

in session



Vol. 15 ISSUE 6 2015



A clean audit

Secretary to Parliament congratulates his team



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Vision

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

Mission

Parliament aims to provide a service to the people of South Africa by providing the following:

- A vibrant people's Assembly that intervenes and transforms society and addresses the development challenges of our people;
- Effective oversight over the Executive by strengthening its scrutiny of actions against the needs of South Africans;
- Participation of South Africans in the decision-making processes that affect their lives;
- A healthy relationship between the three arms of the State, that promotes efficient co-operative governance between the spheres of government, and ensures appropriate links with our region and the world; and
- An innovative, transformative, effective and efficient parliamentary service and administration that enables Members of Parliament to fulfil their constitutional responsibilities.

Strategic Objectives

1. Strengthening oversight and accountability
2. Enhancing public involvement
3. Deepening engagement in international fora
4. Strengthening co-operative government
5. Strengthening legislative capacity



Mace of National Assembly



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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CLEAN AUDIT FOR PARLIAMENT: Secretary Gengezi Mgidlana shared the achievement by congratulating his team.

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OUR IDEALS

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

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Editor's note

In this issue of *InSession*, the five new strategic priorities adopted by the fifth Parliament are each covered in turn, demonstrating Parliament's serious commitment to its revised priorities for the third decade of democracy.

The aim is clear. Parliament seeks to play its part in the implementation of the National Development Plan, and all its work in creating and passing legislation, overseeing the executive and otherwise holding government to account can be understood in the context of this pursuit.

In brief, Parliament lists the following as its objectives: strengthening oversight and accountability; enhancing public involvement; deepening international engagement; strengthening cooperative government; and building legislative capacity.

Pages are devoted to covering Committee news. The Committees recently reached out across the country in an oversight and public engagement exercise. The Portfolio Committee on Basic Education visited schools for children with special needs in Mpumalanga and Limpopo; the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation visited Giyani in Limpopo to check on the progress of a local water treatment plant; the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources investigated abandoned graves found at the Evander gold mine in Mpumalanga. Accompanied by the National Union of Mineworkers and the mine's management, they want to see if traditional leaders could assist in tracing the descendants of those buried there, who were probably mineworkers unceremoniously left in an undignified makeshift cemetery (see page 28).

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa's commitment to deepening international relationships is reflected in a feature on the most recent Plenary Assembly of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum (page 11), which reports on discussions about the need for a regional migration policy (also see Message from the Speaker on page 6), gender politics, elections and the development of the blue economy. All of these address the theme of the gathering of the 14 SADC member states: "Industrialisation and SADC Regional Integration: The Role of Parliaments."

Cooperative governance is the theme of *InSession's* six-page report on the National Council of Province's (NCOP's) Provincial Week. As the Chamber responsible for the all-important governance at provincial and municipal level, the NCOP delegates returned to their respective provinces to conduct oversight on progress on service delivery and consult on matters affecting provinces for consideration by Parliament (see page 18).

The week-long programme, held under the theme: "Advancing the Developmental Agenda of Municipalities for a Better Life for Our People", enabled delegates to meet members of provincial legislatures, premiers, members of executive councils (MECs), mayors and most important of all, the public.

Provincial Week provides an opportunity for the NCOP and the provincial legislatures to engage directly with citizens on the challenges experienced by them. It provides an opportunity to receive reports from government departments and municipalities on progress regarding service delivery.

Finally, Parliament received a certificate and trophy from the Auditor-General for achieving a clean audit for the 2014/15 financial year. What better way to demonstrate the development of legislative capacity? For further examples of this, see the story from the Auditor-General reporting on the noticeable number of increases in clean audits for municipalities and municipal entities (page 32).

In such ways does Parliament work to achieve its goals and strategic objectives, guided always by the Constitution – and the lessons of the past. This issue of *InSession* pays tribute to those women who on 9 August 1956 firmly said no to the *dompas* system, thereby helping to lay the foundation of the country that Parliament is aiming for.

Let's hear your views on any of the articles in this issue. Email me at insession@parliament.gov.za

Enjoy the read!

Moira Levy
Editor



Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete

MESSAGE FROM THE

national assembly

Migration *is a subject that has become overwhelmingly critical and urgent to all of us across the world, especially on the African continent. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has described this as an "age of unprecedented mass displacement" and notes that Africa suffers disproportionately more than other regions.*

Notably, the distinction between refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants is becoming increasingly blurred, posing major political and moral dilemmas for all nations.

According to data from the UNHCR, displaced people grew to 59.5 million in 2014. This suggests that one in every 122 persons is now either a refugee, internally displaced, a migrant or seeking asylum. Each statistic represents a personal tragedy for someone, separation from home and community, missing out on an education, a life of instability and uncertainty.

In relation to gross domestic product, Africa has been the fastest growing region in the last decade, and has recorded remarkable economic success stories. As Africans we have managed to overcome many of the obstacles created by a world economic order that has not cared for African development and interests.

Despite all this progress, Africa is also dealing with three million refugees, 12.5 million internally displaced, and nearly one million stateless people. Ironically, it is the developing countries that have responded to refugees and migrants in ways that are more humane and compatible with international human rights instruments than developed countries.

This commitment to protection and migration is reflected in Africa's excellent legal framework on forced displacement.

Both the Organisation of African Unity Convention, which came into force 40 years ago, and the ground-breaking Kampala Convention on internally displaced persons, as well as the Africa Common Position on Migration and Development together with the Migration Policy Framework, which was adopted for Africa in 2009 in Banjul, Gambia, illustrates the long-standing African leadership in protection and migration. Similarly, African countries have made significant contributions to the positive international momentum on fighting statelessness and migration, including 10 accessions to the relevant conventions since 2011.

Notably, the African Common Position recognises that poor socio-economic conditions, such as low wages, high levels of unemployment, rural underdevelopment, poverty and lack of opportunity fuel migration on the continent. The African Common Position further posits that these factors are a result of the imbalance between rapid population growth, available resources and the capacity to create employment and jobs at the countries of origin.

Looking at the state of refugee and migrant protection in Africa today, I am struck by the strong African solidarity with neighbours. All host countries affected by the large crises of recent years have kept their borders open to allow refugee and migrant protection. As a person who was displaced myself as a result of an unjust apartheid regime, I have been deeply moved by the

hospitality of communities who take in thousands of new arrivals although they are struggling to make ends meet.

Since the advent of democracy, South Africa has taken a progressive approach to migration. We have opened our borders and welcomed thousands of foreign nationals, including our brothers and sisters from within the continent, the majority of whom make a positive contribution in South Africa. In Southern Africa, South Africa continues to be a major destination for asylum seekers and others seeking better economic and social opportunities. There are also confirmed reports of human smuggling and trafficking.

The asylum system is overwhelmed, and a large number of applications has created a backlog, affecting the quality and efficiency of refugee status determination (RSD). Without a comprehensive immigration system, migrant workers and others sometimes try to make use of the asylum system to stay legally and gain access to South Africa's services. In response, the government has established a border-management agency to regulate immigration and, in July 2014, new regulations came into effect. RSD is carried out by the South African government. In 2015, it will continue to support international efforts to protect and assist refugees through providing access to health facilities, schools and social services.

Unfortunate attacks on foreign nationals suggest that we need a more focused approach to manage migration, whilst simultaneously addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality that our people continue to face. In a situation where poverty and unemployment is rampant,



conflict over limited resources is likely to arise. Unfortunately, incidents of internecine fighting over scarce and limited resources are not unique to South Africa and have manifested in different forms on the continent. These violent occurrences are a continental problem that all of us must address with urgency.

The international community must tackle the challenges related to migration and displacement going to the root causes of the problems and not merely papering over the symptoms. We should therefore be focusing on two things: prevention and solutions. This involves looking beyond the “pull” that draw people towards open and free societies; it involves identifying and addressing the “push” factors.

The magnitude and complexity of forced displacement demands that the international community must do more to prevent conflict and displacement. While the environment in Africa is generally one of respect for the institution of asylum and accommodation for economic migrants, the region faces a number of challenges.

One such challenge is insecurity. There can be no development without peace and security. Neither is possible without respect for human rights. This is a key area of work that parliaments have to advocate and become more involved in.

Another challenge is the protection of refugees in mixed migratory flows, which is closely linked to the rising incidence of smuggling and trafficking on the continent. There is a need to explore the establishment of more legal avenues for those attempting to find safety and employment in Europe and Africa.

Looking at European demographic projections, which suggest its population

is decreasing rapidly, it is clear that international migration can be an important part of the solution, based on cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination.

We need to work to address the root causes of forced displacement, to develop protection capacity everywhere, and to better link development cooperation with human mobility, to guarantee that people can enjoy greater rights and opportunities in their own countries.

There is a need for stronger international commitment to prevent conflict and forced displacement. This must include stronger support to the mediation and stabilisation efforts of the African Union, the League of Arab States and sub-regional organisations like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development or the Economic Community of West African States.

As parliamentarians, we also have to ensure that our respective governments have the requisite legal instruments in place to deal with displacement and migration. The Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) has to advocate for a regional policy framework to govern migration in SADC, as there is no overall regional policy.

As SADC-PF, we must hold our governments accountable and ensure that the Protocol on the Facilitation of the Movement of Persons of 2005 is ratified by all member states. To date only five countries, including South Africa, have ratified the Protocol.

At national level, respective parliaments have to make sure that the intersectoral linkages on migration and integrated migration policies in place to govern the entry, stay and employment of

foreign workers are operationalised, as these are often disconnected.

The issue of displacement and migration is clearly not only an issue which governments alone can deal with. It requires the effective participation of stakeholders such as civil society and international organisations that deal with the displacement and migration of people. Parliaments have the ability to bring such stakeholders together and must be seen to consistently do so in order to open up dialogue and ensure that our respective governments deal with such matters humanely and effectively.

The call I would like to make is for an enhanced compact of solidarity. For host countries in Africa to continue keeping their borders open, and providing asylum space and migration opportunities. This must include prevention, durable solutions, adequate humanitarian response, capacity-building and efforts to mitigate the significant environmental impact of large refugee populations.

We must remain committed to the undertakings we have made through various continental frameworks, including the African Common Position on Migration and Development. The implementation of Agenda 2063 is perhaps our most important hope in ensuring that lasting peace is attained.

This is an edited extract of the speech delivered by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, at the Roundtable Discussion on Migration at the 37th SADC-PF Plenary Assembly held in Durban in July. This important discussion was open to the public and addressed the complex issues associated with migration, both in Southern Africa and beyond the region. See full report on the Plenary discussion pg 11. 🌐

Parliament driven by new values and vision

The *Secretary to Parliament, appointed in December 2014, has a keen interest in a subject that is probably unusual for someone at his level of political leadership, writes Moira Levy. The books he reads in his limited spare time are not only on philosophy, the occasional autobiography and of course politics. The subject that truly grabs his interest is business management and leadership.*

Probably best known as a former Deputy Director-General in the Presidency and its representative for years at the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), or perhaps as the Chief Executive Officer of the Gauteng Legislature, Mr Gengezi Mgidlana is above all a political persona associated with the complex and sometimes delicate matters of public policy.

