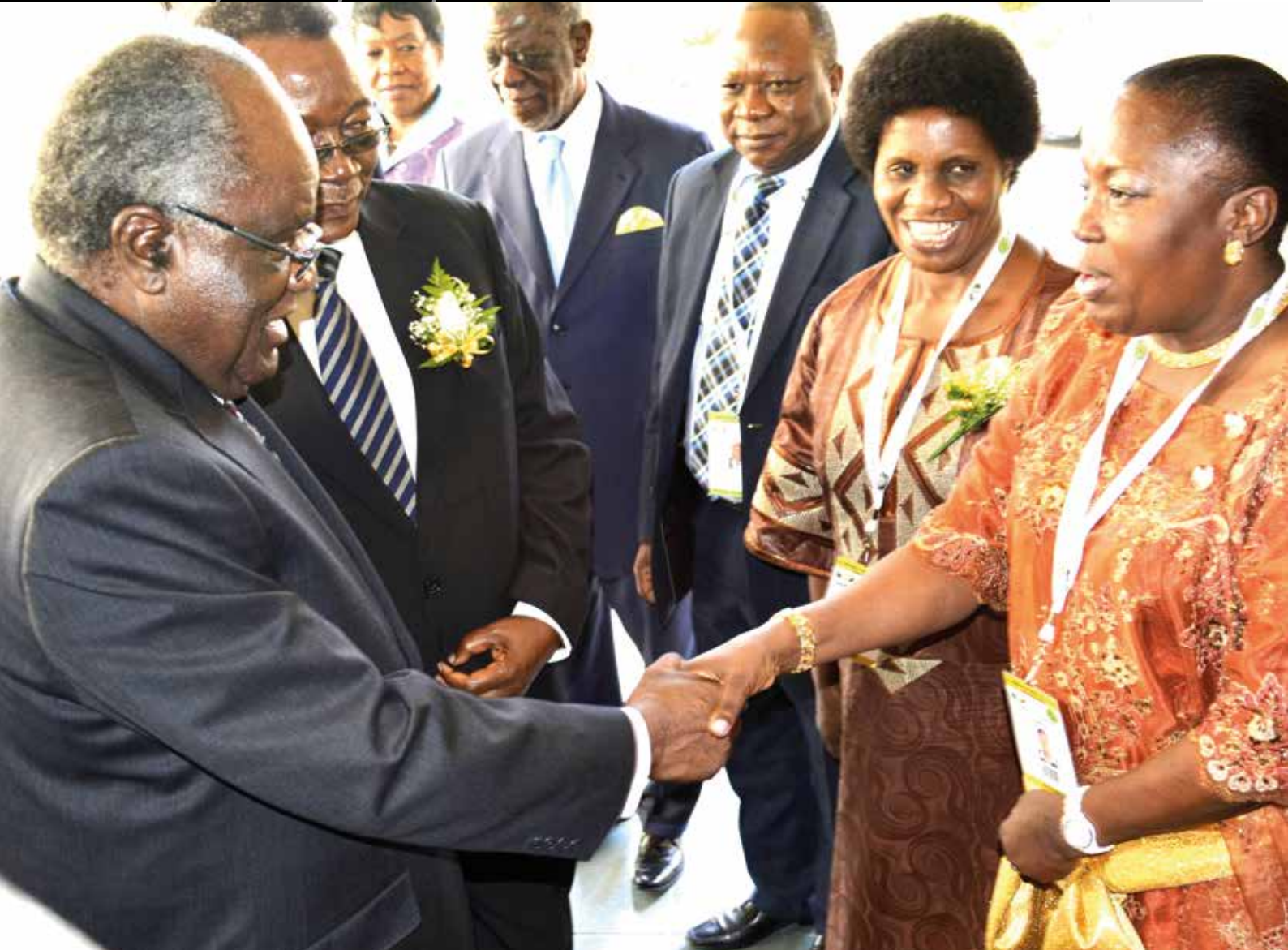




Parliament

Journal





His Excellency Mr Graeme Wilson, the Australian High Commissioner, accreted to seven countries in Southern Africa including Namibia paid a courtesy call on Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab on 31 July 2013. In his welcoming remarks Dr. Gurirab appreciated the presence of Australia in the mining sector and said he would like to see Australian tourists coming not only to Namibia but to the entire SADC region.

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CAPTION INSIDE FRONT COVER: President Hifikepunye Pohamba being received by Speakers Rebecca Kadaga and Anne Makinda

Contents

From the Editor's Desk	4
Parliament hosts 44 th CPA Africa Region Conference	5
Opening Statement by President Pohamba	5
Welcoming Remarks by Hon. Asser Kapere.....	7
Vote of thanks by Hon. Anne Makinda	8
PAP convenes infrastructure development workshop.	9
Place of Parliament in Society.	10
Conference Resolutions	12
APLESA holds successful Annual Conference	13
Parliamentarians attend Budget Workshop	15
Public Accounts Committee hosts Conference	16
CPPCC delegation visits Parliament	18
From the Chambers	18
Obituary.	18
Staff on the move	19



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From the Editor's Desk

Countries around the world are too often stifling political opposition instead of embracing it as a tangible and natural sign of a healthy democracy, says the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) ahead of International Day of Democracy on 15 September.

Whether through political parties, mass public dissent or other means, a vibrant political opposition remains a core pillar of true democracy, allowing expression to all voices and opinions within society. However, IPU argues, it is often seen as a threat that has to be stamped out, with tragic and violent results.

“The horrific violence and breakdown in Egypt and Syria, and recent mass demonstrations in several other countries are witness to what happens when people are denied a political voice and are shut out from the political decision-making,” says IPU President Abdelwahad Radi. “Peace, based on social inclusion and cohesion, and democracy are inextricably linked. One cannot exist without the other.”

Marking the International Day, which this year is focusing on “*strengthening voices for democracy*”, IPU underlines the urgent need to protect freedom of expression and to encourage and ensure political engagement from within all sections of society.

