



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

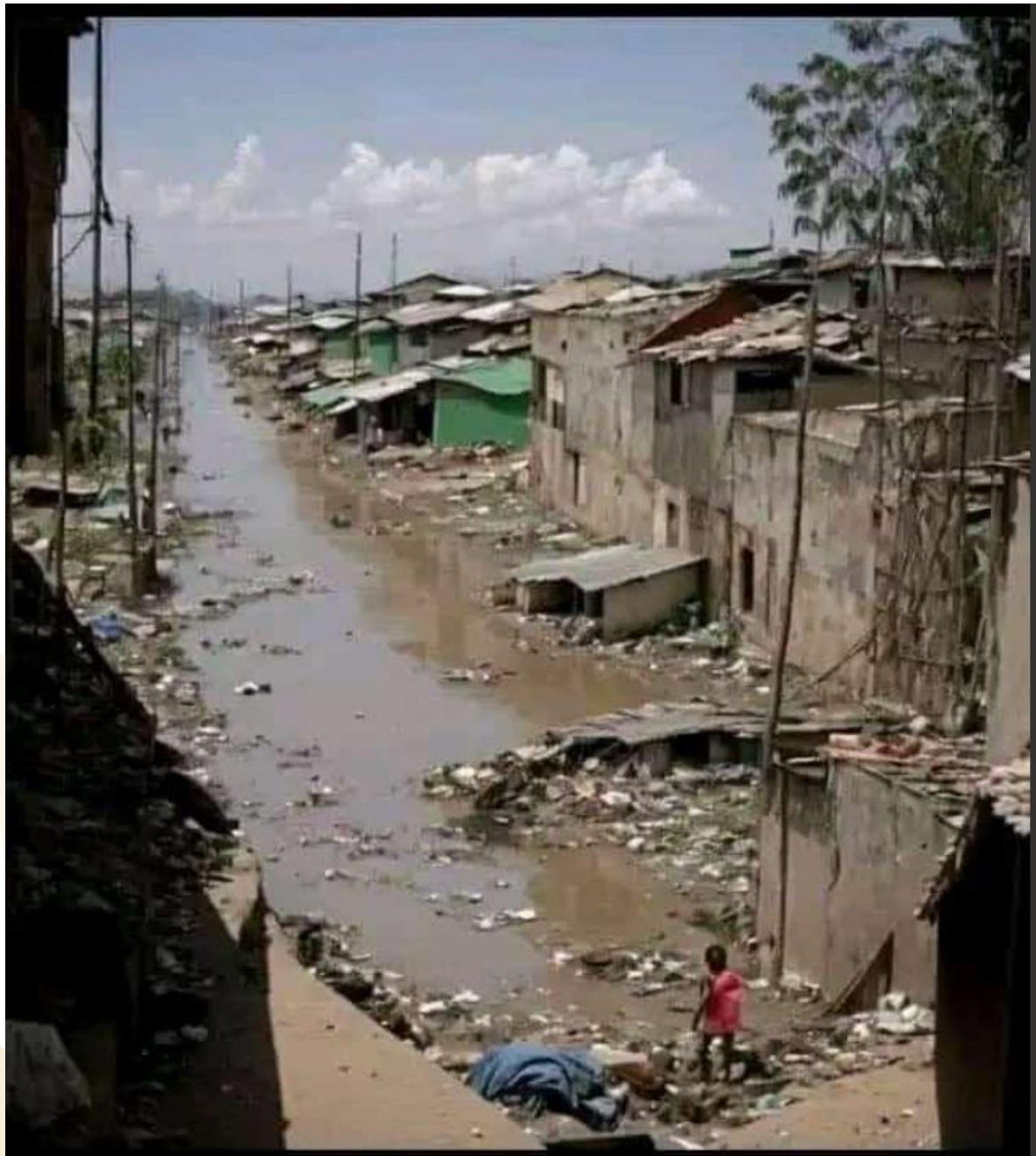
Closing Remarks

Secretary to Parliament
29 August 2023

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

COLLABORATION

- A South African citizen does not easily distinguish between different spheres of government
- They see government as one and expect government – not a sphere of government as responsible for service delivery / government performance
- The legislative arm has the responsibility to ensure that there is effective oversight and legislative development



