



# Parliament

## Journal





Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Hj. Kasmawati Tahir Basalamah (seated second from left) was the guest of the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Doreen Sioka (seated second from right) in June 2009. Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja



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Cover photo:

Members of the Ohangwena Regional Council after paying a courtesy call on the Chairman of the National Council Hon. Asser Kapere (fourth from right) pictured in front of the National Council Administration Building in May 2009. Ohangwena Regional Governor Hon. Usko Nghaamwa (fourth from left) headed the ten-member delegation.  
Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja

# Contents

From the Editor .....	4
Voter Education Builds Confidence, Says Prime Minister .....	5
Namibia Inspires .....	6
Zambian Learners .....	7
Rural Communities Demand Scrap of Water Debts .....	9
In Power But Not in Touch .....	9
Young Adults Appreciate Legislators .....	10
Workshop Moves Participants to Self-Discovery .....	12
Parliament Wins Prize .....	13
ESARBICA Calls for Information Sharing .....	14
Champions Advocate Prevention and Leadership .....	15
How to Fight HIV and AIDS in the New Millennium .....	18
Indonesian Lawmakers Compare Experience in Resettlement .....	19
An Update on Economic Partnership Agreements .....	20
SADC PF Discusses Global Crisis .....	22
Dr. Mutukwa Bids SADC PF Farewell .....	22
Dr. Chiviya at Helm of SADC PF .....	23
Women Speakers Meet in Vienna .....	24
Dr. Gurirab Opens Women Speakers' Conference .....	25
Solve Cypriot Problem, Urges Speaker .....	26
Gurirab Visits National People's Congress .....	27
Governing Security in Namibia .....	28
Align Rules with Protocol, AU Tells PAP .....	28
Euro-African Parliamentary Diplomacy .....	30
Survey on the Attitude towards Politics in Namibia .....	32
From the Chambers .....	34
Staff on the Move .....	



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# From the Editor

By Fanuel Katshenye

Namibian registered voters will flock to the polls in Presidential and National Assembly elections slated for 27-28 November this year. Political parties contesting for a democratic occupation of State House and a significant portion of seats in the National Assembly appear to be in high campaign gear with a view to emerging as victors. By law, the polls will definitely go ahead and the expected winner will be democracy for Namibia and its people, regardless of which party clinches the majority votes to push it to both State House and the National Assembly.

Political parties contesting the elections have made good promises to the voters through their various election manifestos – promises ranging from improved education to better health care among others.

Contesting parties have even gone further to pledge increased share of women to their 72-party lists for the National Assembly. Hopefully, we may expect pigs to fly where one or two of the contesting parties fields a female presidential candidate, though with little prospect for success at least for now.

The issue of women representation in decision-making structures has been high on the agenda of not only the Parliament of Namibia, but also on that of the entire SADC Parliaments. This then raises a question on how Namibia is faring in this regard. A closer look at women representation in Namibia's bicameral parliament points to 21 women (26, 9 percent) represented in the 72-seat National Assembly; and seven (also 26, 9 percent) of women occupying seats in the 26-member National Council.

Further interest would be on how Namibia compares with her immediate neighbours of Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe in relation to women representation in parliament. According to the latest data obtained from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as of 31 May this year, out of Angola's 220-member unicameral parliament, 83 are women, representing 37, 3 percent of the House. Botswana's 63-seat unicameral parliament has seven women or 11, 1 percent of Members Parliament. The 174 women in South Africa's 400-seat Lower House constitute 43, 5 percent; while the 16 women in the 54-seat Upper House make up 29, 6 percent. Zambia has 24 women or 15, 2 percent in her 158-member National Assembly. Zimbabwe, which recently reverted to bicameralism, has 32 women or 15, 2 percent in her 210-seat National Assembly; while the 93-seat Senate has 23 women, representing 24, 7 percent of the total membership. Although some of the cited countries have made visible progress regarding the representation of women in parliament, a lot still needs to be done to achieve the much talked about 50/50 men and women representation in decision-making structures.

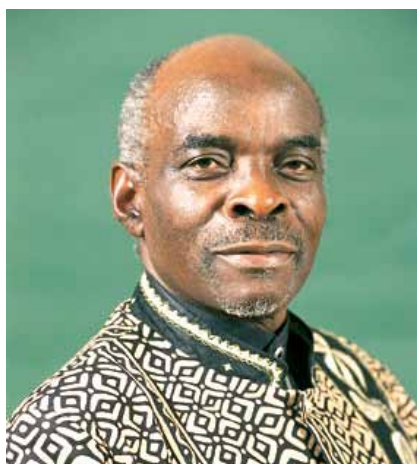
In 1997 the SADC Heads of State and Government adopted the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, which, amongst others, called on member states to achieve at least 30 percent women representation in politics and decision-making by 2005. The majority of member states did not achieve this goal by that date and a number are still far behind. The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, a more binding instrument which follows on from the 1997 Declaration, calls for 50/50 representation of women and men in decision making in all sectors. The 50/50 is in line with the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Namibia is a signatory to the said SADC protocol and the majority of women in the country push for a 50/50 percent representation in high decision-making bodies, including parliament. This is a direct challenge to the political parties contesting for elections in November to ensure fair women representation on the 5th National Assembly, come March 2010. This fair representation will only be achieved if women candidates are placed somewhere at the top of the list and not anywhere at its bottom as has been often the case in the past.

## Voter Education Builds Confidence, says Prime Minister

By Ambrosius Amutenja

Prime Minister Nahas Angula said voter education was a confidence building exercise conveying message that Namibia's democratic system was firmly established, although needed further consolidation through a spirit of multi-partisanship and cooperation between the ruling and the opposition parties in the country.



Prime Minister Nahas Angula

Speaking during the launch of the voter education campaign at the Parliament Gardens on 9 July 2009, the Prime Minister said the launch was a positive attempt by the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) to call upon the nation to register in large numbers and vote for the government of their choice in November this year. The Prime Minister believed that voter education was also a positive step promoting the spirit of peace, reconciliation and tolerance during and after the elections, warning that political opportunism should not eclipse the vision that the people commonly hold for a proud and tolerant society. He said the continuing efforts by Government to consolidate and shape the administration of

elections explained the importance and recognition that Namibia attached to the ECN role as the body mandated by law to conduct elections.

The Speaker of the National Assembly and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Hon Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, speaking at the event, praised the voters' education campaign as an important step forward in further deepening the democratisation process in Namibia. According to Dr. Gurirab, the challenge at hand for national leaders, political parties, public servants, media operators and civil society was to get the voters out in their thousands for Presidential and National Assembly elections, come November.

"This morning we stand tall and proud as Namibians to affirm once again the importance of regular, free and fair elections as the foundation of Namibian democracy and constitutionalism. The youth, and the born-frees in particular, must know and celebrate the heritage of a long and bitter struggle which finally brought about independence and the restoration of our people's freedom and human dignity. Perseverance is the key to success.

"Our present and, indeed, future leaders must show wisdom, courage and unity of purpose by ensuring national unity. The near and present challenges we face include assuring social stability, political tolerance, gender equality and equity and sustainable social development," said Dr. Gurirab when he officiated at the occasion.

On the way to reaching Vision 2030, Dr. Gurirab said, Namibia must demonstrate readiness and capacity by meeting the timeliness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and by mitigating the awesome financial and economic crises, climate change and food security. He hoped and expected that all Namibians would be at peace and harmony with each other, urging them to conduct the forthcoming elections free of political intolerance and turn out in their many

thousands to let the verdict of the ballot box to prevail.

The Secretary General of the ruling SWAPO Party, Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, who also spoke at the event, said her party would "stick to the principles and values as espoused in the Code of Conduct (for political parties) and see no reason why we should deviate from it now. Doing so carries with it the potential for creating mistrust and confusion among the stakeholders in this important democratic exercise". Iivula-Ithana acknowledged that the high prospect for consolidating democracy in Namibia was a daunting challenge not only to develop, but also to preserve and maintain. Consolidating democracy, she admitted, was indeed an uphill battle that would require enormous political will, national discipline, sacrifice and vast financial expenses.

Speaking for the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN), the Coordinator of Faith Justice and Society, Rev. Dr. Tshapaka Kapolo, reminded the audience of the significant role that the CCN had played during the first voters' education campaign of 1989 which gave birth to the independence of Namibia in 1990. He assured the ECN that the "CCN is your impartial partner in the voters' education campaign. CCN is ready all the time to assist wherever our help is needed".

The CCN appealed to political parties to conduct their election campaign in an environment free from violence, intimidation, provocation and harassment; to conduct elections in a free and fair manner, without resorting to unfair practices and with absolute respect; to respect and accept the result of free and fair elections; to treat or consider the voters' democratic will as their final say; and for political parties to honour their pledge to lead by example.

The Chairperson of the ECN, Mr. Victor Tonchi, who also attended the occasion, said the voters' education campaign aimed to "raise public awareness and

to account to the public how far we have travelled with our publicity and information campaigns to convince the eligible voters to register and cast their votes". He stressed that "the ECN strives to manage the electoral system process in a fair and impartial manner". Mr. Tonchi described 2009 as a year that represented important milestone in Namibia's history where thousands of young people, the born-frees, would be flocking to the polls to elect the State President and the Members of the National Assembly for the first time ever.

The Congress of Democrats (CoD) Secretary-General Hon. Tsudao Gurirab described the launch as an "occasion in celebration of the values we have freely elected for ourselves... to choose by universal adult suffrage, through democratic and inclusive elections, public representatives for the State of Namibia." As we march towards our country's 20th year of Statehood, Hon. Gurirab cautioned, we still need to do a great deal by learning to deal with our political differences and find the language to express and debate these without vituperation.

## NAMIBIA INSPIRES ZAMBIAN LEARNERS

By Ambrosius Amutenja

Namibia is breath-taking, magnificent, inspirational, clean and peaceful; its people are friendly and accommodating, its history plays an important role in the Southern Africa Region and, indeed, visiting Namibia, with its better road network, has been a wonderful experience. These were personal feelings expressed by some of the 41 Grade 12 learners from Zambia's Rhodes Park School, based in Lusaka, who visited Parliament of Namibia on 12 August 2009 as part of their educational field trip. The learners, on the school's eighth trip to the country, were accompanied by five teachers.

The educational tour, which lasted from 10 to 15 August, was aimed at broadening the learners' scope and appreciation of other peoples' social, cultural and natural environments. Ms. Stella Zimba, a teacher and leader of the team, explained that the objective of the trip was to enable the learners to compare life in Zambia and Namibia and to see the similarities and differences, such as the desert and the ocean which Zambia does not have.

Elaborating on why privately-owned Rhodes Park School has been keen on visiting Namibia for eight consecutive years, Ms. Zimba said: "Namibia is a

peaceful country with very friendly and welcoming people. There is a lot to learn in terms of tourism, trade, and environmental conservation. I have noted more development compared to the year 2004 when I was here. One can see more infrastructure development and better road network."

For history teacher Ms. Pamela Sinkamba, "Namibia's history plays a very important role in the Southern African Region. Zambia's senior secondary syllabus for history has a long component on the countries in the region and how together they have developed. The history of organisations such as COMESA (Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa) and SADC (Southern African Development Community) are studied in great detail, informing learners on how they work and their importance to the entire region.

A comparative study of various political changes is a great eye-opener for the Zambian learners."

"I have found this trip beneficial to children because it consolidated what is taught in class. Basically, our syllabus looks into natural regions where formation of deserts and characteristics of vegetation and climate are part of the topics. Therefore, the visit helped learners to learn more about deserts. The process of weathering was another aspect of interest which is prominent in desert area," said Ms. Gamera Chimuka, a geography teacher.



