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DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

FOR

THE MULTI-PARTY WOMEN'S CAUCUS

22 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2014

CHAIRPERSON: HON S MORUTOA



SECTION 1: STRATEGIC FOCUS

1.1. The aim of the business plan

To provide strategic direction to how the MPWC will give effect to its mandate during the 2014/2015 financial year in the pursuit of building an effective Multi-Party Women's Caucus that is responsive to the needs of women Members of Parliament.

Outcomes

- Identify the priorities of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus on its strategic imperatives.
- Develop a plan that is flexible and provides contingencies for uncertainty and change.
- Guide the priority use of the resources of the MPWC – human, financial and material.
- Develop tools that can serve as a basis for monitoring and evaluation.

The business plan of the MPWC will be linked to the vision and mission of Parliament:

Vision of Parliament

To build an effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people and that is driven by realising a better life for all the people of South Africa.

Mission of Parliament

- To build an oversight process of scrutinising and overseeing Government's action and that is drive by the ideal of realising a better life for all the people of South Africa,
- To process legislation.
- To facilitate public participation and involvement.



SECTION 2: THE ROLE OF THE MULTI-PARTY WOMEN'S CAUCUS

2. Mandate of the Multi Party Women's Caucus

The MPWC mandate is derived from Joint Rule 137 of Parliament which indicates that the MPWC acts as an advisory, influencing and consultative body by:

- Representing the interests and concerns of women Members of Parliament.
- Promoting the discussion of women's issues in Parliament.
- Making submissions to relevant committees.
- Introducing a women's perspective and focus in parliamentary activities, including in the programming of debates.
- Engaging on developmental and empowerment issues with women in political structures outside Parliament and women Members of Parliament internationally, and considering any other matter within its mandate referred to it by either House.



SECTION 3: REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2011- 2014

The MPWC became active in 2011 and sought over the course of the past 3 years to give effect to its mandate in the following ways:

3.1 Training and capacitating of women Members of Parliament

A number of training initiatives were conducted in the period under review. These included training women Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Legislatures on the Millennium Development Goals. It also included a capacity building session on a gendered perspective of climate change.

3.2 Promoting the discussion of women's issues in Parliament

One example of the way in which the MPWC sought to promote the discussion of women's issues in Parliament was through the hosting of a national roundtable on gender-based violence. The roundtable created an opportunity for members of the public to engage with women Members of Parliament on the key challenges with regards to eradicating gender based violence. It focused on the implementation of legislation dealing with gender based violence and mechanisms for effectively overseeing gender based violence.

3.3 Engaging on developmental and empowerment issues with women

Some of this includes:

- Participation in the First National Conference hosted by the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities. The conference focused on economic empowerment, job creation and sustainable livelihoods for women, education for women and girls, health, rural development and food security and land reform.
- Engaging with civil society on the challenges and achievements in relation to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Hosting a breakfast event to honour the role played by women veterans.
- Participation in the Second National Conference of the Progressive Women's Movement.



- Launching of the Multi-Party Women's Caucuses: e.g. the Women's Caucus of the West Rand District Municipality and the Women's Caucus of the Amahlathi District Municipality.
- Playing a role in organising the Women's Parliament.



4. METHODOLOGY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK 2014.

4.1 Key lessons learnt from the Fourth Parliament

Some key lessons learnt include the following:

- The need for the business plan to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound) in order to ensure that goals are achievable.
- Limit the number of strategic goals so as to ensure the business plan is realistic and achievable.
- Link the goals to the mandate of the MPWC.
- Find creative ways of engaging with related stakeholders, including members of the public.

4.2 Planning Matrix

For the purpose of the business planning session, the focus is on looking forward while bearing in mind the lessons learnt from looking back at what has been achieved and what the challenges and constraints were. The focus is on finding the future direction of the MPWC (where it is going), what issues it should focus on (what), the activities, tools and resources it will use to achieve its objectives (how) and identifying key stakeholders for 2014/15 (who). Finally, the MPWC needs to develop timeframes for reviewing and evaluating its performance (when).



Figure 1: Planning matrix – Where are we going?