Cognisant Commitment to Inclusivity and Effective Governance

- Reflecting upon the sagacious words of Nelson Mandela, we are reminded that the active engagement of our citizens is the cornerstone of our nation's development.
- Over the past two days, our collaborative efforts have been dedicated to fortifying the edifice of the 7th Parliamentary Term Macro Framework Strategy.
- This fortification was deemed of such significance that it held the prominent position in the inaugural discussions of the 2023 Legislative Sector Development Seminar.
- As custodians of our constitutional responsibilities, we are stepping into a phase of heightened operational efficiency, firmly focused on our ability to respond to the myriad challenges facing our nation.
- This necessitates a strategic implementation of the 7th Term Macro Framework that is nothing short of exemplary

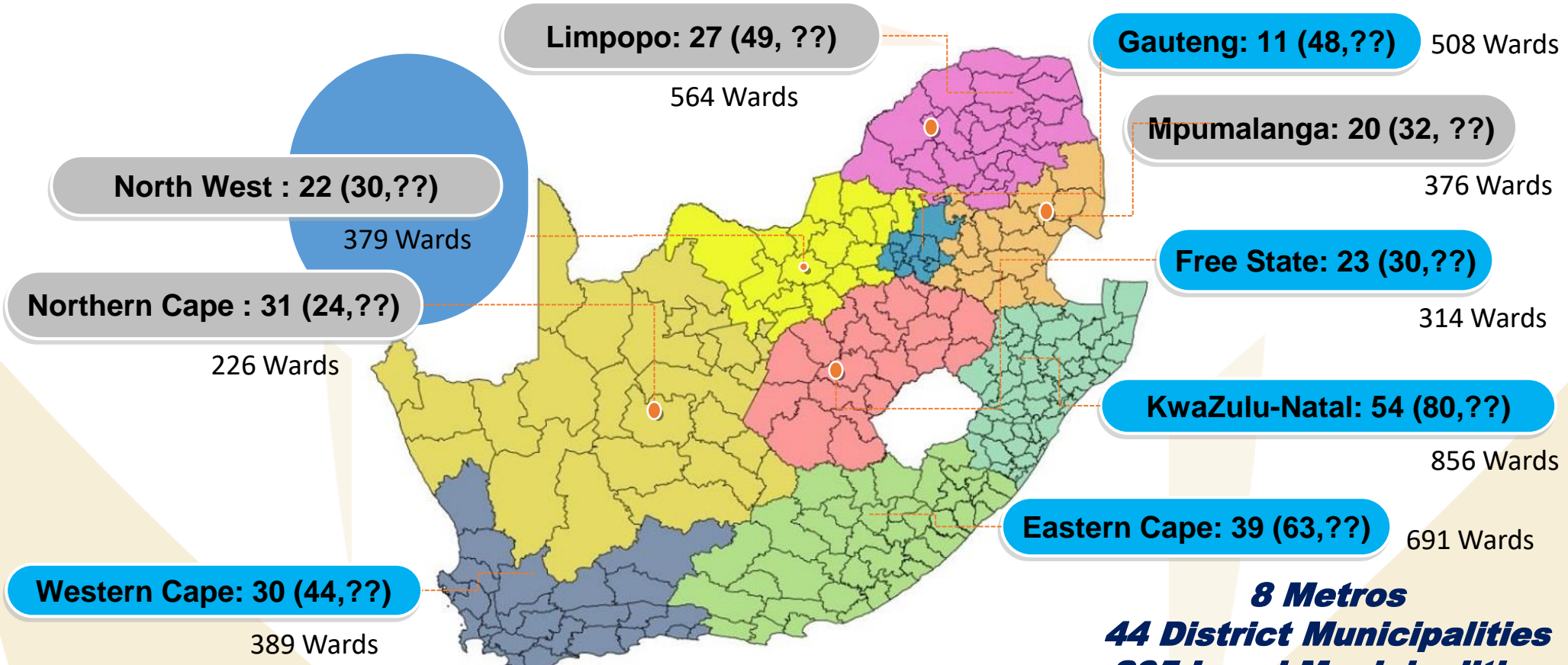
Empowerment through Participatory Enlightenment

- Our collective discourse underscores a compelling truth – the imperative of reconnecting with the heartbeat of our nation, the citizens themselves.
- The very heart of our strategic framework, the 7th Parliament Term Macro Strategy, hinges upon;
 - a) Transformative approaches,
 - b) Responsiveness to the needs of our populace,
 - c) Inter-governmental collaboration, and/
 - d) A commitment to fostering robust stakeholder engagement.

