



Speaker of the National Assembly Dr.Theo-Ben Gurirab leading President Hifikepunye Pohamba out of the National Assembly Chamber after delivery of State of the Nation Address, 27 April 2011.

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Cover photo:

Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams (left) in a group photo at the Seminar on Feminization of Poverty held in Chile.

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From the Editor's Desk

• Fanuel Katshenye

The issue of climate change keeps dominating the agenda of world conferences and meetings these days. But how vulnerable is Namibia and who will be hardest hit by the impacts of climate change on the environment? According to the 2007 discussion paper by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), temperatures in Namibia have been increasing at three times the global mean temperature increases reported for the 20th century.

The temperature rise predicted for 2100 ranges from 2 to 6°C. Particularly in the central regions, lower rainfall is expected, while overall rainfall is projected to become even more variable than it is now. Even if rainfall changes little from today's levels, rises in temperature will boost evaporation rates, leading to severe water shortages. Poor rural pastoralist and dry land populations will be affected most. The frequency and intensity of extreme events such as droughts are likely to increase, the paper predicts.

The 46-page paper characterises Namibia as one of the driest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and highly dependent on climate sensitive sectors. Primary sectors, consisting of natural resource based production like agriculture, fisheries and mining account for about 30 per cent of the total GDP. Income distribution in Namibia is unusually inequitable. With an estimated Gini coefficient of 0.71, Namibia may have the most inequitable income distribution in the world as over half of the population depends on subsistence agriculture. The country therefore is potentially one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

The IIED paper noted that although there was no specific climate change policy in Namibia by then, the need to consider climate change impacts as a part of the national development policy framework has been recognised. A climate change country study had identified seven vulnerable sectors in Namibia, namely: water resources, marine resources, agriculture, biodiversity ecosystems (tourism), coastal zones, health and energy.

The Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2001) stated that climate change scenarios indicate a future warming of 0.2 to 0.5 °C per decade across Africa. This warming is greatest over the interior of semi-arid margins of the Sahara and Central Southern Africa. A Global Circulation Model suggests that by the 2070-2099 period, maximum warming in Southern Africa is expected to increase to 7°C. Precipitation projections are generally less consistent.

The Southern African monsoon is projected to weaken during the 2000-2049 period, precipitation is expected to decrease, and by the 2080s, a drying over much of the western subtropical region, which includes northern Namibia, is predicted due to fewer rainy days and less intense rainfall. Within Namibia, rainfall reductions are expected to be greatest in the northwest and central regions. Particularly strong reductions are expected in the central areas around Windhoek and surrounding highlands. Projections range from small increases of less than 30mm per year to severe decreases of 200mm per year compared to current averages. Both rainfall and temperature in Namibia are sensitive to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) effect, and rainfall is below average during El Niño conditions.

The IIED paper concludes that "as an arid, agriculturally marginal country with low economic growth flexibility and a high dependence on natural resource based industries, including subsistence agriculture and tourism, Namibia currently has limited capacity to adapt to climate change impacts..."

UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION TOPS GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

President Pohamba Delivers State of the Nation Address

• Joseph Motinga

On 27 April 2011, President Hifikepunye Pohamba delivered this year's State of the Nation Address in the National Assembly in which he outlined the progress and bottlenecks in all sectors of the Namibian society. Fighting unemployment being the main policy direction of the Namibian government this year, following is what the President had to say about this sector:

Our country faces many socio-economic challenges that must be addressed urgently. These include unemployment, poverty, socio-economic inequality, labour skills shortage and a narrow industrial base. Public expenditure through the national budget over the 2011/12 to 2013/14 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period will focus specifically at addressing these challenges.

A substantial part of the budget will be implemented under the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG), at a cost of N\$9.1 billion. If public works are included, the total allocation increases to N\$14.6 billion. Our aim is to facilitate the creation and preservation of 104,000 direct and indirect jobs. The targeted priority sectors that were identified for their potential to create jobs are agricul-

ture, tourism, transport infrastructure as well as housing and sanitation. Other sectors will also continue to receive attention.

In order to succeed, we must be prepared to think out of the box and to do things differently. Therefore, the implementation of TIPEEG requires a fresh mindset which is focused on the attainment of quantifiable results. In short, TIPEEG is a deliberate strategy to achieve the stated goals within the estimated time and the resources provided. We must ensure that targeted beneficiaries of this programme such as the unemployed citizens and women receive the intended benefits. I would now like to highlight some of the specific projects which will be funded under TIPEEG:

In the agricultural sector, funding is geared towards the development of horticultural projects, improved crop production, livestock farming, improvement of animal health and the expansion of rural water supply. Funds will also be made available for the acquisition of equipment as well as the modernisation and expansion of agricultural projects such as Sitemo, Shadikongoro, Etunda, Uvungu-Vungu and the Kalimbeza Rice Project in Kavango, Omusati and Caprivi Regions. An amount of N\$768.2 million is allocated for these activities during the MTEF period.

The management of National Strategic Food Reserves will be improved through the expansion and maintenance of these facilities in different parts of the country. Training will be provided to small-scale irrigation farmers to diversify food production. This is aimed at promoting food security and self-employment for our people. Funds have also been allocated to establish marketing and food processing facilities in Windhoek, Rundu and Ongwediva.

The transport budget will primarily be

allocated towards infrastructure maintenance and expansion. Projects to be financed include the construction of roads and completion of the Northern Railway Extension Project from Ondangwa to Oshikango. This priority project must be completed soonest in order to further boost trade between Namibia and Angola, and to reduce the amount of cargo transported on our roads. An amount of N\$286.1 million is allocated to this project during this fiscal year. The total for MTEF is N\$380.6 million.

In the area of community-based tourism, Namibia is one of the leading countries in Africa. To date, sixty-four conservancies have been gazetted, supporting about 260 000 people or 13 percent of the population. These projects have made it possible for many communities to benefit from the natural resources and to improve their living conditions.

The activities funded under TIPEEG in the tourism sector include infrastructure development, tourism marketing, development of community-based tourism projects and the construction and renovation of facilities at Namibia Wildlife Resorts. The total allocation to the tourism sector under TIPEEG is N\$370.2 million.

All our citizens, especially those living in informal settlements and peri-urban areas deserve decent housing and sanitation. Our government will, therefore, provide resources to address poor sanitation in both informal settlements and rural areas. Activities in this sector will focus on the servicing of land, construction of urban and rural sanitation facilities and construction of low-cost housing. Urban sanitation will receive an amount of N\$496.2 million this Financial Year. The total allocation for this sector over the MTEF period is N\$1.6 billion.

Today, I have outlined specific projects that have been funded and will be implemented during this Financial Year and over the next three years of TIPEEG. For this programme to succeed, all Namibians must join hands and pull together in the same direction. I see TIPEEG as a challenge to the nation, government, private sector, labour movement, farmers and all sectors of our society to work harder in order to roll back poverty, unemployment and under-development in our society.

I invite each and every Namibian to do their best to make TIPEEG a success. Let us roll up our sleeves and get down to work, in an atmosphere of peace, security, stability and national unity, while promoting the Policy of National Reconciliation.



President Hifikepunye Pohamba

MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY ENHANCES ECONOMIC GROWTH

Budget Eyes at Job Creation, Welfare Improvement

• Fanuel Katshenye

When Finance Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila presented Namibia's N\$36,7 billion national budget before the National Assembly on March 2011, she revealed that the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) was looking into ways of strengthening the consultative process of changing rates in Excise Duties ("sin taxes") as per SACU agreement.

She underlined that "sin taxes" were informed by health considerations, international benchmarks on the tax burdens for such products, and pricing information collected from industry stakeholders.

In line with targets set for the total tax burdens on respective excisable commodities, she announced the percentage increases, for implementation with effect from 23 February 2011, on the following commodities:

• Unfortified wine	8.41 percent
• Fortified wine	7.44 percent
• Sparkling wine	4.49 percent
• Ciders & alcoholic fruit beverages	7.53 percent
• Spirits	10.00 percent
• Cigarettes	8.94 percent
• Cigarette tobacco	8.22 percent
• Pipe tobacco	10.37 percent
• Cigars	6.00 percent

According to the minister, this year's budget enhanced and consolidated gains made during the recovery. It focused on issues that were key to the "people-centred policies of the ruling SWAPO-Party". These are job creation, poverty and inequality reduction, economic growth, human resources development and social fairness.

"The growth forecasts I highlighted during my speech are ambitious, yet realistic.

However, without hard work across all sectors of the economy, these forecasts will not become a reality. With drive, hard work and innovation, we can even exceed these growth forecasts and reach the go-getting targets as set out in Vision 2030," the minister told the nation.

The global economy, continued Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, had emerged from the worst of the downturn and emerging markets offered new opportunities for trade and growth. The Government's continued expansionary budget would help to lay the foundation for economic growth and address the persisting socio-economic challenges that faced the country.

The budget statement focused mainly on macroeconomic performance; the 2010/2011 preliminary fiscal outturn; update on policy intervention; procurement; fiscal outlook; and tax reforms and exchange controls liberalisation.

The minister thanked Namibia's development partners for the material and tech-

nical assistance received. "Our successes in economic development were greatly enhanced by your support," she appreciated in conclusion.



