



Parliament

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One National Council staff member was among staffs drawn from various government ministries who attended a four-day internal audit training workshop at the Hardap Resort.

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Cover photo:

Members of the 4th National Council in a group photo with His Lordship the Chief Justice after their swearing-in-ceremony, 9 December 2010.

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From the Editor's Desk

• Fanuel Katshenye

The just concluded regional and local authority councils' elections demonstrate that democracy in Namibia continues to consolidate. The elections were about peoples' choices which were eventually fulfilled and respected. The elections, conducted from 26-27 November 2010, resulted in a few surprises to some quarters and none to others. And, in addition, some lessons should have been learnt.

Competitors for regional and local authority seats ranged from political parties to ratepayers' associations and independent candidates. The ruling SWAPO Party, which reportedly fielded candidates in all the 107 constituencies, won with a landslide victory – sweeping 92 and 64 percent of the regional and local authority seats respectively. Unsurprisingly, the seven independent candidates performed below their own expectations and failed to capture a single constituency during the race. Past experience has shown though that no independent candidate had ever won a seat in the regional council elections since 1992. This appears to be yet a lesson unlearned. The independents contested dismally at Aminuis, Epukiro, Gibeon (2), Kongola, Opuwo and Rehoboth Urban Constituencies against candidates from well established political formations in the country.

The UDF and DTA put up an outstanding performance in the Kunene Region, denying the ruling party any chance of taking control of the region which SWAPO once described as a "special case". Consequently, the UDF retained its traditional strongholds of Kamanjab, Khorixas and Sesfontein Constituencies, with the DTA holding onto Opuwo and Epupa. In the Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions, NUDO denied the SWAPO Party and others control of its bastions of Aminuis, Otjinene and Okakarara Constituencies.

There were some surprises for SWANU, UDF and even the SWAPO Party which lost control of the Windhoek East Constituency in the Khomas Region to first timer competitor in the regional and local authority elections – the official opposition Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP). However, the ruling party seems to have compensated this loss with wresting control of the Dâures and Omaruru Constituencies in the Erongo Region from the UDF. The ruling party takes control of Dâures for the first time since 1992. Similarly, SWANU conceded Otjombinde Constituency in the Omaheke Region to the SWAPO Party. These and other gains consequently allowed the SWAPO Party control of 98 constituencies countrywide, conceding three to UDF, three to NUDO, two to DTA and one to the RDP.

Disappointingly, when the 26 Members of the 4th National Council showed up for their swearing-in-ceremony on 9 December 2010, only seven of them were women. Parliamentarians Margaret Natalie Mensah-Williams, Ruth Kepawa Nhinda, Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor, Germina Ndapua Shitaleni, Rosa Kunyanda Kavara, Rosalia Shilenga, and Ndapewoshali Nangula Nambili are all from the ruling SWAPO Party, dispatched by Erongo, Karas, Kavango, Khomas, Ohangwena, Oshana and Otjozondjupa Regional Councils each. The number of women representation resembles that of the 3rd National Council, with the exception that one came from the opposition side. Interestingly though, Ohangwena and Hardap Regions have maintained the status quo – sending all their Members in the 3rd National Council to the 4th National Council.

At the local authority level, opposition parties have increased their share of seats when compared to the Regional Councils. The RDP took control of 49 out of the 310 seats in the country's 50 local authorities. Despite this improved performance, the SWAPO Party still dominates the show, scooping 197 local authority seats across the country, leaving the remaining 64 seats shared unequally among APP (All People's Party), COD, DPN (Democratic Party of Namibia), DTA, NUDO, UPM (United People's Movement) and five residents' associations.

Of the 1 173 784 registered voters in this year's sub-national government elections, only 434 317 voters actually went to the polls, representing a mere 37 percent. This low voter turnout is partly attributed not only to voter apathy, but also to the fact that people could only vote in the constituencies where they were registered as opposed to the practice with the Presidential and National Assembly elections.

The likely lesson learnt from these elections is: the overwhelming majority of voters voted for candidates not because of their personalities, but because of the political party or association that fielded them and with whose principle they associate.

MEMBERS OF 4TH NATIONAL COUNCIL TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

• Fanuel Katshenye

Namibians again flocked to the polls countrywide from 26-27 November 2010 to elect their Regional and Local Authority Councillors. Vote counting started soon after poll closure and results trickled in to enable the 13 Regional Councils to nominate two representatives each to constitute the 4th National Council (2010-2015). The overall results showed the SWAPO Party capturing 98 of the country's 107 constituencies, conceding nine to the country's fragmented opposition who consequently allowed the ruling party to walk away with an overwhelming win.

Following the elections, His Lordship the Chief Justice, Mr. Peter Shivute, in a fully-packed Chamber of the National Council, swore in Members of the 4th National Council on 9 December 2010. Fellow members elected Hon. Asser Kuveri Kapere, SWAPO Party Councillor for the Arandis Constituency in the Erongo Region, as Chairperson of the 4th National Council. Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, SWAPO Party Councillor for the Windhoek North Constituency in the Khomas Region, was elected Vice-Chairperson. Chairman Kapere nominated Hon. Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor, SWAPO Party Councillor for the Keetmanshoop Urban Constituency in the Karas Region, as SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the House of Review, deputised by Hon. Bernard Songa Sibatani, SWAPO Party Councillor for Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency in the Caprivi Region. Both Hon. Kapere and Mensah-Williams served as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively of the 3rd National Council. A complete list of the 26 Members of the 4th National Council follows below:



Asser Kapere (left) being congratulated by Chief Justice Peter Shivute on his election as Chairperson of the 4th National Council.

CAPRIVI REGION

- Hon. Bernard Songa Sibatani
SWAPO Party: Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency
- Hon. Sipapela Cletius Sipapela
SWAPO Party: Linyanti Constituency

ERONGO REGION

- Hon. Asser Kuveri Kapere
SWAPO Party: Arandis Constituency
- Hon. Germina Ndupua Shitaleni
SWAPO Party: Swakopmund Constituency

HARDAP REGION

- Hon. Barakias Namwandi
SWAPO Party: Mariental Urban Constituency
- Hon. Theo Vivian Diergaardt
SWAPO Party: Rehoboth Urban West Constituency

KARAS REGION

- Hon. Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor
SWAPO Party: Keetmanshoop Urban Constituency
- Hon. Dawid Boois
SWAPO Party: Berseba Constituency

KAVANGO REGION

- Hon. Nimrod Mbandu Muremi
SWAPO Party: Rundu Urban Constituency
- Hon. Rosa Kunyanda Kavara
SWAPO Party: Rundu Rural Constituency

KHOMAS REGION

- Hon. Margaret Natalie Mensah-Williams
SWAPO Party: Khomasdal North Constituency
- Hon. Ambrosius Kandjii
SWAPO Party: Katutura Central Constituency

KUNENE REGION

- Hon. Hendrik Goabaeb
UDF: Sesfontein Constituency
- Hon. Kazeongere Zeriapi Tjeundo
DTA: Opuwo Constituency

OHANGWENA REGION

- Hon. Ruth Kepawa Nhinda
SWAPO Party: Endola Constituency
- Hon. Johannes Nakwafila
SWAPO Party: Epembe Constituency

OMAHEKE REGION

- Hon. Kilus Karaerua Nguvauva
SWAPO Party: Steinhausen Constituency
- Hon. Phillipus Wido Katamelolo
SWAPO Party: Gobabis Constituency

OMUSATI REGION

- Hon. Isai Paulus Kapenambili
SWAPO Party: Okahao Constituency
- Hon. Bernardinus Petrus Shekutamba
SWAPO Party: Etayi Constituency

OSHANA REGION

- Hon. Rosalia Shilenga
SWAPO Party: Okatana
Constituency
- Hon. Aram Martin
SWAPO Party: Oshakati West
Constituency

OSHIKOTO REGION

- Hon. Lebbius Tangeni Tobias
SWAPO Party: Tsumeb
Constituency
- Hon. Henok Tangeni Kankoshi
SWAPO Party: Onyaanya
Constituency

OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

- Hon. Moses Kgao Coma
SWAPO Party: Tsumkwe
Constituency
- Hon. Ndapewoshali Nangula
Nambili
SWAPO Party: Otavi
Constituency



Members of the Ondunga Cultural Group entertained guests at the swearing-in ceremony of Members of the 4th National Council.



NATIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBER

CPA PRESIDING OFFICERS AGREE ON NEXT CONFERENCE

• Himuvi Mbingeneeko

The Standing Committee of the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers (Africa Region) met at Namibia's harbour town of Walvis Bay from 10-13 October 2010 to prepare for the Association's 13th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers to be held in Malawi in 2011.

The Committee, which comprised Presiding Officers from the Parliaments of Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia and Seychelles, discussed and agreed, among others, on the date, venue, draft

agenda, amendments to the standing rules and financial arrangements for 2011 Presiding Officers' regional conference.

Welcoming delegates to the conference, the Chairman of the National Council Hon. Asser Kapere assured participants that their stay in the country would afford them the opportunity to make sense of the phrase "Namibia Land of the Contrast". The Chairman added: "Walvis Bay and its neighbouring coastal town of Swakopmund are the true manifestation of this contrast – both towns are sandwiched between 'a sea of sand' and a 'sea of water'. Moreover, the history of both towns is inextricably (linked with) the struggle of the Namibian people against colonial forces. Allegorically, the resistance of the sand dunes of the Namib Desert against the invading waves of the Atlantic Ocean is synonymous with the Namibian people's heroic resistance against foreign invaders."

