

**SALGA PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON OFFICE
PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING UPDATE 37/ 2012 (20 JANUARY 2012)**

REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES / COMMITTEE MEETINGS:			
DATE	NAME OF COMMITTEE & RELEVANT AGENDA ITEMS	SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS	PROPOSED ACTION FOR SALGA
18 JAN	PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Consideration of Rental Housing Amendment Bill [B21-2011])	<p>The Rental Housing Amendment Bill is aimed at, amongst other things, extending Chapter 4 of the Rental Housing Act (1999)[Rental Housing Tribunal] to all provinces and to require MECs to establish Rental Housing Tribunals. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson of the Committee indicated that more information is required on the Bill. She commented that the Principal Act is not user-friendly, and that the Amendment Bill is inconsistent with the Principal Act.</p> <p>The Committee went through the Principal Act section-by-section along with the Amendment Act of 2007, as well as the 2011 Bill. The committee proposed numerous amendments. For example, in relation to the establishment of Tribunals, the committee proposed that the tribunals should be established within the first year following on commencement of Rental Housing Amendment Act, 2012. With regards to membership, the committee propose 7 members.</p> <p>The Committee rejected SALGA's call not to make it obligatory for municipalities to establish Rental Housing Information Office (proposed amendment of s14). One Member felt that making it obligatory will be a burden to municipalities who are already financially stricken. Opposing arguments to this were that, municipalities can allocate this function to existing positions within their housing units, and that provinces should provide Information Officers for small municipalities.</p> <p>The submission by Breedevalley municipality calling for further amendment of s15(9) to state</p>	Judging by the deliberations at this meeting, the Rental Housing Amendment Bill will be redrafted. SALGA should make submission once the redrafted Bill is finalised.

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		<p>that the Minister must also consult SALGA in addition to the relevant parliamentary committees was also rejected by the committee. The committee argued that it is not necessary to legislate consultation of SALGA, SALGA is one of many stakeholders in human settlements that the Department must consult and work closely with, and consultation of stakeholders is a norm. If SALGA experiences a problem of not being consulted, they should report that to the Committee.</p> <p>The Parliamentary Legal Unit will consolidate the proposed amendments of the Committee and the committee will consider these next week and forward to the Department. The committee to produce a document detailing reasons for the rejected public comments on the Bill. The Committee agreed that this Bill requires some more work. The committee agreed to request for extension of deadline in dealing with the Rental Housing Amendment Bill. The Committee intends to apply to the National Assembly for redrafting of the amendment of the Principal Act. The process to be followed will be finalised in the next Committee meeting.</p>	
18-19 JAN	NCOP STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP	<p>This workshop was attended by NCOP Members, Speakers and Chair of Chairs of Provincial Legislatures, as well as delegates from SALGA. SALGA was represented by SALGA Gauteng Provincial Chairperson, Cllr Parks Tau, accompanied by ED: Gov, IGR and IR.</p> <p>The Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP did the opening and welcome remarks. In her remarks she explained the importance of strategising as it informs the techniques and tactics required for meaningful performance.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the NCOP gave an overview of outcomes of August 2009 NCOP Strat plan session for the 4th parliamentary term (2009 – 2014) including August 2011 NCOP Business Review deliberations. The issues raised during the Business Review session formed the basis of discussions at the workshop. The issues were of governance, performance and systems nature and were related to the institution, committees as well as whippers. In addressing institutional matters relating to governance, performance and</p>	<p>SALGA should participate in the proposed session to discuss amongst others, functional arrangements between spheres of government and unfunded mandates and should prepare input on these issues.</p> <p>SALGA should propose themes for NCOP debates, and these could be drawn from the SALGA Parliamentary Advocacy and Lobbying Programme</p> <p>SALGA should develop input on the role that should be played by NCOP in relation to IGR and Cooperative Government.</p>

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		<p>systems the Chairperson of the NCOP made amongst others the following proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance: Challenges relating to functional arrangements between spheres of government, unfunded mandates (e.g. regional economic development), resources to support provinces' supervisory powers, and the limited legislative role of provinces – The NCOP Chairperson proposed a session with other role players to discuss this. In preparation for this session, he suggested that the Select Committee on Appropriations together with the relevant Provincial Legislatures committees, should assess the implications of unfunded mandates. He indicated that legislation may be required to set guidelines in respect of unfunded mandates. 2. Performance: Introduction of thematic monthly debates and areas of focus – The NCOP Chairperson proposed that a schedule of debates should be developed to facilitate planning and research, as well as soliciting and articulating issues that are in the interest of provinces. 3. Systems: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Strategy for improving oversight in municipalities – The NCOP Chairperson proposed that NCOP must engage SALGA to establish developments in certain municipalities and to facilitate the strengthening of oversight function within municipal authorities. 3.2 Shared understanding and articulation of the principles of cooperative government and intergovernmental relations – The NCOP Chairperson proposed that the Secretary to the NCOP should unpack the role of the NCOP House Chairperson on Intergovernmental Relations and Cooperative Government as envisaged by NCOP Rule 14B. Furthermore, the House Chairperson on Cooperative Government and Intergovernmental Relations should convene a multi-stakeholder roundtable to unpack the role that must be played by NCOP in IGR and Cooperative Government. 	<p>Gov, IGR and IR Directorate should prepare submission for the proposed debate to celebrate “15 years of the NCOP and what it has meant for South Africans”.</p>