So what accounts for his interest in the world of business? Is this dynamic figure at the head of Parliament looking in the long term for a career in the private sector? He laughs at the thought and insists that reading up on business management is "to sharpen his expertise" in his role at the helm of the National Legislature.

Parliament is not a business, he readily concedes, and the citizens it serves are not customers per se. He is also very clear that the motive driving business – profit – plays no part in politics. But the principles underpinning the efficient and effective running of public and private institutions are exactly the same, he maintains.

Mr Mgidlana explains: "The reason I delve into books about management and strategy is because for me, there is no fundamental difference in how you lead and manage any organisation." The products that Parliament delivers are "knowledge-

based and intangible". Your customers cannot take home in a shopping bag the laws that have been passed or the oversight exercised over the executive arm of government, but knowing who your "customers" are and their needs and desires helps you determine the route you will take and the behaviour required to deliver that service or product, he explains.

"It helps you to be more targeted in your approach. If you want to improve on quality and efficiency, you have to be clear about who your primary and secondary stakeholders are," he says.

Just as the private sector will conduct customer surveys, in the public sector "you cannot go and deliver in communities when you have not done the appropriate assessments. You will find yourself delivering a clinic when they want a school or building a bridge when what they want is a clinic."

He likes to point out that what the private sector calls "customer orientation" and "knowing your market" originated in the public sector as "results or outcome-based orientation". Business learnt this from the practice of good governance, and as Secretary to Parliament, strategic planning is his core concern and effective management his chief preoccupation.

He may only have been at Parliament

for less than a year, but the effects of his business-like leadership style are already being felt. Mr Mgidlana joined Parliament during a time of transition. The 20-year milestone of democracy had been reached, free and fair elections had been held and a fifth Parliament was about to be launched. Undaunted by the pending changes, he embraced his new job, describing it in terms such as "challenge" and "opportunity".

He explains how Parliament undertook to revisit its mission, vision and strategic goals at that time. "A vision is supposed to provide you with your ultimate destination that you want to reach. Good organisations reflect on their visions from time to time. After 20 years of democracy it was a good time for Parliament to determine if its vision captured the sentiments of what South Africans want," he says.

The next step was to work on the mission. "The mission is supposed to tell you what the organisation does. We thought, 'let's offer more clarity in our mission' to ensure it covers the core business of Parliament.

"Lastly we looked at the values, which are the soul of any organisation. Our values were centred on the Constitution, but we thought, 'let us do a little bit more' because values also guide those who are doing their work in Parliament. They must determine attitude and behaviour. They must also determine the type of services offered. This must be quality service, the kind that must put people first.

"What we now see in the revised vision, mission and values is the essence of what Parliament will deliver, how it will deliver it and where it is taking South Africa."

Past democratic parliaments have all had their defining moments. The early democratic parliaments are remembered for their role in dismantling apartheid

and replacing it with a transformative legislative framework. The third Parliament emphasised oversight and the fourth Parliament introduced the public participation model.

This is something of a simplification since all parliaments after 1994 have pursued the same strategic objectives, but he agrees the fifth Parliament has brought a sea-change. Mr Mgidlana is clear about what the fifth Parliament will be remembered for. "The fifth Parliament coincides with the adoption of the National Development Plan by our country, which details what we want to achieve in the next 15 years. Our strategy has been to define what Parliament's role will be in the implementation of the National Development Plan and how we will do that."

For him this means Parliament must "gear itself up to be an organisation that can respond to the challenges of South Africa". He talks about the need to have data "about the issues that bedevil our people and that bedevil us as a country, so that we come up with solutions which will be the laws that we make. "Those laws must fit the problems that we are facing. They must fit the challenges and the vision that we hope to achieve as a country. You need to make laws that make a difference."

As a developing economy, South Africa needs a Parliament "that is in touch with the issues on the ground. You need a Parliament that can actively engage with the executive. You need a Parliament that has the support and administrative mechanisms that are able to empower the Members to exercise their responsibilities. And you need a Parliament that manages to engage dynamically with the people on the ground."

He is phlegmatic about the recent political storms in the parliamentary

Chamber, and welcomes the vociferous debates as "important for good governance. They are important because you will be able to have a number of inputs, contributions and views that form and shape the policies of our country. You will have different parties scrutinising the work that is done by the executive. Our business is really the responsibility of all parliamentarians because they have to deliver to their constituencies."

He welcomes all points of view, including those from outside Parliament, and is particularly enthusiastic about social media. "On social media you get positive stuff, you also get people complaining. I think that is okay, because it tells you where you are. It tells you how effective you are becoming."

He is not concerned with tracking the number of hits on Parliament's website or tweets on Twitter. "The important thing about criticism, or having different opinions, is not about the numbers. It tells you if an issue deserves to be looked at and if you can do something to improve the situation. We definitely want people to communicate with us."

He thinks citizens should know more about Parliament, "beyond the headlines, and what they see on television and hear on radio because there is a whole lot more that goes on in Parliament. We aim to improve our interaction with members of the public. And we do not want to only talk to people who agree with us. We want to get to the broad spectrum of society."

This open-mindedness is welcome and very much needed in the Secretary of a Parliament that represents a country as diverse as South Africa. Perhaps it reflects a life-long approach to politics that stems from his years as a student at Roma University in Lesotho. He says getting away from South Africa and apartheid as a youth was very important



SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT: Mr Gengezi Mgidlana.

to him. It offered a different kind of environment that looked at things differently.

"For the very first time I could see and relate to myself as a human being as opposed to being a black South African. At home you saw everything through a lens that sought to segregate people. So it was a very good experience. It gave me a necessary broad outlook that I think I need to have."

That was during the turbulent 1980s, and it also gave him the opportunity to meet up with some of the icons of South Africa's struggle, like Chris Hani. He repeats it was important for him and an interesting experience. He is at pains to make the point that most important of all for him was that it "opened one's mind". 🌍

Making every day Mandela Day

The *celebration of International Mandela Day is not just ticking the boxes of the parliamentary calendar, but a genuine appreciation of the contribution made by the late President Nelson Mandela to the development of South Africa, the Minister for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Jeff Radebe, told Members of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) recently. By Mava Lukani.*

Both Houses of Parliament, the National Assembly and the NCOP marked the 2015 International Mandela Day debated International Mandela Day on the theme: "Making every day a Mandela Day: galvanising our nation to draw inspiration from the compatriot and fearless fighter of our people."

Mr Radebe told Members of the NCOP that they should be proud of their former president, who had approval from 193 states to mark 18 July every year as Mandela Day. "We shall forever be indebted to these nations for having chosen Nelson Mandela for a special global celebration. I do not think they did this because they loved Mandela the man, but because in Mandela they saw the values espoused by the United Nations of peace, development, harmony and justice also reflected in him," Mr Radebe said.

He urged all those who gave time and resources to contribute 67 minutes to continue doing so. "South Africans made their contributions in various ways. All of them were driven not by the size or price of their contributions, but a common desire to pay their respects to the colossus who walked amongst us. It is also proper that we should appreciate as South Africans that those celebrations of Mandela Day make us temporarily forget our political differences and focus on the

legacy he left us," Mr Radebe said.

Mr Radebe appealed to MPs to ensure that the significance of Mandela Day is used as a tool to help historically disadvantaged communities. He said that in Cape Town the people who live in Bishopscourt can help those who live in Bishop Lavis and those who live in Sandton in Gauteng, can help Alexandra township residents. "This can be replicated in many other cities where wealth and poverty sharply face each other."

Mr Radebe also praised the reconciliatory work of Mr Mandela for the improved relations between Cuba and the United States. "Even when lying in the cold bowels of the Qunu countryside, Nelson Mandela still talks peace and reconciliation."

Speaking during the International Mandela Day in the National Assembly, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi told MPs that corruption is the antithesis of what Mr Mandela

stood and died for and should be stopped if "we really respect Nelson Mandela and his legacy". He said MPs should remember the words of Mr Mandela and ask themselves whether they are still living the legacy of South Africa's first democratic president.

During these times of celebration of the legacy of Mr Mandela, Prince Buthelezi said, South Africans should not shrink from remembering Mr Mandela's sharpest words while they embrace his gentler ones, as he often said not what people expected but what had to be said.

Prince Buthelezi reminded MPs about Mr Mandela words to followers of the African National Congress (ANC) on 25 February 1990 at Durban's Kings' Park Stadium during the violent fight between the Inkatha Freedom Party and the ANC. Mr Mandela had said: "Take your guns, your knives and your pangas and throw them into the sea."

According to Prince Buthelezi, Mr Mandela once lamented: "Little did we suspect that our own people, when they got a chance would be as corrupt as the apartheid regime. That is one of the things that hurts us." 🇿🇦





REGIONAL GROWTH: Delegates to the 37th Plenary Assembly of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum.

Great need to improve Africa's global competitiveness

Regional *integration was identified as the antidote to Southern Africa's economic vulnerability at the 37th Plenary Assembly of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF). The need to pool resources and enhance regional development and economic integration is the route to improving Africa's global competitiveness, report Elijah Moholola and Sakhile Mokoena who attended the sessions.*

President Jacob Zuma set the tone at the opening session of the 37th Plenary Assembly, held in Balito, KwaZulu-Natal in July, when he referred to the transformation of the SADC-PF into a regional Parliament. He summed up the issues underlining the week-long deliberations by noting that in pursuit of the African Union's Agenda 2063, the core of South Africa's foreign policy is the strengthening of political and economic integration of the SADC.

Delegations from the 14 Southern African states making up the SADC took part in wide-ranging plenary discussions, which ended by passing four key motions:

- * The need for SADC member states to prevent and eliminate

early and forced child marriages.

- * Readiness to deal with food security, disaster risk management and climate change challenges.

- * The criminalisation of HIV transmission, exposure and non-disclosure in SADC member states.

- * The importance of the blue economy to economic development of island states and regional integration.

Before the plenaries got under way, a public roundtable discussion was held on the issue of migration. The Speaker of the South African National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, drew attention to the need for a common migration policy: "The SADC-PF has to advocate for a regional policy framework to govern migration in SADC as

there is currently no overall regional policy in place," she said (see speech on page 6).

The roundtable brought home the importance of the overall theme of the Assembly, "Industrialisation and SADC Regional Integration: the Role of Parliaments".

Addressing the official opening, the Secretary-General of the SADC-PF, Dr Esau Chiviya, said: "The key challenge for the region is to move off an economic growth path built on consumption and commodity exports into a more sustainable development path based on industrialisation. Linked to this is the need to build economic infrastructure, enhance the technology base, economies of scale and scope, and the competitiveness of industries, leveraging on, among other things, the regional infrastructure programme."

Delivering the keynote address at the plenary Assembly, South African Minister of Science and Technology Ms Naledi Pandor said successful implementation of the SADC Industri-

alisation Strategy and Roadmap 2016-2063 was expected to yield, among other things, an increased regional growth rate of real GDP to a minimum of 7% a year.

Throughout the week, speaker after speaker emphasised the need for a change in the region's development plans, with SADC-PF's various standing committees investigating ways for regional cooperation to achieve these goals. The Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights called for extending the monitoring process beyond the election period. Discussants agreed that elections also involve what happens before, during and after voting. Delegates said it would be important for observer missions to also look into the human rights of voters prior to the elections and even long after the elections have been concluded.

