



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Speeding Transformation: *The NCOP's Role in Oversight*

Secretary to Parliament
28 August 2023

*Following up on our commitments to the people
Making your future work better*



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Co-operation and Co-ordination – heartbeat of the NCOP

1. Did you know?
2. Towards a better life – the constitutional promise
3. Role of the NCOP
4. Transformative Parliament and the need for collaboration and co-operation
5. Conclusion

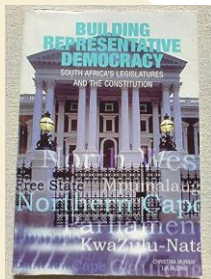
1. Did you know?

- In 1999, two years after the establishment of the National Council of provinces, research was commissioned indicating that the central role for the NCOP is overseeing cooperation and coordination in the spheres of government.

- *Because the people of South Africa finally chose a profoundly legal path to their revolution, those who frame and enact constitution and law are in the vanguard of the fight for change.*
- *It is in the legislatures that the instruments have been fashioned to create a better life for all. It is here that oversight of government has been exercised. It is here that our society with all its formations has had an opportunity to influence policy and its implementation.*

President Nelson Mandela, 1999

- *As we have already mentioned, the role of the NCOP must be seen in the context of the constitutional commitment to co-operative government. Co-operative government means that national policy must be sensitive to local and provincial needs and concerns and must not ignore or ride roughshod over them.*
- *It also means that municipalities and, particularly, provinces should not act alone or in isolation; they must be deeply integrated into the national political process. **The NCOP is designed to ensure that this happens.***



***Building Representative Democracy South Africa's Legislatures and the Constitution January 1, 2002**
by Christina Murray & Lia Nijzink*

Intergovernmental relations (IGR): A system of multi-level government is dependent on institutions that facilitate cooperation and coordination amongst the levels. The NCOP is such an institution, bringing all three spheres of government together in the national Parliament. While most IGR institutions are found in the executive, the legislature should still oversee them. Because the NCOP straddles all three spheres of government, it is the ideal institution to oversee executive IGR. The goals of oversight of executive IGR would be to ensure that these institutions

- enhance delivery and transformation;
- serve the provinces and local government;
- do not remove decision-making from public debate by striking deals that the executive claims cannot be scrutinised; and
- do not become dominated by inter-governmental squabbles or rivalry.

Speeding Transformation: NCOP's Role in the Oversight Process.
Written by: Professor Christina Murray. University of Cape Town.

2. Towards a better life – the constitutional promise

- A plan's success lies in its implementation. South Africa's national development plan will require collaboration between all sections of society, and strong leadership by government.
- To bring about a capable developmental state that can give effect to the national plan, it is necessary to identify areas where government is failing to provide realistic strategies for overcoming limitations in state capacity.

NDP Diagnostic Report, Chapter 2, *Institutions and Governance*

The road
to school?



The
dangers
of raw
sewage?

State of intergovernmental system

Unspent grants – 10%, R 3 bn

Management of infrastructure grants

2021-22

Total grant income: R33,31bn

Total grant expenditure: R30,41bn (91% spent)

	Metropolitan municipalities	Intermediate cities	Local municipalities	District municipalities
Budget	R11,82bn	R6,05bn	R7,38bn	R8,06bn
Spent	R10,95bn (93%)	R5,26bn (87%)	R6,65bn (90%)	R7,54bn (94%)

State of intergovernmental system

Delay in grant projects

Average delay in completion of projects

(period between planned and actual completion date, or project is still ongoing)

26
months

Public transport network grant

10
months

Water services infrastructure grant

17
months

Regional bulk infrastructure grant

8
months

Urban settlements development grant

15
months

Municipal infrastructure grant



Attainment of development goals

Capable state

- The attainment of development goals in South Africa is heavily dependent on an effective system of intergovernmental relations (IGR) and also upon the degree to which the institutions of government can operate in mutual trust and good faith and in a state of institutional harmony.
- Where government institutions and organs of state, in the three spheres of government, have to exercise a statutory power or implement a policy that requires the undertaking of joint work or implementing concurrent functions, those organs of state must co-ordinate their actions and participate in an appropriate manner.'

