

MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER – Learning from Madiba and Ma Sisulu

in session



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

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PARLIAMENT

ENDORSES AMENDMENT TO
THE CONSTITUTION
TO EXPROPRIATE LAND
WITHOUT COMPENSATION





Vision

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

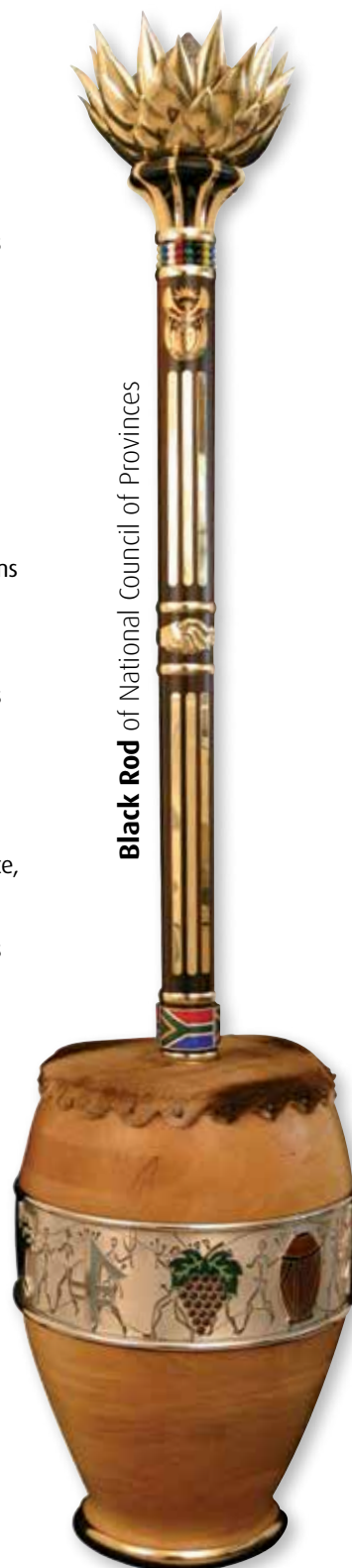
Mission

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**



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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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Deputy Speaker welcomes Palestinian child victim of violence



Deputy Speaker Mr Lechesa Tsenoli with Mr Mohammed Tammi on his right with relatives

*The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, welcomed a 15-year-old Palestinian victim, Mr Mohammed Tammi, with his father and other family members to Parliament, writes **Mava Lukani**.*

In welcoming Mohammed, Mr Tsenoli said he was grateful to provide a space of support for the young and traumatised Mohammed and his family in their time of need.

Asked by Mr Tsenoli about the kind of support he expected from Parliament, Mohammed appealed for moral and material support for all the Palestinian children who he said live under the ruthless brutality of the Israeli

government. He said Palestinian children have no rights in their country of birth. "We want the people of South Africa and the world to know the terrible plight under which we live as children in Palestine," said the young Mohammed.

The brutality of the Israeli government is the order of the day in Palestine, Mohammed said. "Prison, torture, killings and all forms of brutality happen daily and are a common

feature of daily life in Palestine," Mohammed recounted.

Mr Tsenoli said he was delighted to welcome him at a time when Parliament has just concluded a Men's Parliament that discussed, among other things, the role of men in families. "I am very happy to see the father at the side of the child victim. We hope the father will continue to support the child," said Mr Tsenoli.

He told Mohammed and his father that he was going to share the problem of Mohammed with all the relevant role players in Parliament and outside.

Mohammed came to South Africa in October 2018 for face reconstruction surgery, after he was shot in the face with rubber bullets by Israeli soldiers at close range in his village of Nabisaleh in December 2017. According to the Director of Shamsaan (Two Suns) non-governmental organisation for children's rights, Ms Nadia Meer, Mohammed lost his sight and his lower jaw was broken.

Six months after Mohammed was injured, he was kidnapped by Israeli forces and tortured. He was forced to lie about the Palestinian cause. His family, mother, father and the entire extended Tammi family is at the forefront of the struggle against the brutal injustice Palestinians face daily.

Mohammed came to South Africa through Shamsaan, for the face reconstruction surgery. He arrived in October 2018 and was admitted at the Mediclinic Sandton for the operation. Mohammed asked Shamsaan to take him to the ocean, as Palestinians are not allowed to go to the beach in Palestine. Shamsaan took Mohammed to Cape Town. Mohammed returned to Palestine on 2 December 2018. 🌍

Taking Parliament to the People of Gauteng

*Crime in Gauteng dominated the first day of discussions by community members during public hearings held by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) at the Alberton Civic Centre as part of the Taking Parliament to the People programme. The programme's aim is to bring together all three spheres of government – as a means of strengthening accountability and oversight, writes **Abel Mputing and Sakhile Mokoena.***

CRIME

Gauteng residents lamented the poor services they receive from the South African Police Service (SAPS) across the province. Mr Steve Mnisi from Mamelodi in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan area exposed the lack of assistance from SAPS. "We are all here as the community to assist the police, but the police are not using the information received from the people. Tell me Deputy Minister, what is so



difficult for the police to arrest all the drug lords? If they can tell us their problem, maybe we can help," Mr Mnisi highlighted.

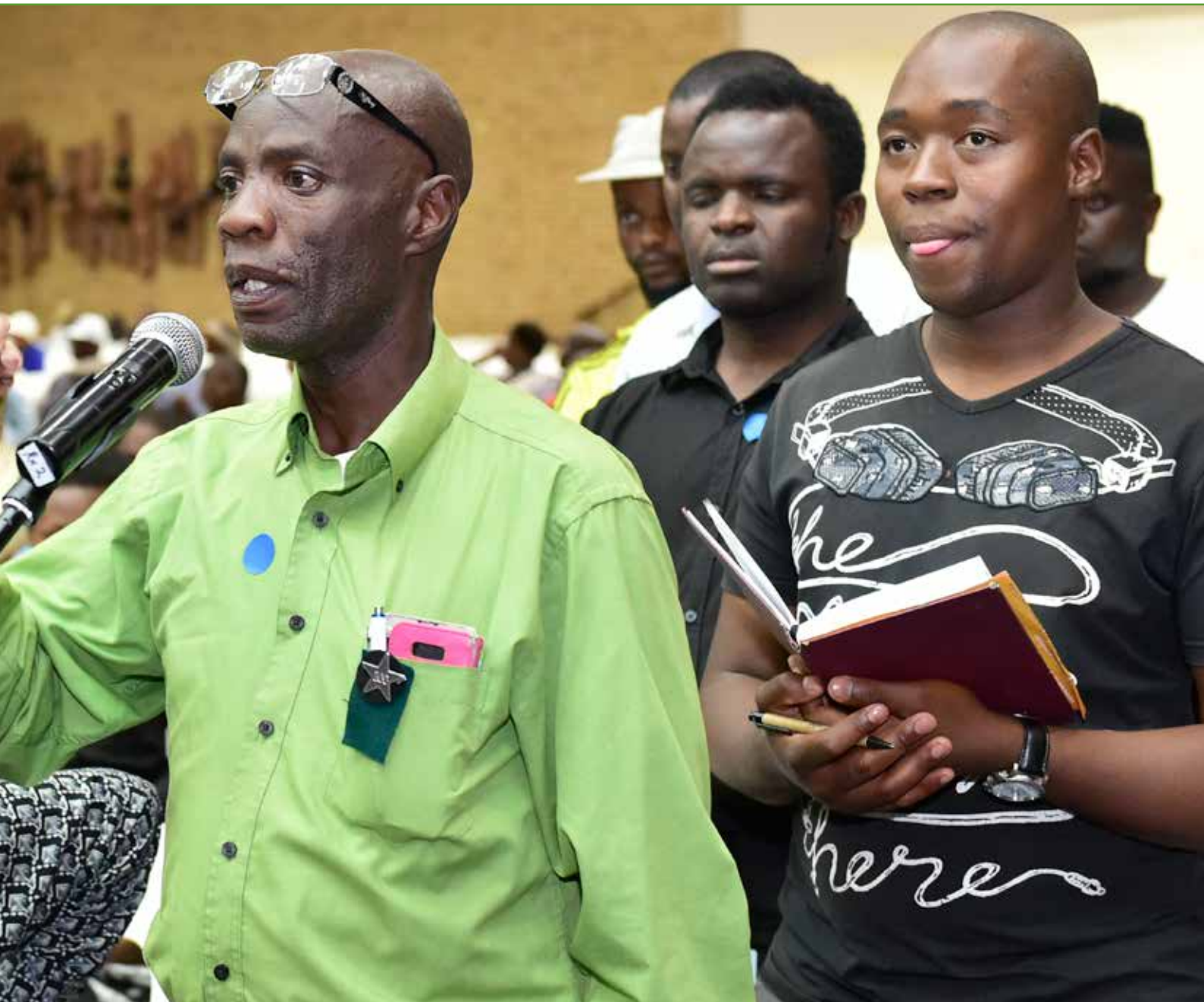
The people of Gauteng told Members of the NCOP that they were hopeful that the Taking Parliament to the People programme will provide them with a platform to get answers because they have complained for a long time. The fight against crime is undercut by the very officers of the law that are meant to enforce it (the law), they said.