Mrs. Stella Zimba, Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja





*National Assembly Member Hon. Johan de Waal speaking to learners from Zambia's Rhodes Park School.  
Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja*

Mathematics teacher, Mr. Emmanuel Sikazwe, said: "This has been my second visit to the Parliament Buildings in Namibia. The people of Namibia are very social and very accommodating." For female learner Ngosa Kalale "Namibia has been quite an interesting experience. I have learnt more than I thought I would. The trip has truly been both educational and fun. From our stay in Walvis Bay to visiting the parliament, everything about the trip has been exciting and it is an experience I will never forget."

Kalale's fellow male learner, Kondwani Banda, yelled with excitement: "Wow!

Is the first impression I had when I first saw the country with its picturesque views and beautiful people. I think Namibia is truly a wonderful place. I really appreciate it (the country)!"

Another male learner, Tumeyo Chipungu, said: "Visiting Namibia has been a wonderful experience.

"Everything in this country is clean and orderly. People are friendly and I have not had difficulties with anyone. The sites to see are wonderful and many. I wish I could come here often."

Female learner, Namoonga Mantina, was equally excited when expressing

her impression of Namibia: "Namibia has been breath-taking, magnificent and inspirational. Very few words can actually describe this experience I have had. I have enjoyed it and do hope to come back."

The group visited scenic places at the coastal area such as Dune 7 – the highest dune in Southern Africa; the "Desert Friendly" Dune for quad bikes, the Cape Cross Seal Colony, and the Walvis Bay Port. In Windhoek they visited the National Museum, Parliament, the University of Namibia (UNAM), the Zambian High Commission, and the Heroes' Acre.

## RURAL COMMUNITIES DEMAND SCRAP OF WATER DEBTS

By Brian Riruako



*Children drawing water at water point in the Ohangwena Region. Photo: Brian Riruako*

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration undertook a public hearing following a motion by a DTA parliamentarian calling for the writing-off of debts owed to the Namibia Water Corporation (NamWater) by the country's communal farmers. The hearings were conducted in the Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa Regions.

DTA parliamentarian Hon. McHenry Venaani tabled the motion on 8 September 2008. After deliberations on the motion, the National Assembly agreed to refer it to the Committee which consequently agreed to summon NamWater Chief Executive Officer who appeared before the Committee on 7 April 2009. At that meeting, the Chief Executive Officer informed the Committee that Namibia Water Corporation Act (Act 12 of 1997) compelled the corporation to run its affairs on commercial principles and, unless instructed otherwise by a Cabinet decision, the water utility had no mandate to write-off bad debts. Subsequent to that meeting the Committee resolved to undertake public hearings from 10-16 May 2009 to the affected communities for further investigation and in line with its activities for 2009/2010.

In the Oshana Region, the Committee paid a courtesy call on Governor

Clemens Kashuupulwa who suggested that the functions of water be decentralized to the Regional Council in order to better serve the community. The Governor also briefed the Committee about the condition of water pipes in the region, where about 90 percent of the villages are covered. However, the Governor felt that water management was problematic as members of the Local Water Point Committee (LWPC) did not have the capacity to collect funds on behalf of NamWater. Although expected to collect funds for NamWater using their own resources, LWPC members are said to be unemployed.

This raised concerns about transparency and fairness as the communities were not provided with receipts when they pay for water to the LWPC Chairpersons. The community appealed to NamWater to train members of the LWPC on billing and financial management and suggested that they be remunerated with full fringe benefits enjoyed by NamWater employees. They equally appealed to NamWater to write-off their debts in order to give them a sigh of relief.

From the various meetings held, the community strongly felt that government had abdicated its responsibility to manage water points. As a result, the community was

discouraged to pay for water which was the main source of their debts. They said that government could have given up its responsibility in stages until the community could manage the water point themselves. Most of the sentiments expressed were similar to those of other regions visited.

The water debt was equally a problem for communities in the Otjozondjupa Region with the majority of communal farmers with no other means of survival. For example, the installation of water meters at households in the Okakarara Constituency had created additional challenges for the community as they have to pay for two accounts per month – the accumulative debt and the new water meter readings.

Other challenges faced by the community in the region include high charges for water consumption; some communal farmers subsidising up to ten households for the marginalised san people; villagers paying for outstanding water bills for the deceased and for farmers who have migrated to other areas; the billing of water according to the number of heads of cattle which had created tension between farmers; incorrect meter readings due to lack of training; and inadequate information that rural water supply officials provide to communities. Additionally, all community members spoken to cited high water charges, poverty, unemployment, and long distances as contributing factors to non-payment of NamWater bills.

The Committee delegation, led by Hon. Nicky Nashandi, was composed of Parliamentarians Arnold Tjihuiiko, Moses Amweelo, McHenry Venaani Chief Samuel Ankama, and Eunice Ipinge.



Committee members inspecting burst water pipe at Otjituuo in the Otjozondjupa Region. Photo: Brian Riruako



## IN POWER BUT NOT IN TOUCH

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Out of Namibia's elected politicians, Namibians are least likely to contact a National Assembly member if they have a problem or want to pass on their views. Ninety six percent of respondents said they had not contacted a member of the National Assembly (NA) in the past year, according to the Afrobarometer opinion survey. Three percent had contacted an NA MP either once or a few times.

Members of the National Council are also not in demand when it comes to citizens communicating their views or problems, according to the nationwide survey. Some 94 percent had never been in contact, while five percent had been in touch once or a few times. Next on the unpopularity list are local authority councillors with 83 percent of respondents saying that (they) had not been in touch. Some 17 percent said they had been in contact once, a few times or often. The most contacted group was Regional Councillors with 21 percent of respondents saying they had contacted their representatives and 78 percent saying they had not been in touch.

The results support the theory that politicians elected to represent constituencies are far more likely to be in touch with the problems and issues that ordinary voters are facing. Members of the National Assembly are elected through the party list proportional representation system. As a result, they are accountable to their parties rather than constituencies and the public has no direct access to an MP who represents their area. Regional Councillors are the only politicians in the Namibian system that actually represents constituents and therefore it is not surprising that they emerge as the most 'in touch' representatives

in this survey. National Councillors sit in Namibia's second chamber of parliament, but they are also Regional Councillors – so while they may not be contacted as parliamentarians, they could be in touch with constituents in their capacity as Regional Councillors.

Local Authority Councillors are also elected according to a party list system (there are no wards in Namibia), but are at least collectively responsible to the village, town or city that they run. The low number of people actually contacting politicians could be due to the inaccessibility of elected representatives but it could also, in part, be attributed to apathy among the populace.

## YOUNG ADULTS APPRECIATE LEGISLATORS

By David Nahogandja

A group of young adults from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints spent a day in and around the Parliament of Namibia on 9 July 2009 with the purpose to better appreciate the political and democratic processes of the country. The day included

special meetings with parliamentarians who afforded the young adults the opportunity to pose questions related to parliament and its functions. The personal experiences related by the parliamentarians helped to elevate the young adults' vision and reality about parliament.

The lawmakers who met the young adults were National Council Chairman, Hon. Asser Kapere; Hon. Juliet Kavetuna, Hon. Dr. Chief Samuel Ankama, Hon. McHenry Venaani, and Hon. Katuutire Kaura. The young adults asked parliamentary questions, such as: "What motivates you in politics?" and "What would you give the young people of Namibia?"

Hon. Kapere, responding to the question "what advice would you give to a young person to get into politics", said: you need to have love of three things – love for God, love for other people and love for yourself. Hon. Juliet Kavetuna, tackling the same question, emphasised the need to stay who you are. "Sometimes people try to make you a different person. When you are in a leadership position, just be yourself."

Hon. Dr. Chief Ankama, instead, focused on the importance of education: "Read books or educate yourself. Education is just as good here as in most countries. So let us take education seriously. We need to instill moral values in young people. Start with your village." For Hon. McHenry Venaani, the young



Young Adults posing for a group photo with Parliamentarian Juliet Kavetuna (standing, second from right). Photo: David Nahogandja

adults could accomplish their dreams through hard work. "Do not get into politics for the wrong reason. Politics is all about service. Your work must change the lives of those you serve."



*Hon. Katuutire Kaura*

DTA President, Hon. Katuutire Kaura, shared with the young adults how he got into politics and emphasised the importance of having a dream. "Believe in yourself and love yourself. Have an intense love for your fellow men (and women). To be a leader you need to be a servant."

The young adults appreciated meeting with some Namibian lawmakers and had consequently expressed the varying sentiments about the legislators: "It was a good experience. I could see myself as part of parliament in the future...The politicians that we met were very friendly and it was clear that each was trying their best to make a difference for the good of the country...The day was great, I enjoyed it. I learned that politicians are good people who believe in God, it was great! The politicians are people with real lives and families...As a child of God, it is good to know more about how laws are made in your country... Today was the best day ever for me. Usually I only see politicians on TV. Today I got to shake their hands and speak to them face-to-face about their lives...It was a wonderful feeling knowing how kind and wonderful they reacted towards us."

The young adults had a tour of parliament premises and Chambers, in addition to observing debates in the National Assembly.

## WORKSHOP MOVES PARTICIPANTS TO SELF-DISCOVERY

By Fanuel Katshenye

Members and staff of the National Council participated in an intensive interaction leadership workshop held in partnership with the British Council (BC) Namibia at Swakopmund recently. Both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council attended the three-day workshop.



*Mr. Ronnie Micallef, Director of British Council Namibia*

The Transformational Leadership Workshop, held from 23-25 July 2009, covered crucial topics such as leadership and transformation; assumptions of great leadership; wall of greatness of parliament and Namibia; questioning for change and transformation; chaos of communication/refraining complaints as commitment; and the image of a leader.

The British Council is a cultural relations organisation which engages with audiences in over 120 countries world-wide with a view to encouraging an exchange of knowledge and ideas

between people. A belated certificate handover ceremony was held in Windhoek on 29 July where the Deputy British High Commissioner, Mr. Gary Leslie, presented participants with the attendance certificates.

The Director of the British Council, Mr. Ronnie Micallef, speaking at the handover ceremony, said his organisation was seeking to develop mutual understanding and to contribute to positive social change. "For the British Council, culture is not simply about cultural events... These are indeed valid and important activities, but we also interpret 'culture' and 'cultural relations' as a wider contribution to innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship which are part and parcel of the Knowledge Economy – one of the developmental pillars of Namibia's Vision 2030," he said.

He said the interaction leadership training programme provided a good example of the organisation's changing role in Namibia, from a cultural events organiser to an agency which contributed to inter-cultural understanding and positive social change. He added: "The Interaction transformational leadership programme engages with dynamic and innovative individuals in Namibia and encourages them to make a positive difference within their organisations, their communities and ultimately their country."

According to Micallef nineteen African countries, including Namibia, are involved in this pan-regional network of leaders with a new outlook on their role in society. "The programme encourages participants to be passionate about Africa and to make a difference through appreciative enquiry and practical engagement in resolving problems that they have identified," he said.

The programme has been delivered successfully to various organisations in Namibia for the past five years, with individual participants from, amongst others, the Ministry of Education, NIED, UNAM, and Polytechnic of Namibia, Windhoek Vocational Centre, NTA; Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture; Ministry of Health,





The workshop facilitators (left to right) Mr. Levy Nakatana (Namibian), Dr. Christine Essien (Nigerian), Ms. Mabel Mungomba (Zambian) and Ms. Agnes Chitambo (Zambian). Photo: Fanuel Katshenye.

RISE Namibia, the National Council, Social Marketing Association, Motor Vehicle Administration Fund, Bank of Namibia, Namibia Chess Federation, the Namibia Broadcast Corporation and other NGOs.

Mr. Micallef thanked particularly Hon. Mensah-Williams for approaching the British Council with an idea of running this event, thereby adding the National Council to the list of prominent organisations that BC Namibia had the honour of engaging with.

“This is an excellent initiative which matches perfectly the British Council’s aspirations to reach out to the 13 regions and to engage beyond Windhoek. I am in the presence of members of the National Council who have constituencies back home and who may therefore be eager to develop closer links with my organisation. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can deliver a more ‘national’ service,” Mr. Micallef said. Regarding the “very successful” ranking rate by course participants, Mr. Micallef welcomed the suggestion that the course could be re-tailored and rolled out after the November elections to new MPs entering Parliament for the first time. “I think this is an exciting idea. Please talk to us about this. I promise you my full support,” he said.

Speaking at the same occasion, SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Council, Hon. Jhonny Hakaye, noted that the transformational leadership intervention had been dynamic in the sense that approaches used during the workshop had moved participants

to powerful self-discoveries that had dramatically strengthen their capacity to lead in these changing times. The reflection on our own leadership styles, he observed, would serve as a practical guide for us to lead from inside-out by challenging assumptions and re-framing issues of national importance in creative ways.

“As leaders we have discovered how to become more proficient at responsiveness, empathy, service and perspectives in order to transform the results we produce through our representation role,” he said.

It is now up to us to apply the transformed style of leadership to influence teamwork, productivity and profitability for the nation at large, influence our followers by transforming the basis of their motivation to work hard and remain focus on the achievement of Vision 2030, Hon. Hakaye concluded.

The course facilitators – Dr. Christine Essien, Ms. Mabel Mungomba, Mr. Levy Nakatana, all in absentia, and British Council Namibia Programme Manager, Ms. Agnes Chitambo, draw appreciation from the British Council Director and from members and staff of the National Council.



Part of the National Council Members who participated in the workshop. Photo: Fanuel Katshenye



Some Members and staff of the National Council displaying their attendance certificates. Photo: Eric Kletus



## PARLIAMENT WINS PRIZE

By Ambrosius Amutenja

The exhibition team of Parliament of Namibia has won the "Best Exhibit" trophy under government category at the 2009 Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair (OATF). The awarding of the trophy was made possible with compliments from Standard Bank Namibia. Parliament's participation at the OATF, from 21 to 29 August 2009, was under the theme: "Enhancing Public Participation in the Legislative Process."



*Some promotional staff members displaying the trophy that parliament won.*

The judging panel looked at the type of literature being displayed and how the promotional teams at the exhibition stands responded to questions posed by their visitors. The question "what should I study to become a diplomat or a parliamentarian" featured prominently during the promotional team's interaction with exhibition stand visitors. At first, I scratched my head before responding to the question. Then I responded: "You can study anything. But even if you study

subjects related to international relations that may not make you a good diplomat or parliamentarian. What is most important is being a person of high integrity, a person who presents a good impression about Namibia to the people you meet."

Apart from members of the general public who visited parliament stand, the stand was also honoured with the visits by the Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben

Gurirab, the Chairman of the National Council, Hon. Asser Kapere, the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Dr. Hage Geingob, Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, the Governor for the Hardap Region as well as by a significant number of Members of the National Council and National Assembly.

Members of the public were largely attracted by the information on how parliament functions that are printed on the boards attached to the exhibition stand. For the first time, the "Guide to Parliament" booklet, translated into Oshiwambo, was issued to most exhibition stand visitors. This move was appreciated by the majority of stand visitors who were not competent enough in reading English.



*The presence of Presiding Officers, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab (left) and Hon. Asser Kapere (right) drew the attention of most visitors to the parliament stand.*  
Photograph: Ambrosius Amutenja



## ESARBICA CALLS FOR INFORMATION SHARING

By Fanuel Katshenye

Some staff members from Parliament of Namibia and other government and non-governmental institutions in the country were part of the delegates to the 20th Conference of the Eastern and Southern African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) held in Windhoek from 1-3 July 2009. The 40-year-old ESARBICA is a professional organisation consisting of 16 member-countries from Eastern and Southern African regions. The three-day conference, held under the theme "Documentary Heritage in the Digital Age", aimed at reviewing the challenges and opportunities which the digital format posed to the preservation of ESARBICA's cultural and information heritage. It addressed not only the concerns of archives, libraries and museums but also all the institutions that had to manage digital documents that were threatened by the fast technological change.

Established in Kenya in 1969, ESARBICA brings together individuals and institutions concerned with the creation, use, preservation and management of recorded information in Eastern and Southern African countries. According to ESARBICA documents, the organisation has the mission of advancing archives through regional co-operation. Consistent with the objectives of the International Council on Archives (ICA), ESARBICA is mainly concerned with:

- establishing, maintaining and strengthening relations between archivists in the ESARBICA region and other professionals and institutions concerned with the administration and preservation of records and archives;
- carrying out the aims and objectives of the International Council on Archives;
- facilitating continuing education through professional attachments, study visits, seminars and workshops;
- providing technical and financial assistance to members whenever possible; and
- promoting the implementation of the professional code of conduct (code of ethics).

Inter alia, the following broad themes were among the 22 papers presented at the conference:

- Copyright in the digital era – Is there any Beauty in the Beast;
- Digitization as part of traditional conservation: options of digitization, microfilming and mass conservation and implementation of workflow;
- Infusing information ethics in digital preservation: challenges and opportunities for East and Southern Africa;
- Overview of archival and records management developments in the ESARBICA region;
- Archival programming in the digital era: the challenge for ESARBICA archivists;
- Assessing the reputation index of the National Archives and Records Service of South Africa amongst members of the public: implications on access to archives;
- Battling the appraisal backlog: a challenging professional obligation for Botswana National Archives and Records Services;
- Security, privacy and ethics in electronic records management in the South African public sector;
- The roles and work of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme;
- Information technology problems threaten the creation and preservation of trustworthy records: A case study of the Public Service of Namibia.

Presenters were drawn from universities in Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Zambia. Also included were presenters from the Botswana National Archives and Records Services; South Africa's National Archives and Records Services; the Namibia Library and Archives Service; the Documents Department at Neschén, Germany, as well as from the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden.



Part of the participants at the ESARBICA Conference. Photo: Fanuel Katshenye

- providing a forum for the exchange of professional ideals and expertise in the administration and preservation of archives and records;
- promoting, organising and coordinating activities in the management of records and archives at both regional and international levels;





By Doug Johnson

## CHAMPIONS ADVOCATE PREVENTION AND LEADERSHIP

The Champions for an HIV-Free Generation made their latest country visit to Namibia from 14 to 17 June 2009 where they met with the country's top leaders and urge an accelerated response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

Led by His Excellency, Mr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae, the former President of Botswana, the Champions'

visit included meetings with the President of Namibia, H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba; the Founding Father and former President of Namibia, Dr. Sam Nujoma; the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Richard Kamwi, and other cabinet ministers; the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Doreen Sioka, and other parliamentarians. The Champions also met leaders of civil society, SADC ambassadors, development partners and the media in the country.

More than 200,000 people are estimated to be living with HIV in Namibia. In meetings with government leaders, the Champions shared ideas for a regional response to the epidemic. "Your country has made major strides in the response to HIV and AIDS, including the quick rollout and expansive coverage of life-saving treatment to people living with the virus. The Champions believe the good work being done by the Ministry of Health and Social Services is a shining example for the region," said Mogae, who is the chairperson of the Champions. "We believe that now is the time to consider appropriate strategies in order to maintain and sustain these impressive feats."

In addition to Mr. Mogae, other Champions who took part in the visit included His Excellency, Mr. Joaquim Chissano, former president

of the Republic of Mozambique; Dr. Speciosa Wandira, former vice president of Uganda; and Ms. Joyce Mhavi, chairperson of the Steering Committee of the African Broadcast Media Partnership Against HIV AND AIDS (ABMP). The Champions said prevention of HIV must be the highest priority. They recommended that the recently drafted policy on male circumcision in Namibia be endorsed by leadership and rolled out with urgency. The mission also held discussions on the sustainability of health programmes, which will require a resourcing strategy and an increased domestic commitment of funding in coming years.

"In the current world economic crisis, there is a need for all of us – each and every country in Africa – to assume responsibility and deal with this pandemic from the resources we have within," Chissano told a gathering of cabinet ministers. The mission also urged that a comprehensive and coordinated response to the epidemic be led by senior levels of government. "Greater involvement from cabinet members and parliamentarians is desired," said Mogae. "Our experience from the region has shown us that in order to involve all sectors in the HIV response, the coordination is best led from the highest offices in the land."

The delegation's visit included a field trip to a condom factory and a mobile health clinic stationed outside of Namibian Breweries to service its employees. The Champions met with gender and youth groups, as well as the media, to discuss their role in the response to HIV and ways to improve coordination. During a meeting with the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development, the Champions noted that Namibia has made great strides in addressing stigma, and praised the government for removing travel restrictions against people living with HIV from entering the country. But some harmful practices remain, they said, including the denial of home loans for people who test positive for HIV.



Champions for an HIV-Free Generation (left to right): Mr. Joaquim Chissano, Mr. Festus Mogae and Dr. Speciosa Wandira. Photograph: Ambrosius Amutenja



"Our leaders should take every opportunity to speak out against stigma and endorse laws and policies that create a social environment that cares for people living with HIV," Mhaviile said. The Champions also met Namibians like Venancius Rukero, who shared his story of facing stigma and discrimination from his own pastor after disclosing to him that he was living with HIV. After being kicked out of his foster home because of his status, Rukero overcame great odds and founded his own orphanage with support from the Mayor's office. Today he is supporting more than 30 orphans. "During our two days of meetings in Windhoek, we met many Namibian 'Champions' who work hard every day in this struggle against HIV and AIDS. We commend these local Champions and congratulate your country for its progressive attitude," Mogae said.

The Champions for an HIV-Free Generation project was launched in 2008 at the 17th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. The founding members include four former African presidents, a Nobel Laureate, and other high-level African leaders from different walks of life. The Champions focus their efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, home to more than two-thirds of all people living with HIV.

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## HOW TO FIGHT HIV AND AIDS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

By David Patient

The range of social, economic and political issues concerning HIV and AIDS is vast and complex. The impact of this pandemic will only be known in future generations. It is an established fact that HIV and AIDS has significantly reduced life expectancy, educational gains have been reversed, poverty increased, and it has eroded economic growth.



Mr. David Patient

Other longer-term effects concern urban-rural disparities in all aspects of service and development. Conversely, the concerted efforts to deal with all these issues has increased awareness and efforts concerning gender equity, primary health and capacity, and mobilised diverse organisations in the pursuit of common objectives. If anything else, profound change – both negative and positive – has, and is, occurring as a direct result of HIV and AIDS.

In my view, there are a number of options available to not only accelerate the attainment of the various MDG (millennium development goals) objectives, but also to improve the effectiveness of diverse efforts.

Probably the most important is a re-evaluation of the fundamental value bias of primarily Western-based agencies: In Africa specifically, the foundation of social norms is a group-mindedness, whereas Western-based social norms are focused primarily upon attainment of individual actualisation. This (bias) may not appear significant, but has impacted upon delivered programmes and methods in profound ways: The ethics of confidentiality in individual testing and counseling, versus relationship or group-based procedures, is such an example. Without the structures of individual confidentiality – both in counseling and medical treatment – the scope of efforts could be significantly broadened, and the relational basis of the pandemic could be more effectively and rapidly addressed. Recent research concerning concurrent relationships clearly indicates that it is not sexual frequency that is driving the pandemic, but rather the nature of sexual relationship networks. I believe it is time we deal directly with those relationships, versus its individual parts, in testing, prevention, and treatment.

How do you apply group-mindedness in practice? Setting aside the implied legal changes require: couples counseled and tested for HIV together, not separately; and family units treated medically, such as with ART (antiretroviral treatment). Quite literally, a family – such as a husband and wife – going through the medical testing for CD4s and viral load together, knowing each other's results, and then being treated with the full knowledge (and counseling) of both persons. This should address many of the non-adherence problems, including the rise of drug-resistant strains of HIV. More controversially, the Zero Grazing (Uganda) model should be revived, where family, friends and neighbours are encouraged to name-and-shame community members who are being unfaithful to their primary relationship, thus reducing the ease of engaging in concurrent relationships. Essentially I am proposing behavior-change methodology that focuses upon group and relationship dynamics, versus individual decision-making.

### Recommendations:

- Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT): Redesign/expand protocols to include couple/family HIV testing and pre/post-test counseling, that is all stages of the process conducted in the presence of both persons and family members;
- Antiretroviral Treatment (ART): Medical examinations, diagnosis, explanations conducted in the presence of a family member/spouse;
- Prevention: Revive/adapt the Zero Grazing model to focus upon reducing multiple concurrent relationships;
- Create processes that enhance relationships including but not limited to increasing levels of intimacy, communication, trust and combined future dreams/plans that both partners desire;
- Adopt mandatory counseling sessions within the workplace with opt-out testing.

Secondly, with exceptions, leadership at the macro-political leadership level is weak or absent in setting the social normative tone for the changes that are required. Instead, leadership tends to be overly concerned with being seen to be cut from the same cloth as their constituents, versus leading those constituents through difficult changes. The need for popularity supersedes the desire for effectiveness. This is partly associated with the post-colonial desire to build identity and esteem through adherence to cultural values, some of which directly impede the attainment of the MDG objectives. This is particularly the case with gender-related social norms, and the role of women in positions of authority. Although great strides – legally and constitutionally – have been made in this regard, it is simply not enough, and certainly not implemented with great vigour.

It is a fact that one of the primary drivers of the spread of HIV is concurrent relationships which has many roots, some cultural (polygamy), and some economic. However, this form of open-ended polygamy results

in a radical increase in transmission of HIV during the acute infection stage – the Window Period. Regardless of our desire to be value-neutral in this regard, we have few options in eliminating this wide-spread practice. We have almost no chance of changing this practice when our leaders openly have multiple partners, some long-term, and some casual. Until the leaders change, the populace will resist monogamy.

The alternative is to legalise and normalise multiple partnerships in such a way that the responsibility to economically support and care for a second or third partner is legally enforceable, similar to closed polygamy, but with the emphasis upon full economic responsibility. This approach should resonate with many people who refer to “traditional values” - which included polygamy - with penalties for breaking the rules. This should, if done carefully, reduce the casual sex, and also the Sugar-Daddy (or Sugar-Mommy) and similar situations, which is based upon attaining economic support.

A simple avenue to implement this would be to reduce the period of time required for a relationship to be recognised as Common Law marriage, increase the amount of spouses permitted per person, and then implement an advocacy campaign educating people about their rights under this system. The bottom-line with this proposal is: If you want more than one partner, then you would better be ready for the economic and legal consequences.

### Recommendations:

- Implement a scorecard for politicians and community leaders which includes knowledge level of HIV and AIDS, and also the number of public statements/projects delivered regarding HIV and AIDS, poverty, and other MDG goals;
- Evaluate traditions and customs that enhance and reduce the attainment of MDG goals. Facilitate public discourse on these beliefs, customs and traditions;
- Evaluate the existing legal

framework regarding multiple partnerships. Consider legal changes to strengthen the economic and legal rights of concurrent partners, to bolster the level of responsibility of the common partner, in order to close what is currently an open polygamous system;

- Conduct a public advocacy campaign to make concurrent partners aware of their legal and economic rights, with respect to the common partner;
- Revisit current legislation on the paternal laws that hold men accountable for their off-spring to lessen the burden on State systems.

The third major factor concerns the urbanisation of our populations, and the economic power of these urban areas: Rural areas are simply neglected or given token attention. The reality is that many governments and businesses are applying a utilitarian approach to the rural areas: It is – per person – more expensive to develop rural areas, compared to the more densely populated and economically active urban areas. The current focus is primarily upon job creation – which mainly focuses on urban areas – and the needs of urban populations, while the food production, education, medical care in rural areas are given second place, consistently. The general situation – in terms of HIV and AIDS – is that if you are employed in an urban area and have HIV, you will be okay. However, if you live in a rural area, the outcome is dire. This does not only apply to HIV and AIDS – it is a generalised scenario in terms of education, medical care and service delivery of basic services.

As a result, the migration from rural to urban areas continues relentlessly, with a resulting decrease in food production. We sorely need greater attention for the development of rural areas to counter this increasing marginalisation and impoverishment of large sections of our populations. Young people in particular would prefer to be unemployed and living in fringe suburbs, than work on land

inherited from their family. This is a direct result of social marketing, which depicts farming and food production as the domain of the poor and uneducated. We need the social status of rural areas to be increased and enhanced, making activities such as farming a desired career and future, particularly with younger people.

Africa, with South Africa as an example, is hell-bent on economic development, as this generates the revenues for the various services the government is obliged to provide. However, in this process the ability of the population to support and feed itself through homestead farming is neglected in favour of commercial farming. Tremendous dependency is being created upon industry and government services, with little attention given to increasing the capacity of individuals and families to take steps to improve their own food security (home gardens), and entrepreneurship (self-employment). These two areas need a great deal of attention, if we are to uplift both rural and urban areas from unemployment and poverty: The current mind-set is that if you are not employed or on a government grant, your prospects are dim. Although programmes exist for developing entrepreneurship, these are weak, half-hearted, and limited. Entrepreneurship should be a key subject of education in the education system.

The rural areas in particular require far more development in terms of quality education for children, skills development (improved farming methods, homesteading), and adult literacy programmes. Primary health services are in dire need of improvement and expansion. If we could double, or even treble, the number of primary health nurses in these areas, and also capacitate them to assume the responsibilities of diagnosing and prescribing medications such as ART. We may as well start to address the severe shortages of doctors in these areas, thus stopping the worsening poverty cycle caused by removing children from school, take care of sick family members,

and also adults who would be otherwise engaged in food production. We bemoan the poverty and dire circumstances of many communities, and ask how we can “save them”. However, we fail to recognize that those communities have the inherent ability to “save” themselves, given the necessary information, education, and start-up resources. We need to end the hand-out era, and start the hand-up process: When dependency decreases, so does poverty; and when self-reliance increases, so does pride and productivity.

#### Recommendations:

- “Create your own job”: Raise awareness and knowledge regarding entrepreneurship at all levels of society, including at secondary schools. Local, regional and national competitions which promote and reward such activities – including in the rural areas – would facilitate such awareness, status, and skills;
- Significantly increase the budgets and efforts focusing on self- and family-sufficiency in food security. This would include practical support regarding seed and fertilizer supplies, skills transfer regarding issues such as soil quality, water-wise methods, crop rotation and/or intercropping. Such efforts could be implemented at all primary and secondary schools, not only to provide food to the children, but also to provide the venue for such skills development. Include such activities in annual performance assessments of such schools and personnel;
- Expand the role of Department of Agriculture extension workers to support and capacitate homesteads in food security, versus focusing primarily on commercial farming. Development and research into non-hybrid seed varieties to encourage seed banking, and thus sustainability of such food security methods. Dry land and permaculture methods (mulching, recycling used water) should be

refined and promoted. This involves reducing the dependency on purchasing processed foods of low nutritional value, and increase self-produced home produce;

- Raise the awareness of homestead food security methods through the media (television, radio, newspapers), with regular awards to raise the status of homestead food production;
- Revise the policy and education structures to expand the capacity of nursing personnel to diagnose and dispense medications such as ART and prophylaxis;
- Elevate the status of the nursing and teaching professions to attract more applicants from schools. Make such recruitment a national strategic priority;
- Attach conditions to receipt of social grants for the unemployed. For example, attendance of skills training in entrepreneur-related and food security methods;
- Introduce micro-lending systems to stimulate economic activity in rural settings, giving people basic business education to ensure sustainability;
- Utilise Post-Test clubs in rural settings to support healthier living through health empowerment programmes and education.

It is high time we started having some very challenging, courageous and difficult conversations if we hope to be truly effective. We need to have the courage to challenge so-called “norms” that are sustaining this pandemic once and for all.

**David Patient has been living with AIDS since his diagnosis in March 1983. He can be contacted at email: [david.patient@empow.co.za](mailto:david.patient@empow.co.za).**



## INDONESIAN LAWMAKERS COMPARE EXPERIENCE IN RESETTLEMENT

Staff Reporter

A parliamentary delegation from the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia visited the Parliament of Namibia on 16 June 2006 as a first step in the exchange of information between Namibia and Indonesia related to land resettlement. The Indonesian delegation was guest of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration.

According to the leader of the fourteen-member Commission IX, Dr. Hj. Kasmawati Tahir Z. Basalamah, the aims and objectives of the visit were "to obtain first-hand explanation and understanding from the Government of Namibia on its experiences in dealing with various issues on resettlement and management of population mobility." Dr. Kasmawati and her delegation paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Speaker of the National

Assembly, Hon. Doreen Sioka, before meeting the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, Hon. Clara Bohitile.

The key focus of interest to the Indonesian legislators was exploring how Namibia had succeeded in implementing its land resettlement programme – known as transmigration programme in Indonesia – especially in relation to:

- The policies and regulations implemented by the Government of Namibia in dealing with resettlement issues;
- The distribution of responsibilities between the Central Government and the Regional Governments in regard to resettlement issues;
- The regional development scheme (being) implemented by the Government of Namibia;
- The role of the community who participate in the resettlement programme;
- The role of the other stakeholders in the accomplishment of the resettlement programme.

Hon. Bohitile informed the Indonesian delegation that Namibia's Commercial Lands Reform Act of 1995, which aimed at redressing past imbalances in land distribution due to past colonial policies, regulated the

country's resettlement programme. After independence the government identified the need to redress the allocation of land in the country by resettling people on farms where they could produce and sustain themselves. In certain cases, Hon. Sioka explained, an individual or a group of people could be allocated a farm, or plots in one farming area.

Parliamentarian McHenry Venaani praised the Indonesian Government for promoting the South-South Cooperation, emphasising that land resettlement in Namibia was one of the most difficult issues that government had to deal with because of the complexity of the geographical vegetation of the country. Firstly, he emphasised, Namibia was one of the driest countries in the world as large tracks of the land was desert or mountain ranges, thus making it difficult to farm. Referring to Namibia's land policy, drafted as an outcome of the Land Conference of 1991 to allow a process of "willing buyer, willing seller" to take place, Hon. Venaani said the policy did not work smoothly because of the high demand for land than what was available. In addition, he said, the land prices were unaffordable as they were determined by the market forces that were difficult to regulate. Government allocates N\$50 million annually for the resettlement of landless Namibians.

According to Hon. Bohitile the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement procures lands solely for the purpose of resettling those who could not afford to buy land, stressing that individual Namibians who could afford at commercial prices were free to buy lands from the white farmers. Adding that Namibia had also Resettlement Committees whose responsibilities was to identify regional resettlement needs to the Government. The Resettlement Committees then recommend the people who need resettlement to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement.

Another member of the Committee, Hon. Eunice Ipinge, informed the Indonesian delegation about the Land



Dr. Hj. Kasmawati Tahir Z. Basalamah (seated second from left) and part of her delegation with Deputy Speaker Hon. Doreen Sioka (seated second from right).  
Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja

Reform Agricultural Commission, an independent body which advises the ministry in making decisions on whom to settle where. She added that in Namibia, one was only allowed to use land for the purposes that it was applied for; and that land obtained through resettlement programme could not be transferred to someone else in case it is no longer needed, but should rather be handed back to Government. Hon. Venaani reflected on the two types of lands available in Namibia – the so-called commercial and the communal lands – with the majority of people living in communal lands. He expressed the hope that Indonesia with its technological advancement could play a significant role in assisting Namibia in geological services to develop the country's arid land without spending a huge amount of money.

Indonesia, the largest archipelago in the world, consists of 17 508 islands, totalling 1,919,440 sq km, and only 6000 are inhabited. Population is around 240,271,522, scattered in those islands not evenly distributed.

To resolve imbalanced distribution of population density, the Government of Indonesia developed "Resettlement Programme" known in their country as Programme Transmigrasi. This was an initiative of the Indonesian Government to move landless people from densely populated areas to less populous areas of the country. The purpose of Programme Transmigrasi was to alleviate poverty by providing land and new opportunities to generate income for poor landless settlers. It also benefits the nation as a whole by increasing the utilization of the natural resources of the less-populous islands.

Apart from holding discussions at the National Assembly with their counterparts, the Indonesian delegation also visited the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement as part of its programme.

## AN UPDATE ON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

By Clemence Tashaya

The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) are new free trade agreements being negotiated between the European Union (EU) and 75 former European colonies known as the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States.



Mr. Clemence Tashaya,  
Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja

EPAs are part of the Cotonou Agreement – a much wider agreement that covers aid, trade and political cooperation between the two groups of countries. The Cotonou Agreement replaces an old agreement known as the Lomé Convention. Under the Lomé Convention, the ACP had special access to sell certain products on European markets. The ACP-EC negotiations started in 2002 and the EPAs are due to come into effect at the end of 2009. The EPAs are regional trade agreements between the European Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. They provide 36 ACP countries with duty-free quota, free export access to European Union markets and promote

trade integration and poverty reduction in the ACP countries.

Why are these negotiations needed? They ensure that the trade relationship between the EU and the ACP is in line with the current World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Since 1976, an agreement between the EU and the ACP, comprising 77 developing countries, has allowed ACP countries one-way-access to the EU markets. This means that while ACP producers are able to export to the EU, they remained protected from European market competition at home.

However, under WTO rules, developed countries – such as the EU – can only give this one-way-access to two groups: either to all developing countries or only to the very poorest group, the so-called "Least Developed Countries". As a result, several developing countries outside the ACP regions successfully challenged the EU to comply with this rule. The EU and ACP were given until the end of 2007 to implement the new arrangements that would fit in with WTO rules.

EPAs are free trade agreements between very unequal partners. In return for the ACP states having access to European markets, the European Union is using the negotiations to demand duty-free access to 90 percent of the ACP markets. It may sound reasonable, but European companies and producers have all the advantages in terms of size, technology and a developed economy. In addition, the EU agricultural producers benefit from their governments' subsidies. Should the ACP countries unconditionally open their markets to EU goods, their own producers would not be able to compete with the imports from the European Union markets. It is even more likely that many ACP producers would lose their livelihoods.

The EU is using EPAs to force through its own agenda. The European Union is also using these negotiations to reopen discussions about issues, such as investment, that the ACP countries have rejected at the World Trade Organisation. The ACP argues that

having agreements on these new issues would restrict their choice of policies and would consequently not bring any benefit to their economies.

The negotiating process is disastrous. The 27-nation EU has far greater resources available for negotiating EPAs. ACP countries have neither time, nor expertise and money to follow the negotiations properly or analyze their potential impact. The EU claims that countries do not have to sign up to EPAs, without considering any alternatives to ensure that countries that do not sign up will not be worse-off as a result. Furthermore, negotiations are taking place between negotiators who are not necessarily speaking for their own governments.

Analysts say that the EPAs largely have an anti-development agenda. All Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets are negatively affected by macro-economic fundamentals that promote indiscriminate and externally induced liberalization and privatization – a key feature of the EPA that the European Union is imposing on the ACP. ACP countries say that EPAs are being imposed by the European Union on its former colonial territories. If concluded, the agreements will join the ACP economies in a free trade area with Europe and give European big businesses a monopoly, which is in itself anti-development. These analysts argue that ACP agriculture and industry would be destroyed and give Europe power over economic policies to govern the ACP region and turn its governments into mere local managers of EU corporate interests and profits.

The anticipated split in the SADC-EPAs group of seven became a reality on 4 June 2009 when Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland signed the controversial interim trade pact with the European Union (EU), followed by Mozambique, thus leaving Angola, Namibia and South Africa (ANSA) to fight for the guarantee of their interests.

According to reports, the signing of the interim EPAs between the EU and Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland is estimated to be worth about N\$23

billion. Mozambique is reported to have signed the deal on 15 June 2009. The agreement qualifies Mozambique to import goods tax-free from the European Union member states under the terms of the provisional Economic Partnership Agreement. The agreement covers only goods which will no longer be charged at the previous five percent rate as services are still under discussion, with some reports suggesting that the deal is unlikely to be reached this year.

Although this will grant the four SADC countries quota and tariff-free access to EU markets, albeit at a price, many observers and Namibia believe it is not worth it at this stage. As well as reduction in customs duty applied to goods and easier access to the European market by African economies, the EPAs signed with Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique also includes financial aid, which is the main differences between this and other agreements previously concluded.

ANSA ministers responsible for trade and industry made it clear that their countries would not sign any EPA until the EU agreed to amendments to the existing agreements in writing and the EU treated these SADC nations as equal partners in the negotiations. ANSA is willing to agree to the EPAs as soon as the EU assures it in writing of changes to the contentious issues regarding food security, infant industry protection, export taxes and the free circulation of goods. The EU has refused this demand bluntly.

Also hampering the signing are the unresolved matters of the Most Favoured Nations (MFN) status and the Definition of Parties (DoP). Namibia and others fear that the South-South trade could be threatened by the MFN clause and that the DoP would destabilize the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and thus derail regional integration. SADC-EPAs configuration differences on whether to sign the interim EPAs or not have not caused any ill-feelings amongst negotiating members. After a one-day meeting in Gaborone, Botswana,

recently, the group agreed to recognize their different individual concerns as legitimate. Therefore, those who decided to sign the interim EPAs did so with the SADC-EPAs blessing and vice-versa.

EPA is important to Namibia's agricultural sector. Unlike Angola, which benefits under the Everything But Arms (EBA) Agreement for Least Developed Countries; and South Africa, which enjoys a Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) with the EU, Namibia needs the EPA – but of course on Namibia's terms. In 2008, total trade between EU and the countries that have already signed the provisional EPAs was approximately US\$2,1 billion.

## SADC PF DISCUSSES GLOBAL CRISIS

By Clemence Tashaya

The SADC Parliamentary Forum held its 25th Plenary Assembly session at Swakopmund from 2-7 June 2009. This was the fifth time that the Plenary Session was held in Namibia. The purpose of the session was, amongst others, to consider the theme "The Role of Parliament in the Global Economic and Financial Crisis".

Noting the adverse effects of the economic crisis, especially on the poor, the meeting urged respective SADC countries to take measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis. The inclusion of social and capital expenditures in respective SADC member states' budgets should be prioritized and prudence and efficiency should be observed. Parliamentarians resolved to increase their oversight role and directly receive reports from investigating bodies like the Auditors-General, the Anti-Corruption Commissions and others.



Several countries in the SADC region experienced a resource boom in the years up to 2007. Improved revenues from mineral exports and sale of other export commodities, coupled with improved FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) inflows as well as Official Development Assistance, contributed to the sustenance of budgets, balance of payments and overall positive economic performance in the region. However, this situation has changed dramatically following a global deterioration in financial and economic conditions that intensified in the recent past. Financial sectors in major developed countries are in midst of a crisis that is arguably the worst that has ever been experienced since the 1930s global economic depression. Initially, it was contemplated that the SADC region would be spared from the hardships of the financial crisis because of its financial markets which is not highly integrated with those of the developed world. However, these hopes have been dashed, and the SADC countries, like many others in the world, are affected in many different ways by the global economic crisis.

Addressing the 25th SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, Hon. Johan de Waal from the National Assembly of Namibia explained that although the developing countries, especially in SADC, were initially spared from the sharp end of the crisis all SADC countries are currently

midstream in it. "One can almost on a daily basis see how we are affected as the price, as well as demand for our minerals deteriorate, new projects are put on hold, mines are closing down and more and more people are losing their jobs. Remittance of migrant workers is declining and Official Development Assistance (ODA) is negatively affected, and in the case of the BLNS (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland) countries, their income from the SACU pool is under severe pressure," he explained.

Hon. De Waal urged SADC parliamentarians to negotiate and shout together to make one hell of noise since no single country could go it alone. He also advised SADC countries to negotiate with other trade blocks to try and get the best deal for the people they represent. "The current crisis must be met with rapid and effective measures, but it must also lay the basis for the long-term reforms that will be necessary if we are to have a more stable and more prosperous global economy and avoid future global crisis," Hon. De Waal further urged.

However, the DTA Parliamentarian proposed ten measures which he felt were essential for developing countries to recover from the crisis. These are: developing countries should take strong, coordinated effective actions to stimulate their economies; developing countries need additional

funding; additional funds should include a new credit facility and methods of disbursements; developing countries need more policy space; rectify the lack of coherence between policies on trade and finance; crisis response must avoid protectionism; advanced countries must open their markets to the exports of least developed countries; learn from successful policies to undertake regulatory reforms; coordinate the domestic and global impact of government financial sector support; and improved coordination of global economic policies.

Also present at the Plenary Assembly was the Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Namibia's Speaker of the National Assembly, and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) who expressed appreciation to the entire region and the African continent for supporting his Presidential candidature to the IPU. Relating his experience of visiting the occupied Gaza Strip, Dr. Gurirab reiterated his call for greater commitment from the international community to resolve, in the interest of world peace and development, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, stressing the importance of multilateral cooperation.

"Recently IPU held a conference on the Global Financial Crisis in Geneva and it is fair to say that while we are here to instruct ourselves about regional matters, we should also collectively reflect upon our role in the unfolding economic crisis and within the multilateral system that seeks to deal with it. In Geneva, we painted this as a global challenge not only as financial crisis but also as economic, social and political destabilization by greedy and sinister forces. IPU's partnership with the UN system and key stakeholders is active and diversified. We must benefit from multilateralism," Dr. Gurirab urged.

Regrettably, the Plenary noted that the crisis would retard progress in Southern Africa's ability to meet the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially Goal One which aims at reducing poverty and



Part of the SADC lawmakers who participated in the SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly. Photo: Courtesy of SADC PF

hunger; and Goal Six which seeks to halt and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS. Notwithstanding the region being the epicenter of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, reduced public expenditure and the dwindling donor funding to fight the pandemic, would exacerbate the spread of the disease and the misery of people in the region.

The Plenary called for the removal of conditions attached to aid and ensure objectivity and transparency in the determination of criteria for resources allocation from international financial institutions. SADC countries further called upon bilateral and multilateral cooperation partners to step up their support to enable the region to attenuate the effects of the crisis on poverty. In particular, SADC welcomed the arrangement by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for countries hit by the crisis to draw assistance under the fast-track emergency financing procedures.

## DR. MUTUKWA BIDS SADC PF FAREWELL

Staff Reporter

The first Secretary-General of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), Dr. Kasuka Simwinji Mutukwa, is leaving the Forum after ten years of dedicated service. He is replaced by Zimbabwean national, Dr. Esau Chiviya.

Dr. Kasuka Simwinji Mutukwa, a Zambian national, was appointed in 1999 as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Forum. He was responsible for establishing the Forum's corporate and institutional development. He initiated the first SADC PF Strategic Plan (2000-2005) which emphasised on Governance, Gender Equity and HIV and AIDS pandemic within the context

of regional integration, including creating conditions for wider markets and investment opportunities. He also initiated the Forum's second Strategic Plan (2006-2010) which focused on strategic objectives.



*Dr. Kasuka Simwinji Mutukwa*

During his term of office, Dr. Mutukwa coordinated the Forum's Election Observation Missions in 23 SADC Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, involving over 1000 parliamentarians and staff. He has also directed capacity development programmes for orientation of new MPs through the Forum's Parliamentary Leadership Centre.

Prior to his appointment at SADC PF, Dr. Mutukwa served as a Member of Parliament for the Nalolo Constituency in Zambia, during which he chaired several Parliamentary Committees and served as Member of the Standing Committee on Rules and Orders of the Parliament of Zambia responsible for parliament's policy and programme management. Dr. Mutukwa has also served as CEO of the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) and as Chief of Environmental Education and Training of the United Nations Environment Programme based in Nairobi, Kenya.

He joined the UN Secretariat after serving as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations from 1977-1981. During that period, he also served as Zambia's alternative representative on the Security Council and its committees. He

also served as Zambia's representative on the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations; and on the UN Secretary-General's Committee on Disarmament Studies. It was during the period he served as Zambia's alternate delegate on the United Nations Council for Namibia that he established relations with leaders of the SADC countries.

Dr. Mutukwa's career began at the University of Zambia where he rose to the position of Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies. He holds a PhD; M. Phil, Columbia University, USA; MA, George Washington University; and BA, University of Zambia – all in Political Science and International Relations.

## DR. CHIVIYA AT HELM OF SADC PF

Staff Reporter

Dr. Esau Chiviya has been appointed as Secretary-General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum with effect from 1 July 2009, to replace Dr. Kasuka Mutukwa. The decision to confirm Dr. Chiviya's appointment was taken at the Forum's 25th Plenary Assembly held in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 7 to 8 July 2009. Dr. Chiviya, a Zimbabwean national, brings to the Forum over twenty years of international experience in leadership and management, institutional development, democracy and governance.

Prior to joining the SADC PF, Dr. Chiviya was a public sector management consultant. He provided advisory services for planning for change and implementation support at central and local levels to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of the Kingdom of Lesotho on its Integrated Transport Project, funded by the

World Bank. He was also UNDP Chief Technical Advisor on Decentralization and Local Governance in Luanda, Angola, responsible for managing a Decentralization and Local Governance Project in five Provinces and 15 Municipalities, with a project staff complement of 12. Earlier, he worked on similar projects in Zambia and Malawi. His consultancy career has also included work for a range of international development clients in Sierra-Leone, Swaziland, South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia.



*Dr. Esau Chiviya*

Dr. Chiviya has also provided technical support to SADC Parliamentary Forum's elections observation programme in the past as an elections consultant responsible for designing and coordinating the observer programme for some of the elections that have taken place since 2000. This included drafting the Forum's Norms

and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region. He has also worked with the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI); the Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration (ZIPAM); and the

Commonwealth Secretariat, providing expertise and training in human resources planning and capacity development.

He began his management career with the Government of Zimbabwe where he held the positions of Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Lands Resettlement and Rural Development; the Ministry of Public Service, as Head of the Department of Local Government Studies; and later a lecturer in Public Administration at the University of Zimbabwe.

Dr. Chiviya holds a PhD in Political Science/Public Administration (Indiana University, Bloomington (USA)); an MA in Public Policy and Administration; and an MSc in Economic Geography, both from the University of Wisconsin, Madison (USA); and a BA in Education from the University of Zambia.

## WOMEN SPEAKERS MEET IN VIENNA

Women Speakers of Parliament met in Vienna, Austria, from 13-14 July 2009 to discuss the challenges to achieving gender equality and meeting the Millennium Development Goal 3 on Gender and Equality, focusing on violence against women and the current financial crisis. The two-day meeting, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Council of Austria, was attended by 15 Women Speakers.

The Speaker of the National Council of Austria, Ms. Barbara Prammer, chaired the 5th Annual Meeting which was also attended by Hon. Dr. Theoben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly (Namibia) and President of the IPU; and by Mr. Anders Johnsson, Secretary-General of the IPU. The Speakers described violence against women as a flagrant human rights violation whose consequences hampered the development of society and posed a serious threat to the

implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Speakers concurred that violence against women might take many forms

and we can push this issue forward and make a difference". All Speakers were unanimous that violence against women required a comprehensive response, observing that it was impossible to tackle the problem



*Speaker Gurirab (centre) with Women Speakers of Parliament in Vienna.*

and was widespread both in the public and the private sectors. As one of the Speakers remarked, "we may face in each of our countries different forms of violence against women, but the solutions are similar in many ways

on its own without linking it to poverty or security issues that affect a country. Some Speakers suggested the need to mainstream violence against women within all policy and programmes; others hinted at the



need for coordination and regrouping all services for women and children victims of violence in one place.

Further, the Speakers considered legislation as the first element of a comprehensive response to violence against women, emphasizing the need to ensure that national laws were in conformity with international commitments honoured by their respective countries, especially with regard to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Speakers highlighted the importance of law implementation, with specific reference to the justice, the police and the health systems. They felt that women should benefit from the protection of the law, especially those in conflict zones who were vulnerable to violence.

Referring to the current financial crisis and its impact on women, the Executive Director for the United Nations Fund for Women, Ms. Ines Alberdi, who was also a keynote speaker, said that the UN estimates for the global economic production would fall by 2.6 per cent in 2009. The World Bank warned that as many as 53 million people could be trapped in poverty, adding that more than 100 million people were left impoverished by the food and energy crisis in 2008.

The Speakers noted that the global financial crisis had affected women and men differently, with women the hardest hit. Women were regarded as the driving force of the countries' economies - both formally and informally - and thus the solution to the crisis must be built on their potential to contributing and promoting gender equality. The Speakers further called for the incorporation of women in all attempts aimed at finding a solution to the crisis, resolving to mark 25 November annually as the International Day to End Violence against Women worldwide. They will report back on progress made and acknowledged "Say NO" as a global effort to highlighting and advancing the cause for campaign against violence against women.

## DR. GURIRAB OPENS WOMEN SPEAKERS' CONFERENCE

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab says that the partnership between men and women in politics and the economy was the key to a healthy and democratic decision-making process. Dr. Gurirab observed this when he was opening the 5th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament which was held in Vienna, Austria, from 13 to 14 July 2009. His abridged statement reads as following:

I am very honoured to be here today for the Fifth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament, jointly organised by the National Council of Austria and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. From the outset, I would like to thank our hosts for the wonderful work carried out in preparing this meeting. As you know, gender equality in politics is high on the IPU's agenda. It has a very prominent place in my personal agenda. This is why I am so keen to attend this meeting today, to listen, learn and maybe modestly to contribute.

We all agree that partnership between men and women in politics and the economy is the key to a

healthy and democratic decision-making process. We are, however, a long way from achieving success. With a mere 18 percent of women among parliamentarians across the world and only 12 percent of women Speakers, there is still much to do. I commend your decision to come together annually. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another, set common objectives, and agree on the way forward and work together to achieve them. In this context, the Africa Region where I come from is doing rethinking and introducing democratic changes in parliament for the better.

As much as partnership between men and women in politics is central to democracy, the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 on gender equality is at the core of realising progress for all of the MDGs. One cannot make progress in the field of poverty reduction without empowering women; one cannot reduce child mortality without educating women and ensuring access to health care; one cannot tackle HIV and AIDS without focusing on mother to child transmission. The message is clear - gender equality and development are inseparable.

Violence against women is a scourge that permeates all of our societies. It is unacceptable and it needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. It is one of the most potent obstacles to the advancement of women and a fundamental violation of basic human rights. It has enormous social



Speaker Gurirab delivering his opening speech at the Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament. The Speaker of the National Council of Austria, Hon. Barbara Prammer (right), was also present

and economic costs and seriously jeopardizes the development of our societies. The IPU has launched a campaign to support parliaments in their efforts to end violence against women. We do this along with our UN partners, and we are very glad that UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) is so well represented here today.

During this meeting, we will also be talking about the impact of the financial crisis on women. The current economic upheaval is going to be with us for a long time. Some may discern a few modest improvements in the economic indicators, but this crisis is not about numbers and figures, it is about human beings. And it is becoming increasingly clear that women are the hardest hit and will suffer disproportionately. What can we do? I personally believe that the answer also lies with the women themselves. We must exploit their untapped talents much more, for it is they who can lead us towards a sustainable solution.

The year 2010 will be a significant year not only for the World Cup in the SADC Region. But more importantly, because that is when the international community will review progress achieved on gender equality issues since the Beijing Plan of Action was adopted fifteen years ago. It is the year when we will take stock of how far we have come in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. And it is the year when the IPU will convene a third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. I have invited a group of distinguished Speakers of Parliament to prepare for this high level event. Indeed, some of you will be joining this Preparatory Committee in Geneva as we start our preparations later this week.

I must draw your attention to the extremely regrettable fact that there is one Speaker of a Parliamentary chamber who is not with us today because she has been denied an entry visa to this country. This is the result of a European Union policy position imposing restrictive measures on Zimbabwe. The IPU believes that this is unacceptable and that there must be a way for us, as an institution, to continue to work in Europe in a manner that

responds to our fundamental values based on the notion of dialogue and respect for diversity.

All Zimbabweans support the inclusive government to succeed. They should be unchained of sanctions and divisive old good guys and bad guys obstacles that impede holding of fresh elections on the basis of a new constitution. I wish you a very successful meeting.

## SOLVE CYPRIOT PROBLEM, URGES SPEAKER

By Rev. Willem Simon Hanse

The Speaker of the National Assembly and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab has called on the international community to find a just, viable and lasting solution to the Cypriot problem. Dr. Gurirab made this call while on a three-day official parliamentary visit to the Republic of Cyprus in June this year.

Among others, Dr. Gurirab met with His Excellency Mr. Demetris Christofias, the President of Cyprus; and Hon. Mr. Marios Garoyan, the President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus and other Members of Parliament and senior officials. The purpose of the visit was

to cement the longstanding bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and their parliaments.

Referring to the 1974-Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Dr. Gurirab said that it was a betrayal of the trust that the international community remained inactive on the issue of military occupation more than three decades later. Dr. Gurirab and his delegation visited occupied parts of the island to experience the reality on the ground.

Although Namibia maintains good relations with both Cyprus and Turkey, the IPU President told a media briefing that the time had come for the Cypriot problem to be resolved amicably. If the international community was able to end foreign military occupation in Namibia, this could also happen to Cyprus, Dr. Gurirab underlined.

The two Presiding Officers agreed to establish parliamentary friendship groups in their respective national parliaments in order to discuss and pursue issues of common interest. Hon. Mr. Marios Garoyan, accepted an invitation from Dr. Gurirab to visit Namibia at a mutually agreed and convenient time, hailing his Namibian counterpart for the leadership he was providing to the IPU.

With a land area of 9, 251 square kilometers and a population density of approximately 800 000, Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean. Since July 1974, most of the island has been under Greek control, with 37 percent of the country still under Turkish rule. Cyprus,



*Dr. Gurirab in discussion with Hon. Mr. Marios Garoyan, President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus*



which gained independence from Britain on 16 August 1960, has many archaeological sites and monasteries to visit, including three world heritage sites.

Dr. Gurirab was accompanied by National Assembly parliamentarians Samuel Chief Ankama, Juliet Kavetuna, Elma Dienda and the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cyprus to Namibia, Mr. Savvas Savva.



*Dr. Gurirab and his delegation visiting the battle line of the disputed area between Turkey and Cyprus.*

## GURIRAB VISITS NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

The Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab undertook an official visit to People's Republic of China at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Wu Banggou, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC). The National People's Congress, the Parliament of China, is the supreme organ of state power in China.