Finance Minister
Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Budget Allocation per Ministry/Office/Agency

VOTE	TITLE	AMOUNT N\$
1	President	290 635 244
2	Prime Minister	272 763 757
3	National Assembly	129 788 047
4	Auditor- General's Office	90 047 327
5	Home Affairs and Immigration	243 623 726
6	Police	2 175 549 278
7	Foreign Affairs	550 614 556
8	Defence	3 263 740 646
9	Finance	3 671 318 540
10	Education	8 611 980 888
11	National Council	54 527 921
12	Gender Equality and Child Welfare	554 703 100
13	Health and Social Services	3 423 041 341
14	Labour and Social Welfare	1 200 403 170
15	Mines and Energy	220 055 264
16	Justice	402 670 348
17	R&L Government Housing and Rural Development	1 487 293 194
18	Environment and Tourism	798 852 824
19	Trade and Industry	560 932 811
20	Agriculture, Water and Forestry	2 295 263 965
21	Correctional Services	442 335 395
22	Fisheries and Marine Resources	244 180 641
23	Works	546 148 213
24	Transport	2 454 026 232
25	Lands and Resettlement	226 164 173
26	National Planning Commission	278 823 816
27	Youth National Service Sport and Culture	516 165 268
28	Electoral Commission	113 465 773
29	Information and Communication Technology	318 314 351
30	Anti-Corruption Commission	63 406 576
31	Veterans Affairs	1 212 360 956
	TOTAL	36 713 197 341

KAPERE EMPHASISES VALUE ADDITION TO DEBATES

Fourth National Council Resumes First Session

• Staff Reporter

Members of the 4th National Council convened their first session on a high spirit on 28 February 2011 with a determination to get down to the business of lawmaking. The three-day session reviewed and passed the Employment Service Bill and the Animal Health Bill which were referred from the National Assembly. The Employment Service Bill was passed with amendments.

"This session is indeed a unique session. It is unique in the sense that since our election to this August House in last year's Regional and Local Authority elections, we are now getting down to the business of lawmaking", said Hon. Asser Kuveri Kapere, who has been re-elected to chair business of the National Council for the second term.



Chairman Asser Kapere

Chairman Kapere re-emphasised that Members of the House of Review, in executing the review process, should add value to the Bills that they pass. "Let us not forget that we are representatives of the voiceless people in our respective regions. Hence, I advise you to strengthen your relationship with the electorates so that your debates or deliberations are a reflection of the views and aspirations of those you represent in this august House."

He said the State had declared war against poverty and unemployment, thus making it incumbent upon parliamentar-

ians to ensure they pass laws that would create an enabling environment for the reduction of poverty and unemployment.

Chairman Kapere congratulated parliamentarians Theo Diergaardt (Hardap Region) and Hilma Nicanor (Karas Region) for their appointments on 20 January 2011 by President Hifikepunye Pohamba as Deputy Ministers of Lands and Resettlement; and Veterans' Affairs respectively.

Consequently, Chairman Kapere informed the House that Hon. Nicanor could no longer serve as Chief Whip in the National Council. He thus nominated Hon. Bernard Sibalatani (Caprivi Region) as the SWAPO Party Chief Whip, deputised by Hon. Ruth Nhinda (Oshana Region).

Tanzanian Government Whip Visits Namibian Counterpart

Lobbying Formation of Forum for Chief Whips in SADC

• Michael Muuondjo

The Tanzanian Government Chief Whip Hon. William Lukuvi visited Parliament of Namibia on 14 January 2011 where he held discussions with his counterpart at the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi.

Hon. Lukuvi is a member of Tanzania's ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party and doubles as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister. He was on a two-day visit in the country as part of his Southern African tour to meet his counter-

parts and study the role and work of A Government Chief Whip in and out of parliament.

Welcoming his counterpart, the SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly Prof. Katjavivi thanked Minister Lukuvi for visiting the Parliament of Namibia and the SWAPO Chief Whip Office in particular. Prof. Katjavivi recounted the excellent bilateral relations that the two countries continued to enjoy since the days of Namibia's liberation struggle, stating that the people of Namibia were grateful for the role that Tanzania played in bringing independence to the entire Southern African sub-region.

Prof. Katjavivi then briefed his counterpart on the role of the chief whip and other whips in the Parliament of Namibia who, he said, strived towards making the institution more accessible to the citizenry. This, he explained, would enormously enhance citizens' understanding and knowledge of parliament's role and functions which would consequently enable Parliamentarians to know the citizens' needs and aspirations.

Prof. Katjavivi stressed the need to bring SADC PF and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) closer to the Southern African people, urging SADC citizens to be knowledgeable about the roles of these institutions and their relevance to their needs and aspirations. The two Chief Whips advocated for the transformation of the SADC PF into a regional legislative body.

According to Hon. Lukuvi, since Namibia held the SADC chairmanship, it should lead on the formation of a forum for the Chief Whips in the region. The forum would be a platform where Chief Whips could meet and set a common understanding on how to cooperate in the region. Minister Lukuvi concluded his visit with a courtesy call on the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams on 14 January 2010.



Hon. William Lukuvi (right) and Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi

'NATION GROWS FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH'

President Pohamba Opens Fifth National Assembly

• Staff Reporter

The convergence of Namibia's three Organs of the State – the executive, legislature and the judiciary – demonstrated the strength of the country's democracy and the enduring principles of the separation of powers to ensure accountability. This view was stressed by President Hifikepunye Pohamba when he officially opened the third Session of the fifth National Assembly of Namibia on 15 February 2011.



President Hifikepunye Pohamba

"Since the attainment of our nationhood in 1990, our nation has continued to grow from strength to strength, entrenching democracy and consolidating our institutional frameworks for governance. This in turn, has consolidated socio-political peace and stability and facilitated the delivery of public services to our people," said President Pohamba.

The President underlined the necessity for constant introspection for the nation to stay focused and remain on the right track; to sharpen approaches and to ensure that the tools used were effective to achieve the required outcomes.

Emphasised President Pohamba: "We have an obligation and a duty to serve the nation to the best of our individual and collective abilities at all times. After all, we have taken oaths of office to do just that. As servants of the people, we are accountable to them in all that we do. We have no other choice, but to ensure that the policies that we put in place, the laws that we enact and all the decisions that we take in our respective areas of

responsibility are aimed at enhancing the well-being of our nation."

According to the Head of State, while the doctrine of separation of powers between the executive, legislature and the judiciary was constitutionally ordained, the three branches must continue to work together for effective implementation of policies, enactment of responsive laws and efficient administration of justice. We must also do everything in our powers to combat unemployment, poverty, under-development, HIV and AIDS pandemic, crime, corruption and address other socio-economic issues that require the urgent attention of the government, he said.

"Parliament is the central pillar of our democracy, hence the need for it to live up to the noble expectation as the embodiment of the will of our people which is practically expressed through the enactment of laws that are aimed at improving the living conditions of all our people," the President stated.

He called on all Branches of Government to build on the existing momentum to bring about better and faster public service delivery. "We have noted the good work of this parliament over the years. Thus, I commend our lawmakers for working hard and with admirable dedication during the last session. Records from parliament indicate that twelve substantive pieces of legislation were tabled covering a wide spectrum of issues. The same number of motions was also tabled, dealing with current and topical issues of concern to the nation. This is in addition to activities such as outreach activities, and ministerial papers," he commended.

In keeping with its oversight and accountability functions, parliament received and dealt with more than 120 Auditor-General's Reports on the financial status of various public bodies. Financial reports of various State-Owned Enterprises, statutory and regulatory bodies were also tabled and considered by the National Assembly and the National Council, the President said.

President Pohamba believed that the initiative had the advantage of expanding civic awareness and responsibility among young people, while moulding them for leadership in the future. He encouraged the Speaker, the Chairperson of the National Council and all Members of Parliament to continue with these noble endeavours. He urged parliamentarians to identify other innovative and practical ways in which parliament could be further popularized and to create an informed nation, equipped with the right information and empowered to make

informed decisions on matters affecting them.

"In the final analysis, our parliament should not be seen as a distant institution which is far removed from the daily struggles of ordinary Namibians. Rather, it should always be positioned as a relevant and visible reality in the lives of the people. This is the essence of democracy. It should be deepened to make our parliamentary democracy more meaningful to the nation," the President said.

During the third session, the Bills slated for discussion and review include the Appropriation Bill for the 2011/2012 Financial Year; Seed and Seed Varieties Bill; Plant Breeders and Farmers' Rights Bill; Flexible Land Tenure Bill; Earth Sciences Bill; Pension Funds Amendment Bill; Long-Term Insurance Amendment Bill; Unit Trusts Control Amendment Bill; Inspection of Financial Institutions Amendment Bill; Income Tax Amendment Bill; and the Statistics Bill.

"These Bills are designed to have a positive impact on the lives of our people and the socio-economic development of our nation once enacted. The Appropriation Bill...is one of the most important tools in the hands of government for purposes of planning, service delivery and governance. It outlines the public investment priorities of the government for each Financial Year," the President underlined.

He said the opening of parliament was taking place at a time when the nation was looking to Government with great anticipation to provide answers to the pressing issues of the day. These include unemployment; improvements in the provision of quality education, health care, housing, access to land and other social amenities. "I assure the nation that our government is actively attending to these concerns and other preoccupations of the nation."

The President was confident that Namibia remained on course to weather the storm. He directed the Minister of Finance to ensure that the reform of the public procurement system was finalized soonest so that this sector could play its role of boosting economic performance.

"Similarly, I would like to see the completion of the review and modernization of the Foreign Investment Act of 1990. This crucial legislation is critical to improving our country's competitiveness as an attractive location for foreign investments. The inflow of investments into our country will in turn contribute to the transfer of skills, creation of wealth and new employment opportunities," he said.

The Head of State called on all Namibians to employ all the means at their disposal to harness the available technical, financial and natural resources in order to effectively fight and defeat unemployment – the greatest challenges facing Namibia today. He made a special call to the private sector to engage in meaningful efforts to create sustainable employment opportunities by expanding their operations and investing in value addition ventures.