“Inclusive politics based on a healthy respect for differences is the solution to the many conflicts and crises the world is facing today,” adds Radi.

As an important first step, IPU urges governments to genuinely commit to protecting MPs as they do their work, regardless of their political affiliation. Large numbers of MPs around the world are being targeted, intimidated and at times killed for speaking out, defending the rights of those that have elected them or for differences in political opinion.

On average each year, IPU’s Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is working on cases involving close to 300 MPs in more than 40 countries whose lives and livelihood are being threatened. More than 75 per cent of these MPs are from the official opposition. In 2012, more than 13 per cent of the human rights cases IPU was working on involved the killing of MPs and 48 per cent on their arbitrary arrest and detention.

The Organization also underscores the importance of respecting the right to peaceful assembly for all. Despite generalized voter apathy across the world, public disillusionment with the business of politics and political status quo, anger over the impact of the financial crisis or the simple exclusion from political decisions and processes have led to dramatic numbers of people taking to the streets in several regions of the world.

“Whilst it may be difficult for the political leadership to face such public protest, they are a legitimate expression of public feeling on any question. Outside of the ballot box, it is often the only way for an electorate to be heard and hopefully, listened to,” says Radi. “Citizens the world over need to be confident that they can assemble, speak out or question without fear of reprisal or violence. Their faith in democracy rests on that.” (Source: IPU News Release, September 2013).

PARLIAMENT HOSTS 44TH CPA AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE

- Fanuel Katshenye

The Parliament of Namibia hosted the 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference in Windhoek from 17-27 July 2013. The conference, held under the Presidency of Hon. Asser Kapere, President of CPA Africa Region and Chairperson of the National Council, was officially opened by President Hifikepunye Pohamba on July 24. Hundreds of local and foreign delegates and observers attended the week-long conference.

The topics extensively discussed during the conference were the Elimination and Prevention of all forms of Gender Based Violence; the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); Peace Building and Conflict Resolution: Finding an African Agenda to aid Economic Development; and Youth Empowerment in Africa: Challenges and Solutions: What can Parliaments

do. The topic on youth empowerment was presented by two youths from Malawi and South Africa respectively. The conference was held under the theme: Utilising our Commonwealth Parliament Partnership to Promote Peaceful Conflict Resolution and Economic Development on the African Continent.

Among the attending foreign



Youth delegates to the 44th CPA Conference Ms Victoria Kaitane (Malawi) and Mr Nkosi Thobani (South Africa).

OPENING STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT POHAMBA

I am delighted to join you at this occasion marking the official opening of the 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference which is being held under the theme: "Utilizing our Commonwealth Partnership to Promote Peaceful Conflict Resolution and Economic Development on the African Continent."

Although Namibia only joined the Commonwealth as a sovereign nation in 1990, our country's interactions with the Commonwealth can be traced

back to the period of our national liberation struggle. We will remain indebted to our African brothers and sisters, who used platforms such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to rally support for our struggle against apartheid colonialism.

For example, African states played a crucial role at the 1971 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Singapore, where the landmark Declaration of Commonwealth Principles was adopted. That declaration called for

dignitaries were: Hon. Mninwa Mahlangu, President of CPA International and Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces of South Africa; Hon. Anne Makinda, Vice-President of the CPA Africa Region and Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania; Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of CPA Africa Region and Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature; Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, Chairperson of the Africa Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; Sir Alan Haselhurst, Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee; and Dr William Shija, Secretary General of the CPA International.



President Hifikepunye Pohamba opening the conference

the promotion of:

- Racial equality,
- Liberty and equality for all citizens,
- Democratic values and



Conference delegates and observers at a plenary meeting

- participation,
- Decolonisation and self-determination,
- Elimination of global disparities in wealth, and
- Peace through international cooperation.

Namibia will forever remain grateful for the moral, material, political and diplomatic support rendered to our people during our national liberation struggle. In 1990, Namibia became the 50th member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Since then, our country has participated actively in Commonwealth activities. We have continued to work closely with other Commonwealth member-states to promote and advance the values and principles that the commonwealth stands for.

Among them are the promotion of international peace and security, adherence to good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

There is a clear and strong link between these values and the utilization of Commonwealth partnership to promote peaceful conflict resolution and economic development on the African continent, as captured in the theme of this conference. I am pleased to say that our country has already benefited immensely from these partnerships. Over the years, fellow Commonwealth Member States have been assisting Namibia to meet its national developmental objectives.

For example, Namibian students have received Commonwealth scholarships to pursue tertiary studies. The commonwealth has also

assisted some of our Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies in the areas of policy formulation and reforms, public debt management, aquaculture, customer service training in the tourism sector and in other areas. Moreover, the Commonwealth has rendered technical assistance to our other local institutions such as the Electricity Control Board of Namibia, the Magistrates Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman.

I believe that as Member-states of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Region, we should continue to work together in order to consolidate and enhance cooperation aimed at achieving accelerated socio-economic development, peace and the improvement of the living conditions of the African people.

By utilising our Commonwealth partnership to promote peaceful conflict resolution and economic development on the African Continent, we can build a better future for our continent and her people. We will achieve this by ensuring that we eliminate the causes of conflicts that continue to ravage our continent and cause untold suffering and destruction of property and infrastructure. Without peace and stability, our efforts to boost socio-economic development will be in vain, and millions of Africans will continue to be confronted by poverty, malnutrition, lack of public services and social amenities, as well as unacceptable high levels of preventable diseases.

It is encouraging that recent reports released by international institutions



A group of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians

such as the World Bank, African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa revealed that economic development in Africa is on the upward trend.

It has been reported that six out of ten top performing economies in the world are in Africa. Other notable achievements were also attained in the areas of education and health, where Africa has experienced an increase in secondary school enrolment of about 50 percent between 2000 and 2008. Life expectancy has increased by nearly ten percent.

