



Parliament

Journal





LtR Hon. Magret. Mensah-Williams (Vice Chair Person of the National Council) and Hon. Dr. Moses Amwelo, Hon. Heiko Lucks (in the back row) and the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab attending 129th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

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President Jacob Zuma (left) welcomed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab at Parliament on November 7, 2013.

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From the Editors Desk

New IPU global database on women's caucuses in parliament – Want to know more about how women MPs are organising themselves in parliaments around the world? IPU has launched a [new global database on women's caucuses in parliament](#) to capture such information in one useful place. The database is a unique tool that provides a global, regional and national perspective on how women MPs have succeeded in coming together to tackle issues in ways that transcend their political differences.

The database, available in English and French, lists information about 79 women's caucuses that exist so far in 189 national parliaments, with names, links and contacts to the groups. Different search criteria filters are available to obtain information on countries, regions, dates, structure, composition, agenda and rules.

Produced with financial support from [USAID](#), [Irish Aid](#) and the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#), the database is to be used in conjunction with IPU's ["Guidelines for Women's Caucuses"](#).

The Guidelines provide a rationale for why caucuses play a decisive role in the development and implementation of laws and policies on important gender issues, as well as practical information on the steps required to set up and run a successful caucus. (Source: IPU News Release, January 2014)

DR. GURIRAB SPEAKS ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

• Vincent Sinalumbu

Namibia is preparing to go to the polls for general and presidential elections late next year. This should be seen as one of the major government steps in preparation for elections to ensure that all political parties have included women in their party lists from the top and not just at the end of the list. This view was expressed by the Speaker of the National Assembly in his speech read on his behalf by the Minister of Gender and Child Welfare, Rosalia Nghidinwa during the official opening of

the conference on Women in Politics and Decision Making in Namibia on November 22, 2013 in Walvis Bay.

The topics discussed at the conference amongst others were: Setting the Agenda for Gender Equality in Political Parties and National Parliaments; Presentation on Understanding Gender Inequality in Political Power Relations in History; Gender Dimension of Experience in Parliament and Political Parties; Understanding Women's Participation In Politics and Decision Making: The Case of Namibia's 2009 Elections. The topic on policy and legislative strategies that work to accelerate 50/50 was

presented by Hon. Jesse Majome from the Parliament of Zimbabwe.

The opening ceremony was attended by Hon. Anne Makinda, the Speaker of the National Assembly for the United Republic of Tanzania; Hon. Jesse Majome (MP) from Zimbabwe; Members of Parliament; governors; representatives from various political parties; Ms. Eunice Lipinge, deputy secretary of the Swapo Party Women's Council (SPWC); Ms. Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela: Head of SADC Gender Unit, Prof. Joseph Diescho, the National Institute of Public Administration and Management (Nipam) Executive Director; representatives from the Council of Churches in Namibia and representatives from Institutions of Higher Learning.

OPENING STATEMENT BY HON. THEO-BEN GURIRAB SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

I am honoured to be invited to this important conference for Women in Politics and Decision Making in Namibia and to officially open the conference. I should thank colleagues from Tanzania, Zimbabwe and representatives from SADC Secretariat and IDEA International who besides their busy schedule have come to share their vast experience with us. As Namibia we value and appreciate your presence.

This conference has come at the right time as Namibia is preparing to go to the polls for general and presidential elections late next year. And this should be seen as one of the major government steps in preparation for elections to ensure that all political parties have drafted women in their party lists from the top and not just somewhere at the end of the list. Gone are the days when men put themselves in the top 10 favourable positions and leave women lower in the list unable to make it anywhere. We all see that in cases where parties do not get many seats, women are left out and only men march to Parliament.

Namibia cannot continue to speak about equal representation of men and women in politics and decision making without walking the talk. There is no way we can avoid change in our coun-



Hon. Rosalia Nghidinwa delivering a speech on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab.



Participants at the Conference on Women in Politics and Decision Making in Namibia, (second from left) Hon. Juliet Kavetuna the Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture (on the right) Hon. Paulus Kapia, MP.

try anymore. We have even made it clear internationally that we are committed to gender equality. We did this by ratifying international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), African Union (AU) Charter on Persons' and Human Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development with a target of equal leadership representation of men and women by 2015. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to be achieved by 2015 also promotes empowerment of women and equality between men and women and the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality. In terms of Article 144 of the Namibian Constitution, these instruments are binding and they form part of the laws of Namibia. Our National Gender Policy (2010-2020) and Vision 2030 are also calling for gender equality and equity between men and women. This shows that all legal frameworks are in place and all we need is to put them in practice. Namibia was doing very well until the last elections when the number of women in Parliament fell from 30% to 25%. Therefore we have to work very hard to ensure that Namibia adheres to the SADC Protocol on Gender and

Development that we willingly signed on 17 August 2008 and ratified on 7 October 2009 which requires women in leadership and decision making to be at 50%.

It is not something to be negotiated for women to be part of the decision making at all levels of society. When we look at the Namibian 2011 Population and Housing Census Report, we see that 51% of the Namibian population are women. Despite the fact that women are in the majority, they are still poorly represented at all state elected structures, even though Namibia has a progressive law on Affirmative Action which positively discriminates in favour of women in appointments. If women are excluded from decision making, it means their needs are not catered for, and it is only them who know how they want to be served. To give an example, men would not think that it is important to include budgetary provisions for sanitary services for girls in the budget when the education ministry is preparing its budget. We all know our strength and weaknesses as a country. How many families in our remote rural areas can afford sanitary pads for their growing girls? This is just one of the many serious gender issues that as men we do not put in mind. For those who are blessed with girls

you know what I am talking about. Men or fathers may not even know because girls would only tell their mothers, aunts and sisters.

Inequality in any nation makes people unhappy and when you have unhappy citizens expect a revolution. I want to tell fellow men that there are misunderstandings among us that women want too much power and want to take it from men. This is not the case. Women are saying let us share equal and not to take over.

For example, in Namibia we are not happy, because we fought for the land and we do not yet have the land. All of us agree that there is inequality and that the land must be distributed fairly. On this one issue we all agree. So, why do we find it difficult when women say that gender inequality is unacceptable and that equal representation is needed at every level of decision making? Will this not make work much easier when the burden is shared? It is only when it comes to remunerated work that some men think that women want power, but they are blind to wisdom, knowledge, expertise and multi-tasking benefits that women would bring in the equation, which is currently lacking in many boardrooms.

We should however give credit to some Namibian political parties that

have taken it upon themselves to change their constitutions and manifestos to accommodate women and to leave lip service in the past. We also wish that our electoral laws would follow suit to make it a law that zebra style or whatever mechanism should be put in place to compel political parties to present political party lists that have equal representation for men and women.

I am sure all of us participants here from all registered political parties in Namibia will learn a lot from this conference, which I am sure, would give us an idea how to go about our politicking.

The objectives of the Conference are very clear and I wish at the end of this conference that good and implementable recommendations would come out to assist us in moving forward with the agenda of gender equality and women empowerment.

I would like to thank you all for overwhelmingly attending the Conference on Women in Politics and Decision Making in Namibia. The theme of the conference should not be misunderstood that it is a conference for women only, but the theme indicates the importance of discussing the involvement of women in politics and decision making. As a result I expect active participation of all participants men and women at this conference.

Recommendations from the Conference on Women in Politics and Decision Making in Namibia.

- The MGECW with relevant Offices, Ministries and Agencies (O/M/As) should ensure that the electoral law incorporates among other aspects, legislation on the 50/50 provision to require all political parties to comply, provide for a zebra listing of women and men candidates at the local, regional and parliamentary levels as well as consider increasing seats in parliament as appropriate.
- All political parties should review and amend their respective constitutions to provide for women's representation in all their structures as well as mainstream gender perspec-

tives in manifestos and programmes including providing for equal leadership training opportunities for women and men, girls and boys.

