



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC HEARINGS REPORT FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL (B9-2022) HELD IN THE NINE PROVINCES OF SOUTH AFRICA



**FOLLOWING UP
ON OUR COMMITMENTS
TO THE PEOPLE, MAKING
YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER.**

Nhlanhla Ginindza

2 August 2023

Presentation outline

- Introduction
- Proposed Amendments
- New Clauses and General Matters
- Emerging Issues
- Service Delivery
- Recommendations for Parliament

Introduction



Focus on the oral and written submissions received during the 27 public hearings in the 9 provinces



Input from written submissions received during 2022 separate from this presentation



13 135 submissions will be part of the Department's presentation ~600 pages



18 Feb 2022 – Bill referred to the Portfolio Committee – JTM process



20 Apr 2022 – 27 May 2022 – Period for written submissions



07 Sep 2022 – started virtual public hearings based on written submissions

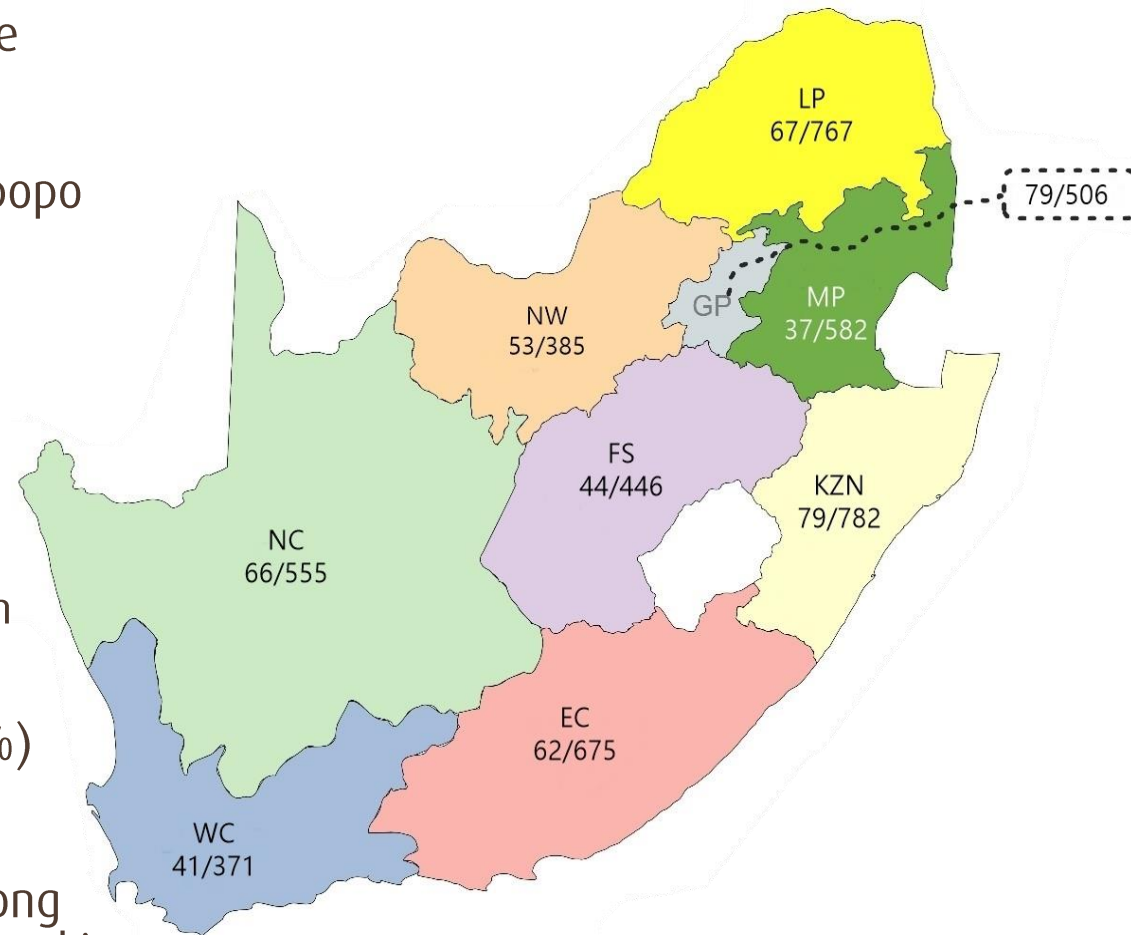


03 Feb 2023 – PHs started in Embalenhle, MP and ended in Khayelitsha, WC on 16 Jul 2023



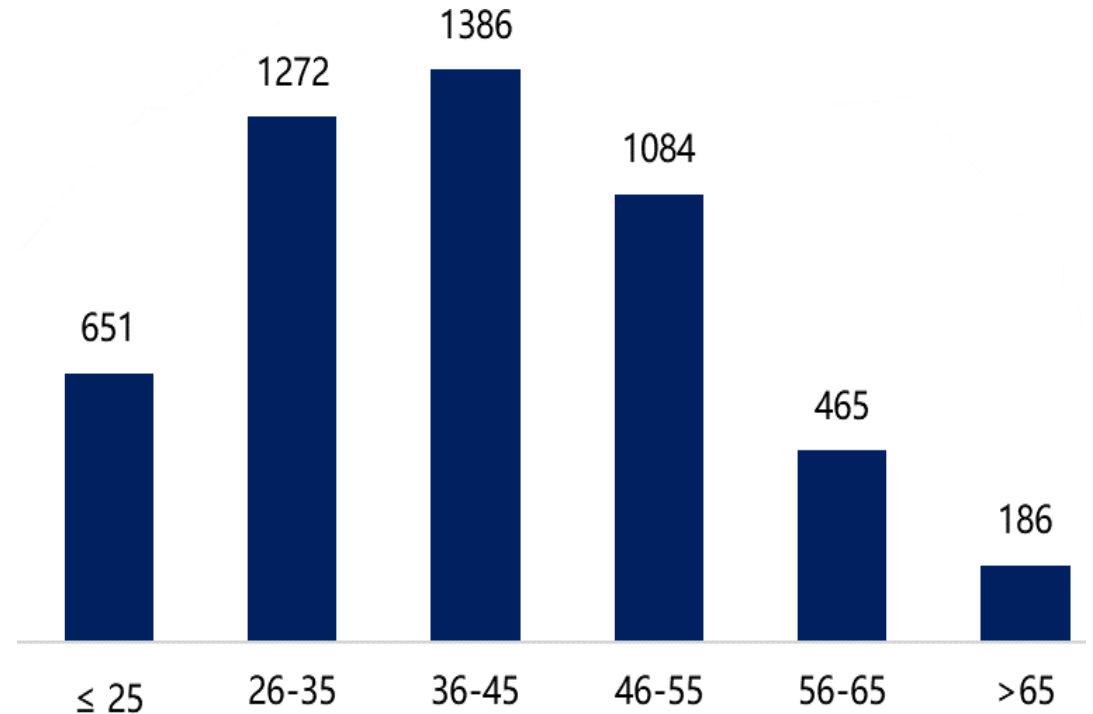
Attendance and speakers

- 528 speakers \Rightarrow 10.4% of 5 069 people
- Highest attendance from KZN and Limpopo
 - KZN \Rightarrow 15.4% then Limpopo at 15.1%
- Lowest attendance in WC \Rightarrow 7.3%
- Speakers ranged between 37 and 79
 - GP and KZN \Rightarrow 79 speakers (~15%) each
- Smallest share of all speakers – MP (7%)
- When comparing oral submissions among provinces, GP had 16% of attendees speaking, while MP only had 6% of attendees speaking.

