

IN SESSION



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"YOUR SEAT IN PARLIAMENT"

Vol. 9 ISSUE 6 JUNE 2009



special report & pictures

State of the Nation Address

Symbols of authority



Black Rod of the National Council of Provinces



Vision Statement

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

Mission Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

1. Increasing oversight
2. Increasing public participation
3. Building an efficient, effective institution



Mace of the National Assembly



contents

REGULARS

- 5 **Editor's Note**
- 6 **Presiding Officers Column**
Message from the Speaker of the National Assembly
- 8 **Parliament in Brief**

GENERAL NEWS

- 9 **One-stop shop for jobless youth**
- 10 **Rural Development's R1.2bn question**
- 11 **FIFA wows Parliament**
...and applauds SA's 2010 efforts
- 12 **MPs bring girls to work**
- 13 **A new leaf: Induction of MPs**

SPECIAL REPORT

- 14 **Special Report & Through the Lens**
Origins of State of the Nation Address

FEATURES

- 19 **Profiles of the Presiding Officers**
- 24 **Parliament's past leaders**

Q&A

- 26 **Serjeant-at-Arms & Usher of the Black Rod**

OUT AND ABOUT

- 28 **Obituary: Khellinah Shoba**
- 29 **Book Review: *A to Z of Politics***
- 30 **Citizens Forum: Letters**
Did You Know?



Presiding Officers' Column:

Mr Max Sisulu

Editor-in-Chief: Luzuko Jacobs

Editor: Momelezi Kula

Production Editor: Kagisho Mamabolo

Copy Editor: Oswald Gibson

Writers: Jackie Adriaans, Abel Mputing and Sakhile Mokoena

Contributors: Mava Lukani and Suretha Saayman

Design and Layout: Angelo Lamour

Photography: Parliamentary Communication Services

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EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

Telephone: (021) 403 8243, Fax (021) 403 8096

E-mail: insession@parliament.gov.za

Subscriptions: subscriptions@parliament.gov.za

Post: PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000

OUR IDEALS

VISION

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MISSION

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

VALUES

Our values guide the management of Parliament. Our values are formed by that which we treasure and hold dear. It forms the foundation that will give rise to policies, which provide guidance in the implementation of everyday services and projects. The values of Parliament are derived from the role that Parliament plays in the context of our democracy. Therefore our values are formed by the people of South Africa, the Constitution, our cooperation with other arms of government, and our will to act with professionalism and good institutional governance.

advertorial

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Contact Details:

Zelda Williams

Tel: 021-403-3341

e-mail: zwilliams@parliament.gov.za

e-mail: kgovender@parliament.gov.za

editor's note

The South African Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic and lays the foundation for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people, and the laws of the country offer equal protection to every citizen. It sets in place a single, sovereign democratic State where governance is effected through Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary.

Parliament has two Houses, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, whose Members are elected by the people of South Africa. The National Assembly is elected to represent the people and to ensure government by the people. It does this by choosing the President, by providing a national forum for public consideration of issues, by passing legislation and by scrutinizing and overseeing executive action.

The National Council of Provinces represents the provinces to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. It does this mainly by participating in the legislative process and by providing a national forum for public consideration of issues affecting the provinces.

The two Houses are headed jointly by the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in the National Assembly, and the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson in the National Council of Provinces. Collectively, they provide leadership to the institution. They are tasked with the responsibility of:

- Providing political leadership and strategic direction to the two Houses
- Exercising impartiality at all times in pursuance of their duties
- Presiding over Joint Sittings and ensuring the development of the annual joint parliamentary programme framework
- The financial management of Parliament.

In this issue we explain what Parliament's leadership is all about, examine its responsibilities and powers, and get to know the people behind the scenes. We take a look at the roles of the four Presiding Officers.

The establishment of the fourth Parliament saw new Members of Parliament join returning Members in both Houses. As is the custom, Parliament conducted a series of induction programmes to familiarise new Members, and refresh those who have returned, about parliamentary processes, from legislative and oversight procedures to administrative policies. This was to prepare them for their roles and responsibilities. We take you through the induction programme to give you an idea of what it entails.

We have just witnessed the first State of the Nation Address delivered by the fourth democratically elected President, to the first Joint Sitting of the fourth Parliament. The State of the Nation Address and all its attendant activities is one of the key events in the Parliamentary calendar. It is a State occasion. The event has three components. The first is public participation, followed by a State ceremony including a 21 gun-salute, and the third is the main component, the President's Address. We bring you the history behind the State of the Nation Address and the tradition of the 21-gun salute. In our interview we feature the Serjeant-at-Arms of the National Assembly, and the Usher of the Black Rod of the National Council of Provinces. Enjoy the read.

Momelezi Kula
editor





Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu

MESSAGE FROM THE national assembly



We are geared up

As the Speaker of Parliament's National Assembly, I would like to warmly welcome all new and returning Members of Parliament (MPs) to the fourth Parliament. Notwithstanding the fact that there are indeed new MPs and a number who have served in previous Parliaments, the fourth Parliament should nonetheless be treated as a new beginning, because all have to acclimatise themselves with its operations.

This requires everyone's full attention regardless of previous experience, or lack thereof. Already, MPs have successfully gone through rigorous inductions and Parliament is set to take off at high speed with the setting up of Committees and appointment of related personnel, including relevant leadership.

President Jacob Zuma has provided marching orders (*umkhombandlela*) for the entire government in his State of the Nation Address on 3 June. The address provided directives on how to give practical meaning to five national priorities identified as the axis around which delivery must be driven, in order to push back the frontiers of poverty.

The priorities are job creation, education, health, rural development and the fight against crime and corruption. Parliament is expected to contribute to this objective by planning its oversight role, to ensure the implementation of laws passed and thereby to create conditions for effective service delivery.

This is an issue that was sharply raised during the elections. Parliament is ready to meet the challenge of transforming our society head-on, as foreseen when the new oversight model was adopted towards the end of the third Parliament. MPs are thus expected to position Parliament as agents for change, operating at the cutting edge of service delivery.

I have constantly used the word "we" to include all MPs, but also to specifically represent myself as Speaker and the Deputy Speaker not as two separate entities, but as one Office of the Speaker, at the helm of the National Assembly. Both of us are expected to mobilise Parliament to hold government accountable to the programmes for which it was elected, by the people of South Africa, in order to change their lives and create a better life for all. This is one mandate from the masses that Parliament cannot afford to compromise.

As regards co operative governance, Parliament is expected to improve its relationship with the Judiciary as a separate arm of government, as well as its ties to other spheres of government. Frequent engagement must ensure that we create a new culture of seamless governance where, for instance, an MP can intervene on any issue, on behalf of any citizen, without the constraints often created by protocol. Parliament has also noted, from an intergovernmental relations point of view, the redeployment to its Chambers



“As President Zuma said at the time: may the best team win – and may that team be Bafana Bafana!”

and other government structures of people who used to be Speakers of various Provincial Legislatures. This means that there is a need to fill certain gaps and thereby ensure the continued smooth running of the Speakers' Forum of South Africa (SFSA).

Fortunately, the Speakers' Forum anticipated this and in February 2009 produced a handover package for the fourth Parliament. The SFSA will thus still be able to continue its mission to strengthen the legislative sector as a distinct component of the government machinery required to advance participatory and representative democracy.

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa will also continue to participate in dialogues with its international counterparts through its membership of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), an association of 146 Parliaments of sovereign States around the world since 1889.

Described in a sense as the United Nations of Parliaments, the IPU's objective is to consider questions of international interest and to express views on such issues, with the aim of prompting action by Parliaments and their Members. Matters specifically relating to Africa, particularly Southern Africa, will be addressed by the IPU through its component, the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF).

Consequently, I have recently attended the 25th Plenary Assembly of SADC-PF held in Namibia on 6 and 7 June 2009. The theme of the Assembly was "The Role of Parliaments in addressing the current Global Economic Crisis".

Recently, the country commemorated the 16 June 1976 uprisings, when thousands of young people, some of whom today help to run the country, took to the streets to demand their freedom. This topic was debated in the Chamber on Wednesday, 10 June 2009.

From the debate, it seems as if there is agreement amongst political parties that the youth are a crucial collective component of any society that must be given serious attention for development. The youth of South Africa are seen as the future of the country, already living in the present. They embody a freedom hard-fought, and won, through relentless struggle since the days of colonialism.

To advance the cause of youth, Parliament must take advantage of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities, and the relevant Ministry. Another important event that brought the nation together in a spirit of patriotism has been the hosting of the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) Confederations Cup from 14 to 28 June 2009.

The Cup was contested by eight countries, including South Africa. On Tuesday 9 June Parliament received a visit from FIFA Secretary General, Mr Jérôme Valcke, and the head of FIFA's 2010 World Cup Local Organising Committee (LOC), Dr. Danny Jordaan, who came to hand over the Confederations Cup to President Jacob Zuma, after his response to the debate on the State of the Nation Address. 🇿🇦

Max Sisulu

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Kenyan Premier Raila Odinga pays courtesy call on Speaker Max Sisulu

Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga visited Parliament on a courtesy call to newly elected Speaker of the National Assembly, Max Sisulu, and attended President Jacob Zuma's reply to the debate on the State of the Nation Address.

