

Wednesday, 15 July 2026]

No 65 - 2026] THIRD SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 15 JULY 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker:

1. Provincial Notice 155 of 2026

Publication of the Western Cape Liquor Amendment Bill, 2026 (B 3-2026), in the *Provincial Gazette Extraordinary* 9265, dated 15 July 2026.

2. Report on the attendance of the 19th conference of speakers and presiding officers of the Commonwealth, Africa Region 15-19 June 2026.

DELEGATION:

Daylin Mitchell, Speaker

Reagen Allen, Deputy Speaker

Gillion Bosman, Chief Whip of the Majority Party

Ayanda Bans, Chief Whip of the Official Opposition

Ressida Begg, Secretary to the Provincial Parliament

Sunelle Fouché, Director: Public Engagement

Achmat Patience, International Relations and Protocol Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to give an account of the outcomes of the 19th Conference of Speaker and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC), Africa Region.

The Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL) co-hosted the 19th CSPOC with the Parliament of South Africa at Emperors Palace from 16-19 June 2026.

The WCPP delegation consisted of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Chief Whip of the Official Opposition, Secretary to the Provincial

Parliament, Director: Public Engagement, and the International Relations and Protocol Officer.

2. Day One

2.1 Youth Day Celebration

The conference was preceded by a Youth Day commemoration marking its 50th anniversary, which included the laying of a wreath at the Hector Pietersen Memorial in honour of the youth killed by apartheid police while protesting against inferior education policies.

2.2 Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony began with an official welcome by the NCOP Chairperson, Refilwe Mitshweni-Tsipane, followed by a keynote address by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, a message on behalf of the host province by Gauteng Acting Premier Vuyiswa Ramokgopa, and remarks by the GPL Speaker, Winifred Morakane Mosupye.

3. Day Two

3.1 General Meeting

The second day began with a general meeting focused on strengthening the financial sustainability of parliamentary cooperation. Discussions centred on the CPA Africa Region Five-Star Hotel project in Dodoma, Tanzania.

The CPA Africa Region Treasurer and Chairperson of the Fundraising Task Team, Enos Asimwe, reported on the project's progress. The following inputs and concerns were raised:

- Funding shortfall of US\$6.65 million.
- CPA Africa branches urged to contribute approximately US\$350 000 each.
- The initiative received broad support.
- Concerns were raised regarding affordability, governance, and implementation timelines.
- Countries were requested to review their legal and financial frameworks before committing funds.
- Additional clarity was requested on funding mechanisms and benefits.

3.2 Plenary Session: The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Public Trust in Governance

The session was presented by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana, Dithapelo Lefoko, with support from Uganda's representative, Enos Asimwe Kinywamacunda. The following key points were highlighted:

- Parliaments rely on three core pillars to fulfil their mandate: transparency, inclusive representation, and democratic practice.
- When these values are embedded, public confidence grows; when they weaken, the credibility of governance declines.
- Elections that are not free, fair, and transparent weaken citizens' trust in representative institutions.
- National unity is strengthened through consultation and consensus, not legislation alone.

- Afrobarometer survey data reflected widespread perceptions that wealthy and well-connected individuals receive preferential treatment.
- Corruption, weak oversight, misinformation, and political polarisation were identified as key drivers of public disillusionment.
- Elections alone cannot secure legitimacy where economic hardship persists. Stronger ethical codes, independent budget oversight bodies, and regular public reporting on parliamentary performance were therefore emphasised.
- Restoring trust is not the responsibility of parliaments alone, but a shared duty of parliaments, governments, and citizens.

3.3 Plenary Session: Reforming and Developing Innovative Mechanisms and Strategies for Effective and Proactive Parliamentary Leadership in Africa's Development.

The session was presented by the Deputy Speaker of Cameroon, Mary Muyali Meboka, with support from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho, Tlohang Sekhamae. The following key points were highlighted:

- African parliaments should pursue a comprehensive transformation agenda that promotes institutional modernisation, evidence-based oversight, effective use of auditor-general reports, technological innovation, ethical leadership, institutional integrity, and citizen participation.
- Mechanisms should be introduced to address weak legislative research capacity, executive dominance, limited budgetary independence, low technological integration, poor citizen engagement, and ineffective oversight outcomes.
- Committees should adopt more structured processes to monitor the implementation of recommendations.
- Specialised sectoral committees, particularly those responsible for finance, public accounts, mining, energy, agriculture, health, education, and public service delivery, should be supported by technical experts who can provide evidence-based analysis of complex policy and financial matters.
- Parliaments should move beyond the ceremonial approval of budgets and conduct rigorous scrutiny of fiscal policy, spending priorities, debt management, procurement systems, and development outcomes.
- The challenges of the 21st century require parliaments to shift from reactive lawmaking to proactive, evidence-led leadership that helps shape development priorities, hold governments accountable, and deepen public trust.
- Reforms should strengthen portfolio committees by ensuring they are adequately resourced, supported by skilled researchers and professional staff, and empowered to make meaningful recommendations that improve governance and service delivery.

4. Day Three

4.1 Plenary Session: Harnessing the Potential of the Youth of Africa for Sustainable Development: The Role of Parliament

The session was presented by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Boss Shollei, with support from the Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi, Right Honourable Sameer Suleman. The following key points were highlighted:

- Despite being Africa's largest demographic group, young people remain underrepresented in parliament.
- Parliaments should advance youth employment through inclusive and innovative approaches that support sustainable development.

