



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Financial Year 2023/24

2nd Quarter Report

**Presented by the Accounting Officer
on 31 October 2023**

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ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S STATEMENT

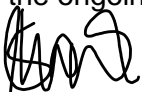
The Accounting Officer is required as stipulated by the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, Act 10 of 2009 to prepare and present a quarterly report within 30 days after the quarter's conclusion. These quarterly reports hold a pivotal role within a parliamentary system, serving as a crucial instrument to promote openness and transparency. They afford Parliament the opportunity to provide comprehensive updates on its performance, financial disbursements, and progress towards achieving the institution's strategic objectives. As Parliament scrutinizes the executive's actions, it underscores its own commitment to transparent and responsible governance. The emphasis on Parliament's answerability further reinforces the democratic framework, heightens public involvement, and cultivates an atmosphere of mutual confidence between the government and its citizens.

Throughout this quarter, our institution has made significant strides in numerous areas. We have made noteworthy progress in areas such as oversight, with the implementation of recommendations to strengthen this vital function. The participation in bilateral and multilateral forums, such as the BRICS forum, has expanded our horizons for collaboration and global insights. We have also shown dedication to modernization and enhancing parliamentary processes through projects like the development of oversight frameworks and new partnership frameworks.

However, this quarter has not been without its challenges. We have encountered variances in some areas, such as the delay in the development of certain frameworks and the timing of benchmarking reports. These challenges underscore the need for more rigorous project management and timeline monitoring to ensure our targets are met consistently.

Members of Parliament continue to rate administrative services above target, although public participation could be improved. This highlights the importance of continuous improvement in our commitment to delivering services that are satisfactory, useful and fair.

This period's performance reflects our unwavering commitment to serving our nation and the advancement of democratic governance. It also emphasizes the importance of learning from our experiences, both successes and challenges, to drive continual improvement and better serve the people of our nation. I express my gratitude to all the staff, stakeholders, and partners who have contributed to our performance during this quarter, and I look forward to the ongoing collaboration and dedication in the coming months.



ADV M PHINDELA

ACTING SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT

PART I: PURPOSE OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT

1. Introduction

Parliament's reporting obligations can be found in Chapters 3 and 8 of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, which is Act 10 of 2009 with subsequent amendments. Within this framework, the Accounting Officer must provide an assessment of Parliament's administrative performance by the legislative mandate established in the FMPPLA (Act No. 10 of 2009). The Executive Authority, is responsible for overseeing the development and execution of Parliament's strategic plan, annual performance plan, budget, and adjustment budgets.

The Quarter 2 report has been formulated in alignment with the revised 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan (APP), presented in April 2023. This report monitors 30 indicators, including three related to the parliamentary program, nine tied to Member satisfaction, and 19 associated with transformational targets. Regular reports play a vital role in furnishing information for the purposes of oversight and accountability within the broader management cycle, which encompasses activities like planning, budgeting, resource allocation, and the execution of the institution's strategic initiatives.

As Section 52 of the FMPPLA stipulated, the Accounting Officer must report on Parliament's performance in implementing the annual performance plan within 30 days of the conclusion of each quarter, presenting this report to the Executive Authority. Furthermore, Section 54 of the FMPPLA mandates the Executive Authority to table these reports and refer them to the oversight mechanism.

2. Environmental Context

It is crucial for Parliament to understand the global economic challenges that have a direct bearing on our mission to achieve the 2030 goals outlined in South Africa's National Development Plan. The global economic outlook for 2023 and beyond appears concerning, primarily due to multiple interest rate hikes aimed at controlling inflation. These actions have had limited success, making it increasingly challenging to create the desired impact.

Another critical factor in this context is reduced global inflation, driven by lower oil prices and improved supply chains. Unfortunately, these efforts have been offset by bank failures in the USA and Switzerland, directly attributable to interest rate hikes. The impact of rising interest rates extends to various sectors, including industrial and services. This is further exacerbated by the increased debt levels accrued during low-interest rate periods, posing significant economic challenges.

Additionally, China's economic slowdown, coupled with defaults from major real estate developers like Evergrande and Country Garden, has global implications, particularly affecting Asian neighbours and African countries that supply raw materials to China.

Developing countries, particularly those in Africa and Latin America, are facing their unique set of challenges. Many of these nations rely on primary sectors and remain insufficiently industrialized. Internal conflicts, such as coup d'états in Africa, hinder economic progress and create spill-over risks.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the global climate change agenda remain important barometers for progress. The post-COVID-19 landscape presents a likelihood that many developing countries will miss their SDG targets. Climate change exacerbates these development challenges, and the risk of debt default grows due to rising debt levels.

In this complex landscape, there is a notable divergence in policy advice. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommends austerity measures to combat inflation and calls for fiscal consolidation to ensure debt sustainability. In contrast, the United Nations (UN) advocates fiscal expansion and support from developed countries to build resilience in developing nations. The UN's 2023 SDG Report indicates weak progress and reversals on key SDG targets, prompting a call for a "Rescue Plan for People and Planet," which proposes an SDG stimulus supported by developed countries, necessitating changes to the development finance debt system.

Shifting our focus to the performance of key economic sectors, the agricultural sector exhibited a notable recovery, growing by 4.2% in Q2 2023 after experiencing a significant -11.9% decline in the previous quarter. However, challenges persist, including deteriorating infrastructure. The mining and manufacturing sectors also showed positive signs, with mining and quarrying growing by 1.3% and the manufacturing industry expanding by 2.2%, driven by segments such as petroleum, chemical products, rubber, and plastic products. Conversely, the construction sector contracted by -0.4% in Q2 2023, following growth in the previous quarter, and the tertiary segment of the economy experienced only modest 0.2% growth.

The exchange rate trends have been influenced by China's economic slowdown and domestic challenges like load-shedding. The current account deficit widened, reaching R160.7 billion (2.3% of GDP) in Q2 2023, largely attributed to deficits in services and current transfers. Meanwhile, sovereign risk and bond yields have seen fluctuations, with the yield on South Africa's 10-year bond reaching 11.7%.

Regarding inflation and monetary policy, headline CPI inflation declined to 4.7% in July 2023, re-entering the South African Reserve Bank's (SARB) target range. SARB's Monetary Policy Committee maintained the repurchase rate at 8.25%, primarily due to high inflation driven by fuel, electricity, and food prices.

As we examine the domestic economic outlook, SARB and the IMF have slightly higher GDP projections for 2023, despite ongoing challenges such as power shortages, fiscal measures, high interest rates, and external uncertainties. Nevertheless, economic activity remains constrained, and subdued growth expectations persist for 2024 and 2025.

Finally, we must address the growing debt challenges faced by developing countries. The situation is alarming, with low- and middle-income countries' (LMIC) external debt, including Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), reaching US\$9.3 trillion in 2021, representing a 7.8% increase from the previous year. These nations face mounting pressure from credit rating agencies and speculative activities in secondary debt markets, which have driven up borrowing and debt service costs. The looming end of quantitative easing and the increase in interest rates pose further threats, and the global financial architecture lacks the necessary support mechanisms for countries grappling with these challenges.

PART II: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

3. Strategic Priorities

The strategic priorities of Parliament outline measuring the impact of Parliament's key indicators as outlined in the strategic plan 2019-2024, which align with the government vision in the National Development Plan 2030. These indicators encompass unemployment, inequality, and poverty.

3.1. Measuring Impact: Unemployment, Poverty and Inequality

In the second quarter of 2023, South Africa's seasonally adjusted GDP exhibited a modest growth of 0.6% on a quarter-on-quarter basis and 1.6% on a year-on-year basis. However, it is essential to recognize the considerable challenges that continue to impact our economic growth. The muted GDP expansion reflects the fragility of our economic environment, with the primary challenge being the persistent issue of inadequate electricity supply. This challenge led to a concerning -7.0% decline in electricity generation year-on-year.

