

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker:

1. **OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE STATES OF BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG AND BAVARIA, GERMANY, 10–14 JULY 2023**

DELEGATION

Hon Daylin Mitchell, Speaker

Hon Beverley Schäfer, Deputy Speaker

Romeo Adams, Secretary to the Provincial Parliament

Achmat Patience, International Relations and Protocol Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

The WCPP undertook an official visit to the States of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria, Germany from 10 to 14 July 2023. The programme in Baden-Württemberg was the first visit of its kind by the WCPP. This visit reciprocated a delegation visit from the same parliament in March 2023, led by Professor Erik Schweickert.

The visit to the State of Bavaria, follows a Memorandum of Intention (MOI) that was signed between the WCPP and the State Parliament of Bavaria, in November 2022. Since the Bavarian State Parliament will have a change in representation following elections in October 2023, and the WCPP might have a change in representation in June 2024, this provided an opportunity for the two institutions to meet in person and provide an opportunity to set in motion the MOI.

2. DAY 1, MONDAY 10 JULY

2.1 VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART AND CYBER

The programme commenced with an engagement at the University of Stuttgart. This engagement started with a tour ARENA2036 by Peter Froschle, Executive Director of the ARENA 2036. **ARENA2036** which stands for **Active Research Environment** for the **Next** generation of **Automobiles** is a programme with an initiative funded by both the German government and private partnerships. ARENA2036 brings together different professional perspectives, working cultures and approaches to work and complement each other.

The vision of all projects carried out is based on speed and creativity. Those operating inside the centre are mostly engineers and masters or PhD students who are funded by various private companies. It is envisaged that for the next two years the funding for 150 projects will amount to approximately 450 million euros. Following the tour, the delegation was seated in a conference room for the following presentations:

CYBER VALLEY- A SUCCESS STORY IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG BY DR FLORIAN MAYER, DIRECTOR MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCES.

The following points were shared:

- Cyber Valley was established in December 2016.
- Two years for all the partners to join and create Cyber Valley.
- It is owned 51% by the state and 49% owned by partners.
- Due to the funding, Cyber Valley does not adhere to all the regularities as universities.
- The first science hub by AWS was established in Cyber Valley.
- Cyber Valley operates on the following principles:
 - Science Experience
 - Economic development
 - Engagement with society

UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART: INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

The following points were shared:

- The university has ten faculties.
- Majority of faculties focuses on either engineering or science.
- The university has currently 22 000 students registered in various fields.
- University prides itself on aerospace engineering.
- University receives about 50% funding from the state and the remaining funding is received from private funds.
- The university invest in early research by students which allows for more innovation to be produced.
- 15 years ago, the German government focussed funding on certain university centres in order to create core centres of innovation.

THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART-SELECTED PROJECTS AND START-UPS

The following points were shared:

- All start-up projects are done in consultation with society.
- The director for knowledge innovation oversees the centre.
- The start-up/transfer centre at the university is new.
- The transfer centre operates on four principles:
 - Career service
 - Business relations
 - Commercial
 - Knowledge transfer (with other universities)

AI FOR USER INTERACTION, MOBILITY AND PRODUCTION

The following points were shared:

- Certain people in society are not able to use their hands due to various illness.
- Semnox software was developed to assist these people by using technology.
- This software allows for the head and eyes to control the operation of the computer.
- This project was initially started as research transfer, however, after receiving funding, a company was established for further development.
- AI software was also developed and funded by Mercedes to allow auto pilot driving.
- Currently the software can operate in small, concentrated environments where the software can relate small building, traffic lights and pedestrian crossing.

INTELLIGENT AERIAL ROBOTS FOR LARGE-SCALE BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

The following points were shared:

- The research was based on how autonomous robots can monitor the movement of humans and animals, how they can make sense of this information which will result in the robot mapping its movement without causing a collision.
- All the robots were built by a team at the university using drones and airships.
- A flagship project was created to understand how to help certain conflicts between animals and human by using these robots.
- This project was carried out in Kenya, where humans and animals share access to the same land.
- The key objectives of this project to allow the robots to identify:
 - Where the animal is?
 - What is the post of the animal?
 - What is the animal doing, example: standing, grazing, walking?

2.2 MEETING WITH ENBW

ENBW is a private company that provides energy, mobility, and telecommunications to its customers. During the visit to ENBW, the delegation received a presentation on the flex-on-grid project. This project allows systems to work in coordination, avoid congestions, and should a congestion appear, how to solve a congestion fast. The pilot project was carried out in a small area south of Stuttgart, where the area solely depends on renewable energy as the provider of electricity. The building in the area were fitted with solar panels and car charging stations installed as well as heating provision was made available for inside the residential and office buildings.

