

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 2013

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

Provincial Notice

Provincial Notice 84 of 2013, published in *Provincial Gazette Extraordinary* 7107, dated 25 March 2013: Publication of *Western Cape Seventeenth Gambling and Racing Amendment Bill* [B 3–2013] for comment before or on 24 April 2013.

TABLING

The Speaker:

Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:

Delayed tabling of the Annual Consolidated Financial Statements of Provincial Departments and Entities for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Speaker:

REPORT ON THE WESTERN CAPE DELEGATION TO THE 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS AFRICA REGION

Delegation

An official delegation of three Members, namely the hon A Rossouw, V Hani, and T N Bevu, accompanied by staff member Ms L L Saayman, represented the Western Cape Provincial Parliament at this 5th Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Africa Region. The delegation was led by the Hon Rossouw and they left for East London on Saturday 9 February and returned on Wednesday 13 February 2013.

At the conference, the delegation joined other Women Parliamentarians from other provinces to form the South African delegation.

Theme

The theme of the conference was “Are African Legislatures on target towards attaining the 2015 Millennium Development Goals?”

Saturday 9 February 2013

The delegation arrived in East London late afternoon and was allocated accommodation in the Premier Regent Hotel next to the East London International Convention Centre.

Sunday 10 February 2013

Official opening ceremony of the 5th Annual Commonwealth Women Parliamentarian’s Africa Region.

The following office bearers delivered addresses at the opening ceremony:–

- The chairperson of the CWP African Region, Rt hon R Kadaga;
- The South African CWP National Branch Chairperson, Hon Nomaindia Mfeketo; and
- The Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region Executive committee and Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, Hon Lindiwe Maseko.

As an outgoing chairperson, Ms Kadaga in her speech hailed the work of the CWP. She emphasised that the goals of the CWP Africa Region included promoting gender equality, the emancipation of women, respect for human rights and freedom and the pursuit of democracy and good governance.

Ms Mfeketo said that democracy in Africa could not be fully realised without the empowerment and protection of women and children. She urged women parliamentarians to strengthen their fight for the total emancipation of women and girl children on the continent. She also said that the theme of the conference should assist parliamentarians in reflecting on the progress made in the implementation of gender-based policies in their countries.

Ms Maseko in her speech observed with concern the persistent violent abuse of women and children. She urged the delegates to be firmer in ensuring policy implementation measures that advocate for the empowerment and protection of women and children.

Gala Dinner

During the Gala dinner, the keynote address was delivered by the Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize. She mentioned that, according to South Africa's second report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there were still a number of areas of concern. She pointed out that economic growth was key to sustainable inclusion and attainment of different freedoms. She stressed the importance of legislatures spearheading the drive to change the lives of the people for the better.

Monday 11 February 2013

Annual General Meeting

The Chairperson of the CWP Africa Region Rt hon R Kadaga, presided over the Annual General Meeting.

The following issues were considered at the meeting as per its agenda:–

- Consideration and adoption of the draft minutes of the minutes of the meeting of the 4th General Meeting held on 29th October 2010 at Commonwealth Resort, Munyonyo Kampala, Uganda; and
- Consideration and adoption of the draft CWP Rules of Procedure.

Members raised concerns about them not having copies of the mentioned minutes and the CWP Rules of Procedure, and it was agreed that the meeting would be suspended till Wednesday, 13th February, to deal with these matters.

Sessions of the Conference

The sessions of the conference dealt with the following subjects:–

- Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;
- Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls; and
- Creating a gender sensitive parliamentary environment.

(a) Consolidating strategies to deal with maternal and infant mortality in the Eastern Cape in line with the Millennium development Goals (MDGs)

The presentation by Professor Nomafrench Mbombo gave a detailed picture of African countries regarding maternal and infant mortality. According to her, there was a lack of maternal and new born health plans in most African countries. Her recommendation was that more access to appropriate healthcare services and improved quality of care in African countries should be pursued.

(b) Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

In her presentation Ms Shelukindo from Tanzania said that female genital mutilation, widow cleansing, forced marriages and rapes were among the most common acts of violence against women and young girls in Africa. Even more disturbing was the fact that these cruel practices

were accepted as normal in some communities. The women parliamentarians have vowed not to stop discussing violence against women and girls until a solution was found. Another form of violence which has grown rapidly over the past decade is the trafficking in women and girls. Women constitute the largest group of victims in all streams of trafficking. Women between the ages 19 and 50 are trafficked mainly for sexual exploitation.

Outcomes from sessions

Some of the outcomes from the discussions included the need to come up with practical measures to deal with the challenges and the responsibility to generate concrete interventions, monitor laws that have been passed and discourage cultural practices that undermine human rights.

Tuesday 12 February 2013

The conference continued with the topics as from the previous day.

(a) Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls

The stated aim of the MDGs is to encourage development by improving the social and economic condition in the world's poorest countries. The MDGs were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000.

In her presentations Ms Thapelo Chiloane said that South Africa had made strides towards attaining some of the MDGs through the focus on increasing the social wage through its inclusive social grants, the provision of proper nutrition like the School Nutrition Programme, and breastfeeding policy in aid of infant health. The challenges faced by South Africa in executing MDGs include lack of resources since MDGs are being treated as stand-alone, lack of government collaboration and the lack of prioritisation of interventions.

Overall, African countries are set to fail in achieving the MDGs particularly for women and children. The MDGs failures are characterised by lack of emphasis on sustainability beyond 2015, lack of resources, difficulty in gathering baseline data and measuring goals. The MDGs have served the world and African continent, in particular as a smart target which enabled member countries to direct their efforts in achieving performance success in addressing goals, targets and indicators.

(b) Creating a gender sensitive parliamentary environment

Ms Mary Salifu said that a gender sensitive parliament is one in which there is no barriers that are structural or cultural to women's full participation and to equality between its men and women members and staff. Such an environment offers a better understanding of issues related to the basic necessities of life, water, food and shelter. The perception created through patriarchy is that women who are in leadership positions are seen to have been done a favour and there is no recognition of the women's worth in the development agenda. Gender mainstreaming should also be cascaded down to parliamentary staff to ensure that all staff is able to support parliament in achieving its gender goals.

Wednesday, 13 February 2013

Annual General meeting

The–

- Consideration of the inputs on the Strategic Plan 2008-2011 was deferred to the Namibia conference in July 2013;
- Consideration and adoption of the Draft Resolution of the 5th CWP Conference (document attached). The resolutions were adopted with the following corrections: to omit on page 3” to provide access to free and safe abortion services within the legal framework of our respective countries and on page 5 “ that society continues to stigmatise gays and lesbians”; and
- The election of the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson was deferred to the next conference in Namibia, to be held in July 2013.

Conclusion

At the end of the conference, the Chairperson wished all the delegates well and said she hoped to see everyone at the next conference in Namibia.