"Police officers work with criminals and until this is stopped, the fight against crime will not be successful. I think it is about time that government takes matters seriously and ensure that those

police officers who work with criminals are prosecuted and sent to jail," Mr Mnisi emphasised.

He further alleged that in his area many dockets get lost and cases never get to be adjudicated by the courts. "You go to court and you hear that the case has been withdrawn, but as the complainant you don't know anything about it. I hope that something should be done to improve the communications between SAPS and the complainants."

Like many participants at the hearings, Mr Mnisi complained about the lack of a nearby police station which would enable residents to report matters quickly. "In Mayfield, we have to walk



PUTTING A POINT ACROSS: A member of the public raising a point on service delivery to the NCOP delegates and government Ministers and senior officials

kilometres to get to the nearest police station. It's even worse that we have to walk through a forest area, which is dangerous, especially for females. We are requesting that a police station is brought closer to the people to enable people to report cases," Mr Mnisi said.

Responding to challenges raised, the Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Bongani Mkongi, agreed with the overall sentiment that South Africa is under siege in terms of crime and criminality. "Our people don't feel safe. What is fundamental for us politicians is to close the gaps that have been identified by our people that make criminals to flourish in our country. One of the issues that our people have raised is the influx of illegal immigrants

into our country and as government we must respond to those concerns, as this speaks to the territorial integrity of the republic," the Deputy Minister emphasised.

Deputy Minister Mkongi called for a collaborative effort between communities and the police to aid the fight against crime. "Please assist the police and stop buying stolen goods because the illicit economy is funded by you, the community members. You know very well that this gentleman doesn't own a furniture shop, but you continue to buy a plasma television from him. The vicious cycle of crime is being fed by you," Mr Mkongi said.

The Deputy Minister also assured the

community that they are doing work to rid the service of corrupt police officers.

CAR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

The Taking Parliament to the People also conducted oversight over a Gauteng provincial government skills empowerment programme in the car manufacturing industry called the Automotive Industry Development Centre (AICD) in Rosslyn, Tshwane. The NCOP commended the programme for contributing to job creation and youth empowerment in the province. The incubation programme identifies young people and women with formal engineering qualifications and puts them through specialised training, where they acquire skills in



PUBLIC HEARINGS: People demand service delivery

manufacturing car components that they then supply to some of South Africa’s big car manufacturers.

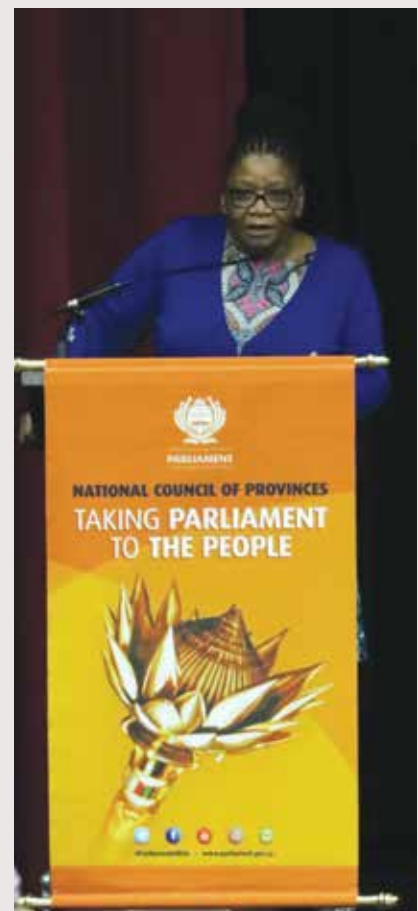
This was described as “a good story to tell”, by Ms Masefako Dikgale, House Chairperson for International Relations in the NCOP. The House Chairperson was leading a joint delegation of NCOP Members, Members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and other legislatures. The AICD is a subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA) and supports the development and growth of the automotive and automated components industries in the province.

“After our oversight visit to the AICD, we can safely say we have a good story to tell. We have heard how the centre assists students from technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges. Through the incubator programme, it has managed to create 130 jobs. These are the kind of government initiatives that bring hope and we commend the Gauteng Economic Development department.

“Very often, during our oversight visits as Parliament, we receive complaints and negative reports about government failing to assist the people. But here we see the work of government, and when we come across such a good story to tell, we need to commend it,” she said.

Mr Alfred Tau, the acting Chief Executive Officer of the AICD, told the delegation that the programme was a partnership between the Gauteng provincial government and the private sector, which seeks to empower the youth, contribute to the province’s economic development and was also part of an ambitious long-term plan to establish a industry hub in Rosslyn.

The programme also involves assisting small, micro and medium enterprises to manage their finances and save to develop their business further and be self-sustainable after the incubation period. Currently AICD manufactures components for Ford and Nissan, and negotiations are underway to also partner with BMW (all these car



manufacturers are based in Gauteng).

“This is the beginning. Over time we hope to produce components that we are currently not producing, such as engines, and to be the biggest manufacturer of vehicle components in Africa,” said Mr Tau. The centre was also planning to expand its partnership with the TVET colleges, because some of the colleges do not have the latest technologies to train students.

INNOVATION

The NCOP delegation focusing on economic development visited the Soweto Ekasi Innovation Hub in Diepkloof, which is the initiative of the Gauteng MEC for Economic Development and its e-Government Department. This impressive business hub focuses on ICT expertise, electronic coding and advance technological inventions, which will bring solutions to township challenges.

This hub is a direct response to calls to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It forms part of the electronic corridor of Soweto, said its programme manager, Nothile Mpisi. “It is located next to the higher education

institutions and colleges with which we have a Memorandum of Understanding. Some of the prototype products we produce are created and researched in these institutions,” Ms Mpisi explained. Currently, the students at the hub are busy working on two apps: one on events notification, and another one on street art marketing.

One of the members of the NCOP delegation, Mr Xitlhangoma Mabasa, commended the fact that young people are using innovation to find solutions to the challenges in their communities. Several entrepreneurs have graduated from this programme and have gone on to create jobs for others. “We conduct due diligence before accepting any product idea. Currently, there are 16 award-winning entrepreneurs whose products have been commercialised, who now employ more than 130 people,” said Mr Mabasa.

On acceptance to the hub, the young innovators are assigned to mentors and commercial experts. The innovators sign a one-year contract and the programme aims to harness their ideas and turn them into viable products, a process that costs the hub more than R250 000.

This formula proved to be successful, Mr Mabasa emphasised. “We have produced a number of entrepreneurs who now run their own innovative businesses, who are businesspeople in their own right.”

The hub derives most of its intake from surrounding schools. “We have school programmes where we introduce the work we do. Most of all, we believe that pupils should be introduced to technological education at an early age if we are to meet the challenges brought to bear by the fourth industrial revolution.”