- Core parliamentary functions, including lawmaking, oversight, budget approval, and public participation, should reflect and advance the interests of young people.
- Botswana was cited as an example of a country that has taken steps to include young people in parliamentary decision-making.
- Following Botswana's change of government in 2024, the youngest Member of Parliament was appointed as Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs.
- Parliaments should remove institutional barriers and establish practical mechanisms to strengthen youth representation.

4.2 Plenary Session: Leveraging Technology and Digital Tools for Effective, Sustainable Development.

The session was presented by the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Namibia, Mr Phillipus Katamelo, and supported by a paper prepared by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria, Dr Abbas Tajudeen, which was delivered by Ms Mary Meboko. The following key inputs were highlighted:

- Parliaments must act with urgency in adopting emerging technologies.
- Governments should be encouraged to use digital technologies to accelerate service delivery.
- Parliaments must exercise their constitutional responsibility to ensure that technology supports democracy, protects rights, and strengthens accountability.
- Parliaments should enact data protection laws, invest in digital infrastructure beyond policy commitments, and institutionalise oversight of parliamentary technology.

5. Conference Resolutions

On enhancing Public Trust in Governance

- URGES African Parliaments to strengthen mechanisms for transparency, accountability, integrity and responsiveness in parliamentary processes in order to enhance citizens' trust in governance.
- CALLS UPON African Parliaments to promote meaningful citizen participation through public hearings, constituency engagements, petitions, e-systems and other inclusive mechanisms aimed at strengthening democratic legitimacy.
- ENCOURAGES Presiding Officers to foster ethical leadership and uphold the highest standards of parliamentary conduct and professionalism.
- FURTHER ENCOURAGES African Parliaments to strengthen oversight over the Executive and the utilisation of public resources to ensure efficient and accountable governance.
- CALLS FOR enhanced communication strategies and public outreach programmes to improve public understanding of parliamentary functions and activities.

On Reforming Parliamentary Leadership and Strengthening Institutional Capacity

- EMPHASISES the need for innovative and responsive parliamentary leadership capable of addressing contemporary socio-economic and governance challenges facing Africa.
- ENCOURAGES African Parliaments to modernise their rules, procedures and institutional frameworks to improve efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness.

- CALLS FOR Parliaments to increase investment in capacity-building programmes for Speakers, Presiding Officers, Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff including advanced research capacity to strengthen institutional performance.
- URGES greater cooperation, knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices among African legislatures and Commonwealth parliamentary institutions.
- ENCOURAGES African Parliaments to mainstream sustainable development considerations into legislation, budgeting and oversight functions to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.
- CALLS UPON governments and development partners to provide adequate resources necessary for Parliaments to effectively discharge their constitutional mandates.

On Harnessing the Potential of Africa's Youth for Sustainable Development

- RECOGNISES that Africa's youthful population represents a strategic asset and a key driver of economic growth, innovation and sustainable development.
- CALLS UPON African Parliaments to enact and strengthen legislation and policies that promote youth empowerment; an educational curriculum that is both theoretical and practical orientated; skills development; innovation; and entrepreneurship.
- ENCOURAGES governments to create conducive environments for youth skills development, employment and investment in emerging sectors of the economy including the green and blue economies.
- URGES African Parliaments to enhance the participation and representation of young people in democratic and decision-making processes.
- FURTHER ENCOURAGES the establishment and strengthening of Youth Parliaments and other platforms aimed at fostering active citizenship and leadership among young people.
- CALLS FOR targeted interventions to address inequalities affecting young women and vulnerable groups to ensure that no one is left behind in the development process.
- FURTHER CALLS for African Parliaments to accelerate the implementation of the African Continental free trade area which aims to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers dramatically boosting intra-Africa trade and fostering long term industrialization with a view to eliminate youth unemployment.

On Leveraging Technology and Digital Tools for Sustainable Development

- RECOGNISES the transformative potential of digital technologies in improving parliamentary effectiveness and promoting sustainable development.
- ENCOURAGES African Parliaments to accelerate digital transformation through the adoption of e-Parliament systems, artificial intelligence, data driven decision-making and secure digital platforms.
- CALLS FOR strengthened cybersecurity measures and legislative frameworks to safeguard digital systems and personal data.
- URGES governments and stakeholders to bridge the digital divide and expand access to affordable information and communication technologies, particularly in rural and underserved communities.
- ENCOURAGES African Legislatures to utilise technology and digital tools to enhance citizen engagement, transparency and access to parliamentary information.

- CALLS FOR regional cooperation in promoting digital innovation, technological capacity-building and the responsible use of emerging technologies.

On Strengthening Regional Cooperation

- REAFFIRMS the importance of solidarity and cooperation among African legislatures in addressing common challenges and advancing the interests of the continent.
- CALLS FOR enhanced collaboration among Africa Region Parliaments in promoting democracy, constitutionalism, peace, security and sustainable development.
- ENCOURAGES continued engagement with regional and international parliamentary organisations to foster mutual learning and strategic partnerships.

6. Points for WCPP to consider

- Public trust must be actively earned and maintained.
- Oversight should be strengthened and grounded in evidence.
- Parliamentary leadership should be proactive rather than reactive.
- Youth inclusion is essential to achieving sustainable development.
- Technology should strengthen democracy and improve service delivery.

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