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PARLIAMENT

OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Legacy Report

2004-2008

JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE ON IMPROVEMENT
OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

1. Name of Committee

Joint Monitoring Committee on Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Women.

2. Functions of Committee

(a) To monitor and evaluate progress with regard to the improvement in the quality of life and status of women in South Africa, with specific reference to the Government's commitments -

(i) to the Beijing Platform for Action; and

(ii) with regard to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against women; and

(iii) to any other applicable international instruments e.g. SADC Declaration on Gender and Development

(b) may make recommendations to both or either of the Houses, or any joint or House committee, on any matter arising from paragraph (a) or (b).

3. Department/s and Entities overseen by committee

Office on the Status of Women	<p>The National Office on the Status of Women (NOSW) was established on July 1, 1999 to ensure that constitutional and political commitments to gender equality become real and meaningful parts of government programmes. It is situated in the Office of the President and reports to the minister in the Office of the Presidency.</p> <p>The key functions of the Office of the Status of Women are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy Development and Research• Capacity Building and Training for all government officials, including strategically placed government
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	<p>officials, gender focal persons in the different government departments and provincial and local government officials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination of a Provincial Gender Machinery (Internal and External) • Public Education, Awareness Raising and Communication • Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting <p>The mandate of the OSW is to co-ordinate, facilitate and provide strategic support and direction to provincial departments with regard to the mainstreaming of gender equality in their day-to-day operations.</p> <p>The legislative framework for the work of the OSW is the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beijing Platform of Action, (BPFA) • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) • SADC Declaration on Gender and Development • SADC Declaration on Violence Against Women and Children
Government Departments, because the committee is a monitoring committee	

- a) Outstanding issues relating to the department/entity that the committee has been grappling with e.g. whether the department has received qualified audit opinion or disclaimer; what are the issues that led to the audit opinion.

4. Method of work of the committee, if committee adopted a particular method of work e.g SCOPA.

No Method of work was adopted

5. Number of meetings held = 54

Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson	10 November 2004
Consideration of committee programme Consideration of committee budget 2005/6 Consideration of Committee Annual Report 2004	25 February 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. • Consideration of Explanatory Memorandum to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women 	7 March 2005 Cancelled because of lack of quorum.
Consideration of Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.	08 March 2005

Consideration of Explanatory Memorandum to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women	
Committee programme Committee delegation to national gender machinery meeting 12 – 13 April 2005 Consideration of report on collegial training workshop in February 2005 CGE matter – letter from Commissioner M Tlake	15 April 2005
MRC: Briefing on Intimate Femicide research findings Office on the Status of Women: strategic plans as part of Budget Vote No 1: The Presidency, and Reportback on CSW meeting in New York 2005 Identify areas to be visited to investigate how frequent fires and floods affect women and how their needs are provided for. Dates set for visits to these sites Dates set for provincial visits on Domestic Violence Act monitoring and areas to be identified	20 May 2005
SA Law Reform Commission: background and introduction, work of the Commission, publications, and research programme	27 May 2005
Department of Communication – Briefing on the Convergence Bill [B9 - 2005]	3 June 2005
Department of Minerals and Energy on the department's progress with regard to	10 June 2005

implementing its Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW commitments, as well as departmental rural development and anti-poverty programmes	
Meeting with visiting delegation from the Transitional Federal Parliament of the Somali Republic	21 June 2005
Trafficking in Women and Children (briefings by Dept of Home Affairs, SAPS, Molo Songolo)	24 June 2005
Submission by CGE about the Children's Bill Department of Social Development – Home-based care and other social development programmes	5 August 2005
Briefing by Department of Provincial and Local Government Briefing by Salga Input by provincial Offices on the Status of Women (OSWs) Input by provincial Local Government Gender Focal Points (GFPs)	12 August 2005
Men's dialogue on: Men speaking out on women and child abuse Men who value women's lives, Women's rights Protecting a girl child and developing a future woman Linking with the Freedom Charter and equality for all gender relations at home and in society	24 August 2005
Meeting with men's organizations - The	9 September 2005