It is important for Africa to maintain and sustain this momentum in our collective quest to promote economic development. This must go hand in hand with sustained efforts to entrench a culture of peaceful resolution to conflicts. The encouraging progress achieved on the economic and social fronts is inspiring a new spirit of optimism on the continent.

The maintenance of peace and the resolution of conflicts remain some of the main challenges facing Africa. As Africans, we must work harder to address the root causes of conflicts on our continent. Without peace and stability, our continent will not achieve the development goals that we have set for ourselves.

Our parliaments have an important role to play by passing laws that are responsive to the development needs



Plenary session at work

of our people. This should include laws aimed at promoting equitable distribution of the natural resources that our respective countries are endowed with. Attention should be given to the empowerment of our young people so that they can channel their energies towards constructive engagement, instead of being lured to becoming pawns in political conflicts.

Similarly, our parliaments must ensure that gender equality becomes a reality in our respective societies by passing laws that will facilitate equal participation of women and men in the development agenda of our continent. The Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association Africa Region is an important forum for African Parliamentarians to advance our continent's development agenda. I trust that during this conference, delegates will exchange views and share experiences with a view to finding solutions to the development challenges facing our countries today.

On behalf of the Government and people of Namibia, I take this opportunity to wish you all a successful conference. It is now my pleasure to declare the 44th Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Region officially open.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY HON. ASSER KUVERI KAPERRE

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our distinguished guests most cordially at the official opening of the 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference here in Windhoek. I would love to single out His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, who is gracing this occasion with his presence.

The Parliament of Namibia has built a reputation of active participation in the work of the CPA at regional and international levels. Having hosted the CPA International Conference

in 2002, the Parliament of Namibia is once more delighted to host yet another important conference of the CPA.

Arrangements for a meeting of this nature are often very complex and difficult because of the numerous unforeseen needs of the conference participants. Nevertheless, it is my firm belief that everybody is catered for and ready to engage in deliberations on the topics after touring the City of Windhoek and outlying areas. We wished to take delegates to our premier tourist attractions but time



Chairman Asser Kuveri Kapere

did not permit.

Every time we gather under the banner of the CPA, we reflect on the core values of the CPA Africa Region – responsiveness, effectiveness, accountability and legitimacy. In other words, we have committed ourselves to be responsive, effective, accountable and legitimate legislative institutions in the discharge of our functions.

Incidentally, the acronym for our core values is REAL. This implies that whenever we perform our parliamentary responsibilities, our actions must be guided by our people's genuine and real desire for social, economic and political development.

Our actions must be directed towards addressing the immediate needs of our people – decent housing; affordable quality education; accessible quality healthcare, food security and sustainable economic development. Similarly, our actions must promote inclusiveness; respect for human rights; the right to freedom of association; and safeguard the supremacy of the Constitution. In that way we shall entrench peace, political stability, tolerance, good governance and the rule of law to enhance socio-

economic progress on the African Continent.

Parliamentarians are called upon to ensure an effective and efficient use of taxpayers' money by the executive.

The Parliamentary Committees should therefore hold government departments and agencies to account for the use of public resources. Only then will citizens benefit adequately from their natural resources. In so doing, we must always refer to and reflect on the three universal functions of democratic parliaments, namely that of representation, legislation and oversight.

The theme of this conference: "Utilising our Commonwealth Partnership to Promote Peaceful Conflict Resolution and Economic Development on the African Continent" speaks to the current situation prevailing on our continent. Africa is perceived to be the next economic growth point in the world; yet there are incidents inimical to our socio-economic progress. These incidents include civil wars and terrorist acts that result in indiscriminate killing of innocent lives, especially women and children. We therefore need to prioritise conflict

resolution and economic development as areas that require immediate and concrete action.

These challenges call for a new approach to solve them. Our association, both at international and regional levels, need to recognise that it cannot continue to do business as usual in tackling issues of civil wars, terrorism, piracy, poverty, violence against women and children, gender inequality and many others. The CPA needs to transform itself into an organization that is capable of influencing regional and international events. In a nutshell, the CPA must transform itself from a charitable organisation into an international entity with clear diplomatic status, assuming that as an association we still want a place under the sun.

I would like to make a humble plea to the CPA Africa Region to foster strong bond of unity and solidarity among African countries and people and jealously guard this unity at regional and international platforms. In so doing, we should be guided by the slogan "United we Stand, Divided we Fall".

VOTE OF THANKS BY HON. ANNE MAKINDA

I wish, on behalf of all delegates, to extend my heartiest gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality extended to us by the wonderful people of Namibia since we arrived in your great country.

Mr. President, we also thank you for kindly agreeing to spare your precious time out of your busy schedule to come and officiate at the Opening Ceremony of this African Conference. Indeed, your presence in our midst this morning is clear testimony of your readiness and commitment to promoting the core values of Parliamentary democracy such as good governance and human rights upon which the CPA is founded.

Furthermore, I wish to thank you most sincerely for your insightful and thought provoking speech.

Being a woman, I feel obliged to thank you, Mr. President, for the sterling efforts you have made to institutionalise the participation of women in all positions of leadership in your country. We salute these efforts. The people of Namibia – men and women – fought for their independence side by side. It goes without saying that true development can only be achieved by the joint efforts of men and women as it was the case during the struggle for independence in your great country.

I have learnt that you, Mr. President, have enacted a law to ensure 50/50 representation of women and men



Hon. Anne Makinda

in all positions of leadership in your country. This is a noble legacy and fitting gift not only to the people of Namibia, but for all of us as you prepare to hand over the baton of leadership of your country next year. I wish your country all the best.

I also wish to thank our CPA Africa Region President Hon. Asser Kapere

for having offered to host this 44th CPA Africa Region Conference this year. We thank him for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to us since we arrived in this "Land of the Brave", in particular to the beautiful City of Windhoek. Moreover, we are grateful to all staff of the National Council and the National Assembly of Namibia for the excellent arrangements and state of the art Conference facilities put at our disposal. Over the years, our CPA Annual Conferences provided a unique opportunity for delegates to share ideas and experiences on a wide range of topics.