- All stakeholders should put in place mechanisms to foster an environment that is conducive for the advancement of women within and across political parties, civil society, the public and private sectors including working with religious bodies, traditional authorities and gender activists to advance women's role in leadership and decision making.
- Government Offices, Ministries, Agencies, State Owned Enterprises and private sector should develop and implement guidelines to ensure 50/50 representation in their decision making structures.
- Government should consider providing incentives, including funding to political parties that comply with the 50/50 system of representation for women and men.
- The MGECW should together with relevant O/M/As and stakeholders design an awareness programme on Namibia's national, regional and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment, especially targeting grassroots rural women, men, girls and boys and in particular creatively utilise media to conduct public awareness campaigns especially on the 50/50 provision as envisioned by the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development including encouraging more women to take up training on vocational skills, in other male dominated fields and in politics.
- The MGECW and stakeholders should conduct research including undertaking gender audits on the implementation of international instruments on gender equality, document progress made and compliance as well as provide platforms for sharing information on international, regional and national experiences.
- The MGECW, MOF and stakeholders should strengthen women's economic empowerment through various mechanisms including reviewing requirements for accessing credit, providing guidelines to women's access to preferential procurement and markets and strengthening the implementation of gender responsive budgeting, mainstreaming gender perspectives in planning, major economic undertakings and in all sectors in Namibia.
- The MGECW and stakeholders should mobilise human, financial and other necessary resources to support programmes and activities for promoting the advancement of



Participants at the Conference on Women in Politics and Decision Making in Namibia

women in leadership and decision making as well as monitor and evaluate implementation.

CLOSING REMARKS BY HONOURABLE ROSALIA NGHIDINWA

Today is Sunday and as a Christian Nation, we need to bow our heads and ask for forgiveness from our Almighty God. He is the one who creates the world and everything in the universe. He is the one who created Human beings, Men and Women to rule the World. He gives us 10 Commandments to guide us and the biggest one is to love one another. One of the Ten Commandments reminds us to rest on the Seventh day from our work. But because of circumstances beyond our control we are here today. Amb. Dr. Samuel Mbambo, the pastor and the Governor of the twin Regions; Kavango East and West has been requested to pray for us. Thanks Dr. Mbambo.

On the first day of this conference, the first presenter gave us the hints on challenges and discriminations faced by Women in the Old Testament, the New Testament as well as some cultural harmful practices discriminated women and the girl child in the World, Africa and in Namibia.

The same people from such background realised that discrimination against women and children will not address the needs of women in the society, as it promotes poverty and unemployment among others. They realised the wrongs of the past and came up with Gender Equality as a powerful solution, to balance roles of both men and women and to uplift their standard of life on the globe.

We have learned and shared experiences throughout this conference about multiple challenges faced by women on the way to occupy their rightful and political and decision making positions at all levels. We have also learned about how we can overcome the challenges and improve women's representation in leadership and decision making at all levels. We have shared experiences on how we can contribute to the advancement of gender equality in political parties,

Parliament and leadership positions in public and private sectors.

The SADC Member states created a Gender Unit to spearhead the implementation of Gender Equality in the region. Namibia as part of the UN, AU, and the SADC family signed and rectified the protocol on Gender and Development which calls for 50:50 representation in decision making. In 1990 Namibia established the Department of Women and Child Welfare in the Office of the President to advocate for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in order to redress the inequality and imbalances between men and women. Both, the Founding President and the Father of the Nation Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma and the current sitting President Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba are vocal on the issue of Gender Equality. Under the leadership of the visiting President, as Head of State, the President of the Republic of Namibia and President of Swapo, the Party amended the Swapo Party Constitution, which was launched on the 26 August 2013 on the Heroes day at Omugulu Gwombashe in Omusati Region.

It was a historical event that moved the lives of people in Namibia and across the borders. Therefore what we were doing here in this conference is consultation between the Ministry and Stakeholders to assist the Government through the Ministry of Gender Equality to implement its mandate to honour the above mentioned commitments of Heads of States.

The Honorable Minister of Finance, pledges to Mainstream Gender in the National budget, which will speed up the mainstreaming of gender to all line Ministries. Such pledges will address the imbalances of National resources against women and the girl child. The issue of maternity leave, property rights including land and gender issues were discussed in depth. Some challenges hindering women to be part of economic emancipation which is the biggest male dominated space and collateral implications were put on the table and special remedies were suggested such as Special Development Fund (SDF), and a Special Window for Women (SWW), to allow women to

access soft loans and improve their standard of lives so as to contribute to the socio-economic status of the country. Skills development for women, girls and boys at different levels by all institutions is the key to promote Gender Equality.

The Head of the SADC-Gender Unit reminded us of the process of the SADC Protocol where we started, where we are today and how we will reach there and she reminded us that the due date is knocking to our doors.

Therefore Gender Equality is not to be seen as for the line Ministry alone or a personal issue as I observed from some presenters and other stakeholders. It doesn't have any hidden agenda but it is a multiple task. It is our responsibility as Government and all stakeholders invited here, be it in Namibia, in the SADC region and across the Continent of Africa, to ensure Gender Equality is implemented.

Gender Equality is part of our National Developmental Programmes and Vision 2030.

Your presence here, the Hon. Members of Parliament, the Experts from neighboring countries, Hon. Governors, Hon. Regional and Local Councillors, NGO's Civil organisations, Experts from Higher Tertiary Educational Institutions, Professors, Political Analyses, Staff Members from Government, Private Sectors and Media your attendance and contribution will make a difference.

On behalf of the Ministry of Gender Equality, I would like to express my gratitude for your contributions which will help us fulfill our mandate to promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment and the implementation of the Protocol on Gender and development in Namibia.

Media play a vital role in disseminating the information to the entire nation, I therefore would like to urge you to share such information widely to educate the nation on Gender Equality and empowerment of women.

May we go down in history as people who have left a legacy of equality in the Namibian nation that our children will be proud of.

Together we can make it.

NGHIDINWA LAUNCHES GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) CAMPAIGN

• Vincent Sinalumbu

Gender based violence in Namibia has risen drastically, women are murdered, girls and children are being raped and physically abused. In an effort to sensitise the nation on this disturbing issue, Hon. Rosalia Nghidinwa, the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare on 24 November 2013 launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in Walvis Bay.

Before reading her Statement, a minute of silence was observed in remembrance of all those who succumbed due to Gender Based Violence in our country.

"I am honoured to be with all stakeholders at commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence which is commemorated every year from the 25th November to 10th December. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence is an international campaign that originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991, as a women movement. Participants chose the dates November 25; International Day Against Violence against Women to 10th December; the Inter-

national Human Rights Day - in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre where the lives of 14 innocent women were taken," she stated.

She said the 16 Days Campaign has been used internationally as an organising strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at local, national, regional and international levels;
- strengthening local work around violence against women;
- establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women;
- providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies;
- demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing

against violence against women.

"During this period, Namibia joins the globe to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender Based Violence to make people aware of the negative effects of violence on women and children and to act against the violence under the theme: "From Peace in the Home to Peace in Namibia: Lets Unite to end Violence against Women and Children". Every year, Government and Civil Society Organisations work together to broaden the impact of the campaign," she stressed.

Nghidinwa is concerned about the Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Namibia that is on the increase, women are murdered; girls and children are being raped and physically abused. Cases of GBV reported to the Namibian police are still frightening and therefore there is a need for the Ministry of Gender Equality to join the team of men and women network and to be in all the corners of the country, to educate the communities on the danger of GBV.