The following points were shared from the presentation:

- Project was funded by the state as well as partners within the industry and universities.
- The system operates on a traffic light which allows the system to react to any given situation. Green light represents that the system is not overloaded, yellow, the is an overload coming and red indicates an overload on the system.
- Each system comprised of charging infrastructure, heat pumps, and battery storage systems.
- The area was provided with an automotive system called a “grid operator”.
- This system checks every 30 seconds how the grid is operating based on the traffic light.
- This system will react when the status quo of the traffic light changes.
- When the system detects a congestion, a control box within the household, that is connected to the system, will allow the system to borrow access power from one household and provide to another household where the voltage level is higher.

The second presentation was on the digitalisation and transformation of electricity distribution by the regulator. The following points were shared from the presentation:

- European Union decided that the regulators will decide on this transformation without the interference of the politicians.
- There is an increase in renewable energy and decrease in fossil fuels.
- 104 distribution operators in Baden-Wurtemberg and ENBW owns the largest distributor.
- Previously, distributors would make money to and invest into the community.
- The transformation is being seen as problematic for the operators.
- Transformation is a costly exercise, and small operators will not be financially in a position to proceed.
- ENBW largest operator of vehicle charging infrastructure.
- ENBW only company that operates in energy. Mobility, and telecommunications.
- ENBW are planning to be climate neutral in 2025.
- There is an increase in political support to identify greener options.
- The one problem in Germany is generation of power and not the grid availability.

3. DAY TWO, TUESDAY 11 JULY

3.1 TOUR OF THE MERCEDES BENZ MUSEUM

The delegation proceeded to the Mercedes Benz Museum for a tour. The Mercedes Benz Museum consists of 160 vehicle exhibits and numerous display items. The tour focussed on an overview of the fascinating automotive history at Mercedes-Benz. The chronological tour which starts at the top of the museum and follows a spiral walkway, through the legend rooms from the beginnings of automotive history in 1886 through to the present day. Towards the end of the tour, you have the opportunity to view the racing side of Mercedes Benz and also discover special collections that span over the various eras in five collection rooms.

3.2 VISIT TO THE GERMAN AEROSPACE CENTRE

The German Aerospace Centre, otherwise referred to as DLR. DLR is the Federal Republic of Germany's research centre for aeronautics and space. The centre conducts research and development activities in the fields of aeronautics, space, energy, transport, security and digitalisation. The centre also implements the national space programme on behalf of the federal government. Funding of programmes are overseen by two management agencies.

The centre has approximately 10 000 employees and they use approximately 55 research institutes to develop technological solutions. This ultimately assists to strengthen Germany's position as a prime location for space research.

The visit ended with a tour of the area by the Ariane Group which specialises in producing material that can be used in space.

4. DAY THREE, 12 JULY

4.1 VISIT TO THE STATE PARLIAMENT OF BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG (BW)

The delegation was received by Professor Erik, who visited the WCPP in March this year. The delegation proceeded to the Chamber where they were seated in the special guest area. The President of the state parliament welcomed the delegation and highlighted the purpose of the visit. The delegation witnessed part of the proceedings of the Chamber, especially the introduction to the debate of the day which focussed on the topic of cybersecurity.

The delegation then proceeded on a tour of the parliamentary precinct, and then had an in-person meeting with the President as well as Members from various political parties. The Secretary to Provincial Parliament had an opportunity to meet with his counterpart, the General-Secretary of the parliament, where they discussed mutual collaboration between the WCPP and BW in respect of the parliamentary administration. The above meetings concluded the following:

- In addition to the partnership between the State Parliament of BW and KZN Provincial Legislature, the State Parliament of BW will be keen on signing a Memorandum of Intention with the WCPP.
- The WCPP to prepare the document for consideration and share it with Professor Erik to take the matter forward.

- This will provide a platform for Standing Committees from both institutions to meet virtually more regularly.
- The General Secretary will be keen to share information and best practices with the WCPP administration.
- The General Secretary will be keen to have a triangular table discussion with the WCPP and Bavarian State Parliament administration to cooperate.

5. DAY FOUR, 13 JULY

5.1 PRESENTATION BY TASTRIC-DATA SOLUTIONS

This company is led by two close friends who grew up as siblings, Maximilian, and Maritz. The South African Consul General to Munich introduced the delegation to this presentation which focussed on how to improve the wine tourism industry in the Western Cape.

The data driven research used the following processes:

- 46 000 people were part of the research.
- 60 wineries were part of the research.
- 1.2 million data points were collected.
- This research has the potential to improve potential insights regarding the industry.
- To provide continuous live feedback to the wineries.