Besides, CPA Conferences provide a useful platform to appreciate the social economic and cultural activities of the people of the host country. In view of this, I wish to thank you Honourable Kapere and your secretariat for a wonderful Pre-Conference Tours Programme. I also thank the Regional Secretariat for working round the clock to ensure the success of this conference.

As you are aware, the Parliament



President Hifikepunye Pohamba being received by Speakers Rebecca Kadaga and Anne Makinda

of Tanzania will host the 45th CPA Africa Region Conference in Arusha in July 2014. I take this auspicious opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to Arusha next year. We will avail you with all important information regarding

preparations for this conference at an appropriate time.

To conclude my remarks, I wish to once again reiterate my warm thanks to your Excellency Mr. President for sharing your precious time with us this morning.

PAP CONVENES INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



Members of the Pan African Parliament Southern Caucus at a workshop in Walvis Bay on Infrastructure Development to Promote Regional Trade.

• Vincent Sinalumbu

The Pan African Parliament Southern African Caucus organised a Workshop on Infrastructure Development to promote Regional Trade for the members of the Southern region. The objective of the workshop held in Walvis Bay from 01-05 July 2013, was to discuss and highlight the need to develop a viable energy, rail and road transport infrastructure network to enhance regional and international trade within ten countries belonging to the Southern Caucus of the Pan African Parliament.

Opening the five-day workshop, the Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab noted that he was pleased to be among fellow parliamentarians representing fifty African Parliaments ready to kick start the process of developing an efficient rail and road transport that would lead to greater regional trade and integration for the member countries of the Southern Caucus.

“As you may be aware, Namibia hosts the SADC-PF Headquarters, that’s why I am the host Speaker. The Forum faces many challenges which amongst others includes, achieving a full legislative powers. The PAP, like the SADC-PF, must overcome this. The main goal is to become continental and regional legislative bodies with the same functions and authority as the Eastern African legislative Assembly (EALA). To that end our focus as parliamentarians is to develop proper and workable legal and policy mechanisms to create and enabling environment for infrastructure development within the region,” Speaker Gurirab underlined.

The ability of a country, particularly landlocked countries to participate in trade and commerce depends largely on the availability and quality of transport and communication infrastructures that allows for access to the world trading system. The role of transport in economic development is not frequently discussed when considering the development of domestic trade and foreign investment.

“It is without a doubt that modern reliable infrastructure is critical for high and sustained economic growth of any country. The lack of reliable infrastructure affects all components of the economic value chain by making delivery slower, less reliable, and more expensive. Proper and adequate infrastructure, such as air and sea ports, highways and railways are essential towards reducing trade costs. The same goes for more efficient reforms

necessary for increased foreign direct investment. As parliamentarians, our focus has been to make sure that these requirements are put in place and maintain properly,” stressed the Speaker.

The Speaker said that regional transport infrastructure is central to the sustainability of socio-economic development, deeper market integration and intra-regional trade through facilities such as hubs, domestic internal transport links and intra-regional development and trade corridors. According to the African Development Bank, shortages in physical infrastructure, like roads, housing, water, sanitation and electricity reduce Sub-Saharan Africa’s output by up to forty percent.

“This initiative which brings us all here in Walvis Bay holds great potential to boost traffic and carrying capacity of rail and road networks, reduce transport and communication costs and improve transport reliability and efficiency within the region and among neighbours, namely members of SADC. It will also further enhance internal connectivity within the domestic economies, as well as achieving increased regional interconnectivity,” Gurirab advised.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Pan African Parliament President, Bethel Nnaemeka encouraged the Parliamentarians to create platforms to examine the role of energy, transport, communication on regional trade and development. The president

highlighted the challenges facing Africa as a continent which among others includes the continuous exports of raw material without value addition, poor rail infrastructure, deficient energy infrastructure, poor service delivery in health and education sectors due to lack of electricity.

At the end of the workshop, participants came up with the following recommendations:

- The development and harmonisation of legislation, policies and institutions,
- Ensuring adequate budgetary allocation and skills development
- Capacity building of different stakeholders
- Development of ICT connection amongst member countries,
- Development of one stop boarder post for all countries in the region,
- The need to identify areas where members could move private member` motions or private members` bills in respective parliaments.
- The need to sensitise committees of trade to match demand with manufacturing capabilities.,
- To build a highway between Walvis Bay and DRC including Zimbabwe and Zambia to allow movement of containers and promotion of tourism,
- Improve rail network as it is the most convenient method of movement of people and goods and also to have a common rail gauge and,
- A need for wellness centres at all border posts.

PLACE OF PARLIAMENT IN SOCIETY

- Immanuel Musongo

President Hifikepunye Pohamba says Parliament has an important role to play by passing laws that are responsive to the development needs of the people. Laws should aim at promoting equitable distribution of the natural resources that our countries are

endowed with. Attention should be given to the empowerment of young people so that they can channel their energies towards constructive engagement, instead of being lured to become pawns in political conflicts. The President made these remarks when he officially opened the 44th CPA Africa Region Conference in Windhoek on July 24.

The CPA works in the fields of good governance, democracy, elections and human rights. It pays special attention to gender sensitization through the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and promotes awareness of parliamentary democracy among the youth of the

Commonwealth. The association is a solution-seeking rather than a decision-making body.

The conference focused mainly on common Africa challenges, especially in the areas of health, youth unemployment, violence against woman and children, limited woman representation in key decision making bodies, slow implementation of development-friendly policies, political instability, poverty and lack of development which are the few constraints facing the continent. Almost half a century after the African Liberation Day was first celebrated; many Africans are still not at peace in their own countries.



The graduates from the National Youth Service (NYS) who contributed to the success of the conference.

At least in the long-term, none of the aforementioned challenges is insurmountable. Access to potable water remains a status symbol despite recent evidence that Africa sits on giant ground water reservoirs. However, workable solutions will require policy cohesion and resilience, careful choice of priorities, prudent management of scarce resources, and transparency in public sector operations. They will also require proactive, mutually beneficial engagement with external partners.

