

# SADC

# PF News



The Voice of Parliamentarians in SADC

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## **SADC Parliamentary Forum Bears Witness As DRC Holds Watershed Elections**

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### EDITORIAL TEAM

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Dr. Kasuka Simwinji Mutukwa

**EDITOR**

Bookie M. Kethusegile-Juru

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Bongani Mkhalihi, Boemo Sekgoma,

Takawira Musavengana,

Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu

**LAYOUT**

Bongani Mkhalihi

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## DRC Elections Raise Optimism In region's Future

Once again, we wish to share with Parliamentarians on some of the major developments involving the SADC Parliamentary Forum as the "Voice of Parliamentarians in SADC". As an optimist of Africa and the region's future in peace and prosperity, if we all work at it, I can only say what is and has happened in the Democratic Republic of Congo can be cause for optimism of our common future.

I was honoured to have coordinated the Forum's largest and most complex of its Election Observer Missions since we started the process in 1999. Not only did we observe the voter registration process, but we stayed the course to observe the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections; the Declaration of Results and the Run-Off, or Second Round of the Presidential Elections, which were held concurrently with the Provincial elections.

I wish to appreciate the cooperation of the Parliaments that nominated the MPs and Staff, as well as the dedication and commitment of the Observers who took risks on



behalf of our organization, in the interest of advancing the cause of peace and democracy in the region. Last, but not least, to my colleagues at the Secretariat, we can pride ourselves for having developed the capacities to deliver and to secure the confidence of our stakeholders and funding partners who moved quickly to finance our established Election Observation programmes.

# Forum Bears Witness to Historic DRC Elections

## ...As Region Marvell at Successfull Process more than 40 Years Due

By Takawira Musavengana

31 July, 2006 saw the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) hold its first democratic elections since 1961 when the country got its independence from the kingdom of Belgium. Hundreds of delegations descended on the country to observe the elections in Africa's third largest country – a country the size of the whole of Western Europe. Observer Missions came from Africa, Europe and elsewhere to bear witness to Africa's newest democracy, and by extension, a rebirth of a nation! The SADC Parliamentary Forum (Forum) contingent was one of the largest, numbering 115 Members of Parliament and technical support staff. This was the 17th national elections to be observed by the Forum in the SADC

The United Nations Mission in Congo (MUNOC) also supported the election process, which it hailed as free and fair despite some logistical hiccups, all of which were not unexpected, given the post conflict history of the country, its sheer size, the poor communication infrastructure and other associated variables necessary to conduct a plausible election process. For instance, due to the largely impassable roads, almost all the election material had to be ferried to and from the different centres across the country by air. There were also isolated incidents of election-related violence. In the end though, all the players involved in the election process pulled in one direction to make it all work, regardless. That the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) successfully organized the election, and availed voters an opportunity to cast their ballots in more than 47, 000 polling stations across the country, most of them for very first time in their lives was itself a true miracle indeed!

In all, there were some 9, 060 parliamentary candidates vying for 500 parliamentary seats and 33 candidates gunning for the highest office in the land – the presidency.

The observer Mission was led by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Malawi – the Honourable Jones Chingola, whose deputies were the Honourable Alfredo Junior and Honourable Lutero Simango of the National Assemblies of Angola and Mozambique, respectively; both of whom also serve the Forum as Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of *Democracy, Governance and Gender Equality*, and *Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and Capacity Development*, respectively; and the Honourable Anna Abdallah of the National Assembly of Tanzania. In line with the con-



*Deputy Mission Leader Hon. Anna Abdallah (Tanzania) and Mission Leader Hon. Alfredo Júnior (Angola) - at the briefing session in Kinshasa.*

stitutional provisions of the Forum, the Mission comprised male and female Members of Parliament from ruling and opposition political parties in the participating parliaments, namely Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

While in the country, the Mission consulted with political parties, the IEC, MONUC, other election observer missions, among them the SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM), and other national and international election observers. A total of 29 observer teams were deployed to all the 11 provinces of the DRC to observe the *campaign, voting and vote counting processes* in the respective districts.

The Mission concluded that the conduct of the elections was in line with SADC regional electoral norms and standards. The election was conducted in an environment that afforded the people of Congo the opportunity to express their free will to vote for candidates of their choice, for the first time in forty years.

The following were some of the Mission's findings:

#### **Political environment**

Notwithstanding a few isolated incidents of violence, loss of life and property that occurred in the immediate run-up to, and during the elections, particularly in Kinshasa,

Mbuji Mayi and Mweka, the Mission noted with appreciation, and congratulated the Government, political parties, civil society, religious organizations and the people of Congo in general, for rising above partisan interests and choosing to collectively delicately walk the path towards a deliberate peace, tolerance and democratic elections. The Mission noted that all the transitional institutions worked cooperatively to create a conducive environment for a transparent electoral process.

#### **Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)**

The IEC has the full and sole mandate of managing all aspects of elections, including the setting of the date of elections, registration of voters and candidates, organizing and conducting elections and as well as compilation of results. Pursuant to that mandate, last year in 2005, the IEC successfully organized a national voter registration exercise, compiled a national voters' register of more than 25 million persons and issued relevant voters cards. This exercise was a major milestone in a country that is severely lacking in basic infrastructure such as roads.

#### **Gender**

In spite of a clear provision in the country's constitution regarding women's entitlement to fair gender representation in national, pro-

vincial and local institutions, the DRC electoral process was not sensitive to women participation. For instance, of the 9,000 parliamentary candidates, only a paltry 14% were women. This was made worse by the adoption of the open list electoral system as opposed to the closed list which would have allowed political parties to exercise deliberate judgment and affirmative action in the nomination of candidates.

**Polling Centres**

Some 49, 746 *bureau de vote* were established, each of which was expected to serve not more than 600 voters over 11 hours of voting. This arrangement facilitated high voter turnout in most parts of the country.

**Good Practices**

- A largely free, peaceful and open campaign process in which all candidates had an equal opportunity to canvass for votes.;
- A highly successful election conducted in a peaceful, transparent and orderly manner;
- A constitutional and legal framework that, to a very large extent, facilitated the democratic process;
- High voter turnout in general and that of women and the youth in particular;
- Multiple *bureaux de vote* at each of the polling centres arranged according to voters' registration numbers;
- Presence and participation of party/candidate agents (witnesses) and a large number of national and international observers at most *bureaux de vote* throughout the country;
- Visible and non-intrusive police presence at all polling centres visited;
- Preferential treatment and access to the ballot for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, the elderly, infirm and visually impaired in the voting process. Significantly, the law on the organization of presidential, parliamentary, provincial, urban, municipal and local elections mandates the president of the polling booth to ensure that persons in the above-mentioned categories receive priority in the voting process;
- A high number of female polling officials;
- Displaying of voters' lists at most of the polling stations visited by the Mission;
- Counting of ballots at the polling station level, signing of results sheets by polling staff and party/candidates agents and displaying of the same at every *bureau de vote*; and
- The use of ballot boxes with a transparent window to enhance the transparency of the electoral process.