The purpose of this data driven research was to create a centre point where wineries could access this database at any time and compare their statistics with the sales figures and revenue. It was agreed at the end of the presentation that this information will be shared with the Provincial Minister of Agriculture.

5.2 VISIT TO THE BAVARIAN STATE PARLIAMENT (BSP)

The delegation was welcomed by the President and Members of various political parties. The President informed the delegation of the state elections taking place in October 2023. This will result in some changes at the BSP, and as a result the new leadership, and chairpersons of committees will most likely be available for contact sessions towards the end of November. The Secretary to Provincial Parliament had the opportunity to meet with his counterpart, the General-Secretary of BSP and two other directors. While this meeting took place, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker had an opportunity to meet with Professor Ursula Munch.

The above meetings resolved the following:

- The Standing Committee from the WCPP and BSP will meet virtually towards the end of the November 2023.
- These meetings will be used as an introduction and to plan the way forward.
- The Secretary and General-Secretary will coordinate to have these meetings set up and agenda prepared.
- The WCPP and BSP administration will make time available to meet virtually to discuss mutual interests and administrative improvements.

5.3 TOUR OF THE BMW MUSEUM

The BMW Museum Munich is located directly opposite the BMW showroom where the latest models from BMW, BMW motorsport, MINI as well as Rolls-Royce are displayed. Adjacent to the museum as well is the BMW factory where approximately 1200 engines are assembled daily. At the museum, you will discover the BMW brand from its beginnings to the present day. The museum prides itself on its design over the years, especially considering that BMW's focus at the beginning of its journey was on aeroplane engines and only at a later stage invested into vehicles.

The museum displays the adaptation of vehicles and motorbikes over the years focussing on the evolving designs or prototypes that have made history. The BMW Museum the milestones from 100 years of BMW Group history.

6 DAY FIVE, 14 JULY

6.1 MEETING WITH BAYWA

The delegating was received by Ms Simone Tornow. Mr Christian Stock, who is the Managing Partner presented to the delegation the role of BayWa focussing on the following:

- BayWa's activities/planned activities in South Africa
- Potential projects

The BayWa Group is active worldwide in the fields of energy, agriculture, and construction. As a global player, it develops innovative and sustainable solutions for the basic needs of food, energy, heating, and mobility, as well as construction and housing. The parent company, founded in 1923, is based in Munich. Its history began with cooperative agricultural trading: BayWa supplied rural areas with everything that agriculture needed. The BayWa Group business model includes planning, wholesale, retail and logistics, as well as extensive supporting and consultancy services, in the three core segments Energy, Agriculture and Building Materials, and in the development-focused segment Innovation & Digitalisation. It therefore meets essential basic needs for energy, mobility, food and housing.

ByWa is currently enrolled in investing in the green hydrogen projects currently active in Africa and more specifically in South Africa.

6.2 MEETING WITH TEAM FOR TECH

Team For Tech is a non-profit network and interactive platform for the development of decarbonisation of SMEs in South Germany. The delegation received a presentation on one of the projects called **The Hydrogen Initiative Bavaria & Baden-Wuerttemberg (H2 South)**.

This initiative was launched by Dr Andreas Seebach. Medium sized businesses, family businesses and startups with extensive experience and outstanding know-how in the hydrogen and energy industry form part of this initiative. One of the aims of this initiative is to participate in the regulatory and legislative processes, but also accompany

feasibility studies and support the development of new markets. By creating a platform for this type of dialogue, will help build a pool of know-how, networking opportunities and research to be made available for future entrepreneurs.

2. 2023 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, USA, 13 TO 16 AUGUST 2023

DELEGATION

Speaker: Hon Daylin Mitchell
 Deputy Speaker: Hon Beverley Schäfer
 Chief Whip: Hon Wendy Philander
 Chief Whip of the Official Opposition: Hon Pat Lekker
 Hon Ferlon Christians
 Secretary to Parliament: Romeo Adams
 International Relations and Protocol Officer: Achmat Patience

1. INTRODUCTION

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament has been a regular participant in the annual legislative summits of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). These summits are focused on developments within the mandates of United States legislatures and, in addition, consider how legislatures are dealing with various matters affecting the sector in a new and ever-changing world.

The sessions at the summit are presented with the intention of sharing best practices among the attendees. The summit is attended by legislators and legislative staff from the US state legislatures. As a result of the growing popularity of the summit in the international legislative sector, the summit offers a separate programme for international attendees. The summit also provides sessions, specifically for legislative staff aimed at professionally developing legislative staff. This report provides a summarised record of the WCPP delegation's participation in the summit.