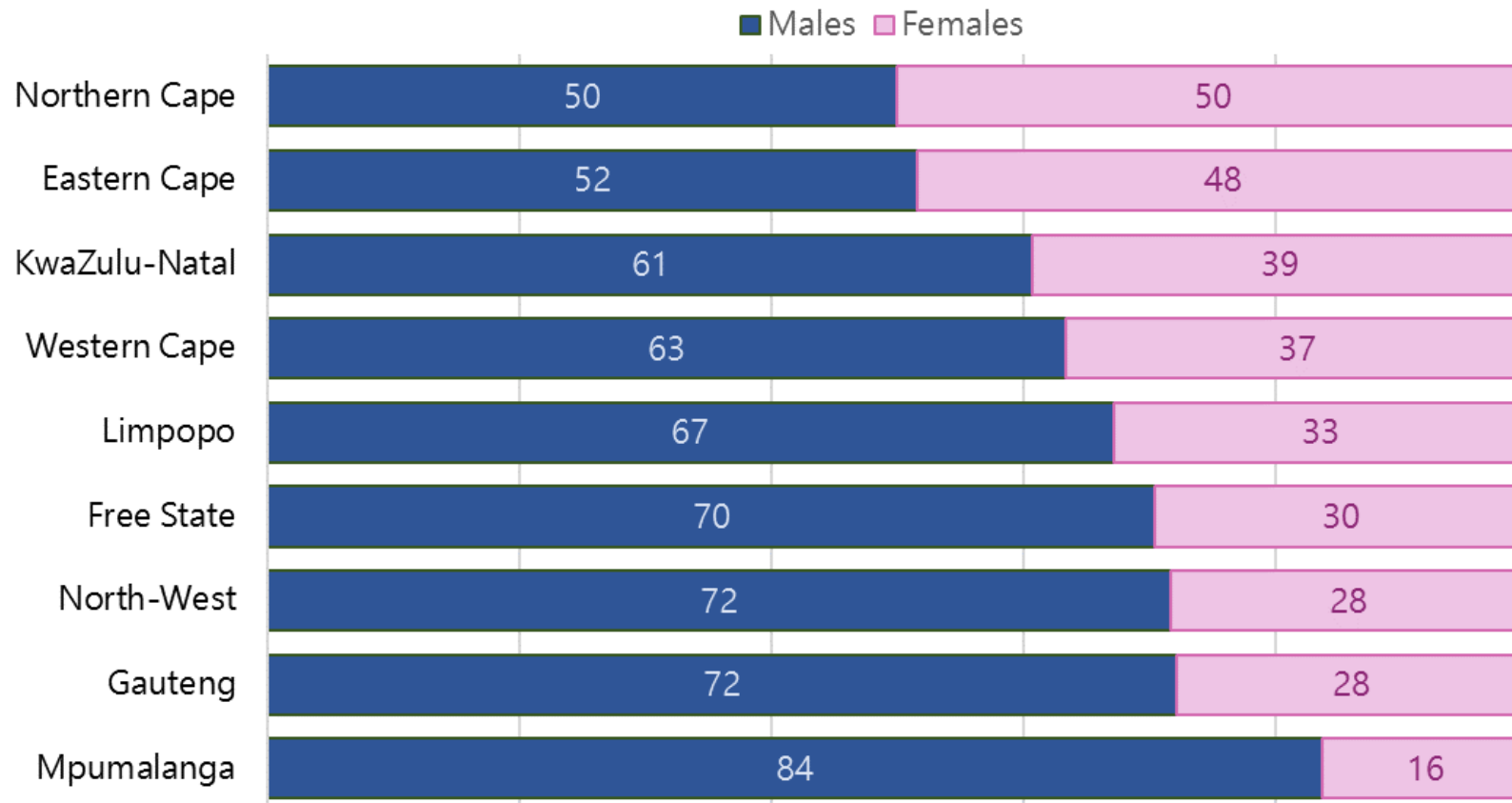


Age composition of attendees

- 38% of attendees were youth (<35 years)
- Mpumalanga and Free State had highest youth attendance \Rightarrow 46% each, while Limpopo had the lowest \Rightarrow 28%
- KwaZulu-Natal had the highest attendance of people >65 year \Rightarrow 6% of attendees, while in Mpumalanga they made 1% of attendees

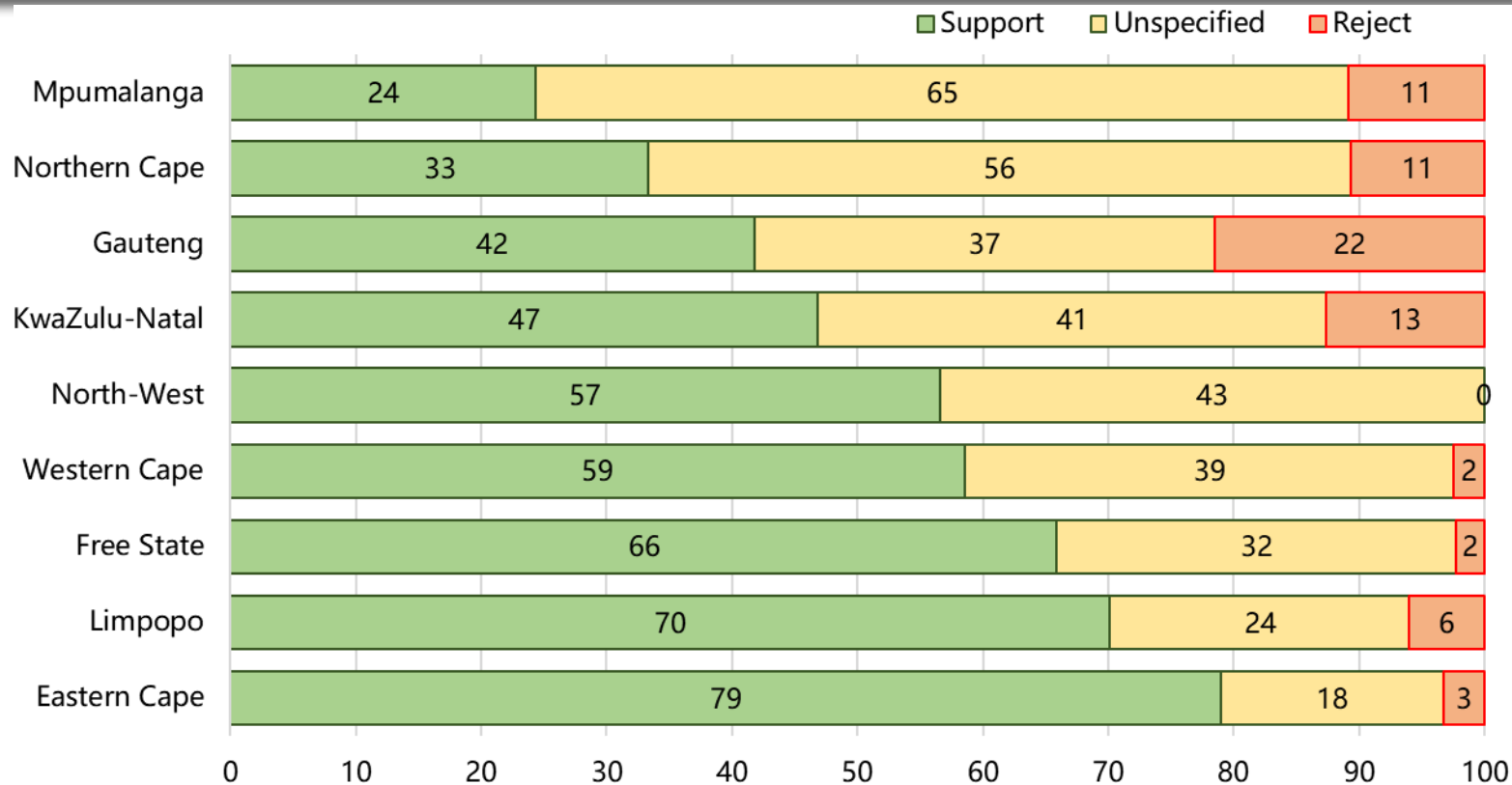


Gender composition of speakers



- 65% of speakers were males
- Northern Cape had the highest share of female speakers \Rightarrow 50%
 - Mpumalanga had only 16% of speakers being females

Support for the Bill



- 280 speakers (53%) supported the Bill and 46 (9%) rejected the Bill
- 202 (38%) did not specify their position, reserved or had conditions to be met before they could support the Bill
- Inputs included proposed amendments, additional clauses and matters to be considered when crafting regulations or at implementation stage



Proposed changes or additions

Clause	Proposed changes or additions
Title and purpose of the Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the fourth paragraph of the preamble, replace variability with 'change', so that it reads as climate change instead of climate variability.• The title of the Bill should be referred to as the Greenhouse Gas Bill because it focuses on greenhouse gas emissions, rather than climate change adaptation and mitigations.
Clause 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bill should provide the definition of "Person"
Clause 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clause 2 should reflect a commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement of achieving 1.5°C.• Clause 2 should have a provision that advocates for the use of Just Transition Funds to advance jobs and skills, instead of sustaining unviable businesses.• The Objects of the Bill should specify 'achieving net-zero emission by 2050' and emphasise the urgency and severity of the climate crisis.
Clause 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bill should include a specific clause to ensure the effective implementation of Clause 3(f), with a focus on promoting women's participation in the proposed forums or Presidential Climate Commission.• An amendment to Clause 3(f) is necessary to incorporate farm-dwellers and their needs. Special programmes should be designed to include them, focusing on building climate resilience in their communities.• The Bill should ensure comprehensive provisions for the implementation of Clause 3f, especially in poor communities.



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 7** • Clause 7 should require all government levels and departments to assess baseline emissions, create reduction plans, and set reporting timelines. State Departments must achieve decarbonization within a specified timeframe, like three or five years.
- Clause 8** • Clauses 8, 9, and 10 need to be revised to clarify how ordinary people can join the Forums or PCC. Each clause should include a qualifying criterion, limits, clear and transparent procedures for joining these structures, and a way to object to the participation of certain candidates.
- Enhance Clauses 8 and 9 to specify stakeholder roles, ways to prevent bloated and dysfunctional forums, and capacitate them with clear timelines and Ministerial responsibilities.
- Clause 9** • Clause 9 of the Bill should be reconsidered because municipalities do not or cannot enforce current legislation, and the Climate Change Act will also not get enforced.
- Clause 9 should include a mandatory public reporting requirement to hold municipalities accountable and address their disregard for public sentiments.
 - The mandate of municipal forums in clause 9 should be extended to combat land and water pollution.
 - Clause 9 should be amended to explicitly include local municipalities in the establishment of climate change forums at the local and ward levels and enable the formation of Working Committees. These forums should be supported to coordinate local responses to climate change.
 - Clause 9 should empower local municipalities to develop Local Climate Adaptation Strategies and Plans that are aligned with the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan, and the support that will be provided to this local structure to coordinate local responses.