Incorporating the Wisdom of Empirical Evidence

- A cardinal principle guides our legislative agenda: an unwavering commitment to basing our decisions on empirical evidence.
- This principle lays the groundwork for the formulation policies and the shaping of legislative imperatives, all directed towards advancing the collective welfare of our nation.
- This method also serves to enhance our ability to meet our constitutional obligations, reaffirming our role as representatives of the people's interests.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICES (CO) PER PROVINCE(257 MUNICIPALITIES)



8 Metros
44 District Municipalities
205 Local Municipalities

Province: # Municipalities (Parliament CO, Provincial Legislator CO)

MPs and constituency offices: How can they assist you?

How are MPs accountable to the public?

SA's electoral system at provincial and national levels is one of proportional representation, meaning that MPs and MPLs are not elected from geographic areas in the way that ward councillors are in local government elections.

However, MPs and MPLs are still expected to interact with the public.



MPs are assigned "Constituency areas" by their parties i.e. MPs are allocated certain areas for which they are responsible for representing.



Parliament makes a 'Political Party Constituency Allowance' available to each represented party to set up "Constituency offices" in the allocated areas.

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Parliamentary programme assigns every Monday during session and several weeks during the year for MPs to concentrate on constituency work.



During constituency periods, MPs should meet and discuss issues with the the public, and find solutions to problems that the local community is facing.

Taking advantage of one on one time with your rep



109 days

Average no. of days an MP spends at his/her constituency office each year. During these days MPs are available to the public; help solve problems; and report back to their constituents on what is happening in Parliament.



350 offices

Approx 350 Constituency Offices around the country where members of the public can approach elected representatives and ask for help regarding illegal evictions, registration of houses, SASSA enquiries, etc.

Major cities and approximate number of constituency offices



Figures determined by using People's Assembly's "Rep Locator"

Note: figures include minimum no. of constituencies or MPs assigned to these areas

Source: People's Assembly website - www.pa.org.za; "About Constituency offices" - <http://www.pa.org.za/info/constituency-offices>

Charting a Course of Public Participation

- As we navigate the tapestry of our responsibilities, it is imperative to acknowledge the significance of public participation.
- Distinguished figures such as Judge Albie Sachs and Prof Zondi impress upon us the pivotal role that the voices of our citizens play in shaping our legislative landscape.
- The recent Constitutional Court judgements underscored the inadequacies of our past efforts to ensure robust public involvement.

The chains that bind us

Sometimes the chains that prevent us from being free are more mental than physical.

