



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

FOR BOTSWANA PARLIAMENTARIANS

29th to 31st January 2007,

at the

Grand Palm Hotel, in Gaborone, Botswana.

This Workshop is organized by The Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in conjunction with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) – Botswana Branch; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa; SADC Secretariat; Women’s Affairs Division; State University of New York (SUNY); Graduate Institute for Leadership and Professional Development; East African Community Parliament, the Institute for Security Studies (ISSA) the Southern Africa Defence and Security Management (SADSEM) and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA).

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR BOTSWANA PARLIAMENTARIANS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in conjunction with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) – Botswana Branch; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Support Regional Unit – South Africa; SADC Secretariat; Women’s Affairs Division; State University of New York (SUNY); Graduate Institute for Leadership and Professional Development; East African Community Parliament, the Institute for Security Studies (ISSA) the Southern Africa Defence and Security Management (SADSEM) and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) are organizing a Leadership Orientation Workshop for the Botswana Parliamentarians to be held from the 29th to 31st January 2007, at the Grand Palm Hotel, in Gaborone.

The primary goal of the PLC is to equip Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff and the Institutions of parliaments in the SADC region with cutting-edge knowledge, information to enhance their personal competencies and professional performance in translating and implementing their respective and collective mandates.

This workshop is part of the mandate of the PLC to ensure that SADC Parliaments and Parliamentarians are equal to any other in the world in the formation, promulgation and dispensation of intelligent laws and their oversight arrangements.

2. Rationale for the Workshop

‘Parliamentary careers are among the most complex and challenging on earth. Competing demands – from one’s party, from the House, from the constituency and family – make the MP’s life a challenging balancing act. MPs are always “on the job,” whether walking the halls of Parliament, interviewing an expert witness regarding a proposed legislative amendment, traveling abroad on a study mission, or greeting a constituent at the front door’ SADC Parliamentary Forum (2004).¹

The irony implicit in the above statement and quotation is that unlike with most other careers (lawyers, doctors, engineers, teachers, nurses, etc.) for which

¹ SADC Parliamentary Forum, MPs Orientation Handbook, 2004. Windhoek, Namibia

people go to and through professional training to excel in their jobs parliamentarians simply win elections and they then have to “learn on the job”. On the other hand, constituent needs and demands are growing; - representation, lawmaking, and oversight responsibilities are expanding (ibid.). It is these skills and knowledge gaps which the Parliamentary Leadership Centre through this workshop wishes to address. Numerous initiatives by other partners at the national and regional levels have been initiated. Often however, these are done on a rather adhoc and short term basis and do not address the skills and knowledge gap in a systematic and consistent manner.

3. Aim of the Workshop

This first National Leadership Orientation Workshop co-sponsored by the Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the Botswana Government is aimed at sharpening law-makers awareness and capacity, and enhancing the skills and knowledge of Parliamentarians and parliament’s functionaries to better understand their individual and collective roles. Equally, the workshop will provide an invaluable platform to discuss and examine the critical issues involved in translating and implementing the mandates of MPs, Parties and Parliament more effectively to improve the overall image of the Institution of Parliament, responses of Members of Parliament and delivery to their constituencies through more personal and improved professional performance.

4. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the Botswana National Leadership Orientation workshop are to facilitate:

- 4.1 reflection on the constitutional functions of parliamentarians of:
 - A. Representation
 - B. Lawmaking, and
 - C. Oversight) as well as the overall mandate of the institution of Parliament;
- 4.2 deliberations on the importance of parliamentary involvement in the budget process and how Members can use their powers more effectively to ensure efficient national budgeting and provisions;
- 4.3 discussion of the regional integration agenda and the engagement of Parliaments with a particular focus on SADC protocols, trade instruments in the global trade system.
- 4.4 consideration of theme specific issues pertinent to governance such as gender development, Media and civil society issues and relations with Parliament; security defence; HIV and AIDS; and ICTs

- 4.5 reflection on the qualities and characteristics of a good politician as a way of enhancing and facilitating the improvement of leadership skills to enable Members to deliver on their mandates.
- 4.6 discussion of the Millennium Development Goals and their achievement in the Botswana context through the achievement of Vision 2016.

