



NC Parli Melt

Provincial Legislature

VIGILANT ALWAYS FOR OUR PEOPLE



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NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S MONTH WITH SPECIAL DEBATE

On August 22, 2024, the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature convened a special House Sitting to honour Women's Month with a focused debate. The theme of the session was "Celebrating 30 years of Democracy towards Women's Development," emphasizing the journey towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the province.

During the session, members from different political parties engaged in heartfelt and meaningful discussions, addressing the persisting challenges in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. MPL Priscilla Isaacs expressed the urgency for women to take the lead in advocating for themselves to combat issues such as gender-based violence, school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, poverty, and hunger.

MPL Sherifa Ferris, in her maiden speech, emphasized the crucial role of women in reshaping societal norms and urged women to confront and challenge discrimination whenever they encounter it. This proactive stance, she stressed, must be consistently maintained.

MPL Sibongile Mazabane Letebele highlighted the ongoing struggle for gender equality despite 30 years of democracy, emphasizing the need to address critical issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS among women, violence against women, and xenophobic attacks.



"We need to ensure that the National Council of Gender Based Violence and Femicide Bill which was signed into law in 2024 gets implemented without any delay. The government needs to protect women and children of South Africa from abuse and violence," said Letebele.

The session also paid tribute to the late Kimberley-born Justice Yvonne Mokgoro and honoured the memory of women who had tragically lost their lives to gender-based violence with a solemn moment of silence.

MEC of Agriculture, Ms. Mase Monapole, reflected on the challenging times during apartheid, acknowledging the pivotal role of women in agriculture and their endurance through exploitation and discrimination.

The speakers, including MPLs P. Isaacs, S. Letebele, H. Ferris, T. Joubert, and Chair of Chairs M. Kibi, delivered powerful speeches emphasizing the significance of Women's Month and the need to uplift women in our society.

In conclusion, the debate celebrated the progress made in the past three decades of democracy and reaffirmed the collective commitment to working towards a future where every woman in the province can live with dignity, opportunity, and equality. It is imperative for us to reflect on these discussions and continue championing the rights and development of women across all spheres of life, ensuring that the next 30 years bring even greater advancements for women in our society.





WOMEN WHO LEAD IN POLITICS



As part of our continued Women's Month celebrations, we're turning the spotlight on the incredible women serving in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. In this segment, we'll explore the vital roles they play in shaping our province, from their leadership in portfolio and standing committees to their influence within their political parties.





She is Chairperson of Standing Committee on Rules



She is Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Review of Rules and Parliamentary Practice

The Honourable Newrene Klaaste is the current Speaker of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature, serving as Speaker for her second five-year term. Under her leadership as Speaker of both the 6th and 7th Legislature, the legislature achieved a clean audit outcome for two consecutive financial years. Being elected for a second term is a milestone; it also demonstrates confidence to lead a multi-party legislature that is stable and accountable.

Speaker Klaaste's passion lies in Municipal Finance, emanating from her experienced background and participation in the School of Public Leadership through the University of Stellenbosch. She is currently furthering her studies as a politician on the move, as a former Speaker for the Namaqua District Municipality, her leadership skills, passion for charity work and shop stewardship (SAMWU), has paved her way to being Speaker of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature.



She is Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the legislature's Budget



She is Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Internal Arrangements

Mpl Mirriam Kibi

MPL Miriam Thenjiwe Kibi is a member of the African National Congress and holds several influential roles within the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature.

As the **Chairperson of Committees** and a **Presiding Officer**, she guides legislative processes and ensures effective governance. MPL Kibi is a strong advocate for the emancipation of women, children and persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. A strong vision and deep compassion mark her leadership. She serves as the **Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Gender, Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities**, advocating for the rights and empowerment of these groups. Under her stewardship, this Standing Committee is bound to make a significant impact that will greatly improve the lives of all vulnerable groups in the Northern Cape.

MPL Kibi's extensive experience includes her tenure as a former Member of Parliament since 2014 where she served in the National Assembly until joining the Northern Cape Legislature in 2024.

As a presiding officer, she currently serves as the **Chairperson of Chairpersons** at the Legislature and is characterized as a leader who strives for change in the community. MPL Kibi is recognized for her commitment to creating a more just and equitable society.



Her work is characterized by a steadfast dedication to improving the lives of those she serves, making her a prominent figure in the ongoing efforts to uplift vulnerable communities.



MPL KAREN JOOSTE

MPL Jooste is a dedicated member of the Democratic Alliance and currently serves in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. With experience as a former member of the Northern Cape Legislature in 2009 until 2014, and a member of the National Assembly from 2014 to 2019, she brings a wealth of knowledge to her current roles.

MPL Jooste is an active participant in several key committees, including the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development, the Portfolio Committee on Finance, Tourism, and Economic Development, and the Standing Committees on Gender, Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities, as well as the standing committee on Programme.



MPL SHARIFA FERRIS

MPL Sharifa Ferris is the leader of the Patriotic Alliance in the Northern Cape Province. She serves as a Member of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. In addition to leading her party within the Legislature, MPL Ferris chairs the Portfolio Committee on Safety, Transport, and Public Works. She is also an active member of several other key committees, including Health and Social Development, Rules, Gender, Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities, Premier and Legislature, and Public Accounts. Her leadership and involvement span crucial areas of governance, reflecting her commitment to public service and community welfare.



MPL REINETTE LIEBENBERG

MPL Reinette Liebenberg, a committed member of the Democratic Alliance that has been serving in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature since 2019.