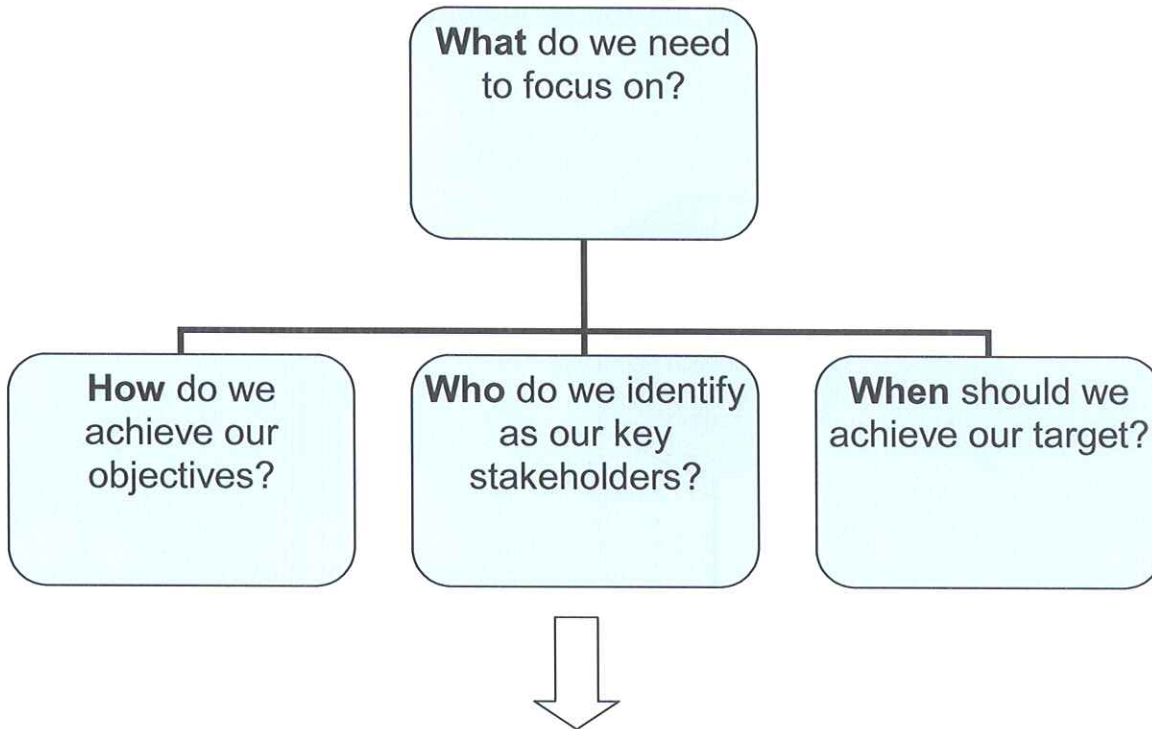


Figure 2: Populating the matrix

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review past performance with respect to the strategic plan. • Conduct a swot analysis. • Develop tracking tools to ensure delivery on objectives. • Distinguish between long/medium/short term objectives. • Cost activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the critical issues in the sector? • What are the key issues facing women generally? • What are the key issues facing women MPs? • What issues should be prioritised?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify stakeholders in pursuance of our objectives. • Identify strategies for stakeholder engagement and communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When should we achieve our targets? • Identify timeframes for key activities. • Identify timeframes for review and evaluation.



Figure 3: Populate the matrix on what the focus/ activities of the MPWC should be. For example:

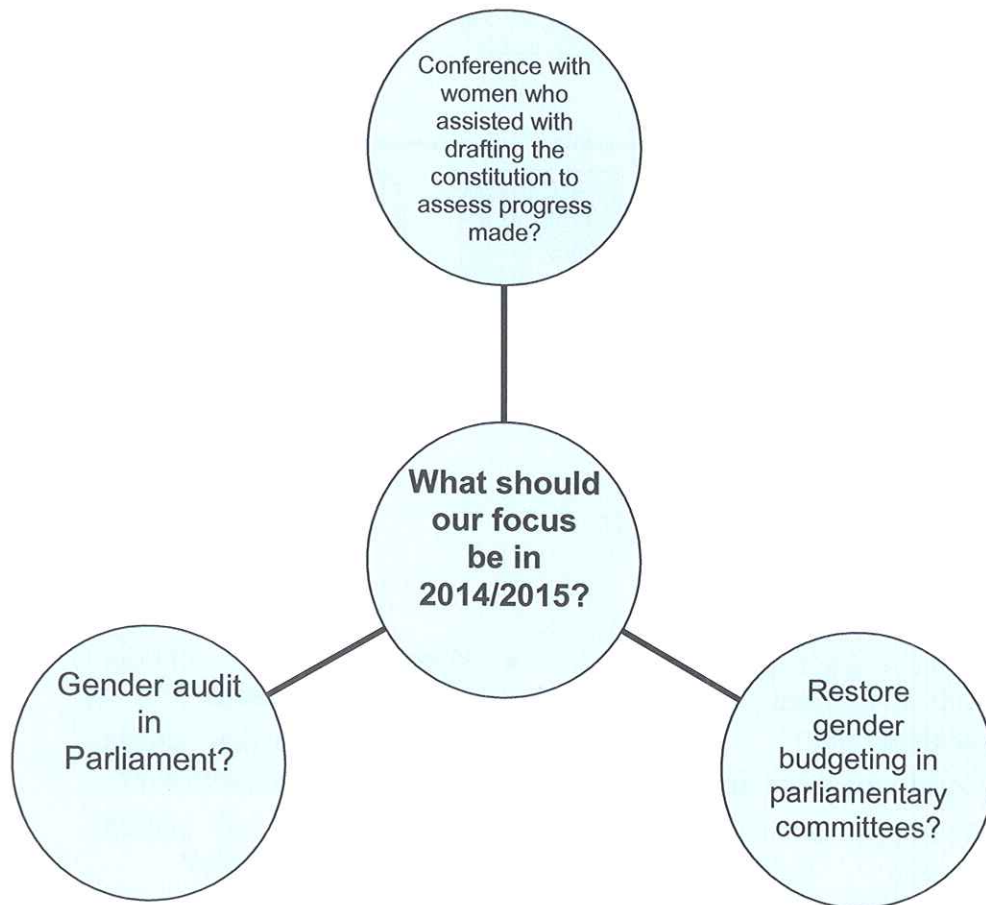




Figure 4: The top five priority matrix for the Multi Party Women's Caucus

