

COMPARATIVE REPORT ON SECTORAL PARLIAMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Public involvement in the Legislature and other processes is fundamental if democracy is to be strengthened and advanced. Section 118 of the constitution makes it imperative for the Legislatures to facilitate public involvement in the Legislative processes. Public should be involved to influence decision making in relation to their lives.

Section 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, **PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND INVOLVEMENT IN PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES**

- (i) A Provincial Legislature must
 - (a) Facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the legislature and its committees;

It is against this background that Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature has organized the Sectoral Parliaments, to accord the citizens of the Province a platform to highlight their perspectives on issues pertaining to the achievements of Democracy and to blatantly critic where possible.

The Province has managed to host the following Sectoral Parliaments :-

- (i) Youth Parliament
- (ii) Women's Parliament
- (iii) Worker's Parliament
- (vi) Senior Citizens Parliament
- (v) Parliament for People with Disabilities

OBJECTIVES OF THE SECTORAL PARLIAMENTS

- (i) The main objective is to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes as mandated by the constitution.
- (ii) To facilitate the direct oversight exercise involving all role players.
- (iii) Sharing of information of importance to that particular group involved.

THEMES AND THEMATIC AREAS

The theme adopted by the Province for year is then utilized for the Sectoral Parliaments not unless there is a specific theme that is derived from National to be utilized by all Provinces. The latter only happens when the event will cascade to the National event and if it is planned in that fashion by the national Parliament.

Thematic areas: are often derived looking at what affects that sector most, and the issues that are more crucial to that particular sector. In the Sectoral Parliaments that are driven by National, same thematic areas are utilized nationally for synergy purposes.

APPROACH

The concept document is drafted to give guidance to every Sectoral Parliament to be hosted and relevant participants are identified through provincial structures. **Members of the**

Provincial Legislature are invited and in most cases have roles to play.

Regional Workshops:-

Workshops are conducted in all the three regions to ensure that participants understand and follow the discussions in the thematic areas and understand processes and procedures to be followed in the main event. Participants from the main event are then chosen from the workshops that are conducted in the Regions.

Commissions:- there is a commission for every thematic area and commissions are held a day before the event so that participants deliberate on the issues for the whole afternoon to be able to report from commissions the following day and that will allow the flow of deliberations on discussed areas.

Recommendations will then be captured from the commissions and be referred to relevant Departments for further action.

SENIOR CITIZEN REPORT (2006 – 2008)

Senior Citizens Parliament has taken place since 2006, so the comparative report will commence from the year that this Sectoral Parliament had started.

The Sectoral Parliament has been done in collaboration with different departments and NGO's depending on the thematic areas of the day. The following Departments have been involved in the previous and oncoming Senior Citizens Parliament

- (i) Health and Social Development
- (ii) Economic Development and Planning
- (iii) Safety and Security
- (iv) Education
- (v) Agriculture and Land Administration
- (vi) Local Municipalities
- (vii) Constituency Offices
- (viii) IEC
- (ix) SASSA
- (x) Home Affairs

The Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Area	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006 	<p>Perspective of Senior Citizens and reflection on the 12 years of freedom and democracy with specific reference to access to equal rights for all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To educate and share information with the Senior Citizens about the existing policy frame work pertaining to their interests and needs. To facilitate participation of citizens in evaluating progress made thus far in entrenching democratic values within our population in the context of democratization of state and society To provide the opportunity to meet and create new friendship with other senior citizens who have similar needs and interests and getting involved in various activities. To facilitate a direct oversight exercise involving all the role players i.e legislature, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Equality in access to amenities, social security, recreation and public services” Are we becoming a caring nation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive transformation charter to address equality and equity issues of the elderly should be steered by government. A back up system to ensure compliance and good practice would be plausible. Corruption and fraudulent claims must be eliminated The Education system should have programmes where the elderly could play a role in lifeskills transfer. Public and private owned areas should be built to cater for elders The involvement of the elders on IDP’s and sensitivity on issues pertaining them when making judgement on their perpetrators. Building elderly care centres for all the races even on the rural areas