She said that to curb this GBV phenomenon, the Government of the Republic of Namibia initiated several strategies including the enactment of GBV related laws such as the Combating of Rape Act No. 8 of 2000 and Combating of Domestic Violence Act No. 4 of 2003. A National Advisory Committee on GBV was established in 2008 and launched by President Hifikepunye Pohamba with the aim of advising Cabinet through the MGE CW on the best possible strategies to deal with GBV. This committee spearheaded the development of the National Plan of Action on Gender Based Violence, aiming at reducing the incidences of Gender Based Violence and Improving Responses to Gender Based Violence.

"To create more awareness country-wide, a National Media Campaign on Zero Tolerance for GBV was launched. The campaign focuses on three main issues: baby dumping, human trafficking and brutal killing of women. The campaign is ongoing and materials in different languages are being distributed countrywide," she further said.

Hon. Nghidinwa commended the efforts of all partners and stakeholders for the extensive efforts they put in, every year on 16 Days campaigns and beyond and reminded the participants that violence and abuse against women and children are more than crimes that can derail a nation in its tracks of development.



L t R: The governor of Khomas Region, Hon. Laura McCloud-Katjirua, Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Hon. Rosalia Nghidinwa and the Head of Gender in the SADC Secretariat at the launch of Gender Based Violence campaign.

CLIMATE CHANGE: A NEW UNIVERSAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT

- Brian Riruako & Protasius Nghileende

With 195 member countries, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 192 countries of the UNFCCC. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialised countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments.

During 2012 in Doha, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes the second commitment period under the Protocol. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

The main objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to prevent further increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to the level that interferes with natural assimilative capacity that stabilise the atmospheric capacity to assimilate greenhouse gas emissions.

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP19) that was held from 11-23 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland attracted approximately fifteen thousand (15000) delegates from 195 countries. The COP19 conference was used as a platform to see whether the multilateral approach to fight climate change works or not, whether climate change can be solved now, later or never and to determine whether or not the future generations will enjoy the same ecosystem amenities as the current ones.

The President of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP19) Mr. Marcin Korolec said, "Warsaw has set

a pathway for governments to work on a draft text of a new Universal Climate Agreement so that it appears on the table at the next UN Climate Change Conference in Peru during 2014. This is an essential step to reach a final agreement in Paris in 2015".

As for 2015, countries decided to intensify domestic preparations for their intended national contributions towards the Universal Agreement, which will come into force during 2020. Parties that are ready to do so will submit clear and transparent plans well in advance for COP 21 that will take place in Paris during the first quarter of 2015.

Countries resolved to close the pre-2020 ambition gap by intensifying technical work and more frequent engagement of Ministers responsible for climate change. Participants also decided to establish an international mechanism to provide most vulnerable populations with better protection against loss and damage caused by extreme weather events and slow onset events such as rising sea levels. Detailed work on the so-called "Warsaw international mechanism for loss

and damage" will begin this year.

Mrs. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) said "We have seen essential progress. But let us again be clear that we are witnessing ever more frequent, extreme weather events, and the poor and vulnerable are already paying the price. Now governments, and especially developed nations, must go back to do their homework so they can put their plans on the table ahead of the Paris conference," she stressed.

In addition, governments provided more clarity on mobilising finance to support actions of developing countries to curb emissions and adapt to climate change. This includes requesting developed countries to prepare biennial submissions on their updated strategies and approaches for scaling up finance between 2014 and 2020.

The Warsaw meeting also resulted in concrete announcements of forthcoming contributions of public climate finance to support activities of developing countries from Norway, United Kingdom, European Union, United States, Republic of Korea, Japan, Sweden, Germany and Finland.

Meanwhile, the Green Climate Fund Board is to commence its initial resource mobilisation process as soon as possible and developed countries were asked for ambitious, timely contributions by COP 20 to be held in December 2014 to enable an effective operationalisation.



Front row (l to r): Hon. Cletius Sipapela and Hon. Dr. Moses Amweelo Back row (l to r): Hon. Johannes Nakwafila, Mr Protasius Nghileende (staff) and Hon. Jesaya Nyamu attending the UNFCCC in Warsaw, Poland.

The Minister of Environment and Tourism Hon. Uahekua Herunga expressed Namibia's solidarity with the people of the Philippines over human and property losses caused by typhoon Haiyan. "The Republic of Namibia would like to express its deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the People and Government of the Philippines for this irrevocable loss. Namibia stands side by side with the Philippine people at this difficult time," he told the gathering.

Furthermore, Hon. Herunga told the gathering that "COP19 has come and will soon pass. It should not only enable us to discuss global environmental challenges our world faces, but more importantly, it should pave way to key decisions that would put climate change action at the fore-front of all developmental processes and giving hope to our future generations," the Minister said.

Herunga believes that in order to achieve a comprehensive new agreement under the Durban Platform, there is a need for science-based approach to disentangle and unfold conceptual and statistical aspects underpinning issues related to historical responsibility, equity and respective capability. As Parties to the convention, countries have established the IPCC to provide them with science based policy information. This body, will bridge the scientific information gap and with utmost urgency.

The Minister reminded Parties that it was the 19th COP: "This means that we have been negotiating for 19 years. Therefore, it is the hope of the citizens of the world that 19 years down the line, we should have better addressed the challenges and well equipped

ourselves to better deal with climate change. However, the opposite seems to be manifesting. The Green Climate Fund, which we regarded as an ideal beginning to address the finance aspect for climate change remains dry. The question that comes to mind is: Where are we heading with this process?" he remarked.

Namibia and the world needed to move forward and effectively implement the UNFCCC's decisions. The views of delegates at COP19 were to put words into action. Climate change has no border; it affects all citizens on earth. The cost of inaction to adequately, address climate change will haunt all countries. The time to take meaningful and proactive steps against the adverse impacts of climate change was now. This is a defining moment of whether or not lives of the future generations could be saved on this Planet. It was for this reason, and most importantly, that Warsaw should therefore deliver to a World Decision that saves lives. Hon Herunga stressed.

"Climate change is a very sensitive issue both in terms of environmental, economic, social and political dimension. The world is at the stage of defining moment on the future of climate stabilisation. This needs decisive and urgent global leadership without further procrastination and reservation. There is a need to act to ensure the continuity of life on this planet. As parties move toward setting up the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), countries must put aside their sense of greediness of power and wealth aside and tackle these major environmental threats that underpin the achievement of sustainable development, he concluded.

On deforestation, the President of the COP19 Conference Mr. Marcin Korolec said: "I am proud of this concrete accomplishment. We are all aware of the central role that forests play as carbon sinks, climate stabilisers and biodiversity havens. Through our negotiations we have made a significant contribution to forest preservation and sustainable use which will benefit the people who live in and around them and humanity and the planet as a whole. And I am proud that this instrument was named the Warsaw Framework for REDD+," he said.

On his part, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reiterated his invitation to all governments, and leaders from finance, business, local government and civil society to a climate summit in New York on 23 September 2014. This will be a solutions summit, complementing the UNFCCC negotiations. "I ask all who come to bring bold and new announcements and action. By early 2015, we need those promises to add up to enough real action to keep us below the internationally agreed two degree temperature rise," he concluded.

The Warsaw Conference came up with the following key outcomes:

- commitment to enter into a new climate agreement by 2015,
- The establishment of the Warsaw Mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts and,
- Climate financing arrangements, including arrangements for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and long-term financing.

CWP AFRICA REGION CHAIRPERSON VISITS SEYCHELLES

• Anethe Mtambanengwe

The newly elected Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Region Chairperson, Hon. Lucia

Witbooi, attended the launch of the CWP Seychelles Chapter in Mahe, Seychelles on 28th September 2013. The Chairperson was invited by the Parliament of Seychelles to attend and address the participants and also to observe the proceedings of the 14th Commonwealth Speakers' and Presiding Officers' Conference (CSPOC).