During their stay at the harbor town, the Presiding Officers expressed their impressions with the activities and technologies at the Namibia Ports Authority (Namport) facility and Areva Namibia Resources' desalination plant which they toured.

The Parliament of Namibia agreed to host the Standing Committee meeting at last year's Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers (Africa Region) held in Uganda. The Walvis Bay meeting was organised by the National Council in coordination with the CPA-Africa Region Secretariat based in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania.



ATTACHMENT GIVES INSIGHTS INTO UGANDA PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

•Fanuel Katshenye



Northern entrance to the Parliament of Uganda

Members of Parliament need access to timely and accurate information for effective decision making. A highly motivated and independent research service for technical inputs is critical in a democratic parliament to strengthen the MPs' capacity and mandate to carry out their legislative, representative and oversight functions efficiently.

In search of crucial skills in this regard, three staff members from the National Council – the Director of General and Information Services, Mrs. Jeaneth Kuhanga; the Deputy Director of Research and Information Services, Mr. Fanuel Katshenye; and the Chief Development Planner, Ms. Belinda Karuaera – were attached to the Parliament of Uganda from 13 to 24 September 2010 on a benchmark study. The two-week attachment aimed at exposing the staff concerned to Uganda's acclaimed parliamentary research services. Special focus was on the operations of the Department of Library and Research Services which deals with research and policy issues at Parliament of Uganda.

Library and Research Services

The Parliament of Uganda's Department of Library and Research Services, established in March 1999, was initially a section under the Department of Library and Information Technology (IT). However, it was upgraded to a department with the 2004 restructuring process. With a staff component of 21 researchers, the department provides "evidence-based legislative advice" and non-partisan

information on issues related to the business of parliament.

The department consists of "a blend of competencies" ranging from engineers to data analysts, accountants, economists, political analysts, lawyers, agriculturalists, social workers, environmental economists, statisticians and political scientists, amongst others. It serves as a market tool for parliament and has a vision "to be a world class parliamentary research service". It provides research services to MPs, committees and senior staff of parliament, in addition to analytical study of new bills and policies and monitoring and evaluating government programmes. The department is subdivided into three operational sections – the Government Programmes Section, the Bills and Policies Section, and the Accountability Section.

The Government Programmes Section supports committees and MPs in their oversight function. The monitoring and evaluation of government programmes are usually done through desk research by collecting and analysing data and organising field evaluations by MPs. The Bills and Policies Section analyses the impact of bills and policies. It is composed of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from different disciplines. The team has produced a Policy and Legislative Manual which guides researchers in analysing bills and laws. The Accountability Section supports the parliamentary accountability committees. The department has established networks with national libraries and regional and international bodies.

Since its creation, the department has carried out several proactive



On a tour of Chamber of the National Assembly of Uganda (from left): Mrs. Jeaneth Kuhanga, Mr. Fanuel Katshenye and Ms. Belinda Karuaera.

research works. The recent ones are the “Adoption of ICT by Local Government in Uganda”; the “Electricity Shortage in Uganda”; and “The Promotion of Children and Youth Programme”. However, the department is not immune from challenges as it experiences high staff turnover, short notices on requests for research services, in addition to variation in training needs for both MPs and staff.

Parliament of Uganda

Uganda has a unicameral parliament. The 332-seat National Assembly derives its mandate from the 1995 Constitution and its own Rules of Procedure. The 8th Parliament, which commenced in May 2006 and ends in May 2011, consists of 215 Constituency Representatives; 79 District Woman Representatives; 10 from the Uganda People's Defence Forces; five from the youth; five from persons living with disabilities; five from the workers; and 13 ex-officio members. The Ugandan Constitution empowers parliament “to make laws on any matter for the peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda” and to “promote democratic governance in Uganda”. Members of Parliament serve for a five-year-term.

Parliamentary and administrative affairs are run by a Parliamentary Commission, chaired by the Speaker of the National Assembly. The Commission is a corporate body that can own property or sue on behalf of parliament. Other members of the commission include the Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister, the Head of the Opposition, the Government Chief Whip, the Minister of Finance and three backbenchers nominated from the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) and the opposition. The Parliamentary Commission came about as a result of a Private Member's Bill in 1997.

The Administration of Parliament Act of 1997, which regulates the work of the Parliamentary Service, provides for the organisation and administration of parliament. The Administrative Service



Rt. Hon. Edward Ssekandi Kiwanuka, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda

is composed of the Departments of Sergeant-At-Arms, Finance and Administration, Information Communication and Technology, Human Resource, Legal and Legislative Services, Official Reports, Clerks, and Library and Research Services. In addition, there are the Public Relations and Information Office, the Planning and Development Coordination Office and the Budget Office.

Uganda in Brief

Uganda is a land-locked country in East Africa, sharing borders with Sudan to the north, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the west, Rwanda to the south-west, Tanzania to the south, and Kenya to the east. Twenty percent of Uganda is covered by inland lakes. The rest ranges through tropical rain forest to savannah with mountains on the west. The climate is tropical with an absence of severe cold weather as can be experienced in Namibia during winter months.

Uganda, with a land area of 241,038 sq km, gained independence from Britain in 1962. The country was notorious for its human rights abuses during the military dictatorship of General Idi Amin between 1971 and 1979 following his seizure of power from Dr. Milton Obote in a military coup on 25 January 1971. Amin's rule was characterised by political repression, ethnic persecution and gross economic mismanagement. Abuses continued after the return to power of Milton



Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda

Obote whom Amin ousted while attending a Commonwealth Summit in Singapore.

Amin was toppled by the Tanzania People's Defence Force and several groups of Ugandan exiles under the umbrella of the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA). He fled the country on 11 April 1979 following the fall of Kampala. Since 1979, an armed rebellion ensued that subsequently led to the demise of Milton Obote's regime in 1985.

On 26 January 1986, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, then a guerilla leader, became Uganda's President. Museveni was part of a war that deposed Idi Amin and the consequent armed rebellion that ousted Milton Obote's rule. Since then, Museveni's National Resistance Movement (NRM) introduced a “no party” political system or “movement system” that restricted activities of opposition parties “to reduce sectarian violence”. Uganda's 1995 constitution provided for political participation and voting, but prohibited political parties from sponsoring candidates. However, the constitutional referendum of July 2005 cancelled the ban and opened up to multi-party politics.

According to UN estimates (2009), Uganda has 32.7 million people, with 1.3 million living in the capital Kampala. Uganda exports coffee, fish and fish products, tea, tobacco, cotton, corn, beans and sesame to its major trading

partners Kenya, United Kingdom, South Africa, India and the United Arab Emirates. The government-owned "The New Vision" newspaper in May 2010 cited an aerial survey report which confirmed that Uganda, was endowed with untapped copper, iron ore, cobalt, tin, gold and platinum.

Uganda is green, rainy and ideal for agricultural production. Our 80 km or so drive from Kampala through the Mabira Forest to the eastern city of Jinja, where we experienced the magnificent water flow from the "Source of River Nile", testifies to this.



Rush hour traffic in Kampala

Back to Kampala where one will definitely miss the delicious tilapia (a freshwater fish) and the traditional matoke (banana porridge) served from a bowl covered in fresh banana leaves. Ironically, one would happily kiss-goodbye the city of Kampala's chaotic traffic with careless boda-boda (motorbike) riders negotiating slender gaps between the city's congested traffic to drop customers in a shortest possible time. One is thus tempted to agree with Isabeau Sas, who, writing for Uganda's Saturday Monitor of 18 September 2010, concluded that "Kampala...deserves a little more attention" when it comes to traffic regulation.

YOUTH SPEAKER URGES CREATION OF CHILD PLATFORMS

• Ambrosius Amutenja

The Speaker of the Children's Parliament of Namibia has described parliament as a platform where children got the opportunity to discuss issues of concern to them. Members of the Children's Parliament are drawn from the 13 regions of the country. The Government of Namibia and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are partners of the Children's Parliament.

Speaking on the workshop theme: "Children and AIDS: Social Protection Response, the Role of Parliaments," Speaker Sharonice Busch said the platform allowed children to interact and encourage each other. Through this we realised that the problems

of children in the rural areas are the same as those experienced by children in urban areas. Poverty, HIV and AIDS did not discriminate, but affected rural and urban youths in the same way, the Children Speaker noted.

Ms. Busch was addressing a workshop in Windhoek attended by IPU President and Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab; the African Union Social Affairs Commissioner; Ms. Bience Gawanas; UNICEF Namibia Country Representative, Mr. Ian Macleod and other eminent persons.

"I understand that this is a gathering of parliamentarians concerned with one of the greatest threats humankind has ever faced, and certainly the greatest after the end of the wars of previous centuries," she underlined.

She added: "Participation of children in decision-making process is a challenge for adults. Therefore, we thank the Parliament of Namibia for its commitment to include children's voices in the decision-making process. We are aware that there are parliaments that also give their children the opportunity to participate in the



Ms. Sharonice Busch, Speaker of the Children's Parliament of Namibia, addressing delegates.

decision-making process. For those that do not have the structures, I urge you all, Honourable Members, that you go back, propose to your parliaments to create a structure for children to express their opinions on issues which affect their lives. I am confident that in your respective countries, UNICEF will partner with your parliaments too."

Ms. Busch continued: "Besides many efforts by our governments, national

and international organisations, the HIV and AIDS infection rate is on the increase in some of our countries. The severity of the economic impact of the disease is directly related to the fact that most infected persons are in the peak productive and reproductive age groups. HIV and AIDS kill those whom society relies upon to grow crops, work in the mines and factories, run the schools and hospitals and govern nations and countries, thus increasing the number of dependent persons. It creates new pockets of poverty when parents and breadwinners die and children leave school earlier to support the remaining children."