We are constantly on the lookout for innovation, Mr Mabasa said, “that will bring solutions to challenges in our communities. One of our students has created a device that will detect water leaks, which could save so much water lost due to leaks. This product is currently being assessed by the City of Johannesburg for its feasibility”.

When members asked if the hub is getting any funding from departments in their line of business or fund youth development, he responded that funding remains a challenge.

SITE VISIT: NCOP delegates listening to government officials



“We would like to have relationships with this cluster of departments and be involved in crafting policies, set standards and principles that could move innovation forward.”

Mr Mabasa also cited the need for industrial parks in the townships for business revitalisation. “We have manufactures who need to be assisted with a sharable space for their businesses, but currently they don’t have a place to do so. That is what can take our country’s industrial revolution to the next level.”

IMPACT OF MIGRANTS

The delegation also went to the Monangeng Pick n Pay franchise in Soweto, run by Mr Solly Legae, a model which was brokered by the Department of Economic Development in Gauteng. He lamented the effect of migration on his business. He decried government’s failure to regulate general dealers in the townships after

1994. “Before 1994, businesses were regulated and zoned. You could not run a business in your yard. After 1994, that changed. Everyone now can open a shop anywhere and anyhow. That has affected us as formal business owners.” Worst of all, “we are made to comply and pay all the dues expected from us. But many migrants who run spaza shops are exempted from doing so.”

“Why are foreign migrants allowed to do as they please? The government must set rules to ensure that their businesses don’t impact on ours negatively. For instance, it is normal to have 10 migrant spaza shops in one street. That is an anti-competitive business behaviour.”

He also complained that he is running his business on overdraft due to this anti-competitive behaviour of illegal spaza shops. NCOP delegate Ms Tsapane Mampuru asked the Economic Development Department to respond to

that. “As a department you should have picked up this problem of overdraft and advised him accordingly. It should not have taken us for this matter to surface.”

The Director of Special Projects in the department, Mr Tseliso Mohlomi, responded that they will look at the issue of the overdraft and report back to the NCOP about the outcome of their intervention.

Ms Mampuru also emphasised that as long as our borders remain porous, the effect of migrants on township economy will persist. “We are sitting with a Bill in Parliament that seeks to regulate our borders, but there is no department that wants to own it. When enacted, it would solve some of the migration problems we are currently faced with.”

“Have you tried to club together as township business to harness your buying power or to open up your own warehouse that will supply your businesses at an affordable price?” asked Mr Mabasa. The answer was no, they have not done so. They have not yet thought about that for they spend all their energies to survive for another day. Mr Mabasa chipped in: “This shows a lack of understanding how you can harness your buying power as small township businesses. You can use the Soweto Ekasi Innovation Hub to help you solve this problem. Those young people can bring innovative ways on how you run your businesses.”

“As legislators we are glad to hear your side of the story,” Ms Ellen Prins pointed out, “it has enriched us and made us much wiser about the problems that small formal businesses are faced with in the townships. When we craft legislation related to small black businesses in the townships, we will do so in an informed manner than would have been the case before.”

The Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Raseriti Tau, believes that innovation hubs and science research centres could

ACCOUNTABILITY DEMANDED: NCOP delegates listening to government officials





NCOP House Chairperson and Chief Whip and delegates sharing a point

play an important role in South Africa's efforts to advance towards the fourth industrial revolution. Speaking during an oversight visit to the Innovation Hub's headquarters in Tshwane in Gauteng during the Taking Parliament to the People Programme, Mr Tau said the concept of innovation hubs and science parks could play a key role in advancing these efforts, through research and development of new technology products.

The fourth industrial revolution has been described as large-scale technology breakthroughs in a number of fields, which is expected to disrupt every industry in every country through digitisation. "The jobs that we are creating today might no longer be relevant tomorrow, based on the fourth industrial revolution, and we need to be innovative and think about the future, and it is through initiatives like innovation hubs and science parks that we can conduct research and develop new technologies that are needed for the future, which is going to be highly digitised," said the Deputy Chairperson.

Mr Tau was part of a delegation of NCOP members and MPLs from Gauteng and Limpopo, visiting the Innovation Hub in Tshwane to gather more information on the concept of science parks and their contribution to economic development. He added that the concept of innovation hubs was

a very important idea for economic growth and future development.

It must not only focus on Gauteng, but look into the other provinces as well. **"As the NCOP, we can provide a platform for all the MECs for economic development, through our Select Committee on Economic Development, to see how can the provinces support this idea and spread it across the country," he said.**

He was echoed by NCOP delegate from the North West province, Mr Olifile Sefako, who supported the idea of expanding the concept of innovation hubs to other provinces. These innovation hubs and science parks can play a pivotal role to ensure that the country mitigates the challenge of joblessness. "The more we expand this product the more value it adds to the lives of the people, and it can help create jobs where people live instead of having people travel to Gauteng," said Mr Sefako.

The Innovation Hub is an entity of the provincial Department of Economic Development, established in 2001 through a partnership between the Gauteng provincial government, the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of Pretoria to incubate entrepreneurs in the research and development field.

Advocate Pieter Holl, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Innovation Hub, told the NCOP delegation that it assists innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs working on innovative ideas to improve efficiency of government service delivery and increase competitiveness of the local economy. "We also help in identifying market appetite for a product, develop a business model and continue to incubate the entrepreneur until their product was fully commercialised," said Adv Holl.

Mr Tsietsi Maleho, General Manager: Monitoring, Evaluation and Partnerships at the Innovation Hub, told the delegation that science parks are mushrooming all over Africa and the concept was also gaining traction in other provinces.

One success story to come out of the Innovation Hub is that of the skin products made from marula fruit, by Ms Portia Mngomezulu, of Portia M Skin Solutions, which are available in major supermarkets and pharmacies countrywide.

Another success story is that of Ms Thuli Mthethwa, who has developed a personal safety alarm in the form of a key ring, which is directly linked to the police. The South African Police Service has piloted this product and the SAPS is in the process of buying it from her. 🌟



CLOSE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS: President Cyril Ramaphosa, NCOP Chairperson Ms Thandi Modise and Deputy Chairperson Mr Raseriti Tau standing outside the NCOP Chamber in Gauteng.

President addresses closing of Taking Parliament to the People

*“Seizing the moment to chart a new course of action against poverty, unemployment, inequality and underdevelopment” was the theme of the debate that brought to a close the week-long Taking Parliament to the People (TPTTP) programme in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng. This debate, which concerned the intergovernmental responsibilities of the various arms of the state towards economic development in Gauteng, was addressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa, reports **Abel Mputing**.*

It is a tradition of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), that the President or Deputy President address the last day of the Taking Parliament to the People programme at a formal sitting of the NCOP. The sitting takes place outside the parliamentary precinct, in full view of the members of the public, and this time in Gauteng, President Ramaphosa graced the gathering with his presence.

While the President gave the overview of South Africa’s economic state and its potential, the Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise and other speakers, shared their provincial perspectives on why the economy is at a cross roads and how to improve its prospects.

Before things improve, President Ramaphosa outlined the many economic challenges that our country has to face. One of which, is the economic challenges facing municipalities in delivering services to the people. “The reasons for this is range from financial mismanagement

and non-payment for services, to the absence of a meaningful revenue base and a weak economy. This requires the attention of all spheres of government and it requires the close attention of the NCOP,” President Ramaphosa emphasised.

The task at hand, he stated, is to move the economy out of its period of stagnation to create a state that provides a better life for our citizens. “When our economy is strong, when our people have jobs, when the government has more resources, our ability to deliver good, quality services is vastly improved.”

This economic slump has, “constrained our government’s ability to increase social spending, build and maintain infrastructure and, above all, to create a conducive environment for the creation of jobs for our people”.

The push towards the restoration of the credibility of the South African economy is anchored to a recovery plan that

seek, among other things, to create the new economic framework that will turn the tide in the economy. This will be achieved “through a combination of economic recovery measures and policy reforms, currently the government is working to restore the economy and capacitate the state to fulfil its developmental mandate”.