GDP growth outlook - calendar year*	2023	2024	2025
National Treasury - Budget 2023	0.9%	1.5%	1.8%
South African Reserve Bank - March 2023	0.2% ↑	1.0%	1.1%
South African Reserve Bank - July 2023	0.4%	1.0%	1.1%
IMF - World Economic Outlook - April 2023	0.1% ↑	1.8% ↓	
IMF - World Economic Outlook - July 2023	0.3%	1.7%	
Bureau for Economic Research - April 2023	0.2% ↑	1.4% ↓	1.8%
Bureau for Economic Research - July 2023	0.4%	1.2%	2.0% ↑
UNCTAD - April 2023	-0.3%		
*Growth projections correspond to publication date and not forecast date			
Data: National Treasury, South African Reserve Bank, International Monetary Fund, BER, UNCTAD			

Turning our attention to unemployment and labour market trends, it is noteworthy that the official unemployment rate saw a decrease to 32.6% in Q2 2023. However, the expanded unemployment rate, which includes discouraged job-seekers, increased to 40.1% in the same quarter. These statistics indicate the complex nature of the labour market's challenges. Furthermore, when examining provincial employment changes, we observe varying trends, with Limpopo, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal experiencing employment increases, while Free State and Northern Cape have seen job losses. Gender disparities continue to persist in the labour market, and youth unemployment remains a grave concern, with rates of 60.7% for ages 15-24 and 39.8% for ages 25-34. Parliament recognizes the urgency of addressing these disparities and fostering an environment that promotes inclusive economic growth.

The report also highlights the distressing reality that a substantial portion of the South African population remains vulnerable to poverty and unemployment, despite the country's social support systems. As outlined in the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) 2022-2023 Annual Performance Plan (APP), South Africa boasts one of the most extensive social grant systems in the world, with approximately 47% of the population reliant on a monthly grant. Despite these efforts, between 2011 and 2015, three million people were pushed into poverty, emphasizing the ongoing struggle against impoverishment. Moreover, an alarming 25.5% of the population lived in 'extreme poverty,' unable to afford enough food to meet their basic physical needs. These figures serve as a stark reminder of the pressing need to address the multifaceted challenges of poverty and inequality that continue to affect our society deeply.

As Parliament continues to align its actions with the National Development Plan 2030 and the strategic plan 2019-2024, it is crucial to consider these indicators and their implications for our nation's development. These findings underline the importance of concerted efforts to enhance economic growth, reduce unemployment, and combat poverty and inequality, all of which are fundamental to achieving the long-term goals set out in these strategic plans.

3.2. Measuring Outcomes: Responsiveness and Performance

Responsiveness

Tracking replies to questions in the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) is an essential element of parliamentary oversight and accountability. It serves as a crucial mechanism to ensure that the executive branch of government is answerable to the legislature, and by extension, to the citizens of the country. The high level of importance attached to the accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of these replies underscores the transparency and effectiveness of the parliamentary process.

The responsiveness of the Executive, with a 100% replies to oral questions and 54.33% reply to written questions in both Houses combined, is revealing in several ways. Firstly, the 100% reply to oral questions demonstrates the commitment of the executive branch to respond promptly to queries from Members of Parliament. It allows for immediate scrutiny and engagement with government officials on pressing issues, enhancing the quality of debates and discussions in parliamentary sessions. Moreover, it signifies the executive's obligation to provide real-time information, vital for making informed decisions on legislation and policies. However, the 54.33% reply rate to written questions raises questions about the completeness and adequacy of responses. It suggests that there might be room for improvement in providing detailed written answers to queries posed by members of parliament. This discrepancy between oral and written responses highlights the need for consistency in transparency and accountability for all parliamentary tools.

The significance of this data is magnified when considering the historical complaint of inadequate written answers in parliamentary proceedings. Inadequate written answers can hinder the ability of parliament to effectively carry out its oversight role. Written responses are often used to delve into complex and detailed matters, allowing for a more in-depth examination of government actions. The current response rate, at just over half, raises concerns about whether critical questions are going unanswered, potentially impeding the ability of parliament to hold the executive accountable. A low response rate to written questions diminishes the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight and can undermine the principles of transparency and accountability, which are at the heart of a functioning democracy.

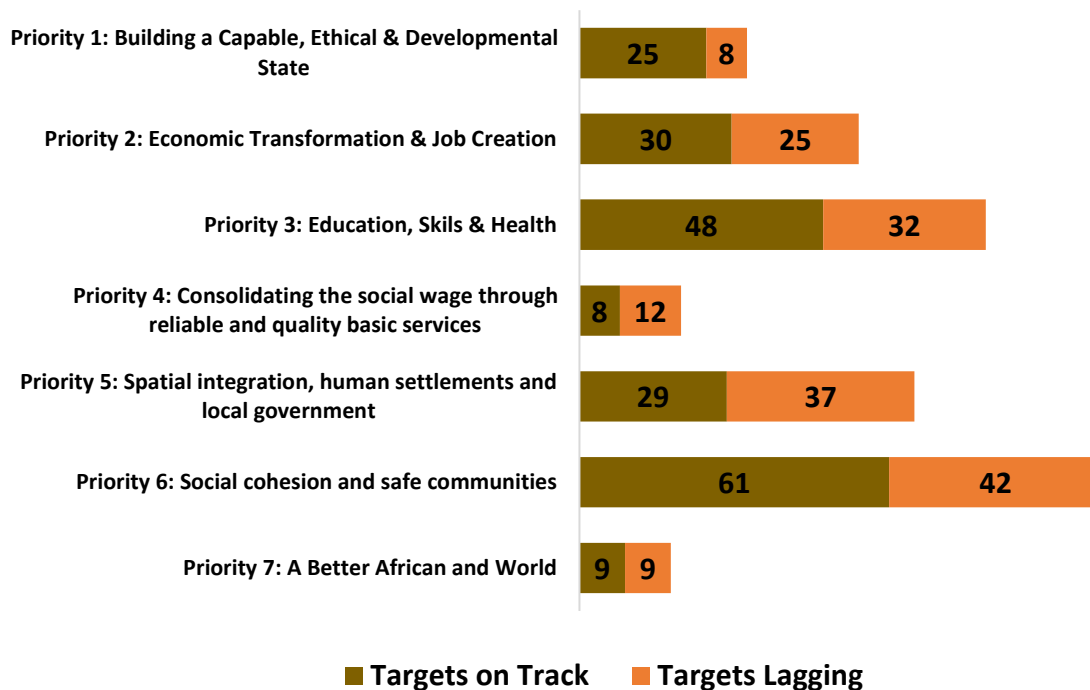
Performance

Tracking the performance of government departments against the priorities outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) is essential for ensuring that the nation is moving towards its long-term development goals. Data from the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation suggests a mixed picture of progress across these priorities. For *Priority 1: Building a Capable, Ethical & Developmental State*, with 25 targets on track and 8 lagging, there is a notable level of achievement, indicating a positive direction in essential areas of focus. *Priorities 2: Economic Transformation & Job Creation* and *Priority 3: Basic Education, Skills and Health* also display a fair degree of success, with 30 targets on track and 25 lagging for the former and 48 targets on track and 32 lagging for the latter.

However, the situation becomes more concerning for *Priorities 4: Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services, 5: Spatial integration, human settlements and local government, and 6: Social cohesion and safe communities*, where the majority of the targets are lagging. In Priority 4, only 8 out of 20 targets are on track, reflecting a substantial shortfall in progress. Priority 5 is facing even greater challenges, with 37 targets lagging and only 29 on track, suggesting that there's much work to be done to align with the NDP's objectives. The most critical concern arises in Priority 6, where 61 targets are lagging, significantly outnumbering the 42 that are on track. This indicates a substantial gap in meeting the desired outcomes in this area.

For *Priority 7: A Better Africa and World*, where 9 targets are on track and 9 lagging, the balance is more favourable, but there is still room for improvement.

NDP Priorities: Number of Targets on Track



This data reveals that the government is making progress in several areas of the NDP, notably in Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3. However, the mixed performance in Priority 4 and the significant lagging targets in Priority 5 and Priority 6 are areas of concern. It is essential for government departments to address these shortcomings and redouble their efforts to ensure alignment with the NDP priorities, as these are critical to the nation's long-term development.

The importance of tracking performance against NDP priorities cannot be overstated, as it serves as a barometer of the nation's progress toward its long-term development goals. The mixed performance across these priorities requires a vigilant and proactive response from parliament to ensure that government departments are held accountable for their performance and are empowered to make the necessary adjustments to align with the NDP's vision.

PART II: BUSINESS OF PARLIAMENT

Parliament's strategy also outlines the mandates of Parliament: Law-making, oversight, public participation, international engagement and cooperative governance. The next section highlights Member activities in the Houses as well as Committees.

4. Key Highlights

The efforts undertaken in this quarter by the Rules Committee to enhance oversight over Vote 1, encompassing the Presidency, represent a significant step forward in bolstering parliamentary accountability and transparency. The unique role of the Presidency in the nation's governance demands heightened scrutiny, and the dedicated examination of this matter by the Subcommittee on Review of Assembly Rules underscores the seriousness with which Parliament takes this mandate. It is essential to emphasize the significance of extending and deepening Parliament's oversight role, especially in areas where oversight has traditionally been weaker. This not only ensures that the executive branch remains accountable to the legislature and the public but also strengthens the democratic fabric of the nation.

The hosting of the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum (BRICS PF) is a noteworthy development that has far-reaching implications. It not only provides an opportunity for Parliament to forge and reinforce partnerships with BRICS countries but also offers a platform for deepening oversight over executive functions and service delivery. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the legislative bodies of BRICS Member States is a groundbreaking achievement that defines a collaborative strategy to address issues of common interest. This strategic coordination facilitates the development of inter-parliamentary relations, which is of paramount importance in ensuring that the legislative branches of these nations play an active role in overseeing the executive's activities. By extending and deepening its oversight role, particularly in international contexts like the BRICS PF, Parliament further strengthens its capacity to uphold democratic values, transparent governance, and accountability on both national and international fronts. This not only benefits South Africa but also contributes to the broader principles of democratic governance and parliamentary diplomacy.

5. Quarterly Outputs

5.1. Law-Making

The following Bills were introduced:

	BILL	NO.	PURPOSE
1	Children's Amendment Bill [B19-2023]		To amend the Children's Act, 2005, so as to insert a new definition for a new type of care; to provide that micro-partial care is provided when a person takes care of six or less children on behalf of their parents, guardians and care-givers during specific hours of the day or night, or for a temporary period by agreement; to regulate micro-partial care; to provide for matters relating to micro-partial care and micro-partial care facilities; to provide for further exclusions from what partial care entails; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

2	Constitution Twentieth Amendment Bill (B20–2023)		To amend the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, to require national legislation to establish a Cyber Commissioner in the Republic; and to provide for matters connected therewith.
3	Independent Police Investigative Directorate Amendment Bill [B21-2023]		To amend the Independent Police Investigative Directorate Act, 2011, so as to amend and insert certain definitions; to provide for the Directorate’s institutional and operational independence; to provide that the Directorate must be independent, impartial and must exercise its powers and functions without fear, favour, prejudice, or undue influence in order to give effect to the judgment of the Constitutional Court in the case of McBride v Minister of Police and Another; to amend the provisions relating to the appointment of the Executive Director of the Directorate; to broaden the Executive Director’s responsibilities in respect of the referral of complaints regarding disciplinary matters; to provide for pre-employment security screening investigations to be conducted by the Directorate; to provide for the conditions of service of investigators to be determined by the Minister; to provide for the Directorate to investigate any deaths caused by the actions of a member of the South African Police Service or a member of a municipal police service, whether such member was on or off duty; to provide for the Directorate to investigate a rape by a member of the South African Police Service or a member of a municipal police service, whether such member was on or off duty; to strengthen the provisions relating to the implementation of disciplinary recommendations; to provide for a savings provision regarding the conditions of service of existing investigators and provincial heads; to amend other provisions of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate Act, 2011, so as to ensure that the Directorate executes its mandate effectively and efficiently; and to provide for matters connected therewith.
4	Divorce Amendment Bill	[B22-2023]	To amend the Divorce Act, 1979, to insert a definition for a Muslim marriage; to provide for the protection and to safeguard the interests of dependent and minor children of a Muslim marriage; to provide for the redistribution of assets on the dissolution of a Muslim marriage; to provide for the forfeiture of patrimonial benefits of a Muslim marriage; and to provide for matters connected therewith.
5	Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill	[B23 – 2023]	To amend the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006, so as to delete, amend, and insert certain definitions; to provide for the application of the Act; to provide for the National Energy Regulator to consider applications for licences and the issue of licences; to provide for revocation and deregistration of licences; to provide for additional electricity, new generation capacity and electricity infrastructure; to provide for the establishment, duties,

			powers and functions of the Transmission System Operator SOC Ltd and transitional measures; to provide for an open market platform that allows for competitive electricity trading; to assign the duties, powers and functions of the Transmission System Operator SOC Ltd to the National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd; to provide for delegation and assignment; to provide for offences and penalties; and to provide for matters connected therewith.
6	South African National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency SOC Limited Bill	[B24-2023]	To provide for the establishment of the South African National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency as a state-owned company and major public entity; to provide for the objects and functions of the Agency; to provide for the governance of the Agency by the appointment of the Board of the Agency; to provide for the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Agency; to provide for the funds of the Agency, financial reporting and accountability of the Agency; to provide for the transfer of the national water resources infrastructure; to provide for the transfer of the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority to the Agency; to provide for the disestablishment of the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority; to provide for the powers of the Minister in relation to the Agency; to provide for the making of regulations and to provide for matters connected therewith.
7	National Nuclear Regulator Amendment Bill	[B25 – 2023]	To amend the National Nuclear Regulator Act, 1999, so as to substitute certain definitions and insert new definitions; to authorise the Regulator to perform additional regulatory functions; to provide for conditions applicable to the transfer of responsibility for authorised activities; to provide for additional powers of inspectors; to provide for financial provision for costs associated with safe rehabilitation or decommissioning of nuclear facilities; to provide for administrative fines; to provide for the establishment of the National Dose Register; to provide for a centralised database of radiation workers; and to provide for matters connected therewith
8	Companies Second Amendment Bill	[B26 – 2023]	to amend the Companies Act, 2008, so as to amend the time bars, in respect of proceedings to recover any loss, damages or costs for which a person may be held liable in terms of section 77 of the Companies Act; to amend the time bar for the bringing of an application to declare a person delinquent in terms of section 162(2) and (3) of the Companies Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith.
9	Companies Amendment Bill	[B27 – 2023]	To amend the Companies Act, 2008, so as to insert certain definitions and amend the definition of “securities”; to clarify when a Notice of Amendment of a Memorandum of Incorporation takes effect; to provide

			<p>for the Commission to publish, as prescribed, the notice of the location of a company's records; to differentiate where the right to gain access to companies' records may be limited; to provide for the preparation, presentation and voting on companies' remuneration policy and directors' remuneration report; to provide for the filing of a copy of the annual financial statement; to empower the court to validate the irregular creation, allotment or issue of shares; to clarify that shares which are not fully paid are to be transferred to a stakeholder and dealt with in terms of a stakeholder agreement; to exclude the subsidiary company from the requirements relating to financial assistance; to provide for instances where a special resolution is required for the acquisition by a company of its own shares; to provide for a social and ethics committee report and remuneration report to also be presented at an annual general meeting of a public company; to provide for the circumstances under which a private company will be a regulated company; to provide for the publication of the application for exemption from the requirement to appoint a social and ethics committee; to deal with the composition of the social and ethics committee; to provide for the preparation by the social and ethics committee of a social and ethics committee report, as prescribed, to be presented at the annual general meeting or shareholders meeting, as the case may be; to provide, in respect of a private company, personal liability company or non-profit company, for the appointment of an auditor at a shareholders' meeting if such appointment is a requirement in terms of the Act; to extend the definition of an employee share scheme to include situations where there are purchases of shares of a company; to provide for the determination by the Minister, in consultation with the Panel, of financial thresholds, for purposes of identifying the private companies to which Parts B and C of Chapter 5 of the Act apply; to provide for post-commencement finance for unpaid amounts that are due to the landlord during business rescue proceedings; to provide for the Commission to substitute a contested name of a company under certain circumstances; to provide for mediation, conciliation and arbitration by the Companies Tribunal only in respect of relief or complaints in terms of the Act; to further provide for the operation and governance of the Companies Tribunal; to provide for pronouncements that may be issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Council; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>
10	Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of	[B28-2023]	To amend the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-related Information Act, 2002, so as to insert certain definitions; to provide for the designation of an independent designated judge; to provide for the

