

## Business Parliamentary Office

✉  
P.O. Box 3867  
Cape Town  
8000

📍  
9 Church Square  
1st Floor Graaffs  
Trust Building  
Cape Town

☎  
+27 21 465 1633  
☎  
+27 21 461 5470

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# Parliamentary Newswatch

*Keeping Business Informed*

## In this issue...

On page 2 we provide an overview of meetings in Parliament and new legislation and documents that were tabled.

Pages 3 and 4 review meetings that took place this week in the Minerals and Energy and Finance Committees. Presentations made at both these meetings are included in the email this newsletter was attached to.

Page 5 ends with a list of contact details for committee secretaries at Parliament.



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## This week in Parliament

With the opening formalities now concluded, this week Members of the Fourth Parliament got down to business.

Numerous government departments tabled their strategic plans for the 2009-2012 period, and Parliament referred departmental Budget Votes to its respective committees for deliberation.

A number of portfolio committees met with senior government officials this week to **hear presentations on departments' strategic plans and draft budgets**. Strategic plans highlight the core issues that departments will focus on in the coming years, and are a good indication of policy and legislation to come.

In a welcome development, several committees this week sought to strengthen their capability to exercise oversight by requesting departments to reappear before them in the near future. The calls were prompted by an acknowledge that many committee members were new to their portfolios and therefore in need of a deeper understanding of the workings of the departments they would be overseeing.

**Next week's parliamentary committees will continue to meet with departments over their budgets and plans.** For daily lists of committee meetings [click here](#).

### Call for Comment

This week the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development published the [Draft Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill of 2009](#) for comment.

The Bill seeks to insert a new section (s 173A) into the Constitution, which will require Parliament to enact legislation governing legal proceedings against the state.

The amendment is intended to pave the way for the State Liability Act of 1957 to be replaced by the (yet to be tabled) State Liability Bill, 2009.

## Tabled this week

- Strategic Plans of the:
  - Department of Trade and Industry for 2009-2012
  - Department of Communications for 2009-2012
  - National Development Agency for 2009-2012
  - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for 2009/10
  - Media Development and Diversity Agency for 2009-2012
  - International Marketing Council for 2009/10-2011/12
  - Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) for 2009-2012
  - Department of Public Works for 2009/10–2011/12
  - Department of Rural Development and Land Reform for 2009-2012
  - Department of International Relations and Cooperation for 2009-2012
  - South African Revenue Service for 2009/10– 2011/12 (Update for 2009-2010)
  - Department of Science and Technology for 2009-2010
  
- Report of the Central Drug Authority (CDA) for 2007-2008 [RP10-2009]

For copies of these documents [contact the BPO](#).



## MINERALS AND ENERGY

### *Strategic plan and budget*

This week the Department of Minerals and Energy (as it remains for the moment) gave a presentation to a joint meeting of the Portfolio Committees on Mining and Energy, which would look at the budgets for both departments together for purposes of the Budget Vote.

The Department is currently preparing for its separation into and plans to do so are in draft stage. Current programs will be assigned to either or Minerals or Energy and the **Department's budget will be split accordingly. The 2009 budget allocation for the Department totals R4.6 billion; of which it is estimated that R861 million will go to Minerals and the remainder to Energy.**

The following focus areas have been identified for the departments for 2009/10:

- Promotion of health and safety at mines
- Beneficiation
- Small scale mining
- Universal access to energy
- Security of energy supply
- Drive transformation

**The Minister's budget vote speech is expected to make more detailed announcements** in her Budget Vote speech on these and other issues.

The Department announced that it has set itself the target of reducing turnaround times for responding to queries and applications. It hopes to respond to queries no later than five days after their receipt, and to issue mining licences within 12 months, and licences for prospecting rights within 6 months.

The Committee appeared keen to work with the Department on legislation to help combat illegal mining, which both considered a serious concern. The capability to combat illegal mining is lacking within SAPS and as a result not much information is available on the market for illegally obtained minerals.

**The Chair of the Mining Portfolio also emphasised the Committee's commitment to improve its engagements with both labour organizations and mine owners.**

*The full presentations made to the Committees are attached to the email through which this newsletter was distributed.*

### Mining Portfolio Committee

ANC  
 Mr Fred Gona (Chair)  
 Ms Nomvula Mathibela  
 Mr Lindumusa Ndabandaba  
 Mr Meriam Phaliso  
 Mr Pieter Johan Gelderblom  
 Mr Shiaan-Bin Huang  
 Ms Nombuyiselo Joyce Ngele  
 Mr Letsau Nelson Diale

DA  
 Mr Hendrick Schmidt  
 Mr Erik Marais

Cope  
 Mr Phillip Dexter

IFP  
 Mr Eric Lucas  
 Mr Keith Zondi (Alt)



*Committee Chairpersons Fred Gona and Elizabeth Thabethe.*

### Energy Portfolio Committee

ANC  
 Ms Elizabeth Thabethe (Chair)  
 Ms Bulelwa Tinto  
 Mr Sisa Njikelana  
 Mr Emmanuel Mlambo  
 Mr Gaolaolwe Selau  
 Mr Mamagase Nchabeleng  
 Mr Langalakhe Mkhize  
 Ms Masefele Morutoa

DA  
 Mr Sej Motau  
 Mr Cobus Schmidt

COPE  
 Mr Phillip Dexter

IFP  
 Mr Eric Lucas  
 Mr Keith Zondi (Alt)

## Hearing Schedule Update

### HEARINGS ON DRAFT TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILLS

Date: 24 June

Time: 10:00—13:00

Venue: Room E249, 2nd Floor,  
National Assembly Wing.

Note: the hearings will now take place only on the 24th and not on the 23rd and 24th as was previously announced.

Should you wish to make an oral submission at the hearings, written remarks must be submitted to the committee and Treasury by 18 June. Please [contact the BPO](#) for assistance if you are unable to meet this deadline.

### REPORT BACK BY TREASURY AND SARS ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

Date: 8 July

Time: 10:00—13:00

Venue: V475, 4th Floor,  
Old Assembly Building

## FINANCE

### *Briefing on draft taxation laws amendment bills*

Led by Treasury deputy director-general Ismail Momoniat, National Treasury and SARS, yesterday presented its 2009 Tax Proposals to the Finance Standing Committee.

Tax policy objectives outlined for 2009/10 are:

- Raising sufficient revenue as the economy slows down
- Boosting household confidence, via personal income tax relief
- Supporting mining and private sector investment
- Protecting the environment for future generations

Tax revenue at the end of March 2009 amounted to R625 billion— R16.9 billion less than that was projected in February 2009 and R2.6 billion below the February 2009 projection, indicating a steeper slowdown in economic growth than was anticipated last year.

**The department's comprehensive presentation outlines** specific proposals in detail and will be extremely useful to those making submission on the bills— it is attached to the email through which this newsletter was distributed.

In a general discussion about policy and job creation, the department noted that it views tax policy as a means of shifting taxpayers' money to specific job-creation focus areas. SARS would continue to focus on the collection of revenue to ensure the continue of service delivery by the state. While there was no intention to fundamentally alter the current bill, proposals would be welcome for the 2010 budget.

**Committee chairperson Thaba Mufamadi indicated that, in the spirit of “no taxation without representation”, the committee would during the course of the year focus on the need to assist the poor and encouraging saving.**

### *Taxes taking effect*

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 11 February 2009 | Increases in the exercise duties on tobacco and alcohol.   |
| April 2009       | Increase in the general fuel levy and the Road Accident Fund levy.                               |
| 1 July 2009      | The electricity levy, which was initially due to be on 1 October.                                |
| 1 October 2009   | Tax on incandescent light bulbs.   |
| 1 March 2010     | The implementation of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Royalty Act (delayed from 1 May 2009) |
| 1 March 2010     | Amendments to the ad valorem excise duties on motor vehicles to include a carbon component.      |



## USEFUL INFO

### Committee Secretaries — Contact Details

Secretaries to the Portfolio Committees (PC) of the National Assembly and Select Committees (SC) of the National Council of Provinces are the administrative links between the public and parliamentarians.

Thought the BPO will gladly liaise with committees on your behalf, arrangements for meetings and hearings often change without notice and it is often best to contact committee secretaries directly should you require information urgently.