President Ramaphosa assured his listeners that the government is doing everything in its power to ensure that economic growth benefits all South Africans, especially the poor. He emphasised that the greatest economic intervention to date is the announcement of “the economic stimulus and recovery plan containing a range of measures to ignite economic activity, restore investor confidence and create new jobs”.

The reprioritisation of government public expenditure, as announced recently by the Minister of Finance, is set to add value to this intervention. “This is to ensure that resources are directed to activities that have the greatest impact on growth and jobs. An amount of R50 billion has been reprioritised to address infrastructural and other challenges in our public health care and education systems, and to bolster the Expanded Public Works Programme.”

The economic stimulus and recovery plan also focusses on unlocking the potential of key growth sectors, such as agriculture. “We are increasing resources to provide support to black commercial farmers to increase their entry into the food value chain. This includes the facilitation of the signing of leases to enable farmers to mobilise funding for agricultural development.

“But most significantly,” he emphasised, “the recent efforts that culminated in the job and investment summits and investment forums that seek to woo foreign direct investment have secured pledges that would create 275 000 jobs ... [and] the local financial sector also pledged its commitment

to create a R100-billion-fund that will finance small black business enterprises.”

This campaign’s main aim is to ignite South Africa’s competitiveness as an investment destination. The most favourable outcome to date is, in his view, “the commitment of several local and international companies which announced their intentions to invest in the country, either to establish new operations or to expand existing ones, confirming South Africa’s global competitiveness.”

Ms Modise spoke of the challenges observed by the NCOP during the Taking Parliament to the People programmed during oversight visits in the Greater Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. One such challenge are the effects of both internal and external migration on service delivery requirements for the Gauteng provincial government.

She pointed out that South Africa’s democracy guarantees freedom of movement to all and that, as a result, “our people can now live and work anywhere they want without fear of violence or abuse”. However, she

ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE NCOP:
President Ramaphosa addresses the NCOP



claimed that external migration has had a dire effect on Gauteng’s economic potential. As a result, “South Africa attracts large numbers of migrants – skilled and unskilled – and this imposes challenges of a different magnitude in the context of the post-apartheid dispensation and globalisation”.

Given these migration challenges, the formulas used to grant equitable share to provinces need to be revisited to take into consideration the movement of people to Gauteng. “We agree that the flow of people from other provinces eats away the advantage of better service delivery.”

This has been worsened by external migration, she conceded. “The inflows through our borders most adversely hit Gauteng, affecting service deliver and increasing the illicit flows of goods and services.”

She added that there are many projects that required funding in Gauteng townships and funding for small business enterprises is a challenge. “We heard of a project that is fixing wheelchairs, all it needs is monetary assistance.”

She also mentioned the impact of illegal mining on former mining towns, stating that “we heard how children in areas like Zamimpilo and Riverlea are vulnerable to dust and arsenic acid. Government must stop these illegal mining activities, for the sake of our children and our future. These are some of the cases that were raised in the former mining towns.”

Having observed the state of service delivery in the province and heard the people’s concerns during the public hearings, Ms Modise assured the people of Ekurhuleni that “the NCOP will coordinate follow-up activities on the matters raised by the public. However, it is important that the provincial legislature and municipal councils do their part, as part of their oversight in respect of their functional areas in responding to the issues that were raised.” 🌟



Government launches integrated strategy to fight gangsterism

*Gangsterism and gang-related violent crimes have caused endless grief and terror in many communities, especially in townships in the Western Cape. This has prompted the government to devise an integrated strategy to tackle the problem, writes **Sakhile Mokoena**.*

Parliament, through the Portfolio Committee on Police and the Select Committee on Justice and Security, has welcomed the initiative by the country's law enforcement agencies to tackle all forms of gang-related crimes around the country.

The National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Police and the National Council of Provinces' (NCOP's) Select Committee on Justice and Security participated in the official launch of the integrated anti-gang strategy and the national Anti-Gang Unit in Hanover Park, where President Cyril Ramaphosa committed himself to "jail all gangs operating in the country and restore peace and stability in the townships.

"Today we are taking definite action to stop gangsterism. The government has heard you, listened to your pleas for help and we are here to take action, not only in the Western Cape, but in communities around the country that are terrorised by gangs," the President said.

The launch began with a walk-about by the President and the Minister of Police, where they interacted with residents

to get first-hand experience of living in a gang-infested area. The President heard how services come to a complete shutdown when gangs fight in the townships.

When gang warfare flares up, innocent people get shot, clinics, hospitals and schools close, public transportation is shut down, while libraries and community centres close their doors. The situation must change, the President said, and the anti-gang units aim to put an end to gangs ruling the streets.

"We cannot allow this to continue, where young children cannot go to school because gangs have now taken over the lives of the community, they want to rule supreme. Gang violence is robbing us of our security, peace, freedom and our children are afraid to play in the sports areas. You have been living under siege



from heartless criminals who have no regard for human life.

"This strategy that we are launching here means it is jail time for gangs. This is the end of the road for you terrorising our communities," said the President to much applause and ululations from the masses, who filled the local Hanover Park sports fields.

President Ramaphosa also paid tribute to those who have lost their lives in gang-related violence, and hoped the new anti-gang units will help put a stop to the killings and lessen fears among the citizens.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Mr Francois Beukman, and his counterpart in the Select Committee on Justice and Security, Mr Dumisani Ximbi, welcomed the government intervention to fight gangsterism. They committed themselves to closely monitor the integrated efforts of the law enforcement agencies to fight gang-related crimes and to make sure the

recently launched anti-gang strategy and units were rolled out countrywide.

"I think it is quite significant that the President of the Republic was here personally to launch the anti-gang strategy and anti-gang unit. This shows that there is a commitment from the executive to ensure that we empower our police units to deal with organised crime, especially organised gangsterism. That's a big dilemma in the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape," said Mr Beukman.

"We also welcome the fact that there is outreach to the community, to show to them that the SAPS will step up its effort to deal with violent crime, gangsterism and also create an opportunity for the SAPS to renew its commitment to deal effectively with violent crime."

Mr Ximbi said: "This is going to help this community a lot. We think it is a very important effort by the President, and as the select committee we welcome this move. We are going to monitor the effectiveness of the strategy. We are going to monitor the plan and I wish these police officers who are being deployed here today are not going to be pursued or corrupted by the gangs."

The anti-gang strategy is an integrated initiative by all the law enforcement agencies, led by the South African Police Service (SAPS), and includes the departments of Correctional Services, Home Affairs and State Security, among others. Over 300 officers and high-powered vehicles will be deployed in the areas where gangsterism was rife.

Hanover Park resident and a member of the local neighbourhood watch group, Ms Rashida Davids, was pleased with the initiative and committed to work with the newly launched anti-gang units to ensure the safety of the township residents.

"I am so glad, as a woman, as a mother and grandmother. I feel so relieved with this deployment of the anti-gang unit in our areas. Our streets will be safe

again. There were times when those gangsters were deliberately shooting at us when we escorted the kids to school or patrolled the streets, but we never gave up because there was only one thing on our minds: to save our children. If we as parents were not going to stand up, what will happen to the future of our children?" Ms Davids asked.

But 25-year-old Breda Brendell was less hopeful, mentioning that there have been campaigns and launches in the past, but the gangs continue to rule the streets. "We can come with many plans and strategies, but implementation is key. The only time we will know if this latest plan is effective is when we see results. We have had campaigns launched in the past and nothing happened." The police visibility must not end on the launch day, Mr Brendell said. If the visibility remains on this level as we see today, it will definitely have an impact.

An old man who did not want to disclose his identity said the launch "brings hope. I appreciate the effort of Parliament and government coming here to resolve this situation. I think this strategy will work. It is a bit late, but it will work and I am definitely going to support the anti-gang unit to make sure our townships become safe again."

Western Cape Premier, Ms Helen Zille, also welcomed the intervention to launch the integrated strategy to fight gangs. She thanked government for "listening to the cries of parents who have lost their children in gang violence".