*Secretary General Dr. K. Mutukwa briefing delegation at Grand Hotel Kinshasa. From left-to-right Hon John Pandeni (Min. of Regional & Local Government - Namibia) – Leader of the SADC Observer Mission in DRC; the Ambassador of South Africa to DRC; Senator Bella Katamzi from Swaziland presiding over the session.*

**Recommendations**

- Increased gender sensitization to enhance the participation of women in electoral processes. This process to start with political parties themselves with the full support of the IEC, civil society organizations and all tiers of government;
- Establishment of an enforceable Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates;
- Strengthening the financial and human resource capacity of the High Authority of the Media (HAM) to effectively monitor the compliance of media organizations with any existing guidelines relating to media coverage of elections; and
- Consolidating and improving voter

education, including the publication of sample ballot papers ahead of the elections; and International and Regional community should continue supporting the DRC in strengthening and protecting democratic institutions in the post election period.

The Forum has committed itself to assisting the new government and other institutions of governance to deal with the mammoth task of rebuilding the country after the long civil war. In this regard, the Forum's Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) is expected to have a major role in building the capacity of the new parliament so that it is able to perform as effectively as it can. ■



*From L to R: Hon Esther Dlamini (Swaziland); Hon Lutero Simango (Mozambique); Hon Jones Chingola (Malawi); Hon Alfredo Junior (Angola) and Hon Lucia Basson (Namibia)*

# SADC Parliamentary Forum Moves Closer To Realizing Intended Ideal

By Bongani Mkhali

In a ground breaking event that saw the Parliamentary Training Centre (PLC), the training arm of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, move a rung closer to achieving its ideal, the PLC convened a consultative workshop of experts in the region – ‘a think-tank’, so to say, to reflect on capacity building and training needs of the region’s National Parliaments. The idea was to map out the development of the Centre’s training programme, materials and modules. The event was, in a nutshell, to crystallize the Centre’s curricula. This workshop took place from the 30th August to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, this year.

The composition of this ‘think-tank’ ranged from Clerks of Parliament, Parliament Human Resource Officers, Parliamentary Consultants, Heads of University departments and institutions. Institutions represented included: University of Western Cape, Eduardo Mondlane University, ESAMI, South Africa Institute of International Affairs, Namibia Democracy Support Centre, Chancellor College, parliaments of Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, to name a few.

## Appreciation

Addressing the experts, in her welcoming remarks, the Director of the PLC, who is also the Assistant Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum – Ms Bookie M Kethusegile-Juru, noted her appreciation of the participants’ rallying support in this process of defining the parameters of the PLC and their willingness to help draft a Comprehensive Training Programme/ Integrated Curriculum.

## Zero Draft

A document, aptly called the ‘zero- draft Training programme’ that had been prepared by the Staff of the PLC to start off the discussions, was presented to the experts to build on to, or to even tear apart if need be, in order to facilitate the crafting of the desired draft document that would be appropriate, and owned by everyone. The zero-draft had been prepared from a feasibility study that had been carried out in 2001 that detailed challenges faced by National Parliaments in as far as parliamentary practice went – a study that brought to attention the express need to establish a training arm of the Forum, now known as the PLC.



*Director of the PLC Ms Bookie M Kethusegile lays the ground for the Experts to start speaking to the issues at hand*



*The Director welcoming the presence of the Secretary General of the Forum, Dr. Kasuka Mutukwa who had come to greet the workshop participants*

In the three days that ensued, experiences were shared, case studies cited and best practices noted, greatly enriching the zero-draft document, which then began to metamorphosize into the now ‘Comprehensive Integrated Programme for the Parliamentary Leadership Centre’ (CIP-PLC), a document to be later studied, refined and adopted by the PLC Board (see story on page 14).

Among the many items that were tackled

by the workshop participants was a consideration of training curricula of various training institutions as a way of enriching the zero-draft. Ideas were shared and exchanged on methodologies, out of which a framework was honed that would be used by the PLC and its partners. Discussions were held and possibilities explored on certification and accreditation of the PLC training courses by other training institutions in the region, including the

▶▶ To page 6

administration of these training programmes. Lessons were drawn from long standing institutes like ESAMI.

### Niche

Equally important to come out of this eminent workshop was the explicit identification of the PLC and the particular type of intervention programmes to be considered by the Centre. The workshop noted the fact that the PLC being part of SADC and the SADC PF, was in the enviable position of getting first hand information on what transpires in the meetings of the region's leadership, which invariably assists in the design of appropriate capacity building initiatives which are regional in their dimension, whilst at the same time encompassing the unique needs of individual member states. The PLC, as such, stands as the best strategically positioned player to act as a focal point for all parliamentary capacity building initiatives.

### Champions

The work done by the participants is really commendable, considering that in just a matter of three days such a mammoth task was completed. It is only natural that the PLC would ask that the experts' group that participated in the exercise be retained as defacto champions of its cause.

## About the PLC

The main purpose of PL is to enhance the skills and knowledge of the staff of Parliaments and that of Parliamentarians to enable them to effectively implement their mandates, improve their professional performance and image, and to contribute to good governance and achievements of the regional integration and sustainable development. The PLC seeks to provide a place for interactions among the MPs, staff of Parliament and other stakeholders, to reflect on their roles and responsibilities, and to improve their practice and professional performances.

Although PLC was conceived about six years ago, it only took off last year (August 2005) when the first crop of members of staff came on board. It only started implementing its activities towards the end of 2005.

Since its establishment the PLC has held national and regional thematic workshops that were organised in collaboration with key resource persons and specialists from regional institutions to supplement the PLC trainers. The PLC staff have knowledge and skills specialty in the areas of:-

- ❑ Training and institutional capacity development;
- ❑ Parliamentary service, research and policy analysis;
- ❑ Development policy and practice;
- ❑ Information Communication Technologies (ICT);
- ❑ Gender analysis and women's empowerment;
- ❑ HIV and AIDS; and
- ❑ Elections management.

The thematic courses that had been organised by the PLC were on:-

- ❑ Debt management;
- ❑ ICT;
- ❑ HIV and AIDS;
- ❑ Governance issues;
- ❑ Regional integration issues.