"There are many investment opportunities in food production and agro-processing and other areas. Local investors should therefore venture into these areas and take advantage of these opportunities. Our farmers should also work harder and take advantage of the good rains received so far to produce more food. As it currently stands, the unemployment rate in this country is unacceptable. It must be tackled from all angles."

Other Bills to be tabled this season, the President said, would also change the Namibian society for the better. The Seed and Seed Varieties Bill would boost efforts towards improved agricultural productivity. The Plant Breeders' and Farmers' Rights Bill would address the concerns of the people as they related to benefits that could be derived from local biological and genetic diversity.

President Pohamba congratulated parliament for the recognition it continues to enjoy both regionally and internationally. "As the home of the SADC PF, Namibia is working actively towards the transformation of the Forum into the SADC Parliament, in line with the Windhoek Declaration of 2005. The international profile of our parliament has also been elevated through the sterling work of our Speaker, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, who has been at the helm as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) since 2008."

The President was proud that under the leadership of Dr. Gurirab, the IPU had truly become a home to many national parliaments worldwide. "We commend you, Dr. Gurirab, on this achievement. You have indeed proven yourself as an effective international public servant. Namibia is proud of you."

"Yesterday (14 February 2011), the High Court delivered judgment on the election application case in which opposition political parties challenged the outcome of the National Assembly Elections, held in November 2009. The case has demonstrated the resilience and independence of our judicial system as provided for in our constitution.

"It demonstrated that Namibians can agree to disagree within the parameters of the rule of law and that aggrieved parties can seek the adjudication of disputes, of whatever nature, through the courts of law. This is a defining feature of the rule of law. It is an important tenet of multi-party democracy, which is our chosen system of governance," the President said.

The nation is looking upon you with justified expectations to find effective solutions to the problems that we face. I urge you to live up to these expectations and to do your best to serve the nation. You have a duty not to fail the nation, he said.

"Our Parliament should harness its collective wisdom to legislate in the best interests of the nation. The challenges are many and varied. However, when you as lawmakers, work together for a common goal and with a shared sense of purpose, no challenge will be too great, and no obstacle will be insurmountable. I wish our legislature success in your legislative activities and debates during this session and beyond," President Pohamba concluded.

At the same occasion, Hon. Asser Kapere, the Chairman of the National Council congratulated President Hifikepunye Pohamba on resumption of a second term-of-office as President of the Republic in his vote of thanks. This was the first time that President Pohamba officiated at the opening of the fifth Parliament since his re-election to the Presidency of the country in November 2009.

Chairman Kapere, on behalf of his fellow Parliamentarians, also congratulated the



Hon. Asser Kapere... parliament will continue to pass laws that add impetus to efforts addressing the livelihood of the people.

President on his recent ranking as Africa's fifth best-performing Head of State by The East African, an internationally renowned magazine published in Kenya. "This achievement does truly recognise the excellent manner in which you handle issues related to the use of State Power; investment in food security and infrastructure as well as in nation building," Kapere underlined.

He assured the President that parliament would, within its constitutional mandate, continue to pass laws that added impetus to government's efforts to address the livelihoods of the people. He also welcomed the appointment of Regional Governors by the President, saying it was convincing that their appointment, in accordance with the Special Advisors and Regional Governors Appointment Amendment Act of 2010, enhanced the opportunities for service delivery and the implementation of the SWAPO Party manifesto.



The National Assembly presented the sponsors of the Official Opening of Parliament 2011 with certificates of appreciation for their generous contributions. Mr. Findley Harker, Under Secretary at the National Assembly (2nd from left), handed over the certificates. Left to right: Gordon Pokolo and Izan Louw for Namibia Beverages; J. Haimbodi for Independence Caterers Namibia; Ebben Burger for Tré Supermarket; and Cassius Moeti for Namibia Dairies in absentia.

Katjavivi Urges Ratification of African Democracy Charter

Charter Belongs to all Africans

• Staff Reporter

The Parliament of Namibia would like Namibia to join the other African countries that have ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). But, as Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi writes, although Namibia already signed the Charter in 2007, it has not been brought to the National



Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi

Assembly for ratification and implementation.

As part of the process of building and consolidating democracy in Africa, the African Union Commission and the Pan-African Parliament have been actively involved in the campaign aimed at promoting continental-wide democracy and good governance. These two continental institutions organised a conference in Kampala, Uganda, in 2010. This event was dedicated to the promotion of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. On that occasion, I represented the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab.

The main purpose of that conference was to review the case for the transformation of the Pan-African Parliament into a fully fledged legislative body; and

to operationalise the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. I am pleased to state that strong recommendations were made in both cases.

This was indeed a timely event that helped us, parliamentarians and decision-makers, to focus our minds on the need for the ratification and full implementation of the Charter. In February this year, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA) held a follow-up workshop in South Africa on the ACDEG. The workshop attracted many participants from different African countries, including parliamentarians and members of civil society organisations. Their discussions centered on the need to intensify the process for ratification of the Charter.

Dr. Khabele Matlosa, Programme Advisor of the UNDP, presented a paper that pointed out the following challenges: minimal public awareness, knowledge and ownership of ACDEG by the people; limited political commitment by the leaderships of African countries to democratic transformation (witness recent developments in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Cote D'Ivoire); bureaucratic delays related to differing ratification procedures (Executive vs. Parliament); the need to link the ratification campaign with domestication and implementation of ACDEG; and the lack of adequate financial and other resources for an effective and sustainable campaign for the ratification, domestication and implementation of ACDEG by all AU member states;

Of course the above issues differ from country to country and from region to region in Africa. However, it is essential to note that the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2011, commended the role played by the African Union Commission "on strengthening the African governance architecture and establishing an African Governance Platform as a basis for facilitating harmonization of instruments and coordination of initiatives in governance and democracy."

It is against this background that we, in the Namibian Parliament, would like our country to join the other countries in Africa that have ratified the African

Charter, by acting accordingly. As a matter of fact, Namibia already signed the African Charter on 10 October 2007 but it has not been brought to the National Assembly for ratification. The African Union Commission, in its overview of the Charter, states that: "The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance fundamental value resides in its contribution to fulfill the obligation to create a developed and prosperous Africa whose citizens are empowered with the ability to pursue lives of equality and meaning."

The responsibility for ratifying the Charter resides with AU Member States. However, as the AU Commission has stated, the Charter "belongs to all Africans and has a wider value to civil society organisations and other African and global stakeholders". The hard work conducted over many years that led Africa to produce a number of key documents, including the Charter, should not be lost.

It is up to us – national parliaments, the Pan-African Parliament, civil society organizations and other stakeholders – to ensure that the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance is ratified and implemented accordingly.

• Hon. Professor Peter Katjavivi is a Member of Parliament and Chief Whip of the ruling SWAPO Party in the National Assembly.

Relations Strengthen as Chinese Lawmaker Meets Kapere

...Friendly and Bold Diplomatic Relations

• Fanuel Katshenye

The Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Hon. Abulaiti Abudureixiti, paid a courtesy call on the Chairman of the National Council, Hon. Asser Kuveri Kapere on 19 April 2011.



Chairman Asser Kapere meeting Hon. Abulaiti Abudureixiti (left)

In his welcoming remarks, Chairman Kapere expressed sympathy with the victims of floods that recently devastated parts of north-eastern China, killing more than 700 people and leaving 347 others missing this year.

Chairman Kapere, reflecting back on the era when China supported the people of Namibia through the SWAPO liberation movement, hailed the diplomatic relations between Namibia and China, describing it as not only cordial and growing from strength to strength, but also as "friendly, good and bold". He lamented the absence of official institutions in the two countries linking the two parliaments, suggesting the establishment of a "strong parliamentary association" that would serve as a link between the CPPCC and the National Council.

On his part, Vice-Chairman Abulaiti thanked his Namibian counterpart for the warm welcome and the hospitality accorded his delegation by the government and people of Namibia. He disclosed that his delegation was impressed by Namibia's healthier and rapid development over the past 21 years of independence, reiterating China's happiness with existing cooperation with Namibia in the areas of economic trade, education, health and military. According to Vice-Chairman Abulaiti, economic trade between Namibia and China had increased to 30 percent in 2010.

The Chinese lawmaker applauded Namibia's support for the Chinese Govern-

ment at the international arena, especially with regard to China's unification with Taiwan and the human rights issues. He said China would continue to support Namibia's economy and would encourage Chinese investors to invest in the southern African country.

Vice-Chairman Abulaiti agreed with Chairman Kapere on the potential for cooperation between the National Council, the CPPCC parliamentary committees and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. He stressed that CPPCC was an important political system in China which dealt with multilateral cooperation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). He concluded with extending condolences to the relatives of the victims of the catastrophic floods being experienced in the northern regions of Namibia.

Hon. Abulaiti's delegation was composed of, among others, the Chinese Ambassador to Namibia, Mr. Wei Ruixing; the Vice-President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Mr. Feng Zuoku; and the Chief Director of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Mr. Lin Yi.

Chairman Kapere's delegation included Ms. Panduleni Shimutwiken, the Secretary to the National Council; the Governor of Khomas Region, Mr. Samuel Nuuyoma; and the Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Ms. Elaine Trepper.

Uganda Budget Committee Visits National Assembly

• Staff Reporter

The Budget Committee of the Parliament of Uganda paid a visit to the National Assembly of Namibia from 28-31 March 2011 to exchange experiences with their Namibian counterparts in the areas of governance and financial accountability.

The six-member delegation was headed by Honourable Rose Okullu Akol, Chairperson of the Budget Committee. The Namibia National Assembly's Standing Committee on Public Accounts, under the chairmanship of Honourable Usutaije Maamberua, hosted the Ugandan delegation.