2. DAY ONE, SUNDAY 13 AUGUST

2.1 REGISTRATION AND INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION PRE-CONFERENCE

Approximately 200 international delegates attended the 2023 Legislative Summit, representing countries, including but not limited to: Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Brazil, Germany, Canada, and India. South Africa was represented by the provincial legislatures of the Western Cape, Gauteng, North-West, Limpopo and Free State.

Following the registration process the international delegates attended a pre-conference session where the Speaker from Rhode Island, Brian Kennedy, welcomed the international attendees. The Speaker of Ghana, Hon Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin had the opportunity to share with the delegates how the partnership between the Parliament of Ghana and NCSL was established and what the partnership of 25 years

has achieved. The international attendees participated in the open floor discussion on the *Effect of culture on the legislature*. This topic was discussed amongst several subtopics such as:

- a) Cultural meals
- b) What does it mean to serve?
- c) Cultural norms and practices within the legislature

2.2 TOUR OF THE INDIANA STATE CAPITOL

The international attendees were led by officials from the Indiana State Capitol on a tour of the building. Indiana is one of eight USA states, where the legislative, executive, and judicial precincts are all located in the same building. The building was completed in 1888 and was built with the famous limestone that mined in the northern part of Indiana. In 1988 the multi-million-dollar renovation which lasted until 1995. The tallest point of the building which the top of the dome is measured at 78 meters high.

Indiana consists of a bicameral legislative system, which consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Members of the General Assembly are elected from districts which are re-aligned every 10 years. Members of the General Assembly are employed part time. They serve as Members during the legislative period which runs from January to April. Once the budget is approved, they return to their daily jobs. A Member receives a remuneration with a basic starting at approximately US\$27 000 and when they include their additional allowance, it totals to approximately US\$71 000 per annum.

The constitution of Indiana has several checks and balances in place to prevent any branch of the government to become dominant. The governor does have the power to veto any bill, however the General Assembly can override this veto with a simple majority vote. The courts do have the power to declare any law unconstitutional, however, the General Assembly has the power to amend the constitution to override the decision by the courts.

3. DAY TWO, MONDAY, 14 AUGUST

3.1 WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING NICE

Communication expert and author Sarita Maybin presented constructive ways to say the hard stuff in the best way without being mean. She shared her motto when saying things which is "*Say what you Mean, Mean what you say, and don't say it Mean.*" She provided strategies on how to change negative phrases to positive phrases which provides a platform of respect and acceptance.

For example: instead of saying:

"You're wrong" – rather say "I have a different understanding of...or I heard something different".

"Won't work" – rather say "What will work is..."

"You should" - rather say "What will work is..."

Ms Maybin ended off her presentation on how to deal with confrontation i.e. when to confront and when to let it go. To prevent heated arguments, it important to remember the three-step process, A= Awareness, I=Impact and R=Request.

3.2 LEADING AND MANAGING: STRATEGIES FOR LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Mr Eric Robinson, a Public Service Associate from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia presented on the difference between leading and managing. Learning outcomes from the session is as follows:

- a) Leading produces change, with an emphasis on achieving long-term results.
- b) Managing focusses on short-term results.
- c) A vision is an organisation strives to be.
- d) A mission is what an organisation does to move toward the vision.
- e) A value is what the organisation stands for, in terms of principles and service delivery.
- f) Leadership styles can be either, autocrat, country club, indifferent or democrat.

3.3 NEW STRATEGIES FOR AN EVOLVING WORKFORCE

The session was chaired by the Karen Keiser, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Washington Legislature. The presentations were focussed on examining the workforce paradox of where not enough workers are available to fill jobs, and jobs of the future that require more skills and training while at the same time, resignations, reshuffles, burnout, and expanded digitalisation seems to occur more frequently. The learning outcomes of this session is as follows:

- a) During the COVID-19 pandemic, low-income workers had the strongest wage growth.
- b) Where relief was required, federal fiscal assistance led to a faster recovery.
- c) It took 3.5 times longer to recover from the great recession than the COVID-19 recession.
- d) USA unemployment rate is currently at 3.5%.
- e) The civil services labour force fell from 66.8% to 61.7%.
- f) Average job tenure in the USA is 3 years.
- g) 66% of the work force are full time employed.
- h) 1 in 4 people in the USA work two or more jobs.
- i) Wage inflation affects jobs turnover.
- j) Virtual jobs play a huge factor in attracting the work force.

3.4 PROTECTING KIDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

This session was chaired by Heather Morton, Director, National NCSL. The panellists were made up of Carl Szabo, Vice President of NetChoice, Kristen Bahner, Representative of Minnesota Legislature and Michael McKell, Senator from Utah Legislature. There are growing concerns on the increase over the effects social media on children. Certain USA state legislators are drafting legislation, in the form of a Social Media Regulation Act. The learning outcomes from this session is as follows:

- a) The business model of social media is “surveillance advertising”.