Hon. Witbooi was elected in this position at the CWP Africa Region Business Meeting on 24 July 2013, during the 44th CPA Africa Region Conference held in Windhoek, and will be the Chairperson for the CWP until 2016. Her duties as the Chairperson include but not limited to ensuring that all



Hon. Lucia Basson

CPA Africa Sub-Regions establish local CWP Chapters in their countries, presides over CWP Africa Steering Committee Meetings; represents CWP on the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee; represents CPA Africa Region on the International CWP Steering Committee; ensures the execution of the CWP Strategic Plan; ensures gender-mainstreaming into the CPA activities and programmes.

The objectives of the CWP network is to strengthen the capacity and skills of women elected to Parliament; develop the capacity of all Parliamentarians to include a gender perspective in all aspects; and to help legislatures transform into gender sensitive institutions.

In her address at the CWP Seychelles Chapter launch, Hon. Witbooi congratulated the Parliament of Seychelles for the progress they have made and for the example that they have set by being the second Parliament within Commonwealth Africa with the highest women representation in Parliament. The women representation in the Parliament of Seychelles stands at 43.8%. She pointed out that with this percentage achieved;

the Parliament of Seychelles is getting closer to fully realizing the 50/50 target of women representation as set out in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The Chairperson highlighted with pride to the audience that Rwanda has just increased its women representation in Parliament from 56.3% to 64%; with Seychelles in the second position, whereas South Africa is in the third position by 42.3%. These are the top three Parliaments in terms of women representation in the CPA Africa Region.

"In Namibia women representation stands at 25.7% in the current Parliament. However, in August 2013 the ruling Swapo Party took a far-reaching decision by amending its Constitution to provide for 50/50 gender representation in all its decision-making structures. As a matter of fact this decision did not come on a silver platter but through persistent efforts of the women of Namibia, within and outside the Swapo Party. This decision will most definitely have a major impact on the gender composition of the next Namibian Parliament," Witbooi stressed.

Hon. Witbooi assured the partici-

pants that she will prioritise the implementation of the CWP Strategic Plan; specifically the establishment of CWP Chapters within the Africa Region. During her three-year tenure as Chairperson of the CWP Africa Region, she will work tirelessly for the establishment of CWP Chapters at all National Parliaments. In pursuing this noble task, she will visit all national Parliaments where no CWP Chapters exist and engage with fellow women Parliamentarians and lobby the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the various Parliaments to play an active supportive role by encouraging the women MPs to launch CWP Chapters. She strongly believes that Speakers and Presiding Officers can play a crucial role when it comes to creating awareness about gender equality and women emancipation.

"I would like to thank all the African Leaders who initiated and supported the emancipation of women and pushed for their presence at the tables where ideas are discussed and important decisions taken," Witbooi concluded.

CLIMATE CHANGE: POINT OF NO RETURN

- Hon. Dr Moses Amweelo

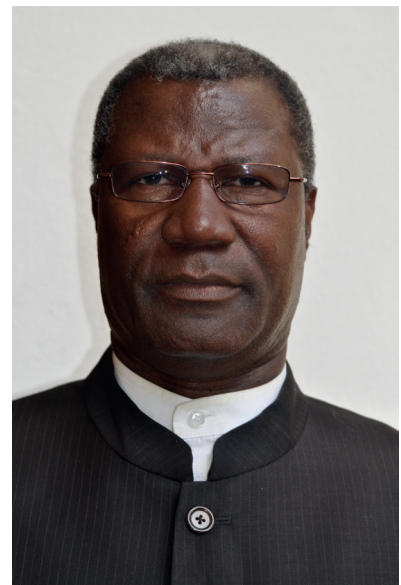
If the world continues to burn coal, oil and gas at alarming rates, it may lead so quickly reaching a point of no return for preventing the worst impacts of climate change. The appetite for burning these dangerous fossil fuels increases, despite years of warnings from climate scientists that continued burning and high levels of carbon dioxide emissions will course catastrophic climate change. According to the fifth assessment report of the intergovernmental panel on climate change, the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years.

Carbon dioxide concentrations have increased by 40 percent since pre-in-

dustrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emissions. The ocean has absorbed about 30 percent of the emitted anthropogenic carbon dioxide, causing ocean acidification. If the world does not take action to replace coal, oil and gas with renewable energy, it will face a future turned upside down by climate change.

The science is very clear that human influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes. Greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are warming the Earth and causing changes in the global climate. These changes are having increasingly severe human, economic and environmental impacts and will continue to do so over the coming decades.

The Kyoto Protocol is a first step towards limiting greenhouse gas emissions, but to stop global warming from reaching dangerous levels Kyoto needs to be succeeded by a stronger United Nations agreement involving climate



Hon. Dr. Moses Amweelo.

action by all major economies. It has been agreed that this framework will be adopted by 2015 and take effect from 2020. Heat waves are very likely to occur more frequently and last longer. As the earth warms, currently wet regions are expected to receive more rainfall, and dry regions to receive

less, although there may be regional expectations. As the ocean warms, and glaciers and ice sheets reduce global mean sea level will continue to rise, but at a faster rate than experienced over the past 40 years. The Durban agreement of 2011 opened a new phase of the international negotiations that was just as important as that of the 1992 Rio Conference and the Kyoto Protocol. Last year's Conference in Doha allowed the finalisation of the means of implementation for the second period of commitment in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol for the 2013-2020 period. The negotiations are nevertheless currently suffering from the heavy legacy of unresolved issues and subjects that have been endlessly put off.

This has fed the frustration, particularly in the developing countries, and has made it increasingly difficult to meet the objective of 2 degrees. These difficulties will need to be overcome in the future, if we are to move forward. The 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) to the UNFCCC and the 9th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) being held on 11-12 November 2013 in Warsaw, were therefore part of an international agenda to shake up the priorities. Warsaw has set a pathway for governments to work on a draft text of a new universal climate agreement so it appears on the table at the next UN Climate change conference next year which will take place in Peru.

In the context of 2015, countries decided to initiate or intensify domestic preparation for their intended national contributions towards that

agreement, which will come into force from 2020. Parties ready to do this will submit clear and transparent plans well in advance of COP 21, in Paris, and by the first quarter of 2015. The Warsaw meeting also resulted in concrete announcements of forthcoming contributions of public climate finance to support developing countries' action. Meanwhile, the Green Climate Fund Board is to commence its initial resource mobilisation process as soon as possible and developed countries were asked for ambitious, timely contributions by COP 20, in December, next year, to enable an effective operationalisation.

The question is what can we do in order to reduce the impact of climate change? The governments need to introduce policy on climate change and guidance for the development and implementation. Namibia has developed national climate change policies, strategies and as well as action plans to both adapt to and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. One of the areas we need to be considered the most is with regard to deforestation and forest degradation because it accounts for around 10 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing these emissions through the conservation and restoration of forests is critical for efforts to mitigate climate change.

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation plus enhancing forest carbon stocks) was introduced as a fresh, new approach to forest protection: it set out to create a system whereby forest users would receive financial incentives to conserve, restore and sustain-

ably manage forest resources. Today's agreements included a significant set of decisions on ways to help developing countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and the degradation of forests, which account for around one fifth of all human-generated emissions. The Warsaw Framework for REDD+ is backed by pledges of 280 million dollars financing from the US, Norway and the UK. President Korolec said: "I am proud of this concrete accomplishment. We are all aware of the central role that forests play as carbon sinks, climate stabilisers and biodiversity havens. Through our negotiations we have made a significant contribution to forest preservation and sustainable use which will benefit the people who live in and around them and humanity and the planet as a whole. And I am proud that this instrument was named the Warsaw Framework for REDD+." Much more needs to be done over the coming two years to achieve the ambitious agreement necessary to keep the global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius. To further increase global ambition and advance concrete climate action, the Secretary-General looks forward to hosting a Climate Summit in September 2014. He has asked world leaders, as well as leaders from business, finance, local government and civil society, to bring bold announcements and actions that will lead to significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions and strengthened adaptation and resilience efforts.