With Mr Odinga was Kenya's Minister of Trade, Mr Amos Kimunya, Minister for Agriculture, Mr William Ruto, and Kenya's High Commissioner in South Africa, Mr Thomas B Amolo.

Call for laws on 'closed mines'

Parliament, 10 June 2009

Parliament's Select Committee on Economic Development wants illegal mining to be stopped. The Committee Chairperson, Mr Freddie Adams, has proposed that mining laws be tightened to curb the kind of illegal mining that claimed at least 82 lives at Welkom recently. On the tragedy at Harmony Gold's Eland Shaft, Mr Adams said it was worrying that bodies kept piling up, as illegal miners died from smoke and gas inhalation. Earlier, at least 35 illegal miners died in a suspected underground fire in an abandoned mine in Barberton, Mpumalanga. Committee Member Mr Aaron Mnguni, a former miner, said most illegal miners were underground veterans who conspired with security personnel and workers to get explosives from them. Legislation should make it easier for law enforcers to police closed mines, by clearly indicating if a mine was closed, and who had access to it. The Committee plans to visit Harmony Gold's Eland Shaft to meet management and workers.

No selling silverware

Parliament, 11 June 2009

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises says it will be folly to sell State-owned enterprises because the challenges they face are quite manageable. The Committee was clarifying remarks made by the Minister of Public Enterprises, Ms Barbara Hogan, that government might sell underperforming Public Enterprises.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Ms Mabel Mentor, said that there had been no consultation with Parliament and as it was "a policy shift, it cannot be entertained without proper consultation. It will be appropriate for the Minister to explain her statements. Ministers are political heads of departments: they implement government policy and are accountable to Parliament," Ms Mentor said.

Hearing the SABC

Parliament, 23 June 2009

The decision to institute an inquiry into the South African Broadcasting Corporation Board was not aimed at assessing the individual Board members, but to look at the whole Board as a structure. The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications, Mr Ismail Vadi, said this during day two of the inquiry into the 12-member SABC Board.

The inquiry, which is in line with section 15(A) of the Broadcasting Act, began on Thursday, 18 June 2009 following several resignations by SABC Board members. Mr Vadi said the Committee wanted to determine whether the Board was

able to discharge its functions and responsibilities. This followed a lengthy discussion, during which some Board members asked for more time to prepare for the inquiry. They raised concerns about being censured without a hearing, if they disclosed information to the Committee.

Youth Agency must serve all

Parliament, 23 June 2009

The Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities has appealed to the newly launched National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to provide equal service to all South Africans irrespective of their gender, race or background.

The Committee made this appeal during the Agency's presentation of its strategic plan and budget in Parliament. Members urged the Agency's representatives to ensure that its strategic plan catered for the needs of rural youth, and youth with disabilities. The Committee commended the Agency for receiving unqualified audit reports, but raised concerns about outstanding loans of over R200 million made by Umsobomvu Youth Fund, which had to be recovered. It further scrutinized the Agency's recruitment process of young people into its programmes, and said its mandate was to ensure that all sections of society were involved in the Agency's activities.

Read full report on page 9 on the establishment of the NYDA.
For the latest news see:
www.parliament.gov.za



'One-stop shop' for jobless youth

Of the challenges facing young people, being workless is one of the worst. The new National Youth Development Agency hopes to change that: **So what are its priorities?**

by Jackie Adriaans

The recently established National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) has its work cut out to ensure that youth matters, especially unemployment, make it into the government's mainstream agenda. The big question is, how?

Passed by Parliament in 2008, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Act determines that the President appoints the Board members. This was the beginning of a process to create an institution for young people, in order to target the challenges of developing, integrating and implementing youth development programmes.

Unlike its predecessors, the Umsobomvu Youth Fund (UYF), and the National Youth Commission (NYC), the new Agency has the power to implement specific youth development programmes.

It can call for help from other organs of State, companies and civil society organisations. The NYDA will answer to Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Women, Children, Youth and People with Disabilities, and the Committee must regularly monitor and oversee its work.

The co-Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee spearheading the initial legislative process, Mr Lulu Johnson, said the Agency should serve

as a "one-stop shop" to create and promote the co-ordination and management of youth development.

The Agency's Board had to decide how the legacy funds inherited from the Umsobomvu Youth Fund's 2009 budget, which had already been approved by Parliament, would be spent in the current financial year.

"This requires that the necessary legal processes be followed. This must be completed before September, when the new budget process kicks in," Mr Johnson said.

However, the Agency would not be a solution to all the problems facing young people. "Our country, government and society must nurture our youth. They have played a significant role in bringing us all to where we are today, at times with nothing but their bare hands", he said.

The Agency succeeds both the Umsobomvu Youth Fund (UYF), a 2001 government initiative to promoting entrepreneurship, job creation, skills development and transfer among youths, and the National Youth Commission (NYC). Amalgamating the two bodies was a big step by government to place the interests of young people at the core of national development,

also with the aim of reaching young people in rural areas.

At the NYDA launch at Ekurhuleni on 16 June, President Zuma spelt out what was required of the new Agency. "We expect the agency to initiate programmes directed at poverty alleviation, urban and rural development, and the combating of crime, substance abuse and social decay amongst youth." Overcoming these challenges would require the Agency to work with various government departments "in order to improve the quality of life of our young people," the President said.

The Chairperson of the Agency, Mr Andile Lungisa, says the way forward is "to develop youth priorities to ensure the protection of the rights of youth and the active participation of youth in the economy of South Africa".

Research conducted by Umsobomvu Youth Fund for its 2008 report notes that the 18 million young people in South Africa constitute nearly 40% of the population. In global terms, this means that getting a job is the single biggest challenge facing young people today. The study found that in 2007 over three million people aged 15 to 35, a third of the country's workforce were classified as unemployed, and young women were by far in the majority.

Committee

needs account of **R1,2bn**



by Mava Lukani

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform needs a detailed account of R1,2bn, the balance of R1,7bn reportedly earmarked for rural development in South Africa.

The Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform wants to hold government accountable for money allocated to it in the 2009 budget, for what has been termed the Government's third most important goal, that of improving rural development. To date, a sum of R500m has been made available to roll out the comprehensive rural development programme.

The new Committee, which took office after the establishment of the fourth Parliament in May 2009, recently had its first meeting with the Department to determine

the programme for the year and to set the records straight. The Committee said the Department should include critical role players whose contribution to rural development was significant in its roll-out planning. It said that although transformation should not be compromised, neither should the indigenous systems be undermined in the process.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Mr Stone Sizani, said budget played a critical role in determining whether the Department's strategy could be implemented with success. "And remember to take indigenous systems seriously, when implementing your strategies in rural and traditional communities," he said.

The Committee also wanted to see

ties strengthened and work shared between government departments that needed to cooperate for the development of poor people in rural areas. This meant closer cooperation between the Departments of Agriculture, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Water and Environmental Affairs, if the aspirations of the rural poor were to be met.

"The relationship between the Department and the Portfolio Committee should be marked by a clear record of work, because this is not a "sweetheart affair," Mr Sizani said.

In the next meeting with the Committee, the Department would be expected to report on how it planned to spend the earmarked funds.





President Jacob Zuma admires FIFA Confederations Cup at Parliament

FIFA wows Parliament ... and applauds SA 2010 effort

by Abel Mputing

fIFA's presentation of the Confederations Cup in the National Assembly on 9 June was received with great enthusiasm by President Jacob Zuma and MPs of all parties. The Parliamentarians demonstrated an awareness of the role that the Confederations Cup, scheduled for 14 to 28 June, could play in helping the country to ascend to great heights.

Before handing the trophy to President Zuma, FIFA's Secretary General, Mr Jérôme Valcke, remarked that the South African story had been a beautiful story to write. "We are presenting the trophy to its President and its Parliament, and we are proud to do so," he said.

The President reciprocated FIFA's views, and stressed that the Confederations Cup had to be a success. "This is one of the most important indications that 2010 is near, and that the World Cup can only be played here in South Africa. But our country is abuzz with the kick-off of the Confederations Cup. The growing confidence within the Bafana Bafana team and the arrival of visiting teams has added to the pro-soccer mood all over the country. The presence of the Cup here at Parliament should inspire soccer-lovers to fill the stadiums.

May the best team win. Of course, no one can blame us for believing that team should be Bafana Bafana. Let us go out, and support the good game."

First time for SA

It was the first time that the Confederations Cup had been presented to a host nation's Parliament, and the CEO of the 2010 World Cup Organising Committee, Dr Danny Jordaan, stressed the symbolic nature of the presentation.

"The support of the South African government has been unprecedented. No major event such as this can happen in any country unless it has the support of its government, because of certain crucial projects such as the airport expansion plan, the building of roads, and safety and security that are competencies of the hosts, both the national government and local administrations. Most of all, the success of an event such as

this depends on the government's financial commitments. We came here to thank the President and assure everyone that what we as a country have been investing in, is now a reality.

"To be back here at Parliament and to bring the trophy to Parliament means that the dream so many people have worked for, for so long, is now a reality. The trophy is here, the teams are here, the tickets are sold and stadiums are ready: the game is on. That is a wonderful, wonderful feeling.