L P Malan, School of Public Management and Administration, University of Pretoria

The National Development Plan 2030



THE NDP'S CLARION CALL: LEADERSHIP & CAPABILITY

Quality of Governance across the three spheres is critical to Performance

Focus on improving Leadership

Fostering Collaboration

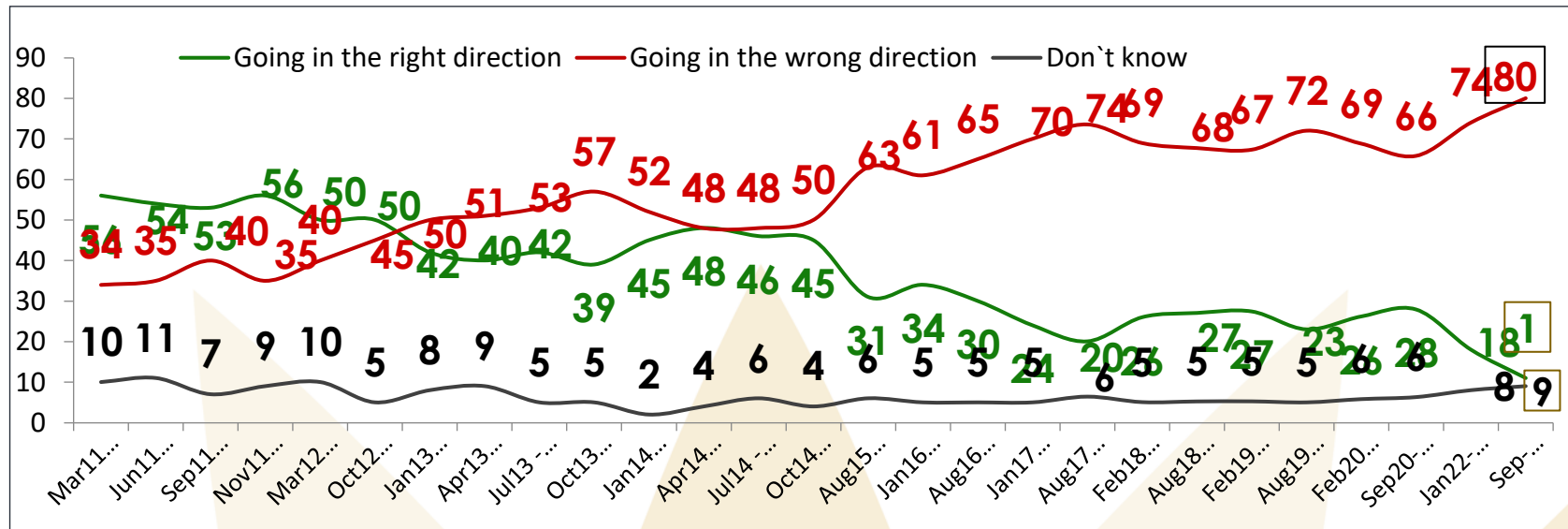
Inter-sphere Coordination

Effective Oversight

Public Opinion on the Direction of the Country

PUBLIC OPINION | DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

Question: If you think of the direction in which the country is going, would you say that the country is going in the right direction or going in the wrong direction?