Presenting the report for adoption, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Ms Agnes Limbo, said SADC-PF should scale up its role in elections to focus on the entire election cycle and not just the campaigning, polling and counting phases that are normally covered by election observer missions.

During the discussion of the Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes, Prof Nkandu Luo, the Zambian Minister of Gender and Child Development, moved a notice for SADC member states to prevent and eliminate early and forced child marriages, saying they are a violation of human rights.

The Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Advancement placed its emphasis on youth development. The Committee resolved to embark on a project in support of gender-responsive budgeting, although the

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Adv Jacob Mudenda, said Africa and SADC in particular were doing better than America and Europe in terms of gender parity and women's participation in decision-making positions. He said: "If there are no women leaders, policy decisions may be stunted. The voices of women must be heard in both public and private sectors. In the region, we have nine women Speakers, which is very encouraging. We need to support our women in these worthy political positions and ensure that ministries responsible for gender and youth issues are adequately funded and monitored by parliaments."

The final day's plenary tackled the concept of the importance of the blue economy for economic development, especially of small island states. Ms Sylvianne Valmont, a Member of Parliament from the Seychelles, said over the last three years the emerging concept of the blue economy has been embraced by many small-island developing states as a mechanism to realise sustainable growth based around an ocean economy.

The term was first coined by Small Island Developing States and other coastal countries during the 2012 Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in recognition of the need to maximise the enormous economic potential of oceans and seas while preserving them. Since then it has emerged as a key component of the new global dialogue about the role of the oceans in sustainable development.

"The question that is often asked is what exactly constitutes a blue economy. While there is no universally accepted definition of the blue economy, for Seychelles and the region the notion of blue economy

refers to those economic activities that directly or indirectly take place in the ocean and coastal areas, use outputs from the ocean and put goods and services into ocean activities and the contribution of those activities to economic growth, social, cultural and environmental well-being," Ms Valmont said.

She said the blue economy concept does not restrict itself to fishing and marine resources but encompasses more than just tuna fishing and other fisheries trading to include the management and sustainable development of minerals and energy resources from our oceans. "By conceptualising the ocean as a development space where special planning integrates biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, resource extraction, sustainable energy production and transport, the blue economy offers an alternative economic approach that is guided by environmental principles," she said.

Ms Valmont said the blue economy is fundamentally about social inclusion, founded on the belief that real tangible effective results may only be achieved if an entire community is involved and works together. "Through the inception of the blue economy, the SADC region will be presented with myriad opportunities through employment, investment opportunities, academic and skills training programmes. All of which will result in much improved standards of living for our people.

South African Member of Parliament and National Council of Provinces delegate from Gauteng, Ms Tasneem Motara, told the conference that South Africa supports the importance of the blue economy in sustaining economic development and helping to eradicate poverty in small island



PAYING TRIBUTE: The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, visits the grave of Mr Albert Luthuli, President of the African National Congress from 1952 to 1967 who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960. Mr Luthuli's granddaughter, Ms Albertina Luthuli, is beside her.

states in the SADC region and in the process contributing to the region's economic growth. "Since the independence of African states in the 1960s, the idea of regional integration has been at the centre of efforts to forge close economic cooperation, reduce geographic fragmentation and promote broad continental unity."

Delegates had a respite from the week of intense discussion on a one-day excursion to pay their respects at the graves of the first president of the ANC, Mr John Langalibalele Dube, and former ANC president, Chief Albert Luthuli. The group also visited the monument to Zulu King Shaka.

For the first time in the history of the SADC-PF, the organisation's flag was raised alongside those of the 14 member states' parliaments. Displaying it at the opening ceremony, Dr Chiviya emphasised that this was the first time in 20 years that the flag has taken its place among the flags of its member states. Later, he explained the significance of each of the colours comprising the flag: the black represents the African people, the blue signifies water and its importance in sustainability, the green emblem in the centre stands for the environment, and the red bands are reminders of the blood spilt in all the countries of the region where a violent struggle preceded victory and freedom. 🌍

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Glimmer of hope for Eastern Cape's small rural farmers

Eastern *Cape's small-scale rural farmers show no lack of motivation despite a long dry spell, which has seen vast tracts of arable land lie fallow. On a constituency visit to the Border region and central Transkei, Mr Mncedisi Filtane, Committee member in the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, met with farmers and listened to their stories, writes Sibongile Maputi.*

Mr Filtane said that the purpose of the visit was to link rural farmers with opportunities in the private sector, thereby putting meaning into government's rural development objectives. "Agriculture results in reduction of poverty and less reliance on food parcels," Mr Filtane told farmers.

Mr Filtane spoke to farmers in East

London, Thanga village, Butterworth, Umnga Flats and Bhaziya who raised the insecurity of land tenure; a lack of irrigation infrastructure, ploughing equipment and electricity; stock theft; drought; apathy among the youth; overpriced land; security on farms; and market access as challenges.

"South Africa's annual food consumption is R77bn and

government policy dictates that at least 30% of this should be produced locally. This means that small rural farmers have a big role to play. Markets should not be an issue because the private sector is starting to procure fresh produce locally," Mr Filtane said. "Big stores like Pick n Pay and Massmart are supporting small rural farmers and need local fresh produce. If any of you is not moving forward in agriculture, it is by choice," he said.

Mr Filtane told the farmers about Kohwa Holdings, an agricultural specialist company in KwaZulu-Natal that assists small farmers to build infrastructure that can withstand



FEEDBACK: Committee member in the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Mncedisi Filtane (standing), speaks with farmers in the Eastern Cape when he visited them recently as part of his constituency work.

been budgeted for and will be paid in this financial year. It has been a long time for the people of Bhaziya, but there is progress from government," he said, to much ululation.

Nkosi Joyi said the region has a challenge when it comes to producing food, but that he was excited with the potential that Kohwa and the private sector presented. "It is rare to see our representatives coming to give feedback on what goes on in Parliament. The community is excited about this new development. It is good news," Nkosi Joyi said.

"The opportunity of producing for serious markets is interesting because it means we can create jobs in this area. Production on a considerable scale would be in the best interests of our farming business. Now we are guaranteed markets. This is the correct approach and it will definitely lead to job creation," he said. However, he cautioned that it is difficult to start projects in the area while the land claim remains unresolved. Mr Filtane reassured the community that the process was at the stage of verifying beneficiaries.

During his constituency work, Mr Filtane also met with the Mthatha Ratepayers and Residents Association where he heard about service delivery challenges, including water and electricity shortages that last for three days. Referring to the Expropriation Bill that was released by government earlier this year, the association's deputy chairperson, Mr Booi Malgas, said Parliament should consider subjecting the Bill to a thorough public hearing process. "People in the rural areas want land for farming purposes but it is overpriced. Rural areas have a

challenge of ownership as they reside in communal land owned by a chief or a king. There are no title deeds here. These are things that the Bill should address," Mr Malgas said.

He said the issue with compensation is that it is liquid and can be gone in seconds, while a piece of land moves from generation to generation. He said this is an aspect that expropriators need to take into consideration.

Another member of the association, Mr Sutton Ensling, said the Transkei area has a challenge with people building properties close to the coastline. "The Bill is not clear on how it will balance the interest of the owner and the purpose the land would be used for. This thing of market value when determining a price of one's property is a challenge. Government as an interested party in the property cannot be the sole valuer," Mr Ensling said.

Other issues raised by ratepayers included the role of kings and chiefs, the balance between owners' interests and public purpose, public participation in finalising the Expropriation Bill, coastline ownership, and using courts as arbiters on the issue of market value. Mr Filtane advised ratepayers to raise these issues in a submission to Parliament.

He told the gathering that there has to be broader consultation on the Bill as land ownership is a sensitive issue. "People should be part of the law-making process. They should be able to say what they think about the Bill and how it could be improved so as to limit the impact on rural areas," Mr Filtane said. 🌱

climatic challenges and maximise farm produce.

Mr Wilson Mgoqi of the Umnga Flats Small Farmers agreed that it was important for people to rely more on what they can produce using their own hands. "This visit has opened our eyes. We were short-sighted and not aware of the opportunities out there. We are clear now and will try to do things differently, firstly, by aligning with other agricultural projects in the Transkei region. It is true there are standards and systems to ensure success in farming," Mr Mgoqi said.

At Bhaziya, about 15 kilometres west of Mthatha, local chief Nkosi Minkulu Joyi and farmers in the MPJ Cooperative were happy to hear Mr Filtane's report on progress with their 1998 land claim. "I have the confirmation in writing from Minister Gugule Nkwinti that the claim has

Fighting back against poverty

The *deepening dependency of the people on formal employment, especially in rural communities, makes them ignore business opportunities where they live. The time has come for the people in rural communities where poverty is the order of the day, to roll up their sleeves and create employment themselves. This was the message from the Democratic Alliance MP, Dr Malcolm Figg, during his constituency visit to the people of Rietbron in the Baviaans Local Municipality, writes Mava Lukani.*

Dr Figg, whose constituency includes the Baviaans Local Municipality, prioritised the fight against poverty during the June constituency period. As part of his programme and with the cooperation of ward councillors, Dr Figg organised community meetings where he shared his poverty-fighting strategies with the people in his constituency.

Outlining practical poverty eradication strategies in Rietbron, Dr Figg said poverty is written on the faces of each and every community member, but no one can take that away except the people of the community themselves. "Your community has enough potential and has business opportunities to push back the frontiers of poverty, however limited they may be," said Dr Figg.

Dr Figg believes that dependency on formal employment in the historically disadvantaged communities is among the obstacles that stand between the people and a better life. Sharing his ideas with the people of Rietbron, Dr Figg said they must use the limited trade opportunities that exist in their community to create employment and become employers themselves.

"The investor that comes from outside is going to use the business opportunities that are there in front of you and your labour, for example. Don't fold your hands and wait for

entrepreneurs from somewhere to come and invest here. Stand up and become wealthy entrepreneurs yourselves," Dr Figg told community members. He said education and a spirit of commitment are the basic resources required to keep poverty away.

Dr Figg said there is no heavy industry in all the towns of the Baviaans Local Municipality. The only employment is in the farming community. "People have nowhere else to go for employment, but to go to farmers, who pay them very little wages. Even tourism that plays a role in employment creation in certain communities doesn't exist in the Baviaans Local Municipality communities due to poor road infrastructure between Steytlerville and Willowmore," said Dr Figg. He said about 32 kilometres of the R329, the major road between Steytlerville and Willowmore, is a very narrow road that is made of cement.

Also expressing his frustration about the condition of the R329 road, Mr Danny Bezuidenhout who is Ward 2 Councillor, said that buses and heavy-duty delivery trucks have not been allowed to travel on that road for a long time due to its poor condition. "It is ironical that a road that should be used to market the towns of the Baviaans Local Municipality to potential investors is ignored by the

government," said Mr Bezuidenhout.

He said the existence of good road infrastructure is one of the things investors consider before they can invest in a community. "The fact that there is a problem with a major road that links our poverty-stricken communities with the rest of the world means the Baviaans Local Municipality communities are excluded from the expected national 5% economic growth," Mr Bezuidenhout explained.

