

print 07 08 15

**Draft Annual report
Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs
2006**

Chairperson: Mr DJ Sithole

1. Management Team

1. Mr DJ Sithole
2. Ms F Hajaig
3. Mr M Ramogbin
4. Ms MAA Njobe
5. Dr AM Luthuli

Secretariat Support to the Committee

1. Committee Secretary : Ms B S Cabangana
2. Committee Assistant : Mr M Erasmus
3. Secretary to Chairperson : Ms. V Williams
4. Control Committee Secretary : Mr M Fukula (acting)
5. Researcher (*Research Unit*) : Mr S Ngubane

2. Mission, Vision and Core Objectives

2.1 Mission

- To contribute to the effective implementation of foreign policy
- To ensure that foreign policy implementation does not infringe on peoples rights and freedoms as enshrined in the Constitution.
- To ensure that the country's foreign engagements lead to the development of the country and its people.
- To effectively conduct an oversight role on the Ministry and Department of Foreign Affairs.

2.2 Vision

- To link the work of the Portfolio Committee to the consolidation of a non-sexist, prosperous, democratic South Africa and to reflect the values of the country to the continent and the world.

2.3 Core Objectives

Core Objective 1 : Consider, amend or reject protocols, treaties and International agreements

Core Objective 2 : Ensure that all appropriate executive organs of state are held accountable for their actions

Core Objective 3 : Maintain oversight of the Department of Foreign Affairs and of any organ of state

3. Chairperson's overview

Last year was a challenging year in many ways to the Committee and to our endeavour to perform our responsibility of an oversight to the Department. We are not involved in legislation as a Committee but we are expected to keep a sharp eye on what the Ministry and the Department are doing. The Committee has called for a number of briefings from the Department and other Institutions in trying to increase its knowledge at the same time keep the Department on check as per our Constitutional Mandate.

Having done what we set out to do in 2006, we must ask ourselves questions, has the Committee been vibrant and dynamic enough in our oversight work or we just accepted what was provided and forever ready to consume without interrogating issues. Scholars that appeared before the Committee have we sufficiently engaged with them to the best of our abilities.

A delegation to Sudan had the opportunity to have an engagement with Kenyan Members of Parliament and this proved to have been critical to ensure that we build good relations beyond the SADC Region. The report will be considered during the New Year and I trust that we will be able to table it and possibly get time to reflect on it in Parliament, particularly on its recommendations.

It's critical that the Committee engages with the report from the SADCPF, PAP and ACP-EU Assemblies to identify issues that need attention so as to inform Parliament of such issues. Committee members that attend these meetings have the responsibility to ensure that the reports are distributed in time to members of the committee and in deed time is allocated to discuss them and report to the National Assembly. There are issues that require us to at all times touch base with the DFA. In the last meeting of the ACP-EU for instance, a problematic resolution on East Africa was proposed and this required us to ensure that we do not vote for positions that are not in anyway advancing both our Foreign Policy and the African Agenda.

We should ask the Office of the House Chairperson responsible for International Relations at Parliament to share with us the work they do in other International fora where as members of this committee are not members.

Committee Support

I hope members will share my enthusiasm on the improvement of the support the Committee is getting from the Committee Secretary and the Offices of both the Sub-Committee Chairpersons and the office of the Chair of the Committee. I hope that we will be able to streamline the work in such a way that we are able to liaise better with the Ministry and the Department. Whilst the coordination between the Committee and the Department has worked very well, an observation has been made that in certain instances you may want to speak to the Office of the DG depending on the nature of the decision that must be taken and you are informed through the Parliamentary Officer that it is impossible to get through the DG. While this is not a problem under normal circumstances, it is however wrong that when for any reason the Department wants to request the Committee to reschedule a meeting, this is done. In one way or the other, this depicts lack of commitment on the side of the Department.

I raise this because we are required by the Office of the House Chairperson to be responsible for Committees to inform them in time and explain why such a postponement is/was necessary. In the same breath, it is important to express our appreciation to their support and response to our requests.

The Research capacity of the Committee is something we must take up with the Office of the House Chairperson for Committees. It is critical that we are sufficiently staffed to ensure that members are provided with the necessary information at all times. An Advert that was on the papers indicated that only

one sub-committee needs a researcher. We must endeavour to ensure that members themselves utilise the Researchers and the information made available to them.

Another issue relates to the fact that members of the committee should take keen interest on and must express their views on is the continued management of the committee and how its budget is compiled and spent. We should make it a rule that every quarter, we get a report from the Committee Section on how we are spending our budget. We should avoid a situation where the Chairperson is informed through an SMS that he must cut the delegation due to budgetary constraints. I do not believe that is the best way Parliament should be working. When we decide which visit we want to undertake this year, we should also attach a number of members to be part of the delegation as sending two MPs in a mission that requires ten people has no impact on our mandate and it demonstrates lack of commitment from our side..