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 10**
- The Climate Commission should be a stand-alone body or Chapter 9 institution and empowered to operate independently. The President should not be part of it, rather the Commission should report to the Presidency and Parliament.
 - Clause 10 does not provide clarity on who the PCC reports to. In the current format, the President and his Commission are funded by DFFE and report to the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.
 - Clause 10(1) should read as “The President must establish...” instead of “The President may establish”.
 - Clause 10(1) should not include businesspeople because they are the main contributors to the climate change problems that the country and the world are facing. The presence of business representatives will derail enforcement and compliance with climate change mitigation plans.
 - Clause 10(2) should have a phrase that specifies that the appointment of Commissioners will be transparent following an invitation for applications or nominations that will be followed by public interviews, like those conducted for judges or other commissioners.
 - Clause 10 should ring-fence a certain number of Commissioner posts to accommodate traditional leaders (from the national houses of traditional leaders), community trust, traditional health practitioners and representatives of local government.



Proposed changes or additions

Clause 10

- Clause 10 should have a clause that will allow Parliament to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to process the applications or nominations of Commissioners, where the President can be Chairperson or not get involved at all.
- Clause 10 should be amended to reduce the number from 30 to be in line with other Commissions that have less than 15 commissioners.
- There is no need of establishing the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) as contemplated in clauses 10 and 11 because it will be a financial burden to the taxpayers, as the work is already done by various departments.
- Clauses 10 or 12(1) should specify that the appointment by the President as a Commissioner will be for a period not exceeding five years and may be renewed for a period not exceeding five years.

Clause 11

- Clause 11 should compel the Minister and the Presidential Climate Commission to update the nation regularly or quarterly on the Just Transition, particularly affected communities.
- Under clause 11, the recommendations of the PCC should be binding to ensure that government implement them, otherwise, they will be ignored.



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 12**
- Clause 12 should have a section that stipulates the term of appointment as Commissioners, such as three or five years, instead of leaving it open-ended.
 - Clause 12 should specify the transparent appointment process to be followed for Commissioners, such as a call for nomination, selection, interviews by a panel, and recommendations to the President.
 - Clause 12 should also prescribe limits such as the number of terms that a commissioner may serve, such as that a member of the Commission whose term has expired, may be reappointed for one additional term.
 - The PCC envisaged in Clause 12 should have a seat for the energy and metallurgy sector since they are the primary contributors to the country's greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) would like to have a seat in the PCC proposed in clause 12 to be able to advance the interests of local government stakeholders.
 - As proposed in Clause 12, the PCC would consist of representatives from various sectors. However, the PCC has already been established before the adoption of regulations. Once the Bill is enacted, will the existing PCC be dissolved?
- Clause 13**
- Clause 13 should read as "The Presidential Climate Commission must provide a report on any report it provided to the Government in terms of section 11(b)". The report should be publicly available.
- Clause 15**
- Clause 15 should prescribe certain climate change adaptation measures that should be standard across all municipalities to improve resilience to climate impacts such as stormwater management.
 - Clause 15(1) should be amended to include local municipalities as they are the ones that are accessible and responsive to local community matters, not the district and province.

- Clause 16** • In Clause 16, there must be an insertion to compel the Minister or MEC to conduct public awareness campaigns as envisaged in Clause 3(k) at a defined interval.
- Clause 17** • Clause 17 should have a provision that will enable the Minister to allocate resources to vulnerable municipalities and they get prioritised in being aided to implement adaptation strategies and plans.
- Clause 17(2)(a) should add 'indigenous knowledge'.
- Clause 18** • Clause 18 should have a provision to compel the custodians of the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002 to act within 24 or 48 hours because disasters need an immediate response.
- Clause 18(3) should make reviewing National Adaptation Strategy and Plans mandatory, with reduced review intervals such as every two or three years review to encourage constant monitoring and implementation. The timeframes in the Bill are too long and do not consider the urgency of the climate crisis.
 - Amend clause 18(4)(e) of the Bill to compel Ministers to coordinate adaptation measures of their portfolios and regularly report efforts to address climate change. The provision should ensure that there is alignment in policy positions and plans in all three tiers of government.



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 21**
- A forum for consultation with impacted stakeholders should be included in Clause 21, preventing the Minister from determining and publishing emission targets without first seeking input from them.
 - Clause 21(1) should provide a timeframe, while the timeframe in clause 21(4) should be reduced to biennially or triennially to encourage implementation instead of five years.
 - Clause 21 is based on outdated figures and thus affects clause 22. If the greenhouse gas emission trajectory is incorrect, it affects the limits or sectoral emission targets.
 - Clauses 21 and 22 are not specific enough, they need to be broken down further.
 - Clause 21 should mandate that every local municipality must maintain and report data from at least one functional weather station and air quality monitoring station, while each metropolitan municipality should have at least three air quality monitoring stations.
 - The clause should compel the Department to invest in air quality monitoring infrastructure instead of relying on the industry to monitor itself. The data from monitoring stations should be publicly available, instead of requesting it via the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) No. 2 of 2000, which does not guarantee the disclosure of pollution information.

- Clause 23**
- Clause 23(1) should be revised to acknowledge the existing scientific consensus on gases that contribute to climate change.
 - Clause 23 should have a provision to compel the Minister to ensure that all air quality monitoring stations are functional and do not exceed a month without reporting pollutants and critical greenhouse gases



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 24**
- Clause 24 should be amended to empower the Minister to allocate provincial carbon budgets to MECs, who can further allocate to districts.
 - The carbon budget in clause 24 should be given to a juristic person as a reference to any person could be misconstrued to mean a natural person.
 - Clause 24 should create a platform or forum where businesses or civil society can negotiate or lobby on the allocation of the carbon budget.
 - Clause 24 should specify that the carbon budget application and allocation process will be transparent. Decisions on allocations should be publicly available.
- Clause 25**
- Clause 25 advocates for phasing out or phasing down, but does not put the responsibility of preventing job losses. The phasing out or down transitions should specify circumstances under which they can be implemented.
- Clause 27**
- Clause 27(1)(b) should have 'rebates' to encourage green energy installations.
- Clause 28**
- Clause 28 needs to include a provision that mandates seeking public input before approving projects by municipalities, to prevent approval of potentially harmful projects.
- Clause 30**
- Clause 30 should have a subsection that empowers the Minister to delegate some powers to traditional leaders to implement measures to ensure environmental disaster preparedness or combat environmental degradation that may weaken the disaster resilience of rural communities.



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 31**
- The Bill should prioritise transparency by making the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and other relevant information publicly available. Regular progress updates and comprehensive information should be accessible to the private sector and civil society to keep them well-informed about the Bill's implementation.
 - Clause 31 should allow the Minister to publish information about the Bill on a dedicated website without requiring people to make a formal request under the PAIA or the Protection of Personal Information Act No. 4 of 2013. This would make it easier for people to access information about compliance, which would increase transparency and accountability.
 - Specific provisions must ensure that all members of society are considered and included, requiring disclosure of information regarding the closure of coal power stations, support provided to contractors in the coal value chain, and the planned and funded alternative energy sources to replace coal power.
 - Furthermore, the Bill must address the responsibility for supporting the jobs that will be lost by contractors and associated economic activities during this transition.
 - The Bill needs to provide clarity and adequate mechanisms for monitoring, tracking, reporting, and evaluating emissions reduction, mitigation, and adaptation efforts.
 - Clause 31 should have a provision compelling Government to annually publish compliance and enforcement data as they relate to Climate Change or related environmental legislation such as the Air Quality Act.
 - Government departments and other entities should be subject to the same transparency standards.



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 32**
- Clause 32 should provide strong sanctions or penalties for pollution that exceed limits, such as imprisonment, suspension of the operating licence and termination of licence if non-compliance issues are not addressed within a specified period or a combination of the listed sanctions. It must specify a minimum time frame for arrests and stipulate deterrent-effective fines or sanctions.
 - Clause 32 should specify categories of penalties for exceeding or violating emission limits, instead of focussing on penalties for not submitting a report.
 - Clause 32 should provide a framework for calculating the amount of administrative penalty in line with the sectoral emission targets or carbon budget.
 - Under clause 32, the Bill should jointly hold the mining, energy and petrochemical companies responsible for the environmental and health damages, the associated burden of respiratory diseases, and the costs of remedying the situation. Modalities for corrective action will then be outlined in regulations.
 - Clause 32 should list providing false information as an offence with clear individual and company penalties.
 - Clause 32 needs a provision to enable for the establishment of a framework for sanctions, the associated process and appeals.
 - The DMRE, DFFE and municipalities have not been enforcing mining licences and air quality conditions and a culture of non-compliance has been established. The Bill should have a clause that will enable sanctions against individuals or accounting officers responsible for enforcement of environmental legislation.



Proposed changes or additions

- Clause 32**
- The penalties under Clause 32 should consider the high unemployment and poverty rates in the country.
 - Clause 32 should create a platform where traditional leaders that are affected by emissions may have a say on the sanctions against companies.
 - Clause 32 should empower traditional leaders to sanction offenders that increase the climate vulnerability of communities, such as those who destroy vegetation or tree cover that may act as a buffer against extreme weather events.
- Clause 33**
- Clause 33 should have a subsection to empower the Minister or MEC not to consider an appeal from a person that has outstanding carbon tax payments.
- Schedule 3**
- The inclusion of South Africa's 2021 NDCs in Schedule 3 of the Bill is recommended to assess if adjustments are necessary to align with the emission ranges described. This Schedule of the Bill needs to be updated and rely on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge when setting targets and timelines to ensure alignment with international commitments such as the Paris Agreement. The Bill's alignment with the 2021 NDC is crucial for international partnerships, including the Just Energy Transition Partnership for supporting South Africa's climate response.