<p>Men's Forum, Engender Health and Men in Partnership against Aids (MIPAA) to present information about the programmes of the Men in Action Campaign, men's involvement in the gender discourse, and how their programmes link up with those of the National Network on Violence Against Women</p> <p>1. Briefing by Oxfam: Research on the AU Women's Protocol, focusing on women's rights in relation to Violence Against Women, Governance, and sexual and reproductive health rights, and related matters</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of minutes and reports - The Women's Budget Initiative and analysis of the National Budget of 2005/6 Ms Debbie Budlender (Case). 	16 September 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 days of activism on no violence - against women and children - Women's caucus - discussion <p>National Gender Machinery meeting 14 and 15 November 2005</p>	25 October 2005
<p>Meeting with Deputy Minister of Correctional Services about programme for 16 days of activism on no violence against women and children</p>	2 November 2005
<p>Briefing by Ms Pethu Serote on Monitoring Tools for gender mainstreaming</p> <p>Consideration of Office on the Status of</p>	11 November 2005

<p>Women contained in the Report and - - - - Financial Statements of Vote 1 – The Presidency for 2004-2005, and the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements of Vote 1 for 2004-2005 [RP 191-2005]: - Consideration of annual report</p>	
<p>a) National Gender Machinery meeting in Pretoria 15 and 16 March 2006 – notification of b) Discussion of Referrals of documents to JMCIQLSW c) Hearing on integrated data systems planned for 24 March 2006 d) Consideration of Committee report on provincial monitoring visits 2005</p>	<p>10 March 2006</p>
<p>a) Date for delegation from JMC to meet with presiding officers on administrative difficulties and its impact on committee's functioning. b) Deliberations on State of the Nation Address (including ASGISA) c) Deliberations on Appropriation Bill</p>	<p>17 March 2006</p>
<p>Hearing on: A) Enhanced Communication Strategies in view of the high incidence of violence against women and children in South Africa, pornography, trafficking in persons and related matters B) Integrated data systems and</p>	<p>24 March 2006</p>

<p>consolidated statistics across governance clusters (for instance, for improved prosecution and improved data on charge sheets (SAPS))</p> <p>Presentations by invited departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Prosecuting Authority (on behalf of the National Task Team on Trafficking in Persons) • Statistics SA • SABC • Department of Communications <p>Department of Public Service and Administration</p>	
<p>The Monitoring Committees on the Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Women of all provincial legislatures had been invited to participate in these deliberations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equality Review Project - update 2. CGE nominations – Informing the committee and provincial delegates about advertisements and progress. 3. Deliberations on Committee draft report on Budget Vote 1, facilitated by Debbie Budlender (Case) 4. Deliberations on Appropriation Bill [B 2-2006] and Consideration of JMC IQLSW report on Appropriation Bill, facilitated by Debbie Budlender (Case) 	<p>26 May 2006</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of JMC IQLSW report on Appropriation Bill [B 2-2006] 2. Consideration of Committee report on Budget Vote 1 3. Consideration of quarterly report 4. Consideration of Committee Minutes 5 Lisa Vetten from Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre <p>5.1 The Price of Protection: Costing the Implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, examining implementation of the Domestic Violence Act at nine sites in three provinces to estimate the average cost of one protection order. - Comparison of this expenditure with that on other Acts and policies and the implications for women's safety of under-resourcing the police and courts.</p> <p>5.2. Research looking at the implementation of the DVA at two courts in Gauteng.</p> <p>5.3. the Bus campaign – reporting on (result was the memo to Parliament)</p> <p>5.4. the Sexual Offences Bill,</p> <p>5.5. update on the work done around women in prison since last making a presentation on this issue to the committee in 2001.</p>	<p>2 June 2006</p>