	Communication-related Information Bill		designation of an independent review judge; to provide for the powers and functions of the review judge; to provide for the tenure of designated and review judges; to provide for adequate safeguards where the subject of surveillance is a journalist or practising lawyer; to provide for post-surveillance notification; to provide for adequate safeguards to address the fact that interception directions are sought and obtained ex parte; to provide for adequate procedures to ensure that data obtained pursuant to the interception of communications is managed lawfully and not used or interfered with unlawfully; to provide for procedures to be followed for processing, examining, copying, sharing, disclosing, sorting through, using, storing or destroying of any data; to provide for principles for the safeguarding of data when dealing with the management of data; and to provide for matters connected therewith.
11	National Prosecuting Authority	[B29 – 2023]	To amend the National Prosecuting Authority Act, 1998, so as to insert certain definitions; to provide for the establishment of the Investigating Directorate against Corruption and its powers and functions; to provide for the appointment of investigators in the Investigating Directorate against Corruption; to provide for the appointment of investigators; to provide for the security screening of investigators; to provide for the remuneration and conditions of service of investigators; to provide for the establishment of a mechanism to deal with complaints of a serious nature pertaining to persons appointed at or assigned to an investigating directorate; to provide for the powers and functions of investigators; to provide for transitional arrangements relating to the existing Investigating Directorate to become part of the Investigating Directorate against Corruption; to amend the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act, 2002, so as to make provision for applications for directions in terms of that Act by the head of the Investigating Directorate against Corruption; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

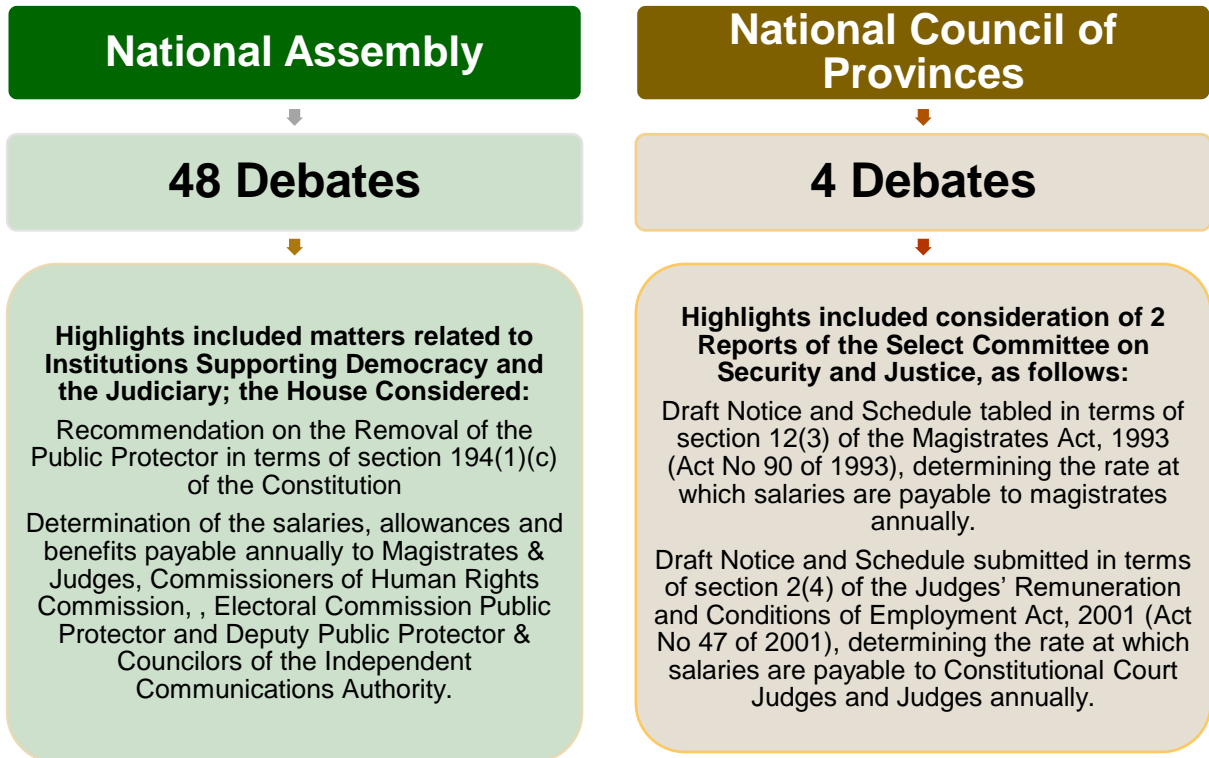
The following Bills were assented to by the President:

ACT NUMBER	BILL	ASSENT DATE	PURPOSE
Act 8 of 2023	Appropriation Act	27 July 2023	To appropriate money from the National Revenue Fund for the requirements of the State for the 2023/24 financial year; to prescribe conditions for the spending of funds withdrawn for the 2024/25 financial year before the commencement of the Appropriation Act for

			the 2024/25 financial year; and to provide for matters incidental thereto
Act 3 of 2023	Constitution Eighteenth Act	27 July 2023	To amend the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, to recognise South African Sign Language as one of the official languages of the Republic; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.
Act 7 of 2023	Eskom Debt Relief Act	13 July 2023	To provide for a direct charge against the National Revenue Fund for debt relief for Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd and to provide for matters incidental thereto.
Act 9 of 2023	Financial Matters Amendment Act	13 July 2023	To amend— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Associated Institutions Pension Fund Act, 1963, and the Temporary Employees Pension Fund Act, 1979, to amend certain definitions and other provisions to align these Acts with their administration by the Minister responsible for finance and to update references to other Ministers; ● the Military Pensions Act, 1976, to provide for the benefits for life partners of members retrospectively; ● the Government Employees Pension Law, 1996, to amalgamate the Associated Institutions Pension Fund into the Government Employees Pension Fund; ● the Land and Agricultural Development Bank Act, 2002, to substitute the definition of Minister and replace the provision for judicial management with business rescue in terms of the Companies Act, 2008; ● the Auditing Profession Act, 2005, to enable the enforcement committee, upon admissions of guilt, to refer instances of serious improper conduct to the disciplinary committee for sanctioning; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

5.2. Oversight

The Houses



Committees

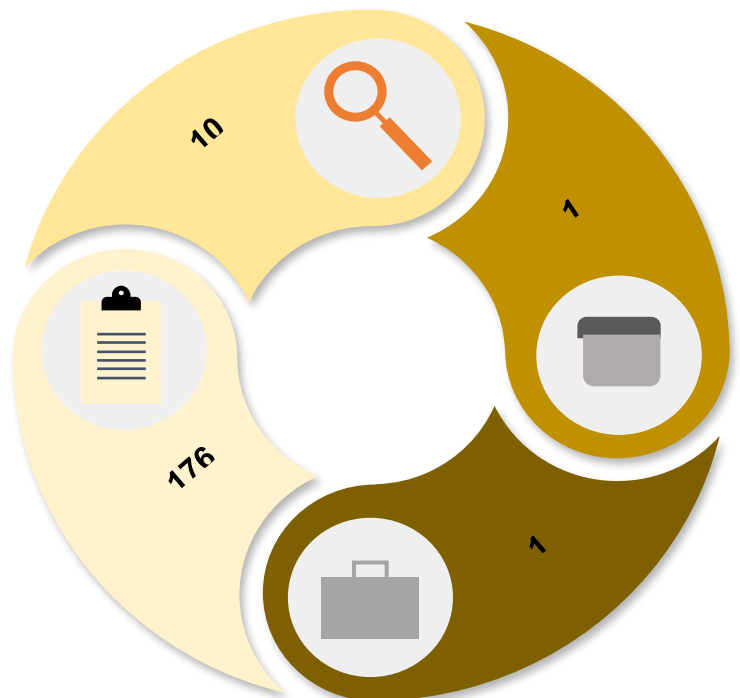
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176
Committee Meetings

10
Oversight Visits

1
Inquiries

1
Statutory Appointments



Oversight visits conducted by various parliamentary committees during this period have played a crucial role in addressing the nation's pressing challenges and advancing the objectives outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP), particularly in relation to the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. One such visit was led by the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Disaster Management and Recovery, focusing on non-participation in the initial oversight visit to Gauteng Province by Sedibeng District and eMfuleni Local Municipalities. By addressing this issue, the committee is working to ensure that disaster relief and recovery efforts are effectively coordinated in the Sedibeng district, which directly contributes to the NDP's priorities, particularly those related to disaster management and resilience.