- b) Algorithms are designed to keep our as long as possible.
- c) By the time a child is 18, it is estimated there will be 70 000 data points about them.
- d) Business objective of social media is to make content more appealing, promote connections, and reward popularity.
- e) Social media's core design puts children and risk.
- f) Approaches to protect kids include 30 bills currently in process.
- g) Other approaches include parental controls, age verification, platform bans, enhanced data privacy and design.
- h) Social media has a negative impact on the mental health of children.
- i) Children utilising platforms designed for adults will affect their development.

3.5 DISRUPTING THE FUTURE OF WORK

This session was presented by futurist, Nancy Giordano, where she took a deep dive into the technologies, major forces and critical shifts companies and the workforce are facing to stay relevant. The session looked at how institutions can build the necessary capacities and, how will new tools shape new behaviours and drive new expectations. The outcomes of this session are as follows:

- a) To view the future, it should be through the following lenses, your work, your life, and you as a member of society.
- b) Future tools included AI, spatial computing, H/m+ B/M interfaces, robotics, distributed web cybersecurity.
- c) UN estimates 90% of the world will have access to the internet by 2028, up from 85% currently.
- d) By 2025, the world will generate 181 zettabytes of data.
- e) Technology is advancing, information is growing, culture is shifting exponentially.
- f) AI governance has become important.
- g) There are five transformations that will affect the new economy, digital, youthquake, wellbeing and re-skilling, redressing systemic bias and inequities, and planetary stability.

4. DAY THREE: TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST

4.1 MENTAL HEALTH AND THE WORKFORCE

This session was hosted by the Mental Health Matters National Task Force in collaboration with the State Exchange on Employment and Disability. There are currently major challenges when it comes to addressing workforce shortages in the mental health sector as well as reducing barriers to employment for people with mental health conditions.

NCSL and a bipartisan group of policymakers and experts have developed a policy framework to help address these issues. The outcomes of the session were as follows:

- a) The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the relationship between work and well-being.
- b) Poor mental health can negatively affect employees' productivity and performance, leading to absenteeism, accidents, and turnover.
- c) Institutions should adopt policies to strengthen education and training pathways to assist with mental health.

- d) Institutions should provide early exposure to mental health careers.
- e) Institutions should invest in nontraditional career pathways such as apprenticeships and peer support programmes.

4.2 THE COURAGE TO COME BACK

This session was presented by Master Sgt Cedric King who lost both legs and suffered permanent damage to his right arm and hand from an improvised explosive device in 2012. He referred to that moment as his finest hour. Mr King ran the Boston Marathon in 2014 and wrote a book, "The Making Point." The outcome of this session is as follows:

- a) Learn how to find strength after loss, disappointment, and fatigue.
- b) Opposition will give up when you don't.
- c) You will never know when you going to get it easy.
- d) Difficult times can start from day one.
- e) Change your perspective when you think you are losing.
- f) What is easy can become hard.
- g) A strong person does not quote, instead come back for more.
- h) Preparation will have pain along the way.

4.3 DEFENSIVE CYBERSECURITY FOR LEGISLATURES

This session was presented by the Indiana Legislative Services Agency. The challenge legislatures are facing today is balancing effective cybersecurity measures and maintaining operations. Keeping trouble at bay requires a sustainable budget to invest in your defences. The outcomes of this session were as follows:

- a) The focus on email filtering is increasing.
- b) There must be constant security awareness in the legislature.
- c) Social engineering is by far the most common form of attack.
- d) Data shows that 505 of legislatures still do not have the proper security in place.
- e) Continuous internal training is important.
- f) Basic protecting on personal devices are important.
- g) Multifactor authentication should be on all devices.

4.4 MEETING WITH THE NCSL EXECUTIVE

The WCPP delegation had the opportunity to meet privately with the NCSL Executive and the takeaway from that meeting as follows:

- a) WCPP will host a delegation from the NCSL on 24 October 2023 in Cape Town.
- b) WCPP will provide the evening entertainment for the delegation at a venue to be determined.
- c) A programme will be compiled for politicians and staff.
- d) WCPP will select Members to join the NCSL for lunch in Cape Town.

5. DAY FOUR, WEDNESDAY, 16 AUGUST

5.1 WORKING TOGETHER DESPITE DIFFERENCES

This was a discussion about the value of shifting your perspective so you can stretch to accept others as they are. How do you stay focused on making a positive impact as well as strategies to help increase your connection to your team members, whether you're back fully in person or working in a hybrid environment. The outcome of this session is as follows:

- a) It is not enough for the best players; you need to train as a team.
- b) High performing teams don't happen by accident.
- c) For a team to peak, they need to address three factors: fear, fight, and freak factors.
- d) When employees train to fit in thoughtfully, they become more aware of their thoughts and emotions.
- e) When teams train to become thoughtfully fit, they intentionally create a culture that supercharges their success.

