station. It is an encounter he vividly recalls as he recounts it in Madiba's voice: "Good morning. Are you the presiding officer? This is a very important job. You are going to direct me how to vote. I am here to vote," Madiba said to Mr Sangweni, who was almost in a trance as Mandela shook his hand.

"He had this aura of a statesman about him. I could only focus on him. I only realised later that he was with [current] President Jacob Zuma and Ministers Jeff Radebe and S'bu Ndebele."

Madiba was also at the voting station with Dr Dube's daughter, Ms Lulu Dube, now aged 84. Ms Dube told *InSession* she cried tears of joy when Mandela said to her that the day which her father had been looking forward to had finally arrived. "Those words surely made my (late) father very happy," she said. Madiba had earlier gone to Dr Dube's gravesite to report to him that South Africa was now free.

In the meantime, there was pandemonium at the gate as people queuing up to vote wanted to jump over the fence to catch a glimpse of Mandela. "People from as far as KwaMashu and Tongaat came here when they heard Madiba was around. He was in a grey Mercedes Benz and

travelling in a convoy of about 13 cars. He waved at us," said Mr Siphso Radebe, who was in the queue to vote on the day.

The current school principal, Mr Siyanda Nxumalo, explained that Dr Dube had been ahead of his time and was a true inspiration. "In honour of Madiba, we remind our learners about the importance of voting. It teaches them responsibility." He said it was also critical to note that Tata put a high premium on education.

Three Grade 12 learners, Mr Mlungisi Msomi, Ms Noluthando Makhaye and Ms Cynthia Mthembu, agreed with their principal, saying it was their duty to keep the legacy of Madiba and Dr Dube alive by voting whenever the country held elections. "You don't have a say if you don't vote. There is no democracy without people (voting). Democracy means a government for the people by the people," Ms Mthembu said.

Madiba returned to the school in 1997. This time he was accompanied by business people who had offered to donate computers to the school. In true Mandela style, he stopped the singing of the national anthem by learners when they left out the Afrikaans and English parts. He took to the podium and chastised the teachers and provincial education administration for not teaching learners the proper national anthem.

"Madiba was a very decisive leader. He corrected the mistake on the spot," Mr Mtshali said. Since that incident, the school always sings the correct national anthem at its assembly. All thanks to Mandela's generous visit. 🙏

"Our school is a citadel of light. It is a cross where barbarism was crucified," Mr Sangweni said.

Mr Sangweni was only told a day before the first democratic elections that Madiba would be voting at the station. He was told he could only tell his staff, who would be helping with the voting, on the morning of 27 April.

Mr Sangweni and his staff had many rehearsals to make sure nothing would go wrong on the day of voting. He finally went to sleep at 3 am only to wake up again at 5. He addressed the staff at 6.45 am. "Everyone froze when I told them Mandela would be voting here. The excitement was indescribable," Mr Sangweni said.

Mr Thamsanqa Mtshali, the school's deputy principal who was on Mr

# Election success launches fifth Parliament

Voters speak out on what they want from new MPs

**Done** *and dusted! The election is now over, and South African voters have made it clear what they want from Parliament. InSession writers spoke to citizens at polling stations from Limpopo's far north, to KZN's south coast, from farmlands in the Cape to the metropolis of Gauteng.*

**Cedric Mboyisa** reports that KZN voters want new MPs to "Make more time for us". The fifth Parliament must be more in touch with ordinary citizens and raise awareness of the role of the institution, was the message from rural and urban KwaZulu-Natal voters to their newly-elected representatives.

"They must get out of their (parliamentary) seats often and go where the people are," said Mr Imraan Mahomed, who voted at the Hibiscus Coast Civic Centre in Port Shepstone, on the South Coast of KZN.

Parliament had played its role well since the advent of democracy in 1994, passing laws that had improved the lives of people. "We've been able to see progress here in the rural places," he said. The call for greater interaction between Parliament and the public also had the backing of the local Mayor of the Hibiscus Coast Municipality, Ms Nomusa Mqwebu.

Citizens said they only hear about Parliament when it is shown on television.

"I would like to see government

working with Parliament to ensure that there is free education at university level. We also desperately need jobs as young people," said Mr Nkanyiso Hlophe, who voted in Gcilima village.

Other young voters, including Ms Oumpie Nzimande of Gcilima village and Mr Simphiwe Madlala of Gamalakhe township, urged the incoming Parliament to make more time for people at "grassroots" level.

Mrs Nowezile Mthandele of Masinenge informal settlement wants the new Members of Parliament to focus on legislation that will create jobs and Ms Nompilo Mkhize, who cast her vote in the Phumula area, said Parliament had "an impressive track record". Ms Dawn Edmonds, at Ramsgate, said Parliament had failed to hold government to account, but hoped this would change with the new Parliament. She said the new MPs had to help improve the country's infrastructure, which was "falling apart".

The Independent Electoral Commission manager for the Ugu District area, Mr Siphwe Yeni, said the elections were incident-free. "We were better prepared



than previously and learnt from our past experiences," he said.

**Abel Mputing**, in the Eastern Cape, also heard complaints of the "non-participatory style of Parliament". First-time voter Mr Viwe Matuthi of Fortgale, Umtata, said "I voted for the first time in these elections, but, sadly, I know many of my peers did not bother to vote because of the shortcomings of our Parliament. To this day Parliament has no direct representation of the youth, but instead speaks about and for them, without their direct involvement,



**EXCITED:** Mr Simphiwe Madlala, 18, is all smiles after casting his vote in the general elections on 7 May.

active representation or participation eg on youth legislation. I think we can best champion our needs if elected to represent ourselves in Parliament.”

Ms Yanga Sipika, also a first time voter and a student of Public Relations and Communication at Walter Sisulu University, referred to the central role of the Constitution. “Voting is a privilege for which our forebears paid the ultimate price. We must cherish what they left us: our Parliament and our Constitution. These are twin pillars that carry the ideals and aspirations of our

democracy. They have conferred on us the respect and praise that many democracies still crave,” she said.

Ms Nothawuzendi Mahlana, a resident of Mandela’s birthplace, Qunu, had her wish list for the new MPs.

“I wish we could have Members of Parliament who are directly from our rural areas and know our plight. My farm is dormant because I do not have the skills to ensure that it remains productive. I would welcome

back agricultural co-operatives to train people to farm and tend to their produce, because here we still rely on agriculture to make ends meet and create jobs.”

Ms Ntombozuko Makunzi, of Fortgale, Umtata hoped those elected put the Constitution above petty party political squabbles: “I see my vote as a contribution to bringing about a calibre of MPs who will invigorate Parliament with different views and perspectives, to help deal afresh with our societal challenges.”

Ms Buyiswa Mthintsilana, Fortgale, Umtata, Eastern Cape referred to the recent unveiling of Mandela's bust at Parliament. The symbolic value "reminds us of the principles and ideas of Mandela that helped to foster and shape the Constitution," he said.

Mr Morris Zibulwana of Qunu said he voted in these elections because "through my vote, Parliament will continue to be a place for our aspirations, to show that even if we come from different political, cultural and social backgrounds our futures are cut from the same cloth of our Constitution," he said. "And I voted in memory of our world-famous neighbour, Nelson Mandela, who brought our nation's dream to all."

**Mava Lukani** reports that on election day farm communities of the Western Cape showed their commitment to democracy by walking up to 10km to vote. While at de Doorns in the Boland, farmers provided bakkies to transport farm workers to polling stations, in Durbanville many had to walk to the polling stations, including the one at Vissershok Primary School. The Booisen and Faroa families walked to the polling station, including 65-year-old Mr Stoffel Booisen, who has been working on a local farm for more than 34 years. He was quite unconcerned about the long distance he had to walk for the fifth time on 7 May.

"I have been driven by my desire for the creation of a united, non-racial and a better South Africa for all, at all these elections years. So long as the boss afforded us time to go and vote I encouraged my family to go. Travelling long and sometimes gruelling distances is part and parcel of farm life," Mr Booisen said.