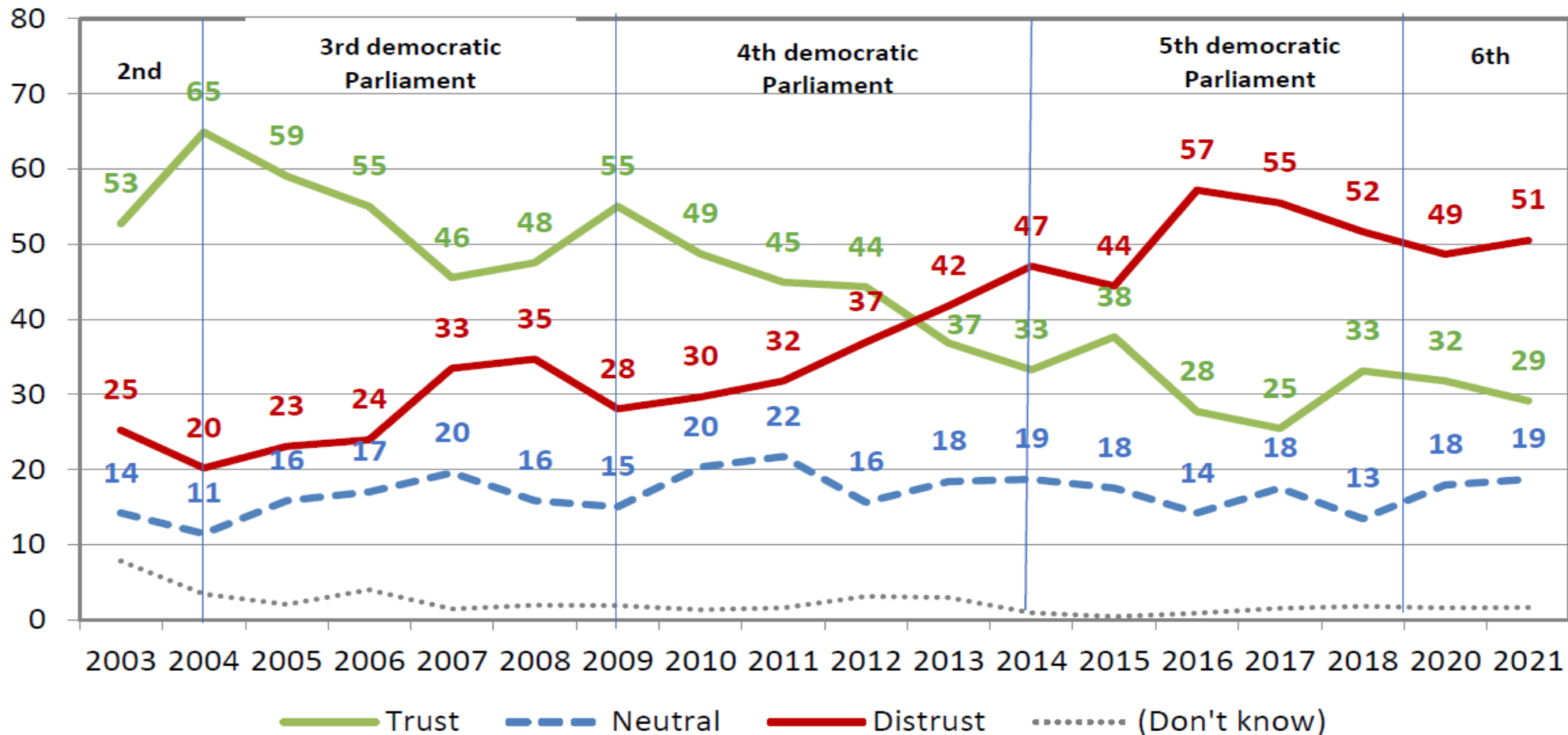


- The mood of the country as measured by the direction in which the country is heading can be influenced by a number of issues relating to government performance and the lived experiences of South Africans.
- The research findings depict the discontentment and weariness that the majority of South Africans are feeling in the manner in which the country is headed.
- A significant shift can be seen from the little bit of optimism that some citizens still felt in the last reporting quarter to now unequivocally negative.

Source: GCIS Tracker Data – Wave 15 (Sep – Nov) | 2022 – sample size 3500 – representative of the South African population