Hon. Maamberua commended the Ugandan parliamentarians for the effort they had made to open up avenues for inter-relations and inter-action with Parliament of Namibia. He called for continued nurturing of the existing relations between the two Parliaments that had just been extended to committee levels. Hon. Maamberua reflected on the powers and mandate of the Public Accounts Committee as bestowed upon it by the Namibian Constitution and the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly of Namibia.

The head of the Ugandan delegation briefed her Namibian counterpart on the working of Uganda's Budget Committee which derives its power from the Ugandan Constitution, the Budget Act and the Public Finance and Accountability Act of Uganda.

The Ugandan delegation paid a courtesy call on the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab who briefed them on the challenges facing Namibia as a young democracy. Speaker Gurirab appreciated the interaction between the two parliaments, saying it afforded Namibia an opportunity to learn from others and enhances the country's own oversight mechanisms. In his capacity as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Dr. Gurirab commended Uganda for taking up the task to host IPU Conference in 2012.

The Ugandan lawmakers were welcomed and introduced in the National Assembly Chamber by Speaker Gurirab



The Ugandan delegation (right to left): Ekanya Geoffrey, Tubbo Nakwang Christine, Rose Okullu Akol, Nathan Byanyima, Mudimi Wamakuyu and Ruth Ekirapa Byoona, the Principal Clerk and delegation secretary.

where they had an opportunity to follow debates on the budget.

The delegation also paid courtesy calls on the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission. Presentations were made by the technical experts of the two institutions on consideration of preliminary operational and development budget estimates and the macroeconomic framework influencing the revenue side of estimates; the han-

dling of supplementary budget allocation and the Appropriation Bill. The Delegation further discussed Namibia's budget cycle and made a comparative analysis between the approaches of the two countries.

Similar visits were paid to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development (MRLGHRD) which deals with the budget for regional and local authorities in Namibia. The

Ministry made a presentation on decentralization, its coordinating role in motivating and submitting the development budget and the budgetary requirement of the regional and local authorities to the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for funding.

At the Ministry of Works and Transport, the Ugandan legislators were exposed to the ministry's outline of project life cycle for capital projects on the development budget. The delegation also paid courtesy calls on the Auditor-General and the Bank of Namibia to learn from the two institutions' operations.

The two committees agreed to continue exchanging visits for mutual capacity building to the benefit of the two respective parliaments. Hon. Akol invited Hon. Maamberua to pay a reciprocal visit to the National Assembly of Uganda at a mutually agreed date in order to learn from the Ugandan experience.

Appreciating the hospitality offered by their Namibian counterparts, the Ugandan delegation praised their exchange visit for having served its purpose. Other members of the Ugandan delegation included Parliamentarians Ekanya Geoffrey, Mudimi Wamakuyu, Tubbo Nakwang Christine, Nathan Byanyima, and Ms. Ruth Ekirapa Byoona, the Principal Clerk Assistant Committee and delegation secretary.

Namibian Parliamentarians Address IPU Assembly

• Ndahafa Kaukungua

The Parliament of Panama hosted the 124th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Panama City from 15-20 April 2011. The Assembly, held under the principal theme "Parliamentary Accountability: Living up to people's expectations", was inaugurated by Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli, in a ceremony attended by President of the IPU, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab; President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss, and the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Michelle Bachelet.



Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab

In his address, IPU President and Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab said it was unstinting respect for the institutions of democracy that would save the world from the daunting problems it was facing. He observed that all

parliaments provided less than an ideal level of scrutiny and oversaw the executive to a lesser degree than what was ideal (Dr. Gurirab's abridged statement appears elsewhere in this edition).

In her presentation during the general debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world, Hon. Mensah-Williams, who is also the Second Vice-President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, highlighted the ever-increasing cases of violence against women and children which she attributed to high levels of inequality which affected social cohesion and led to crime and violence (Hon. Mensah-Williams' abridged statement appears elsewhere in this edition).

At the close of the proceedings, the Assembly adopted four major resolutions. The first, which was on laws to prevent electoral violence and ensure a smooth transition of power, sends a strong message to parliaments to enact legislation giving robust regulatory, investigative and prosecutorial powers to independent and impartial election management bodies. It also appeals to civil society organi-

sations, media groups, experts, academic institutions, human rights agencies and international organisations to sensitise citizens to their constitutional rights and obligations regarding elections.

The second resolution considers the transparency and accountability of political parties and election campaigns. It urges governments to put in place measures aimed at ensuring the independence of political parties so as to shield them from undue influence and at curbing corruption and excessive spending on election campaigns. This includes the establishment of spending limits during election campaigns. The resolution also urges IPU Member Parliaments to consider measures to limit, prohibit or regulate funding by NGOs, corporate bodies and foreign sources so as to ensure they do not exert undue influence on political outcomes.

The third resolution calls on parliaments to ensure sustainable development through better management of natural resources and agricultural production. The resolution is a response to the alarming rate of growth in global population figures which exacerbates the risk of wars breaking out over access to land and the use of water resources.

The fourth was an emergency resolution entitled "Strengthening Democratic Reform in Emerging Democracies, including North Africa and the Middle East". The resolution affirms the importance of free and fair elections and stresses the importance of empowering women, including their full participation in the democratic process. It calls on all parties to conflicts to refrain from violence and to ensure that human rights are respected.

Over 1000 delegates - including some 600 legislators and Speakers of Parliament from around the world, along with a number of special guests, attended the Assembly. Vice-Chairperson of the National Council, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, led the Namibian delegation which comprised of Parliamentarians Moses Amweelo, Henok Kankoshi, Heiko Lucks, Ndapewoshali Nambili, Arnold Tji-huiko and Agnes Tjongarero.



Gurirab sees Media Role in North African Revolutions

Blog Commentaries Can Distract From Real News

• Staff Reporter

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Speaker of Namibia's National Assembly, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab said the electronic media played a role in today's revolutions where the internet was hailed as a powerful tool of political emancipation. In reference to the raging uprisings in North Africa, Dr. Gurirab cautioned the youth to ensure that the tools of political emancipation were not turned into tools of enslavement as the plethora of blog commentaries could serve to distract from real news produced by professional journalists.



Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, IPU President and Speaker of Namibia's National Assembly

The Namibian legislator was speaking at the 124th IPU Assembly in Panama City, attended by Panamanian President Mr. Ricardo Martinelli, and the Speaker of that country's National Assembly, Mr. José Muñoz Molina in April this year. Dr. Gurirab, in an abridged speech below, warned that social media, containing a rich store of freely disclosed personal information, could also be used to repress.

The theme we have chosen for this Assembly is Parliamentary Accountability: living up to citizens' expectations. We selected this topic with our hosts in the latter part of 2010. Since then, events in the world suggest that it was an appropriate choice. The first months of 2011 were marked by sustained public outbursts in a number of countries. Those

demonstrations continue to this day. In more than one country what began as spontaneous expressions of fervour have become bitter armed conflicts.

Earlier this year, as a guest of my Arab colleagues in Doha, I stated clearly that the demonstrations were telling us that the people were not satisfied. These surges of unrest, which carry tremendous impetus for change, spring from circumstances with which many of us are familiar. Populations are growing at a vertiginous rate. In the case of Egypt, the figure has doubled in 30 years. The populations are also young. In country after country that has been in the news these days the average age is well below thirty – generally less than half the age of those who govern them. Add to this a dire lack of the opportunities that young people need so badly, and you have a potent recipe for conflict. People want more transparency, wider freedom and greater social justice. People want fair play, jobs and the benefits of development. People want more opportunities and better service delivery. In a nutshell, they want more democracy, not less.

One feature of today's revolutions is the part played by the electronic media. The Internet is now hailed as a powerful tool of political emancipation. For so many young people around the world, freedom is just a tweet, a blog or a text away. There is certainly no doubt that without the use of mobile phones and internet technologies, the organising power of those who orchestrated all of these energies would have been less impressive.

My suggestion from the perspective of the older generation is: take care. Make sure that the tools of political emancipation are not also the tools of enslavement. The plethora of blog commentary, in which every voice is as valid as the next one, can also serve to distract from real news produced by professional journalists. The social media, containing a rich store of freely disclosed personal information, can also be used to repress. I am told that a baby girl, born when the images of Tahrir Square (in Cairo, Egypt) were continuously on our TV screens, was named Facebook. While I wish little Facebook a long and happy life, I would also tell her to take the blessings of her namesake with a hefty pinch of salt. Time alone will tell.

