



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa  
Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911  
[www.parliament.gov.za](http://www.parliament.gov.za)

**Report of the meeting between Mr. L Tsenoli, MP - the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the visiting South Korean Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Park Byeongseug – the former Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea held on Friday, 20 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 South Korean Parliamentary delegation led by Mr Park Byeongseug – the former Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea held on Friday, 20 October 2023

## 2. Background

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the RSA initiated the meeting.

## 3. Purpose of the meeting

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

**Korean delegation:** Mr Park Byeongseug – the former Speaker of the National Assembly; Ms Kim Sang Hee, MP; Mr Lee MMyoung Su, MP; Mr Lee Won Wook, MP; Mr Jeon Haecheol, MP; H.E Mr Park Chull -joo – Ambassador of Republic of Korea in the RSA.

**Korean Embassy staff:** Ms Yoo Narae; Mr Jeong Hanseul; Ms Choi Sunghyang and Ms Song Sung -eun.

**Parliament of the RSA:** 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, Mr L Tsenoli, MP – the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly conveyed greetings from the Speaker of the NA, Ms NN Mapisa-Nqakula, MP and the Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr AN Masondo, MP who could not meet the delegation due to their trip to the IPU Meeting in

Angola. He pointed out few things that need to be done at a world stage especially the reform of the world institutions among others. He called for collaboration on reform and democratization of the United Nations Security Council, World Bank, IMF and other institutions.

On African Agenda, he emphasized that all countries in Africa had signed the Africa Trade Agreement which would be crucial for countries in Africa to develop together. He also shared information about the World science conference held in December 2022 in Cape Town which adopted the declaration on Science for Social Justice. According to the contents of the declaration – Any science discovery should benefit poor communities.

He further urged Koreans to share their experience gained over years on Indigenous Knowledge Systems because Asia has acknowledged value in Indigenous knowledge systems.

On the IPU Conference in Angola, Mr L Tsenoli, MP – the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly pointed out that the Parliament of the RSA support the candidature of Ms Tulia Ackson for the position of the IPU President which was also endorsed by the SADC-PF.

In his response, Mr Park Byeongseug – the former Speaker of the National Assembly and leader of the delegation mentioned a meeting he had with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms NN Mapisa-Nqakula, MP two years ago. He also expressed appreciation to the RSA for commemorating 20 years of diplomatic relations and mentioned his visit to the statue and gravesite that commemorate the South African soldiers who died in the Korean War. He expressed the sincere gratitude of the people and government of South Korea to those 500 soldiers who died in that war.

He noted the comments made by Mr L Tsenoli, MP – the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly on African Agenda, reform of the world institutions, Parliament of the RSA support of Ms Tulia Ackson for the position of the IPU President, indigenous knowledge systems, etc. He stressed the importance of African Economic growth and good bilateral relations between Korea and

African countries. He mentioned that Korea intended to host the Korea – Africa Summit in May 2024 but moved the date of the summit to early June 2024 because of the upcoming 2024 National Elections in the RSA.

On sharing information on programmes on Indigenous Knowledge Systems, he indicated that plans could be made available to Deputy Speaker to visit South Korea time permitting to observe at first hand such programmes in Korea. On the issue of protection of the elderly in Korea through welfare policies which was raised by the Deputy Speaker, he stated that people who are over 65 years of age constitute 60% of the Korean population. The welfare policies support through grants including those people with low income.

In his concluding remarks, Mr L Tsenoli, MP – the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly made an undertaking to share with H.E Mr Park Chull -joo – Ambassador of Republic of Korea in the RSA information on Parliament Institute which was established to build capacity of MPs so that they could use the acquired skills in resolving community challenges. He further pointed out the 2024 National Elections and already Parliament have programmes designed to induct new MPs after the elections and would be happy if the two Parliaments could share information on technology and knowledge which could empower MPs especially on use of technology.

He thanked the delegation for visiting Parliament of the RSA and urged the two countries and Parliaments to further strengthen relations especially on areas of people to people and parliament to parliament, and other levels.

## **5. General outcome of the meeting**

The deliberations and outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

- 1) Leader of the delegation urged the Deputy Speaker to pay attention on Korean companies investing in the RSA and expressed his appreciation for meeting the Deputy Speaker and expressed a wish that meeting further enhance relations between the two Parliaments.

- 2) Mr Park Byeongseug – the former Speaker of the National Assembly extended an invitation to the Deputy Speaker, Mr Tsenoli, MP to lead a delegation to South Korea at a mutually convenient date. Areas that the Deputy Speaker would like to learn such as Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Welfare policies in support of the elderly and low-income earners, etc could be shown or seen in practice.
- 3) Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly made an undertaking to share with H.E Mr Park Chull -joo – Ambassador of Republic of Korea in the RSA information on Parliament Institute which was established to build capacity of MPs so that they could use the acquired skills in resolving community challenges.
- 4) The meeting was a success.

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

None