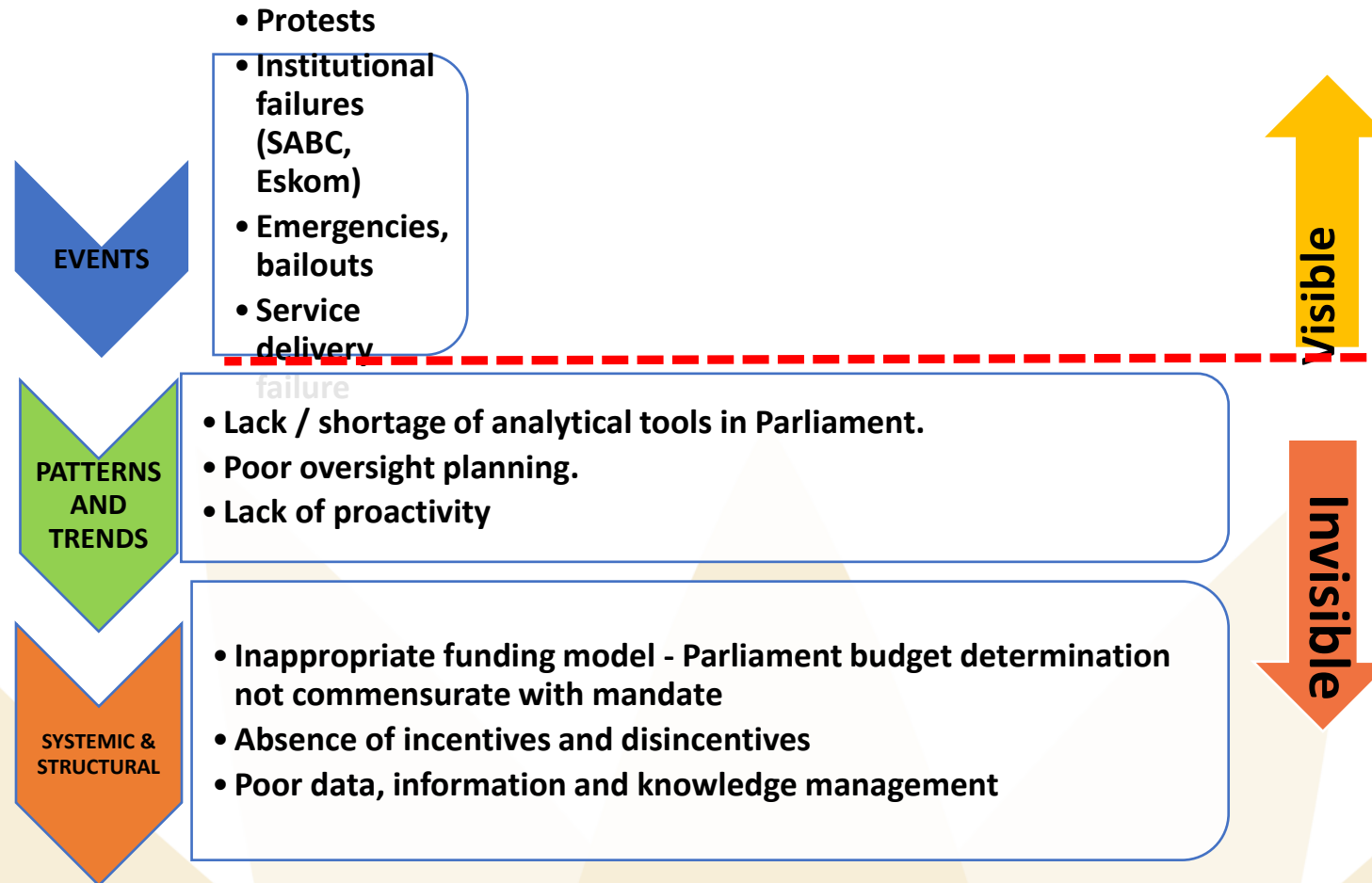
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Trust in Parliament 2003-2021 (%)



Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021.

Research, Analysis and Development of appropriate response - Peeling the Onion; Forming a proper understanding



25 JULY 2023

1 MIN READ

'This is not lockdown' — Limpopo liquor traders are against midnight alcohol sales cut-off

in News / South Africa by SINESIPHO SCHRIEBER



The National Liquor Traders organisation says it will take the provincial government to court over Limpopo's new regulation restricting alcohol sales. File photo.

