



MISSION REPORT

BENCHMARKING VISIT OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES OF SEYCHELLES TO PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA

APRIL, 2019

The following Members of the Committee on Government Assurances (COGA) were part of the delegation:

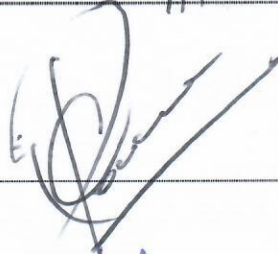
Hon. Gervais Henrie

Chairperson

G. Henrie.

Hon. Clive Roucou

Vice-Chairperson



Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel

Member

S. Lemiel.

Hon. Sandy Arissol

Member



Hon. Wilbert Herminie

Member

W. Herminie.

Hon. Norbert Loizeau

Member



Hon. Simon Gill

Member



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Introduction

A delegation comprising of Members of the Committee on Government Assurances of the National Assembly of Seychelles headed by Hon Gervais Henrie, the Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Clive Roucou, the Vice Chairperson, Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel, Hon. Norbert Loizeau, Hon. Simon Gill, Hon. Sandy Arissol and Hon. Wilbert Herminie visited the Parliament of Botswana from the 22nd to the 27th April, 2019. The delegation was accompanied by Mrs. Tania Isaac, Deputy Clerk/Committee Secretary and Mrs. Ghislaine Thelermont, the Assistant Secretary.

The objective of this first overseas mission by the Committee on Government Assurances was to benchmark from other committees in other parliaments and to also share best practices and build relations with regional parliaments.

The Programme

Wednesday 24th April, 2019

Courtesy Call on the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Gladys K.T Kokorwe, MP, PH

The delegation met with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Gladys K.T Kokorwe, MP in the presence of the Clerk of parliament, Ms. Barbara Dithapo. The Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances, Hon. Henrie thanked the Speaker of the Parliament of Botswana for accepting the request of the National Assembly of Seychelles for this benchmarking mission.

Hon. Henrie gave a brief background on the work of the Committee and the aim of the visit, which is to exchange information on the rules and procedures of parliamentary Committees of both countries and share experiences of challenges faced by Committees.

The Speaker of the parliament of Botswana thanked Seychelles for choosing Botswana for the benchmarking visit and provided the members with a brief history of the parliament of Botswana. The Speaker informed the Members of her retirement in October with the dissolution of Parliament, pending legislative elections.



The delegation took an official photograph with the Speaker of the Botswana parliament.

Briefing by the Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Security.

The Committee was briefed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Security chaired by the Major General, Hon. Pius Mokgware.

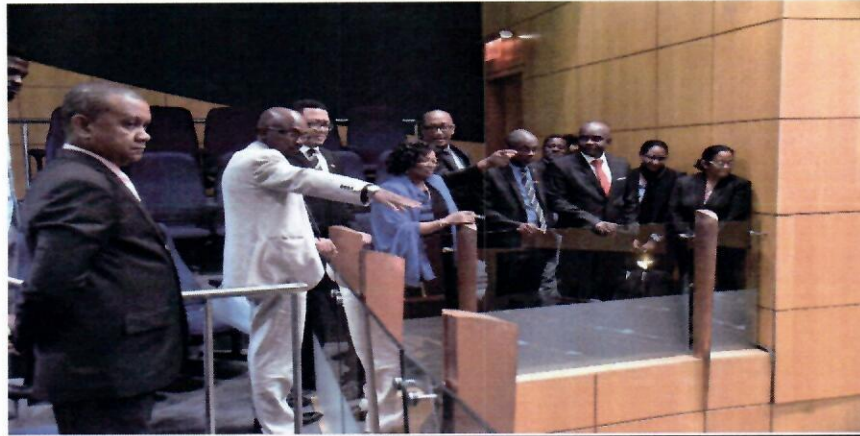


This Committee is mandated to also scrutinise government departments. Some of the points raised during the meeting were:

- The Standing Orders of Botswana was amended to separate the Committee on Government Assurances from that of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Security Committee because the mandate was too broad.
- The challenges of having oversight of the Executive in a parliamentary system in Botswana
- The challenges of limited human and financial resources allocated to Committees
- The challenges of a small parliament (68) Members and how this affects the efficiency of 24 Standing Committees.

Tour of Parliament and facilities

The delegation was given a tour of parliament and its facilities by the Deputy Clerk of Parliament, Mr. Lesedi who was also the main coordinator for the benchmarking visit to Botswana.



The tour included the following facilities within the precinct of the parliament:

- The chamber including gallery (no mace in their Speaker's procession)
- Apartments for all Members (paid by the parliament) including gym, bar, dining room, parking space and swimming pool.
- Members Lounge (comfortable chairs and bar)
- Committee Rooms

Courtesy call on the Mayor of Gaborone City Council

The Members of the Committee on Government Assurances paid a courtesy call on the Mayor of the Gaborone City Council in the afternoon of Tuesday the 14th April.



The Acting Major of Gaborone City Council Mr. Sesupo Jacob interacted with the Members in the company of other elected councillors of Gaborone City Council. The discussions focussed on the following k The Chairperson of the Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS, Hon. Gilbert Mangole who is the elected

Member for the Mochudi West Constituency led the briefing of the Members of COGA on the following issues:

- The representation of women at parliament and other decision making positions in both countries.
- Tourism and other economic development
- Progress made by Seychelles in legislations governing environmental protection and the fight against the impact of climate change.
- The process of electing Members on Gaborone City Council.
- Possibility of a twinning programme between the Gaborone City Council and the Office of the Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles.

Thursday 25th April, 2019

Briefing with the Chairperson of the Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS

The Chairperson of the Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS, Hon. Gilbert Mangole who is the elected Member for the Mochudi West Constituency led the briefing of the Members of COGA.

As the Chair of the Committee on HIV/AIDS and SRHR in Seychelles, Hon. Clive Roucou led the discussion on the Seychelles side on the following matters:

- The role of the HIV/AIDS Committee in prompting national responses to HIV/AIDS in Seychelles and Botswana
- The different programmes in place to curb the epidemic
- The challenges faced by Seychelles and Botswana to reach the affected and marginalised groups
- The different activities undertaken by both Committees in collaboration with NGOs, National Aids Council and other civil society organisations
- The effectiveness of self-testing as a way of knowing your HIV status.

Briefing on facilitation of Committee work of the National Assembly of Botswana

The Deputy Clerk to parliament Mr. Lesedi briefed the Members on facilities available at the Botswana parliament for Committees.

This briefing session allowed the members and the Secretariat staff of Seychelles to learn and exchange materials on the rules and procedures for Committees. Both sides discussed the challenges of Committee work including the issue of committee rooms, limited human and financial

resources, staff welfare, and privileges of members including constituency support.

Visit to Mochodi West Constituency Office

The Chairperson of the Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS, Hon. Gilbert Mangole who is the elected Member for the Mochodi West Constituency hosted the members to a tour of his constituency.

In a meeting held in his Office, he explained the political environment of Botswana and also the role of the members of parliament. There were several areas explored by the meeting including:

- Financing of MPs in constituency including election campaign
- Relationship between Secretariat of Parliament and Constituency Secretariat
- Issues of concern of the Mochodi West Constituency
- Differences in Constitutions of political parties
- How political parties handle disciplinary actions
- Performance of political parties during elections

Recommendations

Following the visit, the Committee made these recommendations:

- That the National Assembly supports the twinning programme between Victoria and Gaborone City Council.
- That the National Assembly reviews the budget allocation to overseas travel to ensure the security of Members of Parliament on official overseas mission.

Conclusion

The benchmarking visit to Botswana was very fruitful and a knowledgeable experience for both sides. The members shared experiences with Committee Members of the parliament of Botswana and identified mutual challenges and discussed possible solutions.