The conference comes at a time when many unanswered questions about the economic and political challenges facing the continent continue to haunt African leaders. The exodus of African citizens to other countries in search of a better life is but one of the challenges facing Africa.

As the Chairperson of the National Council and President of CPA Africa Region Hon. Asser Kapere put it in his opening address, Africa is perceived to be the next economic growth point in the world. Yet there are incidents that are hostile to socio-economic progress. These include civil wars and terrorist acts that result in indiscriminate killing of innocent lives, especially woman and children. Kapere stressed that the association must prioritise conflict resolution and economic development as areas that require immediate and solid action. The CPA needs to transform itself

into an organization that is capable of influencing regional and international events, he said.

Commonwealth Heads of Government have recognized Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth as essential elements in the exercise of democratic government. They have endorsed the efforts of the Association as the parliamentary partner of the Commonwealth's governmental and non-governmental sectors. The CPA actively supports the protection and promotion of the fundamental political values to which the Commonwealth committed itself under the 1991 Commonwealth Declaration. The declaration stresses on just and honest government, alleviation of poverty, fundamental human rights, international peace and order, global economic development, the rule of international law, equal rights and representation for all citizens, the independence of the judiciary and the right to participate in free and democratic political processes.

In her remarks, Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region congratulated SWAPO, the governing party, for adopting 50/50 representation in all its structures, she challenged all political parties on the Africa continent to emulate the progress of the SWAPO party. She stressed that the Vision of the CPA

was to achieve an integrated Africa practising parliamentary democracy. CPA Africa has declared its intentions to become a formidable voice on the continent in pursuance of a united and prosperous Africa.

The CPA offers members of the legislature an opportunity to participate in International parliamentary forums thereby giving effect to the Sector Policy and Strategic Framework which requires the Legislative Sector to participate in regional, continental and international forums, Hon. Maseko emphasised.

Just as scientists, doctors, lawyers and other professionals must keep abreast of advances in their fields; parliamentarians must follow developments in their profession which can help them to identify more effective policies and better ways of conducting public business. The



Hon. Lindiwe Maseko



Members of the Society of the Clerks-at-the-Table

Society of the Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) also held its annual general meeting alongside the CPA Africa Region Conference.

The SoCATT Africa Region is one of the regional bodies of SoCATT International. It fosters an environment of sharing and learning among officers of parliaments with regard to parliamentary operations.

The atmosphere of working together and sharing information that pervaded the 44th CPA Africa Conference will remain throughout the CPA's history

no matter how wide the differences between member-parliaments have been over political issues. It will also help to foster a positive attitude toward Commonwealth co-operation and friendship which individual members have carried through to influence government policies and public opinion in their countries. The CPA has played a major role in holding together a diverse group of nations with so much in common, which could otherwise have pulled them apart.

CPA was founded in 1911 as the

Empire Parliamentary Association. Active CPA Branches now exist in nearly 170 National, states, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures; with a total membership approaching 15,000 Parliamentarians.

Participating delegates and observers came from Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Regional Conference adopted resolutions on 26th July 2013 under a motion proposed by the National Assembly of Zambia and seconded by the Parliament of Uganda. The resolutions read as following:

- Realising that despite having laws and constitutional provisions which address gender based violence, many Governments lack political will to implement these laws;
- Noting that peace and security are a prerequisite for socio-economic development in Africa;
- Noting further that the supply of adequate energy is key to unlocking the economic potential of Africa,



The conference daily newsletter team ensured that the paper was out the next morning.

- Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979 which in principle condemns all types of violence directed towards women through the creation of legal and

social protections;

Noting that in September 2000, world leaders came together at the United Nations Headquarters to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration and committed their nations to a new global partnership

to promote development through a series of time bound goals with a deadline of 2015;

Concerned that youth unemployment is on the increase on the continent and needs to be addressed urgently, this Conference therefore:

A. Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Gender Based Violence

- Stresses the need for all Parliaments and Governments to exercise strong political will in the implementation of laws that target gender based violence;
- Calls on all Parliaments and national Governments to revisit their laws which address gender based violence to determine their effectiveness;
- Urges all African men to actively advocate against violence towards women;
- Emphasises the need for consistent education in overcoming cultural and traditional barriers as well as attitudes that contribute to gender based violence;
- Calls on Members of Parliament to strengthen the income generating potential of rural women to reduce their vulnerability;

B. Youth Unemployment in Africa: Challenges and Solutions: What can Parliamentarians do?

- Calls on African countries to revisit their education curriculums in order to enable students to gain practical and technical skills which will prepare them to enter the job market or develop as entrepreneurs;
- Urges CPA Africa to consolidate best practice in parts of Africa in the area of structural arrangements in response to youth development by organising study tours involving youth speakers to visit identified countries to gain in-depth understanding on how such work;
- Calls on youth participants to establish discussion forums to facilitate sharing of information with their peers on matters relating to the CPA and youth development;
- Urges Governments to ensure that there are relevant Further Education and Training colleges, learnerships and internships dedicated to development of practical skills therefore building a pool of skilled youth to respond to African economy's skills requirements;
- Calls on Governments to create incentives that will attract the youth to develop skills in the agriculture sector which is a potential employer;

C. Attainment of the MDGs: Is Africa on its way to meeting the 2015 deadline?

- Reminds Parliaments to accelerate and increase their oversight of the executive regarding the implementation of the MDGs in order to yield tangible outcomes which could change the lives of people;
- Calls on Government departments and the executive to reflect the MDGs in their policies, speeches and national budgets for the period 2014 and 2015 before the lapse of the timeframe of the MDGs;

D. Energy Security: An Imperative for Africa's development

- Urges Parliaments to enact the right legislation that will guarantee energy mix by focusing on sustainable energy policies capable of giving priority to modern energy access to the poor and promote investments in cleaner energy technologies;
- Urges Parliaments to enact enabling legislation that will support the efforts of the executive arm of various countries of Africa to improve the deteriorating base, including the energy infrastructure, so as to attract the right kind of investments and mobilize adequate financing

APLESA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Fanuel Katshenye

The Association of Parliamentary Libraries for Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) held its 14th Annual Conference at the Esibayeni Lodge, Matsapha, Swaziland, from 27-31st May 2013. The conference was held under the theme "APLESA at Linking Nations for Informed Legislation Representation and Accountability."