PC on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Mahdiyah Koff 021 403 3844 / 083 709 8572

PC on Arts and Culture  
Lusanda Myoli 021 403 3849 / 083 709 8389

PC on Basic Education  
Llewellyn Brown 021 403 3764 / 083 709 8450

PC on Higher Education  
Anele Kabingesi 021 403 3760 / 083 412 1585

PC on Communications  
Noluthando Skaka 021 403 3751

PC on Co-operative Governance and  
Traditional Affairs  
Shereen Cassiem 021 403 3769 / 083 709 8533

PC on Correctional Services  
Cindy Balie 021 403 3667 / 073 158 4696

PC on Defence and Military Veterans  
Mandy Balie 021 403 3673 / 073 123 3551

PC on Economic Development  
Arico Kotze 021 403 3662 / 083 709 8470

PC on Energy  
Peter-Paul Mbele 021 403 8072/083 412 1577

Standing Committee on Finance  
Bradley Viljoen 021 403 3759 / 083 412 1475

PC on Health  
Vuyokazi Majalamba 021 403 3642 /  
083709 8522

PC on Home Affairs  
Eddie Mathonsi 021 403 3826 / 084 630 1992

PC on Human Settlements  
Kholiswa Pasiya 021 403 3752 / 083 709 8495

PC on International Relations and  
Cooperation  
Bulelwa Bottoman 403 3808 / 083 709 8463

PC on Justice and Constitutional  
Development  
Vhonani Ramaano 021 403 3820 /0837098427

PC on Labour  
Pat Jayiya 021 403 3661 / 083 709 8453

PC on Mining  
Johnny Ramrock 021 403 3671 / 083 574 4072

PC on Police  
Jeremy Michaels 021 403 3806 / 083 709 8445

PC on Public Enterprises  
Disang Mocumi 021 403 8115 / 083 709 8512

PC on Public Service and Administration  
Razia January 021 403 3664 / 083 709 8428

PC on Public Works  
Akhona Busakwe 021 403 3859/083 709 8390

PC on Rural Development and Land Reform  
Phumla Nyamza 021 403 3852 / 083 709 8492

PC on Science and Technology  
Shanaaz Isaacs 021 403 3763 / 083 709 8536

PC on Social Development  
Zola Vice 021 403 3755 / 083 709 8397

PC on Sport and Recreation  
Lichakane Phori 021 403 3761 / 083 707 2185

PC on Tourism  
Tenda Madima 021 403 3822 / 083 268 8748

PC on Trade and Industry  
Andre Hermans 021 403 3776 / 083 709 8482

PC on Transport  
Vuyokazi Mafilika 021 403 3727 /083709 8391

PC on Water and Environmental / Affairs  
Tyhileka Madubela 021 403 3713 /  
083 709 8401

PC on Women, Youth, Children and People  
with Disabilities  
Neliswa Nobotana 021 403 3840 /  
083 709 8472

Committee on the Auditor-General  
Dineo Martin (Acting) 021 403 3774 /  
072 231 2337

Committee on Public Accounts  
Ntombi Nkabinde 021 403 2376 / 0829229636  
Siphon Nqwala 021 403 8277 / 083 867 6107

Standing Committee on Appropriations  
Thoko Xaso 021 403 3716 / 083 709 8489

**Committee on Private Members' Legislative  
Proposals and Special Petitions**  
Rita Schaafsma 021 403 3742 / 083 709 8412

SC on Education and Recreation  
Mzuyanda Dlanga 021 403 3838 / 0769182994

SC on Economic Development  
Grace Dinizulu 021 403 3779 / 083 709 8393

SC on Finance and Appropriations  
Zolani Rento 021 403 8071 / 083 707 2188

SC on Co-operative Governance and  
Traditional Affairs  
Moses Manele 021 403 3823 / 083 709 8534

SC on Land and Environmental Affairs  
Asgar Bawa 021 403 3762 / 083 709 8530

SC on Public Services  
Claudine Adams (Acting) 021 403 3027 / 083  
709 8528

SC on Labour and Public Enterprises  
Phumelele Sibisi 021 403 3660 / 083 709 8449

SC on Petitions and Members Legislative  
Proposals  
Rita Schaafsma 021 403 3742 / 083 709 8412

SC on Security and Constitutional  
Development  
Gurshwyn Dixon 021 403 3771 / 083 709 8513

SC on Social Services  
Teboho Sepanya 021 403 3738

SC on Women, Children and People with  
Disabilities  
Neliswa Nobatana 021 403 3840 /  
083 709 8472

SC on Trade and International Relations  
Hlupheka Mtileni 021 403 8077 /  
083 294 2067