



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN MR L TSENOLI, MP - THE  
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND DR MARTA  
MATRI – THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF HUNGARY  
AND DELEGATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2023**

## 1. Purpose of the Report

To report on the Meeting between Mr L Tsenoli, MP - the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the visiting delegation from the Parliament of Hungary led by Dr Márta Mátrai – the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Hungary held on Wednesday, 18 October 2023

## 2. Background

The Embassy of Hungary in Pretoria initiated the meeting. First visit of Dr Márta Mátrai – the Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament to the RSA. She has been a Member of Parliament since 1998. The Speaker of Hungary, Mr Laszlo Kover paid an official visit to the Parliament of the RSA in 2016 and that visit was never reciprocated by the South African side.

## 3. Purpose of the courtesy call

The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen parliament to parliament cooperation.

**Hungarian delegation:** Dr Márta Mátrai – the Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament; H.E Mr Attila György Horvath – Ambassador of Hungary; Ms Beatrix Kese – Deputy Director of the Directorate of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly; Ms Agnes Hryathne , First Secretary , Embassy of Hungary; Mr Aron Lephft , Member of the National Integration Office of the Hungarian Parliament;

**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 her opening remarks, Dr Márta Mátrai – the Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament explained the purpose of her visit which was to strengthen parliament to parliament cooperation. She conveyed greetings from the Speaker of the Parliament of Hungary, Mr Laszlo Kover who had paid an official visit to the Parliament of the RSA in 2016. The 2016 visit had a lasting experience to Mr Laszlo Kover, she said.

She called for cooperation at the parliament-to-parliament level between the Hungarian and South African Parliaments. She pointed out that the Parliament of Hungary would like to establish relations with other Parliaments.

She pointed out that the Parliament of Hungary was a bicameral Parliament however, after the end of the Communist rule, it became a unicameral Parliament. In the last elections, the ruling party got two thirds majority and established a Hungary – Sub-Saharan Parliamentary Friendship Group with Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa as countries of focus. The intention would be to establish good relations with the countries of Africa. She commended the standing of the RSA in the international fora.

She reiterated a call for cooperation on Higher Education sector and indicated that Hungary has established a scholarship programme - 100 students from South Africa get free tuition fees in three Hungarian institutions of higher learning. She urged South Africa to take such an opportunity.

On humanitarian aid support to African countries, she informed the Deputy Speaker that Hungary provides medical support to victims of 2022 floods, in Chad, they have sent medical and agricultural experts to assist. She also cited religious conflict in Chad and that Hungary intends to send 200 soldiers to Chad to protect those persecuted in the conflict.

She also highlighted that Hungary established diplomatic relations with the RSA in 1991 and had made its mark in the RSA. 20% of Hungarian products reach the RSA and assist in job creation and economic development. She

said that the government of Hungary have an interest on wastewater treatment projects. They have established one successful site in Cape Town and have a company that provides medical equipment. She urged the Deputy Speaker to help in those ventures.

She further called for South Africa and Hungary to cooperate on areas of science, space research and sport.

In conclusion, she indicated that the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Peter Szijarto met Minister Naledi Pandor, MP in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. Minister Pandor, MP extended an invitation to Mr Szijarto to pay an official visit to the RSA. They agreed for 5-7 December 2023 as a date for the visit. During that visit, a cooperation agreement between South Africa and Hungary would be signed. She hopes that agreement would be effective in boosting economic trade and other areas between the two countries.

In his response, Mr Tsenoli, MP - the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly urged that the distance between South Africa and Hungary shouldn't stop cooperation between the two countries. He reiterated the call for cooperation on higher education and commended the Department of Higher Education in the RSA for convening a World Science Conference which at the conference adopted the Declaration- Science for Social Justice.

He also thanked the government of Hungary for availing scholarship for 100 students per annum which would assist in developing the capacity of SA students. The Deputy Speaker further pointed out that the RSA is part of the African Union which came up with the African Trade Agreement that has been signed by all countries. He urged Hungary to support this initiative.

On global debate on energy, the Deputy Speaker called for cooperation between South Africa and Hungary on energy matters. The energy debate is very critical for the RSA argued the Deputy Speaker. He stressed that Parliaments should find ways of monitoring these developments.

On the official visit of the Speaker of the Parliament of Hungary, Mr Laszlo Kover to the Parliament of the RSA in 2016. The Deputy Speaker pointed out that Mr Laslo Kover had a Head of Parliamentary Security in his delegation that the Parliament of the RSA sought to emulate as a result Parliament appointed its Head of Security just recently.

In conclusion, the Deputy Speaker stated that the Parliament would be interested or curious to learn and understand how the Hungarian Parliament uses technology in enhancing work of Parliament.

On cooperation on sport, the Deputy Speaker indicated that the government of the RSA would like to re-introduce sporting activities in basic education schools and urged Hungary to support these initiatives. He thanked Dr Márta Mátrai – the Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament and delegation for finding time to meet with him.

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

The deliberations and outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

- 1) Hungary planning to convene high-level international conferences and would be glad if South Africa could attend.
- 2) Meeting stressed the Importance of cooperation agreement between South Africa and Hungary to boost Economic trade between the two countries.
- 3) Parliament of Hungary has a complex system for which allows MPs to work at home which was very useful during covid 19 pandemic. Could arrange interaction with SA Parliament to engage online or in person if SA Parliament would be interested. The Deputy Speaker will put together a team from ICT to engage the Embassy of Hungary on this matter.
- 4) The Deputy Speaker expressed interest on adult education system in Hungary and urged Hungary to share information on their adult education system and other related matters.

- 5) Dr Márta Mátrai – the Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament extended an invitation to the Deputy Speaker, Mr Tsenoli, MP to lead a delegation to Hungary at a mutually convenient date. Areas that the deputy Speaker would like to learn could be shown or seen in practice.
- 6) The meeting was a success.

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

None