"I turned the distance into an advantage as I had enough opportunity



**ELECTION WISHES:** Ms Nothawuzendi Mahlana, a resident of Mandela's birthplace, Qunu.

to listen to each party's manifesto on the way, and took a decision to vote for one nationally and provincially."

Farm worker Mrs Yolanda Faroa voted for the first time, although she is 45. "In 1994 we were told to be at the voting station before 8 am so that we could be in the vineyards early. This was impossible and I sacrificed my voting right for my employment."

She expected the Members of the next Parliament to pass laws that would make life better for farm workers, as some were denied membership of trade unions. "We heard from radio news during this parliamentary term that MPs discussed our problems, but they don't come here [to] the farms," she said.

Another farm worker Mr Simon Jonkers who voted at Charter House in Durbanville said he noted farmers driving to the polling stations in their expensive Mercedes Benzes and 4x4 double-cab vehicles, passed by their workers who were on foot.

"Our boss never cared for the dust of the gravel road that blew on us from his expensive 4x4," he said. "So I changed my vote there and then."

The people of Imizamoyethu informal settlement in Hout Bay stood patiently in long queues. They want the new MPs "to press their case for Reconstruction and Development Programme houses," said Ms Princess Ngcawa who voted for the fourth time. She was still staying in a shack so voting was a serious decision, and she hopes the new MPs will take the plight of shack dwellers more seriously.

**Elijah Moholola** spoke to voters at five polling stations in the Waterberg District Municipality. At the three Limpopo towns he visited there were no major challenges, apart from difficulties with accessibility for the elderly and the disabled at Lekkerbreek Primary, the ablution facilities at a temporary tent in Phagameng Extension 10, and a shortage of t-shirts for staff at Vaalwater Primary.



“More enhanced oversight,” said Ms Silvia Mabona, who voiced her priority at the Bela Bela Community Hall. “There was not enough monitoring of the government’s delivery of services (in the previous term). This needs to be enhanced for better service delivery,” she said.

“Our pressing needs are in job creation and housing, and we need better functioning hospitals. But life has been better and our votes are having an impact.”

Mr Elvis Booysen grabbed the opportunity to vote this time. “In 2009 I was not interested in voting but this time I told myself that there was no way I was going to miss the opportunity,” he said.

For Mr Jimmy Nkoana of Phagameng in Modimolle, who has been voting since 1994, voting during a period in which South Africa was celebrating 20 years of democracy carried extra significance.

“I have seen quite a number of changes since we voted for the government led by Nelson Mandela in 1994. Of course challenges remain, but I voted for people who will represent me in Parliament and I am expecting those people to put our interests above theirs. They should focus on job creation, housing and infrastructure,” he said.

**Sakhile Mokoena** reports from Mpumalanga that voters want more parliamentary constituency offices in rural areas so that the national legislature can more quickly tap into issues affecting communities.

“Having fully functional constituency offices in every community with a visible Member of Parliament can help address lots of challenges and prevent protests by citizens who take to the

streets when not getting answers from elected leaders,” said 40-year-old Mr Aaron Mashego, who has not missed an election since 1994.

First-time voter Ms Michelle Nkuna of Bushbuckridge hopes her vote in this year’s general elections will help end her daily struggle of pushing wheelbarrows, to queue for long hours for water from a communal tap. “It feels great to vote for the first time in my life. I believe I’m voting for change,” she said.

Most born-frees were excited for the opportunity to cast their first votes but Mr Sadie Malope did not register because “I have no reason to vote,” said the 20 year old. “These people tell us a lot of lies and a lot of what they say, does not happen. Maybe in the next election I might be convinced to vote.”

Mr Muzi Lukhele says although a lot has changed in the past 20 years he expects more improvements in the next five. “I expect change; I will keep on voting as long as I live,” he said.

**Foster Mohale** and **Mzingezwi Plum** report from Gauteng that the call for improved Constituency work was also strong in the country’s economic heartland.

Mr Thomas Munzhelele, 41, who has been voting since the advent of South Africa’s democracy called for MPs to “remain in touch with their communities,” and co-ordinate their constituency work.

“Most residents of Kliptown, Pimville and surrounding areas are aware which public representatives are responsible for this constituency office based in Walter Sisulu Square, the place where the Freedom Charter was adopted. We hardly see them around or hear about any meetings,” Mr Munzhelele said.

“MPs and MPLs are elected representatives, they must be accountable to the people and they must act in the public interest,” he said.

Mr Lungile Tlhalogang, 21, an Orlando West born-free, was excited at voting for the first time in his life at Orlando West High, where liberation struggle heroes such as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela made their mark.

“I have been looking forward for this day to make a contribution to the direction of the country because it is through voting that people can influence matters. It worries me when young people prioritise personal things over the elections,” he said.

Mr Thato Manzini said in 1994 the vote was intended to end apartheid and restore the dignity of people.

“Today, 20 years into democracy we are voting for an elected Parliament to improve socio-economic conditions, jobs, provide education for our children, and end crime and corruption. Young people’s needs must take precedence, before the masses run out of patience. We must continue voting in honour of those who gave up their lives for the right to vote and better education. Just a stone’s throw from here is Vilakazi street, the most famous street in Soweto township, where Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu used to live. Archbishop Tutu still lives there with his wife. Yes, previous Parliaments have managed to pass good laws and a Constitution but now the time has come to ensure that this legislation is implemented.”

Several young people were turned away at polling stations around Soweto after they tried to cast their votes without being registered. 🗳️



# Through the lens

## PARLIAMENT ERECTS STATUE OF NELSON MANDELA TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF A DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENT

ABOVE: (From left) Wife of Mr Mandla Mandela Ms Nodiyala Mandela, Chief Nolusapho Perry-Mandela, Mr Max Sisulu, Nelson Mandela's grandson Mr Mandla Mandela, President Jacob Zuma, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, former Deputy President Ms Baleka Mbete.

RIGHT: From digging the foundations, building the plinth, lowering the bust into the correct position and unveiling the bust on 28 April outside the National Assembly building at Parliament, Parliament recognises the irreplaceable role former President Nelson Mandela played in the establishment of South Africa's democracy.







# Will shift in seats mean change in priorities?

**Now** *that the dust has settled on Elections 2014, the focus turns squarely to Parliament. Judith February of the Institute for Security Studies reports on what, if any, changes the fifth Parliament will bring.*

This election saw a 73.43% turn-out from South Africa's registered voting population of 25 381 293. While South Africans can be proud of this turn-out it does belie the real numbers; the eligible voting aged population is 32.6 million which in fact means a turn-out of 56.6% of eligible voters. This suggests the fifth Parliament is not as representative as it looks on paper. The first question it faces then is: why did citizens not register or why did those who registered not vote in the end? Does this suggest a sizeable portion of the citizenry does not find the current buffet of political offerings to their taste?

At 62.15% of the vote, the ANC can be confident, especially given the severe challenges it faced in campaigning, not least of which was the controversy surrounding Nkandla and frequent service delivery protests which often turned violent.

The opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) increase its share of the vote to 22.23% from the 2009 result of 16.66%, although the DA had initially set its sights on 30%. Certainly, it managed to more than hold on to the Western Cape convincingly with a near 60% lead, which indicates quite clearly that the ANC in this province will need to think very hard about its 2016 local government elections campaign. It is apparent that "poo protesting" and helicopter-like protests will not do the trick.

The question remains, while the DA has grown overall, has it grown enough, has it grown in the right places or is too much of its growth attributable to the implosion of Congress of the People (Cope which only managed 0.67% of the vote this time around? Some of the DA's success also seems to have come on the back of the Economic Freedom Fighters' (EFFs') success, suggesting an urban vote which is less loyal and more fluid.

Now the question remains, how will these election results affect the corridors of power in Parliament? Well, the more things change the more they stay the same, one might say. Parliament will now be a more interesting place with the "red berets" of the EFF on the opposition benches and more rowdy DA MPs to add to the mix. The question of whether these parties are able to effectively engage in Parliament remains to be seen. The lessons of Cope are salutary here.

The smaller parties face the battle of developing a Parliamentary strategy within committees. Is this where their relatively small representation could mean the work-load is simply too overwhelming? They will have to master the art of skipping from one committee to the next, a problem the ANC with its many more Members does not have to face.

