

National Council of Provinces
Debate on Budget Vote 2, Parliament
Hon Jane Mananiso, MP
22 July 2024, 14:00

**Working with the people to ensure they
are fully represented in Parliament**

Honourable House Chairperson,

Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Honourable Premiers and Leaders of the Various Delegation

in the Council

Hon members

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Fellow South Africans

I greet you all.

The people shall govern is one of the fundamental causes for the formation of the ANC.

It is for this reason that those elected to be honourable members service their constituency and their socio-economic interest.

During our canvassing campaigns we lobbied our people to vote for us, we made commitments to conduct our business better

The people are the source of power, and the authority and the power we exercise belongs to them.

For Parliament to be a true tribune of the people, the work of parliament should be organised in a manner that enables public representatives and committees to do more work, in our communities within the parameters of Parliament.

Without adequate contact with the people and different sectors, we run a risk of being alienated from the challenges impacting our constituencies.

The ANC has always called for an activist Parliament due to its appreciation of the importance of having continuous engagement with the people, to ensure that parliament works with the people to resolve challenges.

Now in this 7th parliament we are called to be activists and responsive

We call for the strengthening of Parliamentary Constituency Work, through increased resources and support for offices by Parliament.

We need to also use PCO's as an extension of parliament information for the public, though under the authority of a Party.

The PCOs are offices to serve the people, and we need to ensure the public is aware of these offices and the type of services which people can get from the offices.

If we don't restore the effectiveness of our PCOs, we contribute to the lack of confidence in democratic institutions.

In the seventh Parliament, we expect to improve the support. We must take civic education activities to our communities, and we must leverage digital technology to create more channels for the public to participate.

We must also have a mechanism to enable people in rural areas to be able to raise various matters that require the attention of Parliament.

In the sixth Parliament, we have had different experiences in the public participation process when processing various bills.

Firstly, some community meetings were postponed, due to poor civic education and poor organisation.

We need to state that these weaknesses pose a risk to the constitutional requirements of public involvement.

Honourable Members, the burning of Parliament has resulted in the loss of a wealth of resources and the nation's heritage.

This has disrupted the resumption of Parliament to function optimally with its houses.

Since the fire, particularly in the National Assembly, its physical sittings, meeting rooms, and offices have all been damaged despite the temporary measures.

The work of Parliament is negatively impacted. The state will have

to incur over 2 billion to restore parliament.

We must welcome the initiative of Parliament to ensure the design of Parliament is climate change adaptive and that adequate planning for persons with disabilities and special needs has been factored in.

In the sixth Parliament, a constitutional amendment to include sign language as the 12th official language was achieved.

We expect Parliament to ensure adequate support is provided for those who are deaf.

Honourable members, one of the rights we should support to enable all honourable members to fully participate in the work of Parliament effectively.

Is ensuring Parliament has the required capacity to provide translation services and resources to meet the language needs of members.

It is unfortunate that members of parliament can be humiliated due to the lack of translation capacity at a speech-writing level in proceedings.

This also manifests in committees which only draft documents in English. We need to rethink how we promote and support multilingualism in parliament.

As the African National Congress, we believe that the state has different agencies which can enhance different functions of Parliament.

We recommend that Parliament should strengthen its relationship and make use of the Pan South African Language Board(PANSALB) to expand its translation services.

We further recommend that institutions supporting democracy should also do civic education, which contributes

to the public's awareness of their civic duty and the different institutions which support the advancement of democracy and their rights.

We must improve our committee research support to be on the cutting edge.

The work of Parliament is developmental and provides civic education on various aspects of the functioning of the state, and many South Africans can benefit from continuously interacting with the work of Parliament.

How Parliament works should also be taught in our ECDs, schools and higher education institutions.

To ensure all citizens have a basic understanding of the mechanism within their disposal, to participate in matters requiring public involvement.

Another critical area that we need to strengthen is related to enhancing the Knowledge of Members of Parliament, which is the study tours to other international countries.

We need to strengthen these tours to first align them with key priority areas of Parliament and, secondly, plan them on

time to ensure the maximum benefit of the time and resources spent.

In conclusion, honourable members and fellow South Africans, the following will be used as our base tools to do our work:

the Stats SA Reports, reports from Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, judicial outcomes and other research institutions and OUR best Constitutions in the world, to redress

Improve our services in upholding human rights, and the PFMA and MFMA to measure the value for money.

This house should have an oversight approach, which focuses on the different districts and see how we align our interventions with the work undertaken by the executive at a District Development Model Level.

Such an approach will take us closer to the closest intergovernmental organisation at a local level.

As the NCOP, we need to appreciate that in order to advance provincial interests effectively, we need to have a comprehensive understanding of the condition of various communities.

Districts have different circumstances, different challenges and different economic compositions; therefore, over the next five years, we must ensure we look into all the districts AND LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.

This will ensure that our Parliament makes an impact on improving conditions in different localities.

We must ensure the District Development Model is fast-tracked with specific timeframes and realistic plans.

Lastly, we MUST ensure that these allocated funds are used accordingly and that the audit outcomes should be a testimony of good governance.

This budget responds to the functions of Parliament which will enable us Public Representatives to represent the interest of the people with the intention of resolving their challenges and creating a better life for all

It is for this reason that we should continue with our flagship programme of Taking Parliament to the People, Provincial Week, Local Government Week, and sectoral engagements with children, youth, man and women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ SOCIETY and other interest groups.

The decorum of the house is critical , as it represents the PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

As members of Parliament, we must abide by the principles and obligations of the standards of ethical conduct;

We must uphold our affirmation or oath, work with the public trust, and place the interest of the people first.

We must eradicate all forms of discrimination and build upon the legacies of those who came before us.

I thank you.