Election Observations

A substantial number of committee members were part of the SA Election Observation in the DRC and the Committee suffered towards the end of the year hence we have so many reports still outstanding.

UN Non-Permanent Seat

When this announcement was made that RSA will be taking such a responsibility, the Chief Whip's office requested this committee to arrange a debate on the subject. We advised the Chief Whip's Office that such a debate would have been pre-mature and that we should defer until the next year. So members must ready themselves to get a briefing from the Department and start preparing for such a debate. It is hoped all outstanding issues will find space in the New Year.

I want to thank all members of the Committee and Political Parties for their dedication in ensuring that the Committee succeeded in its programme. Also would like to thank the Office of the DG and the good work performed by Ms Jojozi, the Parliamentary Officer of DFA and all the Staff of the Committee.

Committee Members Serving in Other Bodies

SADC PF

F Hajaig
J Seremane
DJ Sithole

PAP

F Hajaig

ACP-EU

R Magau
D Gibson
DJ Sithole

4. Department's reporting to the Committee

- Department of Foreign Affairs

5. Number of Committee meetings held: 17

Date	Agenda	Minutes adopted	Cancelled meetings	Reasons for cancellation
7 th March 2006	Adoption of Committee programme 2006, Committee minutes of 2005 (outstanding) & Committee Annual report of 2005.	Yes	N/A	N/A
14 th March 2006	Address by HE Mr Oubi Bachir, Ambassador of Saharawi Republic on the developments in the Saharawi Republic and its relations with South Africa.	Yes	N/A	N/A
15 th March 2006	Briefing by Ambassador YJ Duarte on the developments in Sudan.	Yes	N/A	N/A
18 th March 2006	Briefing by Ambassador Max on SA Foreign Policy in the Middle East, except Palestine and Israel.	Yes	N/A	N/A
22 nd March 2006	Briefing by Mr A S Minty, DDG of Multilateral Security Governance on the Iranian Nuclear Energy Development and the IAEA stance.	Yes	N/A	N/A
24 th March 2006	Briefing by HE Mr L Briet, EU Ambassador to South Africa on the Redemption process.		Yes	Ambassador was not available
28 th March 2006	Briefing on DFA's discussions with HAMAS.	No	No	
29 th March 2006	Briefing by DFA on the developments in Cote d'Ivoire.	Yes	N/A	N/A
3 rd May 2006	Hearings on the DFA Budget process, including the SONA implications and relation to the strategic plan.	No	Yes	Meeting rescheduled, refer 17 May 2006
10 th May 2006	Engagement with the French Ambassador on Relations between France and South Africa on France's role in Africa.	Yes	N/A	N/A
17 th May 2006	Hearings on the DFA Budget process, including the SONA implications and relation to the strategic plan.	Report, published in ATC 24 May 2006	N/A	N/A

24 th May 2006	Visit from the Swedish Committee on Foreign Affairs.	Yes	N/A	N/A
31 st May 2006	Presentation by Mr J Mokoena (Parliamentary Researcher) on SADC report of December 2005 in preparation for the country report to SADC-PF (1 – 10 June 2006, in Mozambique).	Yes	N/A	N/A
7 th June 2006	Briefing by Deputy Minister, Mr A Pahad on the Non-Aligned Movement and the G77+China and Malaysia & Briefing by Ms A Van Wyk on the elections in Comoros.	No, to be adopted soon	N/A	N/A
9 th June 2006	Briefing by Ambassador Williams Swing, UN Representative to the Republic of Congo on Political/Military situation in the country.		Yes	Ambassador was not available
14 th June 2006	Engagement with the Spanish Ambassador on relations between Spain and South Africa on Spain's role in Africa.	No, to be adopted soon	N/A	N/A
21 st June 2006	Briefing by Ambassador Mamabolo on DRC, Burundi and Dafur.	No, to be adopted soon	N/A	N/A
6 th September 2006	Briefing on the African Diaspora	Yes	N/A	N/A
13 th September 2006	Briefing on Ethiopia/ Eritrean Situation	Yes	N/A	N/A
11 th October 2006	Promotion of the South African Foreign Policy by the South African Business to the rest of the world	No		
18 th October 2006	Developments in Sudan/Horn of Africa Situation	No		
25 th October 2006	Consideration of the Annual Report of The Department of Foreign Affairs	No		

6. Papers (International Agreements, Protocols, Conventions, Reports etc) referred to a Committee:

International agreement/Paper	Date Referred	Action Required	Status
Strategic plan and Budget Vote 3 of the department of Foreign Affairs for 2006 to 2009.	25 May 2006	Consideration	Report adopted and ATCd
Report on SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.	November 2005	Consideration	Adopted
Report on the South African Parliament delegation to the 19 th Plenary Assembly of the SADC-PF.	December 2005	Consideration	Adopted
Report on the Comoros Presidential Elections: SA Observer Team.	May 2006	Consideration	Adopted

