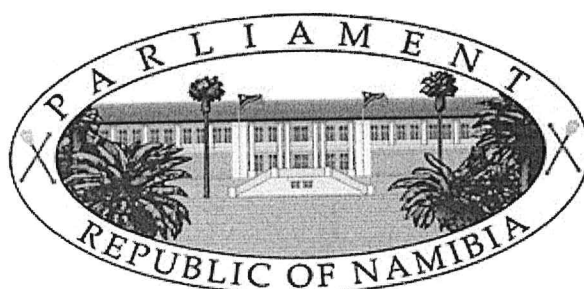


7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



**REPORT ON THE 61ST SESSION OF THE OACPS-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY AND THE 42ND SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY, MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE: ORGANIZED BY THE SOUTHERN
AFRICAN REGION**

25TH OCTOBER TO 2ND NOVEMBER, 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA), successfully held the 61st and 42nd Sessions, respectively, in Maputo, Mozambique, from 25th October to 2nd November, 2022. All the meetings were held at the Joachim Chissano Conference Centre, with an exception of the Women and Youth Forums that took place at the Parliament of Mozambique and the University of Maputo, respectively.

The report, therefore, highlights some salient proceedings of the OACPS and ACP-EU JPA meetings, which include Special meetings of the Standing Committees; plenary session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly; special ACP-EU JPA women and youth forums, workshops as well as the official opening of the 42nd ACP-EU JPA and its subsequent plenary sessions.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The joint meetings were attended by about 40 Members of the European Parliament (MEPS) and their counterparts from 78 countries of the OACPS, which included 15 from the Pacific, 47 from Africa and 16 from the Caribbean. Also, it was announced that the 47th African Country, South Africa, would not participate in the meetings, as they had written to withdraw from the OACPS.

Namibia was represented by Honourables; Natangue Ithete (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration and Leader of delegation), Elizabeth Celeste Becker, Elifas Dingara, Josef Kauandenge and Fenni Nanyeni. The delegation was accompanied by the ACP-EU JPA Desk Officer and Chief Parliamentary Clerk, Ms Agnes N. Mukono and Ms Theresia Dimba (Parliamentary Clerk).

3. DEBRIEFING MEETING WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Members held a briefing meeting with the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation on 13 October 2022, with the purpose to be enlightened on OACPS-EU matters.

4. MEETINGS OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION

Side Event meetings were conducted during the ACP-EU JPA and the 42nd Session of the ACP-EU JPA. The purpose was to discuss the election of the incoming President of the OACPS for a period of two years as of 01 January 2023. This was necessitated by the principle of geographical rotation, following the outgoing of the current OACPS President, Honourable Peter Kenilorea Jnr of the Solomon Islands, whose tenure of office would come to an end on 31 December 2022.

The two candidates from the Southern African region who were aspiring for this position were; Honourable Anna Rita Sithole, from Mozambique and Honourable Dlamini from Eswatini. During the meeting of 27 October 2022, initiated and chaired by Honourable Natangue Ithete (OACPS JPA Bureau Member), Honourable Ana Rita Sithole was duly elected as the incoming President of the OACPS-EU JPA, after obtaining five votes against three votes for Honourable Dlamini. The following countries were in attendance: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The aim of the election was to submit only one name to the ACP-EU JPA Bureau for endorsement.

The region further deliberated on the issue of the withdrawal of South Africa from the OACPS-EU JPA, effective from September 2022. In view of this, Honourable Sibeso, MP from Zambia was provisionally elected to replace South Africa on OACPS-EU JPA Bureau. Furthermore, the Motion by Honourable Ashems Songwe from Malawi was discussed, which in turn was put on hold.



Southern Africa Members posing for a picture after the meeting

5. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE OACPS

5.1. *STANDING COMMITTEES*

In preparation for the ACP-EU JPA, the three Standing Committees, namely, Political Affairs; Economic Development, Finance and Trade; Social Affairs and Environment, held their meetings between 25th and 28th October, 2022. Committee meetings are held with the aim of exchanging views on current global issues of interest to the OACPS, as well as political situations in member States. Committees are expected to make oral presentations of their discussions in the ACP-EU JPA plenary sessions.

