



ASSOCIATION DES SECRETAIRES GENERAUX DES PARLEMENTS
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To the Members of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

Dear Members, dear colleagues,

I am writing to you to inform you about an unexpected event in our Association.

On Thursday 18 May the secretariat of ASGP was informed that our President Doris Katai Katebe MWINGA had suddenly retired as Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia. As a consequence she also stepped down as President of ASGP. She has confirmed her resignation in an e-mail to Emily Commander and asked her to first inform both the Vice-Presidents of ASGP (Philippe Schwab and myself) which Emily has done.

In the last weeks we have tried and failed to contact Doris. I do hope that she is in good health. It goes without saying that Doris has served the ASGP outstandingly, particularly as our President since 2014. We will keep trying to find out more about her situation.

Her sudden retirement means that there is a vacancy in the office of President. Rule 19 of the Rules of the Association determines the situation in case of a vacancy:

Rule 19

- (1) If a vacancy occurs during the term of office of a member of the Executive Committee, an election to fill the vacancy for a new full term of office shall be held.
- (2) If the President is absent or a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the duties of President shall be carried out temporarily by the earlier elected Vice-President. Otherwise, the duties will be carried out by one of the other members of the Executive Committee, chosen on the same basis. In case of equality of seniority of election, the oldest member will take precedence.

Accordingly I inform you, after my earlier notification to the Members of the Executive Committee, that I have taken the responsibility of acting President since the end of May and will continue doing so until the end of the conference in St Petersburg. At the St Petersburg meetings there will be an election for a new President.

In close cooperation with our secretariat I will prepare the upcoming meetings of the ASGP which will take place from 15 to 18 October 2017 in St Petersburg, Russian Federation. I hope to see many of you there. I take this opportunity to call for communications and proposals for general debates. If you want to make a contribution, please contact the secretariat. You will receive further information in the month of July.

With best regards,

Geert Jan Hamilton