"It is not a matter of whether we can deliver. We have delivered already. And unless you deliver on infrastructure, on ticket sales and on all other requirements, this event would not have happened," he said.

The Confederations Cup was unveiled by FIFA media officer, Delia Fischer, and was put on display to give the public, MPs, and parliamentary officials a chance to see it.

They came, saw, and conquered hearts

'Girl to Work' catches on at Parliament

by Abel Mputing



Parliament's decision to take part in the "Take a Girl Child to Work" initiative, which is observed every year, has been hailed as a huge success. "Take A Girl Child to Work" Day in May gave the young women a glimpse of Parliament in action, and a chance to sample a number of possible careers at the institution.

More than 50 learners from various schools participated. Their visit started off with a video presentation on the country's symbols, and its relevance to South Africa's history and heritage.

Kertrice Maitasa of Wynberg Girls High School said it had been a privilege to learn about Parliament's two symbols, the Mace used in the National Assembly, and the Black Rod which is used in the National Council of Provinces.

"When Mr Godfrey Cleinwerck, the Serjeant-at-Arms, told us about what he does, I realized that working at Parliament isn't as boring as people say. He told us about the rich history and heritage that the Mace and Rod

represent. But most significantly, that the Mace used in the National Assembly and the Black Rod of the National Council of Provinces represent the authority of both the Speaker and the Chairperson, and when they are in these Houses it means they are in session and both Houses' protocol must be observed."

Thereafter, the girls were paired with respective Parliamentary officials who demonstrated the skills and competencies needed to perform their respective jobs.

The young women came, saw, heard and were inspired while learning first-hand what it takes to work at Parliament. Many confessed that they had never paid much attention to politics, but when they heard and saw what Members of Parliament did, they soon became interested.

Ms Cindy Mqweba of Vuyiseka High School said "I always wanted to be a musician or an actress, but I am now considering studying law, because there is still a need for women to represent

themselves at Parliament. They must be in positions of power, to help them take up the cause of their fellow women."

Immaculata High School learner Ayanda Nxusani wrote a passionate letter requesting to be part of Parliament's "Take a Girl Child to Work" initiative. She has always loved politics and wanted to learn more about what it takes to be a Member of Parliament. "I intend to pursue a career in political studies and my interest was to know more about the law-making processes here at Parliament. And coming here today has enhanced my career perspective: I can confirm that I'm satisfied and sure of what I want to be in future."

But Nkage Matlala of Table View High School made it clear that she was "happy working with numbers, not people. Politics is not for me."

The climax of the girls' visit was a group photo with the Presiding Officers. They were also inspired by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo, and Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Memela.

Ms Mfeketo said "We hope that this experience will go a long way in helping you choose your careers in life. The best career ever, especially for you, is to be Members of Parliament, and to be able to make laws that benefit women."

"Feel free to venture into higher places. And say to yourself you can do it, you can help emancipate girls who are forced to be slaves. Say you are prepared to fight for their rights. And make sure freedom prevails. Learn harder, stand on your feet and shun dependency," Ms Memela added.

Girls from Peninsula schools join Presiding Officers at Parliament





A new leaf

Parliament abuzz after induction

By Abel Mputing

The first presentation for the new MPs by Parliament's Legal Advisor, Mr Nthuthuzelo Vanara, stressed the constitutional mandate of Parliament.

"The core business of Parliament is legislation, to secure and oversee the actions of the Executive action and to provide a forum so that the public can consider issues, including matters affecting the provinces. There must be due regard for representative and participatory democracy, accountability (by Parliament), as well as transparency and public involvement," Mr Vanara said.

To fulfill its legislative task, one of the first actions is for Parliament to elect its Presiding Officers, says Mr Simphiwe Makhasi, Executive Head in the Office of the National Council of Provinces Chairperson. "Their mandate is to preside over House meetings and maintain order, and to chair strategic parliamentary Committees." The Chairperson and the Speaker jointly preside over Joint Sittings of Parliament, and they are responsible for setting policy guidelines and strategic planning. "They also have to give account to Parliament's Oversight Authority, which is a multi-party structure," Mr Makhasi said.

Ms Zanele Mene, Committee Section Manager, brought MPs up to speed on how Parliament conducts its business, in terms of sessions and Committees.

"Parliamentary business is conducted through plenary sessions of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, the Programme Committee of each House and the Joint Programme

A week-long orientation for MPs on the mandate of Parliament comprised presentations on the constitutional, legislative and cooperative governance roles of the institution

Committee, as well as the Portfolio, Select and other Committees of each House or Joint Committees established by both Houses, including the Joint Rules Committee."

MPs must know how legislation is crafted and gets to the point where it is ready to be signed by the President.

"The original ideas for government legislation come from various sources. They may arise from party policy of the government, announced during election campaigns, submissions or pressure from interested citizens, parties and groups in the community, or from suggestions by MPs."

However, before a Committee can introduce a Bill in the National Assembly (NA) or the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), it must obtain permission from the appropriate House. To obtain this permission, the Committee must submit a memorandum which sets out particulars of the proposed legislation, to the Speaker or Chairperson. The memorandum must explain the object of the proposed legislation and it has to clarify whether there will be any financial implications for the State.

Ms Mene says the Speaker or Chairperson places the memorandum on the Order Paper for a decision by the House. "If the House gives permission, the Committee must prepare a draft

Bill and publish it in the Government Gazette. But before that, the Committee must give members of the public at least three weeks to comment on the Bill. If the Bill is passed, it is transmitted to the other House for concurrence."

Her presentation on oversight listed various measures that Parliament employs in examining the effectiveness of its legislative mandate. "A Committee may summon the Executive or any public entity to account on its actions or implementation of policy and legislation. Legislation passed by Parliament is one of the tools that can be used to conduct oversight, by seeing if it is being implemented, what the possible problems are and how these can be rectified. This may assist Committees to propose amendment of such legislation where necessary," she said.

Mr Simphiwe Makhasi spelt out Parliament's role in organising the relations between the national, provincial and local government.

"The NCOP must harmonize the interaction between the national, provincial and local spheres of government. It is a medium through which the provinces can engage and make input in the legislative process, thereby ensuring that national legislation also reflects the interests of the provinces."

SPEAK *to* US

Proud origins of the State of the Nation Address

Staff writer and Sakhile Mokoena

Stepping into Parliament to witness President Jacob Zuma's maiden State of the Nation Address this year was like stepping onto the stage of the grand pageant of South Africa's new democratic history.

Showers could not dampen the universal sense of joy and expectation of the full-throated choirs, the Guard of Honour lined up solemnly for the occasion, the praise-singer (*imbongi*), the irrepressible learners and a throng of onlookers trying to get a glimpse of the proceedings.

President Zuma's arrival was celebrated with music, salutes, formal greetings and a 21-gun salute. To mark his first State of the Nation Address, four 88mm quick-firing cannons, dating from the Second World War, were fired at precise intervals in the Company Gardens. Each shot was timed to fit in perfectly with the stanzas of the national anthem.

In his State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma highlighted ten priority points for his government in the next five years. Three of these were **rural development, combating crime and creating decent jobs**.

• Rural development

President Zuma said government will develop and implement a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security. The President said rural people also had a right to basic services like running water, electricity, roads and sanitation as well as the recreation and sports facilities found in urban areas.

• Crime

The government would intensify the fight against crime and corruption. "Our aim is to establish a transformed, integrated, modernised, properly resourced and well-managed criminal justice system. It is also important to improve the efficiency of our courts and the performance of prosecutors and to enhance detective, forensic and intelligence services". More attention would also be given to organised crime, as well as crime against women and children.

• Jobs

The President said creation of decent jobs would be at the centre of government's economic policies and would influence investment attraction

and job-creation initiatives. An important element of this drive was the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP). The initial target of one million jobs had been achieved. The second phase of the programme aims to create about four million job opportunities. Between June and December 2009, the target was half a million new jobs.

Pomp & ceremony

Like other Parliaments in the Commonwealth, our Parliamentary traditions originate from the Westminster system. The Queen's Speech from the Throne (of the House of Lords) during the State Opening of Parliament in Britain examines the priorities of Her Majesty's government in the coming year. The Queen's speech is a most solemn occasion which reflects centuries of history. This annual report from the British monarch to the nation made its way across the North Atlantic. In the United States, the President's State of the Union Address is a report to the United States Congress on the condition of the nation, outlining the events of the past year, and priorities in the President's legislative agenda. The actual term "State of the Union" became more widely used after 1935 when Franklin



D. Roosevelt referred to it, but George Washington gave the first State of the Union Address on January 8, 1790 in New York City, the provisional United States capital. Such a report is required by the United States Constitution, and it is delivered annually, mostly in January. In South Africa, many Parliamentary traditions have managed, somehow, to survive a Dutch, then a British colony, followed by a resurgence of Dutch control, British expansion, the Anglo-Boer War, the rise and fall of Apartheid and the subsequent birth of the new democracy. The emphasis of our State of the Nation Address has changed substantially, because although it still gives an account of things past and things to come, it also expresses the sheer sense of joy of a nation that has at last come into its own inheritance.