During his constituency visit, Dr Figg also assessed progress at the Steytlerville Bulk Water Supply Project, which was started in 2012. Mr Bezuidenhout explained that the Steytlerville Bulk Water Project was planned to cope with the anticipated shortage of water in Steytlerville in the next 10 years. "That anticipation was like the flashing of a red light for the end of water in Steytlerville. We needed to stand up and come up with an intervention strategy and ensure that it's done and completed within the planned period," Mr Bezuidenhout said. He went on to say that the water supply for the entire Steytlerville communities comes from the Erasmuskloof River, about 50km from Steytlerville.

Dr Figg wanted to know if the R84m water project was going to be completed within the projected five-year period. "Water infrastructure projects in many provinces go beyond the planned completion time frame due in most cases to poor project management and corruption," he said. He was delighted to hear that the Steytlerville Bulk Water Project would be completed in 2015, as planned. He praised the project for its lack of corruption and fraud. 🇿🇦

Blankets for senior citizens on Madiba Day

Happiness *was written all over the faces of senior citizens in Durban on Mandela Day as they received blankets and walking sticks from Member of Parliament and Co-Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests, Mr Omie Singh, writes Cedric Mboyisa.*



WINTER WARMTH: Mr Omie Singh hands a blanket to a happy senior citizen.

This all happened at Albert Park on 18 July – a day which has been internationally recognised as Mandela Day in honour of South Africa's first democratically elected President whose name and legacy is synonymous with reconciliation, selflessness, *ubuntu*, humanitarian efforts and sacrifice.

"Our Madiba is not only our hero, he is also worshipped and respected all over the world. He is a world icon," said Mr Singh. He encouraged people to follow the example of Mr Mandela in dealing with fellow human beings, saying the world would be a much better place. He called for the spirit of volunteerism, as espoused by Madiba. "We need to be more like Mr Mandela. Let us emulate him," said Mr Singh.

Mr Singh donated more than 100 blankets to the elderly who came in numbers to commemorate Madiba Day. This formed part of Mr Singh's Winter Warmth Programme in his constituency. "Madiba lived a life of service. We must make sure that his legacy lives on. What better way

than looking after our elderly. It is our duty to take care of our senior citizens," said Mr Singh. Senior citizens were visibly elated when they received blankets and walking sticks.

One *gogo* in her 80s could not hide her excitement and happiness as she asked for a microphone to deliver a thank you message. "Today I am very happy. I have this beautiful blanket to keep me warm during winter. Thank you very much," she said, before showing off some impressive dance moves. Other senior citizens were also all smiles when they received their blankets and walking sticks.

Mr Singh has made it his project to keep those less fortunate warm this winter by giving them blankets. He has been distributing them in the constituency area he has been assigned to represent. He has also called on the community policing forum in the Point area in Durban to help him give the blankets to those who desperately need them. He is passionate about looking after the elderly. "They have taken care of us

and now it is our turn to look after them in their old age," said Mr Singh.

Apart from distributing blankets and walking sticks on Madiba Day, there were a number of other activities such as a football tournament for *gogos* and boxing (Mr Mandela was a keen boxer). Prominent artists also entertained people who were at Albert Park to celebrate the life and legacy of Tata. As part of Madiba Day senior citizens, the youth and children were also given a history lesson about the country's beloved statesman. The day included a quiz on Mr Mandela with prizes for the winners.

The football tournament saw grannies wowing the crowds with their football skills. Some displayed their dribbling prowess and scored goals. After the tournament, many said exercising was good for them. "You can now rest assured that your health will improve through regular exercise. This is good for your bodies," said programme director Mr Zwakele Ndovela. It was a Mandela Day never to be forgotten for senior citizens of Durban. 🌟



WORK IN PROGRESS: The Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP Mr Raseriti Tau leads an inspection of the Sol Plaatje University site in the Northern Cape.

Advancing municipalities' developmental agenda

The *Permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) returned to their respective provinces from 20 to 24 July to conduct oversight on progress made on service delivery and consult on matters affecting provinces for consideration by Parliament. The theme of the week-long programme, known as Provincial Week, was "Advancing the developmental agenda of municipalities for a better life for our people."*

Provincial Week provides an opportunity for the NCOP and the legislatures to engage directly with citizens and on challenges experienced by them. It also gives members of the NCOP an update on progress regarding service delivery in the form of reports from government departments. Delegates met members of provincial legislatures, premiers, Members of the Executive Councils (MECs), mayors, the public and other relevant stakeholders.

EASTERN CAPE

NCOP delegates visited Alfred Nzo, Joe Gqabi and the OR Tambo District Municipalities, Abel Mputing reports.

In the Alfred Nzo region the lack of water, electricity and proper road infrastructure, along with insufficient billing systems and revenue collection

are problems. The NCOP delegation also heard about a lack of strong inter-governmental cooperative governance between the local and provincial government.

The NCOP delegates heard that in the OR Tambo District Municipality there was a huge backlog on land claims. Mr Mandla Rayi, the Whip of the Eastern Cape NCOP delegation, said: "The district is faced with a serious challenge of land claims in all of its municipalities. There is also resistance from traditional leaders in this regard. As a result, land claims at times come through litigation."

The Speaker of the Legislature, Ms Noxolo Kiviet, said: "As a legislature we will look at the reports of all visits to determine if there are areas that need to be dealt with and where we can be involved we will do so." She warned

that where there was a need for a policy shift to deal with challenges, this will be the responsibility of Members involved in the policy sphere.

Mr Mninawa Nyusile, a Member of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, said as long as there are no incentives to attract competent skills to rural areas, many municipalities in this province will find it hard to manage their finances and have clean audit outcomes.

FREE STATE

Elijah Moholola writes that the equitable share formula for funding allocation and the downgrading of municipalities were some of the issues affecting the Free State.

The Kopanong Local Municipality tabled a report at a meeting held in Trompsburg to register displeasure that the municipality has been downgraded from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Another challenge related to Bloem Water, which was said to be charging the municipality exorbitant prices.

At the Xhariep District Municipality, the community was affected by the

allocation of grants by National Treasury through the equitable share formula. They also raised a concern about the possible amalgamation of Naledi Local Municipality and the Mangaung Metro. The delegation heard a briefing by both of the affected municipalities. It also conducted site visits to the upgraded Seisa Ramabodu Stadium, the Hillside View social housing project and the Xhariep Leather Design Co-operative.

A presentation by the Auditor-General revealed that while 78% of municipalities received disclaimers in the 2007/08 financial year, in 2013/14 the situation had improved to 33%, with only nine disclaimers.

Free State Provincial Whip, Ms Manana Tlake, said: "This whole week we showed how committed we are for the betterment of our people. We were united working together and braving the cold of the Free State with only one thing on our minds – to better the lives of our people. When seated in Cape Town as the NCOP, we are saying we represent the province but we cannot just do desktop administration without knowing what's happening on the ground."

GAUTENG

Nolizwi Magwagwa writes that the NCOP delegation to Gauteng led by its Provincial Whip Ms Tasneem Motara heard about the province's decline in the mining industry. The delegation focused on the West Rand District Municipality, which comprises four municipalities, Mogale City, Westonaria, Merafong City and Randfontein.

Briefing the NCOP, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Mr Jacob Mamabolo said: "It is imperative to note that although the West Rand consists of a significant economically active population of just

over 45%, it is mired in plummeting economic conditions mainly due to the deteriorating mining houses. Consequently, the unemployment rate is significantly high at 25.9%. Some prevailing challenges also include the presence of sinkholes as well as poverty and inequality."

The NCOP delegation was also briefed by the Premier, the South African Local Government Association, the Auditor-General and the MEC for Finance.

The Premier, Mr David Makhura, explained Gauteng's Ten Pillar Strategy that is underpinned by transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation. Mr Makhura said the West Rand Development Corridor is primarily a mining economy and has experienced a serious decline. He presented a number of interventions aimed at rescuing the situation, including programmes in tourism, agriculture and agro-processing, and the renewable energy industry. The West Rand Corridor has a target of creating up to 6 512 job opportunities over the next three years.

KWAZULU-NATAL

Drought is one of the pressing issues facing KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), which the permanent delegates to the NCOP intend raising with government ministers as a matter of urgency, writes Cedric Mboyisa.

The situation is so serious that Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Ms Nomusa Dube-Ncube called for prayers when she briefed the NCOP delegation and Members of the KZN Provincial Legislature. In every district and local municipality visited by the NCOP delegation, led by Mr Lewis Nzimande, the issue of the water crisis came up.

The five-member NCOP delegation was split into two groups – focusing on Ilembe and Ugu district municipalities

respectively. The local municipalities under the microscope were Hibiscus Coast, Umuziwabantu, KwaDukuza and Ndwedwe. The NCOP delegation focused on issues such as delivery of basic services to communities, financial viability, local economic development, governance and spending on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

At public meetings people raised issues such as the lack of proper roads, electricity, water and sanitation, and housing. They also raised the problems of rampant crime and unemployment for the youth and people with disabilities.

Site visits included a development project for informal settlement dwellers near a golf course in Port Shepstone, a bulk water reservoir for villagers in the KwaXolo area on the South Coast of KZN, a Melville sewer upgrade which is currently 80% complete and has created at least 46 job opportunities and a computer training programme funded by the Department of Arts and Culture.

LIMPOPO

The demarcation of some municipalities was one of the concerns heard by the Limpopo delegation, writes Tebatso Mabilisa.

Provincial Whip Ms Tsapane Mampuru said: "The NCOP had identified certain municipalities in the Waterberg and Sekhukhune Districts. Also, the Demarcation Board is in the process of re-demarcating some municipalities."

The NCOP delegation visited the Sekhukhune District Municipality. Increased private sector investment has resulted in the construction of a shopping mall, hotel and casino and the first fully equipped lodge in Sekhukhune. The municipality has spent about R6 million in bursaries. But it was not all good news. Fetakgomo Local Municipality, which received a clean audit in previous year, has

now received a disclaimer. This was attributed to lack of stability in the senior management of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality. The municipality is also experiencing alarmingly high unemployment rates.

In Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, the NCOP found a backlog of 1 320.95km of gravel road. The posts of Chief Financial Officer and Senior Manager: Budget and Treasury were vacant and the unemployment rate of the municipality is 42.9%.

A public hearing was held in Bakenberg, Waterberg, where citizens raised the problems of lack of housing, electricity, roads and general instability as well as constant changes in mayors and corruption.

MPUMALANGA

Permanent delegates to the NCOP Mpumalanga were concerned about the poor state of the borderline fence and the bad roads, which hinders efficient border patrol by members of the South African National Defence Force, writes Sakhile Mokoena.

Mpumalanga Provincial Whip in the NCOP and delegation leader, Mr Simphiwe Mthimunye, said: "We are calling for tighter control of South Africa's ports of entry to curb the smuggling of illegal goods and the movement of unregistered foreign nationals. We also found that the South African Revenue Services does not have a scanner at the border and officials do manual verification of all cargo leaving or entering South Africa at one of the country's busiest ports of entry." This leaves South Africa vulnerable to illegal contraband entering the country.

The influx of unregistered foreign nationals is putting a strain on the budget and service delivery in the Nkomazi Local Municipality as budget



MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES: Limpopo Provincial Whip Ms Tsapane Mampuru.

allocations do not take into account the foreign nationals in the area. The delegation also noted the presence of an estimated 200 private aircraft landing strips that were not under the jurisdiction of the South African Revenue Service. This could mean increased human trafficking and movement of unaccompanied minors. The NCOP's Select Committee on Public Services will invite the Department of Home Affairs to further discuss border management challenges.