While the debates in plenary are often what catches the media and public's attention, our committee system has

a rich and vibrant history. Yes, there have been moments when the ANC has unceremoniously used its majority to push through pieces of legislation (the Protection of State Information Bill comes to mind) but mostly committees engage in sparring and "give and take" around specific sections in Bills before Parliament.

The work is often deeply technical and for newcomers this may prove a challenge, trying to deal with complex issues ranging from trade and industry to minerals and energy. New MPs will also need to fast become familiar with the processes and procedures of Parliament, which may reduce the speed with which matters are completed. That is a temporary challenge. Process, once learned, can be a powerful tool in the hands of newer, smaller parties.

Then there are the other questions: Will the new Speaker reinstate the committee investigating the Nkandla matter? And will the very able Temba Godi retain his position as chair of the all-important oversight committee on Public Accounts? Discipline is all important, so who will individual parties choose as party whips? Parliamentary leaders will have to bring the people's concerns from the streets to Parliament, be it through parliamentary questions or in committees. As the fifth Parliament gets underway there is one thing of which we can be certain. It will be anything but dull. Let the games begin!

***How do you think the fifth Parliament will change and what are the challenges it faces? Email [insession@parliament.gov.za](mailto:insession@parliament.gov.za), comment on [www.facebook.com/parliamentofrsa](http://www.facebook.com/parliamentofrsa) or tweet on [@ParliamentofRSA](https://twitter.com/ParliamentofRSA).***

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**PLACE OF HOPE:** Happy faces at the Mamello Support Group, which provides meals to over 500 children at a building secured through the help of the NCOP.

# Taking service to new levels

Parliament recounts NCOP's successes



**The** *National Council of Province's (NCOP's) Taking Parliament to the People project has left an impressive legacy for the fourth Parliament. Elijah Moholola goes back to see what it has achieved.*

The Monametse Housing Project in Atok, Limpopo, is among the success stories of the Fourth Parliament. When the *Taking Parliament to the People (TPTTP)* programme was held in the Sekhukhune District Municipality in 2010, among the residents' concerns were that those living within a 200km radius of the mine had to be relocated to "a better place".

A site visit by *InSession* late in April and a briefing meeting with the management team of the Bokoni Platinum Mine led by senior group human resources manager, Mr Kenneth Mbewe, revealed how things had changed for the better as the R25m project had been completed.

"As we speak 42 houses have been completed and are now occupied. There are only four houses still outstanding and this is because they have to be built far away from here. This process will start in June," Mr Mbewe said. He added that the only challenge was electricity as some of those who had moved in had not had meter boxes before, and had expected that these would be automatically installed. "Fortunately it was found that Monametse was one of those areas that had been earmarked for electrification (by Eskom). Currently we are assisting them through our own generator, which is costing us a bit but what else can we do? We can't leave people in the dark."

The Bokoni Platinum Mine has helped establish a structure for all small businesses within a 50km radius. This structure has more than 100 businesses that employ at least 1 700 people.

"One project that stands out is the company Zebartone, which has been given the whole shaft to mine. This is a local company, created from scratch. They also work at other shafts and employ over 1000 people," Mr Mbewe said.

What the mine had also done was to make sure that contracts for "critical" skills were given to local companies such as Mckhenzi Trading and Halcydox, both of which deal with belt maintenance, installation and box fronts and BBP Mining and Projects, which does rail upgrade and maintenance.

"These are critical areas that normally cannot be given to locals. These are for specialists. With BBP, we started by partnering them with a bigger company (Flint) but now they are on their own."

In terms of women empowerment, the mine has employed a 100% women-

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owned company called Okgathegile Construction, which supplies all mining equipment.

One impressive Social and Labour Plan (SLP) project for the mine is Khomanchas Slate Quarry, which mines ivory stones, brick stone, and African black stone used in producing floor and roofing tiles, as well as bricks.

"In what is a good example of Vuk'uzenzele, there is a group of dedicated volunteers who have started a project around mining slate. In the beginning they were doing it illegally. When they tried to get a licence, the Department of Mineral Resources referred them to us.

"So far we have spent R3.2m on that project to help them. We are currently assisting them to get a licence. There are almost 200 of them who work voluntarily because they want this project to work. We went as far as speaking to a company based in Randburg called Mazista so that this company can buy their products."

With more than 112 000 people in the Fetakgomo Local Municipality and the mine only able to employ 6 000, there had to be alternative ways of creating employment. One is the road improvement project that began in December 2013 and is expected to be concluded in May 2015.

Driving into the village of Atok there were 10 people working on widening and repairing a road. "This is our own Extended Public Works Programme. We have provided everything involved including salaries, and we approached the municipality to run with it. This had created work for 10 people and the intention was to have 27 people employed by the end of May.

"Instead of taking this project to a businessman who would make more money and who would rush to do it in months, we gave this project to the local community. They get something on a monthly basis. The project will go on over a two-year period, during which they will at least be able to put bread on the table."

Despite all the small, medium and micro enterprises that the mine has taken on board, the challenge of poverty has not been completely eradicated.

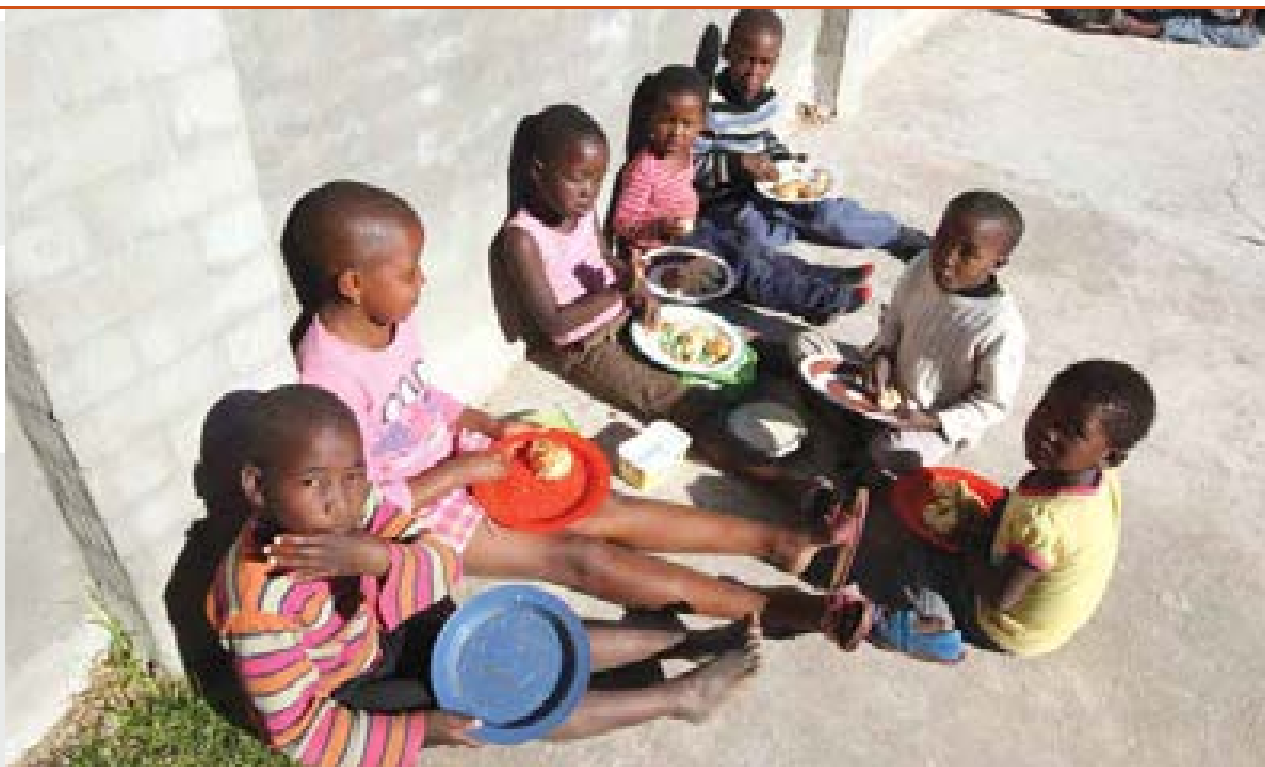
"But we can't justify the fact that there are still people going to bed hungry. Hence we have identified child-headed homes and are looking at initiating projects such as farming to sustain them.