Image: Alaister Russell

AA

timeslive.co.za



Poor rate of project delivery

The screenshot shows the news24 website interface. At the top left is the news24 logo with the tagline 'Trusted News. First'. To the right are 'Sign in' and a red 'Subscribe' button, followed by a weather icon and 'Add location'. Below the navigation bar are categories: SA NEWS (highlighted), BUSINESS, INVESTIGATIONS, and POLITICS. A red banner reads 'FOR SUBSCRIBERS'. The main headline is 'In 6 years, a R130m KZN housing project managed to finish 11 units, legislature hears'. Below the headline is the date '21 Aug', the author 'Kaveel Singh', and the news24 logo. At the bottom of the article are four interactive buttons: 'Comments', 'Gift article', a bookmark icon, and a share icon. Below these is a player for an audio article titled 'Listen to this article' with a play button and a progress bar showing '0:00'.

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In 6 years, a R130m KZN housing project managed to finish 11 units, legislature hears

🕒 21 Aug
Kaveel Singh
news24

Comments Gift article 📌 🔄

Listen to this article 0:00

Conditional grants expenditure report

Province	Original allocation	Adjustment	Revised allocation	Amounts received or transferred	Actual Expenditure	expenditure as % of transferred	Total unspent for 21/22	Rollover approved amount	Total amount to be offset
EASTERN CAPE	6,823,966	-112,511	6,711,455	6,711,455	5,780,442	86.13%	931,013	187,140	743,873
FREE STATE	2,107,594	312,934	2,420,528	2,420,528	1,736,747	71.75%	910,229	190,367	719,862
GAUTENG	9,302,883	-298,733	9,156,329	9,156,329	8,288,833	90.53%	867,496	1,755,926	851,576
KWAZULU-NATAL	2,751,246	2,751,246	2,751,246	2,751,246	2,751,246	100.00%	638,378	261,497	376,881
LIMPOPO	4,742,664	76,407	4,731,946	4,819,071	4,333,606	89.93%	485,465	96,419	389,046
MPUMALANGA	3,403,103	386,778	3,789,881	3,742,187	3,465,161	92.60%	277,026	59,330	217,696
NORTHERN CAPE	1,259,823	67,105	1,398,813	1,325,998	1,082,127	81.61%	243,871	141,003	157,886
NORTH WEST	3,188,069	-165,361	3,022,708	3,021,198	2,423,205	80.21%	597,993	182,497	415,496
WESTERN CAPE	5,216,167	-1,053,509	4,162,658	4,162,658	3,917,288	94.11%	245,370	94,006	129,626
	-	-	-	-	-				
National Total	39,953,588	-2,265,989	37,312,290	37,186,240	32,930,317	88.56%	5,196,841	2,968,185	4,001,942

Preliminary 2021/22 unspent figures

Source: LGBA Dataset



A bus and taxi were burnt on the N2 near Langa on 3 August 2023 after taxi operators downed tools earlier in the week.

