



ParliMeter Launch

6 March 2025

Access. Accountability. Action

 **ParliMeter**


Opening Remarks

Wayne Duvenage

OUTA

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 **ParliMeter**



Welcome & Keynote Address

Mbali Ntuli

Founder & CEO
The Ground Work Collective

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Access

Shaun Russell, Gabriella Razzano, Dirk Meerkotter

OpenUp

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Accountability

Ghalib Grant

PMG

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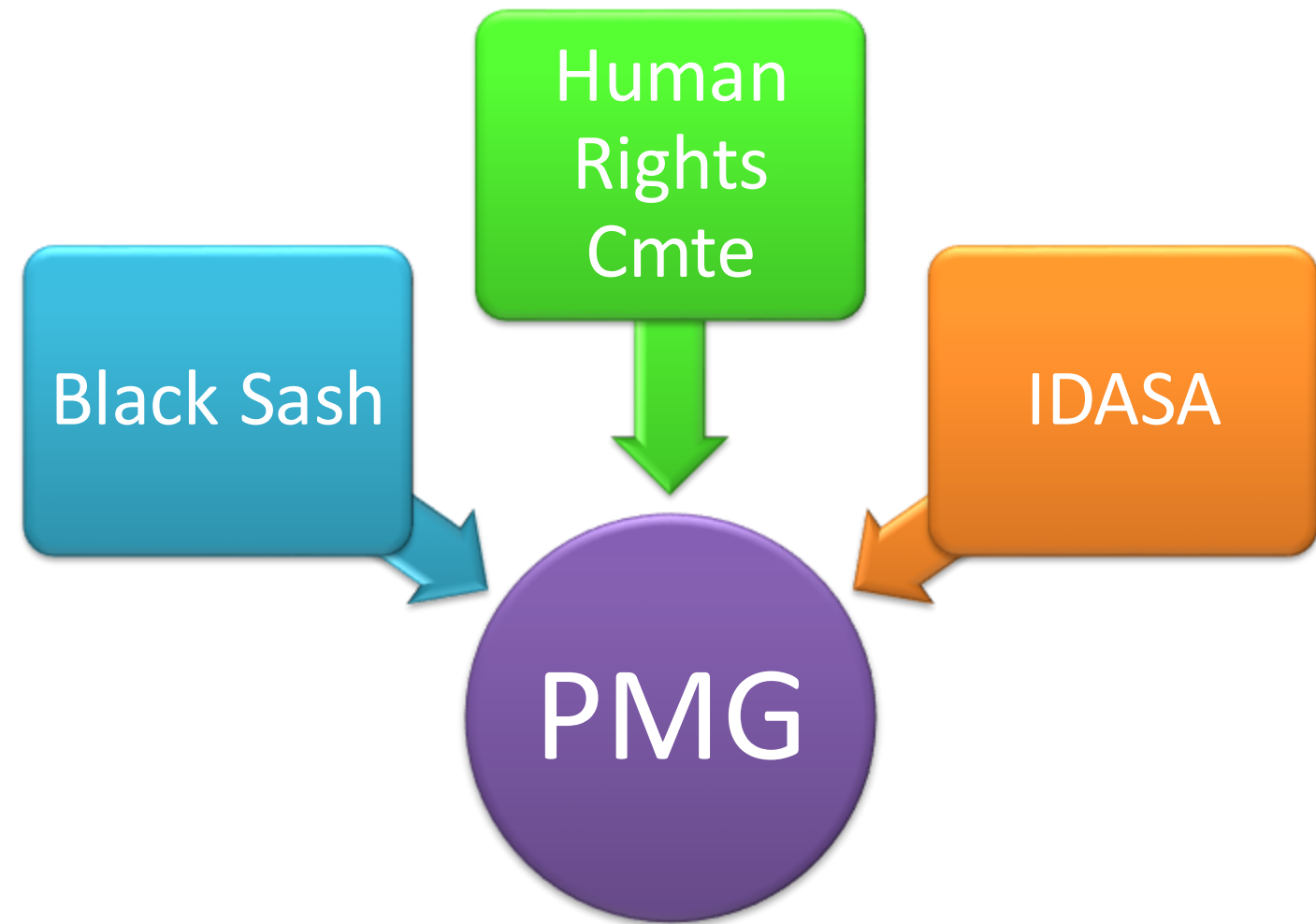
Informed Consent