Member parliamentary libraries that participated were Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Uganda, and Zambia.

Namibia hosted the 13th APLESA Annual Conference in Swakopmund from 7-11 May 2012 where 10 member parliament libraries (Angola, Botswana, East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA), Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) participated.

The association has 17 member parliament libraries – Angola, Botswana, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The conference was officially opened by the Speaker of the Parliament of Swaziland, His Royal Highness Prince Guduza. Prince Guduza described libraries as important components of parliaments and society in general, adding that the work done by parliaments would be in vain if there were no libraries. He said legislators would be compromised in performing their oversight functions without libraries, emphasising that it was through libraries that parliament was extended to the people in societies and that libraries, used optimally, were a hub of information, enlightenment and wisdom. He urged APLESA to share meaningful strategies that would ensure that parliament libraries operated effectively and efficiently through the use of information technology.



Participants at APLESA Conference

A number of papers were presented, notable among them were the keynote presentation on the theme by the Director of Swaziland National Library Services, Ms. Nomsa Mkhwanazi; a presentation by Ms. Khosie Ndlangamandla from Information Management Consultancy (IMC) who stressed that education and training were key players in service delivery as they exposed and enriched participants. Her paper was based on a survey conducted in Swaziland on public perception about information sharing in the Kingdom. Ms. Ndlangamandla described library as a dynamic and growing profession.

There was also a presentation by Mr. Armstrong Dlamini from Africa Innovation and Strategy Group, whose presentation centered on policy models and policy frameworks. He urged parliaments to consider professional training for library and research services staff and legislators as a long-term priority.

Thursday 30 May 2013 was dedicated to the tour of almost the entire mountainous Kingdom of Swaziland. The most prominent sites that participants visited were the small-scale candle and glass manufacturing companies

The outgoing Secretary General of APLESA, Mr. Fanwell Banda (Zambia), presented the report on the 13th APLESA Conference and Meeting of 2012, which took place in Swakopmund, Namibia. The report focused on the outcome of the

resolutions that were adopted at the Swakopmund conference in 2012.

As a norm, each participating parliament reports on the library activities that it was engaged in over the past 12 months. The Parliament of Namibia Library's report focused on Government introduction of the Electronic Documents and Records Management Systems (EDRMS) which aims at perfecting government's filing system, including parliament and its library.

The Parliament of Zambia has agreed to host the 15th APLESA Conference at a venue still to be communicated. The following countries have pledged to host future APLESA Conferences: Zambia (2014), Kenya (2015), Angola (2016), Botswana (2017).

Election of new Executive Committee

The day-to-day functions of the association is run by an Executive Committee which consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary General and three other members elected by members of the association for a two-year renewable term of office. The term of the previous Executive Committee ended this year and the new seven-member Executive Committee members were elected as following:

- President: Ms. Esther Kamau (Kenya)
- Vice-President: Mr. Geraldo Cambiete (Angola)
- Secretary General: Mr. Keorileng

Peter Moatswi (Botswana)

- Treasurer: Mr. Innocent Rugambwa (Uganda)
- Additional Member: Ms. Rina Da Cruz (Namibia)
- Additional Member: Ms. Chama Mpundu (Zambia)
- Additional Member: Ms. Laureciana Bule (Mozambique)

The delegations from Angola and Mozambique strongly urged future host parliaments to provide for Portuguese translations at all conferences. There was no Portuguese translator at the Swazi Conference. The meeting also resolved that future invitations to APLESA Conferences should be communicated to member parliaments by the hosting parliament, and not by the APLESA Secretariat.

APLESA was established in 1994 to serve as a forum for professional networking and resource sharing amongst library and research staff of parliamentary Libraries in Eastern and Southern Africa Sub-region. The main objectives of APLESA are to promote cooperation and resource sharing, communication and networking among member parliaments, and to establish an effective and efficient information delivery service for the benefit of APLESA parliaments.

Parliament of Namibia was represented by Mr. Fanuel Katshenye and Mr. Brian Riruako from research and information services; and Ms. Rina Da Cruz from library services.

PARLIAMENTARIANS ATTEND BUDGET WORKSHOP

• Vincent Sinalumbu

A Development Budget oversight workshop for Members of the National Assembly was held in Swakopmund from 15-19 July 2013. The objective of the workshop was to enhance Members' understanding of the National Development Budget and to enrich the oversight function of Standing Committees.

During the workshop, Members analysed more than 290 Development Projects contained in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 and formulated more than 550 questions to Permanent Secretaries of various ministries to solicit feedback on the status and feasibility of the various projects.

The Members concentrated on, amongst others, clarity and detail of project descriptions, the feasibility of concluding dates, the logic of amounts

budgeted for during the current MTEF, the synchronisation of project descriptions with amounts budgeted for during the current MTEF, balances remaining after the current MTEF, general accounting problems and the impact of the projects on the outcome of the current MTEF and NDP4.

The workshop focused on the developmental projects of the ministries of Health and Social

Services, Regional, Local Government and Housing, Youth, National Service Sport and Culture, Justice, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Education, and Labour and Social Welfare.

The workshop was organised by the National Assembly as part of the three-year Parliamentary Support Programme (PSP) funded by the European Union and executed by a consortium of Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Transtec Project Management. The workshop was facilitated by PSP Programme Coordinator and former MP, Mr Johan de Waal and PSP Programme Director



Members of Parliament attending the Oversight Workshop in Swakopmund. During the workshop the MPs analysed Development Projects contained in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 and formulated questions to Permanent Secretaries of various ministries to solicit feedback on the status and feasibility of the various projects.



Professor Peter Katjavivi, SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly.

Mr Holger Haibach, with support from the PSP Technical Assistance Team and the National Assembly secretariat.

Participating MPs were drawn from the National Assembly Standing Committees on Gender and Family Affairs, Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Human Resources, Social and Community Development.

Similarly, from 31 July to 2 August 2013, another group of MPs from the Standing Committees on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, Human Resources, Social and Community Development, Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Information and Communication

Technology attended training on the understanding of the National Development Budget.

“We need to devise ways and means as well as recommendations to ensure that we as a Government and especially as Parliamentarians reinforce transparency and accountability in the implementation of development projects, most especially in the allocation of funds as projected in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2013/2014 to 2015/2016,” SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi stressed when opening the five-day workshop.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HOSTS CONFERENCE

- Michael Muondjo

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts hosted the National Accountability Institutions Conference from 6-7 August 2013 in Windhoek. The workshop, held under the theme “Working Towards Coordinated Strategies in Strengthening the Accountability Process in Namibia,” was the second of its kind hosted and organised by the Public Accounts Committee.

In 2011 the Committee convened a similar meeting with a limited participation by accountability institutions. It was then decided that a broader and more inclusive conference was necessary, thus leading to the August 2013 conference.

The conference was co-sponsored by the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Southern African Resource Centre. It drew more than 100 participants from stakeholders in the accountability sphere, among others, Accounting Officers from Offices, Ministries and Agencies (O/M/As), State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council, Prosecutor-General, the Namibian Police, Local Authorities Representatives, Media fraternity, Anti-Corruption Commission, Auditor-General, Bank of Namibia, Ombudsman,

Academics from the University of Namibia, Polytechnic of Namibia and Civil Society Organizations.

The main objectives of the conference were to promote collaborative oversight and strengthen strategic partnership among accountability institutions and to enhance accountability and transparency in the country through networking. In addition, the conference aimed to foster closer cooperation and coordination of activities of the accountability institutions in Namibia by establishing a forum to serve as a platform to discuss issues of common concern affecting the country.

Welcoming the participants, the Chairperson of the Public Accounts

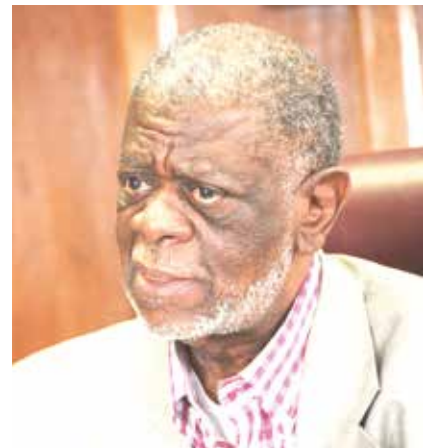


Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Usutuaije Maamberua

Committee Hon. Usutuaije Maamberua stressed the need for cooperation and coordination between accountability institutions in Namibia.

In exercising its constitutionally mandated duties, the Public Accounts Committee has come to the realisation that overlapping accountability factors call for coordination and cooperation, he noted.

In his keynote address, the Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Theo-



The Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab

Ben Gurirab appreciated the timing and organising the conference as a demonstration of how Committee can positively engage stakeholders to address issues affecting accountability and good governance in Namibia. Furthermore, he commended the Public Accounts Committee for the initiative taken to host the conference, in cooperation with other accountability institutions in Namibia, to discuss matters of common concern and to

reach common ground in enhancing accountability and transparency.

He expressed his wish to witness the creation of a network through the promotion of collaborative oversight that will prevent duplication and strengthen synergy among accountability institutions. These should be institutions with the same objectives of fighting the misuse of public resources, poor service delivery and corruption, with the view to promote transparency and prudence throughout the whole government, he emphasised.

Dr. Gurirab further said he was equally confident that the exercise of information exchange and mapping out the road forward would contribute to the enhancement of strong and transparent government accountability mechanisms in Namibia.



The Minister of Finance Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Also speaking at the same occasion, the Minister of Finance Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said one of the most widespread problems facing anyone trying to analyse the government's budget, particularly in developing countries and emerging democracies, was the lack of accurate budget and socio-economic statistics. In many countries, some of the most important data is simply non-existent, while problems of timeliness, accuracy and accountability also hindered objective analysis, she observed.

The absence of solid data, she said, was rarely a good reason to just walk away from the budget. "The budget is simply too important to ignore, since it contains programmes aimed at helping poor people, determining the

economic future of the country, and indeed, assisting to shape democracy itself," she said. Trust between governments and citizens are essential for good governance and participation. In order to build trust, governments are required to communicate in a transparent manner about past and future decisions and actions. However, governments should not only inform, but also involve citizens, she cautioned.

She also stressed that transparency was necessary to create realistic expectations of the budget. To achieve this, she maintained that information should be accessible and available about the government's fiscal policy, sources of revenue, spending priorities, funding of the deficit and the public debt situation.

In 1996, Cabinet took a decision that formed the basis for the move towards programme budgeting. It also resolved that the Prime Minister's Office should establish a unit within the Cabinet Secretariat to coordinate the processes of departmental planning, objective setting and budgetary management in close cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission.

According to the Minister, such cooperation led to the development of a Performance and Effectiveness Management Programme, which was geared towards introducing performance-based measures in public policy implementation. Along with other reforms, such as the introduction of a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, Namibia wanted to "enhance the development impact and efficiency of the national budget".

She said the Ministry Finance was on track with the required legal reforms to strengthen the country's public finance management capacity, through the drafting of a new Public Finance Management Bill and a new Audit Bill. Another bill the ministry has worked on is the Procurement Bill, formerly known as the Tender Board Bill, which was expected to be tabled before parliament for consideration.