National Police Commissioner, General Khehla Sitole, said the anti-gang unit and task team formations were a response to the outcry of communities, not only in the Western Cape, but nationally, relating to gang violence and other crimes generated by gangs. The initiative is part of the broader vision, he explained, of creating a crime-free, conducive climate for socio-economic stability in support of a better life for all, with the theme "On a Journey to a Safer South Africa". 🌍

Parliament endorses review of section 25 of Constitution to enable government to expropriate land without compensation



A highlight of the 5th Parliament will certainly be its passing of the report that endorses the review of section 25 of the Constitution to enable the government to expropriate land without compensation.

*This is seen as a means to redress the debate on the racially skewed patterns of land ownership in South Africa, writes **Abel Mputing**.*

To address this, a resolution was passed at the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) that a Joint Constitutional Review Committee should be incepted to take care of all the politics and logistics of such a process.

Given that a Constitution could only be changed through public participation consultations, in response Parliament convened its public participation education, soon thereafter the committee criss-crossed the country canvassing people’s views on whether to change section 25 of the Constitution to accommodate expropriation without compensation or not – and why?

When all that was done, the committee considered the views expressed during public hearings and according to its report tabled before the NA and the NCOP, many South Africans who took part in this process endorsed the change to section 25 of the Constitution to accommodate expropriation of land without compensation.

During this debate, it emerged that to the detractors of the willing buyer and willing seller policy, the endorsement of this report is an admission of the failure of this policy which was one of our country’s land reform instruments. To them, this policy was bound to fail, for it was from the onset a costly exercise. As a result, they are of the view that the failure of this policy to yield the desired fruits is a missed opportunity by the proponents of this policy to provide an alternative solution to South Africa’s land question. And had they cared more about the landless and dispossessed majority of black people and the political effect thereof, they would have seen that it was taking land reform legislation no further than itself.

There has been differing opinions on the interpretation of this section of the Constitution throughout this process. Those against its review maintained throughout that process that expropriation without compensation

could be effected within the current constitutional provisions of this clause. And therefore, there is no need of a constitutional amendment to accommodate expropriation without compensation.

The parties in favour of the amendment equally maintained that the stipulation by this clause that land can be expropriated in consideration of public interest, was too vague.

They claim that if their cause were to rely on that clause, it would expose it to successful cases of litigation. They wanted this section amended to foreclose any constitutional loophole that may arise or that would derail the process, hence they perceived a change in the Constitution as the only way that would safeguard its constitutionality. The testimony to that is Parliament’s recent successful defence of this report.



The main bone of contention of the detractors of this amendment is that it is simply political, it does not take into consideration that the matter at hand is complex: it is as political as is economical, and needs to be treated as such to avert any unintended consequences.

Further claiming that given the fact that land is property, this amendment will drive investors away, for there is no investor that will be willing to invest in a country whose property clause is not safeguarded constitutionally. This at a time when the South African economy needed them to quell the rising tide of unemployment.

The agitators of this move are quick to retort that the economic interests of the day must take into consideration the political environment within which they operate. As such, given our history,

there was no way that economic interests would trample on the history of current political and economic concerns. If that could be the case, the transformation agenda that hinges on justice and reconciliation would have been defeated. And that should not be allowed to happen, for justice and reconciliation remain the socio-political foundations that underpin the ideals of nation-building.

The disastrous Zimbabwe's land reform process is always invoked by the detractors of this move as a mirror of what could possibly happen. And according to them, hard lessons should have been learnt about the economic value of land and the disruptions it can bring to bear to the economic future of a country.

To counter these lingering concerns, its proponents are quick to make reference to the fact that the President

has reassured investors that the government will undertake this process within the prism of the rule of law and order. It won't be a free for all or a willy-nilly process of land or property expropriations. And all economic concerns raised will be taken care of, for land is the bedrock of our country's economy.

At the beginning of December, both the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces have agreed that section 25 of the Constitution be amended to make expropriation of land without compensation more explicit.

The adoption of the committee's report by both the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces means that a Bill may be introduced, according to the procedures in section 74 of the Constitution and the Rules of Parliament. 🌱



National Assembly Sitting

Bills in brief

The National Assembly approved several legislative matters concerning the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) and the Electoral Laws Amendment Bill in November.

The National Assembly passed the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) and its proposed fiscal framework for the next three years, the Special Appropriations Bill, the Adjustments Appropriations Bill and its Votes and Schedule. These

instruments make it possible to adjust the budget, to accommodate changes in circumstance, as these arise.

The Special Appropriations Bill, for example, aims to prevent a call on the South African Airways (SAA) outstanding government-guaranteed debt. The R5 billion, allocated for this purpose by the bill, provides for the Minister of Finance to determine the portions and dates of the transfer, to impose conditions SAA must meet before and after any part of the amount is transferred and to stop use of the amount until such conditions are met. The Bill also requires National

Treasury to disclose any stoppage of an allocation to Parliament's Select and Standing Committees on Finance.

The Standing Committees on Appropriations and on Finance, in their reports to the National Assembly recommended the adoption of all the MTBPS adjustment budget matters without amendment. They also made recommendations about enhancing and monitoring implementation of this adjustments budget arising from public hearings and committee deliberations.

Parliament's responsibility relating to the budget is an ongoing process. The Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act of 2009 details how this happens. It also empowers Parliament to make amendments to



the budget and adjusted budget.

Since that Act took effect, however, it has become apparent that certain technical issues need attention. One is the timeframes within which Parliament must consider and make decisions about budget and adjusted budget financial instruments and Money Bills. The tight timeframes are difficult to meet and reduce prospects of meaningful public engagement on these important matters. This is why, in 2016, the National Assembly instructed the Standing Committee on Finance to review the 2009 Act for possible amendment.

After the committee's thorough public consultations on possible amendments, the National Assembly adopted the

Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Amendment Bill on 28 August 2018. The Bill was sent to the National Council of Provinces, which also passed it on 20 November at a plenary sitting, during the Taking Parliament to the People oversight and public participation programme in Gauteng.

The Electoral Laws Amendment Bill, also agreed to by the National Assembly aims to enhance the existing legislative mechanisms that ensure free and fair elections, and in keeping with the Constitution. It seeks, through a wide range of measures, to prevent the possibility of fraud in election results. It also aims to prevent a court challenge to the constitutions of legislative bodies by any party or interested persons on the basis of the absence of addresses on the common voters' roll.

This is important for maintaining political stability, and to protect the legitimacy of elected legislative bodies from which national and provincial governments derive the authority to constitute themselves. The Bill aims to amend the Electoral Commission Act, the Electoral Act and the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act. The Electoral Laws Amendment Bill, the Adjustments Appropriation Bill and the Special Appropriation Bill will be sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence.

In November the National Assembly also passed the Cybercrimes Bill, the Child Justice Amendment Bill, the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill and the National Qualifications Framework Amendment Bill.

The general purpose of the Cybercrimes Bill is to criminalise the distribution of harmful data messages and provide for interim protection orders. Further to that, the Bill seeks to regulate the power to investigate cybercrimes.

The Child Justice Amendment Bill aims to amend the Child Justice Act of 2008, including further regulating the minimum

age of criminal capacity and provisions about decisions to prosecute a child who is 12 years or older but under the age of 14. The Bill further aims to regulate the proof of criminal capacity; the assessment report by the probation officer; as well as factors to be considered by a prosecutor when diverting a matter before a preliminary inquiry.

The National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill aims to address practical challenges identified in the application of various Acts. The Bill seeks to amend seven Acts of Parliament. These are the Environmental Management Act of 1998; the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003; the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004; the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004; the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008; the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008; and the National Environmental Management Amendment Act, 2008.

A Bill to amend the National Qualifications Framework Amendment Act of 2008 was also passed. This Bill governs the verification of all qualifications by the South African Qualifications Authority, as well as the formulating criteria for evaluating foreign qualifications. The Bill furthers seeks to provide for the establishment and maintenance of separate registers of misrepresented or fraudulent qualifications or part-qualifications.