Presented by: Ghalib Galant

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 **ParliMeter**

PMG – Our Origin Story



- Partnership among three activist civil society organizations
- Deliver independent, impartial, and consistently precise and timely information
- Regarding the operations and activities of Parliament
- The core of Parliament – the Committees
- To facilitate more meaningful engagement with Parliament for other stakeholders

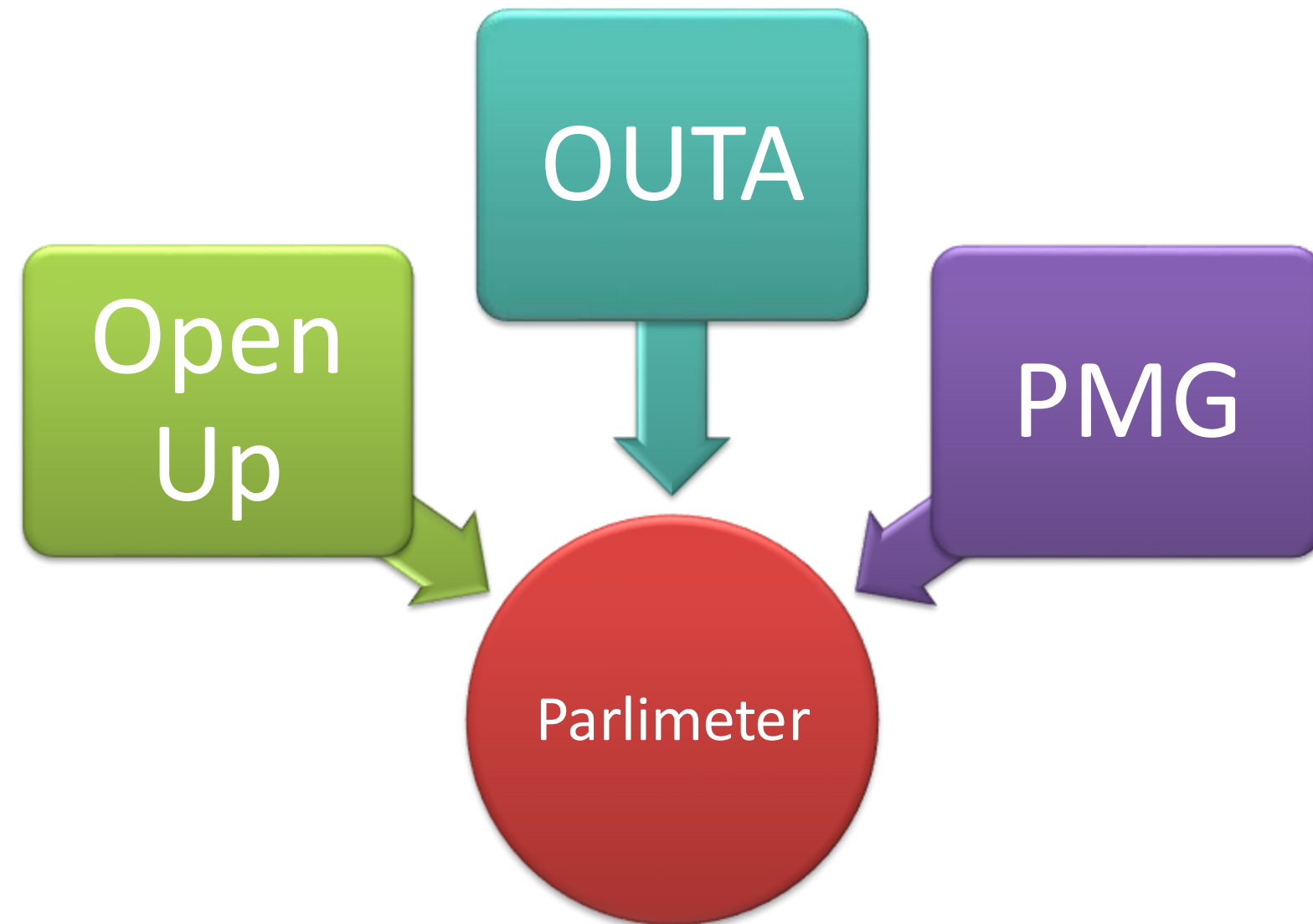
A work in progress



- Like our democracy, how we report on Parliament's workings have also evolved
- 30 years of reporting and monitoring
- Manual → Digital
- 26 years; 31,000+ records
- Minutes / Submissions / Audio / Links / Tracking Tools / Legacy Reports