5.2 THE REMOTE WORKING REVOLUTION

This session focused on how remote working has implications for certain states in the USA. While remote working has benefits, it has created new implications for local economies. The outcome of this session was as follows:

- a) 13.2% of jobs in the USA are done remotely.
- b) 67% of those jobs are within the media and tech industry.
- c) 30% of those jobs are in hybrid format.
- d) Remote working is defined as full time working from your home/other office.
- e) Hybrid format is between two or three days in the office.
- f) There is currently a 3% vacancy rate in the State of Utah due to no remote working options.
- g) Institutions that advertise remote working are more attractive.
- h) The States of Columbia and Utah had to offer grants to businesses to help with the costs of building space rentals.

5.3 A CONVERSATION WITH PEYTON MANNING

One of the greatest quarterbacks of all time, Peyton Manning took time to sit and discuss and share his perspective on leadership and success both on the field and off: What it takes to bring out the best in a team and win. The outcome of this session was:

- a) Involvement of parents in children's lives are important.
- b) Parents should encourage children to be involved in sports.
- c) Relationship between siblings is important.
- d) Always support your team in ups and downs.
- e) When planning your goals, always plan for unexpected changes.
- f) Leaders always take control of situations.
- g) Your attitude will be found amongst your teammates.

6. OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSIDER FOR THE WCPP

- a) The NCSL has access to a wide range of resources that could be of great benefit to the Members and administration of the WCPP, particularly in terms of policy development, use of technology, etc.

- b) The conference provided a good opportunity for participants to gain exposure to a wide variety of aspects of the legislative environment and to interact with other Legislators and staff, not only from the US but from across the world.
- c) Many legislatures in the US are very active in drafting legislation relating to matters that affect the daily lives of citizens in the modern world and could serve as a source of inspiration and information for similar developments in our province and country.

3. 18TH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AFRICA REGION, YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON, 16–22 JULY 2023

DELEGATION

Hon Daylin Mitchell, Speaker
Achmat Patience, International Relations and Protocol Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

The Speaker and International Relations Officer attended the 18th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth Africa Region, which was hosted by the Cameroon Branch in Yaoundé, from 16 to 22 July 2023.

The conference was attended by Speakers and Presiding Officers from 18 commonwealth countries from the Africa region. This was the first time since the inception of this conference that Speakers from sub-national/state legislatures were afforded the opportunity to attend as a delegate.

2. DAY ONE, MONDAY, 17 JULY 2023

REGISTRATION AND BRIEFING

Registration for all delegates, observers and accompanying officials took place on day one. Considering the large delegation from South Africa, the Chairperson of the NCOP, Hon Masondo called for a caucus meeting with the South African delegation in order to share research that was prepared in respect of the planned workshops for the conference.

3. DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 18 JULY

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The official opening ceremony took place at the Yaoundé Conference Centre. The programme commenced with the performance of the Cameroon national anthem by students from from the University of Buea. This was followed by the welcoming remarks, delivered by the Mayor of Yaoundé, Luc Messi Atangana; where he expressed his gratitude that such an event is hosted in Yaoundé. The mayor further encouraged the participants to take time and explore the city.

After the conclusion of the welcoming remarks, as the chair of the organising committee for the conference, the President of the National Assembly of Cameroon, RT

Honourable Mary Muyali Epse Meboka welcomed all the participants to the conference. She took the liberty of announcing each Speaker present in the audience. The chairperson was very delighted to host CSPOC for the first time in Cameroon. The chairperson also thanked the attendees for taking keen interest in the conference and was overwhelmed by planned deliberations of the four workshops.

Due to the absence of the President of the Senate of Cameroon, RT Honourable Tabe Tando presented a short remark on behalf of the President of the Senate. This was followed by the official opening and keynote address by the Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Dion Ngute, who represented the Head of State, HE Paul Biya.

In his address he relayed the current situation of Cameroon, the future plans and what role Cameroon will play in supporting West Africa as well as well the road map in achieving the Agenda 2063 goals.

The ceremony ended with a vote of thanks by the RT Honourable Sekelemani Phandi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana.

DAY THREE: TUESDAY, 19 JULY

The day commenced at the Yaoundé Conference Centre with the first plenary session on the topic, *The devastating impacts of climate change, a call for more parliamentary interventions*. The mover of this session was Hon. Mary Muyali Epse Meboka from the Parliament of Cameroon. She was assisted by Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania as well as Honourable Chisangano A. Malungu, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia.

