



**PARLIAMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES**

SCHEDULED :13 NOVEMBER 2009

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1. INTRODUCTION

We are humbled to present the draft concept document for Parliament for People With Disabilities 2009 as discussion paper. This concept paper is developed amongst others is to:

- Establish a common approach on the involvement of persons with disabilities in the legislature processes
- Streamline planning and actions at different stages of the event,
- Give guidelines in organising the event, and
- Clarify the roles of different stakeholders.

It is through the dialoguing process we legitimately expect that this will ultimately find approval for implementation as principled by the program of the Legislature.

2. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Acknowledging that public services are meant to benefit society on a non partisan basis covering the demographics geographic breadth of the province, the Legislature is often confronted by the customer centricity question: Are all the setors of our society receiving services as approved in our policies?

Sectoral parliaments in general, then serve as one of the tools that our Legislature uses to enhance oversight over the executive.

Disability Knowledge and Research enlightens us that in medical terms, 'disabilities' would include blindness, deafness, the various conditions that make it difficult or impossible to walk or to speak, mental illnesses and such things as Down's Syndrome and epilepsy.

Those viewing disability through this medical lens concede that it is unfortunate that many disabled people face social exclusion or poverty but these are seen as the result of the natural functional limitations imposed by their 'disabilities'.

The international disability movement (as represented by disabled people's organisations - DPOs) has offered a radical alternative to the medical conception of disability by asserting that people are disadvantaged not by their impairments, but as a result of the limitations imposed on them by attitudinal, social, cultural, economic, and environmental barriers to their participation in society.

Rejecting the idea of abnormality, although not the importance of medical intervention or impairment prevention, this 'social model' understanding points to the normality of impairment within any population. www.disabilitykar.net

These arguments clearly put forward a sector of society that has disability a "sector" to be recognised at all levels.

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. In addition to Law-making and Oversight, the Legislature is existing for Public Participation and Public Involvement. Public Participation unit is therefore a vehicle used to accomplish the mission.

In the calendar years 2007 and 2008 the Legislature implemented setoral parliaments for people with disabilities focusing mainly on oversight on:

- 2010 World Soccer Challenge; what is our role and stake?
- BEE, Micro Finance and SMME- Are they accessible?
- Social Institutions/Organisations- What role do they play in our communities, how can we assist in shaping our communities regarding disabilities?
- Equal Access to justice for all
- Facilitating service delivery

This is the basis for the Legislature deciding to host a parliament for people with disabilities for 2009.

3. OBJECTIVES

The project is aimed at achieving the following outputs:

- To educate and share information with the citizens of the Province on issues of people with disabilities
- To facilitate participation of the disability 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.

4. THEME

“Working together to intensify oversight over the executive to foster service delivery to our people”

In this particular instance the Legislature will work together with people with disabilities to enhance its oversight activities over the executive. Public entities will also be invited to partake in the sectoral parliament on issues related to economy and issues related to their areas of work.

4. TOPICS

The three topics will guide the discussions on the day of the event and in the regional workshops.

- Negative social attitudes hinder economic development of persons with disabilities.
- How can the living conditions of the people with disabilities in rural areas be improved.
- Society for All : Physical obstacles and social barriers prevents citizens with disabilities from participating in community and national life.

6. DATE AND SEAT

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, legislative chambers will be the seat of the Parliament for People with Disabilities on 13 November 2009

7. PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER
Members of the Legislature and executive	30
Chapter 9 institutions	10
People with disabilities: 25 per region (Active participants)	75
Assistants to people with disabilities	15
Status of disabled persons	5
Audience(local members of the public) x 70	50
Contingency	45
Public Entities	5
Media, Departments, PPPU and others support officials	30 (2 to be accommodated)
TOTAL	265

8. STAKEHOLDERS

8.1 INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Members of the Legislature
- Office of the CFO(Supply Chain Management)
- Public Affairs
- Security Management

8.2 EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Disabled People of South Africa (DPSA)
- Deaf Federation of South Africa (DEAFSA)
- Mpumalanga Council for the Blind (MPCB)
- Disabled Children Action Group (DICAG)
- Epilepsy SA
- Mpumalanga Association for Disabled People
- Mental Health Federation
- Department of Education
- Office of the Premier
- Community Safety , Security and Liaison
- Department of Health and Social Services
- Department of Economic Development
- Department of Arts and Culture
- Department of Roads and Transport
- South African Police Services
- Office on status of disabled persons.