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Our New Collaboration



Collaboration between 3 civil society actors

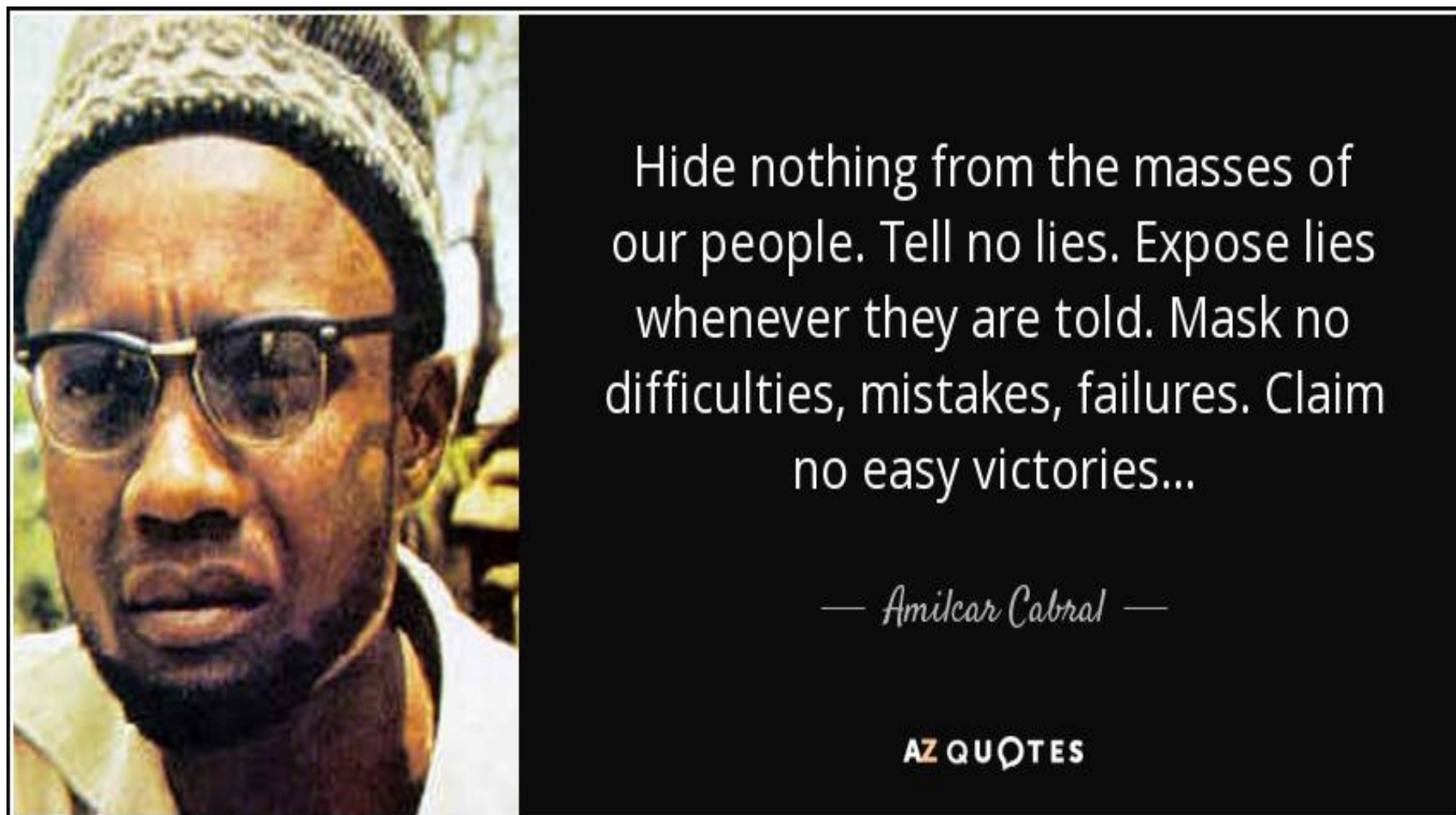
Open Up – ensuring that we remain at the cutting edge