The PLC extends itself and its work through other experts and institutions that work in parliamentary capacity enhancement.

## OBSERVERS DESCEND IN LUSAKA FOR ZAMBIAN POLLS

**T**eams from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU), European Union and SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) descended in Zambia to observe the county's fourth multiparty democratic elections that had been set to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.

The teams were to assess whether the political parties and electoral administrators adhered to the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections - a regional instrument for assessing polls that was adopted by SADC leaders in 2004.

The Zambian poll was the fifth to be conducted using the SADC electoral guidelines after Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*The SADC electoral guidelines* – a non-legally binding electoral tool, was approved by Heads of State and Government at the regional body's summit in Mauritius in 2004.

Under the guidelines, SADC Member States agreed to guarantee the full participation of all their citizens in their country's political processes, including, among others, the need for political tolerance; the holding at regular intervals of elections, as provided for by the respective national constitutions; equal opportunity for all political parties to access the state media; and equal opportunity to exercise the right to vote and be voted for.

The SADC observer mission was led by the United Republic of Tanzania's Minister for Good Governance, Philip Marmo. The United Republic of Tanzania is also the current chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which rotates on a yearly basis.

The AU observer team was led by Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu, chairperson of the National Council of Provinces of the South African Parliament. This team arrived in Lusaka on 17 September.

The SADC PF election observer mission was led by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius, who is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Forum - Honourable Rajkeswur Purryag. The team comprised Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zimbabwe as well as officials from the Windhoek-based Forum Secretariat.

This is the second time that the Forum has observed national elections in Zambia, having observed and published a report on the 2001 tripartite elections.

In these elections, President Levy Mwanawasa was facing stiff challenge from veteran politician, Michael Sata, and wealthy business tycoon, Hakainde Hichilema, who was leading a three-party alliance.

# Political Leaders Accused Of Complacency As HIV/AIDS Scourge Continues Its Rampage

## Do women living with HIV/AIDS have the right to bear children? Who wields the power?

By Boemo Sekgoma

At the recently concluded conference in Toronto which attracted 31,000 participants the issue of political will was on the lips and ears of all. It was not unusual to attend any session and meet with the same outcry that politicians were not investing as much as they should in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The perceived failure of political leaders has in some cases been said to be tantamount to political genocide, as described by the President of the International AIDS society, Dr Julio Montaner in an interview with the *Globe and Mail*, newspaper, Friday 18 August 2006, she was quoted as saying of the politician's inaction - "It's not ignorance. It's mere negligence. It's more than a crime to humanity. It can be characterized as genocide".

Mark Heywood, National Secretary of the Treatment Action Council in Johannesburg, South Africa, called on delegates at the conference to "hold politicians' feet to the fire to ensure they deliver". Overall, most speakers blamed the lack of political will for the many deaths of people who have died and yet should not have.

Based on sentinel surveillance, UNAIDS has estimated that about 2.5 million women who become pregnant each year are HIV-positive. However, most women in the world have not been tested for HIV and are consequently unaware of their status. According to the UNAIDS, 2004, task force, of the fourteen member states of SADC, nine have an adult prevalence rate higher than 10%; six states, higher than 20% and two, higher than 30%. Of the 38 million people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) in the world in 2003, Southern African was home for 14.4 million of them.

Women constitute more than half (59%) of adults living with HIV and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2003, women accounted for 56.8 percent of adult living with HIV in Malawi and 52 percent in Namibia. Between 2001 and 2002, in Zambia and Zimbabwe girls and young women represented almost 80 percent of all young people aged 15-24 who were living with HIV and AIDS.

At the core of these debate is an assumption that so far, policy oriented thinking has been lacking in parliamentary debates to address issues of gender based violence and prevention packages for women living with HIV and AIDS in a law abiding and constructive manner involving governmental authorities and interested civil society. Rather it is alleged, all has been going on

"In quiet diplomacy". As a result, Members of Parliaments, as peoples representatives were urged to come full circle on demonstrating political will and saving women's life's.

Given that, in a growing number of countries in Southern Africa, parliamentary portfolio committees on health/population or HIV/AIDS and some parliamentary debates have been interrogating the "Reproductive choice of women living with HIV/AIDS" as to whether or not they should be having children? These debates have been received with mixed feelings and criticism from women and People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who described their journey in the past decade as being filled with anxiety sadness, frustration and other difficulties that accompany anyone's quest to adjust to a life full of discrimination.

At this recently concluded XVI International conference held in Canada this issue was discussed as a "looming time bomb" in most Sub Saharan African countries, where the institution of parliament was described as moving from inertia to paralysis or paralysis to inertia. PLWHA groups accused their governments of portraying women as vessels of diseases in their debates, portraying women as victims in this epidemic. Some activists went further to say that the fact that most governments have incorporated HIV testing into routine prenatal care, albeit women having the option to "opt out" if they do not want to get tested is a betrayal of women when men are left to run free from being tested. Several women from Africa gave accounts of their experiences as Women living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. One woman from Botswana said she had been accused by a health worker of being a "suicide bomber" who did not deserve any access to medication; another from Zambia said "I was refused admission for delivery because of my HIV status. Finally, I delivered at home." Lastly, one from Lesotho said women of child bearing age who get ARV treatment were required to take regular shots of Depo-Provera (Contraceptive). If the women do not show up they lose their access to the life saving drugs. Most of the women from Southern Africa claimed that the communities they lived in always responded with an "adamant no" to women who are HIV positive and want to have children, claiming there were plenty of orphans. This they perceived as having been tainted as outcasts with moral judgment being passed on them without any scientific basis.

In my considered view these debates call for an examination of the legal basis for parliamentary oversight and their political will to use tools and mechanisms at their dis-

posal to oversee HIV/AIDS policy and action of technocrats and the Executive. Members of Parliaments should give consideration to conducting more constituency outreach work, to interface with civil society and put in place mechanisms for oversight hearings with People living with HIV/AIDS in parliament and at their constituencies, to conduct oversight visits to relevant service providers in their constituencies and at national level. These strategies among others will give power to parliamentarians to review and pass laws and to equip themselves with information pertaining to needs of PLWHA. Accordingly, Members will have the power and legitimacy to interface with the Executive to influence a transparent budget review for HIV/AIDS and to have a great impact on policy outputs and outcomes.

It could be argued that it is relevant at this point that governments, in particular parliamentarians, look at the context and content of their national laws, with an aim to determine whether their laws hinder, violate, marginalize or abrogate their citizen's rights, in particular women, youth and children; in the context of HIV/AIDS prevention treatment and Care to facilitate access health and reproductive health services, protection of the right to health and life. This should be done in the interest of good governance, because some have argued that often it depends on political deployment of the law, and how it is evoked.

The Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Dr Kasuka Mutukwa at every given opportunity underscores the need for HIV/AIDS capacity development at national and regional level to focus on sharing cutting edge prevention treatment and care information for women, children, youth and men. This, he believes will prepare Members of Parliament in their inquisitorial function which is one of the widely used parliamentary procedure to oversee government action.

### Helpful key pointers

Some pointers that could be helpful in propelling more action by parliamentarians;

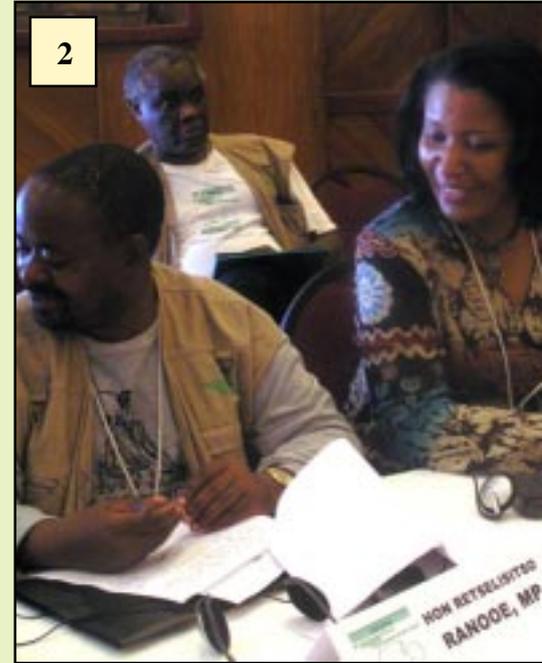
- Laws should be enacted to ensure women's reproductive and sexual rights, including the independent access to reproductive and sexually transmitted diseases health information among others.
- Ensure that information is imparted to all so that HIV –positive women and their partners are able to exercise their right to de-

# Photo Gallery...

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**1** *Honourable Members at the recent DRC election observation mission*

**2** *Hon. Retselisitsoe Ranooe (Lesotho) and Hon. Ângela Braganca (Angola) at the DRC elections*

**3** *Hon. Govindranach Gunness, Hon. Francis Simenda, Hon. Otsweletse Moupo and Hon. Rajendrakumar Mungur at the 10th anniversary commemoration in Maputo in June this year*

**4** *Leadership of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Observer Mission to the DRC. From Left to Right: Hon. Anna Abdallah (Dep. Mission Leader); Hon Alfredo Junior (Mission Leader); Hon. Jones Chingola (Mission Leader); Dr. Kasuka Mutukwa; Hon. Lutero Simango (Dep. Mission Leader)*



# 2006 ZAMBIA PRESIDENTIAL, PARLIAMENTARY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS FREE AND FAIR - SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

By Takawira Musavengana

On 18th September, 2006, a 41-member parliamentary delegation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (the Forum) arrived in Lusaka, Zambia to observe the 2006 Zambia Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections (tripartite elections). The delegation comprised of Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zimbabwe as well as officials from the Windhoek-based Forum Secretariat was led by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius, who is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Forum, Honourable Rajkeswur Purryag.

This was the second time that the Forum has had the opportunity to observe national elections in Zambia, having observed and published a report on the 2001 tripartite elections. The participation of the Forum in the 2006 Zambia tripartite elections was in response to an invitation from the Zambian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and built on the earlier deployment of a voter registration observer delegation in November, 2005.

The work of the Mission commenced with an orientation workshop with electoral stakeholders. The orientation workshop, which was held on 19th and 20th September, 2006, was aimed at familiarising Forum observers with the political, constitutional and legal aspects of the electoral process in Zambia. The Mission held consultative meetings with the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), representatives of political parties, SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Zambia as well as civil society and religious organisations. The Mission also exchanged views with the Inspector General of Zambia Police Service (ZPS) and representatives of media organisations.

On 21st September, 2006, the Mission deployed observer teams to 14 locations in all the 9 provinces of Zambia, where they were based until 30th September, 2006. The teams were deployed in Kabwe (Central Province), Ndola and Chingola (Copperbelt Province), Chipata (Eastern Province), Mansa (Luapula Province), Kasama and Mpika (Northern Province), Solwezi (North-Western Province), Livingstone and Monze/Choma (Southern Province) and Mongu (Western Province). The Mission Leader and two other teams covered Lusaka Province.

During the period of observation, the Forum's observers attended election campaign meetings of various political parties and candidates, in addition to exchanging views on

the electoral process with ECZ officials, other observers and monitors.

## Observation Process

The Mission's observation process was based on the constitutional and legal framework of Zambia as well as the Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region, the SADC Principles and Guidelines for Democratic Elections, SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, the African Union Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, among other relevant regional and global conventions. The global Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which the Forum is party to, were useful points of reference for the Mission.

## Political Environment

The Mission was impressed by the maturity of the people of Zambia as evidenced by the peace and tranquillity that existed before and during the Mission's observation of the electoral process. Very few isolated incidents of election related violence were brought to the attention of the Mission. The Mission was however concerned with some of the language that was used in the campaigns which, on occasion, bordered on character assassination and hate speech.

## Constitutional and Legal Framework

The Constitution of the Republic of Zambia provides for the protection of citizens' freedoms of movement, expression, assembly and association, among others. Article 21 specifically provides for citizens' right to form or belong to political parties. These freedoms were, in the Mission's view, exercised without undue hindrance.

The electoral process in Zambia is governed principally by the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia, the Electoral Act (2006), the Electoral Commission Act, relevant provisions of the Public Order Act (1996), the Local Government Act and the Electoral Code of Conduct (Statutory Instrument No. 90 of 2006). Part IV and Part V of the Constitution make provision for among other issues, elections to the Office of President, designation of the Chief Justice as Returning Officer for presidential elections, election of the National Assembly (Parliament), the electoral system, and delimitation of constituencies.

The Mission is of the view that the constitutional and legal framework governing elections in Zambia generally augured well for the conduct of free and fair elections.

## Electoral Commission of Zambia

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), an autonomous body established through Article 76 of the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia, is an institution entrusted with

the sole mandate of supervising voter registration, conducting elections and delimiting constituency boundaries.

With a few exceptions, electoral stakeholders expressed confidence in the independence, impartiality, accessibility and potential of the ECZ to organise and conduct credible elections. The Mission noted that the legal framework within which the ECZ was established, and operated, generally augured well for the independent and autonomous functioning of the Commission. This was, indeed, in line with the Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC region.