Speaker of the Legislature Ms Thandi Shongwe, Members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs), councillors, mayors and the office of the Auditor-General were all concerned about the lack of service delivery. The Nkomazi Local

Municipality is one of the regions in the province that are struggling to provide running water to citizens, especially in the rural areas.

The delegation conducted oversight visits to various government-funded projects, including the Lebombo Border Post between South Africa and Mozambique, Boschfontein Clinic, a water treatment plant under construction in Mangweni, a centre for disabled people, a cattle farming project. It also held a public meeting with the community of Mzinti village, in Nkomazi Local Municipality.

NORTH WEST

Masego Dlula writes that the North West provincial administration's "Setsokotsane" programme aims to

change the look of the province and address the challenges of service delivery in the municipalities across the province.

The province's Premier Mr Supra Mahumapelo told the NCOP delegates: "Setsokotsane is a Setswana word for whirlwind and it is a radical and intensive programme which is intended to root out poor service delivery and go the extra mile to take services to our people."

He said the provincial leadership has adopted a "*saam werk, saam trek*" (work together, travel together) philosophy to develop the province into a non-sexist, non-racial, united, democratic and prosperous province in line with a vision of the democratic South Africa. "We are a province which is a work in progress. Challenges are there. However, if we work together we can develop this province," he said.

The Kgetleng Local Municipality was a grave concern to Members. The municipality is unable to supply enough water to its fast-growing community, which is battling to control water leakages and spills from the reservoir. Poor sanitation continues to be an environmental and health hazard.

The visit culminated in a debriefing session between the NCOP delegation, MPLs and Salga leadership where it was recommended that when the NCOP comes back to the province in September, emphasis should be placed on issues that were raised in Kgetleng and Moses Kotane.

NORTHERN CAPE

Service delivery problems that were highlighted by the Premier of the Northern Cape Provincial Government in the previous Provincial Week should be the starting point in the programme

of the next visit, writes Mava Lukani.

This is what the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Raseriti Tau, told delegates and Members of the Northern Cape legislature. He said the absence of that report paralyses and weakens the Provincial Week visit. "We are supposed to present a report here today on the number of service delivery problems that were brought before the attention of relevant ministers," said Mr Tau. He assured the Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Sylvia Lucas, that the report on the problems that were raised in the July Provincial Week programme is going to be part of the next programme.

Mr Tau advised the debriefing meeting that the public meetings that traditionally take place on the fourth day of the programme should take place on the first day so that the NCOP delegates and MPLs can meet the premier, MECs and mayors fully informed about the feedback from the people on service delivery before listening to the Premier.

At public meetings that took place in Sol Plaatje and Phokwane local municipalities, people complained about non-adherence of the municipalities to the Integrated Development Plans which results in no service delivery. People complained about the poor quality of the houses that the municipalities delivered and the selective delivery of water and sanitation and electricity. The people of Galeshewe told the NCOP delegates that the RDP houses they got from the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality are crumbling and are death traps.

Mr Tau told the people about the Department of Human Settlement's Housing Rectification Programme (HRP), which is currently being implemented. He said the municipalities must ensure that all the houses that were poorly

built are rectified according to the requirements of the HRP.

WESTERN CAPE

Members of the NCOP Delegation to the Western Cape were delighted that more municipalities in the province are making progress towards clean audit outcomes by 2017, writes Mlindi Mpindi.

In Kannaland concerns were raised over the municipality's financial management and controls. Concerns were expressed about money owed to creditors and the recovery of money by the municipality.

In Beaufort West the delegation was pleased by the Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). During the walk about the WRP, the delegation observed the smooth running of water filtration systems and the reservoir tanks which house the waste water for further treatment.

"The Municipality of Beaufort West has received unqualified audit opinions for the past seven years, but what is needed is for it to build internal capacity in order to move to a clean audit opinion," says delegation leader and Western Cape NCOP Whip, Ms Cathy Labuschagne.

The residents of Beaufort West listed crime and unemployment as major issues of concern. Other concerns noted by the NCOP delegation based on the interaction with the two municipalities, include supply chain management issues and critical vacancies because of internal council issues.

They also referred to lack of political and administrative stability and the inability of the municipalities to fully integrate their developmental programmes involving youth and vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. The delegation compiled a final report with recommendations to be tabled in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for adoption. 🌍

Advancing youth participation in mainstream economy

Parliament held a *Young Parliamentarians Roundtable discussion on the theme “Africa Rising: creating a capable state through youth empowerment by 2030”, aimed at harnessing existing policy strategies and interventions to advance the participation of the youth in South Africa’s mainstream economy, writes Abel Mputing.*

In his introductory remarks, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Raseriti Tau, said the roundtable discussion was an introduction to a series of future parliamentary engagements to determine how to fast-track youth-related policy proposals in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the National Youth Policy (in Vision 2020).

“Today’s roundtable is launching a series of sustained engagements throughout the year, which will be generated from the effective processing of reports through Parliament’s institutional machinery that is meant to hold the executive accountable to the youth developmental agenda.

“We, therefore, deemed it necessary to gather here today in this manner in order to afford young parliamentarians from across the legislative spectrum, including all our important stakeholders, the opportunity to determine what our collective role should be in fast-tracking the implementation of the youth-related proposals in the NDP and the National Youth Policy.

“We are doing this to make sure that the gains of our democracy do indeed culminate in the transformation of the material living conditions of South Africa’s youth.

“But most significantly, these discussions are meant to draw lessons from the various stakeholders involved in the mainstreaming of youth policies to design programmes that are aimed

at building trust and creating a synergy that can have a greater impact on youth developmental priorities as set out in the NDP.

“Today’s deliberations must enable us to design new programmes and to draw from lessons learnt to redesign and expand programmes that have greater impact, by leveraging the influence and dexterity of inter-sphere cooperation to accelerate youth development. The strategy must emphasise a carefully selected set of priorities to be implemented simultaneously, having due regard to the correct application and phasing of the resource allocation.

“As the legislative sector with the responsibility to conduct oversight, we ought to make sure that young people take full advantage of current opportunities provided by the state. We need to ensure that young people benefit from overall government infrastructure investment, agricultural development and broader development plans initiated by the state,” he said.

One of the interventions that have been mooted is the establishment of a Multi-Party Young Parliamentarians’ Forum that will advocate for the implementation of youth policies.

“I therefore want to propose that this gathering should not be a once-off gathering of progressive young minds. I want to propose that we establish a Multi-Party Young Parliamentarians’ Forum, which will meet on a quarterly

basis, in order to bind us all to ensuring that our collective oversight mechanisms effectively support the implementation of youth policies and youth matters in the NDP.”

In his keynote address on “The Role of Parliament in Advancing the Implementation of the National Development Plan” the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, said the Speakers’ Forum is an important legislative component aimed at strengthening the state through collaborative oversight.

“This development is an important component of strengthening the state. When our institutions work well alone and together, we will be well placed to have a positive impact on the lives of our people. The NCOP includes local government, so collaboration across the three spheres of government means the lessons we are sharing are improving the way we conduct oversight, accountability, monitoring and evaluation.”

Presenting the priorities of the National Youth Policy in the NDP, Dr Bernice Hlagala, Youth Desk in the Presidency, said education and skills development are critical interventions that should anchor youth development within the NDP.

Speaking on how to enhance Parliament’s oversight mechanisms and build an activist Parliament, the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Appropriations, Mr Seiso Mohai of the NCOP, said the question that Parliament should ask itself is: what is the role of oversight structures in securing the future of the youth agenda? He said the NDP is critical for the effectiveness of legislatures in respect of oversight and accountability.

YOUTH

ROUND TABLE

ON THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN:
IMPLICATIONS FOR OVERSIGHT



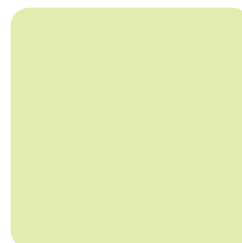
The African National Congress' Ms Sharon Makhubela, of the National Assembly, asked whether Parliament has mechanisms to follow the budget allocations and spending patterns aimed at advancing youth development. "I don't see us having the capability to monitor spending patterns and I don't see us following through to see how a budget has been used to address youth development."

The President of the South African Youth Council, Mr Thulani Tshfuta, echoed a similar concern. "When the youth accord was signed, we were excited. Subsequent to that it was proclaimed that the green economy will be the developmental domain of the youth. There was also projected funding of approximately R2.7bn for small, medium and micro enterprises. But if we ask how many of our youth had access to this fund, the answer will be zero, and the number of those who applied for it remains very low.

"Part of the problem is that there was no effort to empower the youth with skills related to the green economy as per the agreement. Therefore, we would like to ask Parliament to resuscitate this agreement to ensure that it is implemented in full."

A Member of the Provincial Legislature in Limpopo, Ms Thadi Moraka, said the roundtable should propose that when mining companies apply for mining rights, they must prioritise the employment of youth because currently many young people who live next to mines are not often absorbed by these mining companies.

The creative arts industry is a youth-related economic activity that is a missed opportunity, claimed a Member of the Provincial Legislature in the North



West Province, Ms Jeanette Nyathi. "We have a creative arts industry in this country that is not only growing, but is labour-intensive and dominated by the youth, but we are not harnessing its potential.

"Other provinces can learn a lot from

how KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng have embraced this thriving industry and how it has created job opportunities for many young people in these provinces. If no effort is made in unlocking the potential of this industry, the creative arts industry will, regrettably, remain a missed opportunity," she said. 🌟



GRADUATION CEREMONY: The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise, attends the graduation ceremony in Johannesburg.

Celebrating commitment and discipline as MPs graduate

The *National Council of Provinces Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise has described the graduation of 57 Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Provincial Legislatures (MPLs) at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) as a reflection of the Members' toil, sacrifice and investment in their individual futures, writes **Elijah Moholola**.*

Having spent a long time juggling the demands of their various commitments as public representatives and their studies, the MPs and MPLs reaped the rewards of their labour when they received their post-graduate diplomas in governance and leadership from Wits University in July. In addition to the 57 MPs and MPLs who graduated at Wits University, a further 19 legislators are set to graduate at a later stage after they completed a Short Learning Programme through the University of Johannesburg.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Ms Modise said: "This day is the sum total of your toil, sacrifice and investment into your individual futures. It could not have been an easy task, so we celebrate your commitment and discipline."

Ms Modise further said she was privileged to be part of the graduates'

celebrations. "We also celebrate the 19 legislators who completed the post-graduate short learning programme at the University of Johannesburg. We celebrate with those who have qualified to study further for the master's degree."

A total of 38 MPs are registered for the two-year master's degree in management in the field of Governance and Leadership at Wits University, which runs from 2015 to 2017.

According to Ms Modise, education is a key instrument that will ensure that the country, which is only two decades old as a democratic state, continued developing even further. "Twenty-one years ago, we embarked on an ambitious course of building a new nation – a transformed, non-racial, non-sexist society united in its diversity ... Democracy creates opportunities and protects rights. Education is a

requirement for self-growth, self-recognition, unlocking individual and collective growth as well as development."