5. Structure, Strategy and Organization of the Workshop

The workshop will benefit from resource persons drawn from the region and beyond as well as from within Botswana. It is the aim of the organizers to make this workshop as participatory and interactive as possible. Resource persons will therefore serve to introduce the topics and set the conceptual framework but much of the learning and sharing is hoped to come from the plenary discussions. Members of Parliament themselves are expected to own the process in that they will chair the sessions and steer the debate in consultations with the respective resource persons. In addition to resource persons' presentations the *MP's Orientation Handbook* of the SADC Parliamentary Forum will be used as a primary resource and copies will be distributed to workshop participants. Group discussions will be factored into the programme to allow more time for reflection and sharing of experiences.

6. Expected Output of the Workshop

It is the expectations of the Organizers that:

- 6.1 participating MPs and staff of Parliament will be exposed to the need to enhance their skills and knowledge and renew their vision to render a dedicated and professional service to their clients (the electorates);
- 6.2 participants will deepen their understanding and commitment to fulfilling the core function of parliamentary business which is representation, lawmaking and oversight;
- 6.3 MPs will begin to acquire the skills and knowledge on how to better balance and manage their electoral duties and personal lives and interests;
- 6.5 MPs will deepen their understanding and appreciation of important cross-cutting themes such as poverty, HIV and AIDS, and gender and will subsequently help to improve the mainstreaming of these issues in the policy formulation, implementation and monitoring;
- 6.6 legislators will acquire and enhance their skills to engage the budget process more meaningfully and use their 'power of the purse' to the advantage of electorates thus working towards achieving the SADC Goal of eradicating poverty in the country.
- 6.7 participants will enhance their exposure and usage of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and will acquaint themselves

- with the use of the Online Resource Centre as well as become supporters and promoters of the concept of e-governance;
- 6.9 parliamentarians will get a greater understanding of the need for parliamentary involvement in the SADC Regional Integration agenda especially through the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (SIPO), SADC Protocols and other international instruments, and participation in the global trading system.
- 6.10 workshop participants will get a greater understanding of the Millennium Development Goals and Botswana Vision 2016 and the need for Strategic Planning for the achievement of the Goals.
- 6.11 Parliament and Members of Parliament will be sensitized to the need for continued improvement both as a collective, and as individuals to ensure effectiveness of Parliament and that it delivers to the electorate and ensures national developments.

7. Outline and Focus of the Workshop

7.1 *Opening Session*

The keynote address and official opening of the workshop will be done by Hon Patrick Balopi, the Speaker of the National Assembly. Introductory and welcoming remarks will be made by Ms. Bookie Kethusegile-Juru, Assistant Secretary General/Director of the PLC of the SADC Parliamentary Forum

7.2 *Overview of the PLC/SADC PF Programme*

In this session the Assistant Secretary General/Director of the PLC will provide an overview of the programme of the Parliamentary Leadership Centre and highlight the main objectives of the Workshop.

7.3 *Overview on the Roles of Members of Parliament – Representation, Legislation and Oversight.*

This session will serve to review the primary roles and functions of Parliamentarians which are representation, lawmaking and oversight. Not only

will the workshop focus on the theoretical essence of these dimensions of parliamentary powers but greater emphasis would be put on how MPs can exercise these powers. MPs will thus be granted the opportunity to share their experiences in the exercise of these duties at the national and constituency level.

7.4 Roles of Members of Parliament in the Budgetary Process

The budget is one of the most important bills that come to Parliament and Parliamentarians are expected to exercise their legislative power to endorse or reject the budgets. Also as part of oversight, parliamentarians through the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) are required to review the expenditures of the budgets they legislate. The workshop therefore will discuss the principles regarding national budgets, where and how parliamentarians can make a meaningful contribution to the budget process. Participants would also be exposed to the concept and practice of gender budgeting as well as gender analysis of the budget. A group task will enable Parliamentarians to make practical input into the budget process through a case study.

7.5 The Institution of Parliament

This session will look at the Parliament as an institution and it will expose Parliamentarians to the significance of Parliamentary Rules and Procedures, how to effectively work in Parliamentary Committees, and using the Constitution as the guiding tool for Parliamentary work. Nowadays most Parliaments seek to improve and strengthen their service by transforming into Parliamentary services. This session will help Parliamentarians reflect on this critical issue and provide input on how a Parliament can become more effective. The Session will also look at the role of political parties in Parliaments issues of inter and intra-party democracy, political party roles and agendas will also be explored.

7.6 SADC Agenda and Strategy for Regional Integration

For more than forty (40) years the Executive has been setting the regional agenda and thus directing issues of regional integration and development. Parliamentarians unfortunately have remained at the periphery, but now with a greater realization of the role of the institution of parliament both, at the national and regional levels, there is greater emphasis that Parliamentarians be involved in negotiations and implementation of regional and international instruments.

