

Parliament: Following up on Our Commitments to the People

**Oversight and
Accountability Model of
Parliament in the context
of a Developmental State**

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STRUCTURE



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- Brief Overview: Parliament of R.S.A**
- Role of Parliament in a Developmental State**
- Oversight and Accountability Model of R.S.A Parliament**
- Concluding way forward remarks**



PART A

Brief Overview of the South African Parliament

Some facts about South Africa:



PARLIAMENT
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Population size: 55.91m (2016); population estimate stats;

Surface area; 2.4million sq km;

Population density 17 people per square km;

**Apartheid spatial challenges;
But now we have a 21 yr constitutional democracy; and
a bicameral Parliament.**



❑ **The SA Parliament:**

- exists as a result of **a constitution that defines a unitary state**
- Guided by the separation of power- **Judiciary, legislature and the executive;**

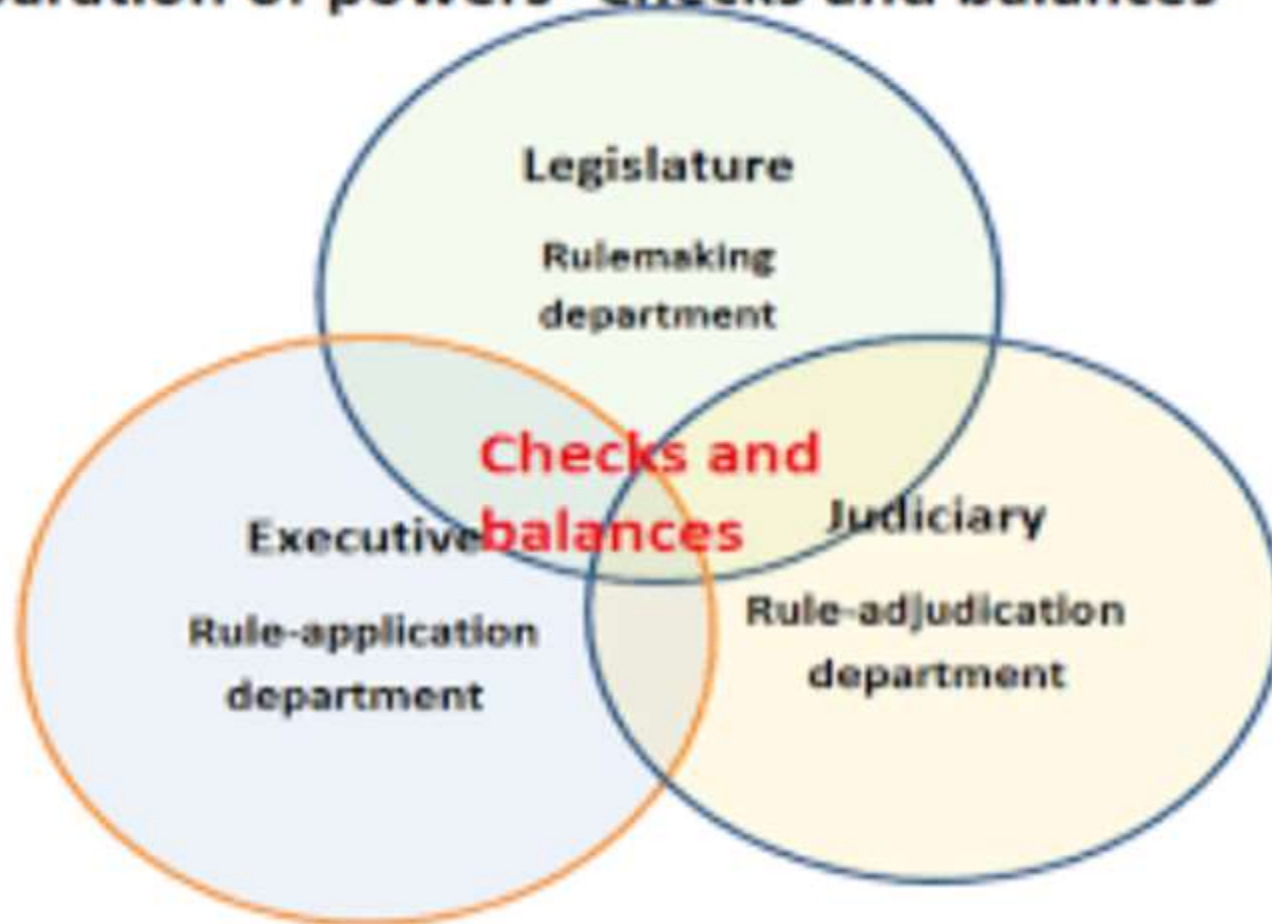
❑ ***Chapter in the Constitution:***

- Provides for cooperative government and intergovernmental relations

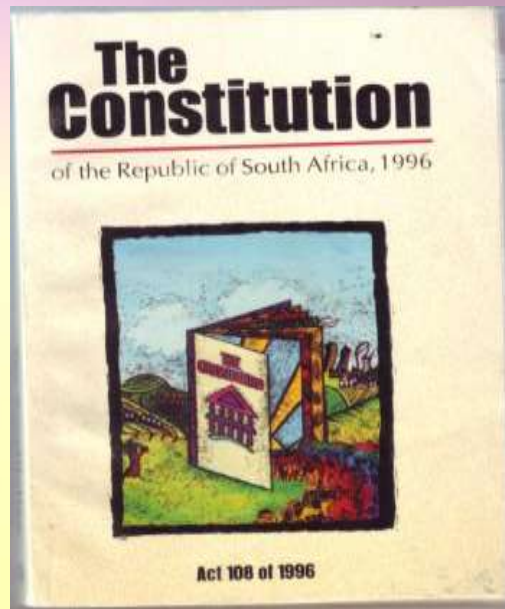
❑ ***Sections of our Constitution***

- Further grant Legislatures powers to determine and control their arrangements, proceedings and procedures.