## Voter Registration and the Voters' Roll

The law provided for continuous registration of voters; however the Mission was informed by the ECZ that this exercise could not be implemented due to lack of resources. The registration of voters in preparation for the tripartite elections was concluded in December, 2005 after two extensions of the registration period. Citizens were afforded the opportunity to inspect the voters roll and verify their details. A total of 3, 940, 053 voters were captured on the voters' roll, the highest number of voters in Zambia's electoral history and a significant improvement from the 2001 figure of 2, 604, 761 voters. The new voters' roll, which was made available to all political parties, although belated, contained such features as the voter's portrait, his, or her National Registration Card (NRC) number and voter number.

Whereas the original target of the ECZ was to register some 5 million voters, the Mission understood that this was not possible partly due to the challenges citizens faced in acquiring the NRC which was a pre-requisite for registration as a voter. The Mission was also made to understand that due to the inaccessibility of the national registration centres, particularly in rural areas, it was difficult for some citizens to acquire NRCs.

On voting day, the Mission observed cases where potential voters who were in possession of both a valid voter's card and an NRC, but whose names did not appear on the voters' roll were denied the right to vote. The Mission was made to understand that this could partly be attributed to the rather short period of time within which registered voters were expected to verify their registration details, or the fact that some voters did not bother to verify the voters' roll. That notwithstanding, the Mission was generally satisfied with the quality of the voters' roll and the extent to which the ECZ ensured that stakeholders had access to this important document.

## Gender Representation and Participation

The Mission observed that whereas women constitute the majority of voters, and were

## Number of women contesting Zambian polls “low and disappointing”

Zambian elections on 28 September are on course but for lack of women representation, which is down from five years ago. Only 103 women are contesting against 606 men for the 150 parliamentary seats available, according to figures from the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ). This represents 15 percent women representation in the polls. Unless all women candidates are elected, which is unlikely, the proportion will be lower when the final results are announced.

In the 2001 presidential and parliamentary elections, 198 women contested for legislative seats and only 19 women (10 percent) were elected. Another two women were appointed by the president who is allowed by the constitution to appoint eight members of parliament on presidential discretion. This translated to about 13.67 percent women in the National Assembly.

President Levy Mwanawasa's Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) is fielding the largest number of women parliamentary candidates at 21, representing 14 percent of the available seats.

The alliance involving the Patriotic Front (PF) and United Liberal Party has 13 women candidates compared to 137 men. The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) is fielding 14 women candidates while the Heritage Party (HP) – led by former vice-president, Godfrey Miyanda – has 10 women vying for legislative seats. The National Democratic Focus (NDF) is fielding seven women. The All People's Congress Party has three women candidates while the Reform Party has two. A total of 24 women are contesting as

independent candidates.

There are no women presidential candidates in 2006 compared to two in 2001 when a total of 11 political leaders contested for State House. Four men – PF's Michael Sata, UDA's Hikainde Hichilema, Miyanda of HP, and lawyer Ken Ngondo – are contesting against Mwanawasa.

At the local government level, only 387 women are contesting out of 3,708 candidates for council seats. Women movements are unhappy about the low representation.

The Non-Governmental Coordinating Council (NGOCC) described the level of women representation as “very low and disappointing”. NGOCC is an umbrella body of several gender-based organisations. A national census conducted in August 2000 showed that out of a population of 10.3 million, 51 percent are women.

Lucy Muyoyeta, chairperson of NGOCC, said the scenario was “disappointing because political parties had indicated that they would demonstrate affirmative action by ensuring that they adopted more than 30 percent women parliamentary candidates.”

The total number of women candidates for council, parliamentary and presidential elections is below the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) target of 50 percent female representation in political decision-

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## COMPLACENCY...from page 7

side whether and when to have children.

- From a public health perspective that women living with HIV/AIDS have access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including access to contraception, diagnosis and treatment of reproductive-tract infections, and prevention and management of onward pregnancies
- Advocate for a budget that will ensure sustained parliamentary involvement and training on issues related to HIV and AIDS strategic areas. ■

23 September he celebrated the establishment of a new political coalition called Union for the Nation (UN). The UN is an alliance of 15 of the 33 presidential candidates who contested the first round, including the four women candidates.

Those rallying behind Bemba included former transportation minister, Joseph Olengankoy; Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda, current minister of scientific research; and Vincent Lunda Bululu, former prime minister under Mobutu regime; Catherine Nzuzi wa Mbombo leader of former Mobutu's party, the Popular Movement for the Revolution (MPR); Justine Kasavubu; and sisters Wivine N'landu and Marie-José N'landu.

The key challenge as the run-off date drew nearer was, however, how to ensure security in the capital city, Kinshasa. Heavy fighting had previously erupted between troops loyal to Kabila and Bemba as results of the first round were being announced by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

The second round of the presidential elections coincided with legislative polls for provincial governments. According to the new constitution, DRC was to be divided into 26 provinces with autonomous governments and parliaments.

Administratively, the country is decentralized in order to be better managed. Each province to keep 40 percent of local income to finance development projects.

The inauguration of the new parliament on 22 September constituted a very important step in the DRC peace process. 500 candidates were elected out of 9000. “It was very tough and tiring,” said Marc Sumbusu, a newly elected member of parliament from Butembo, North Kivu province in eastern DRC.

The electoral operation itself was a huge success considering the size of the country and the lack of infrastructure.

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## DRC ON COURSE TO NEW POLITICAL DISPENSATION

by Juakali Kambale

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) peace process is firmly on the path towards a new political dispensation, with one foot already in the doorway following the historic 22 September inauguration of the parliament.

The goalposts are already in sight, marking the final stages of a peace process inaugurated in Sun City, South Africa, in December 2002.

With a presidential run-off that had been set for 29 October, the Congolese kept their fingers crossed as the two presidential candidates tried to fortify their support ahead of “the final match”.

Incumbent president, Joseph Kabila, faced the run-off against Jean-Pierre Bemba after they both failed to garner enough votes to beat a 50-plus-one-percent constitutional requirement for one to be declared winner of the presidential election. Kabila had initially won 44.81 percent of the vote, while Bemba had 20.03 percent.

Kabila's prospects in the run-off brightened after two former adversaries in the 30 July polls – Antoine Gizenga and Nzanga Mobutu – urged their supporters to rally behind the 35-year-old DRC leader. Gizenga had come third in the first round, with 13 percent of the vote, while Mobutu was fourth. Mobutu is son of former president Mobutu Sese Seko who was ironically overthrown by Kabila's father, Laurent, in 1997.