New Clauses and General Concerns

Chapter	Clause or concern
Chapter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bill should specify in a clause that there will be public awareness and capacitation towards the implementation when signed into law in line with Clause 3(k).• The Bill should refer to veld fire mitigation as a way of preventing air pollution and carbon emissions.• The Bill needs to define 'consultations' to ensure that they are meaningful, understandable and inclusive.
Chapter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Chapter 2, the Bill assigns too much power to the Minister, MECs and Mayors, yet these individuals are responsible for the high levels of pollution in the Highveld Priority Area. The Bill should assign the climate change decision-making process to a group or entity that will have equal voting power.• The Bill should add a new clause to recognise Community Forums on Climate Change to coordinate at the community level since some municipalities are dysfunctional.• The proposed institutional arrangements in Chapter 2 of the Bill are not aligned with the District Development Model (DDM).• Regarding clause 7, there are apparent inconsistencies with the Department of Minerals and Energy (DMRE), as demonstrated by past evidence of the DMRE's tendency to prioritise their programmes regardless of environmental regulations.• The Bill should create an interdepartmental structure to ease coordination and communication among government departments, which will also eliminate policy contradictions.

New Clauses and General Concerns

- Chapter 2
- A provision should be added after clause 9 to **establish Community Forums** that will help coordinate local climate responses and monitor the implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies aimed at combating the impact of climate change in local communities.
 - The Department should ensure that the proposed Provincial and Municipal Climate Change Forums under Chapter 2 of the Bill are designed and implemented with **clear guidelines, objectives, and responsibilities** to ensure their effectiveness and functionality.
 - Under Chapter 2, add a clause that will establish a **National Forum on Climate Change** to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and coordination between different stakeholders or different forums.
 - Clause 9 should include a provision for a standing alternative to the Mayor who can attend forum meetings in their absence. Additionally, the Bill should clearly state that the **Mayor is responsible for appointing a person to oversee climate change matters**.
 - Clauses should add a responsibility that Forums should **conduct climate change outreach functions**.
 - Clauses 8, 9 and 10 should have a provision for the membership of a representative from traditional leaders (a representative from the provincial houses of traditional leaders), the business sector and the religious fraternity (a representative from the Provincial Interfaith Council of South Africa).
 - Clauses 8, 9 and 10 should have a **gender representation requirement** to ensure equitable representation. All provisions of the Bill should consider their possible impact on women.

New Clauses and General Concerns

Chapter 3

- There should be clarity on clause 15 on **whether the DFFE will capacitate all 205 local municipalities** and provide implementation resources for the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan.
- After clause 15(5), there should be a subsection with a provision to **empower local municipalities to deal with disasters** because district municipalities are far and often inaccessible or too slow to respond during disasters.
- After clause 15(5), there should be a provision to **compel or empower municipalities to develop climate change responses** and include them in their Integrated Development Plan (IDP). If local municipalities are not included, they will not have the new mandate funded or catered for in their plans.
- After clause 15(5), there should be a provision for the **Minister to equip traditional councils to develop and implement or coordinate a climate change response** implementation plan. The addition of traditional councils should be explicit in the Bill because they are always present when help is needed.

Chapter 4

- The Bill should have a clause that will **promote indigenous or traditional knowledge** on climate change adaptations allowing communities to apply their preferred climate strategies, instead of solely relying on Western knowledge.
- The Bill should have a clause that will make **Climate Change awareness or education programmes compulsory**, both in the school curriculum and in communities.
- Under Chapter 4, add a clause that will provide for the **creation of Provincial and Local Adaptation Strategies**.

New Clauses and General Concerns

Chapter 4

- Under Chapter 4, add a clause that will necessitate the **alignment of provincial and local adaptation strategies** with national objectives and provide the necessary **support for their effective implementation**.
- To enhance transparency, coordination and accountability, the Presidential Climate Commission should report to the National Climate Forum under Chapter 4 should be chaired by the Minister responsible for Environment.
- Chapter 4 should also provide support to those who will be charged with implementation as most provinces don't have the required resources to implement the current legislation and the new Climate Change
- A provision should be added to Clause 18 to provide a conditional grant for local municipalities affected by climate disasters to assist with their recovery efforts.

Chapter 5

- The Bill should include a provision under Chapter 5 to mandate every **household to plant at least two trees**, one for shade and another for fruit-bearing purposes.
- Chapter 5 needs to be expanded to address **greenhouse gas emissions from households and individuals**, not just focusing on large-emitting corporations and industries. This will allow for a more comprehensive approach to reducing emissions and promoting sustainability at the individual level.
- The Bill should have a clause to establish a multidisciplinary advisory panel to inform carbon budgets and sectoral emissions that will align with the NDCs.
- Each clause under Chapter 5 should include clear and shorter timeframes for the Minister to set carbon budgets, emission targets, and related commitments.

New Clauses and General Concerns

Chapter 5

- The Bill should include a provision mandating **real-time monitoring and baseline studies on emissions at the municipal level** to ensure accurate calculations towards the NDCs and for appropriate compensations, as demonstrated in the asbestos case.
- The Bill should require that there be **compulsory emission monitoring and reports from local municipalities** through Environmental Health Practitioners.
- The Bill should include a provision for **decentralising environmental officials**, enabling monitoring and implementation at both district and local municipality levels. This will enhance effectiveness in addressing environmental issues at the local level.
- Chapter 5 needs a clause to **prevent DFFE from continuously granting ESKOM and SASOL extensions or exemptions from compliance with emission standards.**

Chapter 6

- Under Chapter 6, the Bill should have a clause to **compel the Minister, MEC or Mayors to conduct regular public information or awareness sessions** on climate change impacts, and adaptation and mitigation plans and programmes. The regulations will then prescribe the mode and frequency of such sessions.
- After clause 27, there should be a clause that will speak to the monitoring, enforcement and reporting of compliance or non-compliance with the regulations.
- In Chapter 6, the Bill should include provisions for compensating citizens for environmental and health damages caused by non-compliant operators and enable the Government to recover the funds from an errant company.

New Clauses and General Concerns

Chapter 6

- Chapter 6 should have a clause to create a mechanism that benefits impacted communities when fines are paid by polluters, rather than having all penalty funds directed elsewhere.
- The Bill should have a provision under clause 28 that will make a consultation with community forums or local structures compulsory before finalising regulations. This function can be delegated to the province or district.
- Chapter 6 should have a provision to enable businesses who wish to withhold certain information to appear before and present before the Commission or Minister for possible exemption.
- Clause 32 should add a liability clause to enable affected workers or communities to institute claims against companies that may cause health or environmental damages.

Climate Finance / Fund

- The Bill needs to have a 'Funding' or 'Climate Finance' section that will enable the allocation of grants or resources to qualifying NGOs to advance climate change adaptation and resilience programmes at a municipal level, particularly where municipalities are dysfunctional.
- The Bill should clearly outline a transparent and accountable funding model for the PCC. It should also mandate the National Treasury to allocate a dedicated budget for climate adaptation in communities, while companies can access climate finance through appropriate channels.
- The Bill should have a Funding clause to help the house of traditional leaders to implement climate adaptation or mitigation programmes, including the protection or development of forests to be game reserves and create jobs.

New Clauses and General Concerns

Climate Finance / Fund

- Under “Climate Finance” there should be a provision for a framework that will govern fundraising, collection of non-compliance penalties and allocation of resources to all spheres of government, including accountability for the allocated financial resources.
- The Bill will not be implemented at the municipal level without a clearly defined framework of financing adaptation or mitigation plans.
- The Bill should have a section that will focus on the funding of climate adaptation plans at the provincial, district and local municipal levels.
- The Bill is silent on harmonising disaster funds and climate finance for the benefit of communities.
- The Bill should have a clause to provide for immediate intervention in the case of a climate-related disaster to circumvent the slow and ineffective interventions under the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002.
- The Bill should have a provision to enable support to households and businesses affected by climate change impacts or disasters to be resilient or recover.

New Clauses and General Concerns

General

- Rather than introducing new legislation, it is advisable to add clauses to existing environmental laws and enforce them effectively.
- The Bill should include provisions to address the impacts of climate change on animals, ensuring their well-being and survival.
- The Bill should have a clause on compliance and enforcement and means to prevent corruption.
- The Bill must have a section or a clause that establishes a clear and comprehensive mechanism to support workers affected by climate change mitigation measures.
- The Government should ensure consistency and alignment between Clause 21 of the Bill, which promotes greenhouse gas emission reduction, and its industrialisation policy, such as the Musina-Makhado special economic zone and Ekurhuleni.
- The Bill should provide clear timelines for actions expected from the Minister, MECs and districts.
- The Bill aims to include women and youth participation but does not incorporate a clause specific to youth and women's involvement.