Following the lunch break, the proceedings of the day continued with the second session. The topic of the session was *The role of African Parliaments in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA)*. The session was chaired by Rt Honourable Jatta Fabakary Tombong, Speaker of the National Assembly of Gambia. She was assisted by Rt. Honourable Gladys Jepkosgei Boos, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya as well as Rt. Honourable Catherine Gotani Mara, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya.

DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY

The day commenced with the first plenary on the topic *Addressing the challenge of food security in Africa by promoting investments in Agriculture*. The chair of this session was the Rt. Honourable. Kingsford Bagbin Alban Sumana, Speaker of Ghana. He was assisted by Senator Lindiwe Dlamini, President of the Senate of Eswatini as well as Honourable Tayebwa Thomas, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Uganda.

Following the lunch break, the deliberations continued with the second session on the topic *The role of Parliaments in Strengthening openness, transparency, and accountability*. The Plenary Session was chaired by Rt. Honourable Pono Pearson Moatlhodi, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana. He was assisted by Honourable Amos Masondo, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, South Africa as well as Rt. Honourable Tajudeen Abbas, Speaker of the National Assembly of Nigeria.

In concluding the two-day deliberations, Rt. Honourable Bagbin Alban Sumana, Speaker of the National Assembly of Ghana presented the resolutions of CSPOC 2023 to all participants for comments and amendments. The resolutions were unanimously adopted. Hon. Muyali Meboka delivered the closing remarks on behalf of Rt. Honourable Cavaye Yeguie Djibril, and announced that the 19th CSPOC will be hosted by the Parliament of Botswana in 2025.

DAY FIVE: FRIDAY, 21 JULY

The delegates were gathered immediately after breakfast and proceeded to visit the GAODA touristic site in Nyom, Yaoundé. The delegates were received by Hon. Muyali Meboka and Hon. Datouo Théodore, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the organising committee of CSPOC 2023. The area which was visited is a mining site where very expensive and durable marbles are being produced. Following a word of welcome by the mayor of the Yaoundé and Mr. Jean Marie Abouna; manager of the mining site; the delegates were divided into smaller groups for a guided tour of the area.

At the conclusion of the visit, the delegates returned to the hotels in preparation for the farewell dinner.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 18TH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The 18th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) Africa Region, comprising of Presiding Officers from 18 National Parliaments, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 13 to 22 July 2023, having examined the theme: “African Parliaments and Agenda 2063”, do hereby;

Acknowledge the devastating impacts of climate change on the world at large and Africa in particular, resulting in rising temperatures, droughts, thunderstorms and floods and their impact on the economies of the world particularly African economies;

Note that the 2022 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the UN indicated that approximately 3.3 billion to 3.6 billion live in areas vulnerable to climate change with the hotspots being West, Central, Southern and East Africa, Central and South America, and Southeast Asia;

Note that even though Africa contributes about 2% to climate change globally, the continent is the worst affected by the devastating impact of climate change;

Recognise that climate change could seriously compromise the ability of the agricultural sector to feed the world and severely undermine progress towards eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty especially in Africa if concrete action is not taken to mitigate its effects;

Acknowledge the commitments of African governments at the global, continental and national levels in combatting climate change including the allocation of resources towards the implementation of Agenda 2063 and other initiatives;

Also Acknowledge that Commonwealth countries are committed to energy transition actions including harnessing solar energy and solid waste for power generation and recycling of waste generally;

And are cognizant of the important role Commonwealth Parliaments in Africa can play in combatting climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, and support climate adaption measures;

Note that not much has been achieved by Africa within the two (2) years to the end of the First Ten-Year Implementation of Africa Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal Two (SDG 2) which seeks to end hunger in all its forms, achieve food security, and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agricultural production by the year 2030, and that the zero hunger target is likely to be missed if the trend continues;

Note that African countries are among the most affected by food and nutrition insecurity, with threats of famine and extreme levels of malnutrition among populations in some countries;

And are cognizant of the fact that climate change, armed conflict, rising populations, poor infrastructure and inadequate investments in research and development, and the agriculture value-chain, is affecting food and nutrition security in Africa;

Further note that global economic shocks that have also contributed to food insecurity and compounded pre-existing economic vulnerabilities, worsened by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and the Russia Ukraine war that have led to an increase in global food prices and price volatilities;

Further notes that the land tenure system in Africa was inhibiting land acquisition by low-income earners, particularly women, including the acquisition of large tract of lands for large-scale commercial farming;

Note that intra-African trade, not aid, was key in liberating Africa, boost incomes of the population and the elimination of poverty;

