

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

**House Chairperson's input to the Strategic
Planning and Review Session of NCOP
Committees**

28 February 2023

**6th
DEMOCRATIC
PARLIAMENT**





Report to the Strategic Planning and Review Session of NCOP Committees

28 February 2023

Chairperson, Hon. Amos Masondo;
Deputy Chairperson, Hon. Sylvia Lucas;
House Chairperson, Hon. Winnie Ngwenya;
Chief Whip, Hon. Seiso Mohai;
Provincial Whips;
Chairpersons of Committees,
Permanent and Special Delegates to the Council;
Secretary to Parliament, Mr. Xolile George;
Secretary to the NCOP, Adv. Phindela;
And all our support staff



We are meeting at a time when our country, along with Nigeria, has just been grey-listed by the Financial Action Task Force, which is an International Financial Crime Watchdog. Their decision places us under special scrutiny to work towards implementing standards to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism but there is no doubt that it has also had the effect of causing us reputational damage. However, engaging in defensive theatrics will not help us. It would be the worst course of action to take; and indeed a subversion of our democracy. If anything, this development should set us on a course where we engage in a frank discussion with ourselves as we seek ways to address strategic deficiencies, which may be prevalent in our mechanisms geared towards tackling financial crimes. Whereas we need to continue asking the question regarding how we got ourselves into such a rut, we also need to move with speed in attempting the second and most fundamental question of how we could extricate ourselves from this pickle. We are heartened by the fact that of the many areas raised by the Financial Action Task Force there seems to be progress, which is being made. To that effect, as Parliament we will have to monitor what government does to quickly implement the National Strategy on Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism, which the cabinet adopted in November last year. This will help the country to reverse the grey-listing, which of course is a concern to every one of us. We will definitely rely on our Committees for leadership and direction as we did when we drafted Bills to respond to the same matter.



I am aware that our fiscal Committees are not with us today as we have granted them permission to attend to other pressing matters as they pertain to the business of Council and, indeed, Parliament.

We will, however, create space for them to engage and particularly reflect on the implications of this much-vaunted grey-listing, with a view to setting us on a path towards rebuilding our systems.

Chairperson, this being a review session as well, I need to assure you that Committees have really been hard at work between your closing remarks during the last session and today; where a number of meetings have been held. These meetings have largely been successful in that reports have been adopted and tabled before the House. I remember that during our last Programming Committee meeting I made a presentation to the effect that the Select Committee on Petitions and Executive Undertakings had cut down the number of Executive Undertakings from 16 to just 4. A question was later- outside the meeting- posed to my office in terms of what this really means in practical terms and this is what it really means:

The Committee has interfaced with the undertakings, considering all aspects and came to conclusions that were then compiled into reports, which were finally considered and adopted by the House. It would be imperative that we strengthen our tracking mechanisms to ensure that the adopted reports translate to tangible actions leading to redress and the provision of services where necessary.



Deputy Chairperson, may I also add that the Select Committee on Cogta currently has only 11 interventions, notices of interventions, progress reports, extensions of interventions and withdrawal of interventions in terms of Section 139 and various sub-sections of the Constitution in various Municipalities across 4 Provinces. KZN accounts for the largest number of matters before the Committee with 7, followed by Mpumalanga with 2 with Gauteng and Western Cape accounting for 1 each.

This is a remarkable feat, seeing as there was a time when almost all Provinces were under some form of spotlight. Again, we will implore that our tracking mechanism remains vigilant in order to ensure that we do not regress on the progress we have made.

May I also take this opportunity to commend all Committees for having adhered to one of our key fundamentals as a House of Parliament. Over the period under review up to December 2022, we have seen committees accounting for 19 pieces of Legislation geared at improving the lives of our people as well as the sustenance of our democratic project.

These are:



1. Division of Revenue Bill [B6-2022] (National Assembly – section 76(1))
2. Employment Equity Amendment Bill [B 14B - 2020] (National Assembly – section 75)
3. Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Amendment Bill [B 21B - 2020] (National Assembly – section 75)
4. Second Adjustments Appropriation (2021/22 Financial Year) Bill [B 8 – 2022] (National Assembly – section 77)
5. Appropriation Bill [B 7– 2022] (National Assembly – section 77)
6. Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill [B25 - 2021] (National Assembly – sec 75)
7. Financial Sector and Deposit Insurance Levies Bill [B3B-2022] (National Assembly – section 77)
8. Financial Sector and Deposit Insurance Levies (Administration) and Deposit Insurance Premiums Bill [B4B-2022] (National Assembly – section 75)
9. Sectional Titles Amendment Bill [B 31B – 2020] (National Assembly – section 76)
10. Children’s Amendment Bill [B18D-2020] (National Assembly – section 76)
11. Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B22-2022] (National Assembly – section 76)
12. Electoral Amendment Bill [B 1B - 2022] (National Assembly – section 75)
13. Rates and Monetary Amounts and Amendment of Revenue Laws Bill [B25-2022] (National Assembly – sec 77)
14. Taxation Laws Amendment Bill [B26-2022] (National Assembly – sec 77)
15. Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill [B27B-2022] (National Assembly – sec 75)
16. Special Appropriation Bill [B24-2022] (National Assembly – sec 77)
17. Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B23-2022] (National Assembly sec 77)
18. General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill [B18B-2022] (National Assembly – section 75)
19. Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Amendment Bill [B15B-2022] (National Assembly – sec 75)



We are indeed making strides despite the many challenges, which are facing us as a country. Load shedding has escalated; making it even difficult for us to leverage on the opportunities brought by the advances in technology. We have continued to hold most of our meetings on the virtual platform but the instability of networks has often militated against some Members' successful participation.

We are also racing against the elements as witnessed in the devastating floods which battered KZN, parts of Eastern Cape and Northwest. We have now witnessed Gauteng, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga joining the list of provinces that have seen livelihoods being destabilized due to flooding. Personal property, vital infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools and other amenities have been destroyed causing losses, which run into millions of rands.

This meeting should find ways to respond appropriately to all of these; lest we run the risk of our people losing faith in government institutions and eventually Parliament. In just a few months, curtains will be coming down on the sixth Parliament and we should already be considering what we will leave behind as a legacy. The greatest legacy would have been in our ability to deal decisively with poverty, inequality and unemployment. These triplets have the face of women, the youth and people living with disabilities. We need to be advocates for the improvement of their lot and the remaining months should see a heightened focus from our side.



We also need to respond to the annual scourge, which has seen learners struggling for learning space both at primary and secondary institutions of learning. The anxiety is just too much for children who should only worry about getting classwork, homework and anything in between. What is happening at universities is even worse and anything short of intervention from us cannot be acceptable. It cannot be that students struggle with registration and when that is out of the way, they then struggle with accommodation to a point of sleeping on the streets.

There is a raft of interventions, which we need to make on our roads where freight carriers expose users to delays and dangers. We need to intervene in our hospitals where services are deteriorating. We need to move with speed with the roll-out of the National Health Insurance in order to ensure that the right to life is bequeathed not to selected individuals but also to every Gogo Ntombi and Mkhulu Majozi.

Chairperson, I do not wish to present an exhaustive list of what needs to be done as our Committees have a better handle on their scope of work. All I can say is that I wish them well in their planning as planning is a vital cog to the success of any chosen course. There is a mantra to the effect that organizations which do not plan, actual plan to fail.

We dare not fail as that would be an affront to the Constitution and the oath to serve our people.

Thank You!