OUTA – leveraging their experience in speaking hard Truths to Power

PMG – accessing data and insights

To enable stakeholders to engage decisionmakers in a more meaningful manner

Access to Information



Access to Information is a fundamental right

Gateway right to Participatory Democracy

Allows citizens and civil society to monitor, intervene and participate in parliamentary processes

Scrutinize decision-making

Hold Executive and Legislature to account

G.I.G.O

Quality and Availability

Access is important

1

Informed Decision-making:

Quality information → Better informed decisions

Accurate and accessible information means everyone understands policies and implications fully

2

Enhanced Public Participation:

Access to clear & reliable information about government actions, policies and budgets → greater uptick in engagement

3

Monitoring & Oversight:

Good quality information → effective monitoring (including self-monitoring)

Tracking commitments → greater accountability → deter corruption and malpractice

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Quality is important



4

Building Trust:

Transparency through accessible information helps to foster public trust.
Or overcome the trust deficit
Government openness and transparency builds confidence and support

5

Cataloguing and Reporting:

Good quality information helps with accurate reporting
Performance | Achievements | Challenges
Essential for accountability

6

Responsiveness:

Free information flow enables timely raising of concerns and demand for answers.
Greater responsiveness to the needs on the ground.
All politics are personal. And local

Accountability is important

7

Data-driven Governance:

Quality information → Data Analysis → Evidence-based policymaking

Facts matter.

8

Reducing Corruption:

If information is publicly available, harder for corrupt practices to go unnoticed

Sunlight is the best antidote to corruption

9

Legal & Institutional Frameworks:

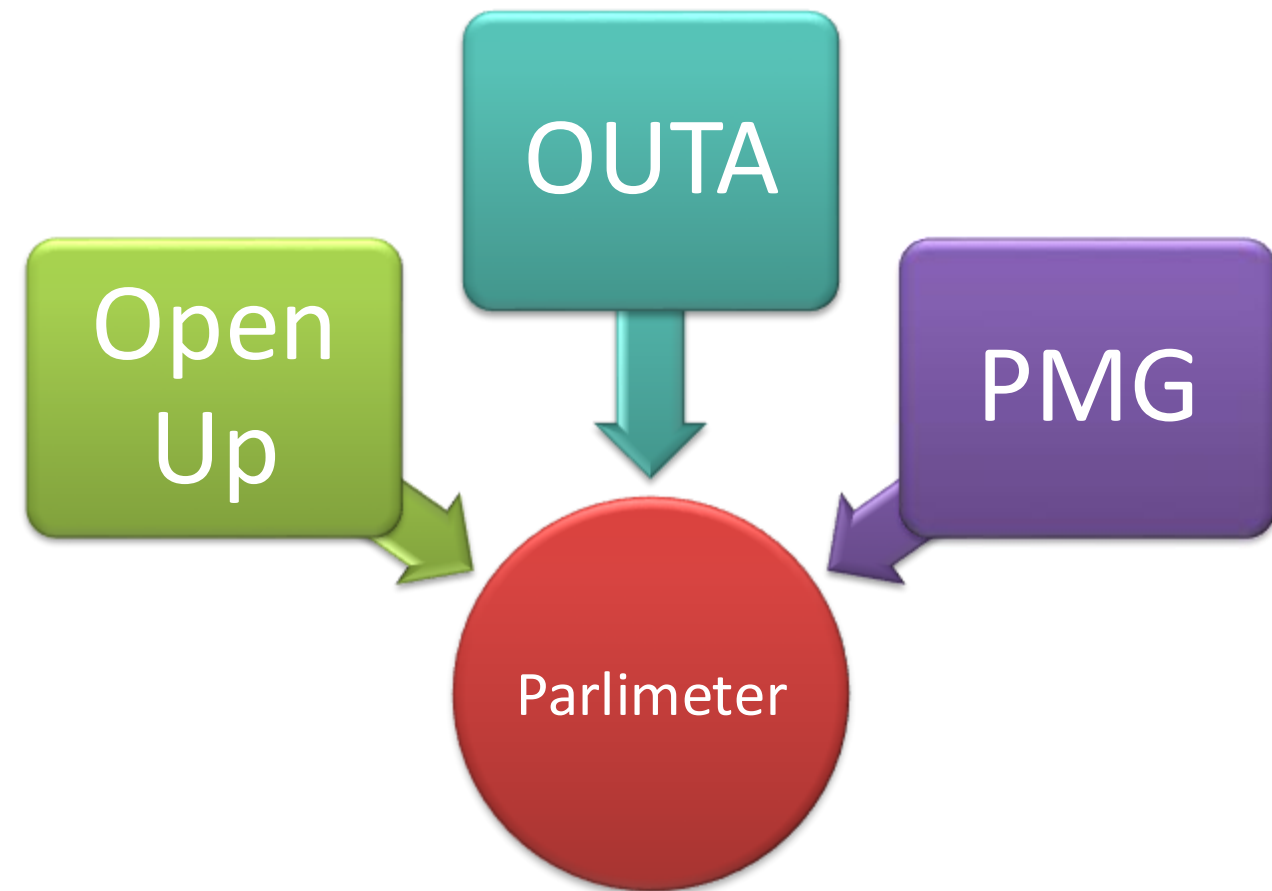
The Right to Access to Information depends on