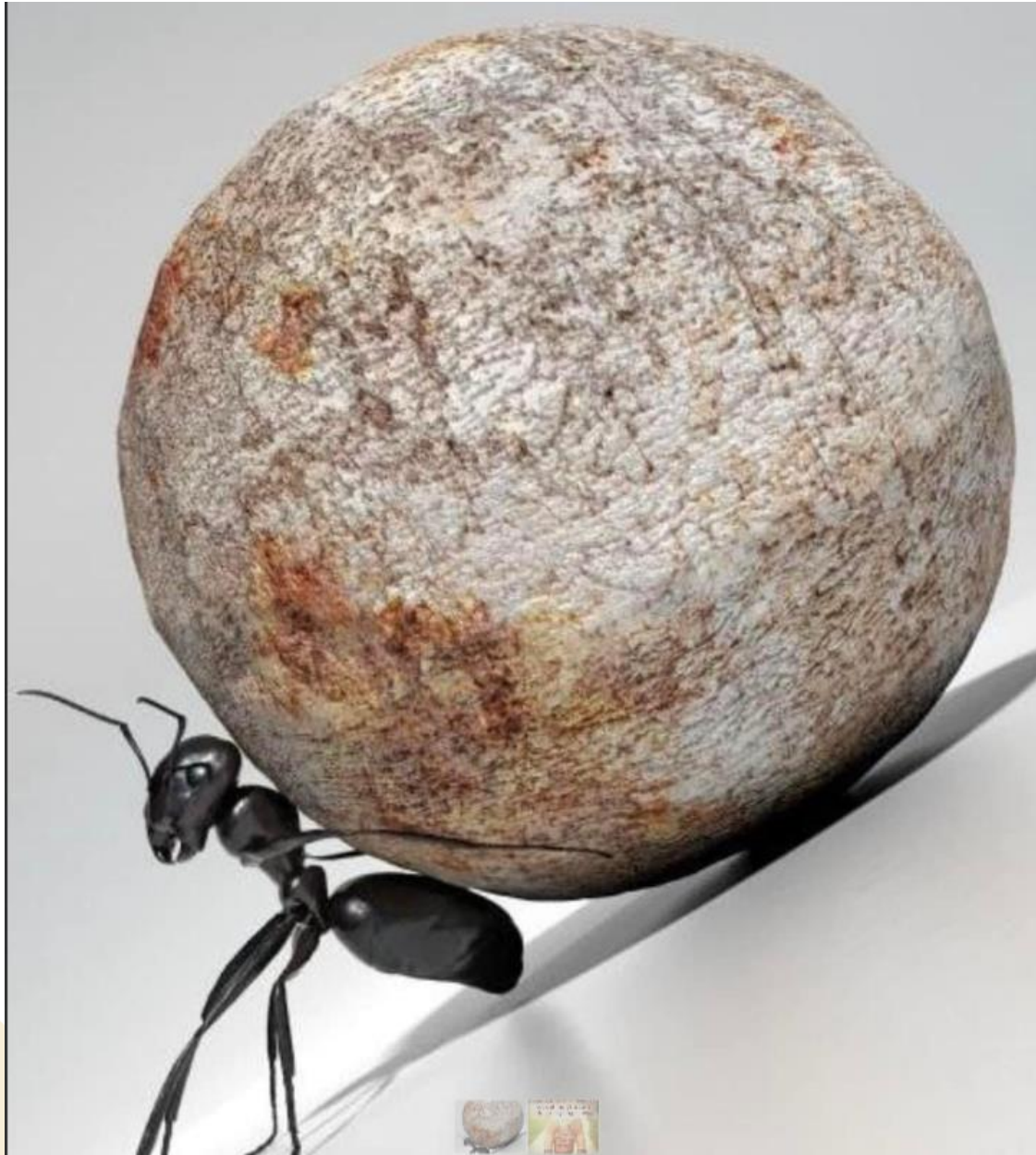


Embracing Technology for Inclusivity and Progress

- To bridge this gap and amplify the resonance of citizen voices, we are poised to harness the transformative potential of technology.
- This workshop should impress the need to embrace the need for widespread inclusion and transcending geographical boundaries through digital offering.
- However, as we embark on this technological journey, we remain attuned to the disparities that may arise due to connectivity challenges and varying degrees of digital literacy among our diverse population.
- But we commit to enhancing democratic participation through digitalisation.

Harnessing Collaboration to Tackle Multifaceted Challenges

- In our pursuit of progress, we recognize that addressing complex challenges requires a united front across all spheres
- This workshop has correctly emphasised the need to harness collaboration as we pool together diverse perspectives, expertise, and resources from various stakeholders.
- Through this collaborative approach, we will strengthen our democracy, oversight and legislative modernisation.



Synergising Efforts Across Spheres for Holistic Development

- Breaking down the barriers between spheres is key to achieving holistic development.
- By synergizing efforts across different realms – be it governance, economy, social services, or technology – we create a unified force that addresses not only the symptoms but also the root causes of societal issues.
- This holistic approach ensures that our development endeavours have a far-reaching impact, fostering sustainable progress that uplifts every facet of our society.

Resistance

Resistance is a force that slows or stops movement.
It is a natural and expected part of change.

Resistance is energy.



Sometimes you need to
look at things from a
different perspective.



CONCLUSION

An Unwavering Call for Excellence

- As we approach the 30 years of democracy;
 - In this collective journey, the words of Nelson Mandela resonate with undiminished significance.
 - His query, "Are we, through our endeavours here, creating the basis to better the lives of all South Africans?" reverberates through the corridors of time.
 - The answer from this workshop would be a resolute affirmation of our dedication to effecting positive change.

LET'S GO DO IT!!!