

The presiding officers are mainly composed of the members from the majority party. In the first sitting the Hon Judge request the house to nominate the candidates for speakership and Deputy Speakership after nominations those with higher votes will definitely take the seats as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

In the sitting following the first sitting the Chair of Committees and the Deputy Chair get elected in the same process as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker but the only difference is that the Presiding officer in this case is the Speaker.

Who are the Presiding Officers ?

There are Presiding officers in each and every Provincial Legislature that are given the responsibility to oversee and ensure that the proceedings of the House during the sitting are adhered to.

Speaker – Ensures the integrity, independence and impartiality of the institutions. The speaker is the chairperson of the Rules Committee and other political management structures.

Deputy Speaker – Acting in the absence of the Speaker and perform all functions and responsibilities of the Speaker.

Chair of Committees – Ensures that the committees function effectively and that their programmes are in line with legislative business.



The Legislature

Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature
Building No 1
Mpumalanga Government Complex
Riverside
Nelspruit

Or write to:

Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature
Private Bag X11259
Nelspruit
1200

Or visit our Website: www.mpuleg.gov.za
Share call number: 086 077 4455



What is the Legislature

The Legislature is the arm of state that has been mandated by the Constitution of this country to make laws for the Province. It derives its mandate from Section 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996. All laws passed must not contravene the constitution of the country or must be in line with the constitution of the country.

The Legislature is a vital and essential institution for democracy since it is where the people of the Province make their voices heard in the Law Making Process. This happens through the Public Hearing processes where the bill gets outlined and Communities are given a chance to input on the bills to make it more suitable to them without contravening the constitution.

Mandates of the Legislature

The Legislature has three (3) mandates as per the constitution of South Africa and those mandates are as follows:-

- Law Making
- Oversight
- Public Involvement

The Legislature as a Law making institution in the Province, may consider a bill, may amend a bill, may reject or approve any bill.

This is mostly done in consultation with the Public through Public Hearing process.

The legislature provides effective and efficient mechanisms to oversee the executive. The institution makes and implements strategies that facilitates the Executive (Government Departments) and other public entities in the Province to be accountable to the public through the Legislature. This is done mainly to the committees, is called oversight.

The Legislature also facilitates the Public involvement of the Public in all its process. This is the mandate that ensures the realisation of the fact that people are involved on decision making in this country and that their rights are not contravened. They also ensure that the public do partake on specifically legislative processes and they understand and their role exercise all their rights equally.

Who constitutes the Legislature?

The Legislature is constituted by the democratically elected members of different political parties. The party that obtains majority votes in the elections would obviously have larger representation in the house. The Independent Electoral Commission knows how many votes constitute a seat, they inform the political parties in advance and share the formula to be employed in the process. The process is transparent to the political parties and the public.

It is that process that informs exactly how many seats goes to which party in the particular province..

In Mpumalanga the Legislature has representation from three political parties

- African National Congress (ANC) = 27 – Majority Party
- Democratic Alliance (DA) = 2 – Opposition Party
- Congress of the People (COPE) = 1 – Minority Party

Executive Council

Who constitutionally appoint the Premier of the Province

At the first sitting of the Legislature after its election, and whenever necessary to fill a vacancy, a provincial legislature elects a woman or a man from among its members to be the Premier of the Province. A Judge designated by the Chief Justice must preside over the election of the Premier.

The Premier of the Province is the leader of the Executive Council. There are ten (10) Members of Executive Council (MEC). This is according to the Government Departments that are in the Province. All the Members of the Executive Council currently are from the majority party.

Presiding Officers

In the Legislature there are nineteen (19) members led by the Speaker who is the member of the majority party, this nineteen (19) is also constituted of the opposition party and the minority party.