- ❖ The Laws that give it meaning
- ❖ The Institutions that give it teeth
- ❖ The Processes that facilitate its implementation



BREAK THE CORRUPTION CHAIN

In Conclusion



Our understanding of democracy is evolving

Access to good quality information is crucial

Intelligent, rigorous analysis is the critical ingredient to transform data and information into wise action

How can Parliament fulfil its mandate and its MPs play a more effective and informed role through engagement with constituents

This project has the potential to be an important bridge between Parliament and the People



Action

Dr Rachel Fischer

OUTA

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Relevance of ParliMeter

The project aims to improve transparency and accountability in the national legislature.

Parliaments worldwide play a vital role in democracy, serving as checks and balances to executive power and addressing corruption, particularly in new or developing democracies.

This project seeks to revitalise Parliament as a hub for accountability and emphasises the importance of transparency to promote public engagement and confidence in the national legislature.

Parliament is a huge, busy institution with 400 MPs, 90 NCOP delegates and about 1 500 staff. There are dozens of committees, working long hours, and thousands of documents. Where does a person who is interesting in tracking what's going on start? Our new ParliMeter tool is designed to help you.

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Constraints to Action

Mistrust

Rampant corruption and poor service delivery erode trust in public institutions.

Poverty, Unemployment, Inequality

The triple scourge hinders efforts of citizens to meaningfully engage with government.

State Capture

The State Capture Commission has highlighted the inadequate oversight in Parliament during the Zuma years.

Inaccessibility to information

Parliament is a vast institution consisting of Members of Parliament and Administrative staff. The amount of information produced can be overwhelming.

Purpose of ParliMeter to Improve Active Citizenry

1

Increased public engagement:

It makes it easier for South Africans to follow parliamentary proceedings and understand how decisions are made.

2

Improved transparency:

It allows civil society, journalists, and researchers to track trends in governance and parliamentary performance.

3

Evidence-based advocacy:

It supports organisations working on governance reform by providing structured, real-time parliamentary data.

Action in Motion

1 **MP attendance:** Tracking Member of Parliament (MP) presence in plenary and committee meetings.

2 **Bill progression:** Monitoring where legislation stands in the parliamentary process.

3 **Committee meetings:** Displaying the number and duration of committee meetings.

4 **Support Policy Improvements:** ParliMeter is a tool for transparency, not conclusions.

Call to Action

Foster	Foster partnerships with civil society, academia, and think tanks.
Engage	Engage with experts and conduct workshops.
Collaborate	Collaborate with the media for accurate information dissemination.
Develop	Develop mechanisms for public consultations and track citizen activism.
Implement	Implement targeted programs for citizen education.
Monitor	Monitor the production and distribution of education materials.
Collect	Collect user feedback to enhance accessibility and user experience.



Panel Discussion

Mbali Ntuli

OpenUp

PMG

OUTA



Q & A

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Closing Remarks

Mbali Ntuli

*Founder & CEO
The Ground Work Collective*

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Thank You

A Collaboration Between

OUTA
ORGANISATION UNDOING TAX ABUSE

openup:

PIIG PARLIAMENTARY
MONITORING GROUP



Co-funded by
the European Union

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