According to a press release issued by the Speaker's Office on 17 August, the meeting with Chairman Banggou was to exchange views in preparation for the 3rd Speakers Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2010. Speaker Gurirab, who is also President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), appreciated the sustained support of the National People's Congress to the IPU. On his part, Chairman Banggou pledged his country's active support for the upcoming Speakers Conference which he hoped would enhance cooperation and serve as a platform for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. China joined the IPU in 1984. The previous Speakers Conferences were held in New York in 2000 and 2005 respectively.

The two Presiding Officers expressed satisfaction with what they saw as consolidated bilateral legislative exchanges between the two legislatures, calling for sustained nurturing of such relations. Speaker Gurirab was impressed with China's commitment and achievement in empowering its people economically which, he said, was "clearly evidenced by the improved standard of living." Despite the current economic downturn, Dr. Gurirab observed, China seemed to be weathering the storm significantly well. The delegation also met with the Premier of China, His Excellency Wen Jiaobao who reiterated China's readiness to strengthen and expand cooperation with Namibia.

One of the highlights of Dr. Gurirab's visit was a familiarisation trip to the Gansu Province where the Gansu Research Institute for Water Conservancy shared their success with rainwater harvesting (RWH).

The RWH is an effective approach of solving shortage of water resources and achieving sustainable development and alleviation of poverty. The practice has shown that the RWH not only supply water for domestic use and agriculture irrigation, but also feed ecological conservation and recharge groundwater.

Another success story was the China National Children Centre (CNCC) – a government-funded extracurricular and educational institution for mentoring and developing children's characteristics and potential; cultivate their creativity and enhance their comprehensive capabilities. During discussion with the Director of the center, Ms. Chong Zhong Xiao, Dr. Gurirab emphasized the universal priority that should be attached to the plight of children. The Speaker was accompanied by National Assembly legislators, Hon. Clara Bohitile, and Hon. McHenry Venaani.



*Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab with Mr. Wu Banggou, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.*



## Governing Security in Namibia By Lea Traut, B.A. Marburg University

The members of the committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the National Assembly attended a workshop from the 2nd -7th of August held in Otjiwarongo. The workshop title was "Governing Security in Namibia" and was hosted by the Parliament of Namibia and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The purpose of the workshop was to train the participants in the oversight of the security sector and issues related to security. The focus of the workshop was to consolidate the knowledge of the security sector, by pointing out all areas which security extends to.

We all remember the spread of insecurity after the traumatic events of the 11th of September in 2001. In the newspapers, we can read about the lack of security and the continuous fight against crime and violence every day. To be able to deal with these threats, a country needs a powerful security system.

The security sector can be separated into four main areas: defence, safety and security, Intelligence and foreign affairs.

To act and react within these areas of security, parliamentarians have to be aware of their duties and responsibilities. The duty of the committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security is to observe the areas Defence, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Namibia Central Intelligence Service (NCIS) and Prisons and Correctional Services, to contact and work together with the Offices, Ministries and Agencies which refer to the special areas.

For further investigation on certain issues, reports from the Ministries can be requested by the Committee. (see: [http://www.Parliament.gov.na/national\\_assembly/na\\_comm\\_detail.php?comm\\_id=7&typ\\_id=1](http://www.Parliament.gov.na/national_assembly/na_comm_detail.php?comm_id=7&typ_id=1).)

At the workshop, the committee learned about concepts of security, the architecture of the Namibian security sector and current policy issues.

In the framework of defence the committee discussed their role and duties in the defence oversight. The discussion on the defence architecture point out in the single components as historical background, framework and the core interests and ideas of defence.

Looking back to the state and military development/history, it becomes obvious that an oversight of defence and security needs to be done in line with democratic principles. The importance of defence points out when the news tells us about new riots in insecure regions and the discussions of the threat of nuclear weapons and their owners.

Foreign Affairs and relations specifically define the profile and acting range of a country and focus on world wide economics, development and also global security issues like terrorism. In particular, the membership in organizations and trade unions within Africa and world wide highlight the duties and responsibilities of Namibia as a country were examined and discussed. Acting as a global player, a country faces expectations from abroad and how a country can deal with realistic and utopian challenges.

Working together with international agencies the Intelligence Service is dealing with threats inside the country as well as global threats. The participants asked the presenter about the mandates and Power of audit of the NCIS in detail.

The presentation from the Ministry of Safety and Security pointed out the work and functions on the security sector. Crime solution and prevention as well as the work of the police

department also formed part of this discussion.

In order for a national security framework to be really effective, it should be capable of reacting to global developments, which change on a continuous basis.

As recommendations the committee pointed out that Parliamentary Committee should be actively involved on Legislation like policy design and law-making. Further more the members of the committee highlighted the need of technical, legal and infrastructural support.

One of the most important recommendations was, that the committee should meet regularly and share information with other committees in Parliament as well as a regular training for all committees to advance their skills in their special work area.

In conclusion the workshop can be seen as a great success, in regard to the interesting programme and the engagement of the presenters and the participants. The National Assembly and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation look forward to further cooperation, supporting the committee to face the upcoming challenges of the security sector.

The workshop was facilitated by Prof. André du Pisani from the University of Namibia.

The presentations were given by Prof. André du Pisani, speakers from the National Central Intelligence Service and the Ministry of Safety and Security.





A common platform for African peoples and their grass-roots organisations to be more involved with discussions and decision making on the problems and challenges facing the continent.

## Euro-African Parliamentary Diplomacy

Gerrit F. Schlomach, Parliamentary Assistant of Michael Gahler MEP

A strong relationship has developed between the European Union (EU) and Africa during the last decades. Europe is still the most important trade partner for Africa and the biggest export market for African products. Several political instruments help to facilitate the political dialogue between these two regions in general, and the different parliaments in particular.

## ALIGN RULES WITH PROTOCOL, AU TELLS PAP

By Pietie Husselmann

The Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) was characterised by heated debates surrounding the decision of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) that requested the Bureau of the Pan-African Parliament to urgently fix the term of office for its members, drawing inspiration from the AU organs. Decision Doc. EX.CL/459 (XIV) of the Assembly of the African Union further tasked PAP, at its 11th Ordinary Session held from 18 to 29 May 2009, to immediately hold elections to renew the mandate of the current bureau or to elect a new one. The decision further instructed PAP to align its rules with the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament.

The heated debates finally culminated in the election of members to the Bureau of the Pan-African Parliament on 28 May 2009. The newly elected five-member team comprises of the President, Hon. Dr. Idriss Ndele Moussa (Chad); First Vice-President, Hon. Bethel Amadi (Nigeria); Second Vice-President, Hon. Mary R. Mugenyi (Uganda); Third Vice-President, Hon. Laroussi Hammi (Algeria); and Fourth Vice-President, Hon. Joram Macdonald Gumbo from Zimbabwe.

The days leading to the elections of the new bureau members were tense. The Rules of Procedure of PAP were discussed in order to make changes that would enable the election to take place. The proposed changes to the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament were also discussed. However, the rules were eventually not changed and the elections took place in terms of the existing rules following the advice of the Deputy Legal Counsel from the African Union.

Namibia's Members of the Pan-African Parliament who attended the 11th Ordinary Session were Hon. Hans Booy, Hon. Loide Kasingo, Hon. Evelyn Nawases-Taeyele, Hon. Tsudao Gurirab and Hon. Jhonny Hakaye.



After this year's election of the European Parliament (EP) from 4-7 June 2009, the newly elected parliamentarians set up 31 delegations. They form the "third level" of parliamentary activities and provide information for the work of the plenary and the committees of the EP. The delegations' study visits and meetings with other parliamentarians provide European parliamentarians first hand insight into the situations of countries and organizations outside the EU. In addition, these regular meetings strengthen the continuous dialogue on all issues of common concern, like economic or development cooperation, regional stability, but also on good governance, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Finally, the work in the delegations builds the core of the parliamentary diplomacy, complementary to the existing diplomatic relations of the governments of the 27 EU member states.

### Delegation for the relations to the Pan African Parliament

With the beginning of this term, the EP established a permanent delegation for the relations to the Pan African Parliament (PAP) built on the structure and experience of the past ad-hoc delegation. Under the chairmanship of Michael Gahler, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), the ad hoc delegation was set up in 2006 with the aim of promoting and strengthening the parliamentary dimension of

the EU-Africa cooperation through dialogue, capacity-building and active participation in the elaboration and implementation of the EU-Africa Strategy.

Since 2006, the parliamentarians both from Europe and Africa have achieved a trustful working relationship. They managed to agree with their respective commissions and councils to get concretely involved in the annual assessment of the EU-Africa Strategy, by meeting and delivering an input to the ministerial troika prior to their own decision making on their progress report. For example, they held a parliamentary pre-summit prior to the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007. Moreover, the European representatives have supported the administrative capacity building of the PAP through the EP's Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy (OPPD).

#### **EP's Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy**

Since 2008, the European Parliament's support to strengthen parliaments has been developed through the OPPD. The OPPD support programme aims at new and emerging democracy (NED) parliaments beyond the borders of the EU. The OPPD assists in the establishment and the reform of these parliaments and aims at strengthening their capacity to implement their constitutional functions of lawmaking, oversight and representation. The creation of the OPPD responds

to a rapidly increasing demand for support of NED parliaments and the willingness of the EP actively to share its experiences and expertise.

#### **PAP Election Observation Mission during European Elections**

In the framework of an election observation mission, a PAP Delegation visited polling stations in the UK and Germany from May 28 to June 8, 2009 during this year's European elections. The mission's aim was to inform the members of the delegation on the European elections and to get them acquainted with the legal, administrative, logistical and practical problems involved with the organisation of (quasi-)simultaneous continent-wide elections (campaigning, organisation of the vote and reporting of results). The observation mission in Germany was possible thanks to the invitation of Michael Gahler (MEP) who has participated in these kinds of missions in Africa. During the visit of the PAP delegation, he emphasized the need for more exchange of knowledge and information. Hon. Hammi Laroussi, current third vice-president of the PAP and head of the election observation mission in the UK and Germany, underlined the positive impact of these missions in an interview he gave to a German newspaper: "We come to learn and to see". The insights they gained from the European elections were very useful, since "democracy in Africa is a young baby".

Both the cooperation of the delegation for the relations to the PAP and the OPPD support an increased role of the PAP within African affairs. The PAP has a multiplying role, as its members are national parliamentarians. Ideally, their representatives would return home and apply oversight and scrutiny mechanisms in their national parliaments. To this end, the respective EC country strategy papers should foresee programmes that support parliamentary capacity building. EU national parliaments could also "contact" a specific African national parliament and work accordingly.

Michael Gahler is Member of European Parliament (MEP) since 2008 and outgoing chairman of the ad hoc delegation as well as current chairman of the delegation for relations with the Pan African Parliament (PAP). He perceives the big challenge of his delegation in its task to accompany the PAP on its way within the institutional set-up of the African Union to become a legislative and eventually a directly elected Parliament. Therefore, he encourages his African colleagues to oversee and to strengthen their parliamentary scrutiny on the policies pursued by their respective executives. According to the chairman, the parliamentary dimension of the EU-Africa cooperation needs to be enhanced in order to provide common oversight of the actions of national governments as well as the European Commission and the African Union Commission. Or as the chairman puts it: "We are only strong if we act together!"



Michael Gahler (MEP) at the Headquarters of the Pan African Parliament in Midrand/ South Africa



Hon. G. Mongella, former speaker of the Pan African Parliament from Tanzania, with Michael Gahler MEP



## Survey on attitudes towards politics in Namibia

By **Tina Srowig**, Researcher,  
Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Namibia  
Office

On November 27th and 28th, about one million registered voters in Namibia are called upon to cast their vote at the elections for a new parliament. Therefore, the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation conducted a survey to find out about the Namibians' attitudes towards politics in general and the upcoming elections in particular. Namibians were asked how they feel about the political, economic and educational situation in their country. What are their hopes and fears for the elections and which issues should the new government address most urgently? What piece of advice would they give political parties to gain more supporters?