The Bills approved will now be sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence. The National Council of Provinces also passed the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Amendment Bill. The Bill seeks to promote road traffic quality by providing for a scheme that discourages road traffic contraventions and facilitate the efficient adjudication of road traffic infringements. The Bill will now be returned to the National Assembly for concurrence. 🌟



WELCOME AT HOME: The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mr Lechesa Tsenoli shakes the hand of the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the Speaker' Forum Ms Baleka Mbete after she welcomed the Legislative Sector leadership at the summit at Parliament.

Special Summit reflects on fifth Parliament

*As the fifth parliamentary term comes to an end, the Speakers' Forum held a special legacy summit, under the auspices of the South African Legislative Sector (Sals), to reflect on developments in the legislative arm of the state over the past five years, writes **Abel Mputing**.*

Opening the two-day summit on "Building on the legislative sector gains of the fifth parliamentary term", the Speaker of the National Assembly and Chairperson of the Speakers' Forum, Ms Baleka Mbete, reflected on various topical issues affecting the legislative sector, including international engagements, oversight and budget allocations to Parliament and the provincial legislatures.

One outstanding achievement for the legislative sector in the

fifth parliamentary term was the commissioning of the High Level Panel (HLP) on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change. The panel was chaired by former President Kgalema Motlanthe, who handed the HLP report to the Speakers' Forum in November 2017. The report has yet to be processed and will form part of the legacy report that will be handed over to the sixth democratic Parliament after the 2019 general elections.

Ms Mbete told the summit that another important matter that would not be finalised in this term is the Legislative Sector Bill, which will also be referred to the next Parliament. “We are confident that as we conclude the last mile, we are strong and have established a more solid foundation for the next term. We are using this summit to reflect on developments and evaluate our achievements. The major focus is to discuss and review developments over the past five years and advise on future direction,” said Ms Mbete.

Ms Mbete emphasised the need to make the National Development Plan (NDP) central to the work of Parliament and legislatures, so that it becomes a key element of strategic planning and the sector oversight model. This alignment will ensure the successful implementation of the NDP, which seeks to end hunger, poverty and inequality by the year 2030.

She also called on Parliament and the legislatures to use all resources at their disposal to fight corruption and

ensure good and clean governance. Ms Mbete also used the opportunity to pay homage to the United Nations (UN) and the world for honouring South Africa by erecting a statue of the country’s first democratic President, Mr Nelson Mandela, at the UN headquarters in New York. Legislatures must continue to learn from Madiba, who told the first Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Frene Ginwala, that “Parliament must be a body that contributes to nation-building and a united South Africa”.

Another matter for reflection, Ms Mbete said, is the legislative sector’s budget, which is inadequate and impacts negatively on the sector’s ability to do its work, including oversight, legislation drafting and processing, as well as analysing and passing budgets. Engaging with the Minister of Finance and the President will help, as will the correct implementation of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (FMPPLA) and an understanding of the relationship between the legislative sector and the executive. 🌟

MAKING A WORD OF WELCOME: Ms Mbete welcomes LSSA leadership at the summit.



The legislative sector anchors Democracy

On the first day of the summit, delegates reflected on governance in the legislative sector. The discussions were led by the Head of Co-operation, European Union (EU) delegation to South Africa, Mr Bernard Ray, and the Speaker of the Eastern Cape Legislature, Ms Noxolo Kiviet, writes Abel Mputing.

In his address, Mr Ray emphasised that the South African legislative sector is a formidable partner of the EU Parliament and that €200 million in EU funding went to the South African legislative sector.

The South African legislative sector receives this funding because it promotes the EU’s interests in accountable and transparent institutions. The South African legislature also epitomises participatory decision-making and public access to information, Mr Ray explained.

He praised the sector for its development of workable models for democratic legislative structures. “The existence of a legislative sector provides a clear focus on the importance of legislative institutions as anchors of the democratic state, and on the need for the sector to develop consistently rather than on a legislature by legislature basis.”

The South African legislature is the envy of other legislatures, Mr Ray claimed. “We are proud of its innovative approach in instilling a participatory democracy model that is envied world-wide. Its approach to this concept is regarded as unique in the world. It can be proud of what it has achieved ever since its inception.”



MAKING A POINT: LSSA leader addressing a plenary session.

Below: Group photograph of Speakers and Deputy Speakers

However, the challenge remains to maximise openness, to enact policies that are timely, effective and coherent, and to ensure that they have the capacity to demand accountability from the executive and state institutions over which they exercise oversight. "This is even more significant if one takes into

account that South Africa is still faced with its contemporary challenges and of the legacy of apartheid."

Mr Ray also spoke of the South Africa EU partnership that will result in an agreement on a programme that will enable the South African legislature to make full use of technology when conducting its work. "The EU centre for innovation is a catalyst to this initiative. Its aim is to promote the efficiency of Members of Parliament and the secretaries of committees."

The Speaker of the Eastern Cape legislature, Ms Kiviet commended the EU for its ongoing support. She also spoke of the need to apply both horizontal and vertical forms of oversight, particularly in light of Parliament's central role in advancing democracy. "As such, we are key to the meaningful change in the lives of our people."

The national Parliament is a key structure linking society with the other arms of the

state, Ms Kiviet said. It is held to account by the multiparty nature of South Africa's democracy and the culture within civil society that demands that Parliament represents diverse interests while promoting accountability.

Despite challenges, the legislative sector has been committed to its horizontal oversight responsibility to ensure that the executive meets its judicial and service delivery obligations, and that state-owned enterprises are run effectively and efficiently. "Parliament joins the three arms of the state and Parliament's role is to ensure that they all contribute to the vision of a non-racial, non-sexist democratic Parliament."

One of the achievements of the sector in the past four years, Ms Kiviet recounted, is the introduction of the Legislative Sector Bill. The Bill co-ordinates "financial management in line with the King report on co-operative governance, to ensure that this is done in line with the principles of good governance," she explained.

4th Industrial Revolution: Implications for Legislatures

*"The Fourth Industrial Revolution or First Digital Revolution – Implications for Parliament and Provincial Legislatures". The Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, told the legacy summit that existing laws and policy frameworks will have to be modernised to deal with new technological advances, writes **Sahkile Mokoena**.*



"We will need to adapt and modernise our existing policies, particularly in the areas of labour market regulation, social protection and welfare," Ms Kubayi-Ngubane began. She mentioned crypto-currencies in the financial sector, which will require a new regulatory framework, along with self-

driving cars, which will also require a modernised regulatory framework.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution will see a merging of technologies, blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres.

Ms Kubayi-Ngubane went further to say that autonomous weapons and data sovereignty in the face of big data will both require a new regulatory framework, while a new taxation framework will also be required. She pointed to the example of Facebook, which recently had to account for selling users' data.

South Africa will also require a new cyber-security policy and a regulatory framework for gene editing technologies. However, one of the biggest challenges of the fourth industrial revolution will be jobs, particularly if more are destroyed than created. "How do we re-skill our nation to prepare for the fourth industrial revolution? We need a large pool of skills, men and women of all races. We need law-makers who are alive to the fact that technology is about to turn societies on their heads," Ms Kubayi-Ngubane said.

She also announced that the President will be putting together a presidential commission to provide advice on preparations for the fourth industrial revolution.

Prof Mike Bruton of science development centre Mike Bruton Imagineering, also participated in the discussions. He urged parliamentarians to familiarise themselves with the opportunities provided by science and the fourth industrial revolution. It is important for the legislative sector to understand both the problems and the opportunities, and recognise the importance of a strong science culture in deepening democracy.

"The legislative sector must recognise the crucial role of science in achieving the National Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. It should also appreciate the opportunity of the fourth industrial revolution; it is a problem-solving revolution," said Prof Bruton. 🇷🇵



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH: Legislative Sector Leadership at the summit



2018 South African Legislative Sector Legacy Summit



PAVING THE WAY: The Speaker of the eastern Cape Legislature Ms Noxolo Kiviet chairing a plenary session of the summit

The National Development Plan is our developmental blueprint

*The summit debate on “Enhanced Oversight Implementation of the National Development Plan, Radical Economic Transformation and Improved Service Delivery”, placed the National Development Plan (NDP) at the centre of South Africa’s socio-economic development. For this to be achieved, we need stronger oversight and collaborative legislatures. This can be achieved through the Sector Oversight Model (SOM), writes **Abel Mputing**.*





This was the focus of the presentation made by the Director of Oversight and Strategic Liaison at the Gauteng Legislature, Mr Khaled Khota, and legislative sector consultant, Dr K Brugge. They argue that oversight is the core of the sector, therefore, it must ensure that SOM is used as a tool to plan and report against the NDP.