Democracy is a stubborn and unpredictable animal. It needs a lot of nurturing and monitoring. There is nothing exciting about respect for institutions, but it is unstinting respect for the institutions of democracy that will save the world from the daunting problems facing it. The path of institution-building is the one we must all take. There are no short cuts.

continued on page 16

PARLIAMENT



Hon. Nahas Angula
Prime Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Marco Hausiku
Deputy Prime Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Hage Geingob
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Peter Katjavivi
Chief Whip
SWAPO



Hon. Nangolo Mumba
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Ben Amathila
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Albert Kawana
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Jerry Ekandjo
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Utoni Nujoma
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Erkki Nghimtina
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Abraham Iyambo
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Richard Kamwi
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Alphaeus Inaruseb
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Immanuel Ngatjizeko
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Nickey Iyambo
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Joel Kaapanda
Minister
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Hon. John Mutorwa
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Doreen Sioka
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Rosalia Nghidinwa
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Charles Namoloh
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Bernhard Esau
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Isak Katali
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Kazenambo Kazenambo
Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Petrina Haingura
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Willem Isaacks
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Stanley Simataa
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Elia Kalyamo
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Angelika Muharukua
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Alphaeus Muheua
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Chief Samuel Ankama
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Peya Mushelenga
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Pohamba Shifeta
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Calle Schlettwein
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. David Namwandi
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



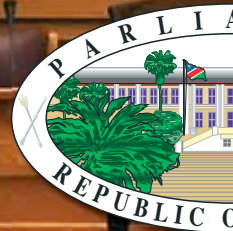
Hon. Tjekero Tweya
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Theo-...
SWAPO



Hon. Loic-...
SWAPO



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly consists of 72 voting members, elected for a term of five years on the basis of

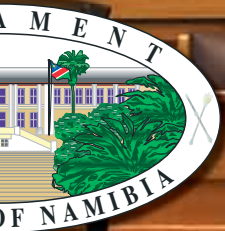
OF NAMIBIA



Speaker
Ben Gurirab
SWAPO



Speaker
Le Kasingo
SWAPO



Hon. Chief Kuaima Riruako
NDDO



Hon. Arnold Tjiuuko
NDDO



Hon. Justus /Garoeb
UDF



Hon. Simson Tjongarero
UDF



Hon. Ben Ulenga
GOD



Hon. Hidojo Hamutenya
RDP



Hon. Sieve Bezuidenhout
RDP



Hon. Jesaya Nyamu
RDP



Hon. Anton von Wietersheim
RDP



Hon. Agnes Limbo
RDP



Hon. Peter Naholo
RDP



Hon. Kandy Nehova
RDP



Hon. Heiko Lucks
RDP



Hon. Katutire Kaura
DTA



Hon. Philemon Moongo
DTA



Hon. Clara Gowases
RP



Hon. Ignatius Shikwameni
APP



Hon. Usutuije Maamberua
SWANU



Hon. Paulus Kapia
SWAPO



Hon. Juliet Kavetuna
SWAPO



Hon. Moses Amweelo
SWAPO



Hon. Evelyn Nwases-Taeyele
SWAPO



Hon. Elifas Dingara
SWAPO



Hon. Priscilla Beukes
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Tommy Nambahu
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Uahekua Herunga
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Sylvia Makgona
SWAPO



Hon. Festus Uetetele
SWAPO



Hon. Lucia Witbooi
SWAPO



Hon. Piet van der Walt
SWAPO



Hon. Alexis Manombe-Ncube
SWAPO



Hon. Lempy Lucas
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Petrus Ilionga
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Erastus Uutoni
Deputy Minister
SWAPO



Hon. Sophia Swartz
SWAPO



Hon. Billy Mwaningange
SWAPO



Hon. Maureen Jankowski
SWAPO



Hon. Agnes Tjongarero
SWAPO

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of proportional representation, plus an additional six non-voting members appointed by the President.

We must all participate in the endeavour, examine our institutions in all honesty and accept that however long they may have stood the test of time, all our parliaments, from time to time, let the people down. All parliaments provide less than an ideal level of scrutiny. All parliaments oversee the executive to a lesser degree than we would ideally want.

That is why I have always believed in the IPU. Not because we host presidents and kings, but because we are there, in our modest way, to defend institutions

and the rule of law. We are there to help make parliaments more representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective. We seek parliaments that are more inclusive in their composition and manner of working, especially in relation to women and minority and marginal communities. We seek parliaments that exercise more stringent oversight of the executive, including in the increasingly important field of multilateral dialogue. The IPU has been working tirelessly to put these ideals into effect.

At this Assembly, our standing Commit-

tees will conclude its year-long discussion cycle on ways to prevent electoral violence and ensure transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties. Our legislators will debate political violence against women and examine what it takes to make parliaments more sensitive to the different needs of women and men. A special panel debate will look at past political upheavals that bequeathed greater democracy, bringing out the experiences of countries like the Philippines, Germany or Chile.

Libya Needs African Solution, Warns Mensah-Williams

Bombing Goes Beyond Letter and Spirit of Resolution 1973

• Staff Reporter

The Vice-Chairperson of the National Council and leader of the Namibian parliamentary delegation to the 124th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and Related Meeting has sharply criticised NATO air attacks on Libya. Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, in a presentation during the general debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world, said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) bombings on Libya had gone beyond the UN mandate to protect civilians in the conflict. The Assembly was held in Panama City from 15-20 April 2011. Below follows Hon. Mensah-Williams' abridged presentation:



Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams

This meeting is taking place at a time when the world is witnessing a wave of protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa. These upheavals have been brought about by a combination of factors – the global financial crisis, rising cost of living, high unemployment and frustration with decades of authoritarian governments. These events have led to the loss of thousands of lives. Thousands more are displaced from their homes, thus creating an unprecedented number of refugees in many African countries and beyond.

I am horrified to see images of Tomahawk cruise missiles raining down on Libya from NATO and US warplanes. The military action taken by western countries on Libya, a member of the African Union, on the pretext of protecting civilian lives undermines the purpose and authority of the African Union (AU).

The AU has legal authority to intervene in situations such as that unfolding in Libya and Ivory Coast. Article 4(h) of the Constitutive Act of the AU gives the AU the right "to intervene in a Member-State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity". It was disappointing though that initially the AU forces were denied access to enter Libya by NATO forces on 20 March 2011 and only gained access at the later stage.

The bombing campaign on Libya by the US and its allies has gone far beyond the letter and spirit of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 whose mandate was to protect civilians. Besides the violation of the sovereignty of Libya, civilians on both sides of the conflict continue to be killed. Africa does not need to be dictated by people from outside the continent to decide our future. What is needed in Libya is an African solution to the crisis. Not outside interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign and independent country.

My delegation congratulates the Sudanese government and its people for conducting a peaceful referendum. We are confident that a peaceful transfer of power will prevail in Sudan. We hope that the Parliament (of Sudan) will play a role in ensuring that the will of the people is fulfilled and democratic structures are put in place and respected.

Climate Change and global warming have devastating effect on planet earth. The global climate is changing rapidly and planet earth is warming up. The increasing temperatures that we witness in the world could be one of the threats facing planet earth. There is scientific evidence that most of the climate change or increasing extremities in weather patterns is caused by humans.

As a result of the increase in global warming, species and their habitats are threatened. The ecosystems ability to adapt naturally is diminishing. It is, therefore, upon us and highly industrialised nations to enforce measures aimed at reducing emissions of carbon dioxide into the air.

In most countries, inequality as a result of the gap between rich and poor continues to widen. The effect of poverty is more harshly felt by women. The causes of poverty are numerous. They include a lack of individual responsibility, bad government policies, exploitation by people and businesses with power and influence; or a combination of all and other factors.

Violence against women and children is a fact. It is taking place most of the time in our own homes. It is perpetrated predominantly by our own male family members or friends. High levels of inequality will eventually affect social cohesion and lead to increasing crime and violence, especially violence against women and children.

As a means towards permanent solution to violence in our societies, we must

start with our own leaders. If leaders are violent and use violent languages or expressions, if we glorify persons who have ascended to public prominence through the use of violence, then how do we expect our followers to behave differently? Our leaders – be they community, traditional, religious or political leaders – must stop being violent or preaching violence and then their followers would emulate their good examples. As leaders, we condemn such human rights violation in the strongest terms. Parliaments should therefore be the voice of the people and execute oversight function effectively and efficiently.

The global financial crisis continues to negatively affect the world. The crisis has equally affected Africa like the rest of the world. As a result of the world economic down turn, the economic growth of Sub-Saharan Africa slowed to 1, 5 percent in 2009 – below the rate of population growth. Consequently, some African countries have experienced a reduction in foreign investment and foreign aid has been affected. This has increased the gap between the rich and the poor, thus increasing the poverty level even further.

African countries are increasingly facing pressure from their debt repayment. Most African countries cannot afford to pay because they are poor. Therefore, the economic crisis has forced some African countries to cut their health budgets, thus undermining their developmental efforts.

Finally, I call on all delegations to ensure that women are included in their national delegations to the IPU Assemblies. Women are peacekeepers and peace builders. Men of quality are not threatened by women's equality.

Australian Study Programme Benefits Parliament

• Vincent Sinalumbu

The Australian Parliament's Inter-Parliamentary Study Programme 2011 brought together parliamentary staff from around the world at Parliament House in Australia's national capital, Canberra, from the 14-24 March 2011.

The aim of the programme was for foreign parliamentary staff to learn from the procedure and practices of the Austral-

ian Parliament; share knowledge, ideas and experiences of parliamentary process and administration; reflect on their own parliamentary practices and how they can be developed; and to establish networks for ongoing information sharing among parliamentary staff.

The first week was dedicated to a series of presentations by senior Australian parliamentary staff outlining the history, structure, procedures and operations of the Australian Parliament – the House of Representatives, the Senate – and the three parliamentary administrative departments.

The programme also introduced topics such as the Federal Parliament within the Australian political system, parliament overview, the legislative process, and department of parliamentary services overview, scrutiny of bills and regulations and ordinances, parliamentary

committees, Hansard, community parliamentary education, and the role and activities of the chamber research office. Participants were assigned to discuss recent challenges that their respective parliaments had faced.

During the second week, the Australian Parliament was in session and participants had the opportunity to observe proceedings in practice. Participants also visited various sections of the parliament to explore their procedures and administration. They also spent a day at the State Parliament of New South Wales in Sydney where they were introduced to the functions of that House in comparison to the Federal Parliament.

The Parliament of Namibia was represented by Mr. Vincent Sinalumbu, the Deputy Director for Research, Information and Editorial Services at the National Assembly.



Participants at the Inter-Parliamentary Study Programme, with Mr. Vincent Sinalumbu third from right.

Protestors seek Transparency - Dr. Gurirab

...Involve People in Public Life

• David Nahoogandja

Demonstrations in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and other countries in the Arab world and beyond were sending a clear message that the people in those countries were not satisfied.