Acknowledge that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers an opportunity for enhanced intra-African trade and that regional blocks provide a platform for fostering linkages and harmonising strategies;

Further acknowledges that notwithstanding the successes registered by AfCFTA including the establishment of a permanent headquarters, commitment to eliminate custom duties on 97% of tariff lines in trade facilitation, launch of the common electronic passport, the African passport, to facilitate the free movement of people, a lot more needs to be done;

Recognise that a strong parliament is essential for effective oversight and the foundation of a thriving democracy that builds public trust and confidence;

Note that openness, transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability in the use and administration of public resources are key to building a strong and open parliament and a democratic culture that facilitates improvement in public sector performance;

THE CONFERENCE ACCORDINGLY RESOLVES TO:

1. **Support** increased investments in research and development, agricultural infrastructure, provision of subsidised inputs to farmers, agri-processing, marketing, conservation and storage, including the establishment of an African Investment Bank to support agricultural investment;
2. **Use** legislation to improve investment in agriculture, reform the land tenure system and land-use management to particularly the low-income earners and women, and provide tax and other financial incentives to encourage private investment in the agricultural value chain;
3. **Adopt** appropriate measures in resolving armed conflicts including conflicts among farmers and herders;
4. **Encourage** and influence educational reforms and skills development that support the agricultural sector, agri-business and agri-processing;
5. **Ensure** the ratification and domestication of AfCFTA Agreement and its harmonization with other sub-regional agreements and treaties and to mainstream gender in the process;
6. **Appropriate** funds for the construction and development of road, air, sea and railway infrastructure and transportation to connect and link countries within Africa and to effectively oversight African Governments in the utilisation of the funds appropriated and the general integration process;
7. **Encourage** African governments to explore and commit to the production, manufacture and provide services to which they have comparable advantage;
8. **Ensure** that the principles of openness, transparency and accountability are codified in law and embedded in rigorous practice;
9. **Enact** appropriate legislation and promulgate codes of ethics to fight corruption and engender public confidence in democracy and public office holders.
10. **Ensure** effective and efficient collaboration and cooperation with government in open parliament initiatives.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Annual Activity Report of the Petitions Committee for the 2022/2023 financial year is as follows:

The strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities which impact on committees are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

Members

The Committee comprised the following Members:

Plato, D (DA) (Chairperson)
Fry, C (DA)
Bosman, G (DA)
Sayed, MK (ANC)
Cassiem, A (EFF)

Alternate members:

Baartman, DM (DA)
Pretorius, G (DA)
Kama, M (ANC)
Lili, A (ANC)
Klaas, TM (EFF)

1. Introduction

The statutory requirements of the Petitions Committee are contained in the Directive on Petitions and executive undertakings, issued by the Speaker. This directive was issued in accordance with Rule 1 of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) Standing Rules and provides direction regarding the processing of petitions at the WCPP and, furthermore, pursues all assurances, undertakings and commitments given by the Executive and determines the extent to which these assurances must be fulfilled.

2. Overview of Committee's activities

Number of committee meetings	1
Number of public hearings	0
Number of international study tours	0
Number of fact-finding visits	1
Number of cluster visits	0
Number of provincial bills considered	0
Number of NCOP bills considered	0
Workshops or conferences attended	0

3. Oversight activities

During the 2022/23 financial year, the Petitions Committee conducted a fact-finding visit to Groote Brak Rivier and Power Town, Klein Brak Rivier in Mossel Bay from 19 to 20 July 2022. The first visit was a walk-about (tour) of the Power Town and Sonskynvallei housing project, which was built to accommodate the Power Town residents and backyard dwellers residing at Sonskynvallei. The fact-finding visit aimed to inspect and engage with the petitioners of Power Town and the Mossel Bay Municipality.

The second visit was a walkabout (tour) of the various land claims sites, including Souwesia, Otto, Voetpad, the agricultural claims, the footpath claim, the Cong camp claim, the Dutch Reformed camp claim, Sandhoogte or Die Dam, the Cong Church claim, Landedrift, the Erf 135 claim, the Kalkrug claim, and the Wesso claim. During the visits, it was clear that the community disapproved of the ongoing land claims litigation procedure.

During the visits, the Committee met with the petitioners of Groote Brak Rivier and Klein Brak Rivier, the Mayor of Mossel Bay Municipality, Ward Councillors, municipal officials, and officials from the Land Claims Commission.

The Committee convened in the third quarter of the financial year to discuss the fact-finding visit's recommendations.

4. Financial particulars

The Committee was allocated an amount of R63 176 and the adjusted budget amounted to R83 554. The Committee spent R44 378 during the 2022/23 financial year and an underspend of R39 176 (expenditure after the adjusted budget) was reported.