

INDUCTION WORKSHOP FOR SPEAKERS' FORUM OF THE 5TH PARLIAMENTARY TERM

Members of the Speakers' Forum of South Africa gathered in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal on 30 to 31 July at an Induction Workshop on SA Legislative Sector matters. The workshop enabled the new leadership of the Legislative Sector to be appraised of the progress and gains made during the 4th Parliament. Led by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, Presiding Officers of Parliament and the nine Provincial Legislatures were briefed on various topics that affect their work within the Sector.

Following the workshop, an Inception Meeting of the Speakers' Forum was held on the 1st of August. As part of its resolutions, the Speakers' Forum resolved to strengthen the legislative arm of the state with special emphasis on co-operative governance of SA legislatures.



Speakers' Forum Induction

July 2014



SHOT IN THE ARM FOR SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The passing of the Financial Management of Parliament Amendment Bill on 29 July 2014 is a massive boost in a bid to strengthen sound financial management in the Legislative Sector of South Africa.

The new amendments present a significant milestone for the sector and solidly affirms the doctrine of separation of powers. It will have wide-ranging implications and the most significant being that the Financial Management of Parliament Act (FMPA) will now apply to all Provincial Legislatures. The Executive Authority of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures have been assigned Treasury responsibilities. Significantly, the Executive Authority of Parliament has also been granted powers to prescribe or issue Treasury Regulations (for instance SCM Regulations, as per section 65 of the principal legislation).

Further implications are that each Legislature may be required to adjust how it conducts its business with regard to corporate governance and consider how to review its governance structure to incorporate the oversight mechanism as per the Act.