



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

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**Report of the courtesy call on Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,  
Mr L Tsenoli, MP by the High Commissioner of the Republic of  
Mozambique in the RSA, HE Ms Maria Manuella dos Santos Maria on  
Tuesday, 17 October 2023**

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

To report on the courtesy, call on Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr L Tsenoli, MP by the High Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique in the RSA, HE Ms Maria Manuella dos Santos Maria on Tuesday, 17 October 2023

## **2. Background**

The Mozambican Consulate in Cape Town initiated the courtesy call.

## **3. Purpose of the courtesy call**

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique in the RSA, HE Ms Maria Manuella dos Santos Maria requested the courtesy call to introduce herself to the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of the RSA.

The Mozambican High Commissioner presented her letter of credence to the President of the Republic on Thursday 14 March 2023. The meeting was her first meeting as Mozambican High Commissioner in the RSA with the Deputy Speaker of the NA.

Also, the Mozambican Consulate in Cape Town was opened by High Commissioner Lucas in 1996. She was the first Mozambican Consul General in Cape Town in the new South Africa.

**Mozambican side:** HE Ms Maria Manuella dos Santos Maria, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique in the RSA; Mr Manuel Nuvunga, Counselor, Mozambican High Commission in Pretoria; Colonel Flora Macitela, Military Attache at the High Commission of Mozambique; Mr Cristovao Gemo, Consul General of Mozambique in Cape Town; Mr Jose da Conceicao Jose, First Secretary at the Consulate in Cape Town and Major Onesio Gomes, Assistant to the Military Attache and

South African Parliamentary side: Mr L Tsenoli, MP – the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Ms Nomfundo Sonjica, the Section Manager:

Bilaterals and Multilaterals, IRPD; Mr Zingisa Cawe, the IR Officer: Bilaterals, IRPD and Ms Marlyn Mdlalo, Officer: Office of the Deputy Speaker supported the meeting.

#### **4. Meeting discussion**

In his opening remarks, Mr L Tsenoli, MP – the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly welcome the delegation and called for frequent interactions between the South Africa and Mozambique as neighboring countries. He pointed out that the timing of the courtesy call was very interesting because it was happening at a time of rebuilding the parliament buildings after the fire that gutted the buildings. He assured the High Commissioner that in the next two years, the Parliament would be fully operational.

In her response, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique in the RSA, HE Ms Maria Manuella dos Santos Maria thanked the Deputy Speaker for meeting her and conveyed regards of the Speaker of the Mozambican Parliament, Ms Esperanca Biias to the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of the RSA. She informed the Deputy Speaker that she has been in the country for 8 months – presented her letter of credence to the President of the Republic on 14 March 2023. She called for continuous engagements between comrades.

She raised concerns about the car and stock theft syndicates operating in the border between South Africa and Mozambique especially in Khosi Bay. She called for the Joint Commissions of Military and Police to come back with joint efforts. He cited the problems at the Libombo Border which has 1700 trucks per day. The truck drivers blockaded the road in protest because criminals rob the trucks in the borders and called for both South Africa and Mozambique to introduce new technology to speed up long delays.

On the issue of terrorism in the Northern Parts of Mozambique, the High Commissioner thanked South Africa for its unwavering support.

On repatriation of illegal immigrants from Mozambique, she urged both sides to monitor the borders. However, raised concerns about the repatriation of illegal immigrants because after two weeks they return to South Africa. The repatriation does not solve the problem because most of them were working in the mines and farms in South Africa. She mentioned that there were 16 000 Mozambicans working in the SA mines and 8000 in the farms. Most of them do not go back to Mozambique. She expressed her government sympathy with South Africa on the issue of illegal immigrants' problem. She further appealed to the South African government to allow undocumented children to attend school and urge both sides to do something on the issue of undocumented and stateless children.

In conclusion, High Commissioner Lucas indicated that she has started a programme of visiting traditional leaders in Limpopo, Northwest, KZN and Eastern Cape including religious leaders in South Africa to discuss the issue Mozambican immigrants.

In his further remarks, the Deputy Speaker, Mr Tsenoli, MP thanked Mozambique for its important role during the liberation struggle in South Africa and urged for the continuation and strengthening of relations between the two countries. The RSA would do everything possible to improve relations because it's proud of the late President of Mozambique. He also mentioned that all towns and cities close to borders experience same challenges vis- a - vis the impact of illegal immigrants and urged that these challenges need to be addressed.

He mentioned that the Home Affairs Department has been busy with the establishment of Border Management Agency to manage the infra-structure and other related issues in our borders management. The project involves all relevant stakeholders and departments.

The Deputy Speaker made an undertaking to raise the concerns of the High Commissioner with the relevant Chairpersons namely: Home Affairs, International Relations and trade and Industry because they do oversight over

the departments. He would convene a meeting with them and ask what are they doing on these matters?

In conclusion, the Deputy Speaker briefed the Higher Commissioner on the purpose, discussions and the Declaration adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Science for Social Justice adopted on 09 December 2022, Cape Town, RSA. A copy of the declaration was made available to the High Commissioner.

## **5. General outcome of the courtesy call**

The deliberations and outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

- 1) Both countries will hold general elections in 2024. Legacy report is in a process of being drafted in the Parliament of the RSA.
- 2) The Deputy Speaker made an undertaking to raise the concerns of the Mozambican High Commissioner with the relevant Chairpersons of the relevant Committees in Parliament namely: Home Affairs (issue illegal immigrants), International Relations (Issue of strengthening bilateral relations) and Trade and industry (issue of improving economic trade and related matters) because they do oversight over departments. He would convene a meeting with the relevant Committee Chairpersons and ask them what are they doing to address these concerns?
- 3) Both governments should continue to engage each other on common challenges for common solutions.
- 4) The courtesy call was a success.

## **6. Recommendations and/or Action by Parliament**

None