Similarly, the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements conducted an oversight visit aimed at assessing the implementation of the Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG) on water and sanitation projects and curbing land invasions. By evaluating the utilization of grant funds and addressing land invasion issues, the committee is actively working toward improving living conditions and access to housing, which are integral to addressing poverty and inequality, two of the triple challenges highlighted in the NDP.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts carried out a series of oversight visits focusing on various aspects, including power station security, rail infrastructure, and the operations of the Road Accident Fund (RAF). By examining these critical areas, the committee aims to identify shortcomings, strengthen internal control mechanisms, and promote accountability, which are pivotal for effective governance and the allocation of resources to combat poverty and unemployment.

Furthermore, the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Disaster Management and Recovery conducted oversight visits to disaster-affected areas such as Port St. Johns, Deelpan, and Parys, emphasizing the need for comprehensive reporting, community engagement, and proactive disaster management. These efforts align with the NDP's priorities, particularly those related to disaster resilience and community development.

Additionally, the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy's oversight visit on illegal mining highlighted the importance of a holistic and well-coordinated approach to addressing this issue. By tackling illegal mining, the committee seeks to protect valuable mineral resources, generate employment opportunities, and enhance economic growth, directly impacting the NDP's priorities.

These oversight visits by parliamentary committees highlight the significance of addressing key issues that impact the improvement of the NDP's priorities and the mitigation of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. By identifying challenges, promoting transparency, and fostering cooperation, these visits serve as vital instruments in advancing the nation's development goals and enhancing the well-being of its citizens.

5.3. Statutory Appointments

The following statutory appointments were made:

COMMITTEE	NAME OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENT	DATE PROCESSED	OUTCOME
Ad hoc Committee on the Appointment of the Public Protector	Appointment of the Public Protector	28 August 2023	Adv. Kholeka Gcaleka was proposed for appointment.
PC on Home Affairs	Request to the National Assembly by the Chief Justice Zondo to nominate suitable candidates in the IEC	29 August 2023	The committee agreed on a recommended name.

5.4. Public Participation

The following petition was finalised:

Committee	Name of Petition	Purpose	Date of Activity	Outcome of Petition
PC COGTA	Petition from residents of the Marikana informal settlement in the JB Marks Local Municipality, calling on the Assembly to investigate the failure of local and provincial government to provide basic services to the residents	To investigate the failure of local and provincial government to provide basic services to the residents	19 September 2023	A meeting to discuss the plight of the community of Marikana, must be organised between the municipal council, provincial government, and national government and that the matter must be taken seriously. The municipality must submit an action plan with clear timeliness and funding needed, within fourteen (14) days.

Public participation through a series of 65 public hearings in this quarter has significantly enhanced the responsiveness of Parliament to the needs and concerns of citizens. These hearings, conducted by various parliamentary committees, have allowed the public to actively engage with and provide input on critical pieces of legislation. This level of engagement ensures that Parliament is more in tune with the needs, aspirations, and preferences of the people it represents, leading to more informed and responsive law-making. It is a vital aspect of the democratic process, and the outcomes of these hearings reflect a dynamic and inclusive approach to policymaking and governance.

One of the key bills discussed during these public hearings was the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Bill, which saw multiple hearings across various provinces. The extensive engagement on this bill allows Parliament to consider a broad spectrum of views, ensuring that the final legislation aligns with the interests of agricultural communities across different regions. This approach enhances oversight by enabling Parliament to better scrutinize the bill, taking into account various perspectives and local contexts.

The Climate Change Bill and the Older Persons Amendment Bill were also subjects of public hearings in various provinces. By engaging citizens on climate change policy and issues related to older persons, Parliament demonstrates its commitment to addressing environmental challenges and the concerns of vulnerable populations. The public's receptiveness to these bills during the hearings underscores their importance and relevance, ultimately leading to more effective legislation and improved oversight in these areas.

Furthermore, the Independent Municipal Demarcation Bill was discussed in multiple locations, allowing the public to directly contribute to the demarcation process. This fosters a sense of ownership and participation in local governance and promotes transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. The ultimate outcome of passing the bill reflects the impact of public input on the final legislation.

The public hearings related to the Tobacco Products and Electronic Delivery Systems Control Bill and the Judicial Matters Amendment Bill demonstrate the importance of public engagement in shaping health and justice policies. Diverse views on these bills provide valuable insights that Parliament can consider in its oversight role to ensure these policies are effective and equitable.

The volume of public hearings held in this quarter reflects Parliament's commitment to democracy, transparency, and inclusivity. These hearings play a significant role in making Parliament more responsive to the needs of citizens and, in turn, enhance its oversight function. By actively involving the public in the legislative process, Parliament ensures that the laws it passes are well-informed, representative, and aligned with the interests of the people it serves.

5.5. International Relations

The hosting of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum (BRICS PF) holds immense significance in bolstering South Africa's role in international relations and, by extension, enhancing parliamentary oversight. BRICS, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has witnessed a remarkable increase in economic influence since its inception in 2009, serving as a key driver of global growth, trade, and investment. The collective impact of BRICS on the global stage is notable, representing 42% of the world's population and contributing to over a quarter of the global GDP.

South Africa has enjoyed tangible benefits from its participation in BRICS, particularly in terms of trade. The nation's exports to BRIC states expanded by 41%, while imports increased by 38% between 2017 and 2021. In 2022, BRICS accounted for approximately 21.2% of South Africa's total trade, with China, India, Brazil, and Russia emerging as significant trade partners. This trade growth not only strengthens South Africa's economic standing but also provides parliamentary oversight with a broader canvas for monitoring and regulating international trade relationships.

The BRICS forum is founded on the principles of "cooperation, leadership, and information-sharing," offering member countries opportunities to collaborate, share insights, and jointly address global challenges. This cooperative framework has proven invaluable for member countries to navigate global crises, including those related to trade, poverty reduction, sustainable development, and pandemic response. As South Africa plays a pivotal role in hosting the BRICS PF, it not only enhances its own influence but also bolsters its parliamentary oversight by actively participating in a forum that addresses critical global issues. This engagement with BRICS strengthens the government's accountability in international matters and provides an avenue for parliament to oversee and guide South Africa's participation in the dynamic global landscape.

Additionally, various parliamentary committees engaged in international activities have embarked on a diverse array of visits and activities, each aimed at addressing specific national and international concerns.

Portfolio Committee on Tourism (25 June to 3 July 2023, China):

The objective of the study tour was to empower committee members with pertinent information and an international perspective on strategies for domestic tourism development and growth in Guangzhou, China, especially in the context of post-COVID-19 tourism recovery. Following engagements with various stakeholders, the committee recommended initiatives like exploring the reintroduction of flights to increase seats for the China market, simplifying the visa regime between South Africa and China, promoting domestic tourism through local media, and participating in international sister-city programs for tourism development.

Joint Standing Committee on Defence (24 June – 02 July 2023, Germany):

The committee's study tour had a dual focus. It aimed to explore international best practices in the South African National Defence Force's (SANDF) Force Structure and Force Design. The tour sought to address one of the largest sources of irregular expenditure in the Department of Defence. The specific outcomes of this visit are classified.

Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and Energy (09-14 July 2023, United Kingdom):

The committee's study tour focused on understanding energy policies in the UK's energy sector, especially in the upstream petroleum industry. The key findings include recommendations for improving the communication strategy of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and emphasizing a gradual transition to just energy practices. The tour also highlighted the importance of investing in carbon capture storage to reduce environmental impacts.

PC on Public Works and Infrastructure (24 to 28 July 2023, Singapore):

The committee's visit centered around infrastructure and construction development as a catalyst for economic growth. The tour aimed to address local challenges such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment by drawing insights from Singapore's successful public-private partnerships, long-term planning, and government service centers. Several findings highlight the significance of Singapore as a regional hub and offer insights into its business relations, trade, and infrastructure policies.

Standing Committee on the Auditor General (24 – 30 September 2023, Canada):

The committee's study tour focused on observing and learning from the best practices of the Auditor-General of Canada, particularly in performance audit systems. The study tour aims to implement these practices in the South African context. The committee also learned about immunities and privileges for the Auditor-General of Canada.