On the other end, Bemba was wooing support from other presidential candidates. On

## DRC ON COURSE TO NEW POLITICAL DISPENSATION

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The United Nations mission in the DRC and the South Africa government provided the necessary logistical support comprising air transportation and the printing of ballot papers. The European Union provided about US\$500 million to ensure the smooth running of the polls.

The new parliament replaces the transitional parliament created by the 2002 peace agreement between the various armed groups in the country.

A disappointment, though, is the low representation of women in the new parliament. There are only 42 women out of

500 legislators, which translates to about 8.4 percent.

A noticeable feature of the new parliament is the overwhelming majority of Kabila supporters under the Alliance for the Presidential Majority banner (AMP).

The AMP dominates the new legislature, with 270 deputies or 54 percent of the seats.

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## Number of women contesting in Zambian polls “low and disappointing” from page 11

making by 2015.

The low female representation comes against a background of the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development in which member states committed to progressively increase the number of women in decision-making to 30 percent by 2005.

The 30 percent target was later revised in line with an AU commitment to increase female representation in decision-making positions to 50 percent by 2015. This year's SADC summit held in Lesotho endorsed the process of drafting a SADC Gender Protocol and directed the SADC Secretariat to ensure

wide consultations with member states.

This will speed up activities towards the consideration of the protocol, which is to be presented to the next summit, to be held in Zambia in 2007. The protocol is expected to effectively upgrade decisions on equitable representation into binding policy.

The SADC Gender Consultative Conference in December 2005 defined a regional gender implementation plan for five years and outlined a series of activities to be undertaken from 2006 to facilitate the adoption and signing of the SADC Protocol on Gender in 2007.

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## 2006 Zambia Elections Free and Fair - SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ...from page 10

notably active in the electoral campaign; their participation as candidates was very low. The number of women candidates stood at a very low 15% and 10% for parliamentary and local government elections, respectively. These statistics fall far short of the minimum standards set in regional and international conventions that Zambia is party to. In its consultations with some political parties, the Mission noted the apparent lack of political will or affirmative action measures to accelerate the participation and representation of women in the electoral process. This is further compounded by the First Past The Post (FPTP) electoral system which is used in Zambia.

Women's representation within the ECZ structures was, however, encouraging. Half of the four Commissioners, including the Chairperson were women. One of the two

deputy directors was also a woman. On polling day, the Mission observed an equitable representation of women who occupied the positions of presiding officers or returning officers.

### The Campaign

The Mission observed a generally peaceful and vibrant campaign, which was conducted largely in compliance with the Electoral Act and the Electoral Code of Conduct, the latter of which enjoined both the ECZ and the ZPS to enforce the code and promote observance thereof. The Mission is however mindful of the media reports and allegations of violations of the Code particularly with regard to 'treating' (bribing), buying of voters' cards, use of state and parastatal assets for campaign purposes, and some traditional leaders' undue influence on their subjects to

support particular parties or candidates. The partisan role of some religious leaders in this regard was worrisome.

### Zambia Police Service

The Mission was satisfied that, with some exceptions, the ZPS conducted itself in a commendable manner in ensuring that the Code of Conduct was largely enforced. In a few instances the Public Order Act was enforced in such a way as to unduly limit civic and political rights of parties, candidates and citizens. By and large, the fact that the ZPS did not have recourse to the provisions of the Public Order Act to control the rallies and meetings of the various political parties was a significant improvement over the situation that prevailed during the 2001 elections.

However, the Mission was concerned with the reported incident at Lusaka International Airport where the ZPS and customs officials are alleged to have impounded and forcibly opened election material in the possession of an ECZ official.

### Voter Education

The Mission was pleased to note that the Electoral Act conferred on the ECZ, voter education as one of its primary responsibilities. Pursuant to this mandate, the ECZ constituted a National Voter Education Committee (NVEC) comprising a number of institutions, including civil society organisations, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the ZPS. At district level, similar structures were also set up to coordinate and oversee the work of voter education facilitators who were drawn from civil society organisations but worked under the direction of the ECZ. On their part, civil society and faith based organisations were actively involved in civic and voter education. There were however concerns over the quality of voter education and the amount of election-related information made available to the public, especially in rural areas.

### The Media

With regard to the media, the Mission noted that the public-owned newspapers, namely, the Times of Zambia, the Daily Mail and the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) devoted disproportionately large amounts of news coverage to the president, vice president and the governing party. However in its programmes the 'Race to Plot One' and the 'Race to Manda Hill', the ZNBC gave political parties, presidential parliamentary candidates an opportunity to air their views. These programmes were variously sponsored by the ECZ, the ZNBC and civil society organisations. Other privately-owned electronic media such as MUVI TV, Radio Phoenix, QFM and community radio stations played a key role in providing voters access to the different views on key campaign issues. Some parties and candidates also availed themselves the opportunity of publicising themselves through paid adver-

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tisements.

### **Nomination of Candidates**

At the time of the arrival of the Mission, the registration of candidates had been completed. The Mission was made to understand that this process proceeded smoothly and as many candidates as possible successfully filed their nomination papers. As earlier stated, the very low number of women candidates across the board, has been viewed with serious concern.

### **The Poll**

On voting day, Forum observers visited a total of 162 polling stations in the nine provinces. In a number of polling stations visited by Forum observers voting, commenced on time. Long queues formed as early as 05h00. Despite some delays that were experienced at the opening of polls, largely due to confusion relating to the implementation of a name-based queuing system and delayed supply of election materials, voters waited patiently for their turn to cast the ballot. In the majority of cases, polling officials followed the procedures, while party agents and domestic monitors, who were present at virtually all the polling stations visited by Forum observers, actively participated in the process as provided in the law. The Mission is also aware that some polling stations either opened late or did not open at all on voting day.

The introduction of transparent ballot boxes and colour coded ballot papers to match the respective ballot boxes was, in the Mission's view, a welcome development which facilitated ease of reference for voters. The introduction of multiple voting streams with a maximum number of 650 expected voters per stream significantly speeded up the voting process.

The ballot paper which was used in the tripartite elections included such features as the candidate portrait, their names and where applicable, their respective party's name and symbol. The ECZ should be commended for this laudable initiative.

### **Count and Compilation of Results**

At most of the polling stations visited by Forum observers the counting of ballots proceeded fairly well and was observed by monitors, observers and party agents. Forum observers also had the opportunity of observing the compilation of constituency results at some of the centres, although it was very slow.