Gun salute

One of the highest honours that can be given by a nation is the 21-gun salute. A naval gun salute was first adopted by the Royal Navy in the 18th-19th centuries, and was later accepted as an international salute. But the practice dates back to the 13th century when gunpowder was first used to fire cannons. On entering a foreign harbour, ships would empty their guns to show that they had no bad intent.

State of the Nation ceremonies are held in Commonwealth countries where there are two Houses of Parliament, such as Australia and Canada. In India, the President opens Parliament with an Address similar to the Speech from the Throne. This is also the case in Republics with a non-executive President such as Malta, Mauritius and Singapore. A focal point of State occasions in all these countries is a gun salute, the firing of cannons or arms as a military or naval honour.

Eminent persons

Nine eminent South Africans who made outstanding contributions to socio-economic developments, through working with their communities, were invited to be guests at the event and to form an "Eminent Persons Guard of Honour." They were all thrilled to have been chosen by their Provinces.



President Zuma meets Eminent Persons

Mr Bonisile Norushe of Eastern Cape summed it up: "Although I have been part of the national democratic revolution, I have never imagined myself being part of the representatives of the people in the national Parliament during the State of the Nation Address. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a day I will always remember."

Mr Sekhoane Lebentlele of Free State said it was an honour to be one of the fortunate at the occasion. "Parliament is a place where only legitimate representatives of the people assemble. I am not one of them. So to be invited to attend in a special capacity is exciting."

Mr Simon Hage of Gauteng felt grateful for the experience. "I thank democracy for that. Remember that there are many South Africans who long to be part of the State of the Nation Address, to listen to the President when he delivers his vision, but unfortunately the space and other resources are not enough to make that possible, so being chosen to go is a memorable privilege."

Reverend Dingane Sithole of Kwazulu-Natal said as a man of the cloth, being chosen to represent KwaZulu-Natal and being part of the State of the Nation Address had revived his faith. "Representation of the province in the national Parliament during the State of the Nation Address is an outstanding experience. I feel obliged to share the experience with others who did not get the opportunity and assure them that them too should wait, their opportunity is coming."

Mr Legora Molaba of Limpopo said "I am an ordinary South African (but) I was

treated like a king. I felt very humbled to be chosen by my province and get the invitation to attend the first State of the Nation Address in the fourth democratic Parliament."

Ms Norah Fakude of Mpumalanga said the occasion had revived her spirit of patriotism and broadened her understanding of the role of our government. "I share that historic moment with my comrades. I communicate the address to those who did not get the opportunity to attend, and assure them that their opportunity is on the way, they should be patient."

Ms Mietha Seperepere of Northern Cape said she had watched the previous State of the Nation Address proceedings on television but had never thought I could be part of the occasion. "The invitation to attend the State of the Nation Address has taught me that the South African democratic state really cares for the poorest of the poor."

Ms Sylvia Benjamin of North West said the opportunity had enabled her to understand the good ideas of the government. "Attending the State of the Nation Address has hugely and positively impacted on me. I have a better and clearer understanding of the State of the Nation Address, and a responsibility to explain to others who did not attend."

Mr Phillip Bam of Western Cape said it felt fantastic: "I am unable to express myself the real way I felt about being part of the State of the Nation Address. I have noted that our Parliament is really committed to its vision of being 'people's Parliament'."



Through the Lens

PICTURES OF STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS



President Jacob Zuma (4th from right) and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe (3rd from left) at the State of the Nation Address, flanked by the Presiding Officers of Parliament. Next to President Zuma are three of his wives, Sizakele Khumalo to his left, Thobeka Mabhija, centre, and Nompumelelo Ntuli to his right

BELOW: Former President Nelson Mandela in the public gallery of the National Assembly





ABOVE: Praise for President Zuma from Imbongi, Siphamandla Xaba



ABOVE RIGHT: President Jacob Zuma addresses the first Joint Sitting of the fourth Parliament



BELOW: The Junior Guard of Honour with learners from Primary Schools across the country



We have seen it

Impressions of the State of the Nation Address by the Junior Guard of Honour

The interest in President Jacob Zuma's first State of the Nation Address on 3 June was unprecedented. A lucky few came in person. Learners in the President's Junior Guard of Honour from across South Africa spoke to INSESSION.



Lungile Ndwalane, Grade 11, Hulwazi Secondary School, Gauteng

"This experience has helped me understand

how our country is governed. It has taught me that we should appreciate the work that government is doing. The fact that we are experiencing a recession means that everybody has to play their part to ensure that our economy remains stable. This can only be achieved by working together. Taxpayers should manage their finances wisely. We have to be part of the solution. It is the only way that we can save our nation, which is alive with possibilities."



Chevonne Tarentaal and Tavia Chelsea Phillips, Grade 9, Excelsior Senior Secondary School, Western Cape

"This is our first visit to Parliament. We feel honoured and privileged that we are able to see the President and the Ministers, in person. In the past we watched the

event on television. We were really looking forward to hearing how President Zuma aims to address the socio-economic problems. The President should do the things he says he is going to do. Everybody should play their role."



Ruaan Genis, Grade 10, De Vos Malan High School, Eastern Cape

"I am excited to be able to represent my school as a member of the Junior Guard

of Honour. There is a good vibe. It has been a wonderful experience so far and I am hoping to have my photograph taken with the President. Through the experience I have made friends and I plan to stay in contact with them."



Zimbini Williams, Grade 7, Thembaletu Primary School, Western Cape

"This has been a joyful experience. Parliament is

accessible to people with disabilities. We wish we had an opportunity to meet and hug President Zuma and tell him about the needs of

people with disabilities as well as the needs of our school. Support grants should be provided for people with disabilities. As for our school, we are experiencing transport difficulties. Our library does not have the relevant books and there are no computers. We do not have a proper stadium and sports equipment. It is therefore important that government prioritise the improvement of education for all South Africans."



Naeelah Haniff, Grade 12, Zakariyya Park Combined High School, Gauteng


"The experience has been out of this world. I do not know of many people

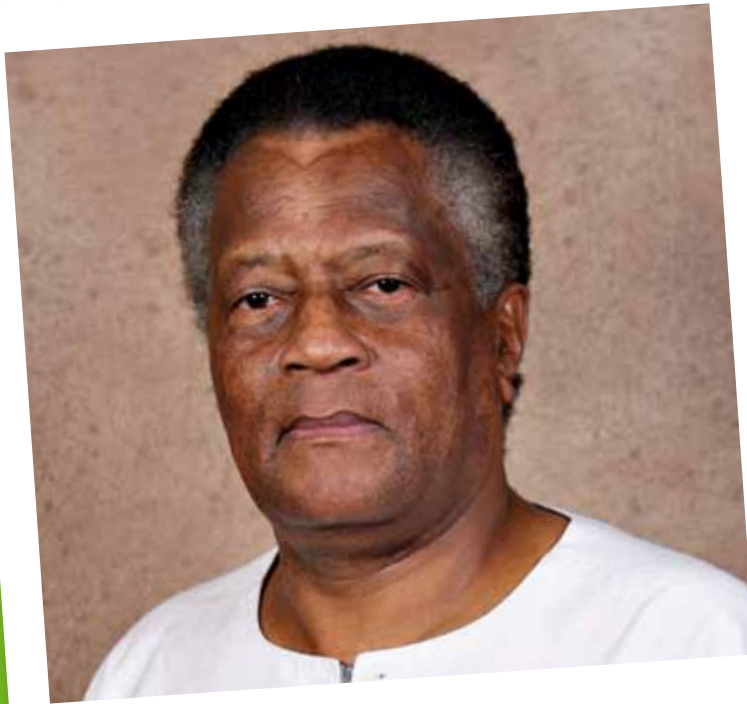
my age who have had such an opportunity. I feel proud to be able to represent my school and the Indian community. It has helped empower me as a woman. I enjoyed hearing the President and Ministers discussing the situation in our country."



Jamie Pavel, Grade 12, Sir John Adamson High School, Gauteng

"This is my first visit to Cape Town and I am filled with a sense of excitement,

anticipation and energy. One of the highlights so far was the tour of Parliament which learners were taken on. It was interesting to learn about Parliament. It has helped me understand our history better." 



Speaker of the
National Assembly

Max Sisulu

max Sisulu comes from a family that is deeply embedded in South African history. He has been at the head of the ANC's Economic Transformation Committee for the past 10 years, and is a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC, serving on both its National Working Committee and Finance Committee.

Prior to that, in Lusaka, Zambia from 1986 to 1990, Mr Sisulu was the head of the ANC Department of Economic Planning, which relocated to South Africa in 1991. He established the National Institute of Economic Policies and became its first Director from 1991 to 1993.

Mr Sisulu was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to November 1998 and served as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on the RDP (Reconstruction and Development Programme), in the

National Assembly. In 1997 he was appointed Chief Whip of the majority party ANC, in the first democratic Parliament of South Africa. Mr Sisulu also initiated training programmes in Economics and Finance for Members of Parliament.

From November 1998 to 2003, Mr Sisulu served as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Denel, a parastatal of the National Defence industry. From 2001 to 2003 he was the Chairperson of the South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries (AMD) Association. He then joined Sasol and served as a group General Manager from 2003 to 2006.

