

WHO MAY ATTEND

All categories of civil society including the sector in question are welcome to attend a sectoral parliament.

As citizens we are inter-related in life. One sector's challenges may be caused by the other e.g. those with disabilities may be abused by men, women or youth while children's right may be abused by youth, men or women. Your active participation in sectoral parliaments in the long term will result in:

- an informed society that is wisely shaping our democracy
- active citizens that takes charge of their future, and
- a focused community that seeks solutions through debates and discussions.

**LET US ASSIST OUR LEGISLATURE TO DO
OVERSIGHT FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR
LIVES!!!**



For More Information Contact
Public Relations

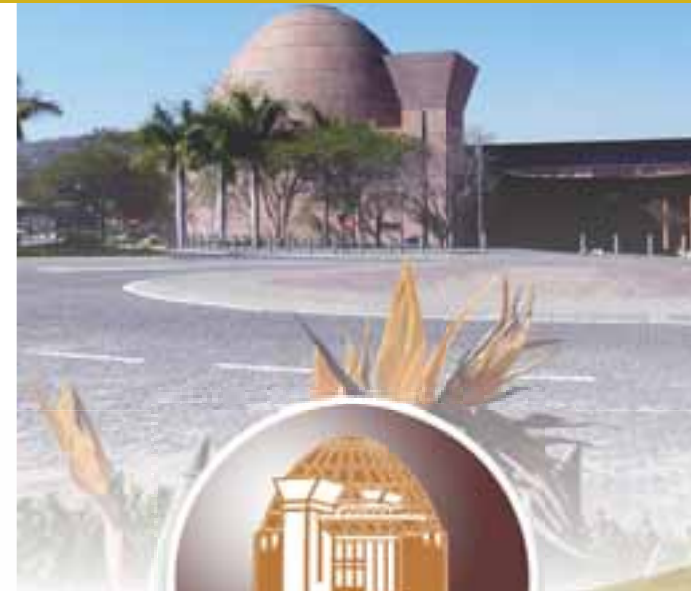
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Oversight, Committees &
Sectoral Parliaments

What is the function of oversight

Enabling Law: -

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, chapter 6, section 114 (2b), stipulates that provincial legislatures are to maintain oversight over the provincial executive authority and any provincial organ of state.

Process: -

The Executive Authority is constitutionally accountable to the Legislature, this means that government departments are obliged to account on the services that they give to the people of the province.

For example the Department of the Health and Social Services has a mandate to provide health care facilities and social assistance to the people of the province. This is their business and is allocated funds to perform by the provincial legislature. The Legislature must from time to time as prescribed by the constitution check and balance the expenditure of the department to ensure that the money that was given to the department is spent accordingly. This is known as playing oversight over the Executive Authority.

The Provincial Legislature does its oversight through various ways which are as follows: -

- i) Committee meetings
- ii) Site visits
- iii) Public Hearings
- iv) Sectoral Parliaments

Public Involvement

The question may arise what is the role of the civil society in this process? How can members of the public participate in this process? The role of civil society in assisting the Legislature to perform its function of ensuring that government delivers proper services is by means of attending to committee meetings, engaged in robust debates organized by the Legislature such as Sectoral Parliaments and so on. Further civil society can make use of the mechanism known as Petitioning. This process allows for any member of the public to lodge any complain about services that are not correctly

rendered by government to them.

It is the responsibility of the civil society to make sure that they are involved in these processes so as to assist in ensuring an effective oversight over the state organs.

In this manner both the Legislature and civil society are in partnership in ensuring a better life for all.

“MASIBAMBISANE UKWENZA IMPILO YETHU SONKE IBENGCONO”

Committees

The core functions of the Legislature as enshrined in the Constitution are Law making, oversight and public participation. Since the House does not sit on daily basis, a greater portion of the Legislature business is delegated to its committees, who report back to the House. Thus they represent the engine of the Legislature because in committee-meetings that is where robust debates on issues happen and it is where real oversight work and the investigative role of the Legislature is put in practice.

Committees of the Legislature are established in terms of section 116(2)(a) of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, Act 108 of 1996 read with the Rules and Orders of the Legislature.

The Legislature has select committees which are house committees responsible for internal matters and the portfolio committees established to oversee government portfolio departments.

WHAT IS THEIR WORK

In the course of duty Committees:

- deliberate and make recommendation on bills
- call department to account on policy and systems matters
- conduct public hearings and
- conduct oversight visits.

WHO ATTEND MEETINGS

Committee meetings are public thus all members of the public are welcome to attend. The attendance of members of the public strengthens the oversight role in that they (public) know when services are rendered by government or not. Only in some circumstances that the chairperson may order the committee to be in committees (in camera).

ATTEND AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

What are Sectoral Parliaments

Section 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108) mandates legislatures to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the legislature /parliament and its committees.

Public Participation and Public Involvement along side with Law-making and Oversight, are what the Legislature is existing for. This is the core mandate.

The sectoral parliaments are key political outreach programmes which focus on issues facing each sector of our communities. Through this outreach programmes the Legislature is able to intensify its oversight on a number of services that are supposed to be given to a particular sector.

Sectoral parliaments also provide a platform for our public to be educated on issues central to that sector. Currently the Legislature hosts workers' parliament, youth parliament, children parliament, senior citizens parliament, women parliament and people's assembly.