Honourable Natangue Ithete, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration serves on the Committees on Economic Development, Trade and Finance; Political Affairs and on both the Bureaus of the OACPS and OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

Discussions included the draft report on the Motion for Resolution on *Enhancing cooperation on maritime security and promoting the rule of law on the oceans; state of peace and security in the world; political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement and political situations in the OACP member States.*

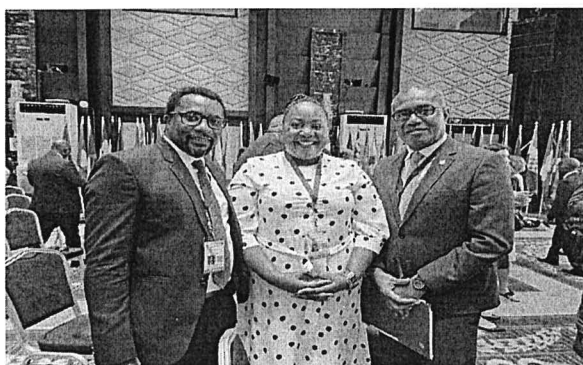
6. BRIEFING ON THE PREPARATIONS OF THE 10TH SUMMIT OF THE OACPS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

This was an update on the upcoming December 2022 OACPS Heads of State summit in Luanda, Angola. Ambassador Alves Primo from Angola, on behalf of the Foreign Minister Tete Antonio, informed the delegates on the preparations for the December 2022 OACPS Heads of State meeting. The OACPS Assistant Secretary-General (SG) for Political Affairs and Human Development, Dr Ibrahim Richard, said the Luanda summit would explore the need to have more new strategic partners and enhancing trade among OACPS states.

7. BUREAU OF THE OACPS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The aim of the meeting was to consolidate the agenda for the 61st Session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly, as well as to discuss the way forward, following South Africa's withdrawal from the OACPS. In view of this, Zambia was nominated to provisionally fill the vacuum that was left by South Africa on the Bureau.

It was further mentioned that Namibia and Zambia would be the two representatives of the OACPS at the OACPS-EU Bureau meetings. Therefore, Hon Sefulo, MP, and Zambia's representative to the ACP-EU JPA, would provisionally serve on the Bureau for a period of two years, 2023-2024



Hon Natangue Ithete (I) Namibia, Hon Sibeso Sefulo, MP (c) Zambia and OACPS-EU JPA Co-President Hon Peter Kenilorea Jnr (Solomon Islands) after Zambia's nomination to serve on the Bureau of the ACP-EU JPA.

Further, the Bureau discussed that it was Southern African Region's turn to provide a Co-President of the ACP-EU JPA, taking over from the Pacific States.

The Bureau was informed that the Southern African Region had made its own considerations and had since submitted that Mozambique's Hon Anna Rita Sithole, MP, would be the next ACP-EU JPA Co-President, taking over from Hon Kenilorea (Jnr) of the Solomon Islands.



Namibian delegation attending the meeting of the Bureau of the ACP-EU JPA

8. THE 61ST SESSION OF THE OACPS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The OACPS Parliamentary Assembly took place on Friday, 28th October, 2022. As per standard custom, the President, Mr Peter Kenilorea Jnr gave his remarks, followed by the SG's statement to the Assembly. However, it was noted that Mr Georges Chikoti, OACPS SG, did not travel to Maputo due to other engagements. As such, the Assistant SG, Dr Ibrahim Richard, delivered the speech on his behalf. One of the highlights of his speech was the preparation of the meeting of the Council of Ministers in November, 2022, in Brussels, which would discuss the delay of signing the OACPS-EU New Partnership Agreement (NPA) and the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 27th Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 27) that had been scheduled to take place in November, 2022.