"We have only been struggling with land. The community wants us to buy the land, and at abnormally high prices. But you cannot buy when you are going to be doing something to benefit the community."

In terms of skills training, the mine has partnered with Capricorn FET College, who is running engineering classes at the mine. There are 208 students on this programme, and 60 of them are employees. A new canteen worth R800 000 has also been built and the mine funds the Bokoni Soccer League to the tune of R500 000 per year. Mr Mbeve said prior to the visit by the NCCP in 2010, there had been



**SUCCESS STORY:** Some of the 42 houses that were built in Monametse, Limpopo, following concerns raised by the community during the TPTIP programme held in 2010.



**LOOKING AFTER THE YOUTH:** Some of the children who receive meals from the Mamello Support Group.

poor coordination of too many ad hoc community structures.

“This made things difficult because you engaged this party today, another tomorrow, and a different one the day after. When the NCOP came, our interaction with them helped reinforce the need for proper coordination so that development could happen. To a large extent impressive projects that were locked because of disagreements have now been unlocked.”

A community structure has been formed with one representative from each village, while the tribal authority has three representatives.

“That is a model that can be replicated anywhere else. The structure gets to the community and understands what their needs are, and then brings them up to speed. They have formed a 10-member management team that meets regularly.

“They identify projects and implement them by themselves. Currently they are busy with a water project, through which they have tackled boreholes in many villages. This is funded from our SPL budget, and their fund,” said Mr Mbewe.

In the Free State, where the NCOP held Taking Parliament to the People four

years ago, three projects – Pigzone, Diyatalawa Agri Village and Mamello Support Group – were the result.

The Vrede-based Pigzone project, which began in 2006 with a small pigsty made of rusty corrugated iron, now has a modern, large pen. The Department of Agriculture bought 400 pigs and the food for the project, and the six-member Pigzone staff raised the pigs until they could be sold.

Before they were handed the new structure, Pigzone’s unfavourable conditions at their former cramped pigsty, led to the loss of 316 piglets in 2007. Mr Zakhele Dhlamini, who is the secretary of Vrede Piggery, said things had changed for the better since they moved to the new location in November 2013.

“In 2010, Parliament came and we spoke to them about our problems. Through their intervention, the municipality thereafter gave us this place which is far away from all the unsuitable conditions caused by things such as the heavy rains and dams. We managed to move away from the township, where conditions were not good and the pigs would not have survived.

“This place has made a big difference. We realised that pigs have to survive in certain conditions and under

certain standards, which this place provides. It has helped a lot to have Parliament coming here in 2010. We have seen the difference because it was hard before they came. We are grateful. Although there are still a few challenges, we have got through the worst,” said Mr Dhlamini.

Among the challenges they faced was lack of reliable transport to the new location from the township and lack of office space. He outlined the kind of assistance they would like.

“What we would like to see over the next five years is if we can be assisted with having a structure so that we can take the project forward by producing our own piglets from birth. Then we would not have to buy piglets from elsewhere. At the moment we are just raising these piglets that are bought, and not giving birth at our structure.”

Over the past seven years, Pigzone has received funding from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Social Development amounting to R200 000. Pigzone had their first pig production in February this year and these 360 pigs were sold to an abattoir in Harrismith.

Another success story is the Diyatalawa Agri Village outside Harrismith. The village has 50 modern houses that replaced mud structures, a state-of-

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the-art primary school, six four-roomed teachers' cottages and a crèche.

Although the businesses were liquidated long ago, the farm has now literally risen like a phoenix from fires in 2000 and 2001 which left business on the brink of collapse. The farm now boasts a high-standard dairy currently producing 150 litres of milk per day (sold to Nestle and Mountainview), it supplies beef to local abattoirs, produces vegetables that are sold to big retailers such as Pick n Pay and Spar, and harvests crops such as dry beans, maize, wheat, sunflowers.

Diyatalawa CPA chairperson Mr Mokete Radebe explained: "Today is no longer the same as yesterday. Our houses were mud, but we now live in houses ordinarily found in townships. We did not even have water in the past: we used to drink from the rivers with cows. We now have water, electricity and flushing toilets in our homes.

"We have a hostel on the farm. We have a primary school that used to be a mud structure but is now in good condition. We are pleased that the government has remembered us as people living on farms. Today we know that farm dwellers are also viewed as South African citizens," he said.

There are 33 families benefitting from this project. About 90% of the people are working in the various corporates such as beef, dairy and crops. About 35 people are employed permanently, while others are seasonal workers. The current situation is a far cry from what the farm had to endure in the past, he added.

"We started in 1996 with an apple project. The government gave us support and there were 75 orchards then. But there were challenges and Agri-Ego

was liquidated. The entire property, including the tractors, all equipment and chemicals, was taken away. The 75 orchards could no longer be worked. Then in 2000 and 2001, we were attacked by two fires as we didn't have tractors to make firebreaks. As a result of the fire, the project collapsed." But fast forward to 2014, and Mr Radebe is pleased with the huge progress.

In Harrismith, a former filthy, dilapidated and ruined structure that used to be a tavern has now become a refurbished, clean and spacious home to Mamello Support Group (MSG), which is a nutrition centre that provides meals for orphans, street kids and those who have contracted HIV and are under anti-retroviral treatment.

Established in 2008 by a pensioner, Mrs Manana Moloi, MSG has grown from taking care of just 50 children at a home garage to catering for about 500 kids at a beautiful structure that was made possible through the assistance of the Department of Social Development and N3TC, a private company that is responsible for, among others, the construction and maintenance of the N3 freeway.

When the centre was established, it was funded through Mrs Moloi's pension money. But as it grew bigger and catered for more people, the centre's registration status was changed to that of non-profit organisation in order for a new and bigger place to be found and for more funding to be secured.

"Then the NCOP came in and saw the condition that we were in. At that point we had 200 kids assisted by this project. Through the NCOP, there has been many changes at this place. This used to be a beer hall. The NCOP spoke to the municipality, who let us use this building after it was upgraded.

"Even in terms of the grant from the Department of Social Development, we used to struggle to get it but through the NCOP's help we started getting it regularly," said Mrs Moloi.

But having located a site through the NCOP, there was still a need for funding before the project could materialise. And that is when N3TC came in.

"We had a place then but were in need of funds. The kids used to sit on the floor without any furniture, until a good Samaritan provided carpets. After our talks with N3TC, they provided carpets and furniture.

"In 2011, the NCOP spoke to N3TC and indicated that more help was needed. But N3TC had said that they could only help a project once as there were others in need of their help too. But because of the NCOP, N3TC came back and helped us with toilets.

"N3TC have committed to helping us again. They saw that our kitchen is too small and that we don't have a security system. They are going to help extend our kitchen and then set up a security system for us," said Mrs Moloi.

MSG, which has moved from being a drop-in centre to a nutrition centre, now assists 500 kids and has five staff members. The partners include the Department of Social Development, a child and youth care development organisation called Isibindi, Maluti-A-Phafong Water and Ikageng Senior Citizens. Among the many related projects include a community food garden project on land donated by a board member. 🍎

**For more news features and pictures on each of the TPTP projects visited, please log on to [www.parliament.gov.za](http://www.parliament.gov.za).**





# ISDs flag problems & prospects

Fifth Parliament must resolve budgetary accountability and composition problems

**As** the fourth Parliament drew to a close, the Institutions Supporting Democracy (ISDs) created by the Constitution have had to consider the issues and challenges they will be taking into the fifth Parliament. The head of the Office of the ISDs discusses these with *Elijah Moholola*.

The Office of the ISDs (OISD) serves as an enhancement mechanism for the oversight capacity of Parliament. Even though some of the ISD appointment processes differ, the OISD co-ordinates all interactions between Parliament and the ISDs. This can prove challenging.