The Youth Speaker urged participants to put efforts together in the face of the grave threat posed by HIV and AIDS. "We have to rise above our differences and combine our efforts to save our people. History will judge us harshly if we fail to do so now and right now!"

"We need bold initiatives to work with families and communities to care for children and young people to protect them from violence and abuse, and to ensure that they grow up in a safe and supporting environment. For this, there is need for us to be focused, to be strategic, and to mobilise all of our resources and alliances and to sustain the efforts until they are safe," she urged.

Speaker Busch concluded with a clarion call: "As parliamentarians you must enact necessary laws and mobilise necessary resources to address social circumstances caused by HIV and AIDS. By utilising parliamentary networks like this forum, you must build strong partnership across different political spectrums. These networks can be used as tools to promote and share best practices and lessons. It is my hope that the experience and knowledge you gain through such networks will be utilised for the benefit of the vulnerable of society, the orphans and children infected and affected by this pandemic."

NAMIBIA AND KUWAIT ENHANCE PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS

•Fanuel Katshenye

A delegation from the National Assembly of Kuwait held discussions with the Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab to enhance relations and encourage exchange visits between the two legislatures.

Welcoming the seven-member delegation on 18 October 2010, Dr. Gurirab said Namibia had cultivated a long history of relations with the National Assembly and the Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, when he was that country's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Gurirab appreciated Kuwait's support for Namibia's liberation struggle which culminated in independence in March 1990, adding that Namibia shared with the oil-rich Middle East country the tragedy of its painful invasion in 1990. "When I visited Kuwait as President of the UN General Assembly in 2000", Dr. Gurirab recalled, "I listened to stories about the invasion and visited sites of destruction". "It was indeed a memorable, though painful, experience", said Dr. Gurirab, referring

to Iraq's devastating military invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The Iraqis were driven out Kuwait after seven months of occupation in February 1991 by an international military coalition led by the United States.

When the news of invasion reached Namibia, Gurirab explained, Namibia put forward a proposal for the restoration of peace in the State of Kuwait. He related that when Namibia was admitted to the United Nations in April 1990, Kuwait was among the first countries that established relations with the African country under the Namibia-Kuwait Friendship Cooperation. Dr. Gurirab, also President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, applauded the presence of women in the National Assembly of Kuwait, describing the development as a great breakthrough. Until recently, suffrage was limited to male Kuwaiti citizens above the age of 21 years. In May 2005, however, the Kuwaiti National Assembly passed a law in support of women's suffrage, allowing women to vote and run for office as long as they adhere to Islamic Law. The 50-seat National Assembly is elected every four years.

Dr. Gurirab said since Namibia's independence, Kuwait had been responsive to the country's requests for assistance. Kuwait funded the extension of the Tsumeb-Oshikango railway line and Dr. Gurirab expected the Parliamentarians' visit to encourage the two governments and their business sectors to explore more



Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation (left) in discussions with Dr. Gurirab in the Constitution Room at the National Assembly.

areas of cooperation. He emphasised that the current cooperation needed to be expanded to cover education at university level.

On his part, the head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Mr. Saleh Ashour, thanked Dr. Gurirab for receiving them, appreciating the relationship that existed between Namibia, the Emir and the State of Kuwait. He said mutual visits by both countries' parliamentarians would enhance relations and bring the two parliaments closer to each other, especially through the Kuwaiti-Namibia Parliamentary Friendship Group. Dr. Gurirab accepted an invitation from the Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, Mr. Jassem Al-Kharafi, to visit Kuwait at a date to be mutually agreed upon.

The Kuwaiti delegation also held discussions with the Namibia Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security and the Prime Minister. The delegation, which consisted of five parliamentarians and two staff, was composed of Mr. Saleh Ashour (delegation leader), Dulaihi AlHajri, Mr. Husain AlDehani, Mr. Ghanem AlMiai, Mr. Shuaib AlMuwaizri; and officials Mr. Bader Qambar (interpreter), Mr. Mohammad AlModej (secretary) and Mr. Bader Almonayekh from the Kuwaiti Embassy in South Africa.

Kuwait in Brief

Kuwait is a Middle Eastern country bordered by Saudi Arabia to the south, Iraq to the north and west, and the Arabian Gulf coast to the east. The country is rich with oil, food processing, textiles, furniture, and fertiliser industries. The United Kingdom, Japan, the United States and Germany are the country's major trading partners.

With an estimated population of just over three million and a land area of 17,818 sq km, Kuwait is a constitutional monarchy with His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah as Head of State. The Al Sabah family has ruled Kuwait since 1756 and the current Emir is the fourteenth ruler of the State of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti Constitution, adopted in 1962, vests legislative authority in the National Assembly which was first elected in 1963. The National Assembly (Majlis Al-Umma) is made up of 50 independent members drawn from five ten-member constituencies. Political parties are not permitted, but a number of loose political blocs have developed in recent years. The overwhelming majority of Kuwaitis are Muslim and the practice of other religions in the country is restricted (www.fco.gov.uk).

PRIME MINISTER CONDEMNS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

• Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Nahas Angula said that peace-loving people in the world were concerned about violence against women and Namibia was disturbed by men who made women their victims of acts that violated peoples' human rights.

The Prime Minister, in a speech read on his behalf, was speaking at the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Africa UNITE campaigns at the Parliament Gardens on 25 November 2010. Under the United Nations theme "Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence against Women", Namibia commemorated the event under the theme "Zero Tolerance for GBV, Report it to Stop it: Be a Soldier against GBV."

"As much as I strongly wish peace and harmony would prevail in our homes and communities, the sad story is that many families are distressed and mourning their murdered mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and girl children. That is the reason why the theme is calling everyone in our society to be a soldier and fight against gender-based violence," he warned.

"There is no day that passes without one reading or hearing a woman or a girl raped, killed or both, a baby dumped in bushes or waste bins... Perpetrators of these atrocious crimes have made life of women so cheap in Namibia; that they have no fear or respect for women's rights," said the Prime Minister, reiterating that violence against women was a concern to the government.

He called on all citizens and residents to be defenders of human rights, especially the rights of women, children and babies. "The majority of perpetrators are men, though there are also some women who are cruel, treating children and newly-born babies wantonly. However, fingers are still pointing to men who run away from their responsibilities after impregnating ladies. This is not an

excuse enough still for women to throw away their babies. It is against our Constitution to kill a person. Thus no one has the right to take anybody's life – not even that of a baby."

The UN defines gender-based violence as "physical, sexual and psychological violence in the family and in the general community, battering, sexual abuse of children, dowry-related violence, rape, female mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state".

To curb this phenomenon, the Prime Minister emphasised, government initiated various GBV laws such as the Combating of Rape Act (Act No. 8 of 2000) and Combating of Domestic Violence Act (Act No. 4 of 2003). A National GBV Conference was held in 2007 and a National Advisory Committee on GBV was established in 2008 and launched by President Hifikepunye Pohamba to advise government on the best possible strategies to deal with GBV. A Media Campaign on Zero Tolerance against GBV was launched and was continuing.

GBV sensitisation workshops and meetings were held countrywide by government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations for people to know their rights and report cases of violence to police and to desist from violent behaviours.

In 2007, GBV cases reported to the Namibian Police were 12,563, decreasing slightly to 11 611 cases reported in 2008. They picked up again in 2009 to 11 882. Media reports this year show that assault with intent on grievous bodily harm was still high, followed by rape and murder with firearms or other objects.

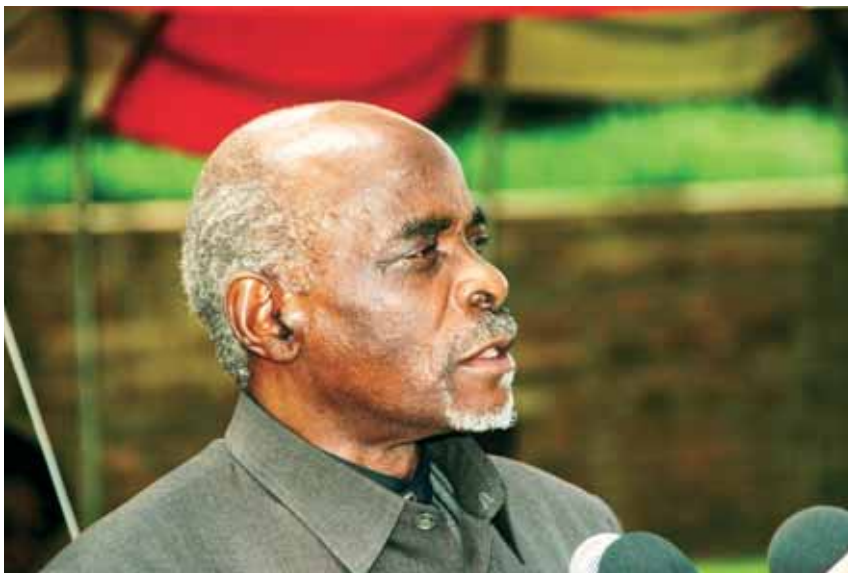
Turning to fellow men, the Prime Minister said: "I do not know what is going on in your minds right now... However, I am of the opinion that maybe as men we need a thorough examination of ourselves. I suggest for a retreat, or a national conference for men to discuss openly issues that force men to take such brutal actions. Maybe as men, we need to educate ourselves and come up with strategies, targeting at solving the problem of GBV..."

