



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**THE SPEAKER**

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24 February 2016

Mr K Govender  
National Research Foundation  
Meiring Naude Road  
Brummeria  
Pretoria 0001

Dear Mr Govender

**MOTION OF CONGRATULATIONS**

On 23 February 2016, the National Assembly agreed to a motion noting that you and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) will be awarded the 2016 Edinburg Medal on Wednesday, 30 March 2016.

The Assembly further noted that this is a prestigious award given to women and men of science and technology whose professional achievements are judged to have made a significant contribution to the understanding and well-being of humanity.

The Assembly acknowledged that you will receive the award for the creation and practical establishment of the Office of Astronomy for Development, which integrates the pursuit of scientific knowledge with social development for those most in need.

The Assembly recognised that under your pioneering stewardship, the Office of Astronomy for Development, hosted in South Africa in partnership with the National Research Foundation, has successfully harnessed astronomy in the service of education and capacity building.

The Assembly congratulates you and wishes you everything of the best when receiving the award at the Festival.

A copy of the Minutes of Proceedings of the National Assembly dated 23 February 2016, containing the full text of the motion, is attached.

Yours sincerely

**B Mbete MP**  
Speaker of the National Assembly