During the term of the fourth Parliament, the OISD provided strategic support and advice to Parliament on matters relating to ISDs, and technical and legal support to Committees overseeing ISDs. The Office monitored the terms of office of members of the eleven ISDs closely and facilitated the filling of vacancies on a continuous basis. During a debate on the 2011 Budget Vote of Parliament, National Assembly Speaker Mr Max Sisulu explained that the OISD was established to be a link between Parliament and the ISDs.

In an interview with *InSession*, OISD Senior Manager: Legal and Constitutional Services Mr Kayaletu Zweni said that governance issues

needed to be addressed in some of the ISDs. Instances where there is no separation of duties between the CEOs and Chairpersons have the potential to blur the accounting requirements. There is also a need for a more enhanced policy environment governing relations between Parliament and ISDs. Examples include the declaration of interests and the issue of annual leave by heads of ISDs, where some institutions involve Parliament and others do not.

As agreed at the 2013 roundtable meeting between the Presiding Officers of Parliament and heads of the ISDs, the existing interaction platforms must remain in use, be respected and be properly strengthened. The platforms include the Forum for ISDs; internal parliamentary platforms such as the Forum of Chairpersons overseeing ISDs and the Forum of Chairpersons of Committees; the Speakers' Forum; Committees of the National Assembly as allocated to ISDs; and the OISD. It was also recommended that protocols of communication be developed between the ISDs and Parliament.

More complex issues emanating from the ad hoc Committee Report on the Review of Chapter 9 and Associated Institutions which could not be agreed upon, such as the amendment legislation, could also be referred to the fifth Parliament.

Following the establishment in 2011 of the OISD, headed by Adv Nonkosi Cetywayo, several strides forward were made. Cross-cutting challenges that remain include issues of budget allocation, appointment procedures, implementation of the dispensation fund and the limited time allocated to ISDs to interact with Committees.

Going into the fifth Parliament, the OISD has identified a number of issues that require consideration. "These include the budget allocation process, the standardisation of appointment procedures and a possible review of the composition of the ISDs. Some institutions had from 12 to 17 members, while others had only five.

There is also a need to review the composition of the boards. "There is a feeling that some function with difficulty because of their size," Mr Zweni said. He also said there was concern where the budget emanated from the Executive. "Different scenarios

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can be drawn from that, one of which is that they could be seen as not independent." The budget for the Office of the Public Protector, for instance, is currently allocated by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, while the Commission for Gender Equality's funds come via the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities.

Another issue is the uneven appointment process of both chairpersons and members of the ISDs. Parliament is involved in the appointment processes for some ISDs and not others. Some appointments are handled by Ministers who interview candidates and pass on recommended appointments to the President.

Another is the lack of uniformity around the appointment of the deputy chairpersons or deputy heads of the various institutions. Some are appointed by the President while others are not. This creates challenges in terms of governance and levels of authority. "One of the issues that should be looked into is that there should be more uniformity in terms of the appointment processes. Plus, the dispensation fund we use is meant to recognise lawyers who are working outside the practice and profession, in terms of money or other incentives. But ISDs have not been in a position to implement that dispensation fund," Mr Zweni explained.

The amount of available time for the ISDs to brief Committees in Parliament is also an issue. "Most of the ISDs have said that they would appreciate more time with the Portfolio Committees. Sometimes they do not have enough time to go deeper into issues, including the special reports that they produce," he continued. The current arrangement sometimes

means that when the ISDs present their annual reports they must cover a year's work in one meeting. This can be a barrier in the enhancement of accountability and oversight.

A highlight of the fourth Parliament was the establishment of a Forum of Chairpersons overseeing ISDs, as advised by the OISD. It met several times with the National Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker, on its own, to review best practices.

A second highlight was a substantial roundtable meeting between the Presiding Officers and the ISDs. This allowed ISDs to raise issues of concern and awareness of the kind of assistance required. "Furthermore, there was also a forum of ISDs outside of Parliament, which met on a quarterly basis. The OISD will in future attend these meetings so that it can serve as a link between the ISDs and Parliament," Mr Zweni said.

Highlights identified by the OISD included a workshop with ISDs on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of Chapter Nine and Associated Institutions; producing a brochure, *Guide to the Work and Functions of the Institutions Supporting Democracy*; and a report on an International Study on the Mandate and Reporting and Accounting Obligations of the South African Human Rights Commission. In addition, the Public Protector was set up by the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development. Members of parliamentary Committee on appointments worked more closely together and new appointments were made to properly resource institutions.

Emerging from a racially divided and oppressive past, South Africa crafted a Constitution that was unique and far-reaching in its provisions. Among other

things, said the OISD, it had established institutions in terms of Chapters 1, 9, 10 and 13 to guard and strengthen South Africa's hard-won democracy, and promote respect for human rights.

In all, many highlights were registered during the term of the fourth Parliament. The ISDs strengthened democracy by actively promoting a culture of responsibility, transparency and accountability, and responsiveness to human rights; promoting the protection and development of human rights, and monitoring and assessing its implementation and observance; conducting research or investigating allegations pertaining to human-rights violations; preparing and submitting substantive reports to Parliament; and safeguarding the rights of the marginalised and poor.

Each of the ISDs outlined their mandate and experience during the term of the fourth Parliament.

#### **Auditor-General (A-G) of South Africa**

The Auditor-General is the supreme auditing institution for all organs of state. As an institution charged with providing assurance on the usage of public funds, visibility to stakeholders is of strategic importance. This strategic goal empowered the A-G in the following ways:

- \* The former A-G visited many municipalities to encourage good governance and leadership accountability. This resulted in an increased ability for municipal leaders to engage on issues of financial accountability.
- \* The A-G institutionalised its practice of engaging at least quarterly with all stakeholders charged with governance and oversight to discuss problems and early warning symptoms.

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\* The A-G's commitment to contributing to the transformation of the auditing and accounting profession yielded benefits with 370 chartered accountants, 329 registered government auditors and 50 certified information system auditors currently employed by the A-G.

\* The A-G was appointed as external auditor of a number of United Nations agencies. This attests to the high regard for the A-G's ability to apply international standards of auditing.

The A-G remains concerned about two issues pertaining to good governance in the country. These are the slow response by leadership to take corrective action and the lack of implementation of recommendations of the oversight committees.

#### **Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)**

The CGE has a duty to promote respect for gender equality. It has the power to monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advise on, and report on issues concerning gender equality.

Over the past 20 years the Commission has conducted research on issues relating to land rights, widowhood, the South African Development Community's Gender Barometer and the Victims' of Crime Charter. It also consistently monitors the 365 Days National Action Plan to end gender violence. Some of CGE's published research material has been used by the Commission to develop policy briefs and promote dialogue for policy-makers with a view to engender policy-making processes.

On an ongoing basis, the Commission handles complaints relating to maintenance issues, domestic violence, sexual violence, homophobic violence,

family issues, harassment cases, and inheritance and estates issues. It vigorously scrutinises the issue of violence against women.

In compliance with its mandate to monitor international Instruments, the CGE submitted reports on progress made by the government on obligations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Report and the Millennium Development Goals. Every year, CGE participates in the United Nations Status of Women Commission.

#### **Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities**

The Commission is required to promote respect for and strengthen cultural, religious and linguistic rights. In doing so, the Commission is expected to assist in developing peace, friendship, humanity, tolerance and national unity, and to promote the right of these communities to develop their historically diminished heritage. A new Board assumed duty in March 2014.

#### **The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)**

The IEC manages and ensures free and fair elections. It does this by promoting knowledge of democratic electoral processes, compiling and maintaining voters' rolls, registering political parties, and adjudicating any administrative disputes that arise during elections.

Over the past five years, South Africa's multiparty democracy has continued to thrive with the IEC playing a central role in this regard. The 2014 national and provincial elections saw:

\* The largest number of political parties contested the national

elections in South Africa's history (29 parties compared to 26 in 2009)

\* The largest number of voters registered – 25.8 million compared to 23.1 million in 2009

\* The largest number of young voters (under 30) registered to vote in a national election – 6.4 million compared to 6.2 million in 2009

\* There were the largest number of voting stations – 22 263 voting stations compared to 19 726 in 2009 (up 11.4%)

As a result of the Electoral Amendment Act 2013 and its regulations, the IEC's efforts to entrench electoral democracy by being more inclusive saw special registration and voting privileges extended to all eligible voters in prison and abroad on Election Day. In addition, over the past five years the IEC has conducted over 500 by-elections throughout the country to maintain the local government democratic system.