**Dr Moses Amweelo is a former Minister of Works and Transport and currently a Swapo MP.*

EFFECTIVE CARBON EMISSION CONTROL STRATEGIES NEEDED IN NAMIBIA

- Clemence Tashaya

Greenhouse gas emitting industries such a mining, manufacturing and construction should scale up voluntary and verifiable action on limiting Namibia's carbon footprint, low as it is, or be forced to care for the environment.

Such efforts may represent initiatives

to offset carbons from polluting firms, which they could be incentivised for. If voluntary actions prove difficult, other options to ensure compliance can be pursued. The carbon tax currently levied on the automobile industry could be expanded to target economic sectors already mentioned plus others. Though this tax may sound extreme vis



Mr. Clemence Tashaya

a vis the country's low emission levels, it remains an option. These strategies and more, if implemented effectively, may be very useful for designing a Namibian environment management regime capable of delivering sufficient climate change response action.

To be effective, similar environmental policies must ensure mandatory reporting from companies, providing periodic updates on progress made towards limiting emissions and management of other resources such as water and land. Research has also shown that policies with flexible designs, which provide companies with choices on how to achieve certain environmental targets, could be effective in reducing environmental degradation that feeds into the cycle of climate change. Several of these factors are lacking in Namibia, despite the existence of an Environmental Law and Policy which is a law and policy that target to enforce sustainable environmental management practices at both individual and corporate level.

Numerous companies in Namibia still cause widespread pollution especially in regions such as Zambezi, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions in its different forms and get away with it. If caught, the fines meted out are a pittance; they don't do enough to discourage environmental harm. As a journalist with a passion in writing about environmental issues in Namibia, I have never heard of or rather seen a company which was fined for water pollution. The biggest challenge may be lack of sector-defined emission data. When available, it would be easy to effect traceable limits of carbon emissions on companies. Carbon markets expert and the Commissioner for Environment in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Theo Nghitila, said it is crucial to have a friendly environmental strategy in place even when the country's overall carbon emissions were within fair limits for a developing nation such as Namibia. He said corporates should be encouraged to "invest in carbon offsets or climate friendly projects while reducing emissions up until a time that the Namibian government and all responsible stakeholders see the need to pass legislation that makes it mandatory to offset carbon. But there would have to be a cap system on the amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted."

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), Namibian Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission from trans-

portation from 1991 to 2011, the average value for Namibia during that period was 1, 1 million tones with a minimum of 0.47 million metric tons in 1991 and a maximum of 1.76 million metric tons in 2011. Carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂), a kilogram costs US \$ 1 GDP.

Limiting greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide, will minimise the impact of climate change and global warming on people and the earth. Scientists blame these gases for causing the rapid increase in the earth's surface temperatures, extreme weather conditions such as droughts, floods, heat waves and cold. Global food security has also come under severe stress from climate change, especially in Namibia and other parts of the Southern Africa region where hunger and famine are widespread. Several people have died of famine in the SADC region and indeed in other regions of Africa. In Somalia, in 2013, millions of others are starving.

"There is an opportunity the carbon tax and it could be extended to cover sectors such as mining," said Abraham Hangula, an energy expert at the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEEI) at the Polytechnic of Namibia, but it would need to be administered efficiently and properly for it to be effective. "If the tax is extended to other sectors, there is need to identify the measures that the sectors can take to reduce emissions," he said.

"In the mining sector, for example, emissions are from fuel combustion as well as from mineral processing such as conversion of limestone to lime or cement or the extraction of coal where the trapped methane and carbon dioxide are released. Mining companies in Namibia could reduce waste and improve mineral recovery depending on how tax is applied."

Abraham Hangula added; "It is also very important to build in some kind of target so that the Namibian industries should have an idea of the expected performance. Once the expectations are agreed and communicated to the industry, a tax could be instituted as both an incentive and penalty. What we need to build into the targets are local benefits such as fuel efficiency, mineral recovery and the general protection of the environment hence the carbon tax would be structured to match these objectives.

The Namibian Environmental Law and Policy has all the legal elements but just needs the technical instru-

ments to operationalise the policy.

Carbon emissions in Namibia are not high, but they are happening. Record keeping effective carbon emission control strategies needs to be put in place. Record keeping is poor, with no ready emission records on a sector basis. This makes the job of emission regulations tough and yet it needs to be done. According to the Carbon Dioxide Analysis centre of the US, Namibia produced 1, 76 million metric tons in 2011, mainly from burning fossil fuel and production of cement. This figure does not include emissions from land use, agriculture and deforestation in the two Kavango regions and Zambezi region. The number has increased because of the increased industrialisation. The highest emitting year was in 2009.

Most of the pollution in the world from greenhouse emission takes place in the US, China, UK, Japan, France, Canada, Australia and Europe. Russia, India and Brazil emit baldy. Africa represents only a small fraction of all greenhouse emissions in the world, producing just fewer than 4 percent. Moreover, most of Africa's emissions come from Libya, South Africa, the Seychelles, Reunion and most North Africa. Over the past 60 years, Africa's greenhouse emissions have risen to 1 200 percent to 311 million metric tones in 2008 mostly due to the rapid growth of industrialisation according to the UN statistics. Yet, the damage from climate change has been felt more on the continent than anywhere else. While Namibia's emissions remain low, a suite of integrated approaches and measures are needed to ensure the country does not depart from the path of sustainable development.

To achieve this, Abraham Hangula suggested the need for increased climate change awareness, as well as implementation of effective carbon emission and environmental control strategies. He said it is important to "start building capacity in various sectors and create a climate change agenda or policy that can be corporately adopted and adhered to. Regulation is fundamental and lines will have to be drawn on who does what, where and how. There is a need to develop a system which makes it not only profitable to be involved in sustainable development projects but also worthwhile," said Hangula.

PRESIDENT ZUMA ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT

• Ndahafa Kaukungua

President Zuma's address to a Joint Session of Parliament on the 7th of November 2013 was a reaffirmation of the strong solidarity between Namibia and South Africa that dates back during the respective countries' struggle for independence from the apartheid regime. His Excellency Zuma reiterated his gratitude for the honour "as well as the warmth with which we have been received in this House of Members of Parliament who represents the dreams of the Namibian nation, underscores the deep historical ties that connect South Africa and Namibia."

The two countries do not only share solidarity bonds but strong economic ties too. In order to elevate the relations, the two countries concluded the inaugural session of the Bi-national Commission transforming the Heads of State Economic Bilateral Forum (HOSEB) into a fully-fledged Bi-national Commission (BNC). The BNC will lay a firm foundation for the optimal utilisation of the signed agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, provide political and strategic leadership and guidance to the bilateral co-operation and partnership between the two countries. President Zuma said, Namibia and South Africa cooperate on a wide range of areas, including, but not limited to, energy, trade and industries, transport, environment, water, communications, education, science and technology, mining, agriculture, security and tourism.

"Progress has been achieved in many of these areas and we commit ourselves to further deepen our bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit of our respective countries and peoples," Zuma stressed.