Mr Sisulu served as a non-executive director on a number of boards, such as the Human Science Research Council, the National Environment Advisory Forum, the board of Imperial Holdings, the board of African Rainbow Minerals and the Resolve Group. He was

also the chairperson of three companies: Ukhamba Holdings, Londani Coal and African General Equity Logistics, and still serves as a trustee of the MK Military Veterans' Association.

In April 2009, he was elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

Academic background

Mr Sisulu holds two Masters degrees: an MA in Economics from the Plekhanov National Economic Institute in Moscow and a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the Kennedy School of Government, at Harvard University.

In 1985, he was awarded the Govan Mbeki one-year research fellowship at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Mr Sisulu also did a research project with the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Sussex in Brighton, England, on new technologies and new work methods. 



Chairperson of the
National Council
of Provinces

Mninwa Mahlangu

m ninwa Johannes Mahlangu is one of the longest-serving MPs under South Africa's new democratic order, having joined Parliament in 1994.

A former teacher, he lists among his educational qualifications a BA Degree from the University of Fairfax, and is continuing his studies towards a Diploma in Economics Principles through the University of London. His active participation in politics in the 1970s and 1980s, gave him a critical role in the processes leading to the first democratic South Africa in the early 1990s. Between 1991 and 1994, he was a negotiator at the Congress for Democratic South Africa (CODESA) and later the Multi-Party Negotiation process. In 1993, he became the co-Chairperson of the Multi-Party Negotiation process.

After being elected to the National Assembly in 1994, he was part of the Constitutional Assembly (CA), the body tasked with drafting the Constitution of the Republic of

South Africa, and also served as Chairperson of Committees in the National Assembly. In 2002 he was elected permanent Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). After the third democratic elections in 2004, he was re-elected permanent Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP. In January 2005, he was elected Chairperson of the NCOP. In the third Parliament he served as a member of South Africa's Judicial Services Commission, which among other things must recommend judges for appointment by the President.

Mr Mahlangu has represented South Africa at many international conferences and seminars such as the Study of the Role of the Senate, Germany in 1995, the Study of Intergovernmental Relations, India in 1999, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Geneva 2003, the Speakers' Conference in New York in 2005, the 18th Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers' Conference in Kenya in 2006, the IPU Assembly held in South Africa last year,

and in many conferences of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

In 2003 he was appointed to the Pan-African Parliament as one of the five representatives of the Parliament of South Africa. His duties in this continental body included serving on the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline. He served in the Committee's technical team for proposals on how to harmonise laws in Africa.

In 2007 he was elected for a year to the position of Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region). He has served the ANC in different capacities at regional, provincial and national level, including his membership of the Legislature and Government Subcommittee of the National Executive Committee.

On 7 May 2009 "MJ" as he is affectionately known was re-elected Chairperson of the NCOP of the fourth Parliament.



Deputy Speaker
of the National
Assembly

Nomaindia Mfeketo

Nomaindia Mfeketo is a resilient struggle stalwart, who is no stranger to leadership roles. She has over the years proved to be an outstanding community leader. Some of the organisations in which she played a leading role include the United Women's Organisation, the United Women's Congress, the Western Cape Civics Organisation, the United Democratic Front, the African National Congress and the ANC Women's League.

In the past 20 years Ms Mfeketo has become involved in a number of business and NGO initiatives. She was employed by the self-help NGO known as ZAKHE for 10 years, and in 1991 she also joined the Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT), a financial NGO responsible for the funding and establishment of Advice Offices with a focus on rural and peri-urban areas.


In 1992 she was employed by the Development Action Group, an NGO that is focused on housing matters.

Ms Mfeketo has valuable experience in business as a director of companies, including Saatchi and Saatchi and the SA Wine Industry Trust. Her work in the non-governmental sector largely focused on self-help and development projects, and she was seconded to help negotiate a non-racial local government for the former City of Cape Town, the precursor to the Unicity. She was elected the first Chairperson of the Executive Committee of Council and in September 1998, she was elected Mayor of Cape Town, where she focused on transformation initiatives.

In recognition of this leadership role, the University of Cape Town conferred an honorary Doctorate of Law on her for outstanding contribution to municipal governance and Community Development. In November 2002, she was re-elected as Mayor of the City of Cape Town, the Metropolitan authority that replaced seven former councils. In June 2003, following legislative changes, she became Executive

Mayor of the City of Cape Town, the first woman to be appointed Executive Mayor of a major city in South Africa. Also in 2003, she received the Local Government Management of South Africa Award for launching a massive citizen listening campaign. This was to reinforce a development trajectory that was supposed to take the City of Cape Town through to the year 2020.

She has also served as a Political Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, as a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC, and as a member of the National Working Committee of the ANC.

In 2008, she was sworn in as the Member of Parliament and appointed as the ANC Caucus Chairperson. In 2009, she was again sworn in as an MP and appointed to the post of Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the fourth democratic Parliament. 



Deputy Chairperson
of the National
Council of Provinces

Thandi Memela

Thandi Memela was born on 8 January, 1939 and educated in Durban. She trained as a professional nurse at Pretoria General Hospital.

Ms Memela worked for different companies and a Christian Women's movement. Her community development work was noticed and she was appointed to the national headquarters of the African National Congress where she worked on the ANC Women's League Malibongwe project, focusing on development and upliftment projects.

As one of the Presidential development nodal areas, Cato Manor was earmarked for improved service delivery and development, with a particular focus on local government. Ms Memela worked for the Cato Manor Development Association on clearing slums and other projects. She was later seconded to the eThekweni municipality in the Area Base Management and Development (ABM) section, until April 2009.

Ms Memela joined Parliament in May 2009 to serve as a permanent delegate for KwaZulu-Natal in the National Council of Provinces, and she was subsequently elected to serve as the permanent Deputy Chairperson. In terms of the Constitution, the NCOP must elect a Chairperson and two Deputy Chairpersons from among the delegates. The Chairperson and one of the Deputy Chairpersons are elected from among the permanent delegates for five years unless their terms as delegates expire earlier. The other Deputy Chairperson is elected for a term of one year, and must be succeeded by a delegate from another province, so that in time every province gets a turn.

The Deputy Chairperson assists the Chairperson in providing strategic leadership to the NCOP, including chairing Joint Committees of Parliament.

The Deputy Chairperson performs any of the functions of the Chairperson if the Chairperson, for

whatever reason, is unable to do so. From time to time the Deputy Chairperson, in her official capacity, is expected to undertake certain projects on behalf of the Presidium or the institution.

Wherever the rules of the NCOP or its proper functioning requires such consultation, the Chairperson must exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Office of the Chairperson. The Chairperson does so only after consulting the Deputy Chairpersons, other Presiding Officers, the delegation heads, the Whips and any relevant Committees.

Ms Memela is an active member of the Community Police Forum (CPF) of Cato Manor and the ANC Women's League. She is a former member of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the provincial Chairperson of MK Veterans, in KwaZulu-Natal.

She is a mother of four children and five grandchildren, and she also has great-grandchildren.



Leader of
Government
Business in
Parliament

Kgalema Motlanthe

The Leader of Government Business plays a pivotal role as government's go-to man in Parliament. In terms of section 91(4) of the Constitution, the President must appoint a member of the Cabinet to be the Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly. President Jacob Zuma has entrusted this important responsibility to his right-hand man, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, who assists the President in executing government functions.


In his capacity as Leader of Government Business, Deputy President Motlanthe is primarily responsible for the affairs of the national Executive in Parliament, and he also acts as the liaison or interface between the Executive and Parliament. Another duty involves the programming of Parliamentary business initiated by the national Executive, in particular the legislative programme, and compliance with Parliamentary deadlines for submission of Bills. He is also responsible for arranging the attendance of Cabinet Ministers in respect of Parliamentary business. Mr Motlanthe is an ex-officio member (by virtue of his position) of Parliament's Programming Committee.

Together with the Presiding Officers and Whips of the various parties, he determines Parliament's programme to ensure the legislative work programme and government business are synchronised.

A particular focus of the job is Cabinet's legislative programme. Based on his interaction with government departments at the start of each year, Mr Motlanthe submits to Parliament a list of the Bills that Cabinet will introduce in Parliament that year. Should it happen that a Bill dealing with important matters does not meet the introduction deadline, he may ask the Presiding Officers to prioritise the Bill to ensure that it is still passed in that particular session of Parliament. He may also request that an urgent Bill be fast-tracked through Parliament. The Leader of Government Business submits regular reports to Cabinet and Parliament's Programming Committee.

Union background

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe carved a niche for himself in the union movement. After the ex-Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre was imprisoned on Robben

Island for 10 years in 1977, he turned his attention to strengthening the union movement. He became actively involved in the National Union of Mineworkers and was elected its Secretary-General in 1992. Mr Motlanthe played a founding role in the establishment of numerous empowerment structures in the mining industry, such as the Mineworkers Investment Company, JB Marks Education Trust, which provides bursaries to mineworkers; a trade union school called The Elijah Barayi Memorial Training Centre and the Mineworkers Development Agency. He was responsible for re-establishing the legal structures of the African National Congress in the PWV region and was elected its first Chairperson in 1990. He served as Secretary-General of the ANC from 1997 to 2007 before being elected its Deputy President in December 2007, became a Member of Parliament in May 2008, and in July of the same year was appointed Minister in the Office of the Presidency. He enjoyed an eight-month stint as South Africa's President from 25 September 2008 until the end of the previous government's term and the 22 April general elections. On 10 May 2009, Mr Motlanthe was appointed South Africa's Deputy President. 



