



## **PRESS RELEASE NO 01/2004**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Pan- African Parliament Opens in Midrand, South Africa.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Pan African Parliament was on Thursday, September 16, 2004 declared open at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, South Africa at a ceremony attended by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, the President of the Pan African Parliament, Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Mrs. Julia Dolly Joiner, who represented the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and distinguished guests from other parts of the world, including the President of the Republic of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, and President Chiage Oogi of the Japanese Senate.

President Mbeki underscored the importance of the Pan African Parliament and said that it was meant to, among other things, help Africa meet the goals it has set for itself and for the masses to reflect about their condition and their history. "The Pan African Parliament", according to Mbeki, "will create a new space for us as Africans to forge a collective identity and to act together in our interest both within and between our countries as well as in many important global engagements with other regions and the rest of the World".

The President of the Pan African Parliament, Ambassador Gertrude Mongella noted that the Pan African Parliament was meant to be a Parliament in which the voices of all Africans are heard.

Mrs. Julia Dolly Joiner in her remarks commended the efforts deployed by Member States of the African Union in accelerating the launching of the Pan African Parliament and particularly the Republic of South Africa, in planning and hosting this great occasion.

The Second Parliamentary Session under the theme: "One Africa, One Voice" will before adjournment in fourteen days, among other things discuss the Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of the African Union, debate NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), discuss security issues, adopt its own Rules of Procedure, budget and Recommendations and Resolutions. Till date, 46 Member states have ratified the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Pan African Parliament.

Gallagher Estate, Midrand, South Africa.

Thursday, September 17 2004