Thereafter, the Assembly considered various matters, including South Africa's withdrawal from the OACPS. In this regard, the Assembly was informed that further inquiries were still being made, regarding reasons for the withdrawal. Furthermore, it was discussed that the Southern African Region would, before December, 2022, lead a delegation of OACP member States, to South Africa, in a bid to persuade them to reverse the decision, while noting that the Country's sovereignty would be observed in the process. With regard to payment of fees to the OACPS, the Assembly was informed that 14 member States were under sanction for no-payment.

In this regard, all Members were urged to engage their respective Executive wings of Government to ensure that their payments were up to date.

9. THE 42ND SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JPA

The 42nd Session of the ACP-EU JPA was co-chaired by Hon Carlos Zorrinho of the European Parliament (EP) and Hon Peter Kenilorea (Jr) of the Solomon Islands, President of the OACPS. Prior to the official opening, some joint meetings of the ACP-EU JPA were held, including the following:

- (i) **the ACP-EU JPA Women's Forum with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)**, was held on Saturday, 29th October, 2022, in the Chamber of the Parliament of Mozambique. Discussions pertained to ending Gender Based Violence (GBV), Early, Forced and Child Marriages (EFCM), as well as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), in view of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No.5 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment;
- (ii) **the ACP-EU JPA Youth Forum** was held on Saturday, 29th October, 2022, at the Maputo University. This engagement with students focused on Information and Communications Technology (ICTS) and Human Trafficking, with a bias on the Youth.

- (iii) **Two separate Workshops on Mozambique's Covid and Disaster Management** were held on 29th October, 2022. The Namibian delegation attended the disaster management at the Pequenos Limbos Dam in the Boane District outside Maputo



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- (iv) ACP-EU JPA Standing Committee and Bureau Meetings were both held on 30th October, 2022. The meetings jointly considered reports from the OACPS and the EP. Of particular interest was the announcement of Hon Sithole as the next ACP-EU JPA Co-President.

10. Official Opening of the ACP-EU JPA

Proceedings of the JPA were officially opened on Monday, 31st October, 2022 by His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique. In his speech, the President highlighted some challenges that Mozambique was facing, including floods and cyclones, terrorism and money laundering. He equally mentioned some parliamentary efforts in curbing crime and appreciated the ACP-EU JPA, as a platform for ensuring multilateralism and development. Other Speakers during the official ceremony included Dr Eneas da Conceicao Comiche, Mayor of Maputo City; Hon Sithole, Co-President elect and lead organiser of the Maputo Meeting, Hon Carlos Zorrinho, who indicated displeasure of Hungary's delayment of the signing of the NPA, and his counterpart, Hon Kenilorea (Jnr), who rendered his last speech as Co-President.

11. ACP-EU JPA Plenary Sessions (29th October– 2nd November, 2022)

Following the official opening, JPA plenary sessions ensued and began with a joint declaration of the Co-Presidents and the Bureau members of the ACP-EU JPA on the car bombs in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, which resulted in the loss of lives of at least 100 people on 29th October, 2022. A moment of silence was observed in this regard.

Highlights of the sessions included:

- i. statement by Mr Dubravka Suica, Vice President of the European Commission (EC), responsible for Democracy and Demography. His presentation included EU's readiness to support Ukraine in its conflict with Russia; EU's commitment to meaningful action and engagement with the OACPS, especially regarding the provision of about 7.8 Billion Euros towards food security, as well as adequate financing and deliberate commitment to ensure climate change control and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. The Assembly was also updated on action taken by the Commission on resolutions adopted at the 41st Session of the JPA;
- ii. JPA's debate on consequences of the Russian conflict with Ukraine on food supplies in OACPS countries and beyond. Members of the EP expressed concern that the Assembly would debate the topic without any resolution. Hon Binwell Mpundu, MP, contributed to this discussion by urging the EU to increase its support to the OACPS, in terms of technological transfer and agricultural investment, in view of the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict;
- iii. exchange of views on Draft Rules of Procedure for the Assemblies under the post-Cotonou Agreement. During this engagement, members unanimously agreed to put the vote on hold and consider it during the March, 2023 meeting in Brussels. This followed a heated debate regarding the fact that Parliaments in most member States, especially the OACPS, had not been fully consulted on the NPA. Issues of contention pertained to clauses on the implementation of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR); creation of the Council of Ministers with