Separation of powers- Checks and balances



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE MANDATE: PARLIAMENT OF R.S.A



KEY GUIDING PRINCIPLES



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Safeguarding **constitutional democracy**:

- ❑ Improving **coordination across the legislative Sector**, including cooperation with other arms of the state:

- ❑ Ensuring the realization of a **democratic developmental state** based on the **will of the people**:

- ❑ Ensure **effective oversight** that leads to attainment of **National Development Plan goals** and the country's **developmental outcomes**:

- ❑ Contribute to building of **strong institutions** in a context of a developmental state

5TH PARLIAMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



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NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND APPROACH



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A move away from a transactional relationship that is focused on process and compliance



To a transformative relationship that is results and outcomes oriented



PART B

ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN A DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

DEVELOPMENTAL STATE: SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT



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- ❑ South Africa envisions a country that embodies the notion of a “**Developmental State**” which is effectively able to create conditions of **prosperity both for its citizens, and contributes to the African Agenda.**
- ❑ **plays an active role in guiding economic development** and using the resources of the country to **meet the needs of the people.**
- ❑ **balances economic growth and social development.** It uses state resources and state influence to address poverty and expand economic opportunities

ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN A DEVELOPMENTAL STATE



- ❑ Government has to **deliver services** to its citizens, **Parliament has** to ensure that the strategic **objectives and outcomes** as envisaged by Government are achieved.

- ❑ Guided by their law-making, **oversight and representative functions**; **parliamentarians have to actively engage in passing laws** and oversee the implementation of policies that are:
 - ✓ pro-poor,
 - ✓ gender-responsive,
 - ✓ environmentally sensitive,all which generally reflect and support efforts set out to **achieve the objectives of human development**.



PART C

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL OF PARLIAMENT OF R.S.A

OVERVIEW OF THE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL



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- ❑ Parliament through the Joint Rules Committee established a **Task Team on Oversight and Accountability** comprising Members of **both Houses of Parliament**, which studied the mandates relating to oversight emanating from the Constitution .
- ❑ The task team established **focus groups**, amongst which were, the Budget and the Committees focus groups.
- ❑ The model had to be **in line with the Constitution and Parliament's new strategic vision**, as well as align to appropriated budgets;

OVERVIEW OF THE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL



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- ❑ **The Oversight Model's primary objective:**
 - ✓ **provide the framework that describes how Parliament conducts oversight.**
 - ✓ **improve existing tools** of parliamentary oversight,
 - ✓ **streamline components** of the current model and adapt where necessary;
 - ✓ **enhance Parliament's capacity** – train and improve on the content analysis and input;

OVERVIEW OF THE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL



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The Oversight Model's primary objective:

- ❑ To be effective- the model has to be informed by the **joint rules established by the two Houses**, notwithstanding their uniqueness;

- ❑ **Committees of both house have to:**
 - ✓ interact with community based organisations,

 - ✓ organised business,

 - ✓ experts and professional bodies;

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL: TOOLS



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- ❑ Currently South Africa has designed the following **tools in relation to oversight and accountability**,
 - ✓ **Performance reporting cycle by the Executive:** measured through an analysis of the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, the Division of Revenue Act, the Appropriation Bill, (fiscus strength)
 - ✓ **Financial instruments** – presented to portfolio committees in line with the national treasury guidelines;
 - ✓ **Annual Performance Plans;** analysis of monthly and quarterly targets met and variances explained;
 - ✓ **Institutions supporting democracy.** (A.G; Public Protector; Human Rights Commission amongst others)

OVERVIEW OF THE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL



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- ❑ The oversight cycle requires Parliament to take a **long-term view of oversight** in order to ensure **effective oversight of sustainable delivery**.
- ❑ The parliamentary oversight cycle provides a means through which Parliament can **monitor government delivery in terms of long-term commitments**, rather than focusing exclusively on annual commitments, annual planning and performance assessments.
- ❑ The **cycle provides for continuity in Parliament's oversight** activities from year to year



Successes to date:

- ✓ Better programme coordination;
- ✓ Improved oversight and accountability visits to communities;
- ✓ Tracking implementation of set targets by the executive in line with the Plans;

The short comings:

- ✓ Poor content and information management system;
- ✓ Weak analytical research of department plans
- ✓ Ability for parliament to alter department budgets and provide opinion on budget appropriations – using the money bills act to effect changes to the expenditure and allocation of department budget;



Thank You