Brenton Geach/Gallo Images

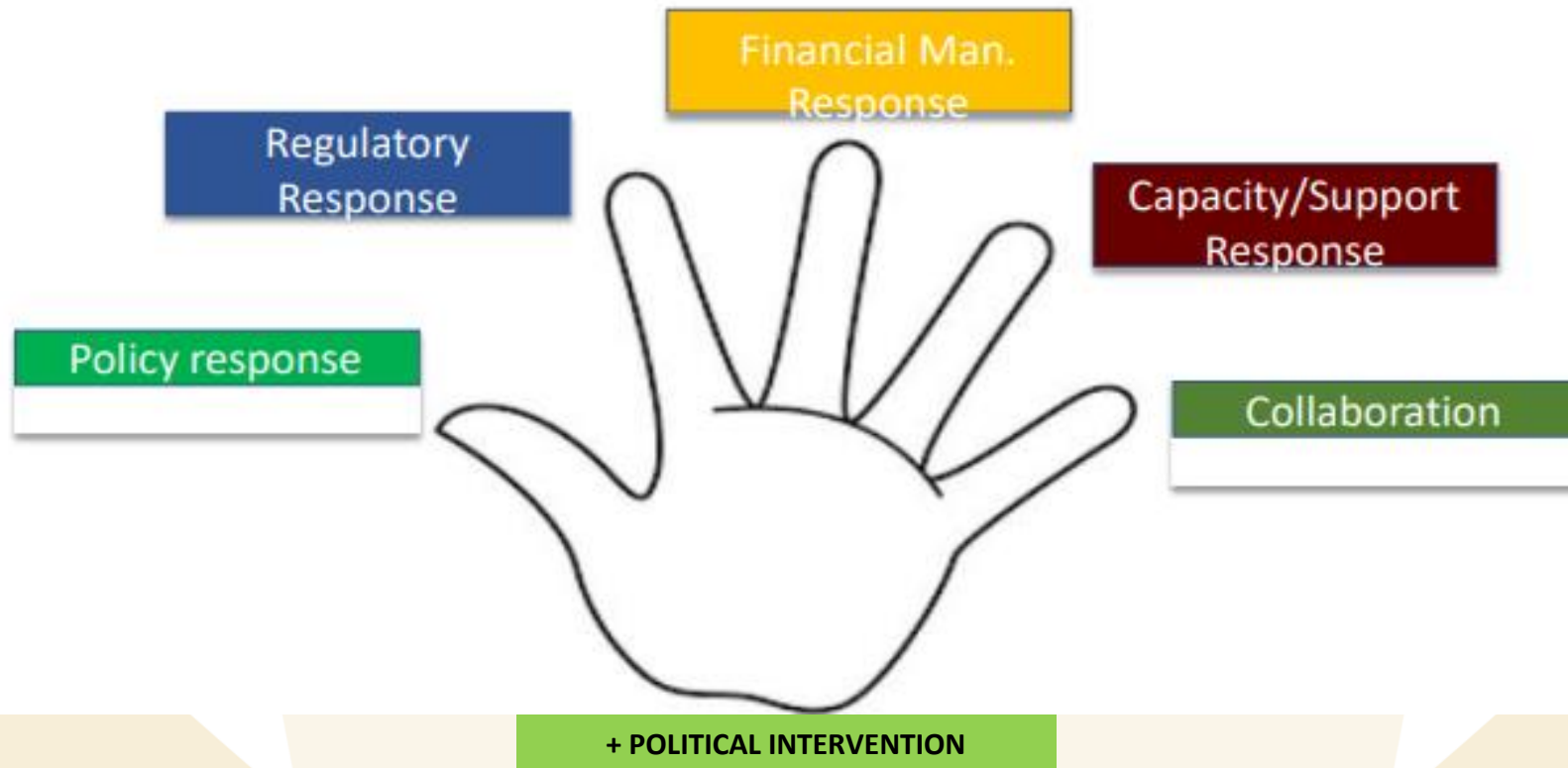
On Friday, when the full impact of the stayaway set in, the Western Cape education department said 287 420 pupils and 9 508 staff members were negatively impacted.

Pupils either could not get to school, or they were kept home for their safety.