Consultations and Communication

- The consultations are not meaningful
- Copies of the Bill were only availed to attendees at the venue
- The poor mobilisation, miscommunication about transport arrangements, and short and inadequate notice
- There were inadequate translation services in some public meetings
- Speakers advocate referring the Bill to the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, as it is where the most vulnerable citizens reside, and more focus on adaptation work is required.
- The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment should work together with the National House, Provincial House and District House of Traditional Leaders to ensure that all traditional councils are either briefed or workshopped on the Bill.
- It is not appropriate to expect representatives to express support for a Bill without first obtaining a mandate and engaging in discussion with their constituency.
- There should be another round of public hearings after workshops

Education and Awareness Programmes...

- Appointments and training of people, particularly youth and people living with disabilities, to conduct climate change awareness, pollution prevention and climate adaptation programmes in villages, schools and other locations.
- Awareness programmes targeting children through incorporation into the curriculum
- Department should conduct **awareness programmes or campaigns on climate change impacts, adaptation, mitigation, and government support** available to communities and households for climate disaster preparedness and recovery
- The Bill is complex and challenging to comprehend – need workshops in simplified local language
- Environmental LandCare programme was useful and needs to be reintroduced at schools
- Conduct awareness programmes on the importance of medicinal trees and work together with law enforcement to combat deforestation or illegal harvesting of trees for personal or business purposes
- Department and municipalities should partner with local formations to conduct awareness programmes that promote religious and cultural practices to prevent, adapt or mitigate climate change or natural disasters.
- awareness about waste management focusing on responsible waste disposal, recycling practices, and the dangers of land pollution
- Department should collaborate with community-based organisations and Ward Committees to enhance understanding of climate change, pollution prevention and accessing DFFE services

...Education and Awareness Programmes

- Traditional councils should be capacitated to conduct climate change awareness programmes in their villages
- The Department should conduct **capacitation programmes in the judiciary** so that courts may be equipped to handle climate crimes such as greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, extraction and use of fossil fuels, etc
- Awareness campaigns and educational programmes should be conducted to encourage the planting of indigenous trees and vegetation and reduce 'temporary unplanted areas'
- There should be structured community training and awareness programmes on responding to early warnings.
- The Department should use students or graduates to drive environmental awareness campaigns or programmes.
- Compulsory agricultural programmes or subjects should be introduced in schools to improve efforts towards food security and create awareness among students about environmental challenges and sustainable practices.



Enforcement of environmental legislation

- Air Quality Act is not enforced because monitoring stations are not operational, emission data is allegedly doctored by municipal officials to appear as compliant, and the Government turns a blind eye to non-compliance
- Petrochemical companies, factories, waste management companies and the Government mutually shield each other
- Due to the high levels of corruption or incompetence among government officials, an independent body should be responsible for monitoring water, soil, and air quality
- Poor ambient air quality in the Highveld Priority Area is reported as compliant among polluters. In contrast, hospital admissions for respiratory illnesses are on the increase and the Government does not review the compliance records or update standards
- There is a need for government to invest in air quality monitoring infrastructure instead of relying on the industry to monitor itself.
- There is no guarantee that the Climate Change Bill will be enforced after being signed into law
- Capacity in all levels of Government should be increased to monitor emitting industries and enforce current laws, including the Climate Change legislation once it is passed
- The municipalities should conduct inspections in the township and informal settlements to ensure compliance with legislation and by-laws by scrapyards and motor mechanic workshops.



Biodiversity use and conservation

- The CSIR and SANBI should collaborate to protect and enhance indigenous plant and animal species that play a crucial role in traditional healing and insect control
- The collection or digging of medicinal plants or hunting of medicinal animals should be regulated or controlled to ensure the sustainability of traditional healing practices, either through formal registration or exemption.
- Regular monitoring and transparent accounting for budgets and planted trees in the country
- Promote and support the widespread planting of spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*) across South Africa
- There should be ongoing tree-planting programmes that involve non-governmental organisations, schools and other formations such as religious institutions
- DFFE and Agriculture should work together to eradicate the *Parthenium hysterophorus* in Zululand where the invasive weed is causing respiratory and skin problems to humans while overtaking grazing land for livestock and reducing crop yields and biodiversity
- The Department and municipalities should ensure the rehabilitation and channelization of rivers to limit further pollution and erosion
- The conservation of existing forests should be prioritised coupled with the planting of more trees

Reinstatement of the Rangers' programme

- The Department should reinstate the ranger programme and allocate sufficient funding to ensure regular inspections and enforcement of environmental legislation and regulations to curb illegal hunting, deforestation, and sand mining.
- The ranger programme should be designed to create job opportunities in the field of environmental awareness and protection, benefitting local communities and promoting biodiversity conservation.
- To ensure the success and effectiveness of the ranger programme, fair compensation for rangers should be guaranteed, motivating them to carry out their duties diligently and enforce best environmental management practices.



Just transition and employment

- The Bill should address the issue of cash-for-jobs corruption prevalent at the municipal level and incorporate clear provisions for the creation of fair, transparent, and equitable job opportunities
- Education, training, skills development, and financial support should be provided to ensure a just transition to alternative employment
- The Just Transition is portrayed as a sustainable solution to poverty, unemployment, and inequalities, yet the truth is that the number of permanent jobs from the coal-based energy generation value chain far exceeds the number of renewable energy jobs that are temporary
- South Africa should refrain from hasty decommissioning of coal power stations until the country can produce equivalent energy from renewable sources
- The Department should advocate for favourable conditions that will encourage the affordable import of electric cars to stimulate the electric car demand or encourage local manufacturing or assembly
- The introduction and implementation of this Bill cause policy confusion and should be delayed to avoid further strain on the economy. Instead, the focus should be on job creation and economic diversification through industrialisation.
- The Department, as a coordinator of the country's climate action, should ensure that all affected departments have scalable transition projects such as the gradual transition from fossil-fuel cars to electric cars and trains, and allocate resources for scalable pilot projects
- A stronger focus should be on transitioning away from fossil fuels, including energy production and halting the search for new reserves



Service Delivery Issues

Access to land

- The DALRRD should work with municipalities, in consultation with farmers, to identify and secure land that can be used for farming
- The Department of Agriculture and the municipalities should allocate alternative land after vegetation is destroyed by fire/overgrazing to eliminate erosion and further land degradation
- Municipalities should establish or enforce regulations to prevent land invasions that frequently lead to pollution of land, air, and water
- Farmers require alternative land for livestock as informal settlements are encroaching on grazing areas
- **More extension officers** must be employed to ensure that services are delivered timeously without the need for endless follow-ups.
- There should be an investigation into the **communal land claim in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District that was allocated to a Chinese mining company** at the expense of the local community
- Local municipalities and traditional leaders should implement **efficient and transparent mechanisms for granting access to fallow land** for agricultural purposes
- There needs to be a **balanced approach to land use**, considering both agricultural and conservation needs to ensure food security and livelihoods are not compromised
- The Department of Agriculture should facilitate and promote collaboration between traditional healers and farmers to enable sustainable and responsible harvesting of medicinal plants that do not compromise either



Service Delivery Issues

Agricultural Support...

- Farmers require assistance in the form of provision for feeds, seeds, and fodder during adverse weather conditions such as winter, excessive rainfall, or when grazing land is scarce or damaged by fire
- The lack of support for emerging farmers impedes agricultural development and job creation while resulting in the exit of Black farmers in the agricultural sector
- The DFFE and the Agriculture Department should conduct public awareness on programmes and funds that can support aspirant fish farmers, including the facilitation of market access
- The Department of Agriculture should develop climate support programmes to help farms affected by climate change, such as restoring agricultural land affected by landslides, erosion, flooding, etc. to improve soil, plant, and animal health and general resilience to climate change
- The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with DFFE, should provide support and incentives to farmers to transition to sustainable farming practices that have lower greenhouse gas emissions and promote environmental conservation, e.g. agroforestry, no-till farming, etc.
- The Departments of Agriculture and Health should recommend and promote dietary changes, including reduced meat consumption and adoption of sustainable agriculture practices
- The Department of Agriculture ought to launch promotional initiatives aimed at promoting goat farming
- The Government should subsidise farmers during the winter months to sustain their livelihoods



Service Delivery Issues

...Agricultural Support

- As boreholes are drying up, the Department of Agriculture and its provincial counterparts should provide water to farmers to help sustain their livestock
- Enhance veterinary services, improve veterinary capacity, and address the shortage of extension services to provide farmers with the necessary support and knowledge
- A useful web portal or conduct imbizo or awareness campaigns on available funding, support and services to farmers, as well as ways to access them.
- The Department of Agriculture, SAPS (South African Police Service), and the municipality should collaborate on implementing a programme to effectively address and prevent stock theft
- The Departments of Agriculture and Environment should help remove invasive plants that harm livestock and impact people's livelihoods



Service Delivery Issues

Business support and economic development

- The Bill should include clear provisions to support businesses of all sizes in implementing carbon budget thresholds, mitigation plans, and measures to adapt to and recover from extreme weather events
- Municipalities should have a dedicated area where entrepreneurs such as skilled artisans, shisanyama operators, and auto mechanics can work, instead of working from residential areas or environmentally sensitive areas
- The Department and municipalities should support business ideas that seek to scale the production and planting of spekboom and explore its potential for covering vast areas of land to increase carbon sequestration throughout the country
- Municipalities should streamline their processes to reduce red tape and facilitate the growth of small, medium, and micro enterprises.
- The proposed Bill could jeopardise industrialisation progress in metropolitan municipalities and exacerbate the country's existing unemployment problem
- The municipality should provide better support for business development, and the Small Business Development Department should be more accessible to aspiring entrepreneurs
- The long and constant interchanges between load shedding and load reduction are negatively impacting small businesses and ordinary lives