#### **Public Protector**

This Office has a responsibility to investigate alleged improper conduct. This includes conduct that could result in impropriety or prejudice in affairs of State. The Office is expected to report to the National Assembly and to recommend appropriate remedial action.

A premier outreach programme in 2014 was the annual National Stakeholder Dialogue and Public Hearing. Focusing on health and poverty, the programme sought to enhance government's ability to deliver some of the related Millennium Development Goals that our country, together with many others across the globe, signed up for. As an institution, the Public Protector achieved 75% of its performance targets this year.

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### The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)

The SAHRC has a responsibility to promote respect for human rights, a culture of human rights and the enjoyment thereof. The Commission must monitor and assess observance of these rights and take steps to ensure appropriate redress in cases of violation.

As the voice of the people, the fourth Parliament continued its tradition of engaging robustly on various human rights issues ranging from socio-economic rights to access to information. Parliament plays a critical role in translating paper promises expressed in legislation and policy into improving the quality of life of all South Africans. At the same time, critical questions must be asked about Parliament's effectiveness in ensuring that the voices of the poorest and marginalised citizens are heard.

Parliament has assisted in entrenching various socio-economic rights such as access to health care and housing. During its tenure, the fourth Parliament passed various progressive socio-economic laws such as the National Health Amendment Act of 2013. Various Portfolio Committees remained open and accessible to the SAHRC, soliciting the Commission's opinions on issues ranging from education, police violence and the conditions of prisoners.

### The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa)

Icasa regulates broadcasting in the public interest. Its task is to ensure fairness and a diversity of views broadly representing the South African society. Its mandate also extends to the postal services and the electronic communications sectors.

The Authority started the parliamentary term on a high note by securing and

clearing the way for all communications for the successful hosting of the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup. Cellphone interconnection rates between networks were reduced over a three-year period, from R0.89 to R0.40 between March 2010 and March 2013. The Authority's call termination rates were preceded by a governmental intervention in which operators agreed to a voluntary R1.25 to R0.89 reduction.

The broadcasting sector received Icasa's attention with the licensing of additional subscription television services, and 20 commercial radio services in the different provinces of the country. Icasa is also regulating the migration of the country from an analogue to a digital technological platform.

### The Financial and Fiscal Commission

This Commission makes recommendations to Parliament, provincial legislatures and organised local government on the division of the revenue collected at the national level between the national, provincial and local spheres of government. The Commission held groundbreaking Public Hearings on the Review of the Local Government Fiscal Framework, Housing Financing and the Provision and Funding of Child Welfare Services in South Africa. The outcomes of the Hearings were tabled before Parliament in 2013.

While the Review of the Local Government Fiscal Framework was thoroughly processed by the stakeholders for whom it was intended, namely Parliament, Government and the South African Local Government Association, the two other reports are yet to be dealt with by stakeholders and it is hoped that the fifth Parliament will be able to address them.

The Commission developed and

implemented a stakeholder-management strategy. It contributed to oversight capacity in Parliament, provincial legislatures and municipal councils by conducting workshops on intergovernmental fiscal relations.

The Secretariat of the Commission was restructured to deal with the increased volume of work occasioned by the Money Bills Amendment Procedures and Related Matters Act and stakeholder requests for advisories in terms of the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act. There are lingering concerns about the size of the budget of the Commission, which has seen a deterioration of its assets and an ageing ICT infrastructure that cannot be replaced due to budget constraints.

### The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)

The NYDA must advance youth development through its initiatives. It is expected to develop an Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy and coordinate its implementation.

A key programme on which the Agency has just embarked is the launch of the NYDA's Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund (SMSF), through which young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can now be counted among thousands who can enrol in higher education institutions across the country. The SMCF is in honour of the late struggle icon, Solomon Mahlangu, a young member of Umkhonto we Sizwe who was wrongfully arrested and in 1979, aged 23, executed under apartheid laws.

### Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB)

PanSALB has the responsibility to promote and create conditions for the development and use of all official languages, including the Khoi, Nama, San and sign languages. It

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is also expected to promote and ensure respect for all other languages commonly used by communities in South Africa. A new PanSALB Board assumed duty on 1 April 2014.

### The Public Service Commission (PSC)

The PSC is empowered to investigate, monitor and evaluate the organisation and administration of the public service. This includes the achievement or lack of achievement of government programmes. The Commission also has a duty to promote measures that ensure effective and efficient performance within the public service and to promote values and principles of public administration throughout the public service.

Over the past five years, the PSC has recorded achievements that have made a difference in public administration, resulting in policy shifts in some instances.

In 2012, responding to a request of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, the PSC made an assessment of key performance areas requiring the attention of Executive Authorities and Heads of Departments.

The need was identified for better performance management; improved accountability through more effective financial management; making better use of people through improved Human Resource Management; and rooting out corruption and maladministration.

During these interactions, the PSC raised concerns about the high number of public servants doing business with government. Subsequent to proposals of the PSC, the National Assembly passed the Public Administration Management Bill in 2014, prohibiting public servants from doing business with the government. 🌱

# The Parliamentary Budget Office

*An important part of the learning curve awaiting new Members of Parliament in the coming weeks is to get to grips with the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), reports Mava Lukani.*

One of the most important skills that can be acquired by new MPs relates to how tax money is raised and spent. Parliament passed the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act in 2009, a law that provided, among other things, for the establishment of the PBO. Section 15(2) of the Act stipulates that the core function of the PBO is to support the implementation of this Act (the Money Bills Act) by undertaking research and analysis for the Finance and Appropriations Committees located in the two houses of Parliament, two in the National Assembly (NA) and two in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The establishment of the PBO is therefore critical to enabling Parliament to exercise effective fiscal, economic and policy oversight over the Executive (broadly speaking the President and his cabinet) thereby giving effect to the Constitution's prescribed oversight role of Parliament. Section 42(3) of the Constitution empowers Parliament to scrutinise and oversee the government's executive actions.

The enactment of the Money Bills Act consequently allows Parliament to become a budget-influencing legislature which means that unlike in the past, Parliament now has the legislative power to amend or send back for review any financial or budgetary matters submitted by the Executive to Parliament. The Money Bills Act provides for a procedure

to amend money Bills before Parliament as well as norms and standards for amending money Bills before provincial legislatures.

To establish a uniquely South African PBO that would meet the expectations of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, the Speaker of the NA, Mr Max Sisulu, and the Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, asked the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) to second Prof Mohammed Jahed to help Parliament establish the PBO.

Prof Jahed's responsibilities include liaison with the heads of Standing, Select and Portfolio committees of Parliament on finance to assess their needs and make recommendations. The PBO started operations in February last year. In June 2013, during Parliament's budget debate in Parliament, the Presiding Officers Mr Sisulu and Mr Mahlangu announced the appointment of Prof Jahed as Director of the PBO.

Prof Jahed holds a PhD in Economics and has served as senior economic planning specialist at the DBSA, as an academic at the University of the Witwatersrand, as director of economics with the National Business Initiative, as Chief Economist and Head of policy, strategy and research of the Nepad (New Partnership for Africa's Development) Secretariat and as Divisional Executive: Policy, Research and Integration at DBSA. 🌱



# Handing over to the fifth Parliament

## Avoiding a vacuum

**Thanks** *to the way the Constitution is crafted, the process of handing over the reins of governance from the fourth Parliament to the incoming fifth Parliament after the May 2014 election is seamless, reports Mzingezwi Plum.*

Many Members of the fourth Parliament said goodbye to one another and to the two Houses of the country's premier institution. Some of them said goodbye for the last time, while others bid farewell hoping to be returned to its successor.