Exchange of Letters between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the Project: Mpumalanga Rural Development Programme, tabled in terms of section 231 (3) of the Constitution, 1996.	19 June 2006	Information	
Explanatory memorandum on the Exchange of Letters between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the Project: Mpumalanga Rural Development Programme.	19 June 2006	Information	
Exchange of Letters between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the Project: Peace and Development Project, tabled in terms of section 231 (3) of the Constitution, 1996.	19 June 2006	Information	
Explanatory Memorandum on the Exchange of Letters between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the Project: Peace and Development Project.	19 June 2006	Information	
Exchange of letters between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning Financial Cooperation in 2005, tabled in terms of section 231 (3) of the Constitution, 1996.	19 June 2006	Information	
Explanatory Memorandum on the Exchange of Letters between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning Financial Cooperation in 2005.	19 June 2006	Information	
Final Report: South African Observer Mission to the 2006 President and Legislative Elections	08 November 2006	Information	

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7. Oversight visits

None

8. International Visits:

8.1 Trip to Sudan - 17-26 November 2006

8.1.2 Motivation/Objectives of the trip

South Africa has been appointed the Chairperson of the Post-conflict in The Sudan reconstruction by the African Union. Sudanese mandate is key to bringing about peace and stability, which is one of the key Foreign Policy pillars of South Africa in its quest to build and create a better Africa in the world. It is therefore important that South Africa engages the Sudanese, Government and other stakeholders such as the civil organisations, political organisations and the Country's Academics. It is the Committee's considered opinion that for peace in the South to succeed will depend on South Africa's ability to build peace in Darfur. The visit is critical for South Africa as the country charged with the post-conflict reconstruction of the whole of The Sudan.

8.1.3 Report adopted or not

- Report not adopted yet.

8.1.4 Delegation

- Ms SP Rwexana , **Leader of Delegation-MP**
- Mr MU Kalako - MP
- Dr M Sefularo -MP
- Mrs S Seaton -MP
- Dr M Van Dyk-MP
- Mr Madikiza-MP
- MS B Cabangana- Support Staff

8.2 Trip to Brazil - 9 – 15 September 2006

8.2.1 Motivation/Objectives of the trip

The committee delegation attended the India-Brazil- South Africa (IBSA) business summit to be held in Brazil. The summit explored potential areas of co-operation between the three countries in focus sectors including: Information and Telecommunications, Infrastructure, Energy, Agriculture & Food Processing, Auto & Auto Spare parts and Innovation & Technological Development including Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology.

8.2.2 Delegation

- Mrs F Hajaig, leader of the Delegation - MP
- Mr M B Skosana MP
- Mr A Hermans Support Staff

8.2.3 Report adopted or not

Report not adopted yet.

9. Budget Vote

Referral date	Briefing by Department	Hearings	Report Publication (ATC date)
8 March 2006	10 May 2006	DFA	24 May 2006

10. Workshops, conferences,

None

11. Budget of the committee:

11.1 Allocated amount for 2006/07 financial year:

R500 000.00

11.2 Expenditure:

R0

12. Approved Sponsorships to the committee or individual Member

None

13. Outstanding\Pending issues:

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Ms Bandisiwe Cabangana

Date

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

.....

Mr Mzo Fukula

Date

CONTROL COMMITTEE SECRETARY

.....

Mr D J Sithole

Date

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

(i) Composition of the Committee

MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	DISCHARGE DATE
African National Congress: Ms F Hajaig Mr. D J Sithole Ms S D Motubatse-Houunkpatin Dr A N Luthuli Ms M A A Njobe Mr R S Ntuli * Mr M U Kalako Mr S Sibozza Mrs N B Gxowa* Ms K R Magau Ms H M Mpaka Ms M M Maunye Ms S P Rwexana Adv Z L Madasa Mr. M Ramgobin Ms C Nkuna* Mr. M P Sibande*	23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004	
Democratic Party Mr. D H M Gibson Mr L B Labuschagne Mr W J Seremane Ms S Camerer	23 June 2004 23 June 2004 23 June 2004 17 August 2004	
Inkatha Freedom Party Mr L K Joubert Mr. M B Skosana	23 June 2004 23 June 2004	

Independent Democrats Mrs P De Lille Mr L W Greyling*	23 June 2004 23 June 2004	
United Democratic Movement Gen B H Holomisa	23 June 2004	
United Christian Democratic Party Mr. P H K Ditshetelo*	23 June 2004	
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania Dr S E M Pheko	23 June 2004	
Minority Front Ms S Rajbally	23 June 2004	
Azanian People's Organisation Mr. P J Nefolovhodwe	23 June 2004	
Freedom Front Plus Dr P W A Mulder	23 June 2004	

Please Attach:

**Minutes of Committee Proceedings
Oversight Reports**