Service Delivery Issues

Climate Disaster Support or Recovery

- The Government should develop a clear and comprehensive disaster support plan
- Districts and local municipalities should improve their support to communities during environmental disasters, providing them with timely assistance and aid to aid in their recovery and rebuilding efforts
- Adequate budget allocation should be made for repairing or replacing infrastructure damaged by climate disasters, ensuring that necessary repairs and replacements can be promptly undertaken
- Climate change-driven fires are increasing in the area and communities need to be provided with fire beaters, and Government should recruit and train firefighters to build municipal capacity to service townships and villages
- The Department, Disaster Management Centre, District, and Local Municipalities should collaborate to establish effective early warning systems, improve plan coordination, enhance disaster preparedness, and ensure timely responses to environmental disasters
- Municipalities should establish permanent disaster shelters and improve their responses with other government agencies
- Key provincial stakeholders, such as FPAs, should be given proper consideration when requesting the declaration of a disaster under the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002



Service Delivery Issues

Councillors and municipal services

- Mayors and councillors are visible only during election campaigns or lack awareness and knowledge of accessing disaster funds for climate disaster recovery or compensation
- The Department should have workshop sessions in municipalities to capacitate councillors on the Bill and climate change
- Municipalities' responsiveness is typically poor, and there should be a mechanism to compel the municipalities to respond within specific time frames
- Councillors and mayors do not attend traditional council meetings or send a representative
- Where municipalities are under-capacitated, funds should be mobilised to help community-based NGOs to implement anti-pollution programmes, and assist farmers and small businesses
- Municipalities need to construct sports or recreational facilities and activities to engage children during winter to keep them away from starting fires.
- The municipality should ensure that their officials do their waste collection properly and prevent occupation of wetlands
- Municipalities should see to it that ward committees are established, functional and used in public awareness programmes



Service Delivery Issues

Energy security

- The Mpumalanga communities feel that they produce most of the country's energy, yet they get subjected to the worst load reduction and load-shedding
- To mitigate the risks associated with the burning of firewood and blankets, the Government should address the ongoing electricity price hikes, load shedding, and load reduction, ensuring a stable and reliable electricity supply
- The Government should introduce a subsidy programme aimed at incentivising the installation of solar energy systems.
- The DFFE together with the Department of Minerals and Resources should ensure that electricity prices are reduced as more solar plants are set up
- The Government should prioritise providing a stable and uninterrupted electricity supply to water treatment plants
- Stricter measures needed to control the theft and sale of stolen electricity cables
- Government should advance programmes that will help women to transition to green energy as the burden associated with the lack of access to sustainable energy and its impact weighs more on women and girls
- To achieve a seamless transition, the country should begin by piloting, optimising, and expanding green energy generation and distribution in provinces without coal power stations before gradually phasing out coal power stations
- Eskom should take measures to address intermittent supply caused by illegal electricity connections (Izinyoka) and load shedding to mitigate the negative impacts on the health and well-being of citizens, particularly in colder regions
- Green hydrogen should be cautiously considered as an energy source because the country has a water shortage



Service Delivery Issues

Employment and skilling opportunities

- Municipalities should roll out programmes to create jobs to eliminate substance abuse and crime among the youth
- Human resources needs to be built to inspect, analyse data, service monitoring equipment and enforce the existing and this new environmental legislation
- Unemployed people who are above 35 years struggle to find jobs, funding and skills development opportunities due to exclusion criteria
- The lack of employment opportunities and the persistent load reduction and load shedding is forcing community members to deforest to generate income and meet household energy requirements
- Ring-fence climate change awareness and preparedness training opportunities specifically for individuals between the ages of 35 and 60
- Government-funded training programmes should align with employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to ensure that trained youths are employable and have pathways to sustainable livelihoods
- Hire more staff or improve work culture to address unanswered calls and emails at the municipalities
- Municipalities and the Department need to find a way of repurposing part of the EPWP jobs to cover the capacity shortage in climate change awareness
- The Department should provide forestry graduates with skills development opportunities by assigning them to reforestation projects
- Investment in youth development initiatives and improved waste management could create jobs in recycling, making firebreaks and eliminating veld fires that start at landfill sites
- Farm work provides jobs, but alternative employment is necessary due to the risks and hardships caused by climate change
- Regular inspections on farms because farm workers are not provided with personal protective clothing and are increasingly exposed to deadly working conditions



Service Delivery Issues

The Community Work Programme

- The CWP workers need increased stipend to align with the high cost of living and be equipped with uniforms and proper working tools to enhance their effectiveness
- The CWP should be integrated into the existing EPWP under Environmental Programmes, focusing on reducing environmental degradation and promoting sustainable practices
- To further empower CWP workers, training programmes should be provided to enable them to become health inspectors within the municipality. This would bolster the inspection and enforcement capacity of the municipality

Firefighting services

- Municipalities should implement veld fire awareness programmes to reduce the frequency and intensity of wildfires through preventive measures
- The Department should support Fire Protection Associations with the necessary resources to train and deploy more personnel, particularly youth, for conducting training programmes and actively preventing fires
- Municipalities should allocate adequate resources for firefighting equipment and training for firefighting efforts in regions where water availability may be limited
- To improve fire response times, satellite fire stations equipped with basic firefighting resources should be set up in areas where the distance to existing fire stations is significant



Fisheries-based livelihoods

- The government should support small-scale fishers in the face of adverse effects of climate change on fishing
- Policies and regulations should be revised to include subsistence fishers in fishing rights allocations and bag limits, and measures should be taken to protect them from the negative impact of marine protected areas
- Immediate action should be taken to reduce coastal pollution and contamination of fishing grounds to support small-scale and subsistence fishing activities
- Small-scale fishers are worried by the delayed responses to applications and sporadic presence of departmental officials
- The Department and its provincial counterpart should set out regulations to protect and promote inland small-scale fishers that operate in various water bodies
- The Department and the municipalities should develop programmes to orderly and sustainably exploit fisheries resources in dams and rivers to improve food security and alleviate poverty
- Government intervention is required in Matatiele to address restricted access through private land for economic activities such as fishing



Service Delivery Issues

Housing and informal settlements

- Informal settlements should be provided with water and sanitary services to prevent people from contracting water-borne illnesses and limit the contamination of water bodies
- Municipalities should implement measures to prevent housing development on ecologically sensitive lands, such as wetlands and mountains, by working with traditional leaders to ensure responsible allocation of plots and preventing land invasions
- Government should establish a support scheme to aid homeowners in villages who have lost their homes in climate disasters, providing financial assistance and resources to help them reconstruct their houses
- Municipalities and traditional leaders should reverse the allocation of plots in unsuitable areas or relocate people who have settled in flood-prone areas.
- The Department of Human Settlements (DHS) should lead a programme to develop a comprehensive plan to replace asbestos roofs in schools and houses to safeguard people's health
- The DHS together with either DFFE, the Provincial Department or Municipality should establish regulations that protect indigenous trees during construction to ensure that those trees which do not obstruct the construction plan are preserved
- Municipalities should prioritise the provision of portable toilets to address the issue of pit toilets becoming filled with water during the summer months
- The DHS should ensure that new RDP houses are equipped with solar installations to provide reliable and sustainable electricity
- Government should improve the quality and size of RDP houses to meet the needs of the residents



Service Delivery Issues

Illegal Immigrants

- The Government should enhance border security and improve patrol measures to address the issue of porous borders, thereby preventing the influx of immigrants associated with drug peddling in communities
- Measures should be taken to address environmental degradation caused by illegal immigrants, particularly through sand mining and deforestation, by implementing effective monitoring and enforcement strategies to deter such activities
- Illegal foreign nationals in the country have led to job losses for local young people, and the government should restrict their influx to address this issue
- Implement measures to manage the strain on local resources caused by foreign nationals, ensuring equitable service delivery for all residents

Sinkholes

- The Provincial government and the Merafong Local Municipality should prioritise the restoration of schools affected by sinkholes to ensure the safety and well-being of learners and staff
- Develop a comprehensive plan to address sinkhole growth, preventing homelessness with temporary housing and financial aid, and protecting gravesites through identification and relocation of at-risk sites, and fixing damaged sewage or water pipes
- The government and municipality should focus on monitoring and mitigating the impact of sinkholes, including installing barricades or fences around sinkholes and quarries to prevent accidents and injuries



Mining operations

- DMRE should monitor compliance in mining operations and ensure that sinkholes in Secunda and its surroundings are secured, and budgets allocated to predict and prevent them
- The DMRE should conduct oversight in the Mkhondo Local Municipality at mining operations (such as Imbabala and Silver Lake mines) as the levels of non-compliance such as unfenced quarry water, pollution of nearby water bodies, etc. go unattended
- The DMRE should prioritise rehabilitating the 6 000 abandoned mines to prevent unsafe mining or hijacking by syndicates
- Department and the DMRE should take immediate action to address the greenhouse gases and ozone-damaging gases released from dormant and abandoned mine shafts, including implementing measures to prevent underground explosions
- The application for mining operations should include civil society so that their interests can be considered when final decisions are made, particularly where mining operations will have a direct impact on communities
- Operational and abandoned mines contribute to air and water pollution, their uncontrolled pollution, leads to respiratory illnesses among individuals, causing them to fail medical tests and consequently preventing them from securing employment in the mining sector