Multi-dimensional Leaders

Strong Presiding Officers have left their mark on Parliament during its formative years. We feature some of the highlights since 1994.

The Speaker of the National Assembly

The Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), together with the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), are the joint heads of Parliament. Although both are members of political parties, they are required by the Constitution to perform their office function fairly and impartially.

The Speaker presides over sittings of the Assembly, maintaining order and applying rules in the House. The position of Speaker is a senior one and section 90 of the Constitution makes provisions for circumstances where the Speaker may act as the President of the Republic of South Africa.

Under the new democratic dispensation, Parliament was first led by the Speaker of the Assembly, Dr Frene Ginwala, a position she held for ten years before retiring in 2004. Dr Ginwala was succeeded by Ms Baleka Mbete.

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

The Deputy Speaker takes the chair in the NA whenever requested by the Speaker to do so and assists in all functions carried out by the office. The first Deputy speaker in democratic South Africa was Dr Bhadra Ranchod of the National Party. Dr Ranchod was appointed High Commissioner to Australia in 1996.

Before succeeding Dr Ginwala, Ms Mbete served as Deputy Speaker between 1996 and 2004. Subsequently, Parliament elected Ms Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde as the Deputy Speaker, a position she held until 2008 when she was elected Speaker.

Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces

The NCOP came into being in 1997. The Chairperson presides over the sittings of the House and maintains

order during proceedings. The first Chairperson of the NCOP was Mr Mosiuoa Lekota and he was succeeded after five years by Ms Naledi Pandor who served from 1999 to 2004. Ms Joyce Kgoali was elected to the post after the 2004 elections. She died in office and was succeeded by Mr Mninwa Mahlangu who was re-elected by the fourth Parliament in 2009 to continue in this role.

Deputy Chairpersons of the National Council of Provinces

The Constitution provides for two Deputy Chairpersons of the NCOP. From the 54 permanent delegates of the House, one person is elected for a five-year term. Ms Peggy Hollander was elected permanent Deputy Chairperson for 2005 to 2009 and replaced by the current Deputy, Ms Thandi Memela. The Deputy Chairpersons have been Mr Bulelani Ngcuka (1997-1998); Ms Naledi Pandor (1998 -1999); Mr Lawrence Mushwana (June 1999 to October

2002); Mr Mninwa Mahlangu (2002 - 2005).

The second Deputy Chairperson is elected on a rotational basis for one year and must be succeeded by a delegate from a different province, with every province being represented in turn.

House Chairpersons of the National Assembly

The Constitution makes provision for the election of Members to assist the Presiding Officers in carrying out their duties in the National Assembly (NA). Since 1994, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Committees have undertaken this duty. In 2004, Speaker Mbete proposed strengthening the Office of the Speaker through the establishment of a panel of three House Chairpersons to assist the

Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The aim was to spread the workload of the Speaker's office, which had grown considerably since 1994. The House Chairpersons of the NA at present are Ms Mildred Oliphant, Mr Obed Bapela and Mr Ben Skosana.

Former House Chairpersons of the National Assembly are Mr Geoff Doidge, Mr Nkosinathi Nhleko, Ms Sandra Botha and Mr Andre Nel.

House Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces

The rules of the NCOP make provision for the election of two House Chairpersons from among its members to assist the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, as additional Presiding Officers. One House Chairperson is responsible for Committees and the other is in

charge of Oversight and Institutional Support. Some of the functions of House Chairperson, Committees, are to monitor the support provided by the Committee Section to Committees, to facilitate the drafting of Committee budgets and to track the progress of legislation in the Committees. The current House Chairperson, Committees, is Ms Nosilivere Magadla.

Two of the functions of the House Chairperson, Oversight and Institutional Support, are to coordinate the oversight activities of Select Committees and to monitor compliance by the Executive on the recommendations that have been set out in the reports of Select Committees (via the Office of the Chairperson of NCOP). The current House Chairperson Oversight and Institutional Support is Mr Raseriti Johannes Tau.

Other important positions in Parliament

Whips are responsible for organising party business and keeping Members informed, supplying lists of Members to serve in Committees, securing the attendance of Members at meetings, for divisions and voting, and arranging for Members to speak in debates. Whips are appointed by the Speaker on the recommendation of parties, and receive additional remuneration.

The Chief Whip of the majority Party has special duties as the representative of the largest party in Parliament. These include arranging the Order Paper and ensuring that there are enough Members in the House to form a majority if there is a division or voting. The Chief Whip, currently Dr Mathole Motshekga, is also responsible for political consultation with other parties.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition is appointed by the Speaker, on the recommendation of the largest minority party. The Chief Whip of the Opposition is that party's spokesperson parliamentary matters.

Mr Ian Davidson is the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The National Council of Provinces must also elect a Chief Whip from among its permanent delegates and the decision must be supported by at least five provinces. The Chief Whip ensures that MPs undertake their parliamentary duties, as set out in the legislative programmes, and oversees the effective functioning of plenary sessions. Whips in the NCOP are not organised along party lines but serve the House in a non-partisan manner. Provincial Whips act as leaders of their delegation, irrespective of the political party affiliation of Members of the delegation. Whips are responsible for ensuring that Members attend Committee meetings and plenaries and carry out their responsibilities.

The Leader of the Opposition enjoys a special status in Parliament. As the leader of the largest party that is not in government, and thus a potential alternative head of State, the post is specified in the Constitution. Mr Athol

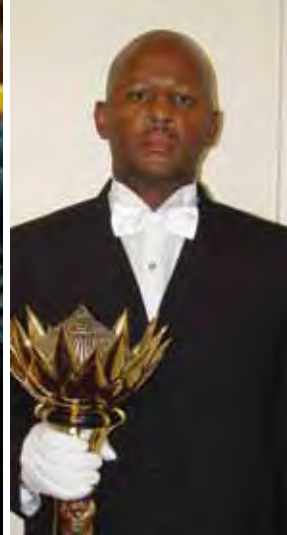
Trollip is the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of Government Business is appointed by the President from the Cabinet in terms of the Constitution. He/she is therefore responsible for the affairs of the national executive in Parliament. Liaison between the executive and Parliament Programming of parliamentary business is initiated by the Executive, in particular the legislative programme and compliance with the deadlines for submission of parliamentary business. Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe is the Leader of Government Business in Parliament.

The National Assembly rules also provide for two Members as Parliamentary Counsellors, one to the President and one to the Deputy President. They must facilitate communication between Parliament and the offices of the President and the Deputy President. Ms Ayanda Dlodlo is the Parliamentary Counsellor to the President. Mr John Jeffery is the Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President.

Q & A



Godfrey Cleinwerck
Serjeant-at-Arms



Vincent Shabalala
Usher of the Black Rod

Jackie Adriaans interviews the Serjeant-at-Arms in the National Assembly, **Mr Godfrey Cleinwerck**, and the Usher of the Black Rod in the National Council of Provinces, **Mr Vincent Shabalala**.

You have often seen them on television.

They are usually the ones leading the procession into Parliament's Chambers. Clad in a black tailcoat, smart waistcoat, starched white shirt, bowtie and gloves, the Serjeant-at-Arms of the National Assembly and his counterpart in the National Council of provinces, the Usher of the Black Rod, escort the Presiding Officers into the Chambers.

But there is more to their roles than meets the eye.

Q The roles of Serjeant-at-Arms and the Usher of the Black Rod: what do they comprise?

A **Godfrey Cleinwerck (GC)** The role of Serjeant-at-Arms is multifaceted. I am well known for my ceremonial role of the bearer of the People's Mace. The Mace is the symbol of authority of the Speaker of the National Assembly. Its presence in the Chamber indicates that a sitting of the House is in progress. Besides my ceremonial role, I have other key functions. I am responsible for coordinating a number of services for the Chamber when the House is sitting, including liaison with Parliament's Protection Services in respect of security, and the Sound and Vision Unit for audio-visual coverage of the proceedings in Parliament. I also liaise with Household Services for cleaning services. I have to ensure that the voting system has been tested in case it is required, and I keep attendance records for Members of Parliament at plenaries and Joint Sittings. I also arrange seating and facilities for MPs with disabilities, and facilitate the visits of my counterparts from Africa and

abroad. I have had the privilege of displaying and explaining the facilities of the National Assembly Chamber to many visiting dignitaries. And I consider myself the "chief bouncer" when I am required to escort a Member from the Chamber for not abiding by the rules of the National Assembly, as instructed by the Presiding Officer.

A **Vincent Shabalala (VS)** The Usher of the Black Rod is mainly a ceremonial role. The term Usher of the Black Rod comes from the Black Rod carried in the right hand on ceremonial processions. Once Members are seated, the Black Rod is positioned to the right of the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces. This indicates that the House is formally in session. The Rod is the symbol of authority of the Chairperson, and the Usher of the Black Rod receives instructions from the Chairperson. This may include having to escort a Member from the Chamber. For example the Chairperson may instruct a Member to withdraw a statement he/she has made, and if that Member does not comply, the Chairperson may instruct the Usher of

the Black Rod to escort the Member from the Chamber. Besides ceremonial duties, the Usher of the Black Rod also performs administrative functions. In conjunction with the Chief Whip of the NCOP, the Usher deals with seating arrangements for Members in the Chamber. This includes keeping an attendance register.

