

CAPACITATING LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS REALISING AGENDA 2063: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN AGE OF KNOWLEDGE BASED ECONOMY

MS. SUZANNE HATTINGH

Ms. Hattingh highlighted the preparation of workforce for a disruptive economy; skills that will be needed as pillars and preparing the workforce for 2063. The 1 to 4th industrial revolutions examples were taken from the Singapore experience. Videos of how radical machine systems changed business models were explained. Future of jobs will be changed E.g. police force will be taken over by artificial intelligence or machines. Jobs that are standardised, repetitive and are involving lot of patterns will be affected. It is predicted that about 65% workforce of developing countries will be replaced by robots E.g. a foot bridge already exists in Holland. Traditional farming will also be replaced by the disruptive technology in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Education as a development pillar will be most affected through the following skills that will be in demand:

- Creativity and innovations
- Cognitive flexibility
- Complex problem solving that will involve: change resilience; technology literacy; trans-disciplinary – the ability to work across disciplines
- Collaboration in vital cross function teams
- Entrepreneurial skills that are creating own work, not finding jobs.
- Adjusting deep learning skills
- Lifelong learning and training and re-training

Education, training and skills development will be compulsory. How Mathematics, science and technology are taught will be fundamental. For the skills new entrants will need; new strategies will be developed and existing plans will be re-design because the current qualifications frameworks are rigid.

Our governments HR and skills are preparing students for the world that no longer exists. Now, what should Governments do?

- Take proactive steps towards 4th IR
- Update skills development and training.
If we/governments do not change, there will be
- Greater job losses

- Greater inequality between techno-smart and Administrative manual workers.
- Greater poverty

PANEL: Dr. Marius Kudumo: NUST and Dr. Michael Akuupa, LARRI-Namibia

Dr. Kudumo elaborated on the impact on quality public policy making. He recommended that Parliaments be capacitated to be relevant because about 65% of learners will be irrelevant by the time they complete education. The concern is that by the 4th IR where will the powers of the State be? Some people will be excluded from the budget equitable distribution of resources.

The role of Parliaments should be to:

Enter the world of Web; build knowledge base economy; aggressively implement lifelong learning; concentrate on knowledge production and application and to improve the oversight functions. Dr. Kudumo concluded that knowledge is required as a competitive advantage and that it is bad to have policies that are not based on evidence.

Dr. Akuupa focussed on Agenda 2063 as a platform for the rededication by Africa for its aspirations. Africa should work on Good governance; development of infrastructure and invest ICT and Digital economy.

He explained the issues African Parliaments should address as:

- How to position themselves for the free trade agreement; Legislators discussing the IMF loans.
- Taking Parliaments closer to the people through developing Customer Service Charters and access of information through technology.
- How to adapt to knowledge economy by involving traditional knowledge systems. E.g. research reveals that 66% of Namibians informally unemployed. In contrast to this OU spent biggest budget on security.

The debates were closed off with five issues, amongst others: the Techno escapes; Finance (Bitcoin) and Ideo- escapes which is oppression by other continents.

Questions from participants included: concerns about job losses. How the 4th IR will illuminate Human Resources. The seminar widely accepted that Governments should address issues that were there before the 4th IR. That awareness about the revolutions should be done by MP's and staff members. Concerns were raised whether the citizens are informed enough to hold Legislators accountable. What is SoCATT doing to ensure that MP's get a shock treatment like the one participants are receiving now. It was recommended that strong Civil Society Movement's be involved. It is also perceived that MP's are traditionally conservative and that African Parliaments are concerned with 'time' and not the reduction of labour. There is a need for Parliaments to fundamentally be rethinking what is job and what is work.