The rules governing the dissolution and reconstitution of the two Houses of Parliament differ, as the Secretary of the National Assembly (NA), Mr Masibulele Xaso, explained. In terms of the Constitution, the NA can function

until 12 midnight on the day before the election. "The NA, in this instance, could function until 6 May because of the 7 May national election. This means that the business before the NA in effect lapsed on the 6<sup>th</sup>. However, any issues discussed in the previous term of Parliament can always be revived in the next term if there is a decision to do so."

He explained the procedure in terms of the Electoral Act: Election results must be declared within seven days of the

elections. Within 14 days of the election, the Chief Justice must call the first Sitting of the NA. This Sitting includes all the candidates who qualify to sit in the Assembly in terms of the political parties' lists. The Chief Justice presides over this sitting. "At this instance members are sworn in and pledge their allegiance to the Constitution and to the country. This enables them to function as Members of Parliament. Then the Speaker is elected through nomination and, if there is contestation, a secret ballot is held.

After the Speaker has been elected, the Chief Justice steps down and the Speaker takes over the Chair to preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker. Next, the Speaker invites the Chief Justice to preside



**IN OFFICE UNTIL THE VERY END:** The Chamber of the National Council of Provinces.

over the election of the President," Mr Xaso explained.

He also said that a Bill or Bills tabled in a previous Parliament could be taken back to the NA. A resolution could then be passed to revive the Bill and to take steps the House preferred. In terms of the rules of the NA, a Standing Committee can recommend that a report be revived, and if the Committee still has an interest in the matter it can influence what happens with the Committee's recommendations.

"The Chief Justice has the prerogative to accelerate the date of the first sitting of the NA instead of taking the maximum number of days in order to accommodate emergencies or extraordinary sittings," Mr Xaso explained. He said that between the election and designation of Members there are no Members of Parliament in the NA.

However, the National Council of

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Provinces (NCOP) remains operational until the immediately before Provincial Legislatures are constituted. The Secretary of the NCOP, Adv Eric Phindela, explained that the outgoing NCOP continued to function beyond the election until the Provincial Legislature sat for the first time after the election. "The NCOP fourth term continued its proceedings after the general election and only ceased its proceedings immediately before the election of the fifth Provincial Legislature, or the appointment of permanent delegates. The writers of the Constitution avoided a vacuum between the current Parliament and the ensuing or succeeding one," he said.

The NCOP represents the provinces and ensures that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. The Constitution states that 30 days after the declaration of the result of a provincial legislature election, legislatures must appoint permanent delegates.

Members of the NCOP have a unique and special role on behalf of their provinces and communities. "The NCOP delegates are not elected. They are nominated by their political parties and designated or appointed by their Provincial Legislatures. The Constitution clearly refers to NCOP delegates as appointed delegates or members," Adv Phindela said.

After the election, the political parties that qualify to nominate permanent delegates do so in terms of the prescribed formula, and submit the resultant lists of permanent delegates of the province to Provincial Legislatures. Each Legislature appointed delegates to represent a

province, not their political parties. The Provincial Legislatures determine which parties are entitled to permanent delegates and how many, as well as which parties are entitled to special delegates. These are designated and appointed to the NCOP as a delegation representing the Province. "Before the fifth Parliament began its proceedings, Bills introduced in the fourth NCOP lapsed on the last Sitting day of the NCOP annual session and were not carried over to the following NCOP term for further discussion. This is in accordance with the rules of the NCOP," Adv Phindela said.

The first Sitting of the NCOP, in which the Chairperson of the House is elected, is presided over by the Chief Justice. After being appointed, the Chairperson takes over from the Chief Justice and presides over the election of the permanent Deputy Chairperson and rotating Deputy Chairperson. "At that Sitting, we also elect the other Presiding Officers, House Chairpersons, and the Chief Whip of the NCOP. All these events are preceded by the investing of all Members of Parliament of the NCOP.

When the Chief Justice takes the Chair, he or she conducts a swearing-in ceremony for all the permanent delegates including the Chairperson-elect, Deputy Chairperson-elect, the House Chairperson-elect and the Chief Whip-elect," he said.

At the first sitting of the NCOP after the election, the NCOP adopts its own set of rules. "The NCOP has its own rules, which provide for the establishment of its own Committees. We also have joint rules which provide for Joint Committees for joint business," Adv Phindela explained. 🗳️



**My**  
story.

Ms Regina Mohlomi



## ‘Mr Speaker!’ *The clear, confident voice of South Africa’s first female Serjeant-at-Arms of the National Assembly, Ms Regina Mohlomi, rings out moments after she enters the Chamber. This familiar figure in Parliament tells her story to Rajaa Azzakani.*

Dressed in her black cloak with the People’s Mace over her shoulder, Ms Mohlomi personifies gravitas and everyone falls silent as the Serjeant-at-Arms of the National Assembly (NA) leads the way into the Chamber. Ms Mohlomi has just called everyone to order because the day’s session is about to begin.

Ms Mohlomi began work at Parliament in 1996 as a senior labour relations officer. “I applied for the job as a joke to see if democracy was really working,” she smiles. Coming from Gauteng with years of experience as a teacher, Parliament was a new challenge, but one she was ready for. “That was a busy time. People came from all over the country at the same time, from different backgrounds, and handled employment differently. It was the most amazing time of my life.”

As Ms Mohlomi had a major in Industrial Psychology, she became an assistant programme officer working closely with Parliament’s new employee wellness programme, but when she needed a change she was able to move to a job at the NA Table as a procedural officer.

Ms Mohlomi explains that in most Parliaments the Serjeants-at-Arms are male. “That is probably because it is linked to security and safety,” she adds. Her predecessor made his way up the ranks in Parliament, including the tri-cameral Parliament, and reported to her. “As a traditional Serjeant-at-Arms, he looked after membership and permits, visitors,

gallery tickets, and the Sittings of the National Assembly. I was called under-Secretary of the NA, looking after administration, including the budgets, reporting and Human Resource issues, and he reported to me. The incumbent Secretary to the NA felt the Serjeant-at-Arms post should be at a higher level.” And, therefore, when her predecessor retired, she was appointed to the position.

Her first experience as Serjeant-at-Arms in the NA was memorable. “I remember the mad butterflies in my tummy. It was a State of the Nation Address and even though I practiced hard, including the night before, I was praying all the time ‘please don’t let me fall.’”

One of Ms Mohlomi’s least favourite tasks is ejecting unruly Members of

Parliament on command from the Presiding Officers. “Fortunately, I have only had to do it once so far. On the way to the member, I prayed, ‘Please, just leave the Chamber on your own.’ Fortunately, when I was halfway to his seat, he got up and left by himself.”

Ms Mohlomi is excited that more females are being promoted from procedural officers at the NA Table. “When I started, there was a woman for every three men. At lower levels, there has been great progress with more females as procedural officers. These are young women who wish to work for Parliament.”

Her true love is teaching, and Ms Mohlomi says that when her work at Parliament is done she wants to return to it. “The older I get, the more I realise I want the company of family and friends, the normal things. Unlike when I started and the excitement was there.” She wants to teach young girls in the townships to know and be proud of their heritage, but most of all she wants to be a *gogo* to her almost four-year-old grandson. 🍷

**LEADING THE WAY:** The Serjeant-at-Arms, Ms Mohlomi, leads the procession into a Joint Sitting.





# Freedom Day

**South** Africa celebrated Freedom Day on 27 April to commemorate the first democratic elections that took place on the same day 20 years before. Parliament's **Public Education Office** takes a look at what the concept of freedom means to South Africans today and also what practical measures Parliament is taking to support the ideal.

Freedom may be differently defined within specific contexts but we generally define the term to indicate that one's choice over one's life and rights are respected and protected. Freedom in an ideal political context means emancipation from poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. Freedom is often considered to be synonymous with democracy, which entails striving toward freedom of the individual. In this context freedom is protected through political action, the relationship between government and the people (with either a written constitution like ours, or an unwritten social contract between them). In South Africa, it encompasses the political freedom of all people over the age of 18 to vote, and their right to equal respect as citizens of this country.

Freedom Day is an annual celebration in remembrance of the first non-racial democratic elections held in South Africa on 27 April 1994. This was the day that most South Africans voted for the first time in their lives. As a national day it represents peace, unity and the restoration of human dignity to the majority of citizens. In the spirit of nation building, Freedom Day celebrations are intended to unite all South Africans in

consolidating our country's democracy.