		<p>executive and the targeted beneficiaries in one sitting.</p>	<p>of the country.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of senior citizens in enhancing and advancing democracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the statutory body which advances and looks after the interests of the elderly • Legislature should create a platform where elders can input meaningfully to proposed legislation. • Senior Citizens should be given a chance to play a role on closing a gap between the haves and the have nots. • Moral regeneration movement should incorporate elderly group. • Projects that facilitate elderly interactions be encouraged. • A reputable and responsible public representative to carry out duties diligently.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plight of the elderly in regards to access to public services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public places where services are provided consideration should be made in relation to the aged as they have to stand on long queues and is not a desired situation. The issue of treatment by the nursing staff towards the senior citizens in hospitals should be seriously looked at.
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Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations
2007	Expand public involvement by deepening the debate on issues affecting the elders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate oversight involving all the role players. To share information with the senior citizens. To facilitate participation of citizens in evaluating progress made by government to make people's lives better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of the elderly people in the economic development of the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding institution should relax the funding age rule in funding the senior citizens projects Business training be provided to the elderly. Department of Agriculture should have a programme specifically targeting elderly. The PPP should invite the elderly for partnership. Municipal Liquor Licensing by-laws need

				to be reviewed.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The abuse of the elderly people by members of their families and the community as a whole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases of abuse in older persons should be given a high recognition as an encouragement for them to report such cases. The program to develop elderly on abuse should be intensified Clinics should be built on nearby areas especially Leroro and Matibidi. Police should patrol pay point areas as thugs have a tendency of harassing and intimidating the elders. Education on ATM usage should be facilitated to reduce crime on rural areas.

Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations
2008	Educating , empowering and involving communities for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide platform to elderly people to interact with legislators on matters affecting them and society in general. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of elderly people in advancing and consolidating democracy. 	(Still awaiting for the event to take place)

	a better future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow elderly people participate in the process that will contribute to the Legislature's constitutional mandate. • To educate and share information with our elderly people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Security in our communities for our elderly population. • Access to Health and Education. 	
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FINDINGS

- Elderly people need to input on the economy, they need something to keep them busy.
- They are the vulnerable group of our society, they also need a special attention.
- Elderly care centres are mostly found in urban areas and are accessible to the minority.
- They are scared to report cases especially of abuse at the Police station.

TOPIC	ASSESSMENT
Public Participation as per Section 118 of the constitution	Legislature has managed to get the senior citizens to participate and to show interest on participating in the processes of the Legislature.
	This is the sector that you get to participate even in Law making as most of the processes are done during the day and they are not at work
Economy	<p>They are not seen as the sector that can participate in growing the economy of the country and to start business.</p> <p>They are not favoured by the financial policies of most financial institutions.</p> <p>They can play a role in transferring skills especially art and craft to the new generation.</p>
Society	<p>They can add value on the playing a role on strengthening the moral fibre of our society.</p> <p>They can be on the fore front of fighting the scourge of HIV/AIDS in our society.</p>
Information Sharing	They are mostly not targeted by the media that is used in the dissemination of useful information as a result they are left with limited information.

	Information is not simplified to their level and taking them through is not seen as an option.
Sector's Perception	They feel so much neglected (ignored) and new policies and programmes of government not favouring them as elderly society of the country.

2. YOUTH PARLIAMENT

This sectoral parliament has not taken place in 2004 due to the elections and the institution managed to host the 2005, 2006, 2007 could not be organized due to the mass action that took place in June 2007, following that was the one held in 2008.

This parliament is done in partnership with the following structures

- (i) Youth Commission
- (ii) Youth structures of all organizations
- (iii) Academic institutions

Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations
2005	Creating youth employment to confront the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance youth participation under the context of participatory democracy • To mark the 29th anniversary of the students uprising since 1976. • To promote programmes of the Legislature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The doors of learning and culture shall be open to all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewal of bursary system by NFSAS to improve accessibility. • Capacity building to the teachers to assist the passing rate that affect the tertiary level admission. • Premier's bursary should