“Walking into the future looking backwards, is the motto ingrained in how this model has been conceptualised,” Mr Khota emphasised. “As we move towards the end of the sector’s term, we must enter into the future looking backward. As we do so, the sector should build on its successes and keep the challenges in mind.”

The SOM model entrusts legislatures with the responsibility of being the primary components of service delivery, Mr Khota declared. “This model seeks to ensure that the service delivery machinery pulls together. By their very nature, legislatures are key to the overall performance of the state.”

Political commitment is central to the success of SOM. “It’s critical that the model enjoys political buy-in. When it is rolled out, provinces need to rally around it.”

The remaining challenge is its customisation to suit the specific needs of each legislature. To date, “some legislatures are implementing it, others are still grappling with it. But the ultimate idea is to find it in every space and work station of legislatures”.

The legislative sector’s legacy in the fifth Parliament is the insertion of the NDP oversight framework into SOM. “This will help it to articulate linkages to the NDP. And this must be reflected in the way legislatures report, plan and conduct oversight,” Mr Khota declared.

The Committee Oversight and Accountability Framework emanated from SOM, ensuring that the accountability ethos is translated into practice. “This will determine what kind of oversight is implemented, what kind of reportage and evaluation such a choice will demand,” he said. 🌟

WORKING TOGETHER: Legislative sector leaders giving direction to the summit plenary session



NCOP Chairperson to G20 Parliaments: We will win the fight against corruption



DISCUSSING A CRUCIAL POINT: The Chairperson of the NCOP Ms Thandi Modise discussing a point with one of the G20 leaders.

The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Ms Thandi Modise, visited Argentina where she participated in the Parliamentary Forum and Speakers' Summit of G20 members and guest countries.

As they concluded their session in Buenos Aires, the Heads of Parliaments of G20 countries committed themselves to work together to find and implement lasting solutions to the key challenges facing the world, particularly in the areas of future of work, financing for development, the fight against corruption, empowerment of women and youth, education for the new era of technology and innovation, and renewed commitment to multilateralism.

In a joint statement outlining their resolutions, the Heads of Parliaments expressed their concern about erosion of public trust in institutions of

democratic governance and reaffirmed their commitment to continue building effective, representative, inclusive and accessible parliaments, which serve the people and hold governments to account.

In continuing to build such parliaments for effective oversight, the joint statement specifies: "We are determined to combat corruption in all its forms, to deny safe havens to corrupt persons and their corruption proceeds, and ensure open, transparent and accountable governance at all levels. To this end, we will support the enactment of legislation, including anti-corruption measures, which will foster renewed confidence of the people in their institutions and generally help advance Goal 16 of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) for peaceful societies and good governance."

In her address to the meeting, Ms Modise had stressed that the SDGs would not succeed unless they are driven by effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. She

told her counterparts that corruption was at the heart of our problems in the world today, it destroys values, families and jobs and retards growth, thereby costing the world economy billions per annum.

Said Ms Modise: "Corruption is not new – it is not unique to any race or continent. It is a global problem affecting countries with varying degrees of severity. Corruption affects the poor disproportionately and creates inequalities that violate what's left of their human rights. It perpetuates discrimination. It contributes immensely to the violation of both civil as well as the economic, social and cultural rights of people."

Noting the various initiatives that G20 member countries have put forward through their summit meetings since 2008, the Heads of Parliaments have encouraged the G20 leaders to actively pursue their shared objective of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and to find solutions to the common challenges facing the global community, all with a renewed

commitment to peace, democracy, prosperity and well-being.

They confirmed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying SDGs constitute a roadmap for the fair, equitable and sustainable development of our planet.

“We will pursue our efforts to increase the capacity of our respective parliaments to transform these global commitments into national realities. In the process, we will also endeavour to enhance international collaboration and solidarity in achieving these shared objectives, including through active parliamentary engagement in the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, the main international mechanism for monitoring the SDGs,” added the Heads of Parliaments in their joint statement.

The Heads of Parliaments of G20 countries also urged the G20 Leaders Summit, to build consensus and inspire further gender-responsive development policies that favour the economic empowerment of women,

equal opportunities between men and women in employment, science, technology and education, and the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence.

The series of meetings of Heads of Parliaments of the G20 countries, the first of their kind, were held ahead of the G20 Leaders Summit.

With the conclusion of her participation at these meetings in Argentina, Ms Modise proceeded to Santiago de Chile, in Chile, ahead of her historic address to that country’s Parliament in Valparaiso in honour of Madiba.

Ms Modise lauded Madiba’s Exemplary Principles when she addressed a special sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, one of the two Houses of the Parliament of the Republic of Chile, which celebrated Tata Madiba’s centenary birthday.

She told the sitting that it was the honesty, frankness, faithfulness and exemplary nature of the first democratic President of South Africa, that made him worthy of celebration and emulation by the world.

Ms Modise also delivered a keynote address in the Chilean Parliament on its invitation, a rare honour accorded to foreign dignitaries, in commemoration of Madiba’s centenary birthday.

“We celebrate him because he put the people first. He taught us that it was right and noble to suppress the ‘self’, in order to achieve with others, the greater good,” said Ms Modise as she took Members of Parliament through her reflections on the life and times of Madiba.

Ms Modise thanked the Chamber of Deputies and its Vice-President, Mr Jaime Mulet, for bestowing on her the decoration of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile. This is a public recognition awarded to the highest authorities by virtue of the positions they represent and Chileans and foreigners for their distinguished service.

Ms Modise stressed: “We do not take lightly the honour you have bestowed on us, as our sister Parliament, on behalf of the people of Chile, to share this great occasion with you. This

Argentinian Parliament





INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM: Ms Modise addresses one of the G20 sessions

invitation, this celebration, underscores the great respect and friendship, the shared determination and purpose between our two nations – driven by a common history. We appreciate that you host us today as you consider the significance of Mandela. This is a demonstration of your commitment to establish a just, peaceful, prosperous and inclusive world," she told the packed special sitting.

She reminded the Chilean Parliamentarians that Madiba's pursuit of the ideal of a democratic and free society, in which people live together in harmony and with equal opportunities, took various forms, including through the pursuit of international friendships. Madiba, she said, was always conscious that, through the manifestation of international bonds, such as the one that our country enjoys with this glorious nation of Chile, he owed his existence also to the world community.

"There are special ties that bind South Africa and Chile, though. So, today is, particularly, a time of great joy for us. But it is also a time tinged with poignancy – when we remember the

bitter struggles we both had to fight to end the jackboot brutality of former regimes and begin to build societies founded on freedom, human rights and democratic governments," the NCOP Chairperson pointed out.

Since both South Africa and Chile became democracies, cooperative relations between them have been strengthening. There are bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding and regular visits between the two governments on specific issues.

In 2014, Chile's President, Ms Michelle Bachelet, during her state visit to South Africa, announced the establishment of the Republic of Chile-Nelson Mandela Scholarship Programme, through which the Government of Chile would receive South African professionals to pursue postgraduate studies at universities in Chile.

The Joint Trade and Investment Commission, led by the trade departments of the two countries, spearhead economic relations. There are close to 27 South African companies

having a presence in Chile – in, for example, mining; engineering; construction; food; airfreight; transport; industrial equipment for health, agriculture and renewable energy industry; cosmetics; and the casino and hospitality sectors.

Said Ms Modise: "Beyond our reminiscences of Madiba, to really honour him, we should be exploring how to pursue the goal of a just world to which he devoted his life. How do we live out the values, which guided his life and made it possible to forgive – but not forget – the heinous deeds visited on him and the millions of other South Africans and oppressed people throughout the world? It starts with each one of us, in our homes, in the areas where we live."