Throughout her tenure, she has played an important role in shaping policies and legislation across multiple sectors. She was an active member of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Petitions and Public Participation in the 6th Administration. Currently, MPL Liebenberg is a member of the Portfolio Committee (PC) on Agriculture, Land Reform, Rural Development, Environment, and Conservation. She also contributes to the PC on Education, Sport, Arts, and Culture as well as the PC on Safety, Transport, and Public Works as a member of these committees. Through her work in the in Legislature, MPL Reinette Liebenberg continues to champion key issues that impact the lives of the people in the Northern Cape.



MPL SIBONGILE MAZABANE-LETEBELE

Sibongile Theresa Mazabane-Letebele is a dedicated member of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) serving in the provincial legislature. Mazabane-Letebele is a member of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Sports, Arts and Culture, she is also a member of the Portfolio Committee on Gender, Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities. MPL Letebele draws inspiration from her grandmother, a veteran of the ANC Women's League. She is dedicated to empowering women, addressing socio-economic challenges, and improving service delivery. Letebele also focuses on educating others about cronyism and neo-colonialism, while advocating for positive change in her community and beyond



MPL PRISCILLA ISAACS

Priscilla Isaacs is a member of the Democratic Alliance who has been serving in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature since 2019. She is actively involved in the Portfolio Committee on Education, Sports, Arts and Culture. Isaacs also serves on the Portfolio Committee on Gender, Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities. Additionally, she is a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.



MPL FAWZIA RHODA

MPL Fawzia Rhoda is a dedicated Democratic Alliance member serving in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature since May 2019. She previously chaired the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, where she focused on enhancing financial oversight and accountability. Currently, MPL Rhoda serves on several key portfolio committees, including Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs; Finance, Economic Development and Tourism; Agriculture, Land Reform, Rural Development, Environment and Conservation; as well as Constitutional Affairs, Petitions & Public Participation. Known for her commitment to transparency, effective governance, and community engagement, MPL Rhoda plays a crucial role in shaping policies that address the diverse needs of her constituents in the Northern Cape.



MPL LIMAKATSO KOLOI

MPL Kolo is the current Whip of the ANC in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. She is a dedicated public servant with a distinguished career. She previously served as the Deputy Chairperson of Committees and is now the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development. A former Mayor of an award-winning municipality, she is passionate about community development. Committed to continuous growth, she is currently pursuing studies in Governance and Public Leadership, further enhancing her already impressive leadership skills.



MPL GIZELLA OPPERMAN

Gizella Opperman is a committed member of the Democratic Alliance and currently serves in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature, having transitioned from the National Assembly where she began her parliamentary career in 2019. She plays an integral role on the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, focusing on enhancing governance, housing, and respecting the rights of traditional communities. Additionally, Opperman contributes to the Portfolio Committee on Safety, Transport, and Public Works, where she works on improving public safety and infrastructure. Her commitment to accountability is further evident through her involvement in the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, where she ensures responsible oversight of government spending. Known for her hands-on approach and dedication to service delivery, Opperman is driven by a passion for transparency, effective governance, and the well-being of her constituents in the Northern Cape.



WOMEN'S DIALOGUES ACROSS THE NORTHERN CAPE: EMPOWERING VOICES AND TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

In celebration of Women's Month, the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature hosted a series of Women's Dialogues across the province under the theme "Empowering Women, Transforming Communities, and Creating Active Citizens." These events provided a platform for women to voice their concerns, discuss challenges, and propose solutions.

The series began in Lime Acres, ZFM District, led by Regional Liaison Officer (RLO) Mr. Ticci Zweni, the event had a dual focus which was to educate community members about the role and function of the Legislature while also addressing the critical issues facing the women in the region through dialogue. Mrs Irene Williams, Mayor of the Kgatelopele Local municipality opened this first session with a message of support and encouragement to all the women in attendance to make their voices heard. The programme was attended by the Secretary to the Legislature and supported by Research services.

We as women, we are burdened but we do not speak out

The second dialogue took place in the John Taolo Gaetsewe district at the Bothetheletse community hall led by Mr Janes Manhe, the RLO for JTG. The Speaker of Joe Morolong Local Municipality, Councillor Violet Jordan, delivered a powerful message. Jordan urged women to break the silence and speak out, stating, "Re le basadi re imetswe mme re palelwa go bua," which translates to "We as women, we are burdened but we do not speak out."

In Williston, women from Sutherland, Fraserburg, and Williston gathered to discuss critical issues such as gender equality, inclusivity, economic growth, and access to land and healthcare. This session was led by Namakwa RLO Mr. Rudi Louw, with support from research officers. Council member Cora Steenkamp opened the session, and Mr. Louw explained the role and functions of the Legislature. Intern Lee-Ann Cloete from the Namakwa district provided valuable insights, educating guests on the importance of equal access to land and healthcare.

The dialogues in Victoria West, led by Pixley ka Seme RLO Mr. Sandile Manene, brought the series to a powerful conclusion. Women engaged in meaningful conversations about breaking barriers and creating opportunities, showcasing their resilience and ability to thrive when given equal chances. These discussions emphasized the vital role women play as the backbone of the nation—strong, unbreakable, and powerful.

Through these dialogues, the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature demonstrated its commitment to empowering women and ensuring their voices are heard in the legislative process.





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Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of NC ParliMelt. We appreciate your continued support and encourage you to stay tuned for future publications. Be sure to scan the QR code to visit our website, where you can explore more about what's happening at the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. Don't forget to follow us on all our social media platforms to stay updated with the latest news and events. We look forward to engaging with you again soon!

