

120524 JC HIV/AIDS



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT HIV and Aids COMMITTEE

A presentation to Members of the Joint
Committee on HIV and Aids

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24 MAY 2012

PURPOSE

- Provide background information on the establishment of the Joint Committee on HIV and Aids
- Reflect on the functioning of the Joint Committee
- Get members of the committee to the same level of understanding of the functions and powers of this committee

BACKGROUND

- 18 June 2009: Joint Rules Committee referred the establishment of this committee to the Joint sub-Committee on Review of Joint Rules for consideration and report
- October 2010: decision of a sub-committee on the Review of Joint Rules to establish this committee

STRUCTURE

Will act as an advisory, influencing and consultative body

- Composition: NA & NCOP members
- Co-chairpersons from each House of Parliament (Hon. Goqwana & Hon. Rasmeni were elected)
- An acting co-chairperson may be elected from the component of the committee

QUORUM

- ***Quorum:*** the committee may proceed with its business irrespective of the number of members present
- ***May*** decide a question only if a quorum is present
- ***A majority of the members*** from each House component constitutes a quorum

DECISIONS

A question is decided when there is an agreement on it between:

- The majority of the members of the Assembly component, and
- The majority of the members of the Council component.

This means the majority of members from each component of the two Houses must agree to a question for a decision to be taken.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

- Monitor and evaluate the *implementation* of government's strategy, policy and programmes.
- Monitor and evaluate government's *compliance* with all applicable international instruments, related duties and responsibilities, including timeous submission of *country reports*.
- Examine and evaluate the legal framework and *make recommendations* on existing and proposed legislation.

ITS FUNCTIONS AND POWERS Cont...

- ***Make submissions*** to relevant oversight committees.
- ***Introduce an HIV and AIDS related focus in parliamentary activities***, including:
 - programming of debates,
 - monitoring parliamentary oversight to ensure that HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment are prioritised on the national agenda, and
 - Ensure that adequate provision is made for the above in the ***national budget***.

ITS FUNCTIONS AND POWERS Cont...

- ***Engage with civil society*** and other structures on HIV and AIDS related issues.
- Consider any other matter ***within its mandate*** referred to it by either House.

REQUIREMENTS

- ***Must*** report to the Houses annually on its activities.
- ***May*** submit substantive reports and proposals to relevant parliamentary forums (via each House).

Question?: Which parliamentary forums?
Clarity is required here. Committee needs to identify these forums.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Slide 9: Identify “relevant oversight forums”
- Slide 9: Determine the relationship between the national Department of Health and Treasury regarding budget allocation.
- Slide 10: Identify civil society organizations to work with. What will be the terms of engagement with the identified CSOs? E.g. SANAC, HSRC, etc.
- Slide 11: When will the committee report to each House? Which format to follow? Establish whether the committee is allowed to engage with the parliamentary forums once a report has been submitted to the two Houses.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

These are simply suggestions to give the committee a kick-start to its programme:

- Look at the legal framework as it relates to HIV and Aids.
- Country's HIV and Aids strategy, policy and programmes.
- International instruments on HIV and Aids.
- Link and/or collaborate with the team responsible for compilation of the country report on HIV and Aids.

All or some of these can be achieved in a workshop with various stakeholders



THANK YOU

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