"It is not beating, raping, abusing women and killing women that make somebody a man. This shows weakness of the highest order and somebody like that is not worthy of being called a man. Men are supposed to be protectors of women and children in community and not beasts. Has it become a crime or

sin for a woman to say NO to you – that she does not want you anymore? Does that really warrant a woman to be killed," the Prime Minister wanted to know.

Praising some men, the Prime Minister said: "I am delighted to see many courageous men against GBV today marching – a sign that not all men are abusers. They are telling other men that they do not like the abuse of women committed by other fellow men in Namibia. This should be a message to all men out there that one can transform from bad behaviours to a good man. It could be that the way some men are socialised, is that by showing power and in control, one does not have to discuss issues to find solution, but to beat and suppress. It is also a reality that if one is brought up in a home where violence is the order of the day; this person would find it very difficult to relate to others in a civil way, especially to women when they are in relationships."

The Prime Minister applauded the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for spearheading this campaign, appreciating all institutions, civil society, NGOs, individuals and all stakeholders for the awareness campaign they carried out countrywide. "All your efforts, as little as they may be, are appreciated. Awareness should not only end with the 16 Days of Activism. The campaign must be a continuous and intensified action for all people to understand the danger and effects of GBV," he urged.



Prime Minister Nahas Angula

KOLIN LEARNERS ON KAPERER'S JOURNEY TO PARLIAMENT

•Fanuel Katshenye

The significance of the National Council, the importance of that hammer (gavel), the term of office for councillors and their retirement age were among a barrage of questions that learners from the Kolin Foundation Junior Secondary School in the Arandis Constituency in Erongo Region sought answers from the Chairman of the National Council during their tour of parliament on 30 September 2010.

National Council Chairman Asser Kapere at one point gave detailed accounts of how the House of Review came into being, its functions and composition. He further explained the independent relationship between the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature which is responsible for making and repealing Namibia's laws. Kapere highlighted the duties and functions of the Presiding Officers in response to the learners' questions. The 30 Grade 8 learners expressed delight at the "nice and great experience of knowing parliament" whose "size and sitting arrangement" they had never seen physically as they only saw it on television.

Responding to a direct question, Chairman Kapere was drawn into describing his journey to the National Council – starting from being a regional governor for 12 years, Member of the National Council and Deputy Minister since 1999 and finally Chairperson of the National Council since December 2004.

Chairman Kapere in turn wanted to know why the learners opted to attend school. The responses were varying



Chairman Asser Kapere in a group photo with learners and teachers from the Kolin Foundation Junior Secondary School.

from “to be educated...to have in-depth knowledge about things and to becoming someone in life”. Chairman Kapere encouraged the learners to commit themselves to studying as they were in the “formation era of your future” where they prepare to overcome poverty and create the basis for employing others in the future. A few learners, who have heard about government’s national Vision 2030 development strategy, described it as “the year when Namibia can be developed, grow bigger and overcome poverty”.

Responding to Chairman Kapere’s question, the learners attributed failing their subjects to laziness, lack of concentration in classes, love for music, ignorance, not listening to teachers and parents, peer pressure and bad friends.

They cited study time and being carried away by things as some of the challenges they face at school and the learning environment. Learner Rachel Hara s, speaking on behalf of her colleagues, thanked Chairman Kapere for speaking to them face-to-face about his duties as Chairperson of the National Council, assuring him that “we are going to change in our way to achieving Vision 2030”.

Kolin Foundation Junior Secondary School, established 30 years ago, hosts 560 learners and 21 teachers for Grades 8 to 12. The learners were accompanied by group leader and entrepreneur teacher, Mr. Hage Gowaseb; and assistant group leader and teacher, Mr. Dion Gariseb.

According to teacher Gowaseb, the Grade 8 learners undertook the trip “to acquaint themselves with national developments and learn more about their country”. During their trip, the learners visited State House, Office of the Prime Minister, Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, Heroes’ Acre, Hosea Kutako International Airport and the Windhoek Agricultural and Industrial Show. Mr. Gowaseb described their experience at parliament as “very welcoming and friendly”.

Chairman Kapere, the Councillor for the Arandis Constituency in the Erongo Region, pledged cash of N\$1000-00 to the Grade 8 learner at this school who will score the highest marks during the November 2010 final examination. This, he pledged further, would be in addition to N\$1000-00 for a learner who will over-perform the highest scorer during the second school term in the same grade.

CLIMATE CHANGE TURNS VILLAGERS INTO SQUATTERS

Flood waters have forced many villagers in Namibia’s Caprivi Region to become environmental squatters in their own country and, as Clemence Tashaya writes, an estimated 200 families are affected and displaced each year due to the effects of climate change on the Zambezi River basin.



Clemence Tashaya

Climate Change is here. Climate change will hit hard in the Land of the Brave. Namibia, as one of the countries with the richest fishing grounds, could be drastically depleted because of changes in the up welling system and temperature increases. And climate change impact is expected to be far reaching in the next generation. Consider, too, that the Namibian population is predicted to be three million by 2050. Just how climate change will affect the country is difficult to accurately determine. But it is forecasted with a high degree of certainty that Namibia and the rest of the SADC Region can expect an average increase in temperature of between 2° to 6°c in the interior.

The Climate will become drier, rainfall variability is likely to increase and extreme events such as droughts and floods are likely to become more frequent and intense. Soil moisture levels are projected to decline and, as a result, expect crop failure and severe water shortages impacting upon

subsistence farming communities the most. Large parts of countries in the SADC Region will become unsuitable for cattle farming and sea levels will rise.

Simply we don't know what will happen with the coastal fog system, which is known to be vital for most of endemic and many other plant and animal species in Namibia. The bankruptcy belt – a virtually uninhabitable corridor encompassing the Namib Desert and the south of the country – will move further northeast, increasing the area where farming is a bad idea.

This is not good news for the 70 percent of Namibians that are dependent on agriculture. As temperatures climb, even the tough long-horned Sanga cattle breed kept by the nomadic Himba ethnic group, will start to have some difficulty in conceiving, producing less milk, be more prone to diseases and drink much more water than before. This is a problem in a country where 83 percent of rain evaporates as soon as it hits the ground and fresh water reservoirs are in alarming short supply.

Namibia's Coordinator of the Africa Chapter in the IPCC's (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Fifth Assessment Report, Oliver Ruppel, explained that already in many areas, Namibia has exceeded its carrying capacity with regards to

water. In some villages in the northern regions, people are beginning to adapt to climate change by harvesting rainwater and experimenting with drought resistant crops.

But will it be enough? The past couple of years have seen an increase in diseases borne by mosquitoes, widely occurring natural fires that destroy rangeland and alternating heavy droughts and floods necessitating maize imports. And, of course, there is the ever dreadful disease of HIV and AIDS epidemic which makes any effective response to climate change so much harder.

Ruppel also pointed out that a lack of awareness makes it difficult for people to understand the impacts of global warming and effectively lobby government. Journalists in the SADC Region, especially in Namibia, are struggling to tell the climate change story in comprehensible terms for the benefit of the local communities. It is not a big surprise that the annual Eco-Media Awards have been suspended, citing lack of interest from the Namibian media fraternity. They claim that the area of specialization is technical. Of course it is. But, as media, we need to specialize in our different newsroom desks and face these challenges as they evolve.

"I don't think we even have the words for greenhouse gas effect in any

languages in Africa," said a lecturer at UNAM's Biodiversity Faculty, Dr. John Mfuné, at a media training workshop at the Waterberg Plateau Park in Namibia's Otjozondjupa Region.

Meanwhile, it stays awfully quiet around the pledges for funding that were made in Copenhagen. The Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah explained that till this day not a single penny promised under the Accord has reached them. Last year, Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah was the Chief Negotiator for Africa at the successful Biodiversity Summit in Japan.

Experts like Dr. Mfuné say there are lessons to learn from developed countries. Namibia should forge alliances with other vulnerable countries that share the same challenges and opportunities, instead of mindlessly toeing the political line of African agenda.

A recent visit to flood plain areas in the Caprivi Region in Namibia, estimates that about two hundred people have been displaced by climate change. This move has increased the perception that climate change is now being associated with the new era of mass migration. Large numbers of people are moving as a result of environmental degradation that has increased over the years not only in Namibia, but also in other African countries and indeed in the whole world.

The recent catastrophe in the Caprivi Region has forced many villagers to be environmental squatters as a result of floods. Villagers in constituencies in the Eastern Caprivi have become migrant squatters as a result of floods which has brought misery to their families.

Hundreds of flood victims in the flood plain villages have called on government to build them some permanent houses at their relocation camps in the Lusese area, 60 km from the Caprivi Region's capital, Katima Mulilo. But can this migration contribute to climate change adaption? It has now become synonymous or common to describe those being forced to migrate for environmental reasons as climate



Participants from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa were among those who attended an international training programme on climate change in Sweden in 2010.

change refugees and to characterize such movements as forced migration. They have been described by international environmental experts as “environmental refugees” to cover the whole category of people who migrate because of environmental factors. This is common in Africa and other Asian countries where climate change catastrophes are occurring more often.

This term “environmental refugees” applies to the Caprivi Region flood victims who face this dilemma during rainy seasons because of floods. A camp was established at Lusese by the Namibian Government and is occupied by people from nearby villages, such as Ilivilinzi, Ihaha, Nakabolelwa and Masikili. Since 2003, the Namibian Government, through the Office of Prime Minister (OPM) and the Caprivi Regional Council, has been assisting flood hit “environmental refugees” with tents for shelter and food parcels that comprise three bags of 12,5kg mealie-meal, cooking oil and canned fish per household. According to statistics available from the Caprivi Regional Council, it is estimated that about 200 families are affected and displaced every year as a result of floods mainly caused by climate change affecting the Zambezi River basin.