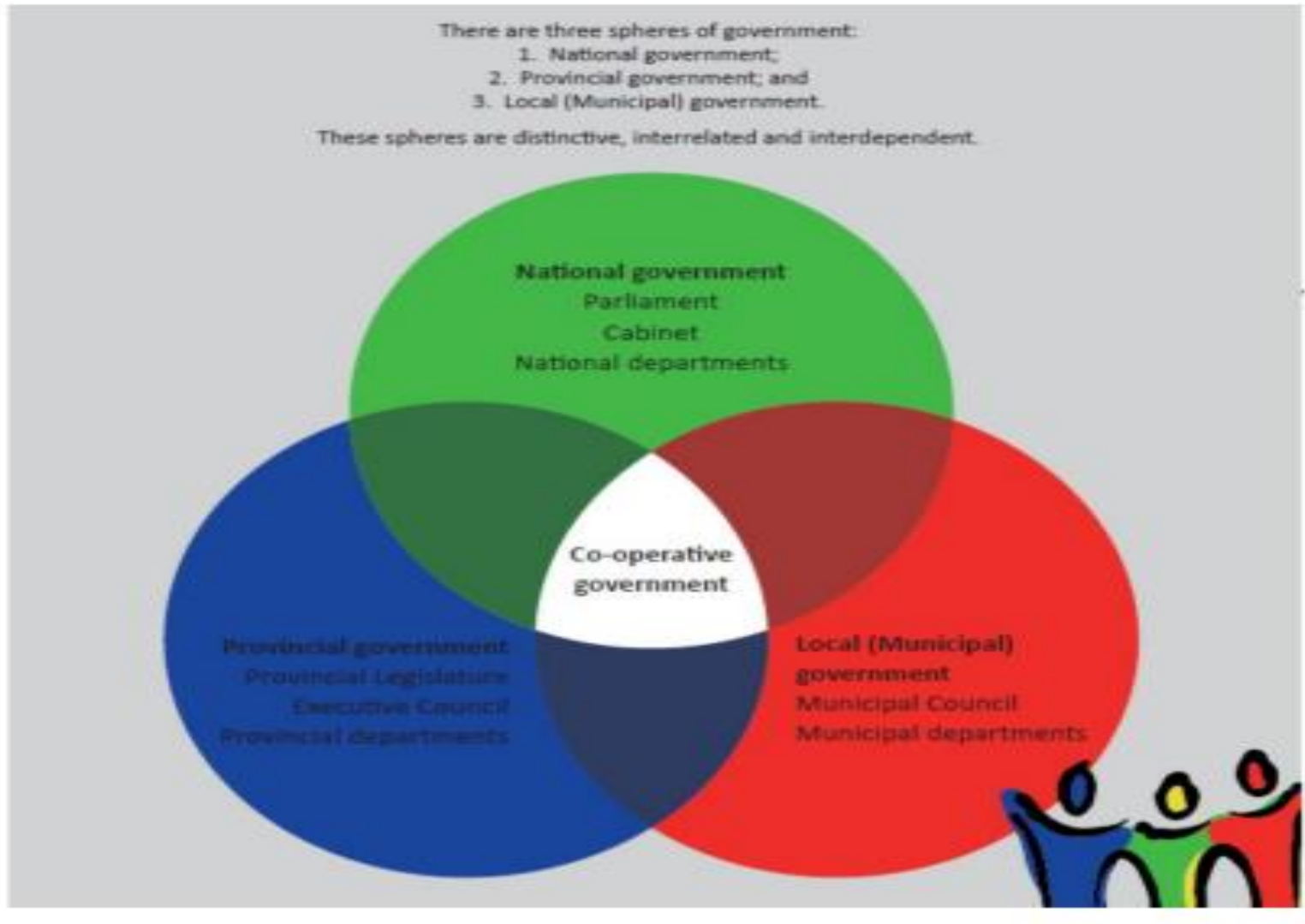


Strategic Response to Challenges

- Only through a multi-pronged response with other stakeholders:



THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE DDM



7th Parliament macro framework

Strategic themes

Transformative
Parliament

Responsive
Parliament

Collaborative
Engagement

Effective
Stakeholder
engagement

Operational excellence

New macro framework

Framing questions

- How should Parliament deal with fragmented planning and budgeting in government as a whole?
- How should the equitable share and *Division of Revenue Bill* be used as a catalyst for development and growth?
- How can oversight and in-year monitoring be strengthened to prevent underspending or loss?
- How can Parliament use its powers to positively increase the performance of government?
- How can public accountability be strengthened?

Conclusion

- Local government is the spinal cord for service delivery, development and growth in South Africa,
- However, the system is under immense pressure, and failure would mean the unravelling of our system of government,
- The inter-governmental system was constitutionally designed to assist and intervene in areas of government where failings may appear,
- The intergovernmental system requires good faith, trust, collaboration and cooperation to achieve the development outcomes,

***This House must ask itself and answer the question –
what can the NCOP do to further promote the project of
the provision of a better life for all our people?***

--- The President of the Republic of South Africa Hon. Thabo Mbeki
First address to the National Council of Provinces, 28 October 1999