

A delegation of the WCPP undertook a study visit and benchmarking exercise for the States General of the Netherlands and the Provincial Legislature of Holland. The delegation was travelling back from a legislative summit in the United States of America and optimised the trip by incorporating the above-mentioned study tour in their return journey. The two day study visit was led by the Hon Speaker, Masizole Mnqasela, accompanied by the Hon Deputy Speaker, Beverley Schäfer, the Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Daylin Mitchell, the Secretary of the WCPP, Romeo Adams and the International Relations and Protocol Officer, Achmat Patience.

On 12 August 2019, the WCPP delegation was met by the South African Ambassador to the Netherlands HE Mr VB Koloane.

On the same day, the delegation visited the Netherland Institute for Multi-Party Democracy to learn more about their programmes and the work that they do to promote democracy. This was followed by a visit to the South Holland Provincial Legislature.

On 13 August 2019, the delegation focused their programme of the States General of the Netherlands, which is their national parliamentary body.

The study visit proved to be hugely informative for the WCPP, some key matters were highlighted in the delegation report upon return to the WCPP.

1. Social Media

Social media is a very powerful tool for the legislative sector of the Netherlands and one of the key communication tools with the people of the country and various provinces. The States General has a website hit count of 4 million per year and has its own television service to ensure the dissemination of live footage to the citizens.

2. Youth and the legislative sector of the Netherlands

The States General of the Netherlands has an established youth parliament that meets annually. In addition, primary school learners can, on a lottery type basis, get the opportunity to pose questions to Ministers every month when the States General is in session.