- powers to make binding legal decisions; fragmentation of the OACPS and creation of Regional Assemblies; as well as the removal of Standing Committees in the NPA;
- iv. the Assembly also discussed, without resolution, the fight against terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as a new framework to address biodiversity crisis: Leveraging ACP-EU Partnership in shaping the new framework to halt the loss of biodiversity and promote its sustainable use and conservation in the wake of COP 15;
 - v. urgent topics considered were on *Global challenges of climate change cooperation for adaptation and mitigation in the wake of COP 27* and *Ensuring market access for OACPS commodity producing countries through enhancing sustainable consumption and production patterns*. Respectively, Hon Sefulo urged all OACP-EU members to treasure the unique and democratic political, economic and social dialogue that defined the OACPS-EU partnership. She also emphasised the need for member States, especially the OACPS, to enhance the visibility of the ACP-EU JPA in their respective countries. On the other hand, Hon Chisopa, MP, called for genuine and real trade relations that would ensure increased market access for OACPS products in the EU. He also called on the EU to further reduce trade barriers, as a way of encouraging meaningful growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The two topics resulted in Motions adopted for resolution.
 - vi. votes on the two urgent Motions alluded to earlier and consideration on four draft Rules of Procedure of the distinct Assemblies, namely, ACP-EU JPA; Africa-EU PA; Caribbean – EU PA and the Pacific – EU PA; and
 - vii. consideration of summary reports from the Women's and Youth Forums, as well as the workshops.

The 42nd Session officially closed with a cocktail hosted by the Mayor of Maputo City. In concluding the meeting, the Co-Presidents announced that the 43rd Session of the ACP-

EU JPA would take place in either Brussels or Sweden, on dates to be communicated later.

12. OBSERVATIONS

- The MEPs were still of the view that regional Assemblies under the NPA, would deliver desirable development to the respective OACP member States. Most of their OACPS counterparts, however, still exhibited reservations as they considered regionalization as a way of silencing the strong voice of the OACPS and referred to it as a divide and rule strategy.

13. CONCLUSION

The 61st OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and the 42nd ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly considered pertinent topics that border on current global challenges. These included climate change, Women and Youth issues, food security and support of the EU to the OACPS. Further, the OACPS-EU partnership was considered an effective mechanism for ensuring unity and cooperation in diversity.

Sincere gratitude goes to the Honourable Speaker and the management of the National Assembly of Namibia, for the opportunity that was accorded to the delegation to attend the 61st Session of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and the 42nd Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the successful participation of the Namibian delegation at the 61st and 42nd Sessions of the OACPS and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Committee on Economics and Public Administration hereby recommends that:

- i. the National Assembly (House) adopts the report

15. SIGNATURES



Hon. Natangue Ithete (Chairperson)

Hon. Mathias Mbundu (Deputy Chairperson)

Hon. Modestus Amutse

Hon. Dr. Tobie Aupindi

Hon. Apius !Auchab

Hon. Celeste Becker

Hon. Bertha Dinyando

Hon. Elifas Dingara

Hon. Maria Elago

Hon. Hamunyera Hambyuka

Hon. Gotthard Kasuto

Hon. Johanna Kandjimi

Hon. Joseph Kauandenge

Hon. Sebastiaan Karupu

Hon. Maria Kamutali

Hon. Patience Masua

Hon. Hilaria Mukapuli

Hon. Jan Mukwiilongo

Hon. Fennie Nanyeni

Hon. Henny H. Seibeb

Hon. Nico Smit

Hon. McHenry Venaani

Date:.....