National Freedom Day encourages South Africans to participate in the commemoration of the struggle to build a non-racial, democratic South Africa with the freedom to prosper. South Africa is 20 years into a new democracy, yet conditions of poverty, unemployment and discrimination are still rife. Even so, as a young democracy this country has much to celebrate thanks to a rigorous processing of legislation within all spheres of governance, namely national, provincial and local government. Our democracy is based on a form of government where a constitution guarantees basic personal and political rights, fair and free elections, and independent courts of law.

Apart from electing political representatives, it strives to involve citizens in decision-making processes. At its best it is government by the people, of the people and for the people, under the South African Constitution. Democracy for us is about freedom, equality, human rights for all, freedom of opinion, speech, press and the mass media, non-discrimination, the universal right to vote, transparency, citizenship, and

the separation of powers between the arms of State, with good governance and a focus on the public interest. Progressively, we are realising the true notion of "freedom".

Parliament has introduced initiatives such as the People's Assembly, the Women's Parliament, Youth Parliament and the *Taking Parliament to the People* programme amongst others. These initiatives are all people-centred in line with the vision of building "*An effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people, is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people.*"

To create synergy in systems and public participation programmes, Parliament in collaboration with all the provincial legislatures, is seeking to strengthen our democracy by developing a public participation model that will allow ordinary citizens the freedom to influence decision-making within all three spheres of government. This underpins the notion of government by the people, under the Constitution.

As a nation we are reminded to continue to respect and be grateful for the freedom that others have been willing to die for. For all South Africans to be free, together, citizens need to stand up every day and fight for their rights, and to take responsibility for their own livelihood, with the support of the three arms of state, namely the Legislature (the lawmakers), the Executive (the President, Cabinet and executive machinery of government) and the Judiciary (the courts and legal process). 🌍

# Letsatsi la Tokologo

**Bjalo** *ka ge Afrika Borwa e ketekile Letsatsi la Tokologo ka la di 27 Aporele go gopola dikgetho tša mathomo tša temokradi tšeo di bilego gona ka lona letsatsi leo mengwaga ye 20 yeo e fetilego, Ofisi ya Thuto ya Setšhaba ya Palamente e tsitsinkela gore naa tokologo e ra go reng go MaAfrika Borwa lehono, gape le gore ke matsapa afe ao a ka phethagatšwago ao Palamente e ka a tšeago go fa thekgo. E fetoletšwe ke **Mapule Moswane**.*

Tokologo e hlathollwa ka go fapana go ya ka boemo bja ditaba, eupša ka kakaretšo re hlatholla lentšu le go laetša gore kgetho ya motho bophelong le ditokelo di a hlompša le go šireletšwa. Tokologo ka go kgonthe ya sepolitiki e ra gore khunologo kgatelelong ya bohloki, tlhokego ya mešomo, semorafe, kgethollo ya bong, le mekgwa ye mengwe ya kgethologanyo. Tokologo ke lentšu leo gantši le felago le tšewa go ba lehlalosešagotee la temokradi e lego go katanela tokologo ya motho. Go ya ka boemo bjo go bolelwago ka bjona, tokologo e šireleditšwe ka tiro ya sepolitiki, kamano magareng ga mmušo le batho (ka Molaotheo wo o ngwadilwego go swana le wa gaborena, goba kontraka yeo e sa ngwalwago magareng ga bona). Mono Afrika Borwa tokologo e akaretša ya sepolitiki ya batho ka moka ba mengwaga ya ka godimo ga 18 ya go bouta le tokelo ya bona ya go hwetša tlhompho ka go lekalekana bjalo ka badudi ba naga ye.

Letsatsi la Tokologo ke keteko ya ngwaga ka ngwaga ya go gopola dikgetho tša mathomo tša temokradi tša go se kgetholle semorafe tšeo di swerwego ka la di 27 Aporele ngwageng wa 1994. Le ebile letsatsi leo bontši bja MaAfrika Borwa bo boutilego la mathomo maphelong a bona. Bjalo ka letsatsi la bosetšhaba letsatsi le le emela khutšo, tlemagano ya go ba ngatana e tee bjalo ka bana ba thari, le poetšo ya seriti go bontši bja badudi. Ka moya

wa kago ya setšhaba, maikemišetšo a diketeko tša Letsatsi la Tokologo ke go kopanya MaAfrika Borwa ka moka go aga temokradi ya naga ya gaborena.

Letsatsi la Bosetšhaba la Tokologo le hlohleletša MaAfrika Borwa go tšea karolo ka go segopotšo sa go lwela go aga Afrika Borwa ya go hloka kgethollo ya semorafe, ya temokradi, le tokologo ya katlego. Afrika Borwa e na le mengwaga ye 20 e le go temokradi ye mpsha, eupša maemo a bohloki, tlhokego ya mešomo le kgethollo di sa ikepetše ka modu. Le ge go le bjalo, bjalo ka naga yeo e sa lego bonananeng bja temokradi, go na le dikatlego tše ntsi tšeo di ka ketekwago ka go tshepetšo ya molao ka kelohloko yeo e feletšego magatong ka moka a pušo e lego la bosetšhaba, la profense le la selegae. Temokradi ya rena e ithekgile ka mohuta wa pušo moo Molaotheo o netefatšago ditokelo tša motheo tša motho ka bonoši le tša sepolitiki, dikgetho tšeo di lokologilego di sa tšeego lehlakore, le dikgorotshoko tša molao tšeo di ikemego ka bonoši.

Ka ntle ga go kgetha baemedi ba dipolitiki, temokradi e leka go akaretša badudi ka go tshepetšo ya go tšea sephetho. Ka bokgwari bja yona, temokradi ke mmušo wa batho ka batho, go batho, ka tlase ga Molaotheo wa Afrika Borwa. Go rena temokradi e ra tokologo, tekatekano, ditokelo tša botho go batho ka moka, tokologo ya kgopolo, polelo, bogatiši le phatlalatšo ya bobegi bja ditaba, go se kgetholle,

tokelo yeo e lego ya lefase ka moka ya go bouta, go bea ditaba pepeneneng, bodudi, karogano ya maatla magareng ga maphakga a Mmušo, ka pušo ye botse le šedi go dikgahlego tša setšhaba. Ge go gatelwa pele, re lemoga kgonthe ya taba ya "tokologo".

Palamente e tsebagaditše matsapa a mananeo a bjalo ka Kopano ya Batho, Palamente ya Basadi, Palamente ya Baswa le Go iša Palamente Bathong gare ga a mangwe. Matsapa a a ithekgile ka bohlokwa bja batho go sepelelana le pono ya go aga "Palamente yeo e phethagetšego yeo e ikarabelago go dinyakwa tša batho e šušumetšwago ke kgonthe ya go lemoga boleng bjo bokaone bja bophelo go batho ka moka."

Go hlola tšhomišano ya tshepetšo le mananeo a botšearo bja setšhaba, Palamente ka tšhomišano le makgotlatheramolao ka moka a diprofense e nyaka go matlafatša temokradi ya rena ka go hlabolla sebopego sa lenaneo la botšearo bja setšhaba leo le tla go dumelela badudi bao ba tlwaelegilego tokologo ya go huetša sephetho ka go maphakga ka moka a mmušo. Se se gatelela polelo ya gore mmušo wa batho ka batho, ka tlase ga Molaotheo.

Bjalo ka setšhaba re gopotšwa go tšwela pele ka go hlompsha le go leboga tokologo yeo ba bangwe ba ilego ba ikgafa ka go e hwela. Gore MaAfrika Borwa ka moka a lokologe, badudi mmogo ba swanetše go ema ka maoto ba lwele ditokelo tša bona, le go rwala maikarabelo a maphelo a bona ka thekgo ya maphakga a mararo a mmušo e lego Lekgotlatheramolao (bahlami ba molao), Khuduthamaga (Mopresidente, Kabinete le khuduthamaga ya mmušo) le Tša Toka (dikgorotshoko le tshepetšo ya molao). 🌐



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