



Report

Religious Parliament 2012

23 November 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item Definition	Page
Introduction	3
Theme	3
Objectives	3
Methodology	3
Findings	4
Recommendations	8
Conclusion	11

1. INTRODUCTION

Religious Parliament 2012 took place on 23 November 2012 as one of the oversight tools used by the Legislature to gauge government services to this sector.

The role players converged and engaged robustly with the thematic areas with the ultimate goal of informing public policy direction on the matters and strengthening systems in delivery of services.

The report captures the philosophical policy thrust sought to be influenced by the sector, seen from their perspective and aligned to this electoral term of office's goals, in improving their lives for better.

2. THEME

The event took place under the Legislature's overarching theme 'Working together with our religious communities to intensify oversight to foster service delivery.

3. THEMATIC AREAS

The following thematic areas formed the gist of discussions:

- Restoring integrity in government.
- The role of religion in nation building
- The correlation between the societal moral degeneration and crime.
The fight against crime starts at home. Morality is a contributory factor to crime, and the success in fight against it.

4. OBJECTIVES

The project was aimed at achieving the following outputs:

- To educate and share information with the religious communities of the Province
- To facilitate participation of the religious sector in evaluating progress made thus far in entrenching democratic values within our community in the context of democratisation of state and society.
- Facilitate a direct oversight exercise involving all the role players' i.e. the Legislature, executive and the targeted beneficiaries in one sitting.

5. DATE AND SEAT

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, legislative chambers was the seat of the Religious Parliament on 23 November 2012

6. METHOD OF WORK

Religious Parliament 2012 as an oversight activity used a sample of 300 participants drawn from across the religious spectrum. The Committee subsequently conducted a meeting on 16 October 2012 to conceptualise on the sectoral parliament and give direction to the administration.

The following organisations were identified as core to the business and these parameters were used to select participants:

- Crata
- SACC
- THO
- Moral Regeneration
- Islam and
- Traditional Faith

Preparatory workshops were organised in the Province as follows:

Date	Venue	Attendance
14 November 2012	Thaba Chweu Council Chamber	73
14 November 2012	Emakhazeni Community Hall	82
15 November 2012	Msukaligwa Council Chambers	68

Advertisements were placed to appear on Mzansi News, Sowetan and the Mpumalanga Mirror, as well as on Ligwalagwala FM and Ikwekwezi FM radio stations .

Commissions with resource persons were conducted on 22 November 2012 to allow participant in-depth understanding and engagement on the thematic areas in the process consolidate regional views into a common message.

Panel discussions were allowed to in the chambers after the Speaker presented the keynote address.

7. FINDINGS

The committee found, on:

Restoring integrity in government, that.

- The ANC-led government is legitimate as it was established through a popular vote of the citizens of the country and based on the will of the people.
- Untested media reports on corruption erode the integrity of government, as a legitimate institution, thus portray it as irresponsible with ulterior motives.
- Society gets easily misled into doubting the integrity of their own government.

The role of religion in nation building, that

Religious communities played a pivotal role in the liberation of the country from colonial powers, apartheid to democracy.

South African society is arranged around religious formation and have different affiliation levels in these bodies.

There is uninformed criticism and lack of tolerance of other religions not seen as mainstream.

Coordination of religious activities needs strengthening so as to provide for resources to engage structures whenever need arise.

The correlation between the societal moral degeneration and crime, that.

The moral regeneration movement is currently treated as NGO thus not officially funded by our government.

There is a direct correlation between moral degeneration and crime.

Religious communities are not taking an active role in fighting crime in their organizations proved by the fact that churches accept offerings from criminal proceeds and traditional faith allows criminals to get "muthi" to evade the justice system.

Collectivism is central in the fight against crime.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings above the Committee recommends that:

- Government communication be strengthened, through office of the Premier, to proactively counter the negative perceptions created by media on corruption in government.
- Department of Culture Sports and Recreation embark on a robust campaign to promote a culture of tolerance among communities
- Department of Culture Sports and Recreation embark on a robust campaign to promote moral regeneration among communities

9. CONCERNS

The Sector raised a concern on the establishment and location of a Religious Affairs Desk to co-ordinate all matters of religion in the Province thus proposed the Legislature to run it.

10. CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chairperson would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Legislature, the support staff, Local community and, the Department of Culture Sport and Recreation who showed commitment in the preparation of the Religious Parliament of 2012.



HON Dr. RC MKASI
CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PETITIONS

18/04/2018
DATE