Concerning the economic ties between the two countries, a number of South African companies are involved in the Namibian economy in a variety of sectors. These include construction, mining, housing, retail, food and beverages, hotels and leisure, banking, medical services, etc. He reiterated his be-



President Jacob Zuma

lief that these companies will continue to make a contribution to building a strong Namibian economy with the end result of job creation, skills transfer and growth.

The South Africa Head of State acknowledged that Namibia is an important player in the Southern African region and stressed that there is a need for the two countries to continue to forge a common position on regional, continental and international issues for the mutual benefit of both countries and the Continent at large. He also congratulated Namibia for assuming the Chair of the SADC Organ Troika on Politics Defence and Security. "Consequently, as a region we thank and commend Namibia for the manner in which she has led the SADC Election Observer Mission to the Republic of Madagascar, step by step, we continue to consolidate democracy in our region," President Zuma appreciated.

Guided by the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, South Africa and Namibia fully subscribe to the Guidelines de-

fining the successful conduct of a free, fair and peaceful election. "We look forward to the year 2014 in Namibia, like South Africa; will hold general elections and we know that those elections will be free and fair because our two nations have become torch bearers of democracy and the rule of law," he assured.

Zuma said, it is a collective desire to further enhance close economic co-operation between the two countries, and that there is a need to prioritise cross border infrastructure to facilitate easy flow of goods and services." It is therefore our belief that the establishment of a Free Trade Area in the region will greatly enhance our ability to trade with one another and ensure the strengthening of the region as a whole," he stressed.

He reiterated his wish to work closely with Namibia on issues such as the reform of multilateral institutions like the United Nations Security Council, G20 and multilateral International Financial Institutions. "A transformed UN system will be more efficient and

more accountable to all its member states,” he explained. He believes that the UN Security Council should be enlarged to better reflect and portray contemporary global political realities, and especially the reality of an Africa steadfastly claiming its position in the community of nations.

He said Parliament is further en-

trusted with the aspirations and hopes of the Namibian citizens and which has the constitutional responsibility to pass laws that will continue to improve their circumstances. “In this regard, we wish to assure you of South Africa’s continued commitment to work with you as you deal with the scourge of poverty, underde-

velopment and unemployment. These are the bold challenges that we are battling with in our own country. We therefore need to master the same resolve and courage we ably mastered in the fight against colonialism and apartheid, we must not fail!” he concluded.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ATTEND 129TH IPU ASSEMBLY

- Ndahafa Kaukungua

A delegation of Members from the Namibian Parliament, led by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Theoben Gurirab attended the 129th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held from the 7- 9 October 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation comprised the following Members: Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams (Chairperson of the IPU-National Group), Dr. Moses Amweelo (Deputy Chair-

person of the IPU-National Group), Mr. Heiko Lucks, Ms. Rosalia Shilenga, Ms. Germina Shitaleni and Ms. Clara //Gowases.

About 1,200 participants, including 40 Speakers of Parliaments, 600 MPs from 129 countries attended the Session that covered issues predominantly relating to peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable development around the world. The IPU adopted an emergency item resolution on “The role of parliaments in supervising the destruction of chemical weapons and

the ban on their use” demanding that all its 163 Member States, not yet party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, accede or ratify the Convention as a matter of urgency without any preconditions. Parliaments need to check their national legislation concerning chemical weapons and ensure its effective implementation. Parliaments also need to contribute to a zero tolerance environment for the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

A panel discussion was also held to focus on the contribution of Parliaments towards a nuclear-weapon free world. The Namibian delegation during its presentation stated that Namibia is ranked as the 5th largest producer of uranium worldwide; and it ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of



L to R: Hon.Germina Shitaleni, Hon.Dr.Moses Amweelo, Hon.Rosalia Shilenga and Hon. Clara //Gowases attending the 129th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.



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Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 15 April 1998. In this respect, Namibia does not support the use of its uranium for nuclear weapons and is committed to the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Namibian team also participated in panel discussions considering the protection of children's rights, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict. Children are among the most vulnerable groups and therefore specific legislative and policy measures are required, and should be harmonised and coordinated between States in order to be effective.

On risk-resilient development panel discussion; taking into consideration the demographic trends and natural constraints; the deliberations centered on increased efforts and action on disaster risk reduction in line with the internationally agreed Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015, adopted at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which aims to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The review of the HFA in 2015 will offer an historic opportunity to address disaster risk and build disaster risk resilient development strategies towards sustainable development. Namibia, in its presentation stated that, disaster risk management requires sufficient resource allocation, planning and capacity building.

Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams chaired the 10th Information Seminar on Parliaments and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She said the functions of Parliaments, notably legislative and budgetary functions and oversight of the executive branch of the Government; are at the heart of the implementation of the principles and rights enshrined in the Convention. The information sharing session focused on the challenges and recent trends related to ending discrimination against women in assessing nationality or transmitting nationality; the prevention and reduction of statelessness and economic rights.

The Namibian delegation also attended a joint IPU- Association of Secretaries General (ASGP) conference on "Conflict between Parliaments and the Courts". In its presentation, the Namibian delegation stated that Parliament may generally enact legislation but Parliament cannot enact legislation which contradicts Chapter 3 (Fundamental Rights and Freedoms) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, and whether any law or action is unconstitutional or not, is for the Courts to decide and not Parliament. Participants were of the view that the doctrine of Separation of Powers should be protected. In this regard the IPU was tasked to do some research and issue a handbook on best practices that will promote good

relations between Parliaments and the Courts.

On the issue of abolishing capital punishment, Parliamentarians felt that, although a significant progress has been made in establishing national moratoriums over the years, a major push is now needed to end the practice globally.

At the same conference, Mr. Abdawahad Radi, President of the IPU launched a Handbook for Parliamentarians "Sustaining Parliamentary Action to Improve Maternal, Newborn and Child Welfare". This handbook is an integral part of IPU's support to parliaments working to meet their obligations under the IPU's resolution on "Access to basic health: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges in securing the health of women and children", particularly those countries where maternal, newborn and child deaths remain high.

The IPU Assembly also debated on issues threatening peace and democracy such as the IPU action to safeguard democracy in Haiti, the role of parliaments in addressing the deliberate destruction of the world's cultural heritage, cyber warfare as a threat to global peace and security and Israeli settlements in Palestine hindering Middle East peace. The last item that was discussed by the Assembly was the recent terrorist act in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, which claimed the lives of 67 people and injured 175.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STAFF VISIT THE PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

• Michael Muuondjo

Four staff members from the National Assembly's Research, Library and Information Services undertook a study visit to the Parliament of Kenya from 28 October to 09 November 2013. The team comprised of Mr. Vincent Sinalumbu (Deputy Director and Head of the delegation), Mr. Michael Muuondjo (Information Officer), Mr. Brian Riruako (Information Officer) and Mr. Geoffrey Muhinda (Library Assistant).

The purpose of the exercise was to benchmark with various departments of the Parliament of Kenya on their operation, processes and procedures with the intention of replicating some of the best practices at the Parliament of Namibia. The team was privileged to meet with some senior officials from various departments from both Chambers who explained their duties and functions..

The team was taken through a comprehensive guided tour of the National Assembly's chamber by a very knowledgeable Senior Protocol and Communication Officer and also had an opportunity of observing sessions of both the National Assembly and the Senate. The delegation also visited the Nairobi Animal Orphanage and National Park a Wildlife Conservation Education Centre established in 1964 with the aim of educating the public on wildlife and nature conservation in the country. The education programmes at the Education Centre encouraged the participants to gain an understanding of the relationships that exist between human activities and the environment.