They want more transparency, freedom and greater social justice, fair play, jobs and the benefits of development, more opportunities and service delivery, less marginalization and corruption. They want more democracy and not less. These were the views expressed by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, when he was speaking at the 17th Meeting of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in Doha, Qatar, on 7 February 2011.

Quoting from the IPU Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted in 1997 and which underpins the IPU's work to promote and defend democracy, Dr. Gurirab stated emphatically that democracy was a universally recognised concept based on ideals and values that were common to people everywhere, regardless of cultural, political, social or economic differences. The declaration states that democracy aims to protect and promote the dignity and fundamental rights of the individual, instill social justice and equality, and foster inclusive economic and social development. As a form of government, democracy was the best way of achieving these objectives in the best interest of the people.

Dr. Gurirab, who is Speaker of Namibia's National Assembly, reiterated that parliaments were places where all components of society were represented and had the requisite powers and means to express the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action stands at the heart of democracy.

"Our parliaments have an absolutely central role in ensuring greater involvement of the people in public life. That is in fact the core mandate and very essence of any parliament in the world. Parliaments and their leaders must therefore be proactive in favour of ensuring social stability, peaceful dialogue and reconciliation in the interest of everybody," said



Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab

the IPU President.

Speaker Gurirab believed that the best support parliaments could provide was to ensure an open and transparent debate through dialogue and effective oversight. He said people everywhere depended on parliaments to ensure that their views and aspirations were taken into account and that government and public institutions thought of the people first.

In 2010, the IPU held its 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva. The conference offered a unique opportunity to develop an imaginative agenda for parliaments meant to help secure democratic accountability worldwide.

The IPU President also spoke of the critical, but yet unresolved, situation of the Palestinian people, saying little progress was made and Palestinian people might feel that their trust in World Parliaments had been betrayed. "The Palestinian people are denied the opportunity to realise their right to self-determination and to live in their own independent State like the rest of us everywhere," he said.

Dr. Gurirab said that the IPU supported parliamentarians in their endeavours and encouraged them to share their plans with IPU and to create space for women to be heard.

"Our parliaments have an absolutely central role in ensuring greater involvement of the people in public life."

SACU Parliamentarians Discuss Climate Change

Namibia Highly Vulnerable Due to her Ecosystems

• Ndaningaweni Protasius Nghileende

The Association of Western European Parliamentarians with (AWPEPA) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) held a regional seminar for Parliaments of five Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member-countries in Cape Town, South Africa. The seminar, held from 28 February to 2 March 2011, was a follow-up to the regional SACU workshop on climate change mitigation that took place in Swaziland in November 2009.

The objectives of the seminar were to promote debate and communication on climate change between SACU parliaments, relevant ministries, academics and civil society organisations; raise awareness on the opportunities of green economic development for poverty reduction; engage Parliaments in identifying gaps in policies related to climate change and green economic development, and assist in policy formulation and legislative review; and involve parliaments in the preparation of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Although Namibia is not a major emitter of green house gasses (GHG) that contribute to climate change, the country is highly vulnerable because of its fragile ecosystems and the fact that the economy and the majority of people rely on agriculture to derive their livelihoods.

The effect of climate change is thus an issue that could be detrimental to the economic development of the country and her people. Therefore, parliamentarians as policy-makers and representatives of the people, have a role to see to it that the executive branch of government was taking appropriate mitigating actions.

The seminar focused mainly on climate change mitigation and green economic development. For Namibia, an insig-

nificant emitter of green house gasses, mitigation does not seem as urgent as adaptation. However, mitigation is an issue which needs to be considered as well. Worldwide, prices for fossil fuels are increasing and the country can reduce risks and ensure energy supply by producing its own clean energy.

It is true that with high levels of unemployment and widespread poverty, Namibia must continue to develop and grow her economy. But we need a paradigm shift towards greening our economy. We need to institute measures to protect our fragile ecosystems, biodiversity and wetlands. There is also a need to substantially invest in low carbon energy generation, public transport and sustainable agriculture. This is in addition to

promoting and marketing environmental friendly goods and services in order to develop valuable skills and create jobs.

Experiences from elsewhere in the world have shown that the greening of economies neither inhibits wealth creation nor employment opportunities. Therefore, green and growth can go together.

Climate change does not stop at the country's borders. Regional cooperation is important. Environmental issues and challenges at border areas have been dealt with in cooperation with our neighbouring countries. There are also opportunities that should be dealt with at regional levels. For example, possible trans-frontier solar parks, or regional production of environmental friendly goods as well as sharing of appropriate technologies.

Exchange of knowledge and best practices is crucial. Parliamentarians should be able to meaningfully participate in global discussions. The exchange of knowledge and information between institutions, regional and international experts is of utmost important. It is worth mentioning that Namibia is a pioneer in a number of new climate friendly technologies and green power generation.

Needless to say, there is a large number of people in our country who live under abject poverty. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, should encourage the development of green technologies which can benefit all peo-

ple through provision of jobs, inexpensive small-scale green power generation capacities; and promote the legislative framework under which these technologies can be implemented.

Following the relatively positive spirit of the Cancun Global Climate Change Summit, expectations are that the Durban Global Climate Change Summit could yield successful results. There is an increasing recognition of the role Parliamentarians can play in the process of drafting policies related to Climate Change and the Green Economic Development. In addition, Parliamentarians can also contribute to the success of COP17 which will be held in Durban in December 2011. In the quest to exercise their oversight function, parliamentarians are therefore encouraged to ensure that Government through line ministries takes appropriate mitigating actions. They should also see to it that the production of environmentally friendly goods as well as sharing of appropriate technologies take place.

On the first day of the seminar, participants visited three green economic development projects – the Eco-village at Lynedoch near Stellenbosch, the Kuyasa Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Khayelitsha, and the Propas plastic recycling company in Belville.

The National Assembly delegation consisted of parliamentarians: Ben Amathila, Petrus Van Der Walt, Maureen Jankowski, Peter Naholo and Simson Tjongarero.



Mr. Ndaningaweni Protasius Nghileende

South African Budgeting System Tops Global Transparency

Well Ahead of Renowned Developed Countries...

•Sheuneni Kurasha

The Washington-based International Budget Partnership (IBP) has rated South Africa's budgeting system as the most transparent in the world in its Open Budget Survey for 2010. With a score of 92 points out of a 100, South Africa

is ahead of developed countries such as the United Kingdom, United States of America, France and the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) nations. South Africa overtook the UK which was the first in the 2008 survey when the former was ranked second.

The Open Budget Index, conducted every two years, evaluates how well governments around the world provide the public access to budget information and promotes citizen participation in the national budget process. It also examines the capacity of legislatures and the auditor general to hold their governments accountable.

The average open budget index score for the countries surveyed in 2010 was 42 out of 100. According to the survey which involved 94 countries, the world's most transparent countries are South Africa (92) New Zealand (90), UK (87), France (87), Norway (83), Sweden (83) and the US (82). The survey classified

these seven countries as "providing extensive information".

The IBP said open budget systems were essential to creating free and just societies in which the public was empowered with the knowledge of how the government was managing their resources. The Open Budget Survey aims to promote greater openness in national government budgeting systems; document the current budgeting practices of governments; establish standards for transparent, participatory, and accountable budget systems; and to identify countries in varying contexts and with different characteristics that were meeting or were on their way to meeting these standards.

Other SADC countries surveyed were Namibia (53), Botswana (51), Malawi (47), Tanzania (45), Zambia (36), Mozambique (28) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (6). Commenting on the findings, the Secretary-General of the SADC Par-

liamentary Forum (SADC PF), Dr. Esau Chiviya congratulated South Africa for her achievements in ensuring increased accountability in the manner public funds and other resources were used.

"We wish to congratulate the government and the people of South Africa for this notable achievement and we hope that our countries can learn from their neighbour's success in this area. The involvement of people and their elected representatives in the budget process is an important feature of good governance as this ensures transparency and guarantees accountability by making sure that revenue and expenditure measures are implemented properly and efficiently," Dr. Chiviya said.

"As SADC PF, we view legislative budget oversight as a key component of the oversight role of national parliaments; hence our various programmatic interventions that enhance the role of parliament in the entire budget process – in pre-budget consultation, during debates and approval and in considering audit finding. This conviction is reflected by the fact that our current Strategic Plan (2011-2015) as an institution identifies Legislative Budget Oversight and Public Finance Management as one of the strategic areas of focus under the Democracy and Governance Programme," the SADC PF Chief said.

Dr. Chiviya explained that SADC PF's Legislative Budget Oversight and Public Finance Management Programme was seeking to achieve certain objectives: benchmarking in terms of legislation, policy and practice; enhancing the domestication of benchmarks through networking and sharing experiences and good practices; promoting collaboration of parliaments with development partners, CSOs and the Media; enhancing independent budget research capacity; expanding the role of parliament and its portfolio committees in the budget process; and broadening access to information. Dr. Chiviya called on other SADC countries to draw lessons from South Africa's experience.

"The IBP said open budget systems were essential to creating free and just societies in which the public was empowered with the knowledge of how the government was managing their resources."

• Sheuneni Kurasha is the Democracy and Governance Officer at the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), based in Windhoek.

Gender Balance in Politics Remains Distant, IPU survey reveals

Sub-Saharan Africa Sees no Big Changes

• IPU Press Release

Despite increased numbers of women in parliaments with an all time global high of 19.1 percent, the target of gender balance in politics was a distant one in many countries, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) survey on elections held in 2010. The survey, released on the eve of International Women's Day on 4 March 2011, has the following key findings:

A total of 19.1 percent of parliamentarians worldwide are women. The proportion was 13.1 percent in 2000 and 16.3 percent in 2005. In 2010 ten parliamentary chambers reached 30 percent, bringing the number to 43 chambers that have met the UN target. Three of the renewed chambers passed the 40 percent mark, bringing the number with more than 40 percent of women members to 11. Five chambers that were renewed in 2010 ended up with no women members. Media coverage for women was still weaker compared to the coverage given to men.