Portfolio Committee on Transport (26 - 28 September 2023, Belgium, Brussels):

The training for the committee aimed to provide an overview of international tender and contracting processes, with a focus on public transport. It included discussions on institutional and regulatory frameworks, roles of various actors, and risks and responsibilities sharing. The training enhanced members' understanding of contracting models and the organization of public transport services.

Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy (26 September 2023, International Agreement):

The committee recommended the approval of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, in accordance with the Constitution, thus endorsing the international agreement.

In addition to these international activities, various parliamentary committees participated in regional and international organizations such as the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the Pan African Parliament (PAP), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), demonstrating parliamentary diplomacy and engagement with international matters. The Parliament also hosted the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Johannesburg. The international agreements dealt with by Parliament during this period encompassed a broad range of topics, including qualifications recognition, African medicine agency establishment, decentralization principles, and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

5.6. Summary of Activities

The Houses

The NA

Oversight	Numbers
Oral Questions	83
Written Questions	513
Replies to Oral Questions	83
Replies to Written Question	240
Number of debates	48 (includes committee reports, bills, condolence motions, subjects for discussion)
Number of Statements	1 (members' statements)

The NCOP

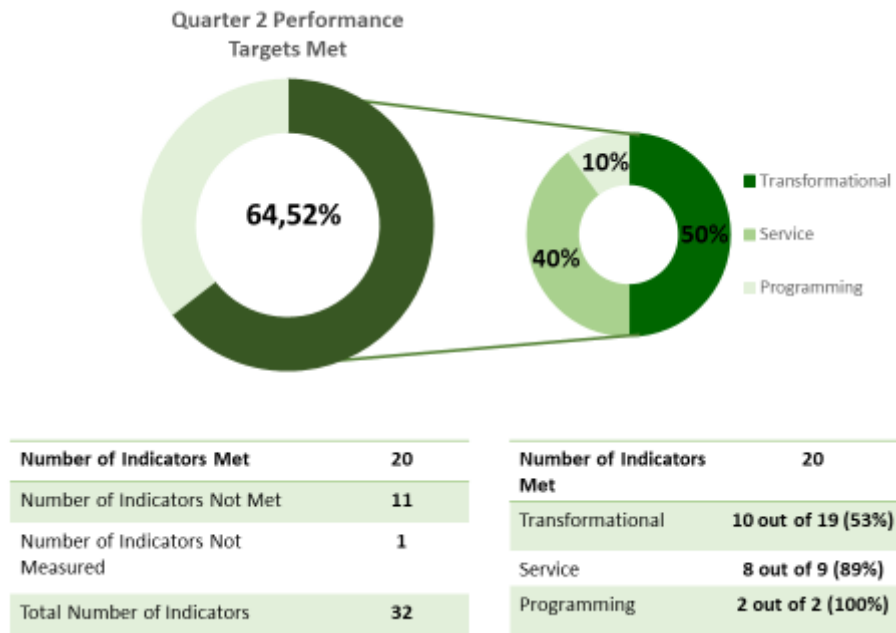
Area	Numbers
Oral Questions	30
Written Questions	122
Replies to Oral Questions	30
Replies to Written Question	105
Total Number of Questions	152
Number of Debates (Statements)	3
Number of Subject for Discussion in terms of the Council Rules	1
Number of Reports adopted	2
Number of debates on Bills (Statements)	1
Notices of Interventions in terms of section 139 of the Constitution	None
Written statements in terms of section 106 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, (Act 96 of 2000)	1

Committees

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY	July	August	September	Total:
Oversight visits	6	2	2	10
Quarterly reports, BRRR, Budget Votes and APP's of the departments.	0	0	5	5
Law making process / Bills Processed (NA & NCOP)	0	0	10	10
Public hearings held on bills	20	20	24	65
Statutory appointments	0	0	1	1
International Agreements	0	0	1	1
International Study Tour	6	0	2	8
Petitions	0	0	1	1
Submissions	0	0	0	0
Meetings held both virtually and physically	5	31	140	
Interventions	0	0	0	0
Workshops and seminars/ stakeholder engagement	1	3	3	7

PART III: PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

6. Overall Performance



The overall performance evaluation of our institution's key indicators is a mixed but promising picture. Out of a total of 32 indicators, 20 have been met, reflecting our substantial progress in various aspects of our mission and goals. Among these successful indicators, 10 are categorized as transformational, showcasing our commitment to driving significant and impactful change. Eight indicators are related to our service delivery, emphasizing our dedication to providing the highest quality services to our stakeholders. Additionally, we have successfully met two programming indicators, demonstrating our effectiveness in strategic planning and execution. While there is room for improvement, it's essential to recognize the substantial strides we've made, and the 20 met indicators provide a strong foundation on which we can build for even greater success in the future.

6.1. Programme 1 Performance

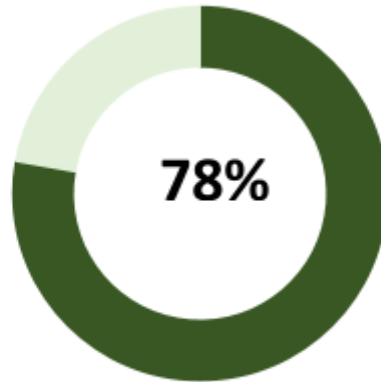
OUTPUT	STATUS
Institutional strategy to improve public trust	Met
Broadcasting Strategy Implemented	Not Met
New implementation plan for realignment project developed and implemented	Met
Change management implementation plan developed and implemented	Met
Policy review implementation plan developed and implemented	Met
Restoration plan implemented	Not Met
Big data and analytics implementation plan	Met
Members Satisfaction (Digital Service)	Met
Members Satisfaction (Facility Management Service)	Met

6.2. Programme 2 Performance

OUTPUT	STATUS
Oversight Priority Model	Red
Committee planning	Red
Country outcome indicator dashboard implemented	Red
Modelling and scenario tools	Red
Impact assessment framework	Red
Monitoring and tracking mechanism	Green
Recommendations implemented	Green
Partnership	Red
Review of support for Constituency Offices	Green
International engagement strategy and capability	Green
Stakeholder framework implemented	Red
Integrated petitions framework	Green
Number of annual parliamentary frameworks adopted	Grey
Number of NA programmes adopted	Green
Number of NCOP programmes adopted	Green
% Member satisfaction (Capacity building service)	Green
% Member satisfaction (Research service)	Green
% Member satisfaction (Content advice service)	Green
% Member satisfaction (Procedural advice service)	Green
% Member satisfaction (Legal advice service)	Green
% Member satisfaction (Committee support service)	Green
% Member satisfaction (Public participation service)	Red

7. Programme 1: Administration

Programme 1 Performance Targets Met



Number of Indicators Met	7
Number of Indicators Not Met	2
Number of Indicators Not Measured	0
Total Number of Indicators	9

7.1. Communication & Brand Positioning

The document on Strategic Interventions to Increase Public Trust in Parliament was developed and submitted. The below two documents have been developed as a response to the quarter 2 targets:

- Part A: Reflections - Review Trust in Parliament and related variables.
- Part B: Recommendations - what to do differently.

The broadcast concept towards creation of a legislative mechanism to enable free-to-air broadcast services for Parliament, which also provides legislative basis for licensing by ICASA, was developed and submitted to both the STP and legal drafting Unit.