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accord the youth the opportunity to reflect on challenges confronting them and achievements of the first decade of democracy. • To stimulate debate within young people on issues pertaining them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All shall enjoy equal human rights • South Africa belongs to all who live in it • Youth Development and Governance 	<p>be more marketed even during the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at having the tertiary institution in the Province to improve accessibility. • FET infrastructure be improved • Develop and implement programmes that will close the rift between the youth of racial groups in the Province. • Moral regeneration programmes be enhanced. • Establishment of youth desk in the municipalities • Issues of ethnic groups should also be addressed by the different programmes that can be developed • Reviewal of the Youth Commission and Umsobomvu scope of operation to improve the lives of the youth in the Province. • The youth structures that
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				facilitate youth development should create one stop service for policy advocacy and policy implementation.
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Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations
2005	Creating youth employment to confront the future		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The doors of learning and culture shall be open to all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible financial assistance Decent institution of higher learning The realization of the scholar transport and the feeding scheme by those that are in need of them. Career guidance should be core at schools and should start in early classes.

Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations
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2006	Deepening youth participation to fight poverty and create work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish ways that can assist young people to benefit on skills development programmes. • To devise means of eliminating exploitation on performing arts • To engage youth on integrated development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality on service delivery (Youth Desks and Tenders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies meant at developing the youth into business should be taken serious. • The youth desk and the youth commission should be more concentrating on the implementation of the youth polices. • Youth structures together with Departments should ensure that youth benefit in the programmes meant for them. • Youth should be developed in business and be partnership in the PPP • Youth should be given a platform to input on the Municipal IDP's. • Youth to input and to play a pivotal role in the development of their communities and be on the fore front of development. • Youth should be considered and given preference on business opportunities.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality in all relevant resources of government (Sports Arts and Culture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intervention of government on the exploitation that is in the performing arts industry. • A need to strengthen performing arts in the communities as part of recreation to curb the escalating numbers of HIV/AIDS prevalence. • The implementation of the new arts and culture dispensation policies to accelerate the industry to the youth and grooming the up and coming artists. • Encouraging the youth by offering bursaries to the learners interested in arts. • Revamp theatres in the Province and employing a full time personnel to attend on the processes.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality on service delivery (Youth Desks and Tenders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies meant at developing the youth into business should be taken serious. • The youth desk and the youth commission should be more concentrating on the implementation of the youth polices. • Youth structures together

				<p>with Departments should ensure that youth benefit in the programmes meant for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth should be developed in business and be partnership in the PPP • Youth should be given a platform to input on the Municipal IDP's. • Youth to input and to play a pivotal role in the development of their communities and be on the fore front of development. • Youth should be considered and given preference on business opportunities.
2008			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and skills acquisition for youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career guidance to start at earlier grades to coach learners on the choice of career. • Feeding scheme should be monitored and channeled accordingly. • More impetus should be applied in building libraries and laboratories in most disadvantaged areas. • FET colleges not accessible to everyone due to its fees. • Impetus on awareness campaigns of the FET

				<p>colleges should be added.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference to employment should be given to those that have undergone internship and the database should be kept thereof.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of Xenophobia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal foreigners should register with foreign affairs. • Management of migration system should be revamped. • Maximising job opportunities should be key to avoid cases of Xenophobia as it is believed that Xenophobia is not the core. • Awareness on Moral regeneration should be maximized in the three spheres of government. • Funding on companies that are starting businesses should be seriously considered • Educational campaigns on Xenophobia should be conducted in communities to prevent such actions repeating itself.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth health status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV/Aids prevalence is rising and more vigorous campaigns should be employed. Most of HIV/AIDS infections happens mostly between intoxicated people and Government should strictly look at the issuing of licences. Recreational facilities should be built to minimize the level of alcohol abuse in the communities. Parents to partake in parents association to get means of attending to the malbehaviour of the child. Guidance and sex education classes be emphasized in schools in order to eliminate the number of the infected kids. Clinics for contraceptives should be accessible to the community and to teenagers, to avoid teenage pregnancy.
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FINDINGS

- Youth are still under developed in the area of business and they are willing but opportunities mostly avail themselves to the few.
- Skills development remains a challenge and that is pivotal in enriching the community and to take the country forward economically.
- HIV/AIDS prevalence still a challenge among youth.
- Mostly problems emanate from the lack of jobs.
- Youth entertain themselves with liquor and sexual activities and are unemployed.
- A proper financial assistance to strengthen academic qualifications and skills development is still a challenge in the Province.
- In some areas there are no clinics that makes it difficult to get contraceptives be it in a form of a condom or a pill.