In Different Regions

Despite some progress made, mainly due to quotas, the average for the Arab States remained low. Northern European countries kept a relatively high percentage of women in their lower houses: Belgium with 39.3 percent, the Netherlands with 40.7 percent and Sweden with 45.0 percent. Progress was nil in the Pacific Island States: no women candidates won seats in Nauru, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu or Tonga.

Arab States: Although at the bottom of the world table for women in parliament, the Arab States continue to progress: 4.3 percent in 1995; 9.5 percent in 2009 and 11.7 percent in 2010. The large variation in the region is a function of quotas. In Bahrain, only one woman, who was elected unopposed. Meanwhile 22.5 percent of women were appointed to Bahrain's upper house.

In Jordan, with a strengthened quota system, there are now 13 women par-

liamentarians, including Jordan's first Bedouin woman. Sudan saw its first woman compete for the presidency, despite a fatwa banning women from running. In Iraq, the number of women parliamentarians in the lower house increased, although most parties failed to meet their 25 percent women-candidate quota. Qatar was the only Arab country to appoint no woman parliamentarian in 2010.

In the Americas, where 15 chambers were up for renewal, the average improved slightly. Three more women Heads of State were elected. Costa Rica maintained its high level of participation of women in parliament with 38.6 percent. The US mid-term elections saw a record number of women running for both houses of Congress, but this did not lead to major gains.

The Nordic Countries maintained their position at the top of the regional chart with a 41.6 percent average. Sweden's chamber was the only one to be renewed in the region in 2010. Despite a drop of 2.3 percentage points, Sweden maintained an impressive 45 percent of women in parliament.

The European average is stable at 20 percent. Most of the 14 chambers up for renewal saw little change. The exception was the Czech Republic, which saw 6.5 and 3.7 point increases in its lower and upper houses, respectively. Not a single woman cabinet minister was appointed in Prague. Neighbouring Slovakia elected its first woman prime minister.

The average in the Netherlands increased to 40.7 percent. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, only 16.7 percent of Members of Parliament are women despite an election law that requires one in every three candidates to be a woman. But it is still an improvement on 2006. In London, the House of Commons chalked up a 2.2 percentage point gain, up to 22 percent. Kyrgyzstan still has one of the highest rates of women parliamentarians in the region and elected its first woman president in 2010. With a rise of 4.5 percentage points bringing women's representation up to 22 percent, Uzbekistan is on track to reach the 30 percent target in its lower house.

Sub-Saharan Africa saw no big changes. Ethiopia, Madagascar and Tanzania recorded improvements. Burundi consolidated its representation of women in the lower house with an increase of 2.5 percentage points to 32.1 percent. There was a significant rise in the upper house to 46.3 percent, largely due to its quota system. Women's representation in São

Tomé and Príncipe increased from 7.3 percent in 2006 to 18.2 percent in 2010 without any quota.

Asia saw a drop in the number of women parliamentarians. Its average fell to 18 percent. Afghanistan's polls saw an increase of just 0.4 points. In the Philippines, where there have been two women presidents in the past 25 years and where the proportion of women in government has increased every year, the figure in the lower house rose by 1.7 percentage points to 22 percent while the upper house figure fell by 4.3 percentage points to 13 percent.

In the Pacific States, the percentage of women parliamentarians dropped from 15.3 percent in 2009 to 11.7 percent in 2010. Australia's relatively high proportion of women members inflates the figure for other States that have few or none. Of the five countries with renewals in 2010 – Australia, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu – only Australia elected women parliamentarians, as well as saw its first woman prime minister sworn in.

Quotas: Update on Progress

Quotas remain the single most effective way of increasing the number of women in politics. Many countries that have no legislated quotas in the national parlia-

ment have voluntary party quotas. In addition, there can be local-level quotas when there are none in the national parliament, such as in Namibia and the Philippines. The result is a greater number of leadership roles for women politicians at different levels in the hierarchy. Egypt's 2010 election result gives pause for thought. Quotas gave a 10.9 percentage point increase in the number of women members, but not a single woman was elected from outside the quota system. Previously, nine women had been elected to parliament through the normal electoral process. Given that Egypt's quota system is a temporary measure designed to 'jumpstart' a new era of female participation in politics, it will be interesting to see the results of the election that follows the present dissolution of parliament to gauge whether the reserved seat system is the best option.

Media Coverage

A significant issue for women candidates in the 2010 elections was the shortage of both media coverage and public appearances by women candidates. A survey of daily election stories in Tanzania revealed that men politicians dominated in election stories. In Sudan, there were reports that women were getting less media coverage. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were complaints that women candidates' views were seldom aired. The election

of Australia's first woman Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, met with a media focus on her flame-coloured hair and choice of attire. Attitudes were probably not greatly advanced by the production of the Czech Public Affairs Party's racy calendar of women politicians. In the US, women's groups set up an organization to take action on gender-biased reporting.

"Despite some progress made, mainly due to quotas, the average for the Arab States remained low. Northern European countries kept a relatively high percentage of women in their lower houses: Belgium with 39.3 percent, the Netherlands with 40.7 percent and Sweden with 45.0 percent. Progress was nil in the Pacific Island States: no women candidates won seats in Nauru, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu or Tonga."

Majority of Women Live in Poverty, says Dr. Gurirab

...Review Laws, Weed out Discriminatory Provisions

•Staff Reporter

Of the more than one billion people living in poverty around the world, women make up the vast majority percentage. When world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000, they committed to a series of goals to tackle poverty and its underlying causes. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have become milestones for evaluating progress towards world shared objectives to reduce poverty. The 2010 MDG review shows that while some progress had been made, the feminization of pov-

erty remained a trend that countries have not managed to curb.

This warning was conveyed by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, in a speech read on his behalf by the Vice-Chairperson of Namibia's National Council, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams at a Seminar on the Feminization of Poverty held in Chile.

Dr. Gurirab said it was worrying that after 10 years, women were still more likely than men to be poor and go hungry, underscoring that feminization of poverty was a reality. He said an immediate response would be making feminization of poverty a national priority and ensured that budgets provided for direct support to poor women. But, he cautioned, we also needed to look at the root causes of this phenomenon which heighten women's vulnerability to poverty, gender inequality and discrimination.

"When women are denied equal access to land, employment and education, they are made vulnerable to poverty. When they do not have the right to decide on the number and spacing of children,

they are made vulnerable to poverty. Poor women are also more likely to experience domestic and sexual violence, which can push them deeper into a cycle of poverty, Dr. Gurirab observed.

He believed that this cycle of poverty could be broken. We need to focus on addressing discrimination against women and empower them if we were to reduce poverty in our countries, he said.

According to Dr. Gurirab, "We can do that by reviewing laws, weeding out discriminatory provisions and ensuring that they promote equality. Next, examine our cultures and mentalities and ask ourselves whether they support women as equal citizens. Where they exist, negative images and stereotypes of women must be banished. The situation warrants serious action and we, as Members of Parliament, can certainly help to bring about change. As legislators, we have a responsibility to review our legal framework and ensure that it respects our commitments as parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women."

He said the gender wage gap had narrowed over the past 30 years as women

had gained greater access to education, the labour market and better paid jobs. We need to promote and facilitate women's access to areas traditionally dominated by men, such as science and technology. We need to invest in our social and health systems and ensure that women have access to affordable health care as well as access to flexible working conditions and paid leave. We also need to ensure that women have access to reproductive health care, empower them socially and economically by allowing them to balance work and family life in a fair and healthy manner.

Dr. Gurirab recognised that the challenge may seem daunting, but felt that progress was possible and strongly believed that

Members of Parliament had the power to accelerate change. "As we are about to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, it is disheartening to note that women account for only 19 per cent of legislators globally. How can we expect to achieve gender equality if women are not in decision-making positions to represent and defend the views and interests of women? We need more women in parliaments and in politics," lamented Dr. Gurirab.

The IPU President was convinced that the meeting would yield many constructive and innovative recommendations which would be of great use to Members of Parliament. He pledged IPU's support for the meeting.



UNAM law students, wading into an area traditionally dominated by men, photographed at parliament exhibition stand at the UNAM Recruitment and Career Fair, 1 April 2011.



Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams (left) in a group photo with Hon. Alejandra Sepúlveda Órbenes (white suit), the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile.