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		<p>3.3 Development of Mechanisms for cooperation (National Assembly, NCOP, Provincial Legislatures and Municipalities) in accordance to Chapter 3 of the Constitution – The NCOP Chair argued that these are in place but need to be enhanced, e.g. the portfolio of House Chairperson: Cooperative Government and Intergovernmental Relations.</p> <p>As NCOP is celebrating its 15th Anniversary in 2012, anniversary programme reflecting various activities was proposed. Amongst these proposals is the development of a newsletter for public circulation, featuring articles by NCOP, Provincial Legislatures and SALGA. House Debates that highlighting the work of the NCOP were also proposed starting with a debate on the “15 years of the NCOP and what it has meant for South Africans”.</p>	

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JANUARY 2012)

THIRD SESSION

TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2012	WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012	THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2012	FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2012
<p>AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF STATE INFORMATION BILL [B6B-2010], (National Assembly – sec 75), [Briefing by the Department of State Security on the Protection of State Information Bill [B6B-2010]], Committee Room V454, Fourth Floor, Old Assembly Building, 10:00 – 13:00</p>			

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JANUARY 2012)

THIRD SESSION

<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Assembly), [Adoption of previous Committee Minutes and outstanding Committee Reports (Green Paper and White Paper on Climate Change, Oversight Visit Report to Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng); Briefing by the Department of Environmental Affairs on South African Weather Services (SAWS) Bill; Public Hearings on the South African Weather Service (SAWS) Amendment Bill], Old Assembly Chamber, Ground Floor, Old Assembly Building, 09:30 – 17:00</p>			
TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2012	WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2012	THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2012	FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2012
<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Assembly), [Department of Water Affairs Progress Report on the government steps to be taken to deal with Acid Mine Drainage in the Wits area; Briefing by the National Planning Commission on all issues relating to the pursuance of a low carbon economy dealt with in the Draft Strategy of Low Carbon Economy and all other matters relating to Climate Change and water and environment], Old Assembly Chamber, Ground Floor, Old Assembly Building, 09:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Assembly), [Ministerial/Departmental Assessment/ Analysis of COP17 presented by the Director-General and team; Briefing by the Director-General on progress with Business Review Processes (BPR)], Committee Room M46, Ground Floor, Marks Building, 09:30 – 17:00</p>		<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Assembly), [Briefing by the Director-General on progress with Business Review Processes], Venue to be confirmed, 09:30 – 13:00</p>

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JANUARY 2012)

THIRD SESSION

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2012

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2012

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2012

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2012

	<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Assembly), [Public Hearings on National Waste Management Strategy published in November 2011 (Commence with briefing by Department)], Committee Room V475, Fourth Floor, Old Assembly Building, 09:30 – 13:00</p>		
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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES (NCOP) RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JANUARY 2012)

THIRD SESSION

TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2012

WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2012

THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2012

FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2012

<p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, (National Council of Provinces), [Briefing by Department of Transport on their Annual Report 2010/11], Committee Room 1, Upper Ground Floor, 90 Plein Street, 10:00 – 13:00</p>	<p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, (National Council of Provinces), [Briefing by Department of Public Works on their Strategic Plan 2012 and Plans to address challenges in the Department], Committee Room 1, Upper Ground Floor, 90 Plein Street, 10:00 – 13:00</p>		
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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES (NCOP) RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JANUARY 2012)

THIRD SESSION

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2012	WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2012	THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2012	FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2012
<p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, (National Council of Provinces), [Briefing by Department of Transport on their Strategic Plan 2012], Committee Room 1, Upper Ground Floor, 90 Plein Street, 10:00 – 13:00</p> <p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, (National Council of Provinces), [Public Hearings on Social Sector Expanded Public Works Programme Incentive Grant for Provinces (Public Works and various other departments)], Committee Room V475, Fourth Floor, Old Assembly Building, 09:00 – 12:30</p>			

JOINT SITTINGS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

TYPE	DATE	CONTENT	SUGGESTED SALGA INTERVENTION
<p>PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK FOR 2012</p>	<p>1st term: 16 Jan – 23 Mar</p> <p>2nd term: 9 Apr – 22 June</p> <p>3rd term: 23 July – 21 Sep</p> <p>4th term: 8 Oct – 7 Dec</p>		

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JOINT SITTINGS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

TYPE	DATE	CONTENT	SUGGESTED SALGA INTERVENTION
JOINT SITTING	09 February 2012	State of the Nation Address	SALGA should attend
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	17 February 6 March	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA Eastern Cape should participate
FREE STATE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	16 February 1 March (provisional)	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA Free State should participate
GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	20 February 6 March	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA Gauteng should participate
KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	14 February 15 February 1 March	King Zwelithini 's Address State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA KZN should participate
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	16 February 29 February (provisional)	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA Limpopo should participate
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	24 February 15 March	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA Mpumalanga should participate
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	17 February 7 March	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA Northern Cape should participate

JOINT SITTINGS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

TYPE	DATE	CONTENT	SUGGESTED SALGA INTERVENTION
NORTH-WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE	17 February 6 March	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA North-West should participate
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT	17 February 1 March	State of the Province Address Provincial Budget Speech	SALGA Western Cape should participate
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY	22 February 2012	Budget Speech	SALGA should attend

MOST RELEVANT POLICY / LEGISLATION

NAME OF BILL / REGULATIONS	STATUS	SALGA INTERVENTION
Rental Housing Amendment Bill [B 21 – 2011]	Before the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements. The Committee intends to apply for redrafting of the Bill.	

APPROVED LOCAL TRIPS

COMMITTEE	DATE	DESTINATION	PURPOSE
Portfolio Committee on Public Works	22 – 27 January 2012	Free State	Oversight Visit to Free State
Portfolio Committee on Transport	23 – 27 January 2012	KZN and Eastern Cape	Oversight Visit to Eastern Cape and KZN
Select Committee on Finance	23 – 27 January 2012	Kimberly	Oversight Visit to Northern Cape Municipalities

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