Service Delivery Issues

People living with disabilities

- The Government should prioritise and invest in making public transport more accessible and inclusive for people living with disabilities, eliminating the need for them to pay extra for accommodating their wheelchairs
- Local authorities should ensure that public roads are designed and maintained to cater to the mobility needs of people living with disabilities, including the provision of well-constructed sidewalks and wheelchair-friendly pathways
- Public venues, including shopping centres, should be required to have appropriate accessibility features, such as ramps and facilities that cater to the needs of people living with disabilities, including those with visual impairments
- Employment policies and practices should be revised to ensure equal opportunities for people living with disabilities, ensuring that they are considered fairly for job positions based on their qualifications and abilities



Service Delivery Issues

Respiratory diseases

- The National Treasury should ring-fence funds, such as those generated from the carbon tax, specifically for addressing the costs related to respiratory diseases, unemployment and the loss of future income caused by emitting industries
- Employees of petrochemical companies are exposed to high emissions that often result in them failing fitness tests and being laid off. This cycle continues to reproduce respiratory diseases and unemployment
- Pollution from mining and petrochemical industries is contributing to cognitive impairments, blindness and respiratory complications that increase the number of people living with disabilities. Therefore, there should be more schools for people living with disabilities and support centres

Police service

- The police service should be improved in townships and villages to ensure equal responsiveness to all residents, not just those in towns and cities
- Adequate resources and equipment should be provided to the police service to address issues such as understaffing, vehicle shortages, and high vacancies, enabling them to deliver effective services
- Measures should be taken to prevent the usurpation of police service responsibilities by private security companies, ensuring that they operate within their proper jurisdiction and without abusing their powers
- Target and dismantle drug trafficking networks and gang activities through coordinated inter-agency and inter-departmental collaboration
- SAPS should strengthen law enforcement measures to address the rise in petty and violent crimes and ensure effective crime prevention to restore peace and stability in the community



Service Delivery Issues

Roads and transport

- The transition from fossil fuel trucks to electric heavy-duty trucks or trains should be systematically phased to promote sustainability and reduce GHG emissions and damage to road infrastructure
- Government should recommission the railway line for cargo and goods transportation
- The Government should speed up shifting mining products back to railway lines to alleviate the damage caused to road infrastructure by trucks
- Additionally, measures must be implemented to hold mining companies accountable for their role in road damage
- Municipalities should prioritise human capacity to address issues of poor workmanship that may be associated with the awarding of tenders to improve infrastructure quality
- Provinces and municipalities should invest in constructing bridges, sidewalks, improving road conditions and maintaining stormwater drains to prevent flooding during heavy rains, enhance accessibility for tourists, and facilitate easy access to emergency services, healthcare facilities, schools, and other essential services during climate disasters
- To reduce transport-related pollution, there should be the reinstatement of public transport such as busses and railway services
- Heavy rains cause rivers to fill up, impacting school attendance due to the lack of roads, bridges and transportation in new settlements and poor road conditions forcing others to walk through bushes, which puts them at risk of incidents like rape

Waste management and pollution...

- Proper management of landfill sites in municipalities is essential to prevent pollution of water bodies and land
- Municipalities should implement a system of skip bins for general waste and for recyclables like cans, plastic, and paper to improve waste management
- Illegal dumping of tyres and the poor management of collected tyres by community members contributes to fuel load during fires and general pollution when they are burnt during protests
- Municipalities should implement regular and timely refuse collection in all areas under their jurisdiction, including villages, informal settlements and townships, to prevent littering and reduce pollution effectively
- DFFE, provinces, and municipalities should work together to invest in training and empowering waste-pickers.
- DFFE and municipalities should develop structured and funded programmes to enhance waste collection, and recycling skills, and create sustainable job opportunities in the waste economy
- The Department and municipalities should either recruit and deploy environmental officers to problem areas or empower local environmental forums to coordinate programmes that will combat or eliminate pollution, in particular, diaper disposal
- The EPWP programme could be used to spread the anti-pollution message in communities instead of just cleaning
- The Department and municipalities should create incentives to support the establishment of viable recycling plants, promoting employment and a cleaner environment. The payment to waste pickers should be increased to incentivise proper recycling and discourage the burning of recyclables
- A platform for reporting illegal dumping should be established



Service Delivery Issues

...Waste management and pollution

- The Department of Agriculture, DFFE, and community members can collaborate to implement safer methods for burning to reduce respiratory problems
- The Department should ban the unnecessary practice of sugarcane burning, which produces greenhouse gases and particulate matter that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, and lung cancer, and worsen chronic conditions like asthma upon inhalation
- Accountability mechanisms should be established to ensure that landfill sites and sewer plants are situated in appropriate locations or relocated to remote areas, away from residential areas
- There is a concern that particulate matter from mining operations may be inhaled, contaminate the water bodies, grazing land (pastures), livestock and crops
- The Department and municipalities should prioritise efforts to enhance air quality by implementing technologies that reduce the emission of toxic gases from landfill sites to surrounding communities
- To decrease the concentration of carbon emissions in the city, the government should establish new Special Economic Zones and relocate industries that pollute the air and water from residential areas



Service Delivery Issues

Water and sanitation services

- The intermittent supply of water is violating the rights of community members and should be corrected
- The water infrastructure that supports townships is dated and requires prompt upgrading to cope with the increasing demand and be climate resilient
- Municipalities should prioritise the maintenance of water infrastructure and improve the quality of trucked or piped water supplied to households, ensuring it meets safe drinking standards
- Municipalities should ensure a consistent and reliable supply of trucked water and Jojo tanks to communities while working on the installation of piped water systems
- Implement measures to address water pollution caused by coal washing, including setting up remediation plans to protect local water bodies, groundwater, livestock, vegetation, and aquatic animals
- The Alfred Nzo District Municipality should collaborate with local municipalities to ensure accessible restroom facilities during the distribution of social grants.
- The building of water supply infrastructure should be prioritised to stimulate the economy and result in job creation instead of trucked water
- The DWS, DFFE and local municipalities should implement stringent measures and monitoring systems in the Musina-Makhado special economic zone to prevent water pollution from agricultural and metallurgical processing sectors
- Proper environmental impact assessments and community consultations should be conducted to mitigate potential downstream impacts when constructing dams
- The DWS should enforce the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) and take action against mining and petrochemical companies that discharge liquid effluents into water bodies without proper intervention from municipalities or provinces.
- The DWS and municipalities should reinstate or service windmills water pumps in rural communities, as they are essential for farmers and their livestock to have access to water

Parliament's accountability and engagement

- Ensure regular communication with communities, providing updates on raised issues and the outcomes of consultations
- Provide feedback on public inputs made during consultations on other Bills, including service delivery issues beyond the scope of the Portfolio Committee
- Ensure that MPs assigned to affected constituencies intervene and address municipal shortcomings to improve service delivery. Additionally, mechanisms should be established to increase Parliament's visibility during climate disasters in constituencies.
- Allow speakers to express themselves without interruptions, coercion, or intimidation.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Improving communication and outreach on climate change

- Parliament should ensure that communities are updated about the ongoing coal power station closures and help community-based contractors that derived a livelihood from the closed power station.
- Parliament should ensure that copies of the Bill are sent on time and braille copies are available for the blind.
- Parliament should ensure that the Public Education Office advertises broadly and provides information and education timeously and accurately. Where necessary, be accompanied by an expert.
- Parliament should ensure that implementation plans for the Bill are sent to communities so that they can know what to expect.
- The Committee should get an undertaking on how the PCC will be helping towards the achievement of the Paris Agreement and our NDCs, including timelines.
- Parliament should ensure that the Department's Annual Performance Plan has awareness and outreach programmes and targets to be rolled out throughout the country



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Ensuring the effective implementation of the Climate Change Bill

- Parliament should ensure that there are viable alternative solutions before coal mines and coal power stations are closed to avoid job losses and the destruction of economic activities that rely on the coal value chain.
- Parliament should prioritise the incorporation of public input into the Bill and ensure that the interests of citizens are not overshadowed by the DFFE. It is essential to maintain a balanced approach that values and integrates the perspectives and concerns expressed by the public throughout the legislative process.
- Parliament should ensure realistic implementation plans for the Bill and receive briefings on the enforcement of the Air Quality Act from provinces, including associated remedial actions.
- The PCC should provide the Committee with specific details regarding their provincial consultations. Many speakers from different municipalities were unaware of the PCC's public consultations on Just Transition, including where power stations have been closed or are planned for closure.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Holding government accountable for climate change action...

- Parliament should conduct oversight on compliance with the Air Quality Act by the mining and petrochemical industries in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State provinces and ensure that companies do not get perpetual extensions of their compliance deadlines
- Parliament should ensure the presence of municipal representatives during public hearings and keep communities informed about the responses from municipalities that were absent, as well as updates from the Department on the issues raised
- Parliament should ensure that other affected Departments attend the public hearings because climate change is cross-cutting, thus affecting the transport, education, health, agriculture, and other sectors. Those who did not attend should be invited to respond to raised issues
- The Committee should hold Departments such as DFFE and Mineral Resources and Energy accountable for the abandoned mines that contribute to fires and pollution of the air and water bodies
- Parliament should do a follow-up to ensure that offices of the MECs responsible for the environment portfolio, and provincial Speakers conduct workshops and awareness on the Air Quality Act, and the Climate Change Bill, with clear timelines and localities

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

...Holding government accountable for climate change action...