She was quick to remind Members that education was much more than a certificate and that it requires discipline, diligence and on-going application, especially in the context of the country's implementation of the National Development Plan. "South Africa is positioning herself along her blueprint, the National Development Plan. We are gearing ourselves towards economic and social upliftment. Access to water, electricity, roads, quality health and education become important in the struggle for a better life.

"A capable state presupposes our effective leadership that can only be delivered by an empowered electorate. We need a highly literate society to enforce effective leadership if we are to achieve the objectives we set for ourselves. This means we need a knowledgeable and skilled society. I am happy because today is a step in the right direction."

Ms Modise said Parliament has a crucial

role to play in promoting and protecting democracy and good governance by establishing the necessary checks and balances as well as developing the norms and standards for institutions of democracy and governance. "Parliament must continuously debate and have discussions about the type of future we want as South Africans. We need to do so by embracing the values of our Constitution," she said.

The courses offered at both Wits University and the University of Johannesburg form part of a capacity building programme for MPs and MPLs begun in 2009 by the Speakers' Forum in partnership with the National School of Government and selected institutions of higher learning. The courses are aimed at enhancing the performance of Members and enabling them to execute their constitutional responsibilities as

legislators more effectively.

"We thank the Speakers' Forum for initiating this programme from 2009. We also thank our partners – the National School of Government, Wits University and the University of Johannesburg. Most importantly, we thank the European Union for its continuing support to the legislative sector," Ms Modise said. 🇪🇺

MPs becoming more skilled in legislative work

The recent graduation of both Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Legislatures (MPLs) at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) is, to a large extent, the direct harvest of a process initiated by the South African Legislative Sector (Sals) in 2011.

The academic programme – which comprises three different types of qualifications – was introduced by Sals to improve the ability of MPs and MPLs to execute their constitutional responsibilities through a professional development programme anchored in the core functions of the Legislature.

The three programme qualifications are the Graduate Certificate in Governance and Leadership; the Post-Graduate Diploma in Governance and Public Leadership; and the master's Programme. These are delivered in partnership with Wits University and the University of Johannesburg.

For the Graduate Certificate programme, lectures take place at Parliament or at the various provincial legislatures while for the post-graduate diploma and master's programmes, Members attend block lectures at the Wits campus.

Piloted successfully in the fourth Parliament, the programme produced its latest graduates when 57 MPs and MPLs were capped at Wits University in early July.

The Executive Director: Legislative Sector Support, Ms Sandisiwe Schalk, explained why the academic programme was introduced. "The reason was to standardise training provided to Members across all legislatures and ensure compliance with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) requirements. The main purpose of the programme is to enhance knowledge, skills and competencies of Members in order to be effective in fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities whilst providing access to academic opportunities.

"The first programme provides Members with tools and techniques to perform their functions better. The four modules cover how to manage programmes and projects, followed by tools and techniques for oversight, monitoring and evaluation, financial oversight – which talk to scrutinising the budget, reading financial statements, the Budget Review and Recommendation Report (BRRR) process, and so on. The last module is on policy, politics and power," Ms Schalk said.

Other areas in the curriculum include decision-making, public finance, public policy, international relations and diplomacy. In partnership with the National School of Government, Members receive academic support in areas such as research to enable them to complete their assignments.

Ms Schalk said that participation in the programme is voluntary. Through recognition of prior learning, Members without matric are also able to participate in the programme.

The programme is growing, not only in terms of the number of Members enrolling but also in terms of the completion rate. In the Graduate Certificate programme, 241 legislators enrolled in 2012 and 223 of them successfully completed the course. In the post-graduate diploma, 91 enrolled and 57 completed the course. The sector is also investigating the possibility of extending the institutions offering the master's programme to include institutions located in all nine provinces.

Given the dynamic nature of the work done by MPs and MPLs, the programmes are reviewed at the end of each term and Sals makes realignments where necessary. The sector also conducts a training needs analysis and profile of the Members every five years. The analysis for the current term indicated that Members are becoming younger and better educated than their predecessors.



Mr Tekoetsile Motlashuping



Ms Ruth Bhengu

Socio-economic issues are root causes of violence against foreign nationals

The task of establishing the root causes of the violence against foreign nationals which erupted at the beginning of this year in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng resulted in an extensive series of visits to several provinces by the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Probing Violence against Foreign Nationals. Members of both the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces interacted with organisations representing people affected by the violence, writes **Faith Kwaza**.

The Chairpersons of the Committee, Mr Tekoetsile Motlashuping and Ms Ruth Bhengu, have stressed the importance of finding out the root causes of the violence in order to find solutions to the problem rather

than focusing on its symptoms. "We dealt with the issue of the violence but we are at a point where we are beginning to look at what are the root causes of the violence ... All the reports that are coming from the

affected people [are that] the violence was caused by socio-economic conditions in South Africa and in countries of origin of the people that were affected by the violence. I think it is very important for us to look into that," Ms Bhengu said.

The Committee began its oversight visit in KwaZulu-Natal in July where it met with the provincial Special Reference Group on Migration and Community Integration, the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the House of Traditional

Leaders, the South African National Civic Organisation, members of the South African Police Service, groups representing foreign nationals, small business owners, and the North Region Shop Owners' Association.

The North Region Shop Owners' Association in KwaZulu-Natal told the Committee that they face the challenge of conducting businesses in a very small trading space compared to foreign nationals.

"We are expecting foreign traders to engage in different businesses to us and not engage in the same businesses we have of running tuck-shops and spaza shops," said the Chairperson of the association, Mr Zamo Shange.

Mr Shange said what is disturbing is that they are competing with people who are fronting for big business owners. "This is disturbing for us because we are competing with people who receive support from big business. We can't work effectively because the foreign nationals are working for other people, unlike us who work to feed our families. We even have proof that they are operating their businesses on behalf of other people," he said.

"When you want to talk to whoever is running the business in these containers they would tell you the boss is not around. They live in their shops, sleep in their shops and sell from their shops.

"What they do when they get into a street where there is a container, they will speak to my neighbour to give them space to put their container and pay him or her money to rent that space and take all the

business away from the person who had a spaza shop in that street.

"These are the challenges we are talking about. We are not saying we don't want them here in South Africa because they are Africans. They are our brothers, but when they come to South Africa it must be clear why they are here and what they are coming here to do and where," he said.

The Committee also met with leaders of the Somali Association in Durban who expressed their gratitude to the South African government for accepting them in the country and for giving them the necessary documentation to stay.

The Chairperson of the KwaZulu-Natal Somali Community Association, Mr Ahmed Hassan Mohamed, said most Somalis have been living in South Africa for about 20 years and the only problem they face is xenophobia.

"The only problem we face is this so-called xenophobia, which is really not that. We can call it criminal activity because we have so many Somali people living in South Africa who are unharmed. We would like to thank the South African government for trying to solve the problem. But we see our brothers and sisters looting our shops and when we go to the police station, the police take us away from the communities but where will we go because all that we have is in those communities.

"We are not selfish. We also provide a necessary service in a lot of communities, and we also assist if there is a funeral or sport activities in the communities. All we are asking

for is the government to assist us in whatever way it can to live peacefully in these communities," he said.

In Gauteng, the Committee received a briefing from the political leadership and met with traditional leaders from Jeppe and Alexandra hostels, small business associations, associations of tuck-shops and spaza shops, members of the South African Police Service and members of the public in Soweto.

Traditional leaders from Jeppe and KwaMadala Hostels in Alexandra told the Committee that xenophobia is not the cause of the violence against foreign nationals, but crime, unemployment and poverty are the causes because the youth who is attacking foreign-owned shops in these communities are also robbing and attacking local South Africans.

Members of the South African Police Service in Soweto echoed the issue raised by others and said crime seems to be the root cause of the violence. "During the policing of the unrest, we noticed that in all the businesses that were attacked, the people were not targeted but rather the property.

In other instances, business operators who were afraid their businesses might be attacked decided to report to the police before such attacks could take place and requested police to escort them out of the areas to different destinations. In February, some came back to report cases of burglary," said Brigadier Azwindini Nengovhela.

The Committee is continuing with its task with further oversight visits in other parts of the country. 🇿🇦

Unidentified graves in mining area shock MPs

Thousands *of graves, allegedly belonging to unknown mineworkers at Winkelhaak near Evander in Mpumalanga, shocked members of the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources during a site visit in the province, writes Justice Molafo.*

The Committee, accompanied by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), the National Union of Mineworkers, traditional leaders and the management of Evander Gold Mine, undertook a site visit to the gravesite in July. "What we saw was shocking. Although the graves were numbered, which could be a way of identifying them, there were many questions to be answered, including causes of deaths, permission for burial and identification of the deceased," said Committee Chairperson Mr Sahlulele Luzipo.

Mr Luzipo said it was disturbing that seven different companies had operated in the area since the 1950s, but none had claimed responsibility for the graves. "We are pleased that finally Pan African Resources, through its subsidiary Evander Gold Mine, is committed to unearthing the truth about the mystery surrounding the graves," he said.

The first company to mine in the area was Union Corporation, which merged with Gencor in 1981 and operated until 1988. Genmin took over in 1989 followed by Gengold, which mined from

1990 to 1995. Goldfields followed in 1996 under Evander Gold Mine and was wholly acquired by Harmony in August 1998. As of February 2013, the Evander Gold Mine has operated under Pan African Resources.

No one knows when the graves were dug, but people in the area speculate that they date back to the late 1950s and early 60s. They were brought to the attention of the DMR in 2013 by the National Union of Mineworkers.

Mr Luzipo advised the DMR to report the matter to the police because the graves may not belong to ex-mineworkers even though there is some circumstantial evidence indicating this. For example, the site is close to a former hostel of a derelict mine and old boots and helmets can be seen lying around.

The Chief Inspector of Mines for the DMR, Mr David Msiza, told the Committee that the DMR was planning to work with Pan African Resources and traditional leaders to declare the graves a heritage site. In his presentation, Mr Msiza explained that an investigator had been appointed and

had begun tracing the ex-mineworkers and their families.

Committee member Mr Zwelivelile Mandela suggested that consultations should be broadened. He urged the department to adopt a holistic approach and work closely with the police, the Department of Home Affairs, the National Heritage Council and the Department of Health.

Mr Luzipo said the matter of the graves would be discussed in an African National Congress study group to investigate the possibility of motivating to the Presidency to establish a special inquest.

The Committee also visited the Barberton gold mine in Barberton and ExxaroGlisa coal mine in Belfast. The Committee was impressed with the social labour plan projects implemented by Barberton Gold Mine, which included a community school, a food garden, a crèche, an adult basic education and training learning centre and the Barberton Skills Centre.

On the other hand, the Committee was unhappy to discover that ExxaroGlisa colliery is operating without a water-use licence, and was also unimpressed by the slow pace of implementation of the company's social labour plan. 🙄

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS: Unmarked graves, thought to be those of former mineworkers, near Evander in Mpumalanga.



Uneven resources found in special schools

Inclusive *education in Limpopo and Mpumalanga was under the spotlight recently when the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education visited these provinces to look at its implementation and monitor progress. Rajaa Azzakani travelled with them.*

The Committee held meetings with various stakeholders and visited several special schools, full-service schools and farm schools. The Committee found uneven implementation of inclusive education. At some schools, the Committee found sound management and systems in place, while others lacked these.

