

Contact Details

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Structures of the SA Legislative Sector

STRUCTURES OF THE SA LEGISLATIVE SECTOR

Together the established SA Legislative Sector structures are responsible for the development, coordination and implementation of the country's constitutional mandate through model Sector Policy Frameworks and Guides, norms and standards, as well as joint and Institutional Programmes of Action. These collective structures are formed on the foundation of the SA Legislative Sector Constitution that guides sector cooperation and collaboration efforts.

THE SPEAKERS' FORUM (SF) OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH IS:

- The highest policy making structure that determines the framework within which the Sector operates and is co-chaired by the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA), and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).
- Responsible for the political and strategic direction of the Sector.
- The Speakers' Forum has a number of Reference Groups that drive key pillars of sector work.
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THE SECRETARIES' FORUM OF SOUTH AFRICA which is:

- The structure that provides technical advice and input to the Speakers' Forum on common sector matters.
- Responsible for the implementation of decisions of the Speakers Forum in the respective legislatures, and
- Responsible for guiding its sub-structures, which include the Legislative Sector Clusters focusing on key pillars of sector work as well as professional staff forums.

THE SECTOR CLUSTERS AND FORUMS are:

- Answerable to Secretaries' Forum and assist in the implementation of decisions of the Speakers' Forum and Secretaries' Forum in the respective legislatures.
- Advisory bodies to Secretaries' Forum and serve to share information, knowledge and experience as well as determine best practice.
- Carry out ad hoc implementation activities assigned by the Speakers' Forum SA and Secretaries' Forum as well as cluster or forum-initiated plans.

LEGISLATIVE SECTOR SUPPORT (LSS) which is:

- Responsible for coordination and secretariat support of the SA Legislative Sector structures, including the Speakers' Forum SA and Secretaries' Forum SA
- Responsible for capacity building by facilitating implementation of a Sector capacity building strategy and programmes under the auspices of the SA Parliamentary Institute.
- Responsible for the management and coordination, facilitation and monitoring of the implementation of the SA Legislative Sector Strategy and joint sector programmes.
- Responsible for coordinating the effective participation of SALS internationally and providing secretariat and content support to the SA Delegation where SA Legislatures participate in unison.

The South African Legislative Sector (SALS)

Building stronger Legislatures
through collaboration

Vision

To be an activist, vibrant Legislative Sector deepening democracy.

Together, Deepening Democracy

The National Parliament and Provincial Legislatures of South Africa have joined hands to strengthen their role and visibility in South Africa and globally – ultimately the aim is to ensure good governance and sustainable democracy thereby contributing to a better life for all our people.

Commitment to Collaborate

Whilst mindful of the constitutional autonomy of each institution, it was recognised that there is a need to collaborate on matters of common interest and establish common norms and standards based on the similarity of the constitutional mandates of the legislative institutions.

Therefore the South African Legislative Sector was established through a memorandum of understanding between the National Parliament and nine Provincial Legislatures. The Provincial Legislatures are the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Northern Cape Provincial Legislature as well as the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Guiding us

The SALS policy and strategic framework shapes the efforts of the Sector in achieving its vision. The sector programme of action encompasses the activities aimed at realising the Sector objectives.

What are we seeking to achieve?

- To deepen and entrench people-centred democracy in South Africa – through nation-building, mainstreaming of gender and disability matters and increased public participation in legislature processes.
- To strengthen law-making and oversight capacity in order to ensure executive accountability – through effective law making processes and vigorous oversight / parliamentary scrutiny.
- To ensure that the Legislative Sector Institutions are optimally carrying out their mandate – through building strong legislatures and a strong South African Legislative Sector.
- To enhance participation in International Forums – through a cooperative approach in building capacity by strengthening relations in SADC, Africa and globally.

How are we collaborating?

- Support each other to successfully address challenges related to our shared constitutional mandate of law making, oversight, public participation and international engagement.
- Interact with relevant stakeholders and role players to forge and enhance partnerships between the South African Legislative Sector and the European Union, government and civil society.
- Share knowledge and exchange perspectives and strategies of how Legislatures can continue to be strong voices of the people.
- Explore views and ideas on advancing the South African Legislative Sector by cooperating and building strategic partnerships with parliamentary bodies worldwide.
- Action and monitor progress on the implementation of sector programmes through the established sector structures and legislatures.