Q What is the origin of the two roles?

A **GC** The Serjeant-at-Arms originates from the Westminster system. Commonwealth countries have the position of Serjeant-at-Arms. Where there are two chambers in the Parliament, and the counterpart of the Serjeant-at-Arms is the Usher of the Black Rod.

A **VS** The office of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod originated in the House of Lords in the British Parliament almost 650 years ago. He was the personal attendant of the King or Queen.

Q Have the roles been adapted in any way to meet the needs of the South African Parliament?

A **GC** The role of Serjeant-at-Arms has basically remained the same, the major exception being the use of the People's Mace that recalls the past, mirrors the present and looks to the future.

A **VS** The post of the Usher of the Black Rod was re-established in South Africa's first democratically

elected Parliament in 1994. The word “Gentlemen” was removed from the title to give it a neutral gender. During 1996 the first woman Usher of the Black Rod was appointed in the South African Senate. Elmarie van der Horst became the first female Usher on the continent.

Q How do the roles of Serjeant-at-Arms and Usher of the Black Rod differ?

A GC and VS They are equivalent positions and their roles are very similar. The only real difference lies in their titles: The People’s Mace is the authority of the National Assembly and the Black Rod is the authority of the National Council of Provinces.

Q How were you appointed to the position?

A GC In 1983 I was working as Assistant Secretary of the Coloured Representative Council in Bellville. The following year I was seconded to Parliament to serve as Serjeant-at-Arms in the House of Representatives. After the first democratic elections in 1994, I was transferred to the National Assembly where I assumed my current position.

A VS I have served as Usher of the Black Rod since 2003. I have a police background. This helps when dealing with authority and security in the House. In the case of public participation initiatives like *Taking Parliament to the People*, security is a key consideration. I have to appoint a reliable service provider to transport Members on such occasions, and make arrangements with the police to transport the Black Rod.

Q What makes your roles special for you?

A GC The Serjeant-at-Arms plays a prominent ceremonial role. It is an important position in the functioning of the Chamber, in terms of procedure and discipline.

A VS There is only a small number of Ushers in the world, and I am the only Usher of the Black Rod in Africa. In 2007 at the Commonwealth Professional Development Conference in Canberra, a gala dinner was held in recognition of the Ushers of the Black Rod. It was an opportunity to gain more experience as we received ceremonial and protocol training.

Q Can you recall some of your most memorable moments while on duty?

A GC There have been many highlights over the years, including visits by kings, queens and presidents. These include Queen Elizabeth II in 1995, former President Bill Clinton and Yasser Arafat, who both visited Parliament in 1998. In 1994 I had the honour of leading the procession of the first democratic President Nelson Mandela, a man I had until then only read about and seen on television. It was a great honour five years later to lead his final procession into the Assembly. Another momentous occasion and proud moment was the handing over of the People’s Mace. On a lighter side, I recall when Mr Koos van der Merwe brought a cake into the Assembly to commemorate the one-year anniversary of being unable to secure an appointment with former President Thabo Mbeki.

A VS The introduction of the Black Rod in the NCOP in 2005 and the 10th anniversary of the NCOP two years later were emotional experiences.

Q In the course of your career, has there been opportunity for contact with other Parliaments?

A GC There have indeed been opportunities for international exposure. In 1994, South Africa was re-admitted to the Commonwealth. That same year and again in 2004, I attended the Commonwealth Serjeants at Arms Association Conference, which is held every five years in London. In

2000 I attended the first Conference of the Africa Region in Kenya and in 2001 our Parliament hosted the Conference for the first time. In 2005, I was elected Chairperson of the Africa region for two years at its Ghana Conference. Two years later, I attended the Commonwealth Professional Development Conference in Canberra. Parliament has also hosted Serjeants at Arms from our Provincial Legislatures and other African Parliaments for training and attachment.

A VS The Commonwealth Serjeants at Arms Association meets every five years in London. In the other four years, a country volunteers to host the Conference of the Africa Region. This being the fifth year, we will once again be meeting in London in July. There are also opportunities to participate in exchange programmes. I have had the opportunity to visit the Australian, British and Ghanaian Parliaments.

Q How did the new symbols of Parliament, the Black Rod of the National Council of Provinces and the People’s Mace of the National Assembly, come about?

A GC and VS In an effort to forge a unique identity and develop symbols that were a more accurate reflection of our democracy, Parliament embarked on an extensive public participation campaign to consider new symbols in 1999. The South African Bureau of Heraldry undertook an extensive process of considering submissions from the public. In 2004, the National Assembly took possession of the People’s Mace, followed by the adoption of the Black Rod by the National Council of Provinces in 2005. A process is currently underway to consider dispensing with the title of “Usher of the Black Rod” and to replace it with a more appropriate African name. Replicas of the old and new symbols are on display in the foyer of the Old Assembly. The original items are kept in safe custody when not in use. 🌍



Ms Khellinah Nomvula Shoba

29 September 1956 - 26 May 2009

Nature does not negotiate, and can destroy in the wink of an eye what has been carefully constructed over time. This can be said to have happened with the sudden passing away of Ms Khellinah Nomvula Shoba, according to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu. He was delivering an obituary to commemorate the passing of Ms Shoba.

Nature is unpredictable, and it has its own cycle. Farmers say that at times it can be brutal.

- Max Sisulu, Speaker of the National Assembly

“She had been sworn in as an MP for just three days before death struck its cruel blow. She has thus become the person with the shortest stay in the democratic Parliament since its inception in 1994. The other persons who have had the misfortune of having spent short times in Parliament were Ms Feroza Adams with three months, and Mr Thomas Nkobi with four months.

Congress in 1990, and remained active within various provincial structures of the organisation until her untimely death at the age of 52. She was a committed cadre of the organisation, a gender activist and a servant of the working class. She served in various positions within the tripartite alliance, amongst others as the Secretary and Deputy Chairperson of the ANC, Provincial Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions in Mpumalanga, Regional Treasurer for the National Union of Mineworkers, and she was a member of the South African Communist Party.

Gains achieved by women since the advent of our democracy, including gender parity as reflected in the deployment of women in Parliament and other structures of government, were largely brought about through the courageous and unwavering struggle waged by women of her calibre. I have no doubt that she will be sadly missed by her colleagues in Parliament, the party she represented and the constituency she served in Mpumalanga. Let us take solace in the knowledge that her name will remain etched in the records of Parliament as a star with bright promise, regrettably dimmed before it could shine brightly for the nation. I am confident that all of us who remain behind in Parliament will continue to carry her torch.

Ms Shoba’s sudden departure has personally robbed me of an opportunity to get to know her better and to take pride in what she could contribute to Parliament. But that she passed away after having already taken part in some of the crucial processes leading to the appointment of Parliament’s Presiding Officers and the inauguration of the President was a great achievement, and perhaps this should serve as some consolation for us as Parliament, and to some extent, to her family.

Ms Shoba was known by her comrades as uncompromising in her advancement of women’s issues, which she pursued with passion and courage within the ANC and the structures of the tripartite alliance. A long-standing member of the ANC Women’s League, she served the organisation as Branch Secretary in Mpumalanga since 2004, and was later elected Deputy Chairperson of the ANC’s Ward 24 Branch.

As Parliament bows its head in honour of this gallant daughter of our nation, we extend our condolences to her husband, six children and five grandchildren, her relatives and close friends. We wish them strength in this time of sorrow and bereavement.”

A condolence book in the foyer of the National Assembly was officially opened by the Presiding Officers of Parliament, to be sent to the family once all the messages have been collated.

Born on 29 September 1956, Ms Shoba joined the African National

books you should be reading



The Mail & Guardian *A to Z of SA Politics*

Title:	The Mail & Guardian <i>A to Z of SA Politics</i>
Editor:	Rapule Tabane & Barbara Ludman
EAN/ISBN-13:	9781770096394
Format:	Paperback
Publisher:	Jacana Media (Released in May 2009)