TOPIC	ASSESSMENT
Public Participation as per section 118 of the constitution of the Republic of South Africa	<p>Most of the youth do participate especially those that are organized. The challenge is to get the unorganized to participate.</p> <p>The challenge of the organized structures, is the possibility of getting the same participants in all youth events which makes it difficult to get new and refreshed views.</p> <p>Youth has the most organized structures in the Province and that makes it easy to facilitate public participation on their side.</p> <p>They are always on the forefront of issues and are abreast with issues pertaining them.</p>
Economy	<p>There is still a challenge of getting the maximum participation of youth in the economy of the country, policies meant to address the challenge gets too much sophisticated as a result they lose focus.</p> <p>There is too much red tapes on processes of financial assistance which then defeats the purposes of empowering the sector.</p> <p>The issue of unemployment remains the key challenge on youth and them being not properly skills for the modern environment.</p>
Society	<p>They are on the forefront of the structures and assist in giving the information to the elderly in their society.</p> <p>They can be utilized in fast tracking some processes and simplifying the information to the illiterate.</p> <p>There is a need to engage them in building their societies and addressing burning issues.</p> <p>They are the most active structures in the society.</p>

Information sharing	<p>They are the most advantaged in terms of being targeted by the media. They always come first on the audience to be targeted, they are the future of the country.</p> <p>Given the level of literacy in our youth they tend to get every information through the following media</p> <p>(i) Print (to them reading is not a challenge)</p> <p>(ii) Electronic media – Radio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Television - Internet <p>The mode of information sharing by government favors mostly the youth. The approach of Tusong centres and are mostly utilized by youth.</p>
Skills Development	<p>This is the main challenge that leads to unemployment, the fact that youth has to travel to access better education cripples their academic potential and left with no better academic qualifications compared to other Provinces.</p> <p>The issue of Learnerships is not the main priority in the Province as the youth hoped when the flagship on capacity building was introduced by the Premier of the Province.</p>
HIV/AIDS	<p>They are aware of the programmes but this remains a challenge as they get themselves in the trap of getting drunk and begin to loosen on the use of condoms whilst engaging on sexual activities.</p> <p>Rural areas still have the challenge of the shortage of condoms and clinics are sometimes far from other people.</p>
Sectors Perception	<p>They are aware of the programmes that government has employed to address their plight but they see the process as very slow.</p> <p>They are also frustrated about the process of addressing them financially for business establishments that have a lot of red tape.</p>

Women's Parliament

The women's parliament that are due for review start from 2004 – 2008

The women's parliament has managed to involve the following Departments and structures in the maximization of participation

- Women's wing of all the organizations represented in the Legislature
- Office of the status of women
- Gender Focal points
- Non-governmental organizations
- Community Based Organisations
- Business women

Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations
2004	Celebrating ten years of freedom, women building a better South Africa and a better world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate women on the institutional framework of the SA state and Government • Reflect on the achievements of women in the last decade of democracy regarding gender equality in different spheres of life in particular decision making structure. • To debate and raise issues that affect women of SA and Mpumalanga in particular after 10 years of freedom. • To formulate proposals and programmes of action that seek to influence the form and structure of government institutions. • To simulate the sitting of the Provincial legislature and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scourge of HIV/AIDS pandemic and the ARV's rollout programme. • Fraudulent marriages and the way to react in such instances. • Pan African Women Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recommendations were made only 16 women got an opportunity to raise their concerns . • The session was more of an information sharing session. • Other papers were more educative papers that gave participants the light of the programmes of government. • Certificates of attendance were given to participants.