Lessons from the Parliament of Kenya

Parliamentary Service Commission

In its quest to attain an autonomous and independent status from the Executive, the Eighth Parliament enacted the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Act No. 3 of 1999, which es-

Namibian Delegation with officials from Kenyan Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) Dr.Wakah G. Odhoambo (Senior Deputy Director, Administration & Corporate Affairs), Mrs Christine Mwambua (Deputy Director at CPST) and Mrs.Lilly Induswe (Public Communication Officer at the National Assembly of Kenya).

established the Parliamentary Service Commission (PARLSCOM) and the Parliamentary Service. In 2000, the Parliamentary Service Act was enacted to operationalize the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Act No. 3 of 1999.

The Parliamentary Service Commission is an independent government Commission established under the [Constitution of Kenya](#) to ensure smooth functioning of the Parliament. The PSC has the primary responsibility of facilitating Members of Parliament to effectively and efficiently execute their responsibilities. It consists of the Speaker of the National Assembly as the Chairperson, seven Members appointed by Parliament and one woman and one man appointed by Parliament from persons who are experienced in Public Affairs but are who not Members of Parliament. The Clerk of the Senate is the Secretary to the Commission.

The commission's roles includes: providing services and facilities to ensure the efficient and effective running of Parliament offices in the parliamentary service, appointing and supervising office holders, preparing annual estimates of expenditure of the parliamentary service and submitting them to the National Assembly for approval, exercising budgetary control over the service, promote the ideals of parliamentary democracy, and performing functions necessary for the well-being of the members and staff of Parliament.

The new Constitution of 2010 establishes the Parliament of Kenya that consists of the National Assembly and

the Senate. The Constitution also establishes a two-tier structure of government – the National and County (Regional) governments which are distinct, interdependent and required to conduct their mutual relations on the basis of consultation and co-operation. Both the Legislature and the Executive are also split along the same pattern but the Judiciary remains the same. The National Assembly represents the people of the constituencies and special interests while the Senate represents the Counties (regions), and serves to protect the interests of the Counties and their Governments.

The National Assembly

The National Assembly consists of 350 Members, who include 290 Members, each elected by the registered voters of single Member constituencies; 47 women, each elected by the registered voters of the Counties, each County constituting a single Member constituency, 12 Members nominated by parliamentary political parties according to their proportion of Members of the National Assembly to represent special interests including the youth, persons with disability, workers and the Speaker. Cabinet Ministers are not Members of Parliament. The key roles of the National Assembly include: representing the people of the constituencies and their special interests, deliberating on and resolving issues of concern to the people, enacting legislation, determining the allocation of national revenue between levels of government, exercising oversight over national revenue and expenditure and



reviewing the conduct in Office of the President and other State Officers.

The Senate

The Senate consists of 68 Members of whom 47 are elected by the registered voters of the Counties, each County constituting a single Member constituency, 16 women Members nominated by political parties according to their proportion of County members of the Senate, 2 being one and one woman representing the youth, 2 being one and one woman representing persons with disability and the Speaker. The key roles of the Senate are: to represent the Counties and the interests of the Counties and their government; participate in law making by considering, debating and approving Bills concerning Counties; determine allocation of national revenue among Counties, exercise oversight over national revenue allocated to County Governments; and participate in the oversight of State Officers by considering and determining any resolution to remove the President or Deputy President from office.

Parliamentary Joint Service

The Parliamentary Service is structured into three services, namely the: National Assembly Service, Senate Service and Joint Service. The Parliamentary Joint Service provides shared services to both Houses of Parliament even though each House has its other independent Directorates. The Service is headed by a Director General and includes among other specialised directorates/departments responsible for services including: Human Resources & Administration, Finance & Accounting, Procurement, Information & Research, Library, ICT, Public Communications, Media Services, Printing, Legal Services, Maintenance Services, Security Services, Commission Secretariat, Catering, Health Club, Office Services and Internal Audit among others.

Parliamentary Budget Office

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) was established in May 2007 as a result of the need to enhance the oversight role of parliament by creating the necessary capacity for scrutiny of the national budget and the economy. The PBO is a non-partisan professional office of the Kenyan Parliament whose primary function is to provide

timely and objective information and analysis concerning the national budget and economy. The Office was later created by an Act of Parliament; the Fiscal Management Act, 2009.

The Office provides technical support on matters relating to Public Financial Management (PFM) and financial oversight to all Members of Parliament, Departmental Committees and Select Committees in addition to being a secretariat to the Budget Committee of Parliament. The PBO therefore helps in bridging the information gap in budgetary and economic matters in Parliament.

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST)

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) was established by the Parliamentary Service Commission in December 2008 as a one-stop specialised resource centre to build capacity of members and staff of Parliament to execute their mandate and enhancing staff performance through appropriate training programmes. This is done in line with the curriculum which is based on seven thematic areas, namely: Legislative and Procedural, Research and Information, Security, Ceremonial and Precincts Décor, Public Finance Management and Human Resource and Administration, Cross-Cutting and Matters requiring immediate attention.

The establishment of the CPST has been in response to Parliament's strategic plan which calls for improved performance. In addition to serving the members and staff of Parliament of Kenya, the centre expands its objectives and mandate to include serving other

stakeholders who may be interested in gaining an understanding of Parliament not only in Kenya but also other parts of Africa and the world over.

The Parliamentary Service (CPST) Regulations, 2011, vest the management of the Centre in a Board consisting of three members of the PSC one of whom shall be the Chairperson, the Clerk of the National Assembly, the Clerk of the Senate and the Director of the Centre, who is an employee of the PSC and Secretary to the Board, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the affairs and business of the Centre.

Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit

In June, 2009 the Kenya National Assembly took a giant step towards opening the Parliament to the people by launching live broadcasts of plenary debates - referred to as the House Live Broadcast (HLB) system.

Since the inception of Live Broadcasting, parliamentary debates have become the most popular broadcast in the nation. MPs report a sharp increase in awareness of parliamentary activity among constituents. Constituents expect to see them speak during important floor debates. The result, MPs say, is to be sure that they come to plenary prepared with incisive and informed interventions.

The acquisition of the facility making live television and radio coverage of parliamentary proceedings a reality was made possible by the partnership between the National Assembly and development partners, led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The House



National Assembly staff visiting the broadcasting studio at the Parliament of Kenya.

Live Broadcast (HLB) Project is part of the broad based USAID Parliamentary Support Program implemented by SUNY/CID that has helped to transform Parliament into a modern institution that is more responsive to the needs of Kenyans.

The current HLB was conceived in 2008 by the National Assembly. It was felt at the time that Parliament's business was closed to the public, denying citizens the right to see, hear and assess their elected representatives. The Project's main objective was to facili-

tate the KNA's initial steps towards the production of a live feed for television and radio broadcast. This result supported the Project's ultimate goal, which was to solidify the Kenyan public's understanding of and confidence in democratic governance. Live broadcast capacity is a critical element in the KNA leadership's efforts to enable the citizens of Kenya to become better informed about their Parliament, and by providing accurate, accessible information on its proceedings.

The HLB not only allows for tele-

vision and radio coverage of plenary debates, it is also extended to allow people to follow committee meetings. The audio-visual content is linked to a state-of-the-art transcription interface that allows real time preparation of the Parliament's printed public record - the Hansard. The Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit has set up a fully-fledged parliamentary Media Centre offering media service complete with newsroom for press conferences, staff and infrastructure for the media.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ATTENDS TEAMBUILDING WORKSHOP

- Anethe Mtambanengwe

A teambuilding workshop for Members of National Council and staff was held in Swakopmund from 21-22 November 2013. The objective of the workshop was to work out strategies on how Members can work together with the staff.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the National Council, Hon. Asser

Kapere, thanked the Secretary of the National Council, Ms. Panduleni Shitutwikeni and the Secretariat for having organised this important platform where the legislators and technocrats could share ideas that will improve the much needed service delivery, and come up with ideas that are aimed at making the business of the National Council to be more responsive to the citizens' needs.