At Setotlwane Special School for blind and deaf learners, the Committee called for urgent action, including the relocation of learners. Committee Chairperson Ms Nomalungelo Gina said learners need to be relocated urgently and highlighted that two years ago the school was declared unsafe for human habitation. "We cannot allow this situation to continue. These learners have rights," she said.

Another challenge at Setotlwane School is older learners who are involved in crime. A shortage of textbooks and a lack of infrastructure were also brought to the Committee's attention. The Provincial Department of Basic Education has already committed itself to providing textbooks by 20 August 2015 and indicated that this will take place within three months.

Committee members were shocked at the conditions at the school with one, Mr Derick Mnguni, calling for

"morality to be brought back to the school".

The Committee also visited other schools, such as Grace and Hope School for learners with special needs and Bana-Bathari School. At Grace and Hope School the Committee was impressed with the vegetable garden and other projects, such as hat-making and fashion designing. Committee members agreed that these projects teach learners useful skills and enable them to make some money selling their creations.

On the second day of its oversight visit, the Committee had nothing but praise for the management of the New Horizon School, which caters for severely intellectually impaired learners as well as learners on the autistic spectrum. The school has 179 learners, 22 of whom are autistic, and using the public swimming pool, it has managed to teach all the learners how to swim as part of its survival skills programme.

One of the Down's Syndrome learners won a bronze medal in a competition in Portugal last year. The school also managed to buy a Kombi and appoint additional staff members that the Limpopo Department of Education cannot pay for using money from fund raising.

Committee members Ms Annette

Lovemore and Ms Joyce Basson said the passion and dedication of the school principal is clear in how the school is run, the maintenance of the school and the innovative ideas that make the school successful.

Before visiting the school, the Committee met with the leadership and officials of the Limpopo Department of Education and heard that although some progress has been made, challenges remain. For example, a variety of technological devices have been procured to allow learners to move with the times, but acute staff shortages contribute to the challenges.

Ms Gina applauded the provincial department for trying to make education inclusive of learners with special needs after years of under-investment in this area by both the previous regime and the democratic government.

On its oversight leg to Mpumalanga, the Committee commended the Mpumalanga Department of Basic Education for its efforts in implementing inclusive education. The Committee has been informed that Mpumalanga is one of the top three provinces in implementing inclusive education.

The Committee visited three schools during its two-day visit to the province. Basic sanitation, access roads to schools, staffing, hostel facilities and in some cases lack of support were some of the concerns raised by the schools visited. Ms Gina urged professionals at all levels of education to assist the full-service schools in the province. "You cannot declare a school a full-service school and give it no extra resources or assistance."

At Tsakane Special Needs School, the Committee praised the school leadership for excellent management of the school and well-kept infrastructure. The school was one of very few which

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- ▷ had administrative staff, grounds men, cleaners and a psychologist paid for by the provincial government.

At Ndabeni Full-Service School, the Committee expressed its concern that the school is not getting the necessary support from the different levels of education officials. "It seems

like it was just declared a full-service school and then left alone."

At Versailles Farm School the near inaccessibility of the school, shortage of textbooks and workbooks and the non-viability of the school were discussed. The Committee was informed that this could lead to the

closure of the school.

Ms Gina reminded both provinces that they need to send a report to the Committee by next month on the issues raised, commitments made and the time frames in which to address the challenges that have been highlighted. 🍌

Giyani villagers now have access to drinking water

The sprawling green hills and majestic mountains of the Giyani area in Limpopo conceal the long struggles of people living in some villages who have not had access to quality drinking water – a constitutional right since 1996, writes Malatswa Molepo.

But these struggles are now a thing of the past following the completion of the Giyani Water Treatment Works (GWTW). The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation was impressed with the completion of the project and hailed it as a move in the right direction to ensure that the people of Giyani enjoy the benefits enshrined in the Constitution.

"We are happy that the promise made by President Jacob Zuma that the people of Giyani will have access to water has been realised. We are always appreciative when plans manifest themselves into actual development on the ground for the benefit of the people of South Africa," said Mr Mlungisi Johnson, the Chairperson of the Committee.

With the completion of the GWTW, the

people living in 55 villages around Giyani will now not have to walk long distances to draw water. Of the 55 villages, 27 villages are serviced by bulk water distribution while the remaining 28 get water from boreholes. The longer-term intention is to phase out the boreholes and have a complete bulk water distribution to all 55 villages. The Committee urged the department to redouble its efforts to ensure that all villages are connected to the bulk water line.

The Committee raised the problem of illegal connections, vandalism and theft of water-related infrastructure and metals. "We call on communities to be vigilant and to report acts of vandalism and theft, as well as illegal connection to the system. This is important if the department is to stop

haemorrhaging money to replace stolen infrastructure and to ensure that those resources are diverted towards ensuring that more people [have access to water]," Mr Johnson emphasised.

Meanwhile, the Committee urged the people to solve the disputes between the department and the villages affected by the relocation of the Nandoni Dam in Thohoyandou. The construction of the dam was part of the Luvuvhu River Government Water Scheme which started in 1998 and was completed in 2005. Since then, there have been disagreements between the community and the department leading the communities to lodge complaints with the Office of the Public Protector.

The department has now re-established the relocation task team to resolve these teething problems. "We are going to monitor the progress towards the resolution of these problems to ensure that this matter is closed. The Committee welcomes the

appointment of a project manager that will drive the process and ensure that the 18 months deadline is met," said Mr Johnson.

The process will include repair of houses in Ha-Budeli village, which have cracked since they were built. The Committee visited one such house, belonging to Sarah Manganyi. "We urge the department to urgently repair the defects we've seen in this house. These cracks represent low-quality workmanship, which is not fair to the villagers. While the Committee

notes these defects, it has called on the beneficiaries to look after their properties to ensure that they increase their lifespan," Mr Johnson said.

The local civic leader, Mr Robert Tshamaano, said they were looking forward to working with the newly appointed project manager and traditional leadership in the area to ensure that their grievances are resolved. "We are encouraged that issues such as the provision of water to villages affected by the relocation of the dam and compensation for

the loss of fertile agricultural land will now receive full-time attention with the appointment of the project manager – and we will work with him to ensure that this matter is resolved. We would also like to thank the Portfolio Committee for coming to hear our pleas," said Mr Tshamaano.

The Portfolio Committee said it will closely monitor the implementation process and ensure that the situation improves for people living in the 14 villages affected by the relocation of the dam. 🇿🇦

CLEAN WATER: The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation visited the Giyani Water Treatment Works in Limpopo province.



Good news from Auditor-General

Parliament's *clean audit in the last Auditor-General (A-G) report is not the only good news. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of municipalities and municipal entities that have received financially unqualified audit opinions with no findings in the 2013-14 financial year, according to the A-G, Mr Kimi Makwetu. This article is one in a series of columns published in InSession by the Office of the Institutions Supporting Democracy in the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly.*



IMPROVED MUNICIPAL AUDITS: The Auditor-General Mr Kimi Makwetu.

Releasing his report on local government audit outcomes for the year under review, Mr Makwetu said the continuing improvement in municipal audit outcomes is largely due to political and administrative leadership "starting to set the right tone and leading by example in ensuring that the basics of good governance are in place and implemented rigorously," in line with his office's ongoing messages of good administration in the public sector.

The A-G said those municipalities and entities that progressed to or maintained their previous year's clean audits had "adopted or gone back to the basics of clean governance". These include introducing basic accounting and daily control disciplines; enforcing compliance with all legislation; employing and retaining staff in accounting and financial management positions with the required level of technical competence and experience; and allowing the chief financial officer to be in charge of the financial administration function and report thereon to the municipal manager.

In its annual audits, the Auditor-

General of South Africa examines fair presentation and absence of material misstatements in financial statements; reliable and credible performance information for purposes of reporting on predetermined performance objectives; and compliance with all laws and regulations governing financial matters. The audited institution achieves a clean audit when their financial statements are unqualified, with no reported audit findings in respect of either reporting on predetermined objectives or compliance with laws and regulations.

The audit outcomes of 268 municipalities and 57 municipal entities are included in the latest general report.

Mr Makwetu said that the total number of municipalities and municipal entities with clean audits increased from 30 in the 2012-13 financial year to 58 in 2013-14. There were only seven in 2007-08, an outcome that triggered the launch of Operation Clean Audit. The 2013-14 figure represents 40 (14%) of the municipalities and 18 (32%) of the municipal entities in the country.

He said it was noteworthy that 27 municipalities and municipal entities had also received clean audit opinions in 2012-13, which is an "encouraging sign that the improvements at these auditees are sustainable".

Mr Makwetu noted that auditees in the clean audit category had focused on strengthening the discipline and oversight in their financial management. They had adopted and consistently produced financial statements that were free from material misstatements (material misstatements mean errors or omissions that are so significant that they affect the credibility and reliability of the financial statements) and complied with key legislation. They had also measured and reported on their performance in their annual performance reports in accordance with the predetermined objectives in their integrated development plans and/or annual service delivery and budget implementation plans in a manner that was useful and reliable.

They also had good controls and/or work on the areas that needed further attention to ensure that their clean audit status was maintained.

This included leadership creating an environment conducive to internal control and oversight; senior management ensuring that controls were in place for strong financial and performance management; implementing basic disciplines and controls for daily and monthly processing and recording of transactions.

They also had key role players working together to provide assurance on the credibility of the financial statements and performance reports. These auditees understood that the credibility of the information came primarily from the actions of management/ leadership and their governance partners, namely internal audit units and audit committees.

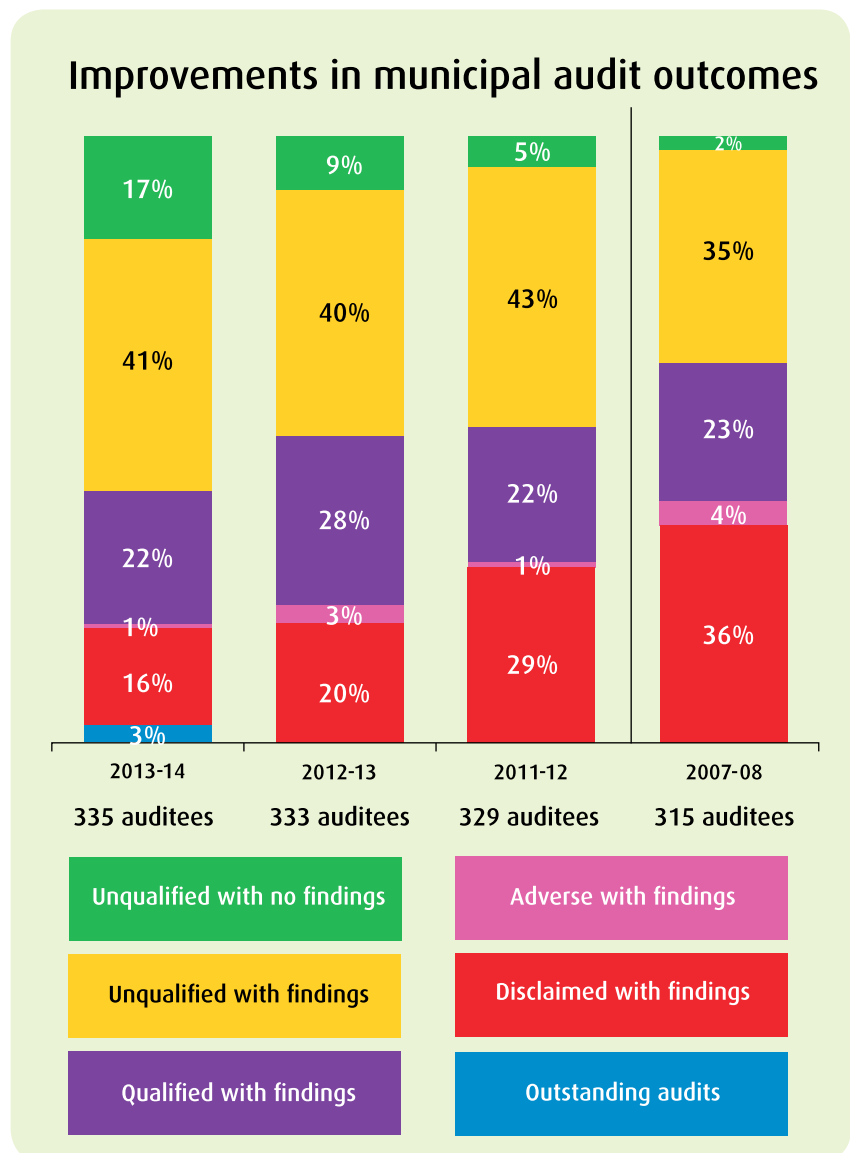
They also ensured that record keeping and document control were institutionalised disciplines and that vacancies in key positions were limited, with stability at the level of municipal manager/ chief executive officer, chief financial officer and head of the supply chain management unit.