An official in the Directorate for Disaster Risk Management (DDRM) in the Office of Prime Minister, Mr. Japhet litenge, explained to this scribe that food crisis was looming in Caprivi and Kavango Regions as a result of drought.

“This situation is critical because farmers in Caprivi and Kavango Regions had poor harvests due to floods and heavy rains last season. The office confirms that flooding in Namibia has become a common phenomenon with the Caprivi, Kavango, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto and the Hardap Regions having experienced severe floods over the past five years.

In the Caprivi Region, flood victims explained that they are always stationed at Ngoma for some few days for censuses’ purposes and are later moved to Lusese. The Village Development Committee (VDC),

which is always on toes with the relocation assignments, allocates them with temporary residence while they will be waiting for new tents from the government and then be moved to Kabbe and Lusese which have become more like a permanent flood relocation area.

Ms. Best Mayanga, a resident at Ihaha village, explained that accommodation becomes a major problem for them because the population and demand is also increasing. “Every year, the government has to increase the number of tents because people are multiplying in these villages. Food is not a problem because we receive handouts from the government. We will go back to the villages when the land becomes dry,” she said.

At the camp, pupils whose education programmes have been disturbed could be seen attending classes in temporary tents. They came with their teachers who have also been affected. “We came here with our school-going children. We wonder why some of the schools did not want to move this side because all the schools are flooded and surrounded by water. There is a problem of sanitation because all toilets are waterlogged,” she continued.

In this regard, it is obvious that this forced climate change migration will result in health disasters for most of the Namibian villagers, especially those in vulnerable areas. The direct and indirect impact on health will be influenced by environment conditions. But many environmental experts focus on infectious diseases such as malaria – forgetting other fundamental requirements for health such as safe drinking water, clean air, sufficient food and secure shelter – which have many adverse health impacts.

For instance, climate change researchers have identified what they term “path ways” and health risks associated with climate change. They associate climate change with skin damage/cancer, eye problems and result in immune suppression. Direct impact of climate change also results in thermal stress which leads to death and injury. Sea and river level rise leads to physical and displacement as

happening not only in villages in the Caprivi Region, but the rest of Namibia.

In this case, environmental effects such as change of water supply will definitely result in risk factors such as water insecurity and poor water quality. As a result, water borne diseases, food borne, rodent borne diseases, air pollution, women health, child health and occupational health will occur. There are changes in food security. Obviously, the villagers in the Caprivi and Kavango Regions have been losing valuable land and family property in all seasons. They have been affected by loss of productive farm land leading to crop failure. For instance, the Caprivi Region largely depends on fish as the basic food and its availability has been changing. Malnutrition has affected mostly children.

The Namibian Government has provided its environmental refugees with tents and mosquito nets for the prevention of malaria – a common infectious disease when there is forced environmental migration. However, there seems to be a conflict between these villagers and their government. Villagers don’t want to be moved to permanent higher grounds because their villages provide them with good pastures for their livestock. They are also “fishmongers” and depend on fish as a source of income hence their need to live near the Zambezi River basin and the Kavango River.

“Relocating us to a permanent area looks good for everyone but remember we are fishmongers. We have children who need to go to school. That’s the only reason why we can’t move from our flooded areas.

A range of statistics and studies show that the poor are likely to become poorer, with reduced employment opportunities, especially skilled labour. As a result, this will affect Namibia’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- Clemence Tashaya is a 2009 Silver and 2010 Gold Eco-Media Award Winning Environmental Journalist, Namibia - SADC Region. He can be contacted at clemencetashaya@yahoo.com

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

• Staff Reporter

The IPU President and Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab says developing countries were most vulnerable and must not only adapt to the effects of changes in world climate, but should also adopt mitigating measures. Speaking at an inaugural session on the occasion of COP16 in Cancun, Mexico, on 6 December 2010, Dr. Gurirab (abridged speech below) said that when world leaders set the goals a decade ago, climate change had not become a core issue in the development debate.

At the end of this week, we will learn what government negotiators will have achieved in terms of reaching new agreements to mitigate climate change. Later this morning the President of the Conference, Mexican Foreign

Secretary Patricia Espinosa, will inform us of the current state of these negotiations. And during the day I am sure many of you will provide your own reactions and suggestions. Clearly, we parliamentarians have a stake in the outcome.

The real purpose of today's meeting lies elsewhere. We pursue dual objectives which go to the heart of development and democracy. The beginning of the millennium was a splendid period in our history. There was real optimism in the air; we shared a hope that together we could reduce poverty and bring prosperity to all citizens in both the industrialised and developing worlds. We reached a historic consensus on eight millennium development goals to be met by 2015.

When the world leaders set the goals barely ten years ago, climate change had not yet become a core issue in the development debate. Today this has all changed. We have to adopt mitigating measures. We must also adapt to climate change, and this will be particularly important in developing countries which are most vulnerable to the effects of the changes in world climate. Adaptation will involve preparing to address the consequences of climate change – forced migration

and acute unemployment – and changing our economies towards a green economy.

This is the real challenge we face as lawmakers. The debates we will have today should help provide answers. We should have a better understanding of what we can do to bring about this change. We cannot sit idly by and wait for negotiators to reach binding global agreements that we can then implement. Instead, we should seize the initiative to legislate change and exercise oversight. We should make the best of the coming twelve months to put in place legislative frameworks and policy stimulus packages for development based on low carbon and eco-efficient economic growth.

I hope that when we meet next year in South Africa we will be in a position to report back on important steps we have taken to address climate change through determined efforts in support of development and climate-resilient societies. The second objective of today's meeting has to do with democracy. All of us have important responsibilities to provide transparency and accountability in public affairs. We have a popular mandate, not only to make laws, but also to hold government to account. We do this in multiple ways in our daily parliamentary work and at conference venues like this.

Today's meeting therefore plays an important part of our efforts in the IPU to provide a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations and other multilaterals, G20 included. In a few days, the United Nations General Assembly will adopt a resolution on cooperation between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU.

At the end of these deliberations, I hope that we will reach consensus on our own declaration. It is brief and to the point. It sends a clear message from the global parliamentary community to COP 16. And it gives us something to build upon as we go to our parliaments where our real work will follow up on our debate here in Cancun.



Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab

PARLIAMENTS CALL FOR IMPROVED CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

• Staff Reporter

Forty (40) Members of Parliament from 13 Southern and Eastern African countries held a regional workshop in Windhoek to discuss how parliaments could develop and strengthen child sensitive social protection systems and to ensure that they responded to the needs of the vulnerable and marginalised children and families.

Hosted by the Parliament of Namibia in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNICEF, the three-day meeting, held from 20-22 October 2010, stressed the crucial role that parliamentarians could play in scaling up social protection schemes through shaping laws and holding governments accountable to their commitments and obligations.

Delegates recognised social protection as an effective response to addressing chronic poverty, vulnerability, and the impact of HIV and AIDS. They further recognised that the benefits of child sensitive social protection systems did not only benefit children and their families, but also served to mitigate the worst extremes of inequity that bred social tension and instability.

In a region where more than half the population survives on less than US\$1.25 per day, an estimated 9.7 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Millions more have experienced deepening poverty, discrimination and lost education due to the impact of the HIV pandemic. Social protection schemes, however, have been enacted in several countries

and are already having an impact by keeping children in school and ensuring their nutritional status and protection from abuse.

“The proof is clear: child sensitive social protection schemes such as cash transfers, removal of user fees for health and education for the poorest, along with pro-poor policies, laws, and regulations, make a real difference in the lives of children who have to cope with the worst impact of extreme poverty,” said Elhadj As Sy, UNICEF’s Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa. Some middle income countries in Southern Africa, including Angola, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, are characterised by severe income inequalities in the world as measured by the Gini coefficient.

In recent years, many African Governments have signed on to the value of using social protection schemes to tackle extreme poverty and vulnerability. The Livingstone Accord, signed by 13 governments in 2006 under the auspices of the African Union, provided that social protection strategies be integrated into national development plans and budgets. This was followed by the Social Policy Framework for Africa, developed in Windhoek in 2008, which signalled increased support by the African Union. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) recently finalised

its strategic framework for orphans and vulnerable children and youth, which provides a further roadmap for providing basic services to these often excluded groups.

“Parliamentarians play a decisive role in garnering the necessary political support within countries to prioritise and commit to policies to target marginalised children and those suffering the brunt of the impact of HIV and AIDS,” said IPU President Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, who is also Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia. “This meeting provides a valuable opportunity to learn from each other’s experience and build on the evidence that demonstrates how social protection can help mitigate the worst consequences of HIV and AIDS.”

“We know from our experience here in Namibia that for national social protection schemes to work, they need to be owned and led not only by the government but by parliament as well. They need to be seen as an investment from the national treasury that contributes to a fairer, more just and caring society. It is parliamentarians who can create the dialogue in their constituencies to create the political will for these types of policies. It is parliamentarians who can ensure that the national budget reflects these priorities...This forum is an important step in building alliances



Workshop participants united in response to the needs of vulnerable and marginalised children and families.

across borders to create the demand within countries for these types of policies,” said Dr. Gurirab.

Social protection schemes have been identified as ways to care for those affected by HIV and AIDS and could also play a critical role in preventing new infections. Successful schemes in the region include Namibia, where universal pensions for children and the elderly have provided a safety net; South African Universal Child Grant, the largest cash transfer scheme on the continent; the Malawi cash transfer scheme, which targets the poorest ten percent of labour constrained families and which the government has recently agreed to take to scale; and the Kenyan Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable children that reaches 90,000 households.