		encourage the culture of collective and intellectual debate.		
2005	•	•		
2006	Deepening and advancing democracy through increased access to equal rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To educate women about their rights • To accord women the opportunity to raise issues that still requires the attention of the Legislature and government • To facilitate oversight that involves all the role players i.e Legislature, Executive and the people serviced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Security – are women protected enough? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers should be trained in the centres to assist the SAPS • Random visits by the MEC responsible should be employed regularly. • Operation Mpimpa in reporting any forms of crime should be resuscitated. • Market sector policing to the community. • Establishment of the victim support centres • Recognition of the customary marriage • Rapists should not get bail or parole.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic empowerment of women – to what extent are South African women participating in the economy of the Country. • Gender Equality – How far are we? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance should be more popularized in the rural areas. • Skills development be according to modern trends and market research should be done on that note. • Legislation should be strengthened to avoid fronting. • There should be coordinated development between government initiatives like ASGISA. • Institutions established to advance should run public awareness campaigns so that women can know about their mandate and enough budget should be allocated to these institutions. • 50/50 representation in positions of management should be implemented. • There must be respect for women holding high positions and training to capacitate them.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education sessions on gender issues should be conducted. • There should be awareness on Gender Equality issues especially on programmes where women stand to benefit.
2007	Deepening the debate in parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accord women a platform to deliberate on issues relate to women development (politically and economically) • Reflect on the role of women on law making • Evaluate a progress made and challenges confronting women on their quest of development • Reflect on the role of South African women at national level • Accord women opportunity from diverse background to share experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pollution policies and acts should be implemented intensively • Waste management should be intensified and prioritized. • Conservation of the environment should be prioritized • Water conservation should be key in the process • A previously disadvantaged community should be encouraged on the environmental conservation academy to be able to bring understanding to the majority.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women education and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women or girls should be guided towards a right career direction especially those that are dominated by males presently • Government should develop programmes that will seek to eliminate illiteracy within the next five years. • There should be a special programme on financial assistance that focuses particularly to rural girls. • Programmes of awareness on teenage pregnancy should be intensified. • Infrastructure should be improved in schools especially for women as they might be affected in the longrun. • An awareness on the importance of education to the society should be created • A programme on the literacy on land care especially focusing on rural areas should be intensified. • An awareness on the right to land as enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
<p>23 Page sectoral parliament comparative report as compiled by Public</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The compliance of farm owners with regard to the protection of women and children on farms.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land is the basic economic

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness on the land care issues especially in rural areas should be developed • An awareness to make masses understand the right to land concept as enshrined in the constitution of our country. • Women should stand to benefit from the 30% of the white owned land that will be transferred to black ownership by 2014. • The Department of Agriculture should monitor compliance of farm owners with regard to the protection of women and children. • The Department must ensure tenure security for farm dwellers living in untenable situations. Part of the farm must be purchased for its workers. • Land is the basic economic asset thus government shall ensure access to land particularly for poverty alleviation and food security • Land shall be used to create skills for women.
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2008	Educating empowering and involving communities for a better life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark women’s month with a gathering of women from civil society, parliamentarians, Government officials and South Africa’s Gender Machinery • Create a platform for civil society to engage with parliamentarians on important issues affecting the quality of life of women and the role of the Legislature in taking these forward • Facilitate a direct oversight exercise involving all the role players i.e the Legislature, executive and the targeted beneficiaries in one sitting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and sustainable Development (Women and Macro –Economic Policy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women must enjoy the 20% stake on the flagship projects of the Province. • Parliament should provide legislation that would compel chair, banks to provide small loans to women who aspire starting businesses. • Financial institutions be lenient to rural women when they have applied for funding. • Skill women with regard to financial and project management. • Cooperatives should be encouraged to seize the economic opportunities available to them. • Reviewal of financial and trade agreements, which impact directly on the economic rights of women. • Dissemination of information about development should be vigorous on the rural areas. • Awareness on cooperative formations must be maximized. • Information package regarding economic initiatives for women
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				<p>should be easily available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish forums to establish forums in the community and empowering each other at grassroots level.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement of accessing funds must be relaxed to can be easily accessible by even rural women. • The government and private sectors should consider simplifying applications forms used for funding and make it available in all official languages. • ABET learners must be separated because women feel threatened by the youth if put in the same class. • Unused land should be allocated to women interested in farming • Government should increase the number of shelters for the victims of any form of violence. • Women in leadership positions must be emancipated and get the