9. FORMAT

- a) Disabled persons will arrive on 12th November 2009 starting with commissions that will select three speakers each.
- b) Resource persons will serve as guiding factor to the commissions
- c) Experts will present on each topic on the day of the event.
- d) Time will be given for clarity seeking questions and intense deliberations in the commissions
- e) The Speaker will welcome guests in opening the event
- f) The MEC for Social Development will give a keynote address
- g) On the 13th the selected participants (reporters) will table the inputs in each thematic topic from the commissions
- h) The plenary will interface with the reports
- i) Experts collate the inputs to make recommendations to the relevant committee

12. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Acknowledging that the event remains the project of the Legislature as articulated in the program and that it involves more than one unit of the administration, it is prudent to clarify roles on the onset. This will promote better co-ordination and planning at the different unit levels.

The **Public Participation and Petitions Unit** is responsible for the following:

- Overall Project Management of the event
- Identification of people with disabilities to be invited
- Identification and consultation with stakeholders listed in the concept document
- Dealing with transport plan and routes
- Mobilising the public through
- Assisting stakeholders with their presentations
- Recommending accommodation for participants

The **Communication Unit** is responsible for the following:

- Developing and implementing the media, publicity and branding plans in the furtherance of the interests of the project.
- This will include taking the financial responsibilities related to these functional areas.
- Detailed plans are to be presented to the first co-ordinating meeting for inclusion in the concept document before it is presented to the committee.

The **Hansard Unit** is responsible for the following:

- Sourcing both sign language and spoken language interpretation services for regional workshops, commissions and the day of the event.
- The cost implications are shared with PPPU however these must be provided for in the next financial years since this is the official support the Unit provides to the Legislature.
- Detailed plans are to be presented to the first co-ordinating meeting for inclusion in the concept document before it is presented to the committee.

The **Research, Policy and Knowledge Management** is responsible for the following

- Development of discussion papers reflecting the past, the status quo and political ideals into the future as relates to the thematic topic to serve as guidance to the commissions.
- Detailed plans are to be presented to the first co-ordinating meeting for inclusion in the concept document before it is presented to the committee.

The **Security Management** is responsible for the following:

- Facilitate safety and security at all relevant facilities for the purpose of the project i.e. regional workshops, commissions and main event.
- Detailed plans are to be presented to the first co-ordinating meeting for inclusion in the concept document before it is presented to the committee.

The **Supply Chain Management Unit** is responsible for the following:

- Efficient procurement of all services and goods required in support of the project. The costs are bourn by the unit as the core functional area.
- Detailed plans are to be presented to the first co-ordinating meeting for inclusion in the concept document before it is presented to the committee.

10. REGIONAL DEPLOYEES

NAMES	REGION	CONTACT
Mr. Suprise Khwiyane Mr. Gerry Nevari	Gert Sibande	013766 1198
Mr. Thulani Mdaka Mr. Mzwandile Ntsele	Ehlanzeni	013766 1230
Mr. Theresa Maisane Ms Lerato Mofokeng	Nkangala	013766 1160

13. FORWARD PLANNING

At the end of the event a report will be developed and adopted by the Select Committee on Public Participation and Petitions for tabling in the Legislature.

The Legislature will refer the report to departments and the relevant portfolio committee

The latter will then make follow-up as part of the generic oversight function over the concerned department and state agencies.

14. CONCLUSION

The conceptualisation of the project remains a political prerogative with administration providing the necessary technical and professional support.

The successful implementation of the event hinges around all role players understanding the value of their contribution and then taking their share in terms of participation.

We appreciate all role players in anticipation

PPPU