### **Announcement of Results**

Based on lessons learned from the 2001 electoral process, the ECZ in cooperation with ZAMTEL established an electronic Results Management System (RMS) which was expected to significantly expedite the transmission of election results from the 72 districts to the ECZ headquarters in Lusaka. The Mission was informed that the ECZ was also planning to utilise the RMS to facilitate the continuous registration of voters. This

was in line with recent positive developments on the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in elections.

The Mission's preliminary observations were, however, that there were considerable suspicions and doubts among some of the stakeholders on the credibility and effectiveness of the RMS. These suspicions and lobbying from some stakeholders resulted in the ECZ abandoning the RMS and reverting to the old system of transmitting results, thus negating the intended benefits of ICTs in the electoral process and delaying the announcement of election results.

### **Good Practices**

The Mission noted the peaceful and transparent manner in which the voting campaign was conducted;

- The ECZ conducted its work in a highly transparent manner and was amenable to ideas and proposals from stakeholders. Electoral staff were fully committed to their work and demonstrated high levels of professionalism;
- Enactment of an enforceable Electoral Code of Conduct.
- The establishment of multiple voting streams at polling stations and limiting the number of voters to 650 in each particular stream speeded up the voting process;
- Establishment of conflict management committees involving a wide range of stakeholders to handle election-related conflicts;
- Establishment of an electronic results management system ; and
- The provision in the law for continuous registration of voters.

### **Recommendations**

- Adequate election materials should be distributed to polling districts well in advance of voting day and necessary security measures should be put in place;
- Provision should be made for another team of electoral staff to do the counting of ballots and compilation of results. This would significantly expedite the process;
- Consideration should be made for the decentralisation of the accreditation of domestic monitors;
- The glaring lack of gender equity in the electoral processes is a major blot in Zambia's democratic development. Political parties are therefore urged to foster national dialogue to address this critical question. This could also take the form of a review of the electoral system;
- There is no provision for public funding of political parties in Zambia. In order to curb the undue influence of money and other resources in the campaign and level the playing field, consideration could be made for public funding of political parties or where this is

not possible, there should be legislation setting the maximum campaign expenditure;

- There is an urgent need for the implementation of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act (IBA) which became law on 31st December, 2002, to provide for the independent regulation of broadcasting services, particularly during periods of elections. The ZNBC could draw useful lessons from the Media Institute of Southern Africa / Southern African Broadcasting Association (MISA /SABA) Guidelines and Principles for Broadcast Coverage of Elections in the SADC Region, which were adopted by Chief Executives of public broadcasting services in SADC in September, 2005;
- Political parties should take an active part in voter education;
- Stakeholders should seriously consider discarding the current requirement for voters' numbers to be noted on the ballot counterfoil. It is the Mission's considered view that this practice may compromise the secrecy of the ballot as the serial number on the ballot paper can be traced to the voter through the voter's number;
- Provision should be made for appropriate materials to enable the visually impaired to exercise the right to vote in secret;
- Additional improvements should be made to enhance the secrecy of the ballot, particularly with regard to the space available in the polling booth;
- Ballot boxes should be big enough to adequately all the ballot papers;
- Steps should be taken by the ECZ and ZPS to effectively and efficiently enforce the Code of Conduct ; and
- The Department of National Registration should be fully computerised to ensure that as many citizens as possible acquire NRCs and are able to register as voters,

### **Conduct**

Based on the above, the Mission is of the view that the 2006 Zambia Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections were conducted in a peaceful environment and afforded the people of Zambia an opportunity to freely elect leaders of their choice. A significant improvement has been noted in the just ended elections as compared to the 2001 electoral process.

# Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) Board & Staff Achieve Major Milestone

By Cecilia Matanga

Windhoek, Namibia was once again a hive of activity, this time it was the SADC Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) Board of Governors meeting to discuss the intricacies of raising the newly born baby, the PLC. The Leadership Centre officially launched in 2005, with Board members appointed in December of that year has started operating in earnest and it was quite appropriate that the strategists meet to verify and its existence and chart its way forward.

The meeting brought together the 12 Board Members from the different SADC Parliaments and Training institutions each a specialist in their own right and the staff of the PLC giving an opportunity for team building and meshing of ideas as each one sought to find their role both collectively and individually.

This well facilitated, well attended retreat brought out very important issues affecting the implementation of the PLC programme. It also ironed out areas of possible confusion and conflict resulting in a common understanding and common passion for the achievement of the set goal. The PLC now has its own vision, mission and values to guide its contribution towards the achievement of the SADC PF overall mission and vision. Priority areas have been identified, challenges have been identified and achievements acknowledged all this in an effort to establish common ground for operating in.

The PLC retreat was conducted in response to an outcry from the PLC Board that they needed to understand their roles and responsibilities. It also came in the wake of the development of a Comprehensive Integrated Program (CIP), the road map to guide the implementation of the PLC programme. It was equally important that the PLC Board and staff gets to know each other and their



*PLC Board & Staff take group picture at conclusion of workshop*

needs to build a team that can tackle the great task of enhancing the capacities of parliaments effectively.

The SADC PF has been facing a number of challenges in its training initiatives such as the attainment and retention of expertise required in Parliament; lack of an autonomous and dedicated organ for capacity building of Parliaments, ineffective utilisation of ICTs; lack of buy in from national parliaments of the PLC training programme; evident diversity in nature of the parliamentary systems in the region with a tendency to, at best, give prominence to the English systems; inadequate management of a multilingual environment of the SADC region and the subsequent non inclusiveness of the expertise from the Portuguese and French countries ; lack of coordination of training programmes by various players that has led to workshop and training fatigue by parliamentarians and

staff, lack of financial, human and physical resources and an evident dependence on donor funding for activities ; training given has been more focused on parliamentarians and except in a few instances has left out staff and Leaders of Parliament such as Speakers . In spite of the above challenges all is not lost as the training programmes have evidently made a positive impact too.

The Forum has in the past 10 years through its training initiatives managed to provide opportunities for information sharing and skills building in a number of areas including election monitoring and women participation. Issues affecting the regional agenda such as HIV and AIDS have been promoted; an orientation manual, a classic handbook for parliamentarians has been developed and workshops at both regional and national levels have been conducted. One major achievement has been the securing of seed funding to establish the Parliamentary Leadership Centre, a dedicated capacity building institution guided by a n advisory Board and with dedicated staff for SADC Parliaments. The PLC will focus on coordinating, collaborating and facilitating the training programs effectively. Other highlights of gains made by the Forum include the establishment of a common passion and identity on the importance of capacity building and the acknowledgement of the various needs of the national parliaments. The Forum is growing in strength as seen through the growth in staff capacity, establishment of new standing committees for the Forum,

The **vision** of the PLC is to be a Dynamic, Responsive Centre of Excellence Providing Training, Technical Support and Capacity Development Programmes to SADC Parliaments.