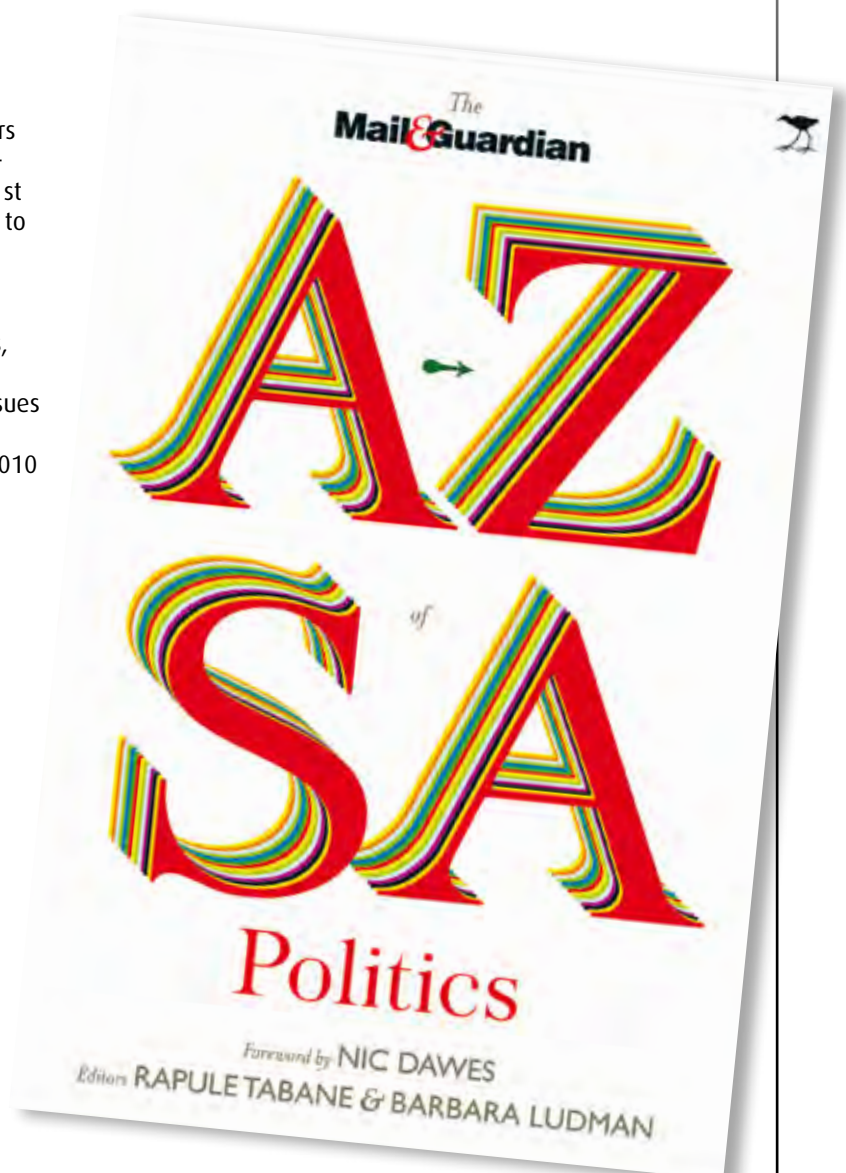
The new *A to Z of South African Politics* (2009) is the fifth edition of this best-selling guide for navigating the corridors of power. It offers an entertaining, under-the-skin look at the movers and shakers of the 21st century in South Africa, as well as the people to watch as they scale the ladder.

This essential read (256 pages) includes 120 profiles of individuals ranging from politicians, and judges, to activists, religious leaders and academics. There is incisive analysis of the issues confronting up-and-coming leaders, from the rise of new media, to the challenges of the 2010 World Cup.

Included is a guide to all the major political parties, outlining what they stand for, where they come from and where they are headed. The look at the provinces analyzes where the parties are winning and where they are falling short.

The *A-Z of South African Politics* is written by a team of experts, including Mail & Guardian reporters, whose in-depth analysis and investigations have won numerous awards and an international reputation for excellence.

The book is co-edited by the Mail & Guardian's political editor and deputy Editor-in-Chief, Rapule Tabane, and former Mail & Guardian associate Editor Barbara Ludman. It includes a foreword written by the Mail & Guardian's new Editor-in-Chief, Nic Dawes.





Editor-in-Chief: Luzuko Jacobs

citizen's forum

Take a bow!

From all the students from the Immaculata Secondary School who have been hosted by Parliament, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for hosting us. This experience was life-changing and we got to see what really happens in Parliament. Personally, I would like to study political studies at Wits University; I was really motivated to go into politics, and to get deep into how Parliament is run. Being in the building was just amazing and I am really thankful for having this opportunity. "Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles" (ISAIAH 40:31). I hope in my heart that the Lord blesses you for your kindness.

Ayanda Nxusani, Cape Town

Dear Ayanda,

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to show our future leaders how Parliament works. The role of Parliament as an institution is determined in our Constitution and it is a sacred trust for Parliament to monitor the implementation of our Constitution.

You opened the door for me

Thank you very much for assisting with organising my visit to Parliament at short notice. The professional, informative and lively manner in which the tour was handled was commendable. I think every South African should invest in a visit to Parliament. Even if I do not have the privilege to vote and be able to be represented by someone I chose, the Parliament tour was a privilege that brought me closer to the part of South African history that I share, by virtue of being an African. I had the same feeling that I experienced some five years ago when I visited Robben Island. Pass my

regards to all the staff members who made the tour possible and opened this door to my personal and historical consciousness.

Blessing Karumbidza, Durban

Dear Blessing,

Thank you for your kind words. Africa is a huge continent, but we are all connected by virtue of our common roots, and at times it is very rewarding to return to those roots.

Can we visit?

I am a Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School in New York, and am bringing a group of eight law students to work in Cape Town this summer. We want to visit the Parliament on 18 or 19 July. Would you kindly let me know whether Parliament will be in session then and whether I need to make any special arrangements?

Minna Kotkin, New York

Dear Professor Kotkin,

You are welcome to visit Parliament, and details on applying for a visit are published on page 4 of this edition. Visits to Parliament take place irrespective of whether either of the two Houses are in session. Unfortunately, there is a recess from 13 July to 31 July, during which period MPs will be engaged in constituency work. It may be possible to attend other activities which are open to the public, such as Committee meetings. However, most of the Committee meetings are scheduled at fairly short notice.

Dear Jasmine* and Mathabo*

We are very proud that we were selected to be part of the Junior Guard of Honour at the State of the Nation Address two weeks ago. It was a wonderful highlight for our children. They were buzzing with excitement about their experiences.

Thank you for organising all the special treats and gifts for us. The children loved their backpacks! I organise hikes for our school and we travel all over the Western Cape, so I'm sure those bags will be used on a regular basis.

You all managed to keep your cool and I was really impressed with the courteous, helpful attitude your particular group of people showed while dealing with hundreds of children.

I would have written earlier, but my mother passed away and this is the first opportunity I've had to send you our thanks. I will be sending you some of the children's news and impressions of their experiences. We feel that patriotism, pride and loyalty are valuable, meaningful characteristics to engender in the new generation. After all, our future politicians will come from this generation. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to promote these values.

Ms Lalette McGillewie, Muizenberg Junior School, Cape Town

Dear Ms McGillewie,

It was a pleasure to welcome all the eager and smiling faces to Parliament. We are proud of the discipline instilled in our children in South Africa by schools like yours, and it is our duty and trust to help in our small way to restore solid values like trust and loyalty. They are as valuable now as they were to your mother's generation, and will continue to be so.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead who never to himself has said this is my own, my native land!"

-Sir Walter Scott

**Jasmine Mohidin (Specialist: Public Education) and Mathabo Ntshangase (Specialist: Public Relations), work for Parliamentary Communication Services.*

citizen's forum

Did you know...

What is a Petition?

A petition is a formal request to an authority for action. It can assume the form of either a demand, for a favour, or for the redress of a grievance. In order for a petition to be effective, it has to reflect who the intended recipient is, the nature of the request being made, together with a motivation, and it should include the name and contact details of the petitioner(s).

Public participation is an important cornerstone of our growing democracy, and one way of ensuring that government accounts to the people for its actions.

Parliament has developed a number of mechanisms to promote public involvement in the law-making process and broaden access to a people's Parliament. Getting involved in the work of Parliament is not as difficult as it may seem. One way the public can exercise this constitutional right is through petitioning.

Presentation of a Petition

It is the inherent right of the members of the public in a democratic society to prepare and present petitions as and when the need arises. According to Section 17 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act (108 of 1996), any group of citizens and every individual has a right to appeal peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present a petition. However, there are certain procedures to be followed by individuals and/or groups in processing their petitions.

Only a Member of Parliament (MP) can formally present a petition for consideration in Parliament. A member of the public or group of people must therefore send their petition to an MP, requesting the Member to present it to Parliament on their behalf.

Types of Petitions

Petitions are classified into two categories, namely special petitions and public or general petitions. A special petition is when an individual makes a specific request or asks for personal relief from the State, which is not authorised by law, such as access to a pension. A public petition is when a group of citizens with a similar interest requests general relief, and in this form it may include any other petition.

Format of a Petition

Before being submitted, the petition must be in the form prescribed by the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) or the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). It must be in one of the official languages and it must be signed by the petitioners themselves (unless the Speaker

of the NA or the Chairperson of the NCOP decides otherwise). In addition, it must not contain improper, disrespectful language, must clearly explain the issue or circumstances for Parliament's consideration and it must indicate the nature of the relief sought, which Parliament is able to grant in terms of its authority.

How to submit a Petition in Parliament

Because a petition must be formally presented in Parliament, the petitioner must obtain the support of an MP. It is advisable that you talk to an MP before submitting the petition to find out if he or she will support you, and to help ensure that your petition has the correct format and content. If supporting documents outlining the issues raised in the petition are needed, attach the documents to it. The MP will lodge your petition with the Secretary to Parliament, to review it and certify it as correct in format and content, before submitting it to the Speaker or Chairperson. The petition will be tabled in Parliament and referred to the specific Committee that deals with the issues you have raised.



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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.



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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.

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