The comprehensive 7th Parliament broadcast strategy has been developed and submitted for approval. An external team of experts in the area of broadcasting, covering technical, management and on-air talent, is being put together to partner with Parliament in the development of Implementation Plan for the 7th Parliament broadcasting Strategy.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Improve public trust and confidence in Parliament	Institutional strategy to improve public trust	Report on recommendations to improve public trust	Analytical Report submitted	Met	n/a
Development of a broadcasting strategy for the 7th Parliament	Broadcasting Strategy Implemented	TV & radio broadcast strategy & system is approved Investment in new broadcast and multimedia technologies to improve quality of our public TV communication	TV & radio Broadcast Strategy submitted	Strategy awaiting approval Target Not Met	Preparatory work was done on this target

7.2. Restoration Project

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Implement the plan for the restoration of Parliamentary buildings	Restoration plan implemented	Restoration plan executed, according to plan milestones	Target Not Reported	Not Reported	Report not received

7.3. Culture, Policy & Structure

The Organisational Realignment Project is making significant strides towards its objectives. A project charter, complete with a comprehensive project schedule and plan, has been developed, setting the stage for structured and effective project execution. The project has also taken important steps by establishing clear terms of reference (ToRs) for the Steering Committee, ensuring that roles and responsibilities are well-defined. In the pursuit of a more streamlined and effective operation, a Business Model Canvas for the 7th Parliament has been successfully developed. Additionally, the project has generated essential design principles for the Target Operating Model, guiding the future organizational structure. Furthermore, progress has been made in the selection of a service provider for the macro-functional design, ensuring that we have the right expertise on board for this critical transformation. On the change management front, the project has developed a draft change management program, encompassing an agenda, framework, and roadmap. This comprehensive approach to change management is complemented by the formulation of a draft change management plan, solidifying our commitment to managing and facilitating the transition effectively. Together, these achievements mark significant progress in our pursuit of organizational realignment and change management excellence.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
To Professionalise the Parliamentary Service	New implementation plan for realignment project developed and implemented	Develop Draft	Draft (ORP) project charter with project Schedule and plan	Met	n/a
	Change management implementation plan developed and implemented	Develop Draft	Draft Change Management Programme and Plan Developed	Met	n/a
	Policy review implementation plan developed and implemented	Develop Draft	Draft policy review implementation plan developed	Met	n/a

7.4. Technology

Big data and analytics play a pivotal role in supporting the activities of our Parliament, specifically in the context of oversight, legislation, and public participation. The utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is instrumental in enabling the smooth functioning of various parliamentary activities, both within committees and plenary sessions of the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). This comprehensive support includes broadcasting and audio-visual services that facilitate virtual and hybrid plenary sittings, committee meetings, and public hearings. These services allow for the scrutiny of policy, plans, and budgets, public participation in legislative processes, and discussions on crucial bills and fiscal frameworks. Moreover, they are instrumental in promoting transparency and public involvement, enhancing access to parliamentary information through the official website, thus fostering transparency and engagement. Additionally, the high availability and accessibility of broadcasting and audio-visual infrastructure empower citizens to follow parliamentary proceedings in real-time, both virtually and in hybrid settings, ensuring optimal involvement in the democratic processes of South Africa. In conclusion, the outcomes and impacts achieved through the strategic use of big data and analytics underline their indispensable role in enabling effective and efficient parliamentary processes and citizens' active participation in the nation's democratic affairs.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Shift towards outcome and impact-driven business analytics using big data	Big data and analytics implementation plan	Assessment of structured data; Develop Data Management Policy	Diagnostic assessment report of structured data in Parliament completed; Data Management policy	Met	n/a

7.5. Members' Satisfaction: Support Services

The Parliamentary Service has made commendable progress in achieving its key performance indicators, particularly in the areas of digital service and facilities management service. For the digital service, which measures the percentage of member satisfaction, the target was set at 80%. The actual performance exceeded expectations, reaching an impressive 82.70%. This 2.70% positive variance reflects a high level of member satisfaction with digital services, indicating that the institution is effectively meeting the technological and digital needs of its members, contributing to their overall experience and efficiency.

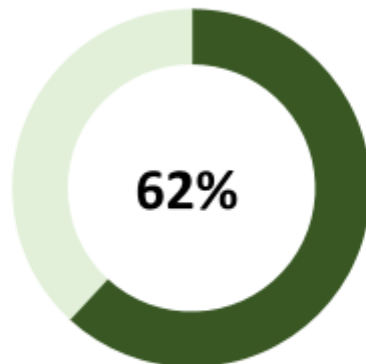
Similarly, in the realm of facilities management service, the target was set at 75%. The actual performance exceeded this target by achieving a remarkable 79.60%. This 4.60% positive variance underscores the institution's commitment to providing exceptional facilities management services. Members' higher satisfaction in this regard is indicative of a conducive and efficient work environment, further enhancing their overall experience and productivity.

These performance outcomes demonstrate the institution's dedication to improving member satisfaction in various service areas, contributing to the effective functioning of Parliament and the well-being of its members. The positive variances signify a positive trend in service quality and indicate that efforts to enhance digital and facilities management services have been fruitful in this reporting period.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE	INDICATOR	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS
Digital service	% Member satisfaction	80%	82,70	2,70	-
Facilities management service	% Member satisfaction	75%	79,60	4,60	-

8. Programme 2: Legislation & Oversight

Programme 2 Performance Targets Met



Number of Indicators Met	13
Number of Indicators Not Met	8
Number of Indicators Not Measured	1
Total Number of Indicators	22

8.1. Oversight

In the 2nd quarter, the performance has been marked by a mix of accomplishments and challenges. On the positive side, a significant step forward has been taken in implementing the recommendations put forth by the Commission on State Capture to strengthen oversight, as evidenced by the quarterly implementation report that aligns with agreed timelines. Furthermore, the development and implementation of an Oversight Priority Plan (Model) to ensure focused oversight, coupled with a Committee planning framework, have both made substantial progress in the form of data collection reports and framework drafts.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge some areas where the institution faced challenges in achieving its set targets. While a research report on best practices for impact assessment framework for Bills was produced as planned, the same cannot be said for the Oversight Partnership Framework, where the set target was not achieved. Additionally, a benchmarking report on support for Constituency Offices internationally was not completed by the due date but was eventually produced and submitted slightly beyond the original deadline.

The institution has made commendable strides in strengthening oversight through the implementation of key recommendations, development of planning frameworks, and research on impact assessment. Yet, there is room for improvement in meeting target timelines, particularly in the areas of partnership framework development and benchmarking of Constituency Office support.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Develop and implement an Oversight Priority Model to ensure focused oversight	Oversight Priority Model	Data collection report on identified oversight policy priorities	Data collection report on identified oversight policy processes in progress.	Template completed. Data collected. Report being compiled Target Not Met	Formalization and meeting of multi-sectoral task team with internal and external participants to ensure distribution of work responsibilities.
Develop and implement a Committee planning framework to align committee oversight with oversight focus areas	Committee planning	First draft framework for Committee PBR and M&E	Draft not completed	Q1 target transposed to Q2, first draft framework to be finalized by 31 October 2023 Target Not Met	Lack of project support to monitor different teams and compliance with timelines

8.2. Dashboard, Modelling & Scenario Tools

Significant progress has been achieved in the development and implementation of critical models and tools to enhance parliamentary oversight. The country outcome indicator dashboard concept is advancing with discussions and data collection, though the final report submission has been shifted to the following quarter. These delays are largely attributed to the formalization of multi-sectoral task teams, ensuring collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. The implementation of data modelling and scenario tools is also in motion, with engagements with external experts and draft MOU agreements progressing. The slight variance in signing the MOU is attributed to competing operational demands. Lastly, the benchmark exercise conducted for real-time remote access to data and information has yielded a report with valuable recommendations. Overall, these initiatives demonstrate our commitment to enhancing oversight and information management within the parliamentary context, setting the stage for even more impactful progress in the coming quarters.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Develop and implement a country indicator dashboard supporting the measurement of outcome progress towards attainment of the NDP impacts	Country outcome indicator dashboard implemented	Approve Concept	Background paper for concept in progress.	Consultation with PBO held. Template completed. Data collected. Consolidated report is being compiled. Target Not met	Formalization of multi-sectoral task team with internal and external in progress
Implement data modelling and scenario tools to improve the quality of oversight	Modelling and scenario tools	Identify & procure external experts	Draft MOU in progress	Signing of MoU once legal vetting complete Target Not met	Competing operational demands of Parliamentary Programme

8.3. Monitoring & Evaluation

In the second quarter, our parliamentary performance showcased significant achievements in two crucial areas. First, the development of an impact assessment framework for Bills reached its target, with the successful production of a research report on the best practices for pre and post legislative scrutiny. This accomplishment reflects our dedication to enhancing the legislative process and ensuring that bills are thoroughly examined for their potential impacts. Additionally, we met the target for developing and implementing an oversight monitoring and tracking mechanism, culminating in the production of a benchmark report and the finalization of specifications for the committee dashboard. This mechanism empowers our parliamentary committees to exercise more effective oversight and tracking, thus contributing to improved governance. The meeting of these targets signifies our commitment to advancing our parliamentary processes and the quality of our oversight mechanisms, promoting transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making in the legislative arena.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Develop an impact assessment framework for Bills	Impact assessment framework	Research report on best practice on pre and post legislative scrutiny	Report on pre and post legislative scrutiny best practice produced	0 Target Met	n/a
Develop and implement an oversight monitoring and tracking mechanism	Monitoring and tracking mechanism	Benchmark and research report on available oversight monitoring and tracking systems	Benchmark report produced and the specifications for the committee dashboard finalized	0 Target Met	n/a

