

**Presentation to the  
Select Committee on  
Cooperative  
Governance and  
Traditional Affairs**

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**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Presentation outline

- Introduction
- Purpose and Objective
- Difference between Strategic and Operational Plans
- Legislative Powers of the Committee
- Strategic Priorities of CoGTA and DPSA
- Highlights of the 2011/12 Operational Plans of Departments
- Strategic Priorities of the Committee
- 2011 Operational Plan of the Committee
- State of the Nation Address 2011
- Strategic Monitoring and Oversight of Departments Operational Plans
- Building Partnerships and Collaboration

## Introduction

- For optimal impact, the Committee needs to plan and implement oversight systematically.
- To do this, it must have a strategic plan and operation oversight agenda for its work.
- The Operational Plan will be used to serve as a guiding document over the 2011/12 financial year.
- The Strategic Plan provides a conceptual analysis which is infused from the NCOP Strategic Plan.
- There is a saying that goes: **“If you’re failing to plan, then you’re planning to fail.”**

## Purpose and Objective

- To provide guidance on the political mandate of the Committee over the next five years (2009 – 2014).
- To provide a blueprint that defines the Committee's strategic path in pursuit of a developmental agenda of the fourth administration.
- Highlight and indicate departmental policy instruments for monitoring by the Committee during 2011/12 financial year.

## Difference between Strategic and Operational Plans

- A Strategic Plan is a process for determining where an organization is going over the next year or more typically over 3 to 5 years (long term).
- In order to determine where it is going, the organization needs to know exactly where it stands, then determine where it wants to go and how it will get there. The resulting document is called the “Strategic Plan”.
- An Operation Plan is a description of how the work will be done, the flow of work from input to end results.
- An operational plan is the basis for, and justification of an annual operating budget request. Therefore, a five-year strategic plan would need five operational plans funded by five operating budgets.

## Legislative Powers of the Committee

The Committee is vested with powers to perform oversight, including the powers under section 69 of the Constitution to:

- (a) summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation or to produce documents;
- (b) require any institution or person to report to it;
- (c) compel, in terms of national legislation or the rules and orders, any person or institution to comply with a summon or requirement in terms of paragraph (a) or (b); and
- (d) receive petitions, representations or submissions from any interested persons or institutions.

# Strategic Priorities of CoGTA

2009-2014

- Building the Developmental State in Provincial and Local Government that is efficient, effective and responsive.
- Strengthen accountability and clean government.
- Accelerating service delivery and supporting the vulnerable.
- Improving the developmental capability of the institution of traditional leadership.
- Fostering development partnerships, social cohesion and community mobilization.

# Strategic Priorities of DPSA

2009-2014

- Service delivery mechanisms that ensure quality, and access within an efficient environment.
- Effective systems, structures and processes which include the provisioning of standard operating procedures.
- Well functioning service through ICT connectivity at service delivery centres.
- Effective entry into the public service through HRD standards to ensure cadre development.
- Efficient human resources management practices by providing common norms and standards.
- Healthy, safe working environments for all public servants.
- Appropriate delegations and decision-making government structures.
- Adequate levels of transparency of administrative actions by ensuring citizen engagement and public participation.
- Corruption must be tackled effectively.
- Collaboration towards improved public administration in Africa and internationally.



# Highlights of the 2011/12 Operational Plan

## CoGTA

CoGTA's 2011/12 Operation Plan is characterized by a few new programmes and policy instruments. These include:

- the establishment of Special Purpose Vehicle to accelerate the provision of municipal infrastructure;
- the redirection of the infrastructure component of Siyenza Manje to the Department;
- a new grant to assist with disaster relief and rehabilitation; and
- establishment of provincial offices across the country.

# Highlights of the 2011/12 Operational Plan

## DPSA

DPSA's operation plan for the new financial year is distinguished by the special policy focus on:

- leading the process to finalize the debate on the Single Public Service;
- creation of the Special Anti-corruption Unit;
- developing a strategy to reduce the period it takes to fill a vacancy;
- finalizing the implementation of the Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD);
- implementing an e-government prototype and ICT connectivity of Thusong Service Centres, schools and clinics; and
- developing and implementing a sustainable methodology to monitor compliance with signing of Performance Agreements.

# Strategic Priorities of the Committee

2009-2014

The main key strategic priorities of the Committee are:

- To process, scrutinize and pass legislation referred to it;
- To scrutinize and oversee executive action (keep oversight of the executive and organs of state);
- Facilitate public participation in its processes;
- To consider International Agreements referred to it; and
- To consider budget vote of the Department (CoGTA and DPSA).

# Operational Plan of the Committee

2011/12

The operation plan of the Committee is mainly characterized to address the following policy imperatives:

- To ensure intergovernmental checks and balances with regard to legislative and constitutional compliance.
- Joint oversight visits to identified municipalities to ensure the Committee functions systematically and not merely responding to crises.
- To contribute meaningfully to the quest of creating decent work.
- Implementation of the intergovernmental programme of support to the Institution of Traditional Leadership to perform their constitutional mandate.

# State of the Nation Address

2011/12

- In the 2011 SONA the President declared 2011 South Africa's "year of job creation" and called on both the private and the public sectors to contribute to the job creation drive, which aims to create five million jobs by 2020 and bring SA's unemployment rate down to 15%.
- The filling of vacant positions by Departments should be closely monitored by the Committee, in order to speed-up delivery and respond to the broad mandate of creating decent work (SONA).
- There are 307 vacancies within the Dept of CoGTA of which 56 are in SMS level, 60 are in MMS salary level, and 191 are below MMS salary level. Most of these vacancies are in Programme 1 (Administration).
- The DPSA will coordinate and facilitate the creation of job opportunities within the public services through the filling of all vacant positions.

## Strategic Monitoring & Oversight of Departments Operational Plans

- Ongoing project management of the work of the Committee is required in order to build up a systematic basis for oversight.
- For the Committee to make a significant impact, we need to prioritize issues, pursuing them and tracking them.

An example of an issue-tracking mechanism:

Content of resolution taken on issue/matter to be tracked	Date of tabling and adoption	Date of referral to the Department	Envisaged date of response	Actual date of response	Action taken

# Strategic Monitoring & Oversight of Departments Operational Plans

Tool to interrogate budget and annual reports:

<p>General questions of the presentation of information by the Committee to Departments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether every performance target that is specified in the Dept's strategic plan and budget has been reported on;</li><li>• The relations of the performance indicators in the annual report to the criteria of efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery;</li><li>• What the plans for how the Dept planned to improve service delivery;</li><li>• The explanations given by the Dept for why it did not reach its service delivery targets;</li><li>• What the comment by the Auditor-General indicates;</li><li>• Whether there was under/over expenditure in the year under review, the explanations given for this, and the impact this had on delivery.</li></ul>

## Building Partnerships and Collaboration

- As the Committee responsible to enhance the values of co-operative governance, there's a need to enhance and forge strategic relationships and partnerships with following partners:
  - South African Local Government Association (SALGA);
  - Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC);
  - Office of the Auditor-General of South Africa;
  - Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA); and
  - Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA).