

# A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

## WHAT IS PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT?

It's a mechanism enabling Members of Parliament (MPs) to monitor and evaluate government operations, ensuring they align with public interest, adhere to budgetary constraints, and comply with laws and regulations.

Essentially, it's a form of quality control for government actions. Oversight is mainly conducted through parliamentary committees, which have established practices.



**PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT IS THE CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY, ENSURING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & THE PROTECTION OF CITIZENS' RIGHTS.**

## COMMON CHALLENGES

**Political Pressure:** MPs may face dilemmas in scrutinising the government thoroughly, especially when it involves their party colleagues, akin to the hesitance one might feel when critiquing a friend's work.

**Committee Limitations:** Specialised groups of MPs encounter obstacles like insufficient resources and lack of expert advice, hampering their ability to conduct in-depth evaluations of government policies and actions.

**Committee Funding:** There is inadequate funding allocated, particularly to portfolio committees, to enable effective parliamentary oversight

**Oversight monitoring and tracking:** Committees and the Houses do a poor job of tracking and monitoring the Executive's implementation (or non-implementation) of corrective action proposed in reports adopted by Parliament.

**Skill Gaps:** Effective oversight demands specific competencies and knowledge, necessitating ongoing education and access to specialised consultations for MPs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT

**Promote Independence:** Encouraging MPs to operate impartially, free from party biases, is crucial for unbiased government evaluation.

**Enhance Committee Resources:** Equipping committees with better tools and expert insights can significantly improve their effectiveness.

**Foster Public Engagement:** Involving citizens in the oversight process can ensure that governmental operations truly reflect the public's needs and priorities.

## EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

### EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Support the induction and training of new MPs, particularly smaller parties independents. Conduct information sessions with CSOs.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Inform CSOs of opportunities to participate. Maintain Tools and Contact details to facilitate public participation

### TECHNOLOGY UTILISATION

Building an interactive dashboard and graphics that will enhance transparency and facilitate more dynamic public engagement and is also useful to the media, government entities and legislatures