"These bills are aimed at modernising and reinforcing some of the outdated provisions and at empowering the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Auditor-General to carry out their duties with a view to enhancing accountability and transparency," the

Finance Minister explained.

In addition, she said good public financial governance was a prerequisite to mobilising domestic revenues effectively, lessening dependence on aid and providing the public infrastructure, goods and services that were necessary to eradicate poverty, provide opportunities to citizens, as well as engender development and economic growth.

The Regional Director of the African Development Bank Mr. Ebrima Faal stressed his bank's well communicated ambition to become the partner of choice for African countries in the continuous improvement of public financial governance, of which accountability is a critical pillar. In particular, it is of policy interest to the African Development Bank Group to play a pivotal role in governance matters in Africa.

As part of our support for the developmental efforts of our member countries in Africa, the group takes keen interest in financial and budgetary accountability. It is an onerous ambition, but one to which we shall collectively remain dedicated, with a core objective of ensuring capable and responsive African states that are based on virtues of accountability and transparency in the management of public resources. This obviously calls for a solid partnership with our member countries, Mr. Faal noted.

The Bank Group defines accountability as "the capacity to call public officials to task for their actions" in the context of public sector management. Some of our development partners include an element of oversight over one's actions by another party in their particular definition of accountability. As we say at the Bank, accountability remains dysfunctional and almost nonexistent unless and until it is operationalised right down to the level of 'of whom...', 'for what...' and 'to whom,' he explained.

Mr. Faal emphasized the role of the legislature in championing accountability. Parliament's oversight role should continuously be nurtured, supported and recognized by all to ensure robust implementation of government policies aimed at achieving economic growth and poverty eradication that are of great interest to the African Development Bank.

CPPCC DELEGATION VISITS PARLIAMENT

- Fanuel Katshenye

A 14-member delegation from the Chinese People's Political and Consultative Conference (CPPCC) held bilateral discussions with the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams and other Members of Parliament on 3 June 2013. The Chinese delegation was led by Honourable Ma Bio, who, on his first visit to Namibia, said his delegation's visit aimed at further strengthening the bilateral relations and friendship that existed between the two parliaments. He congratulated Namibia for the developmental progress that the Southern African

country had made since independence 23 three years ago.

Vice-Chairperson Mensah-Williams described Namibia as not only China's important partner, but also as an "all weather" friend on the African continent. She said the Chinese visit would further improve the existing excellent relations and cooperation between the two parliaments. The Chinese delegation was more interested in learning about Namibia's success in wildlife and conservation management. To this effect, knowledgeable staff from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism was invited to the meeting to show a presentation on wildlife conservation and management in the country. The

delegation was also introduced to the functions and operations of Namibia's parliamentary committee system.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism's presentation focused on existing Parliament Acts and Ordinances that govern the country's four Transfer Frontier Conservation Areas and its 20 National Parks. Hon. Ma appreciated Namibia's "balanced legislative system" with regard to the use and protection of the wildlife.

Also attending the meeting were Parliamentarians Ben Amathila, Phillipus Katamelo, Nimrod Muremi, Ndapewoshali Nambili, Germina Shitaleni, Issaskar Kaujeua, Ambrosius Kandjii; and officials Ms. Panduleni Shimutwikeni, Mr. Jakes Jacobs, and Ms. Nangula Kakena from the National Council, National Assembly and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs respectively. In addition, three expert officials from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism also attended.

FROM THE CHAMBERS



Hon. Theopolina Mushelenga was sworn in on 21 February 2013 as Member of the National Assembly. She replaced Hon. Dr. Abraham Iyambo who died in early February this year.



Hon. Dr. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo was sworn in on 27 June 2013 as Member of the National Assembly. She replaced Hon. Festus Ueitele who was appointed as Governor of the Omaheke Region.

OBITUARY



Late Ms. Hendreda Christiana Penny

The National Council announced with deep grief the passing away of colleague Ms. Hendreda Christiana "Penny" Bloedooght on 27 July 2013. The late Penny joined the National Council on 1 August 1998 as a Senior Registry Clerk after her transfer from the Keetmanshoop Regional Education Office.

"We have lost a great civil servant and a great Namibian citizen who was a woman of passion with strong commitment to public service," stated the message of condolences from the National Council to the bereaved family.

May her Soul Rest in Eternal Peace!

STAFF ON THE MOVE

Ms. Emilia Mkusa, Director of the General Services at the National Assembly has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs effective from 31 July 2013. "It has been a rewarding experience to have worked with you for the past 11 years. I would like to thank you all dearly for cooperation and assistance you provided to me during this time," Ms. Mkusa said in her farewell e-mail.



Mrs Fenny-Magano Nambahu, a Control Administrative Officer at the National Assembly retired on 31 July 2013. Mrs Nambahu started working for the National Assembly since 1 February 2000. Her workmates and supervisor described her as a friendly and hardworking person.



Ms. Ndapandula Shipiki was appointed as a Personal Assistant to Dr.Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Speaker of the National Assembly effective July 2013.



Mr. Matti Amunime, Human Resource Practitioner at National Assembly was promoted to Senior Human Resources Practitioner effective May 2013.



Ms. Menete Amukwaya joined the National Assembly as a Chief Administrative Officer effective July 2013.



Ms. Hester Christiaans was promoted to Parliamentary Clerk at the National Assembly effective July 2013.



Ms. Paulina Shipahu was promoted to Administrative Officer at the National Assembly effective July 2013.



Mr. Jan R.S. Christiaan of the National Assembly was promoted to Chief System Administrator effective July 2013.



Mr. Mathias S. Kashindi, Chief Legal Officer was transferred from National Assembly, in the same position to the Ministry of Justice, effective July 2013.



Mrs. Carol – Ann N. Esterhuizen was promoted to Chief Legal Officer at the National Assembly effective July 2013.



Mr. Elifas Angula joined the National Assembly as a System Analyst effective August 2013.





Arandis Town Junior Council in front of the National Council Administrative Building with Chairman Kapere