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, economy and Poverty 	<p>support from other women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government to revise the age limit for EPWP because many women are disadvantaged by age limit. • Government must introduce information centres to regions to facilitate the distribution of information. • NGO's should be empowered to create more capacity on the specialities. • Criminal Justice System should acknowledge the presence of the Ngo's that work with the victims. • Establish reproductive and health centres for the girl – child and increase the availability of protective measures. • Government should come up with projects that can capacitate women in terms of developing their skill. • Department of Housing and education should have set aside budgets for women for nutrition and construction.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept of housing, PHP houses women should be given the priority. • Dept of Health should review the strategy e.g staff recruitment and retention and health inspectors should be resuscitated • Dept of correctional centres should review their rehabilitation strategies because women must also benefit from construction skills. • Abet system should be facilitated • Home affairs must enhance their awareness campaigns to reach the deep rural areas in registration of children or orphans that would at the end of the day benefit from the social grants. • Increase women in decision making, policy formulation and portfolio committees • Government must put pressure in private sectors in employing more women in positions • Strategic Departments, like Health and Social Services,
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				<p>Education, Agriculture, Housing, economic development and Planning more women must be employed in Senior management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More women with disabilities must be employed in senior management. • Proper monitoring strategy and evaluation to ensure the implementation of the recommendations forwarded in this session. • Government must split gender desk in the municipalities • Private property act must be reviewed for women to access land for farming • Private companies that do business in municipalities must subsidize communities that are living in those areas in case chronic diseases arise and should contribute in development of that community.
Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations

FINDINGS

- (i) A lot of business acumen to women but they lack resources.
- (ii) Financial assistance processes to empower women has bottle necks that make it difficult for women to access funds for empowerment.
- (iii) Lack of mentors to mentor women on business as it is the terrain that was mostly dominated by men.
- (iv) Policies on empowering women are not yet realized by women especially those staying in rural areas.
- (v) There is an enormous lack of skill amongst women and that hinders them from getting opportunities as designed for them to benefit.
- (vi) Women who do crafting and art are not properly managed to earn a living on the skill that they possess.

Topic	Assessment
Public Participation	Women participate from all corners of the province as they participate through different structures, Political organizations, NGO's, HBO's etc. This has proven to be the best platform to dialogue issues affecting women throughout the province. Women are always obtainable to participate in the legislative processes and are active in structures.
Economy	The Women's parliament has voiced clearly the lament of women in the involvement of women in the economy of the country and their eagerness to participate in growing the economy is registered many times of the Women's parliament. There are good policies developed to accelerate the participation of women in the economy of the country. They are the good crafters and artists and that skill can assist on growing tourism in our Province.
Society	They are the active participants of the society but due to the traditional background they lack the voice to be heard as women. They are mostly on the forefront of government programmes especially Health and Social Development.
Skills Development	Women are still underdeveloped and need more training to compete with the outside world. Business skills are the vital skills needed for women to start their own businesses
Information	Women tend not to get information as expected, during the day they are busy on projects or doing the domestic chores

sharing	They rarely dedicate time for reading even the newspaper, they do not visit Thusong centres and constituency offices as expected. Rural women are targeted by developmental communication but they hardly read the papers that mostly information comes with.
HIV/AIDS	They are the vulnerable group especially young girls. Women who do not stay with the husbands at home are the most vulnerable as married men are not keen on the use of condoms.
Sector's perception	Dialogue on issues of women open the eyes of many and educate in the process. They are assisted as they create a circle of network that one can benefit from. They see themselves free to open up on other women about the issues of development affecting them

Worker's Parliament

The sectoral parliament commenced in 2005 and had not taken place in 2007 due to the massive strike that affected all the workers in the particular month. This is aimed at getting the perspective of the workers in all the topics that are raised and to get workers to dialogue their everyday issues.