Some Highlights of the Workshop

On economic empowerment of families and households affected by HIV and AIDS, participants agreed on the importance of social transfers in the form of cash, food or vouchers, skills training and income generating provisions. All these mechanisms, it was agreed, could serve both to prevent or reduce HIV risk among the most vulnerable populations and to boost the resilience and self-sufficiency among those affected by HIV and AIDS.

Regarding social care and support, participants noted that scaling up family and community services, developing alternative care for children outside the family environment and supporting social welfare services were important elements in ensuring child protection. Areas discussed included ensuring free, accessible and inclusive birth registration, with specific focus on rural and marginalised communities.

The delegates noted that access to quality health, education and other services was critical, stressing the need to focus on overcoming barriers to service utilisation, the cost, time and distance required to reach essential

services and the low awareness of care among vulnerable communities.

Discrimination and stigma: participants felt that marginalized children and families were frequently left out of social protection schemes or unable to access entitlements. They discussed serious barriers in the work place, home loans, inheritance rights, medical and social services, harmful social norms and customs and emphasised working closely with traditional and religious leaders to eliminate intended and unintended discriminatory impact of laws. The delegates committed themselves to the following actions:

Legislation and policy: We commit to review our existing legal frameworks through a lens that is both HIV-and child-sensitive. This requires carrying out a thorough assessment of the impact of laws on vulnerable and marginalised children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. We will also ensure that a comprehensive legal framework on social protection is in place and that our domestic laws comply with the international and regional commitments made by our States to secure effectiveness and better application.

Budget allocation: We agree that budget allocation is crucial for the enforcement of legislation and the implementation of social protection programmes and provision of support to children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. We therefore commit to playing a bigger role in the budget formulation and contribute to priority setting. To that end, we should advocate and mobilize coalitions of support to ensure adequate allocations for priority areas and liaise with relevant ministries before the formulation process begins.

Oversight: We agreed to use our powers of scrutiny and oversight to hold governments to account for the enforcement of laws and track compliance and implementation of the approved budget and policies by strengthening parliamentary committees and caucuses.

Representation and awareness-raising:

We commit to being champions for vulnerable children and families and underscore the need to make child-sensitive social protection for children affected by HIV and AIDS a priority. We also stress the importance of working with traditional and religious leaders in this regard. We pledge to speak out publicly on these matters and to explore appropriate methods to inform citizens of their rights through radio, television and print media in rural areas, and other outreach initiatives, including the provision of free legal aid.

Develop child and HIV and AIDS friendly parliamentary mechanisms: We acknowledge that more needs to be done within our parliaments to secure a better response to the needs of vulnerable children. We commit to building our capacity to address child-related issues and to developing specific mechanisms focusing on child rights. We also commit ourselves to facilitating the participation of children in parliamentary work through regular hearings, meetings in constituencies, children parliaments and others. We will also review our internal structures to ensure that our rules and procedures do not discriminate against HIV and AIDS affected members and staff and that HIV and AIDS work policy is developed.

Coordination and cooperation: We pledge to ensure coordination of our activities and work in partnership with civil society, donors and international organisations, such as UNICEF. We will explore effective coordination frameworks that harmonise the activities of government, audit offices, parliaments and civil society. We underscore the importance of coordinating actions between parliamentarians, across party lines and activities of the committees and caucuses on which we serve. We further commit to expanding regional coordination and to pursue parliamentary exchanges and cooperation.

FINANCIAL CRISIS REVERSES PROGRESS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

• Staff Reporter

SWAPO Member of the National Assembly is concerned that the recent global financial crisis had reversed the little progress made in achieving universal education, promoting gender equality, reducing poverty and hunger, improving women's health and had dealt a serious blow to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa. Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube raised this concern at the 4th Annual Conference of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (Africa Region) held in Kampala, Uganda, from 26-31 October 2010.

Speaking on "Gender Perspective of the Financial Crisis in Africa", the Namibian lawmaker recalled that before the crisis began, the situation in Africa was already characterised by slow growth, poverty, HIV and AIDS, gender inequality and discrimination. All these, she pointed out, had an effect on how the crisis unfolded.

The World Bank had warned that as many as 53 million people could be trapped in poverty, adding to more than 100 million already impoverished by the food and energy crisis of 2008. Millions of people all over the world lost their jobs, income, savings, homes, and the ability to survive. Global trade was affected in both developed and developing countries, thus slowing down growth and reducing government and household incomes, she observed.

According to Manombe-Ncube, Namibia and Lesotho were affected by the fall of commodity prices and global trade in goods and services. "Deplorably, most African countries do not have institutionalised social protection, unemployment benefits or health insurances. So, when the breadwinner loses an income there is no last resort," she pointed out.

According to the World Bank forecast,

the quality and access to health care was likely to deteriorate significantly because of the crisis. "This will force women to take on an increasing burden of unpaid care-giving responsibilities and further restricting their opportunities for paid employment. Girls in poor countries with low education attainment rates are more likely to be pulled out of school as households cope with declining resources," Manombe-Ncube explained.

School attendance declined during times of crisis and some children may never return to school. Incidences of abuse and violence against women also increased during hard times, and this was the case during the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Falling household incomes could further increase infant and child deaths with disproportionate effects on women and girls.

Manombe-Ncube underlined the need to mitigate the impact of the financial crisis at the household and individual levels, urging governments to consider introducing social protection measures where gender equality should be the key principle in any policy response to help offset the unequal social and economic burden on women.

Governments should put in place affirmative action programmes to enable women access to credit and subsidised farm inputs to ensure continuity in food production. Whatever policy response, it should take into account the different priorities and needs of women and girls, promote gender equality and women empowerment. Gender responsive

budgeting has become increasingly important in ensuring adequate resources for gender equality. As such, governments are encouraged to adopt gender budget approaches.

The Beijing Platform for Action recognised that economic and political instability had the potential to set back development and could affect women negatively. It called on States to provide safety nets and strengthen State and community-based support systems to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments.

According to Manombe-Ncube "African countries are signatories to a host of declarations aimed at gender equality and women empowerment. But how many of these instruments have been domesticated? Parliament has the mandate of not only representative functions, but also of oversight over the executive. As such, parliamentary committees should interrogate insensitive policies and oblige their initiators to include gender impact analysis. Parliamentarians must also take responsibility in bringing the needs of women and gender issues in their constituencies to the attention of the Law and Development Commissions".

The Namibian legislator noted that as the financial crisis was largely attributed to unregulated and scrupulous activities by world financial institutions, the role of governments, the legislatures and other role players in financial markets needed to be heightened to prevent similar occurrences in the future.



Parliamentarian Alexia Manombe-Ncube shaking hands with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda

PARLIAMENTARIANS DENOUNCE PENSIONER SEX WITH MINORS

• Staff Reporter

Members of the National Council Women Caucus have denounced in the strongest terms the acts of rape committed by a 66 year-old male pensioner who was found guilty in court on 19 counts of rape of under-aged children.

“It is truly disheartening that every day in this country we hear of gender-based violence, especially against children and women. On Saturday the 20th November in Oshikoto Region, a young girl was brutally murdered and her throat slit. In Omamas, a young lady was murdered. In Rosh Pinah, a mother was raped and murdered by her alleged brother’s son. The judiciary system is not fully assisting in this nation’s outcry to make sure that such inhumane acts are handled most severely.



Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams (right), Chairperson of the NC Women Caucus and Hon. Rosalia Sibiya, Deputy Chairperson of the NC Women Caucus

Yes, the judiciary system is independent, but it should also take public outcry into consideration when dealing with such crimes. At the end of the day, the judiciary is also accountable to the public,” Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams and Hon. Rosalia Sibiya made the denunciation on 22 November 2010 on behalf of fellow members of the National Council Women Caucus.

PLENARY ASSEMBLY APPROVES SADC PF STRATEGIC PLAN

• Staff Reporter

The 28th Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum has approved the institution’s five-year Strategic Plan and the budget for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. This was in addition to the benchmarks for democratic legislatures in the region and the election of the Forum’s new Executive Committee for the next two years.

The Plenary Assembly, held from 29 November to 4 December 2010 in



Delegates to the 28th Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Swakopmund.

Swakopmund, was a policy session which focused on consideration and approval of policy matters. This is the fifth time that Namibia hosted the Forum’s Plenary. The last was held in June 2009. On 3 December 2010, the Plenary issued the following communiqué reflecting on the resolutions taken and the way forward:

Thirteen Parliaments – Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – were represented. An apology from the Parliament of Mauritius was duly noted. SADC PF Chairperson and Speaker of the

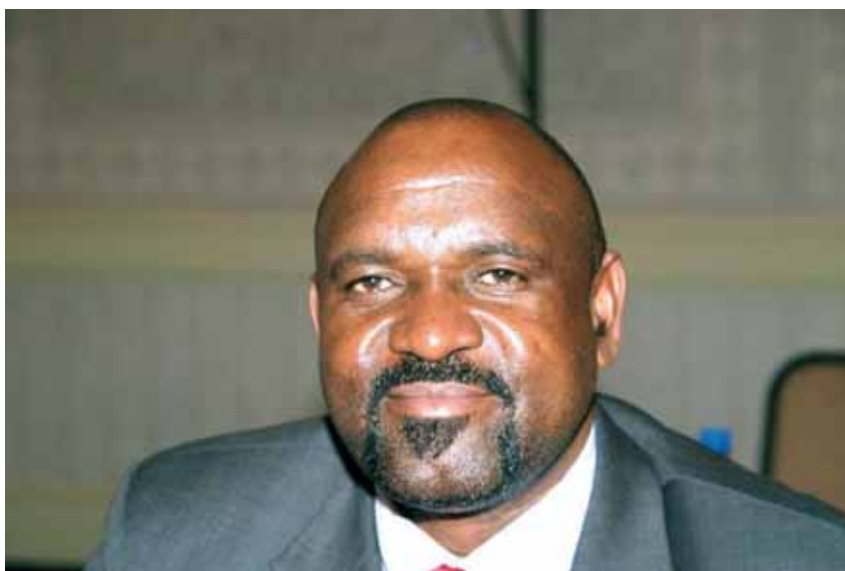
National Assembly of the Kingdom of Swaziland, His Royal Highness, Prince Guduza Dlamini, MP, officially opened the plenary on 2 December 2010.