In order to achieve this vision the **mission** of the PLC is to Provide, Co-ordinate and Implement Professional Capacity Enhancement Programmes, Strategic Leadership Skills Development and Services to SADC Parliaments and Other Related Institutions in a Timely, Efficient and Effective manner.

In implementing its work the PLC will be guided by the following **values** - Team spirit, Customer focused, Proactive and innovative, Mutual respect and trust, Effective service delivery, Gender equality and equity, Tolerance and inclusiveness, Good corporate governance, Transparency and accountability, Respect for the diversity of SADC, Objective and unbiased leadership, Professionalism, excellence and integrity.

amendment of its constitution to cater for the changing needs of the region, interacting with international organizations beyond the region and the continuous communication with national Parliaments of SADC.

The PLC as the implementing arm of the Forum for capacity building initiatives has a lot to learn from the past experiences of the Forum as shared during the retreat. The Forum reconfirmed the critical need for the centre to be established to address challenges such as the multilinguism nature of the Forum and provide capacity to accommodate the three official languages and the evident diversity and needs of the parliaments; it is also equally important to utilise local expertise and facilitators from all member states and get continuous input from Parliaments in the process of evolving the programme of the PLC. Above all there is a great need for everyone to work together and give their best in developing a sustainable training program. Parliaments will need to consider increasing its contributions to the PLC if the programme is to be sustainable. However the attainment of a world class Centre of Excellency may just be a dream if programmes developed are not demand driven, comprehensive & holistic.

Building on lessons learnt, challenges and achievements of the past, the PLC identified its priority areas to help it achieve its niche. The Comprehensive Integrated Programme (CIP) has thus been developed and will be implemented to address capacity needs and sustainability of the PLC. The Salient features of the CIP include a generic curriculum and subject/ programme specific curricula modeled along the generic one; two pronged horizontal and vertical implementation and intervention strategy; results based /key performance indicator- based project and programme management strategy and rank ordered priority intervention guideline among others. Development of marketing and resource mobilization strategies has also been built into the CIP as well as futuristic ideal organically grown staffing organogram. For proper guidance support to the programme development of a plan for the effective functioning of the PLC Board will be provided for in the CIP. This would enable effective involvement of the Board in nurturing the PLC into a Centre of Excellence. The PLC also intends to recruit and develop PLC staff and experts including French and Portuguese language experts. In order to ensure full engagement of parliaments the PLC will facilitate ICT infrastructure connectivity between PLC and member parliaments to increase information sharing and promote ICT literacy and development. As a priority area the PLC will seek to strengthen all the standing committees of the SADC-PF to facilitate them effectively and efficiently carry out their mandate as well as strengthen parliamentary committees at member states.



*From Left to Right: Mr. Barney Karuombe; Ms Rethabile Maluke; Mr Enayatulla Hamza; Hon Lutero Simango and Keorapetswe Boepetswe*

The retreat identified the different levels of stakeholder and beneficiaries for the PLC programme ; at the heart of the PLC will be its primary beneficiaries that will include obviously the National Parliaments (Members of Parliament, staff, and the Parliament as an institution), political parties, governments and other regional and international parliamentary training institutions as well as the SADC Secretariat (Botswana). The PLC will also have secondary stakeholders that will span civil Society & Population, business community, donors, state agencies and pressure (interest) groups such as the Media. The centrality need for the PLC to establish strategic linkages and partnerships was further underscored if the PLC and its CIP are to be successful. The list included but is not limited to Education & Training Institutions (SUNNY, UWC, etc), NGOs such as AWEPA, SAFERAFRICA, UN Bodies; SADC Secretariat; Regional Parliamentary Bodies; PAP; CPA; IPU; Donor community such as ACBF; Specialized agencies such as SADCOPAC, IDASA, AWEPA. The PLC fully appreciates that they are already stakeholders on the ground and to make its work more effective and manageable there is need to engage these partners and work together. The CIP will also enable the donor community and other International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) to identify areas they wish to cooperate with the PLC on. There is a lot to be done and there is gain in bringing different efforts together.

The retreat was successful in engaging both Board Members and Staff of the PLC in deliberating on the building of an effective team that will see the development and evolution of a world class institution for Parliamentary capacity and Leadership development. The efforts and commitment of the Board Members must be applauded and the PLC team feels greatly honored to have been part of this process. Such a process is an important backbone in the building of any



*PLC Board Chairperson, Hon Marwick T. Khumalo*

institution as it clearly signifies commitment and ownership and outlines the different roles and responsibilities of each team member. We look forward to the next retreat as it will give us an opportunity to evaluate progress that we will be making.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Hon Marwick Khumalo**, Swaziland ( Chairperson of the Board),

**Hon Lutero Simango**, Mozambique, **Hon Bedwantee Virahsawmy Jhudggo**, Mauritius, **Ms Rethabile Maluke**, Acting Clerk Lesotho, **Ms Keorapetswe Boepetswe**, Deputy Clerk ,Botswana, **Mr Diogo de Jesus**, Secretary General, Angola, **Mr Jake Jacobs**, Acting Secretary, Namibia, **Mr Enayatulla Hamza**, University of Western Cape, South Africa, **Ms Bookie Kethusegile**, Director PLC (Secretary to the Board)

# Speaker Magongo appointed Minister

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Swaziland, Hon S'gayoyo Charles Magongo is now the Minister of Public Service and Information. Hon Magongo's appointment follows a cabinet reshuffle that was brought about by the vacancy left by deceased Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), Hon Albert Shabangu. This reshuffle affected two Cabinet positions – Education and Public Service portfolios. The Minister of Education Hon Constance Simelane was appointed as the new DPM, while the Minister of Public Service, Hon Themba Msibi appointed as the new Education Minister. Hon Magongo was then moved to fill the vacancy left by Hon Msibi.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum, where the former Speaker was a member of its Executive Committee, as well as its Finance Sub Committee, wishes the new Minister well in his new responsibilities.



*Former Speaker of the National Assembly of Swaziland, and member of the Forum Executive Committee - Hon. S'gayoyo Charles Magongo, now Minister of Public Service and Information*

## CPA Elects Hon Motsamai as its new Vice Chair



*New CPA Vice Chairperson Hon. Ntlhoi Motsamai*

The recent 52<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, held in Abuja, Nigeria ended on a high note with regards to visibility of the Southern African region at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. One of its own members – Hon. Ntlhoi Motsamai, Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho, and member of the SADC Parliamentary Forum was elected into the position of Vice Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee – a high position indeed!