This sectoral Parliament is mostly done in partnership with the following

- (i) Trade Unions
- (ii) Department of Labour
- (iii) CCMA
- (iv) Department of Health and Social Development

Year	Theme	Objectives	Thematic Areas	Recommendations
2005	Consolidating the gains of workers from democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess achievements in the labour market in terms of sensitizing workers about their rights and obligations • To check on the question of the equal distribution of land • To check on the challenges facing workers in the next decade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy and the workers • South African land reform • Effect of the strong currency in mining and manufacturing sector • Challenges facing worker's in the next 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of the country should benefit on the economy of the country • Awareness campaigns should be created and address mostly the less illiterate of the sector • Unemployment remains a challenge and creation of an employment should be attended to by all the Departments. • The land reform program must be fast tracked by appointing a number of land commissioners • Ensure that necessary skills are transferred to the previously disadvantaged • Tight imports policy measures should be implemented to ensure proper control of goods. • Employment of locals instead of foreigners in the mining sector. • Department of Labour should enforce compliance

			decade	<p>to Labour laws by both Private and Public sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of skills due to HIV/AIDS scourge need to be taken serious and necessary arrangements should be made • Worker's skills development • The Skills Development Act should be fast tracked to facilitate training of workers • Awareness on HIV/AIDS for skills retention
2007	-	-	-	-
2008	Educating empowering and involving Communities for a better future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a platform for the Province and labour to interface towards realization of economic growth • To educate our vulnerable public on labour rights and responsibilities • To trigger a healthy dialogue between rde players on labour issues thus informing the legislature of the effectiveness of labour legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimising the impact of HIV/AIDS in the workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers should be encouraged to test • Employers and labour unions must embark on education campaign, so as to ease awareness as this disease in tearing the nation. • Employees Assistance Programmes need to be strengthened • Life skills Programmes should be introduced • HIV/AIDS need to be integrated with wellness programmes • The provision of ARV's

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role do worker's play in the legislative processes • Worker's rights in the vulnerable sector, how do we advance them 	<p>should be accelerated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Legislature and Parliament be flexible in working hours when it comes to consultations with the Public on legislative matters • A Labour Desk be established in government to specifically look into cascading all issues of society to the workers. This could be manned at the level of a Director with structures at Local Government • Consultations at political level and the level of federations be strengthened to allow for cross-pollination of minds • Labour federations must exert pressure to government on those who contravene laws which protects the vulnerable sector • Launch a vigorous campaign to organize and educate the vulnerable sector
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges facing workers and the poor in South Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that emerging unions are united Expose abuse where it occurs Use media to reach farm workers as a counter strategy to farmers denial of access to farms Strengthen all progressive labour federations in these sectors Government should establish a price regulator Government should zero rate basic food stuffs like milk, eggs, bread, rice, sugar, maize meal etc Legislature should look at the law of preferential rates for housing education and health Price fixing should be a criminal offence The LRA be amended to make it difficult for bogus unions to register. Bogus unions mostly affect cleaners and security guards.
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FINDINGS

- (i) Skills Development remains the challenge in this sector and HIV/AIDS scourge poses a threat to the sector as most skilled people get infected and leave a vacuum.
- (ii) Farm workers who still now after the ten years of Democracy have not realized or tasted the fruits of democracy.
- (iii) Bogus unions reaping the workers promising them assistance.
- (iv) Cheap labour is taking its toll in the Province leaving a number of citizens without work.

PARLIAMENT FOR THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

This is the sectoral parliament that is aimed at looking at the most disadvantaged sector of the Province and had been conducted in partnership

With the following Departments

- (i) Office of the Premier (ODP)

Year	Theme	objectives	Thematic areas	Recommendations
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REVIEW OF THE SECTORAL PARLIAMENTS

Topic	Challenges
	(i) Getting the maximum participation throughout the Province remains a challenge due to the stringent financial resources and data base.
	(ii) Lack of clear processes and tracking of the recommendations as taken in the sectoral parliament
	(iii) Lack of progress reports on previous sectoral parliament taken place
	(iv) A challenge of getting the well resourced people to act as resource persons in the commissions
	(v) Remotely operating the constituency offices and not getting them to the system before utilizing them as expected. (they sometimes do not get the brief)

	In some cases the topics discussed get overtaken by events as some of the recommendations are already in the implementation process.
	The research of some topics to equip the personnel with relevant information is not done
	Concept documents sometimes do not do justice to the sectoral parliaments and the inconsistent way of dealing with the reports