- Parliament should be updated by the visited municipalities on planned Imbizos to afford community members to raise their service delivery issues
- The Portfolio Committees on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, and Employment and Labour should take necessary actions to address the substandard living and working conditions on farms, particularly during intense weather conditions
- Parliament should ensure that resources are allocated towards servicing air quality monitoring stations and that data is publicly available.
- The Portfolio Committee is to get an update from the provincial government on the support that is given to families that have not recovered the remains of their loved ones since the April 2022 floods
- The Committee should be updated on progress made to restore road and water infrastructure that was damaged during the floods in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Western Cape (Beaufort West Municipality).
- Parliament should update the Durban South community on progress made to address pollution from Engen and SAPREF and compensations relating to years of health harm caused by the operators
- Parliament should establish a permanent Standing Committee on Climate Change

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

...Holding government accountable for climate change action...

- Parliament should ensure that the country focuses on climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness and industrialisation to solve the stubbornly high unemployment, inequality and poverty and frail or disaster-prone infrastructure in the country.
- Parliament should ensure that the role and livelihoods of waste pickers are secured and do not get replaced by a tender process.
- The Gauteng Provincial government and Merafong Municipality will have to provide the Committee with a plan of action and timelines for eradicating the sinkholes.
- Parliament should receive updates on greening projects in municipalities, aligned with the National Greening Strategy, which aims to plant at least two million trees annually starting in 2022.
- The pollution caused by diapers, single-use plastics, and beer bottles is a pressing issue that requires Parliament to hold the DFFE, municipalities, and producers accountable for non-compliance with extended producer responsibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Awareness and Outreach Programmes

- Parliament should ensure that the Department rolls out awareness programmes on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and combating deforestation.
- In the future, copies of Bills should be sent in advance to traditional councils, registered environmental organisations and municipalities by the Public Education Office of Parliament.
- Parliament should ensure that the Department builds on the Public Education foundation that Parliament laid when visiting communities. Such an approach should be used to inform communities of developments or plans associated with the implementation of legislation and policies.
- Parliament should ensure that the Departments of Health, Basic Education and Environment conduct awareness programmes and public education on the impacts of climate change on their sectors and preparedness programmes.
- The DFFE should provide the Parliament with a programme with clear timelines on when they will workshop traditional leaders on the Veldfire and Climate Change Bills.
- The office of Speakers in councils should provide briefings or updates to Parliament regarding their plans and schedule for conducting climate change awareness programmes in their local or district municipalities.
- Parliament should ensure that the detailed Bill is available in multiple languages, including Afrikaans, to empower Afrikaans speakers to provide informed inputs.

Basic and Higher Education

- Parliament should stress upon the Minister of Basic Education to add environmental management to the school curriculum.
- The government should implement targeted interventions to address the high levels of illiteracy in communities, particularly focusing on preventing youth dropouts and promoting employment opportunities.
- Parliament should ensure that DFFE, Basic Education and Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development present a plan of incorporating fire risk mitigation strategies in the curriculum for learners and students.
- The Department of Higher Education and Training should build expertise in renewable energy technologies.
- The construction of a boarding school and RDP houses in GaSegonyana Local Municipality has been ongoing for many years without completion. Parliament should ensure that the construction projects are completed through oversight.

Mineral Resources and Energy

- Parliamentary Committees should jointly oversee and ensure the rehabilitation of abandoned mines in line with the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act No. 28 of 2002, and the Financial Provisioning Regulations under the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998. The DMRE and DFFE should be held accountable for the environmental impacts and crimes from these mines.
- Parliament should request updates from the DMRE and the Department of Transport regarding their plans to shift from road transportation to utilising the rail network for moving mining products. Additionally, they should provide information on their plans for repairing public road infrastructure affected by mining activities.
- Parliament should ensure that DFFE and the Department of Minerals and Energy prioritise South African solutions over the interests of Western countries or profits from the business.
- Parliament should ensure that major emitting companies employ their workforce from the communities affected by their operations.
- Parliament should support the use of coal for economic development and not abandon it for renewable energy as pressured by Western countries that continue to import South African coal for their energy security.
- Parliament should receive a briefing on case studies that were used to drive the transition from coal energy to green energy as a sustainable form of energy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Human Settlements

- Parliament should establish effective oversight mechanisms to ensure the removal of all asbestos roofs in communities. These roofs pose a significant health hazard and need to be addressed urgently.

Infrastructure projects

- The Parliament should monitor water supply infrastructure and stadium projects that remain unfinished.

Police services

- Parliament should ensure that police service improves and that there is a clear plan of action to resolve the issues raised during public hearings.
- Parliament should do a follow-up with the eThekweni municipality on reported abuses of the people of uMlazi in the hands of Hlokomela Security company as instructed by the taxi industry.

Telecommunications and Postal Services

- Parliament should address concerns about the impacts of technology deployment, including 5G, on citizens' well-being.
- Guard against agenda-driven policies and consider potential health and environmental impacts before implementing new technologies.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs...

- Parliament should ensure that there is a clause in this Bill or the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 to empower traditional authorities to manage or maintain environmental integrity in their areas such as drawing rules and sanctions on the collection of firewood, pollution, veld fires, etc.
- Parliament should ensure that the powers that had traditionally and historically been held by traditional leaders should be restored to empower them to curb environmental degradation.
- Parliament needs to create a platform for reporting underperforming, unresponsive, inaccessible, or abandoning elected representatives to hold them accountable and ensure service delivery to the communities.
- Parliament should ensure that there are clear plans in local municipalities to support communities before and after climate disasters to avoid the recurrence of the KwaZulu-Natal situation where after the State of Disaster was declared, water, road and housing infrastructure are still not repaired.
- Parliament should establish a means for residents to lodge complaints about service delivery without the risk of retaliation or endangering their lives.
- Parliament should ensure the processing of disaster relief funding is expedited or review the process to support farmers in swift recovery from disasters.

...Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

- Parliament should help the municipality obtain resources to collect waste properly, enforce environmental legislation, improve wastewater treatment plants and the quality of supplied water and purchase graders for multipurpose use.
- Parliament should follow up on service delivery issues to ensure that the municipality responds to them through programmes that will be implemented and monitored.
- Parliament should lobby for resources to empower CWP workers to become municipal inspectors.
- Service delivery protests contribute significantly to fires and air pollution, including veld fires. So, Parliament should use its oversight mechanism to ensure that municipalities work to prevent protests.
- Parliament should ensure that the Bill is taken to the National House of Traditional Leaders for consultations
- Parliament should conduct oversight in municipalities to ensure that services get delivered and issues raised during the public hearing are attended to within clear timelines.
- Parliament should find a mechanism to ensure that elected representatives at the municipal and provincial levels are accessible to attend to service delivery issues and serve the interest of their constituencies, not big businesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Transport

- Parliament should urge the Department of Transport to expedite the process of repairing the road linking Mount Fletcher and Matatiele.
- Parliament should collaborate with provincial legislatures and municipal councils to ensure improvement in road infrastructure, construction of bridges and sidewalks, and maintenance of stormwater drains to prevent flooding during heavy rains.
- Parliament should see to it that Government recommissions the railway line for cargo and goods transportation.

Social Development

- Parliament needs to take a holistic and multi-faceted approach to address drug abuse and gangsterism, with the involvement of all government departments, stakeholders and affected communities.

The Government Policy of Ageism

- Parliament should champion the review and abolition of Government policy that excludes people who are 35 years and above from employment and training opportunities. It is worsening the unemployment problem in the country and fuels the growth of crimes.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Public Enterprises

- Parliament should intensify its oversight and accountability role to ensure Eskom's generation and maintenance function optimally to eliminate the unending electricity price hikes, and ongoing load reduction and load shedding. Otherwise, the use of fire for household needs will remain prevalent as there is low electrification in some villages and ongoing load reduction and load-shedding.

Land and Agrarian Affairs

- Parliament should be provided with answers to the communal land claim on land that was allocated to a Chinese mining company.
- Parliament should ensure that the Department of Agriculture (Provincially and nationally) have regular imbizos and community engagements to encourage youth participation in agriculture.
- Parliament should ensure that the application for agricultural support and processing of applications is simplified and expedited to help farmers grow and create jobs. Similarly, Parliament should ensure that the processing of disaster relief funds is expedited to help farmers get back on their feet on time.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENT

Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

- The Portfolio Committee will engage the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to ensure that when Parliament always consider and make provisions for people living with disabilities when engaging with the public.
- Parliament should establish mechanisms to include people living with disabilities when planning and conducting public hearings.
- Parliament should be updated on plans and timelines to address the issues affecting people living with disabilities.
- Parliament should ensure that government departments are more inclusive and accommodating to individuals with disabilities, making services more accessible to the visually, mobility and hearing impaired at all levels of government.

Water and Sanitation

- Parliament should be provided with a report on how the DWS is combating river erosion and accumulation of silt in water bodies such as dams in the country.
- Parliament should see to it that the DWS work together with municipalities to operate their wastewater treatment plants during load-shedding or load-reduction periods.
- Parliament should respond to the poor water quality that is provided to the residents of King Cetshwayo and eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipalities, both in the North-West Province



Thank you