In his keynote address, Prince Dlamini commended the Government of Namibia for its commitment to regional integration as demonstrated by hosting the Plenary Assembly meetings and the fact that Namibia was home to the SADC Parliamentary Forum headquarters. He appreciated Namibia's commitment to establishing a SADC Parliament which would go a long way in accelerating the ratification of SADC Protocols to facilitate their domestication and implementation for the benefit of the SADC citizens.

The Chairperson also commended Namibia for holding peaceful Regional Councils and Local Authority elections on 26 and 27 November 2010, saying it demonstrated that Namibia was committed to democratic consolidation as evidenced by the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly elections held on 28 and 29 November 2009 which were declared free and fair by foreign observers, including the SADC Parliamentary Forum's Observer Mission.

SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, MP, representing the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, welcomed the delegates to the scenic town of Swakopmund.

Recognising that 1st December was World AIDS Day, Dr. Gurirab requested the Plenary to observe a minute of silence in remembrance and support of those infected and affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic. He underscored the need for the establishment of a SADC Parliament, and reiterated the need for the SADC PF to forge alliances and synergies with other regional, continental and international institutions such as SADC Secretariat and the Pan-African Parliament. He reflected on the impact of climate change on the region, urging Members of Parliament to be at the



Hon. Lovemore Moyo, Speaker of Parliament of Zimbabwe and new Chairperson of the SADC PF Executive Committee.

forefront of spearheading regional efforts aimed at helping countries to adapt and to fight the negative effects of climate change.

The Chairperson of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC), Hon. Regina Musokotwane, applauded the Forum for promoting women representation and gender parity through the establishment of the RWPC. The caucus has been undertaking lobbying and advocacy missions to SADC member states aimed at increasing female representation in political and decision-making positions. She further appreciated the successful missions the RWPC had undertaken to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia where it lobbied leaders in government, political parties and civil society to adopt concrete policies which ensured gender parity.

The Vice-Chairperson of the Forum's Standing Committee on HIV and AIDS, Hon. Johannes Ndlangamandhla, encouraged Members of Parliament to aid efforts towards addressing the HIV Prevention Movement. In particular, legislators must actively engage in the unique partnership presented by the 50 by 15 Movement for Prevention – a collaboration of parliaments and civil society aimed at reducing the number of new HIV infections by fifty percent by the year 2015 by targeting an end

to mother-to-child transmission. The Vice-Chairperson explained that the movement was an innovative approach to engage with constituents to address HIV and AIDS.

In noting the contributions of culture to regional integration, the Director and Representative of UNESCO Cluster Office in Windhoek, Professor Alaphia Wright implored SADC PF to use culture as an integral tool in promoting regional integration, social cohesion and development.

Delivering the vote of thanks, the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic



Hon. Marie-Louise Mwange (DRC), Vice Chairperson of the SADC PF Executive Committee.



Hon. Mkhululi Dlamini (Swaziland), SADC PF Treasurer and Member of the Executive Committee.

of the Congo (DRC), Hon. Georgina Madiko Mulende, commended the forum's role in promoting regional integration. She called for increased efforts towards the establishment of a SADC Parliament which would accelerate harmonisation of policies of Member States.

The Plenary took note of the general elections held in Tanzania on 31 October 2010 and congratulated that country for upholding the sanctity of universal and equal suffrage. The Plenary also welcomed the election of Hon. Anne Makinda, the Vice-Chairperson of SADC PF, to the position of Speaker of Parliament of Tanzania, adding that this augured well with the forum's lobbying efforts for increased women representation in political and decision-making positions.



The appointment of Dr. Esau Chiviya as Secretary-General of the SADC PF has been confirmed following probation.

The Plenary approved SADC PF's third five-year Strategic Plan for 2011 to 2015 which will serve as the roadmap for the programmes of the Forum. The Plan will focus on strengthening institutions of democratic governance in the SADC Region, accelerating the pace of regional integration, consolidating relations between parliaments and addressing the ever-recurring issues of HIV and AIDS and gender.

Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures in Southern Africa were unanimously approved by the Plenary as a progressive milestone in advancing parliamentary reforms in SADC. These benchmarks will serve as a point of reference on best practices for parliaments in the region and will inculcate a standards-based approach to parliamentary reform processes. In addition, it will contribute to parliaments' own evaluative efforts and guide parliamentary development practitioners and development partners in designing more appropriate parliamentary support programmes.

Noting with concern that the issue of establishing a SADC Parliament was not on the agenda of the 30th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Windhoek in August 2010, the Plenary resolved to renew its lobbying efforts for the matter to be considered for inclusion on the agenda for the next SADC Summit. The Plenary confirmed the appointment of Dr. Esau Chiviya as the Secretary-General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum after completing his probation period successfully.

The Plenary welcomed efforts by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (AVI) towards coming up with an AIDS Vaccine which is affordable and reiterated the need to strengthen political leadership and prioritise research and development. Parliamentarians were urged to ensure that the rights of people in their constituents were protected during clinical trials.

The Plenary held elections for the positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer and nominated them to the Executive Committee.

The full membership of the Executive Committee consists of: Hon. Speaker Lovemore Moyo (Zimbabwe), Chairperson; Hon. Marie-Louise Mwange (DRC), Vice Chairperson; Hon. Mkhululi Dlamini (Swaziland), Treasurer; Hon. Alice Dombolo Chivaca (Angola); Hon. Speaker Dr. Margaret N. Nasha (Botswana) Hon. Speaker Ntlhoi Motsamai (Lesotho); Hon. Dr. Jean A. N. Kalilani (Malawi); Member of Parliament (Mauritius); Hon. Speaker Vernica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo (Mozambique); Hon. Elifas Dingara (Namibia); Hon. Speaker Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab (ex-officio, Namibia); Hon. Speaker Dr. Patrick Herminie (Seychelles); Hon. Speaker Max Vuyisile Sisulu (South Africa); Hon. Speaker Anne S. Makinda (Tanzania); and Hon. Humphrey Mwanza (Zambia).

Angola will host the 29th Plenary Assembly next year on a date to be advised.



HIV/AIDS INCREASES DEMAND ON HEALTH SYSTEMS

• Staff Reporter

The trajectory of the HIV and AIDS pandemic over the next decades was expected to place demands on health care systems many fold greater than had occurred to date. The current burden of illness due to the pandemic was straining resources for prevention, treatment and care and this strain was felt most acutely in Southern Africa. The Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab sounded this alarm bell when he officially opened the 28th Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Swakopmund on 2 December 2010.

Dr. Gurirab's abridged speech, delivered on his behalf by SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, reads as following:

In solidarity with the world and as a tribute to those affected and infected by HIV and AIDS, I request that we observe a moment of silence in observance of the World AIDS Day which was commemorated yesterday on 1st December.

We should acknowledge that our governments have championed a fair fight thus far. Fewer people are becoming infected with HIV. Millions have gained access to HIV treatment. More women are able to prevent their babies from becoming infected with HIV and Namibia, among other countries, has lifted travel sanctions for people living with the virus. Stigma is giving way – though still too slowly – to compassion and recognition of human rights as demonstrated by our model law on HIV and AIDS developed by legislators in SADC through this Forum.

I congratulate the SADC Parliamentary Forum for its work over the years and for becoming a significant regional parliamentary institution. It is our view that the SADC Parliamentary Forum has distinguished itself in promoting the regional parliamentary work and the time has come for us to be transformed into a fully-fledged regional parliament.

Over the past decade, this Forum has provided SADC citizens with a valuable platform to deliberate on important regional, continental and international political issues. Namibia takes pride in the regional peace and stability that our people enjoy with the dignity linked to the wider Southern African Development Community. It is therefore essential that we continue to deepen and strengthen SADC institutions in order to ensure that they play their respective roles in preserving and developing our democracies.

Our deliberation must serve as a catalyst in our quest for the establishment of a SADC Parliament. We must therefore move forward with determination, commitment and a sense of urgency to realise this worthy vision, whereby SADC-PF will become the institution that will monitor, scrutinise and evaluate the impact of SADC programmes and its institutions in our region.

In our efforts to becoming a regional parliament, it is imperative to promote alliances with regional, continental and international institutions. In particular,

I emphasise the need for closer networking with SADC Secretariat and the Pan-African Parliament. I urge you to support and spearhead our regional efforts and initiatives aimed at adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change.

SADC has achieved another milestone with the historic inauguration of its headquarters by Heads of State and Government on 20 November 2010. As SADC, we should rejoice in this achievement and thank the Government of Botswana for availing the prime land and for serving as a guarantor of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement between SADC and Bongwe Investments.

Both the African Union Commission and the Pan-African Parliament have jointly reminded our various member states about the need to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. This document seeks to promote Democracy, Elections and Governance and to enrich this process by providing a set of common standards and principles.