The overall provincial outcomes can broadly be categorised as follows. Firstly, provinces that had fairly strong financial management and control disciplines at most municipalities. Included in this category are Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. Secondly, provinces that showed limited progressive positive movement in audit outcomes with significant financial management and control deficiencies. Most municipalities in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape fit into this category.

Thirdly, provinces whose municipalities had very weak

financial management disciplines with significant control weaknesses at most municipalities. Included in this final category are municipalities in the Free State, Limpopo and North West. Deficient controls, which are common at municipalities that did not achieve a clean audit, render the system vulnerable to widespread abuse and often a loss of adequate audit

trials to substantiate transactions. Mr Makwetu concluded that “there is considerable pressure on the finances at municipal level, as shown by this year’s results”. The combination of financial health risks and the weak controls should be enough to elevate this situation to the level where our local government can be improved urgently, the A-G cautioned.



What is Women's Day?

Women's Day is a historical day set aside in the South African calendar to officially recognise and appreciate the contribution made by South African women in waging a war against apartheid. August 9 is the day on which about 20 000 women registered an emphatic no to passes at a protest in Pretoria in 1956.

Why Parliament celebrates Women's Day?

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa has a reasonable representation of women who have and still successfully contribute to the reshaping of the political landscape and legislation enacted by Parliament which impacts on creating a better life for all citizens. Since the dawn of democracy, Parliament celebrates Women's Day during Women's Month.

Women's Day happens on 9 August each calendar year to recognise the following:

- * The approximately 20 000 women who took part in the protest march in 1956 against the threatened legislation which intended to extend passes to women.
- * The role that women played in defeating the apartheid regime.
- * That women's voices are heard on issues affecting South African women.

As the law-making institution of our country, Parliament actively combats sexism, brings gender issues into the mainstream of society and encourages gender equity in its membership.

How is Women's Day celebrated in Parliament?

Since 2004, Women's Day is commemorated during the month of August within the parliamentary precinct, mainly in the form of women's parliaments.

Some of the key themes of previous debates are: "What has 10 years of a democratic South Africa meant for women" in 2004; "Protecting the rights of women and girl children" in 2006; "*Masijule ngengxoxo makhosikazi oMzansi*" in 2007; "Parliament empowering women for poverty eradication" in 2008 and; "Mainstreaming gender in all sectors of society" in 2012.

Representation of women in Parliament since 1994

Parliament provides an opportunity for women to take part in decision-making. The table below shows how women have been represented in Parliament since 1994.

Before 1994, representation of women in the South African national Parliament was 2.7%. Since the first democratic

elections in 1994, there has been a steady growth of women represented in Parliament as indicated by the table below. In 1994 the representation was 27.3%. This included Members of the National Assembly and permanent delegates of the National Council of Provinces. Currently, representation of women stands at 38.5%.

What has Parliament done for women?

Having women represented in Parliament has immensely benefited South African women in general. In particular, the creation of the Gender Equity Commission, Human Rights Commission and various other platforms have advanced the cause of women in society.


Role of women in decision-making at Parliament

The representation of women in Parliament shows that a lot has been done to accelerate women's representation in leadership positions. Since the beginning of democracy, women have occupied the position of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson in both Houses of Parliament.

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Department of Women in the Presidency tel. 012 359 0000/0224/021 469 8300/8306

Commission for Gender Equality tel. 011 403 7182 

Term	NA	%	NCOP	%	Total	%
1994-1999	115	28.7	9	16.6	152.7	27.3
1999-2004	119	29.7	17	31.4	165.7	29.9
2004-2009	132	33	22	40.7	187	33.3
2009-2014	173	43.2	16	29.6	232.2	41.6
2014-	156	39	19	35.1	214	38.5

Table 1 C. Levendale 2014

Liyini iLanga laboMma?

ILanga *laboMma kulilanga elimlando elabekelwa ngeqadi kumalangeneni (ikhalenda) weSewula Afrika ukutjheja nokubonelela indima eyadlalwa bomma beSewula Afrika ekuhlomeni nokukhupha amajima wokulwisana nombuso webandlululo. Itjhugululwe Ngu Lucy Masombula.*

KUNGEBANGALANI IPALAMENDE IGIDINGA ILANGA LABOMMA ?

IPalamende yeSewula afrika inobujameli obaneleko babomma ababezinikele nabasasebenza ngepumelelo ekubumbeni kabutjha umtlhala wezepolitiki kunye nobujamo bemithetho ephasiswe yagunyazwa yiPalamende esele idlala indima ekwenzeni ipilo encono yazozoke izakhamuzi. Kusukela kwabelethwa itjhaphuluko, iPalamende igidinga ilanga laboMma ngenyanga yaboMma. ILanga laboMma libanjwa mhlana zili-9 kuRhoboyi qobe mnyaka. Umnyanya wokugidinga lo utjheja okulandelako:

- * Indima eyadlalwa bomma ukusitjhaphulula embusweni webandlululo.
- * Ukuhlonipha abomma abapheze babema-20 000 abazibandakanya ejimeni lomrhwado womnyaka we-1956 ukuqalana nemithetho eyayifuna abantu abanzima beSewula Afrika baphathe ama "pasa".
- * Liqinisekisa bona amezwi wabomma ayezwakala eendabeni ezithinta abomma beSewula Afrika.

Ligidingwa bunjani iLanga laboMma

ePalamende? Kusuka ngomnyaka ween-2004, iLanga laboMma ligidingwa ngenyanga Rhoboyi emakhiweni wePalamende, khulukhulu ngeenkulumiswano zePalamende. Ezinye zeenQubulo ezabanjwa iinkhathi ezidlulileko ngilezi: "Iminyaka elitjhumi yetjhaphuluko itjho ukuthini kiboMma beSewula Afrika " Ngomnyaka ween-2004; "Ukuvikelwa kwamalungelo wabomma nabatwana babentazana" ngomnyaka ween-in 2006; "Masijule ngengxoxo makhosikazi oMzansi " Ngomnyaka ween-2007; "IPalamende ikhuthaza abomma ukuqeda umtlhago" Ngomnyaka ween-2008 kunye nesithi; "Ukujamisa nokurhemisa abantu ngobulili kiyoyoke imikhakha yomphakathi" ngomnyaka ween-2012.

Ukujameleka kwabomma

ePalamende kusuka ngomnyaka we-1994 Ithebula engenzasi itjengisa bona abomma bebajameleke bunjani ePalamende kusuka ngomnyaka we-1994.

Ngaphambi komnyaka we-1994, ukujameleka kwabomma esiBethamthethweni seNarha

seSewula Afrika babuma-2.7%. Kusukela kwabanjwa amakhetho wentando yenengi ngomnyaka we-1994, kube nokukhula okunanyako kokujameleka kwabomma ePalamende njengombana kutjengiswa ethebuleni elingehla. Ngomnyaka we-1994 ukujameleka kwabomma bekuma-27.3%. Lokhu kufaka hlangana amalunga wesiBethamthetho seNarha kunye namaLunga abajameli basafuthi bomKhandlu weNarha Ongamele iimFunda. Ngomnyaka we-2014, ukujameleka kwabomma bekujame kuma 38.5% wabomma.

Ibenzeleni abomma iPalamende?

Ukuba nabajameli babomma ePalamende kube nemiphumelela emihle khulu kibomma beSewula Afrika ngobunengi, ukusukela ekambisweni yokutlolwa koMthethosisekelo ukufikela ekwakhweni kwemithetho. Khulukhulu, ekubunjweni nekujanyisweni kweKomitjhana yezokuLingana ngobuLili, iKomitjhana yamalungelo waBantu kunye nezinye iinkundla neekhungo ezifana nePalamende yaboMma esele zithuthukise iindaba, eziphathelele nobujamo babomma emphakathini.

Indima edlalwa bomma ekuthatheni iinqunto ePalamende

Ukujameleka kwabomma ePalamende kutjengisa bona kanengi kwenzelwa ukurhabisa ukujameleka kwabomma eenkhundleni zobudosiphambili. Kusukela kwathoma umbuso wentando yenengi, abomma bafakwe eenkhundleni zokuba nguSomlomo wesiBethamthetho seNarha, uSekela Somlomo ;uSihlalo kunye noSekela Sihlalo kizozombili izindlu zePalamende.

ILWAZI LOKUTHINTANA:

IKomidi yesiBethamthetho seNarha yeeNdaba zaboMma emnyangweni kaMongameli inomoro yomtato. 021 403 2726/3840. UMnyango weeNdaba zaboMma emnyangweni kaMongameli inomoro yomtato. 012 359 0000/0224 / 021 469 8300/8306. IKomitjhana yokuLingana ngobuLili inomoro. 011 403 7182 📞

iThemu	isiBethamthetho seNarha (NA)	%	umKhandlu weNarha Ongamele iimFunda (NCOP)	%	Inani seliloke	%
1994-1999	115	28.7	9	16.6	152.7	27.3
1999-2004	119	29.7	17	31.4	165.7	29.9
2004-2009	132	33	22	40.7	187	33.3
2009-2014	173	43.2	16	29.6	232.2	41.6
2014-	156	39	19	35.1	214	38.5

IThebula 1 C.Levendale 2014



Celebrating **WOMEN'S MONTH**

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 9 AUGUST 2015



*To all Women in the
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa*

We remain the bedrock upon which our families,
communities and country are built upon.
Our sheer strength, resilience and determination is demonstrated daily through the
pivotal role we play in society.
Let us unite beyond August to ensure a better life is realised for our
children and generations to come.

Happy Women's Month!

Hon B Mbete
Speaker of the National Assembly

Hon T R Modise
Chairperson of the NCOP

AFRICA  RISING

Together making Africa realise its full potential through **integration and unity**