8.4. Responsive Parliament

During this reporting period, the institution made significant strides in implementing recommendations put forth by the Commission on State Capture to bolster oversight. The target was met, signifying that the Rules Committee diligently considered recommendations referred to it, ensuring that the necessary actions were taken in accordance with agreed timelines. The implementation of recommendations made by the Commission on State Capture to strengthen oversight reflects a proactive and diligent approach within our parliamentary institution. The target of ensuring recommendations were implemented was met, as evidenced by the successful quarterly submission of implementation reports against agreed timelines. Notably, the Rules Committee played a pivotal role in this process, considering recommendations referred to it and resolving that committees should submit quarterly reports on the implementation of recommendations directed to them. A diverse range of Portfolio Committees, including those focused on Justice and Correctional Services, Police, Mineral Resources and Energy, Public Enterprises, Trade, Industry and Competition, Home Affairs, Public Service and Administration, along with the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Finance, responded promptly and diligently to this directive. This achievement underscores our institution's commitment to accountability, transparency, and the continuous improvement of oversight practices as we work towards strengthening the foundation of our democratic governance.

This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to improving oversight practices and enhancing our institution's effectiveness in the face of significant challenges. By successfully implementing these recommendations, we take vital steps toward upholding transparency, accountability, and the public's trust in our parliamentary processes, strengthening the foundation of our democratic governance.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Implementation of recommendations made by the Commission on State Capture to strengthen oversight	Recommendations implemented	Quarterly Implementation report against agreed timelines	Rules Committee considered recommendations referred to it.	0 Target Met	n/a

8.5. Collaborative Engagement

In the second quarter, our performance in developing a new partnership framework for oversight faced a challenge as the target was not met. The research report on relevant partnerships to enhance committee oversight was not completed within the set timeline, with the Q1 target transposed to Q2. However, there is a commitment to finalizing the research report by the end of October 2023. This delay has prompted a re-evaluation of project support to ensure that timelines are closely monitored and adhered to.

Similarly, the review of support for Constituency Offices encountered a delay, with the benchmarking report on international support for constituency offices not being completed by the due date. This report was submitted slightly beyond the set deadline, due to the lack of project support to closely monitor compliance with timelines. These challenges highlight the importance of streamlined project management and oversight to ensure that future targets are met in a timely and effective manner.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Develop and new partnership framework on oversight	Partnership	Research reports on relevant partnerships to enhance committee oversight	Research report not completed	Q1 target transposed to Q2, Research report to be finalized by 31 October 2023 Target Not Met	Not provided
Review of support for Constituency Offices	Review of support for Constituency Offices	Benchmarking report on support for constituency offices internationally	Benchmarking report not completed	Report due 30 September submitted by 03 October. Target Not Met	Lack of project support to monitor compliance with timelines

8.6. International Engagement

Participation in bilaterals and multilaterals is of paramount importance for parliamentary oversight within the broader context of international cooperation. The BRICS forum, founded on principles of "cooperation, leadership, and information-sharing," presents a prime example of the value of such engagement. Bilateral and multilateral engagements provide parliamentarians with the platform to share experiences, insights, and best practices in the realm of oversight. In the context of BRICS, these interactions enable member countries to collectively navigate global crises, such as economic challenges or pandemics, where collaborative solutions are often more effective than isolated efforts. Furthermore, participating in multilateral forums like BRICS allows member countries to pool their resources and expertise, working together on mutual interests such as trade, poverty reduction, sustainable development, and pandemic response. This not only strengthens their individual oversight capacities but also elevates the collective influence and impact of the parliamentarians on the international stage. In essence, these interactions foster a rich exchange of ideas, promote transparency and accountability, and enhance the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight, ultimately contributing to the advancement of shared global goals.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Review Parliament's strategy and capability to implement its international priorities aligned to the national agenda	International engagement strategy and capability	Report on international priorities, obligations and commitments	Target Not Reported	Not Reported	Report not received

8.7. Stakeholder Engagement

Performance in this area demonstrated a mix of outcomes in two pivotal areas. The goal of implementing a new stakeholder framework to ensure participation and cooperation faced a challenge as the target was not met. The development of the draft framework could not be finalized. However, a workshop was conducted with stakeholders, indicating a commitment to fostering collaboration despite the initial delay. Conversely, there was a significant achievement in the development and implementation of a petitions framework. The integrated petitions framework's draft was successfully developed, and petitions guidelines were introduced, currently under consideration by the Subcommittee on Review of Assembly Rules. This accomplishment reflects the institution's commitment to improving and streamlining the process of receiving, managing, and addressing petitions effectively. While the stakeholder framework may have faced challenges in Q2, the progress made in the petitions framework signifies our dedication to enhancing parliamentary processes and promoting transparency and public engagement.

DESCRIPTION	OUTPUT	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE/ MITIGATION
Implement a new stakeholder framework ensuring participation and cooperation	Stakeholder framework implemented	Draft framework developed	Draft framework not developed Target not met	Workshop held with stakeholders	Not provided
Develop and implement a petitions framework	Integrated petitions framework	Develop draft framework	Petitions draft framework developed Petitions guidelines developed - and being considered by the Subcommittee on Review of Assembly Rules.	0 Target Met	n/a

8.8. Programming

The Programming Service successfully achieved the targets for both the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) programs. One program was adopted for each, ensuring a structured and organized approach to parliamentary activities. This performance underscores the commitment to effective planning and the realization of legislative and oversight activities in line with the parliamentary agenda. The adoption of these programs is a key step in ensuring that the institution meets its parliamentary objectives and serves the interests of the nation effectively.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE	INDICATOR	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS
Programming service	Number of annual parliamentary frameworks adopted	0	-	-	-
	Number of NA programmes adopted	1	1	-	-

	Number of NCOP programmes adopted	1	1	-	-
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8.9. Members' Satisfaction: Core Business

The performance of the Parliamentary Service in the second quarter exhibited a commendable trend of consistently exceeding the Member satisfaction targets in various service areas. In the Capacity Building Service, Member satisfaction scored 75.70%, surpassing the target by +2.70%. The Research Service showed remarkable Member satisfaction at 81.84%, with a substantial +6.84% variance from the 75% target. The Content Advice Service followed suit with 81.92% satisfaction, exceeding the target by +6.92%. Likewise, the Procedural Advice Service recorded a Member satisfaction of 79.00%, reflecting a +4.00% variance. The Legal Advice Service garnered 78.80% satisfaction, surpassing the target by +3.80%. Most notably, the Committee Support Service achieved a remarkable 83.32% Member satisfaction, indicating a substantial +8.32% variance from the target. However, it's essential to acknowledge that the Public Participation Service showed a -4.68% variance, with 70.32% Member satisfaction. This dip can be attributed to the specific dimension of fair, objective, and non-partisan service, which scored the lowest. These results highlight the institution's dedication to enhancing Member satisfaction across various service areas, with the exception of the Public Participation Service, where there is room for improvement in ensuring fair and non-partisan service delivery.

Members' Satisfaction Survey					
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE	INDICATOR	QUARTER 2 TARGET	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE	VARIANCE	REASONS FOR VARIANCE
Capacity building service	% Member satisfaction	73%	75,70%	+2,70	-
Research service	% Member satisfaction	75%	81,84%	+6,84	-
Content advice service	% Member satisfaction	75%	81,92%	+6,92	-
Procedural advice service	% Member satisfaction	75%	79,00%	+4,00	-
Legal advice service	% Member satisfaction	75%	78,80%	+3,80	-
Committee support service	% Member satisfaction	75%	83,32%	+8,32	-
Public participation service	% Member satisfaction	75%	70,32%	-4,68	The dimension on fair, objective and non-partisan service scored the lowest