The survey was conceptualized and supervised by the University of Zimbabwe Professor Eldred Masunungure, who is also the Director of the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), based in Harare. UNAM (University of Namibia) students conducted standardized interviews in four cities/regions: Keetmanshoop, Windhoek, Otjiwarongo and Rundu. It focuses particularly on young people and women. So in each region, two groups of about 10 people each were interviewed: a male group at the age of 18 to 31 and a female group ranging from the ages of 18-31, 32-45 and 46+. The participants were drawn from different geographical, ethnic, economic and educational backgrounds. Although the groups are not representative for the entire Namibian population in terms of age and gender, they allow a very good insight into the main issues and problems that young Namibians and women are concerned with.

### Key issues for Namibians

When asked about the current situation in Namibia, all groups agree concerning the most urgent problems: education, high unemployment and the health system. In the education sector, the participants mainly criticize the costs

for schools and university. One woman from Windhoek points out: "Women cannot help their children because they do not have the money for the schools or the transport money, since schools are very far away." Another problem they see is that students who fail grade 10 or 12 have little opportunities and should be granted another attempt to finish school.

High unemployment and the lack of job opportunities – especially in the rural areas – is another main problem for the participants of the survey. Many feel that economic development and investments are not spread equally over the country but that rural areas are often neglected. Better education, government investments, loans for smaller businesses and a monthly income for everyone are proposed as ways to alleviate poverty and to strengthen economic development.

Many participants also criticize the health care services in the country, including clean water supply in the rural areas. Young men and women alike ask for projects promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and youth involvement in reproductive health activities. Also, diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria are a point of concern. When comparing these results to those of the latest Afro-Barometer, it becomes apparent that young Namibians and women clearly focus more on education and health services and stress the linkage between education and economic development. Moreover, they seemed to be more concerned about issues such as health care, crimes, security or alcoholism than the respondents of the Afro-Barometer.

### Needs of women and young people

Both women and men pointed out that women are especially vulnerable and need more support. They usually take care of the children, are subject to domestic violence, crimes and rape and have no equal job opportunities. One young man from Rundu says: "Cases of violence against women have been reported but nothing has been done to the culprits. The government must come back to traditional leaders on how to treat such men that cause this problem." One man also suggests that women should be empowered, especially in financial matters.

However, many young people are in a difficult economic situation,

too. Unemployment, peer pressure, gender inequality and alcohol abuse are problems they have to face. Some participants also mention the need for counseling and psychological help. A young man from Keetmanshoop explains the situation in his town: "Kids often drop out of school for nothing and they are becoming street kids and gangsters. Sometimes they are involved in violence and then they are in jail."

A few participants also hold the view that young people should take more responsibility for their lives. A young woman from Otjiwarongo points out: "Sometimes children don't use their money for school fees or the household properly. They rather use it for drinking alcohol and using drugs and so on. So sometimes it's also the youth – you don't think about your future." Nevertheless, most participants feel that young people do not have enough opportunities in terms of education and work.

### The political situation and the upcoming elections

The groups assess the political situation in Namibia differently. Some people find that it is quite stable, others see many problems in terms of political representation, trust in political parties and information about them. There is one issue that almost all participants agree on: They criticize the political parties for making empty promises and they are disappointed with their work. The participants express the demand that political parties should listen to the people, take their problems seriously and consequently act upon them. The unfulfilled promises are also a major reason for low trust in political parties.

Many feel that too little has changed in the country in general and their respective region in particular during the last years. They criticize that parties are only visible during election times and that parliamentarians do not feel responsible for the region they are from but only for the people who put them on the nomination list. One young man from Keetmanshoop remarks: "The system of voting is not effective. Say I vote for a party. But those people are appointed by the party itself, that is the problem. They get instructions from the party, they are not there for the people's interest. This is how the structures are not right at all."

In terms of the upcoming elections,

fairness, freedom and security were considered key issues in the participants' opinions. The views of the voters should be accepted and the political parties should treat each other with respect. The fight against corruption is also seen as a key issue for the 2009 elections.

When it comes to the question of whether the elections will be free and fair, there is a mixed picture. Almost all women are convinced that the elections will be free and fair. Men, however, often say "no" or are indecisive about it. For example, one young man points out that "the ruling party is making sure that the staff at the election commission will be the so called party members". This would be an obstacle to free and fair elections, as the election commission is supposed to be unbiased and independent. Ballot rigging, tribalism and nepotism are also considered major problems. All these factors add to people's insecurity concerning the elections and this makes it harder for them to decide which party to vote for.

#### Who to vote for?

Most participants say that they want to vote in the upcoming elections. Most participants say they want to express their opinion and make a difference. One young man says: "I am still part of the youth and the youth are the leaders of tomorrow." Another young man adds: "I think as a citizen in the country I have to vote. I vote to have changes in the government and to be able to criticize."

When asked which party they want to vote for, many young males say they want to go for RDP. Some feel that RDP understands the needs of the young generation, and they hope for a change because it is a relatively new party. One young man from Keetmanshoop says: "All these years from the time when we became independent, it was SWAPO who were the ruling party. And I see no development in the south and in the north. When RDP had a meeting here, it was not only one tribe or one culture who attended the meeting, but it was the whole Keetmans." One main criticism of Swapo is that they have not solved the problems in the country and that they focus too much on the liberation struggle.

When looking at women's preferences for the elections, it becomes obvious that most of them support the ruling party. Swapo's background in

the independence struggle is one important reason for this, as a woman from Katutura, Windhoek, says: "Swapo fought for our country. They are the first party in Namibia." Many women feel that Swapo fulfills their needs and guarantees peace and freedom. One even claims that Swapo is "god-given". In fact, the fear of the unknown is a major reason for women to trust the party they know and not to turn to opposition parties. One woman from Rundu explains: "We don't know if the opposition will perform better or not." However, some young women also support opposition parties, especially DTA of Namibia.

Some participants choose not to vote. Their main reason is that they feel their voice does not make a difference, that nothing in the country will change, or that the ruling party will win anyway. One young woman from Otjiwarongo says: "I am not going to vote because [...] if I vote for a party to win it is just for their own interest, it's not for the interest of the community and for the country." Clearly, some participants are disappointed with the party leaders who only seem to work for their personal gain.

#### Advice to political parties

Thus, the main piece of advice to the political parties is that they should take the people's opinions seriously. Moreover, they should organize themselves and communicate their ideas in a better way. A clear message addressing the major problems in the country and a plan to implement the changes are crucial to the participants. Furthermore, they want a political party to understand their needs – and this can only be achieved by talking to the people in their own language. Face to face interaction is by far the most popular way of communication. Many participants suggest that parties should not focus too much on big rallies but rather come to community meetings in small villages and listen to the people's problems and needs. Thus, the communication and visibility of their representatives is very important to Namibians.

What would boost people's trust in opposition parties? Most participants say they understand that the opposition party cannot solve problems if it is not in the government. Especially for women, however, this is no reason to give them a chance to do better than

the current government. Some people are hopeful when they look at the opposition parties. Most participants, however, want to see actions first and then they would consider voting for a party. One young woman from Rundu admits: "It is difficult for opposition parties to convince us or to get us to listen to them." Some participants demand that opposition parties should speak up in parliament and make use of the influence that they have.

#### Conclusion

The survey has shown that the people interviewed agree on the most important issues in Namibia: education, unemployment, health sector, rural development, income inequality, gender inequality, tribalism, crime. All participants ask for more presence of the political parties – not just during voting times. They want them to address the most urgent problems and they expect them to present possible solutions.

Many people do not trust opposition parties because they know little about them or because they think they just make empty promises. Moreover, they criticize political parties for being biased and just representing a certain groups or tribes. Most women tend to support Swapo. Some fear opposition parties, some are convinced that Swapo performs best or feel an obligation to the party which brought independence. Although many men also support Swapo, there are many among them who will vote for an opposition party because they want to see a change in the country. They hope for better and faster development and they especially want the young people to be understood and represented. Therefore, many young people support RDP. In terms of communication, the overwhelming majority prefers face to face talks with the politicians. They advise parties to come to their regions and listen to their views.

Most people want to vote and make their opinion count in the upcoming elections. However, they also make clear that they see the difference between the parties' promises and the actual outcomes and that they are unwilling to tolerate empty promises any longer. They expect the parties to respect each other during election times, to listen to the needs of the people and to do what is best for the country and all Namibians.

## From the Chambers



*Dr. Gurirab attending a bilateral meeting with IPU and members of the 5th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament, Vienna, Austria.*

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*Hon. Rosalia Sibiya (seated left) and the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams (seated right) at the Parliament Exhibition Stand at Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair 2009.*

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*Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab among delegates at the 120th IPU Assembly.*

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*President Hifikepunye Pohamba congratulating the Chairman of the National Council, Hon. Asser Kapere, after inaugurating the new Arandis Constituency Office in July 2009.*

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## From the Chambers



Hon. Nora Schimming-Chase

*The National Working Committee of the Congress of Democrats (CoD), at its meeting over the weekend of 1-2 August 2009, has resolved to recall its Member of the National Assembly, Hon. Nora Schimming-Chase with immediate effect over alleged misuse of party funds, an allegation she has vehemently denied. Hon. Schimming-Chase consequently announced at a press conference her resignation from the National Assembly and the CoD on 13 August 2009 with immediate effect. She was one of the founding members of the CoD which was launched in March 1999.*

*Hon. Moses !Coma, the Councillor for the Tsumkwe Constituency in the Otjozondjupa Region, was sworn in as Member of the National Council by Chief Justice Mr. Peter Shivute on 19 May 2009. Hon. !Coma replaced Hon. Ferdinand Kavetuna who became Governor for the Otjozondjupa Region. Otjozondjupa Regional Council elected Hon. !Coma to the National Council on 8 May 2009.*



Hon. Moses !Coma



Hon. Ferdinand Kavetuna

*The Councillor for the Otjiwarongo Constituency in the Otjozondjupa Region, Hon. Ferdinand Kavetuna, has resigned from the National Council following his election on 8 May 2009 by the Otjozondjupa Regional Council as Governor for that Region. Hon. Kavetuna replaced former Regional Governor, Hon. Theofelus Eiseb who previously served as Member of the 2nd National Council.*

## Staff on the Move

*Mr. Johannes Petrus Frederick*

*Mr. Johannes Petrus Frederick has been promoted from System Controller to Parliamentary Clerk at the National Assembly, effective from 1 August 2009.*

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*Mr. Johannes Petrus Frederick*



*Ms. Priscilla Frederick*

*Ms. Priscilla Frederick has been promoted to Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Secretary to the National Assembly with effect from 1 August 2009. She was formerly Private Secretary in the same office.*

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*Mrs. Dorothy Alawi*

*Mrs. Dorothy Alawi has been promoted from Assistant Accountant to Parliamentary Clerk at the National Assembly with effect from 1 August 2009.*

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*Mrs. Dorothy Alawi*



*Ms. Matilde lipito*

*Ms. Matilde lipito has been promoted to Senior Accountant at the National Assembly with effect from 1 April 2009. Ms. lipito previously worked for the Ministry of Safety and Security as an accountant.*

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*All photos: Ambrosius Amutenja*





Learners from the Deutsche Höhere Privatschule (DHPS) in Windhoek undertook a familiarisation tour of Parliament on 11 July 2009. Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja





*Learners from the Dawid Bezuidenhout High School in Windhoek pictured with their counterparts from the Finnish Summer High School Association during their tour of the Chamber of the National Assembly. Photo: Ambrosius Amutenja*