The lack of Parliamentary involvement in SADC protocols and their adhoc involvement in trade negotiations whilst they are expected to ratify and ensure the implementation of the outcome of such policies at the local level necessitates their full involvement at every level of policy formulation and implementation. This

session will provide opportunity for Members to discuss how they can be more effective in driving the regional and international agenda and in holding the Executive accountable and ensuring that benefits are achieved from these commitments.

7.7 Theme Specific Issues Critical to Governance: e.g. Gender Development Issues; Media and Civil Society Relations; Security Defence; HIV and AIDS; Debt and Loan Contraction; Anti – Corruption; ICTs

In this session Workshop Participants will discuss the Role of Members of Parliament in Security, Defence, issues related to Civil Society and Media relations. The session is aimed at enabling Parliamentarians to be aware of both the sensitivity and centrality of the issues and how to deal with them in their constituencies, at regional level, at international level as well as how to exercise their oversight and legislative powers in these issues. Issues about the civil society roles and Parliament interface with the media will also be discussed.

The workshop will deal with important development challenges i.e., HIV and AIDS, and gender as cross-cutting themes which need to be analyzed and mainstreamed in the policy process. Poverty and lack of development remains a national as well as a regional challenge as the livelihoods of many poor households are threatened. The HIV and AIDS pandemic which has and continues to devastate not only the individual families infected and affected but the whole of society and the sub-region needs to be a priority policy issue at both the national and regional levels. Although some countries have made significant progress in achieving the SADC's 30% representation of women in positions of power, Botswana being one of them, challenges continue to present themselves in terms of addressing gender inequities and inequalities and improving the overall status of women in society, particularly the rural and underprivileged women. Yet SADC recently endorsed the 50/50 gender representation in all positions of power. The critical question that will guide these cross-cutting themes is what roles parliamentarians can play in contributing to dealing with these critical challenges that affect their electorates.

The session will also introduce Members to the Online Resource Centre (ORC) that the SADC Parliamentary Forum has developed as an e-governance tool, to meet the demand for information and knowledge, communication and interactivity of SADC Parliamentarians, citizens and civil society that deepens understanding of developmental issues and challenges they encounter. During the workshop Members of Parliament will be introduced to the Online Resource Centre and given skills to access and use it. Great strides have been made in the use of the ICTs in some SADC countries, yet in others this critical governance tool has not been fully explored.

7.7 Keys to Being a Successful Member of Parliament

Workshop participants will reflect on what qualities make a good politician and a good leader in today's environment and what one should aspire to be to better perform their mandates. This session on the qualities of a good politician has been introduced in the programme so as to provide food for thought on how Parliamentarians can seek to improve their leadership skills and thus perform better their mandates as representatives of the electorate, the legislative role and that of oversight. It is important that self interests are not allowed to super cede the interests of the service, yet the temptation of the latter presents a big challenge. Similarly political leadership needs to continually keep in mind and respect the role and importance of the administrative leadership of Parliament and the Executive if Parliament is to effectively perform its duties.

7.8 Achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Botswana

This Session will look at the Millennium Development Goals and the need for national planning to take these into account. Botswana Vision 2016 is a clear demonstration of the MDGs and the achievement of the Vision will certainly lead to the achievement of the international goals. Workshop participants will discuss ways in which MPs can facilitate the achievement of the MDGs, looking in particular at the case of a strategy for the Parliament of Botswana.

8. Participants

The workshop is designed to meet the needs of both, new and experienced Parliamentarians, and also create a platform for experience sharing. In order to ensure sustainability and greater impact of the training as well as an enhanced institutional memory it is recommended that senior parliamentary staff participate in the workshop. The participation of Parliamentary Committee Clerks as people who facilitate the parliamentary-citizenry interaction is highly recommended.

9. Sustainability

This workshop should be seen as only a first step towards a concerted effort for the improvement of Parliamentary delivery and professional performance of

Members of Parliament to ensure this, with the ultimate goal of improving the well being of the electorate that they represent. It is hoped that subsequent follow up activities will be called for from the PLC by the Parliament of Botswana so as to ensure that real impact is made, both on the broad scope of the programme content and/or specific focus areas, as need is identified. The PLC for its part will also continue to programme around facilitating Parliaments through processes it drives and it is hoped that the Parliament of Botswana will take advantage of these by ensuring that its Members and staff participate in, and attend activities that have been organized at the national, regional and international levels, to help enhance and strengthen Parliaments' performance and delivery.