From The Chambers

•Staff Reporter

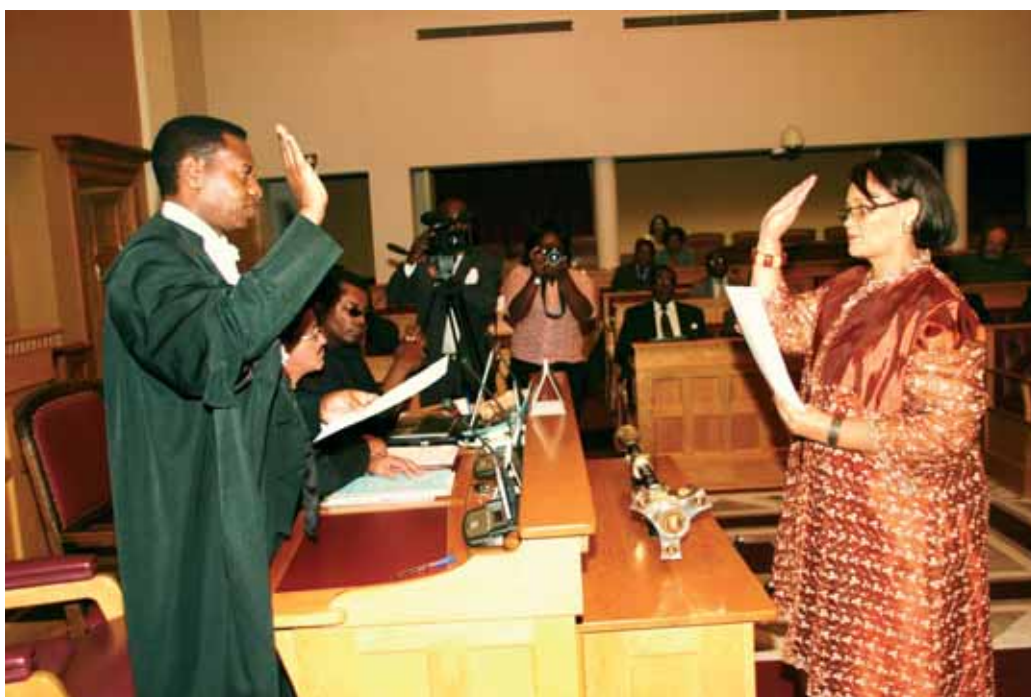


Hon. Theo Vivian Diergaardt



Hon. Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor

President Hifikepunye Pohamba on 20 January 2011 appointed two new Deputy Ministers from the ranks of Members of the National Council. Hon. Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor, SWAPO Party Councillor for the Keetmanshoop Urban Constituency in the Karas Region, was appointed Deputy Minister of Veterans' Affairs. Hon. Theo Vivian Diergaardt, the SWAPO Party Councillor for the Rehoboth Urban West Constituency in the Hardap Region, was appointed Deputy Minister for Lands and Resettlement.



Member of the Republican Party (RP), Hon. Clara //Gowases (right) being sworn in by the Chief Justice, His Lordship Peter Shivute, as a Member of the National Assembly, 17 March 2011.

Staff on the Move



Mr. Vincent Sinalumbu has been promoted to Deputy Director of Research, Information and Editorial Services at the National Assembly with effect from 1 January 2011. Mr. Sinalumbu previously worked for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as Public Liaison Officer.

Ms. Sanna Gaoses, a former Registry Clerk at the National Assembly, has been transferred on promotion to the Office of the Prime Minister as a Data Typist with effect from 1 March 2011.



Ms. Fiona Koopman has been promoted to Legal Counsel at the National Council with effect from 1 February 2011. Ms. Koopman previously worked for the Ministry of Justice as Legal Officer in the Directorate of Master of High Court.

Ms. Audrey Gantana has been transferred on promotion to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Cadet Foreign Relations Officer with effect from 1 February 2011. Ms. Gantana served on contract as Senior Private Secretary to the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council.





Mr. Benedict Likando has been appointed as Legal Officer at the National Council in the Directorate of Legal Services with effect from 3 January 2011. Mr. Likando formerly worked for Trustco as Legal Officer.

Mr. Shepherd Tizee Muhajndjumba has been transferred on promotion to the National Assembly as Clerical Assistant in the Registry Office in the Subdivision Auxiliary and Office Services. The transfer took effect from 1 April 2011. Mr. Muhajndjumba previously worked for the Ministry of Justice.



Mr. Adriano Tiago Lisimu has been promoted from Switchboard Operator to Clerical Assistant at the Subdivision Auxiliary and Office Services in the National Assembly. The promotion took effect from 1 April 2011.

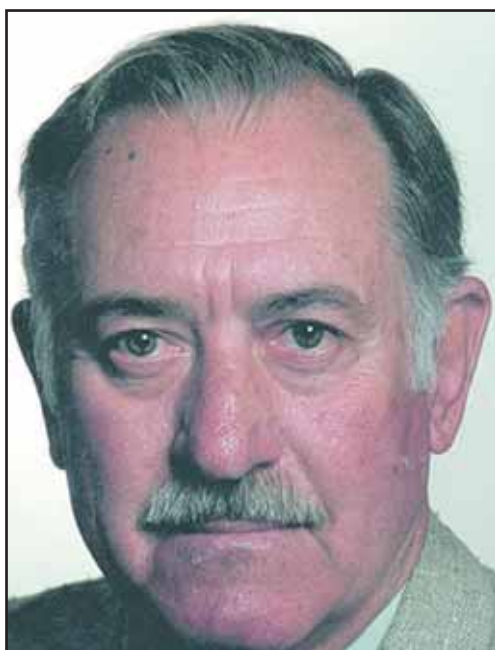
Ms. Helga Roberts Tjiho Karitja, formerly leader cleaner, has been transferred from cleaner to Switchboard Operator at the Subdivision Auxiliary and Office Services of the National Assembly with effect from 1 April 2011.



Obituary

Two former Members of the Constituent Assembly and founding members of the Namibian Constitution passed away in February and March 2011 respectively.

Hon. Johannes Marthinus (Jan) de Wet died in Windhoek on 13 February 2011 at the age of 83. After Namibia's first democratic election in 1989, Hon. de Wet represented his Action Christian National (ACN), a civic organisation, in the Constituent Assembly which drafted the Namibian Constitution from November 1989 and adopted it on 9 February 1990. The Constituent Assembly transformed into the first National Assembly in which Hon. de Wet served from 1990 to 1994 as a legislator. On completion of his five-year parliamentary term, he served as head of the Namibian Agricultural Union (NAU) from 1994-2004.



Late Hon. Jan de Wet

Hon. De Wet, a politician and a farmer, has held various political and social positions before and after independence. He joined politics as Member of Parliament of South Africa 1964-1970; Commissioner of Bantu Affairs for South West Africa 1970-1978; and Minister of Agriculture in the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) 1985-1989, among others. He is survived by his wife, Lesinda, and four daughters.

Hon. Moses Katjikuru Katjuongua died at his residence in Windhoek in the early hours of 8 March 2011 at the age of 68. The late Katjuongua served as a Member of the Constituent Assembly which drafted the Namibian Constitution, representing the Namibian Patriotic Front (NPF). From 1990 to 2000, the late Katjuongua served as a Member of the National Assembly for the Democratic Coalition of Namibia (DCN) and the Namibian Patriotic Front (NPF).

Before independence, he served as Minister of Manpower, National Health and Welfare in the cabinet of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) 1985-1989. Friends and relatives described Katjuongua as "a powerful orator, articulate, outspoken and friendly politician". He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and four children.



Late Hon. Moses Katjuongua

Parliament of Namibia

The Fourth National Council

2010 - 2014



Chairperson
Erongo Region
Hon. A.K. Kapere



Deputy Chairperson
Kunene Region
Hon. M.N. Mensah-Williams



Khomas Region
Hon. A. Kandji



Otjozondjupa Region
Hon. M.K. Coma



Otjozondjupa Region
Hon. N.N. Nambili



Hardap Region
Hon. B. Namwandi



Hardap Region
Hon. T.V. Diergaardt



Omaheke Region
Hon. K.K. Nguvauva



Omaheke Region
Hon. P.W. Katamelo



Karas Region
Hon. H.N. Nicanor



Karas Region
Hon. D. Boois



Oshana Region
Hon. R.K. Nhinda



Oshana Region
Hon. J. Nakwafila



Oshana Region
Hon. A. Martin



Oshana Region
Hon. R. Shilenga



Oshikoto Region
Hon. H.T. Kankoshi



Oshikoto Region
Hon. L.T. Tobias



Erongo Region
Hon. G.N. Shitaleni



Caprivi Region
Hon. B.S. Sibalatani



Caprivi Region
Hon. S.C. Sipapela



Kunene Region
Hon. I.P. Kapenambili



Kunene Region
Hon. B.P. Shekutamba



Kunene Region
Hon. N.M. Muremi



Kunene Region
Hon. R.K. Kavara



Kunene Region
Hon. K.Z. Tjeundo



Kunene Region
Hon. H. Gaobaeb

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

- The National Council was established in terms of Chapter 8 of the Namibian Constitution.
- The National Council consists of twenty-six (26) voting members.
- Each of the thirteen (13) Regions elects two (2) regional councillors from its Regional Council to represent it in the National Council.
- The National Council members are elected to represent territorial constituencies and expected to raise regional concerns during debates on legislation.
- Members of the National Council serve for five (5) years and are eligible for re-election.
- The Chairperson of the National Council chairs debates and ensures parliamentary business is conducted according to the prescribed rules and orders.
- Hon. Asser Kapere is the current Chairperson of the National Council and Hon. Margreth Mensah-Williams is the Deputy Chairperson.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

- Consider bills passed by the National Assembly.
- Investigate, report and advise the National Assembly on legislation, reports and documents referred to it by the National Assembly.
- Recommend legislation on matters of regional concern for the consideration of the National Assembly.
- The National Council has the power to establish committees for the purpose of scrutinising legislation and holding public hearings.

THE LAW MAKING PROCESS

- A proposal for a law is called a bill.
- A bill can be suggested by government or members of parliament in their private capacity, this is known as a private Member's bill.
- During the First Reading the bill is tabled, or introduced, in the National Assembly and becomes a public document.
- The National Assembly debates the bill during the Second Reading and sends it to a committee (the committee stage) to consider all the details of the bill and make recommendations.
- The bill is then referred back to the National Assembly for the Third Reading after which it is considered passed by the National Assembly and it is sent to the National Council for review.
- Although the National Council may pass the Bill with the amendments, the National Council can reject these if two-thirds of its members vote against them.
- A bill passed by the parliament can only become a law if it has been signed by the President and published in the Government Gazette.