Hon. Kapere recognised the importance of the teambuilding session, as it consolidates the operations of the House and improves the working relations of both parties.

The Chairperson expressed his expectations by calling both Members of Parliament and Secretariat to actively contribute to the overall success of the National Council, as a cohesive team, despite the challenges that are there. He further encouraged the participants to adopt a culture of mutual respect and recognition of hierarchy;

that will improve collective engagement in problem-solving, and equal distribution of responsibilities that will cultivate a culture of team work for the purpose of achieving the core goals of the institution.

Towards the end of the workshop, both staff and Members participated in the teambuilding games such as soccer and volleyball. After the team building session and outdoor activities, the vibrant "Team National Council" celebrated the success and embraced the challenges of the year 2013 in style, by having the Year-end-Function that was officially opened by Hon. Bernard Sibatani, the Chief Whip of the Swapo Party in the National Council.

Meanwhile the National Assembly staff also held their team building exercise on 07 December 2013 at the Waterberg Resort by participating in various activities. The team was lead by Mr. Jakes Jacobs the secretary of the National Assembly.



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOSTS STAFF FROM OTHER PARLIAMENTS

- Paulina Shipahu and David Nahogandja

From 10-16 November 2013, the National Assembly hosted four staff members from the Parliament Malawi Staff Union. The Delegation consisted of: Mr. Tendai Mshali (President and Head of Delegation), Mr. Leonard Tilingamawa (Vice President); Mrs. Elizabeth Lamulani (Secretary General) and Mrs. Martha Nkhata (Women Desk)

The purpose of the visit was to gain more knowledge on union related issues and also to learn on how the mature unions handle union related matters. The Malawian Parliament established the union for the staff that was formally accepted by the Parliamentary Service Commission during 2013.

The Head of the delegation Mr. Mshali commended the staff from the National Assembly for the impressive programme that was tailored to suit their needs. The visiting delegation visited various unions offices in Windhoek. The team leader thanked the National Assembly for accepting their request for benchmarking and said that they learned a lot from the sister parliament.

Mr. Tilingamawa was impressed to observe that there are many unions



In the pictures from right to left are: front row:- Ms. Selma Nangolo- HR National Assembly; Ms Martha Nkatha- Malawi Parliamentary Staff Union Women Desk; Ms Elizabeth Lamulani (Secretary General) Malawi Parliament Staff Union; Ms. Loide Shaanika Deputy-SG NANTU and Mr. Tendai Mshali (President and Head of Delegation) Back row: Mr. Adriano Lisimu – National Assembly; Mr. Tutu Haukena – Parliamentary Clerk National Assembly and Mr. Leonard Tilingamawa (Vice President) Malawi Parliamentary Staff Union.

in Namibia that also employ more people and reduce the unemployment rate. The team also paid courtesy calls at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Labour Commissioner, Equity Commission, NUNW, NIPAM, TUCNA, NAPWU, PSUN, LaRRI, & NANTU offices before going back to Malawi on the 17 November 2013.

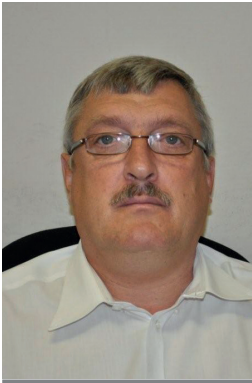
Similarly, from 20-28 November 2013, the National Assembly hosted another group of four staff members from the Parliament of Uganda. The visiting staff were attached to the National Assembly's Directorate of Committees Services, as they are committee clerks. During their attachment to the National Assembly, the staff were briefed by heads of directorates, divisions and sub-divisions on their mandate and responsibilities.

"We have chosen Namibia amongst many countries because of its history of practising multiparty parliamentary democracy and good strides it have made in serving MPs from different political orientation," said Dr. Tumukwasibwe the head of the delegation.



From left to right: Mr. Justus N. Karyeija-Clerk Assistant; Mr. Ainomugisha Gilbert -Clerk Assistant; Mrs. Jacqueline Oidu -Clerk Assistant and Dr. Tumukwasibwe Robert- Principal Clerk Assistant

Staff on the Move



Mr. Johannes J. F. Brits joined the National Assembly from Ministry of Justice as a Chief Legal Officer effective 01. 09. 2013.



Mr. Chippa I. Tjirera was promoted from the position of Deputy Director to Director Committee Services effective 01. 10. 2013.



Mrs. Linda De Klerk – Pietersen was promoted in rank from the position of Assistant Administrative Officer to Administrative Officer effective 01. 10. 2013.



Ms. Selma Nangolo was promoted to the position of Human Resource Practitioner effective 01. 10. 2013.



Ms. Hilde Kazongominja, a Private Secretary was transferred from Legal Service to Committee Services effective 01. 10. 2013.



Ms. Suama N. Mhinge was promoted and transferred from Ministry of Home Affairs to the National Assembly as Control Administrative Officer effective 01.11.2013.



Ms. Hilya P. Amwenyo was transferred in rank from Ministry of Mines and Energy to the National Assembly as a Librarian effective 01. 11. 2013.



Mr. Chika Evans Simasiku was appointed as Chief Administrative Officer (Serjeant-at- Arms) effective 01. 12. 2013.

Staff on the Move



Ms. Naemi K. Ndemuwenda, a former Cleaner at the National Assembly went on retirement on 31. 10. 2013.



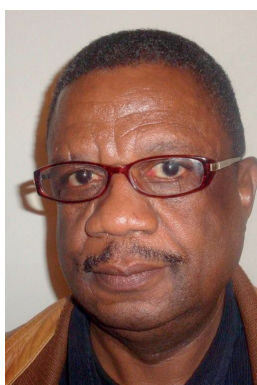
Mr. Tutu T. T. Haukena was promoted and transferred to Oshikoto Regional Council as a Control Administrative Officer effective 01. 11. 2013.



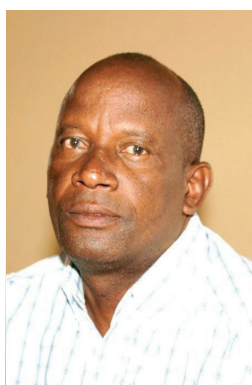
Mr Reinhold K. Ipinge was transferred from the Ministry of Health and Social Services and promoted at the National Council on 01 January 2009 as Chief Control Officer. He went on retirement on 31 October 2013.



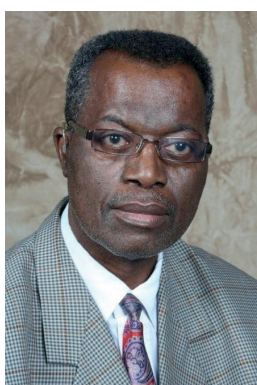
Ms. Rosa Iteta was appointed as a Private Secretary in the Director's Office (Chairman Office) effective 14 November 2013



Mr Samuel Kaxuxuena, was appointed as the National Council on 15 September 1997 as Assistant Clerk, and he was promoted to the position of Parliamentary Clerk, the position he held until his retirement on 30 September 2013



Mr Nestor Heita was appointed at the National Council on 01 February 1996 as Control Security Officer and he was promoted to Sergeant-At-Arms on 01 February 2000, the position he held until his retirement on 31 October 2013



Mr Ambrosius Amutenja was appointed on 13 February 1996 at the National Council as Senior Information Officer. He went on retirement on 31 October 2013.

Kenyan parliamentary staff undertook a week-long study tour of Parliament of Namibia from 11-15 June 2012. Left to right: Mr Michael Nzioki, Mr Wellington Namenga, Ms Wanjiru Ndindiri, Mr Maasai Lekipaika (team leader) and Mr Nicholas Matiko.