Before her historic address to the Chilean legislators, Ms Modise addressed the launch ceremony of the Nelson Mandela Exhibition within the precinct of the Parliament of Chile. She also visited the Mandela Memorial, which was erected by the government of Chile in Santiago in honour of the revered global icon. 🇿🇦

Zulu: ‘Together we will free our country of gender-based violence’



Minister of Small Business Development:
Ms Lindiwe Zulu

The Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, on behalf of the Minister in the Presidency, Ms Bathabile Dlamini who is responsible for women, sponsored a debate on 16 Days of Activism in the National Assembly (NA), marking the beginning of the 2018 16 Days of Activism campaign, reports Zizipho Klaas.

Opening the debate, Ms Zulu said: “I stand here in front of you to talk about one of the most highly emotive issues in South Africa and the world. This scourge knows no colour, knows no religion, knows no race, knows no class, knows no political affiliations, it ravages communities and families across the class and colour lines. It is a societal challenge which requires a societal response.”

Ms Zulu said Members of the NA must put themselves in the shoes of those who suffer at the hands of abusers and feel their pain and trauma. She urged

Members of Parliament (MPs) to call upon the Almighty and their ancestors to get into the hearts and minds of these heartless abusers so that they can understand and feel the suffering that they are causing to their victims.

She said 2018 marks 20 years since South Africa adopted the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign. The 16 Days of Activism campaign is an international campaign aimed at building and strengthening a global movement that works towards ending all forms of gendered violence against women and children.

The campaign, which is led by the United Nations, takes place annually from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November to International Human Rights Day on 10 December. South Africa was among the first nations to adopt the global campaign in 1999.

According to Ms Zulu, to defeat the unacceptable high levels of gender-based violence requires the collective efforts of all South Africans. “We must commit ourselves to do everything in our power to reclaim every part of our land from those who terrorise women and children,” she said.

She said South Africa has a Constitution, part of which responds to the rights of women through such founding provisions as human dignity, achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights. “These founding provisions demand of us to respond to a clarion call that together we must make a solemn pledge that we will liberate our homes, streets, workplaces, religious institutions and every corner of society from the scourge of gender-based violence,” said Ms Zulu.

She said in the 24 years of democracy, the government has made significant progress in fighting gender-based violence by formulating and promulgating substantive legislative and policy frameworks.

“Through our progressive policies, the living conditions of the majority of women have undergone significant qualitative change.”

“Our greatest challenge in fighting the scourge of violence against women and children continues to be silence from both victims and perpetrators. Lack of access to knowledge about basic human rights and the consequential shame that accompanies experiences of abuse contribute to reluctance to seeking legal advice and social support,” said Ms Zulu.

Ms Zulu told NA MPs that the South African government found the 2018 global theme for the 16 Days of Activism campaign, #Hear Me Too, resonating well with the South African situation.

The theme symbolises a collective appeal to society, to hear women’s pains and demands against gender-based violence. #Hear Me Too is also a call to action to all victims, survivors, witnesses, and all others affected to continue to speak up against violence perpetrated against themselves, their loved ones, or a stranger.

She said: “We gather here to help answer this crucial and fundamental question: what are we doing, individually and collectively to address this scourge that threatens to erode the institutional gains made since 1994, to build a caring society?”

Ms Liezl van der Merwe of the Democratic Alliance, told Ms Zulu that women and children who are victims of abuse are turned away and told to go and work out their problems at home. “Our courts where survivors of gender-based violence like Cheryl Zondi are retraumatised for being brave enough to stand up and seek justice.”

She said the government must begin teaching anti-violence programmes at schools, and equip and empower the South African Police Service in the fight against gender-based violence. 🌱

NCOP Deputy Chair mobilised support for the fulfilment of Ms Stuurman’s dream for a house

The 17-year-old National Council of Provinces’ (NCOP’s) Taking Parliament to the People programme will always be remembered by the people as a simple parliamentary platform that provides ordinary people an opportunity to speak for themselves, reports Mava Lukani.

They will always remember it as a heavy duty vehicle that transports Parliament to where ordinary people live, living amongst them for the whole week, listening to their problems and visiting government’s service delivery sites that are in their communities to assess their state. They will always

remember the programme as their beacon of hope.

Wherever the NCOP went through the programme in the recent past, it left a clear footprint of ensuring that ordinary South Africans who stay in poverty-stricken communities are reminded that

they are not outside the reach of the basic principle of a better life for all South Africans.

Recently the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Raseriti Tau, together with the Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Zou Kota, handed over a house to disabled Ms Buyiswa Stuurman of Bongoletu Township in Oudtshoorn.

The delivery of the house to Ms Stuurman, according to Mr Tau, was a fulfilment of Ms Stuurman’s dream of many years to have a decent home for herself and her two children. Mr





MOMENT OF CELEBRATION: The NCOP Deputy Chairperson Mr Raseriti Tau and the deputy Minister of Human Settlements Ms Zou Kota celebrates the handing over of a house to a needy recipient.

In handing over the house to an excited Ms Stuurman, Mr Tau thanked all those who made it possible for Ms Stuurman and her children to have a decent home. “We thank you profusely for this house and urge you to continue with that good spirit of patriotism to other needy South Africans,”.

Expressing her appreciation, Ms Stuurman likened the NCOP, and Mr Tau in particular, to the biblical Good Samaritan. “I take the intervention of the NCOP as divine and I will take it like that until I die. A gift of a home is not a little thing. It’s a very big thing. I can’t explain in words the feeling I have,” said an emotional Ms Stuurman.

Asked to comment on the handing of the house by *Insession*, Mr Thokozile Gxalathile, a resident of Bongololetu, said the entire community noted with appreciation the delivery of the house to Ms Stuurman, who he said lived under terrible conditions as a person living with disability. “Although there are a lot of people who need houses in Bongololetu, we are very happy to see one of us saved from the terrible situation she was in. This is a gesture of commitment to the poorest of the poor,” he said.

In the same Oudtshoorn programme, the NCOP ensured that the remains of the late Mr Michael Lucas, who was hanged in 1988 after being sentenced to death, were returned from Pretoria’s Mamelodi Cemetery and reburied in Oudtshoorn. Ms Tozana Ncwango, the mother of Mr Lucas, who knocked on many doors after the dawn of democracy asking for the exhumation of the remains of her son from Mamelodi Cemetery to be reburied in Oudtshoorn, used the opportunity presented by Taking Parliament to the People and asked the NCOP to assist her. The Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Thandi Modise, spoke to relevant authorities until the remains of Mr Lucas were returned to Oudtshoorn where he was reburied near his ancestors. 🌟

Tau said the moment of the handing over of the house was an exciting one that marked the closure of a road that began on a rainy day when the NCOP was in Bongololetu in 2015 through the programme of Taking Parliament to the People, where Ms Stuurman shared her painful plight of lacking adequate shelter that was wheelchair-friendly.

“After we listened to Ms Stuurman and noted the poor condition of her wheelchair among the people with disabilities who participated in the public hearings programme of the

Taking Parliament to the People on that day in Bongololetu, we regarded her situation as a special case, and based on that, we made a commitment to ensure that there is a decent house for her,” said Mr Tau.

Mr Tau brought the plight of Ms Stuurman to the attention of key public and private sector role players, chief among them was the Department of Human Settlements. Those role players did not just deliver a decent four-room house to Ms Stuurman, but also filled it with the required furniture.



OUR SOUTH AFRICA – THE SUN

The sun heals the divisions of the past, improves the quality of life of all South Africans, frees the potential of each person and builds a united and democratic South Africa, taking its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.



OUR PEOPLE – THE PROTEA LEAVES

Our people, building on the foundation of a democratic and open society, freely elect representatives, acting as a voice of the people and providing a national forum for public consideration of issues.



OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM

The drum calls the people's Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to consider national and provincial issues, ensuring government by the people under the Constitution.



OUR CONSTITUTION – THE BOOK

Our Constitution lays the foundation for a democratic and open society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. It is the supreme law of our country, and ensures government by the people.