For this purpose, a number of regional workshops were held to promote the African Charter with the view to seeking its ratification. Most of our member states have signed up to the Charter, but have not ratified it. Therefore, there is an urgent need to ensure that countries ratify the Charter; otherwise it cannot be implemented due to the lack of signatories.



Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi welcoming delegates to the conference on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

COUNCIL DONATES NUTRITIONAL FOOD TO CARE CENTRES

• Eric Kletus

In commemoration of the World Aids Day on 1 December 2010, the National Council donated nutritional

food hampers to two centres which take care of orphan and vulnerable children in Windhoek. The recipient centres were Mount Sinai Centre and Pashukeni Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Kindergarten in Katutura.

A caretaker at Mount Sinai Centre, Ms. Maria Ndjigwa, thanked the National Council for providing the “really food needed by the children”. Mount Sinai also produces handmade beads, ice cream and toiletries (such as soaps) from local materials to support HIV-

positive mothers and their children.

Pashukeni Kindergarten also takes cater of HIV and AIDS orphans and needy children. The head of the centre, Ms. Rauna Jailus, expressed gratitude for the donation. She urged the National Council to further extend its helping hand to other needy care-giver organisations. The National Council has made it an annual practice to provide care-giver organisations and needy individuals with a variety of nutritious food hampers on World Aids Day.



Staff members of the National Council at a handover occasion of nutritious food to children and caretakers at the Pashukeni OVC Kindergarten in Ombili, Katutura.

CONFERENCE STRENGTHENS ROLE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS

• George Shinyala

A Namibian parliamentary delegation participated at the Southern

African Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) Annual Conference held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, from 15-19 November 2010.

The conference drew participants from Members of Parliament and Auditor Generals from SADCOPAC member states: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Other delegates came from the Eastern Africa Association of Public

Accounts Committee (EAAPAC) from Kenya and Uganda; and from the West Africa Association of Public Accounts Committee (WAAPAC) from Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. Representatives from the World Bank Institute and the German Parliament also participated.

SADCOPAC is an autonomous body established as a permanent institution to foster the exchange of ideas and experience among Public Accounts Committees (PACs). It is charged with empowering Members of Parliament

of member-states to effectively carry out their function of oversight over public sector finances as well as to promote good governance in the region. Participation in SADCOPAC activities is open to Public Accounts Committees outside the SADC countries as affiliated members.

The conference, which was preceded by a meeting of the Governing Council, was held under the theme “Enhancing Accountability for the Use of Public Sector Resources.” It conducted a range of discussions on various sub-themes which covered: the role of Public Accounts Committees in ensuring executive accountability; the relationship between the PAC and government in the accountability process; the relationship between the PAC and Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) in strengthening accountability processes; the role of internal auditors in ensuring financial accountability and performance in the public sector; the performance audit in the public sector; strengthening public financial accountability through PACs; accountability in public enterprises; and the role of controlling officers in improving financial accountability.

The National Assembly of Namibia’s PAC was assigned a sub-theme “Accountability in Public Enterprises”. Speaking during the presentation of country paper, Hon. Dr. Moses Amweelo underlined that there was no uniformity in which state-owned enterprises (SOEs) could be held accountable in Namibia. This, he argued, was due to differences in the legal framework under which the country’s SOEs were established. The other factor, he explained, was the role played by government on the one hand, and by the Auditor-General and the PAC on the other.

On the legal framework, Dr. Amweelo continued, SOEs established under the Companies Act were run by the boards of directors and it was the responsibility of the board of directors to appoint private audit firms to audit the books of such companies. The audit reports produced are tabled before



Hon. Dr. Moses Amweelo

the boards of directors for scrutiny and subsequent implementation of its recommendations.

Should a serious case of financial maladministration be uncovered, the board may refer such report to the Portfolio Minister to deal with it in a manner the Minister deems fit. In cases of companies established under specific Acts of Parliament, such Acts prescribe that the accounts of such companies shall be audited by the Auditor-General. In this case, the report of the Auditor General is tabled before Parliament by the Minister of Finance and would automatically be referred to the PAC for further scrutiny.

The PAC has a duty to review such reports and, where cases of financial mismanagement uncovered, it has the power to summon the Chief Executive Officer or Managing Director to appear before it to explain. When the financial mismanagement so uncovered occurred as a result of poor corporate governance where the portfolio ministry partly contributed, the Ministry’s Accounting Officer is summoned to appear before the PAC to explain.

The conference culminated in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which considered a number of issues of importance to the continuous

existence of SADCOPAC. Objectives were also set out to mitigate a host of challenges faced by the organisation. Among them: not all SADC states have confirmed their membership, lack of sustainable finances to accomplish SADCOPAC projects and activities, political and democratic instability in some potential member-states, lack of technical skills and too much reliance on Auditor Generals as principal technical advisors. Approval of the SADCOPAC operational budget for 2010/2012; and the organisation’s Strategic Plan (2010-2012) were among the issues discussed.

On the side lines of the conference, delegates attended a tree planting ceremony in Mbabane which was named the “SADCOPAC Park”. The significance of the tree planting was to highlight the effect of climate change and to afford participants the opportunity to partake in an activity that aimed at mitigating the effect of global climate change.

The Namibian delegation comprised of two Members from the National Assembly’s Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Hon. Dr. Moses Amweelo, Hon. Heiko Luckas and Namibia’s Auditor General Mr. Junias Kandjeke. They were accompanied by four staff members – one from the National Assembly and National Council each; and one each from the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Auditor General respectively.

The significance of the tree planting was to highlight the effect of climate change and to afford participants the opportunity to partake in an activity that aimed at mitigating the effect of global climate change.

From The Chambers



The only DTA Member of Parliament in the National Council, Hon. Ngohauvi Lydia Kavetu, resigned from the National Council on 14 October 2010. Hon. Kavetu, DTA Councillor for the Opuwo Constituency in the Kunene Region since 2004, was one of the seven female Members of the 3rd National Council. She stood as an Independent candidate in the recent Regional and Local Authority Councils' elections held on 26 and 27 November 2010.

SWAPO Party MP Margaret Mensah-Williams (left) taking an oath of office. She has been elected Vice-Chairperson of the 4th National Council, 9 December 2010.



Members of the RDP and RP being sworn in as Members of the 5th National Assembly, 14 September 2010.

Chief Justice Peter Shivute (right) congratulates DTA MP Kazeongere Zeriapi Tjeundo on being sworn in as a Member of the 4th National Council, 9 December 2010.



SWAPO Party MP Ndapewoshali Nangula Nambili being sworn in as a Member of the 4th National Council, 9 December 2010.

Staff on the Move



Mr. Joseph Ndinomupya has been transferred on promotion from the Office of the Prime Minister to the National Assembly as Chief Internal Auditor. The promotional appointment is with effect from 1 October 2010.



Ms. Anna Shikongo has been appointed as a cleaner at the National Assembly with effect from 1 November 2010. Ms. Shikongo formerly worked for the Parliament Restaurant on the premises of the National Assembly.



Mr. Albertus Höebel, a cleaner at the National Assembly, has taken early retirement with effect from 1 December 2010 to pursue private business.



Ms. Laimi Amalovu has been transferred to the National Council, in the position of Senior Accountant, from the Ministry of Education at Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region. The transfer took effect from 1 December 2010.



Ms. Chisengo Nikanor, Personal Assistant to the Chairperson, has left the National Council after her contract came to an end. She was appointed as Personal Assistant to the Chairperson of the National Council on 21 July 2008. Her contract ended on 15 December 2010.



Ms. Hilya Heita has resigned from the National Council with effect from 3 December 2010. Ms. Heita was appointed as typist in the National Council on 19 May 1997. She was later translated into a rank of Private Secretary in the Directorate of Legal Services on 1 June 1999.

Obituary



Late Hon. Peter Tshirumbu Tsheehama

One of the founding Members of the Constituent Assembly which later transformed into the National Assembly, Hon. Peter Tshirumbu Tsheehama, passed away on 3 October 2010 due to poor health. He was 69. The late Tsheehama was a Member of the Constituent Assembly that drafted the Namibian Constitution between mid-November 1989 and early February 1990. At independence in March 1990, he became a Member of the National Assembly and was appointed Deputy Minister of State Security. In 1994, he was appointed Special Advisor to the President on national security. Between 1999 and 2003, the late Tsheehama served as Director-General of the Namibia Central Intelligence Service (NCIS). From 2005, he served as Minister for Safety and Security until April 2008 when he retired from both the National Assembly and active politics.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba on 7 October 2010 conferred an honour of national hero status on the late Tsheehama, directing that a State Funeral be conducted in the deceased's honour. The President further directed that all flags in Namibia be flown at half-mast and that a period of national mourning be observed from 7 October until his funeral. He was buried at the Heroes' Acre on 9 October 2010.

The late Tsheehama had held various diplomatic and leadership positions in the SWAPO Party until his return from exile in 1989. He is survived by his wife, Nalukale, and children.

Ms. Ndatitangi Taimi Sevelinus Kaalya, a cleaner at the National Assembly, passed away in Oshakati State Hospital on 21 October 2010 due to natural causes. She is survived by two children.



Late Ms. Ndatitangi Taimi Sevelinus Kaalya



Dr.Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly, welcoming the new Cuban Ambassador to Namibia, His Excellency Mr. Carlos Manuel Rojas Lago.



National Council Chairman Asser Kapere handing a gift to a visiting learner from the Kolin Foundation Junior Secondary School in the Arandis Constituency in Erongo Region