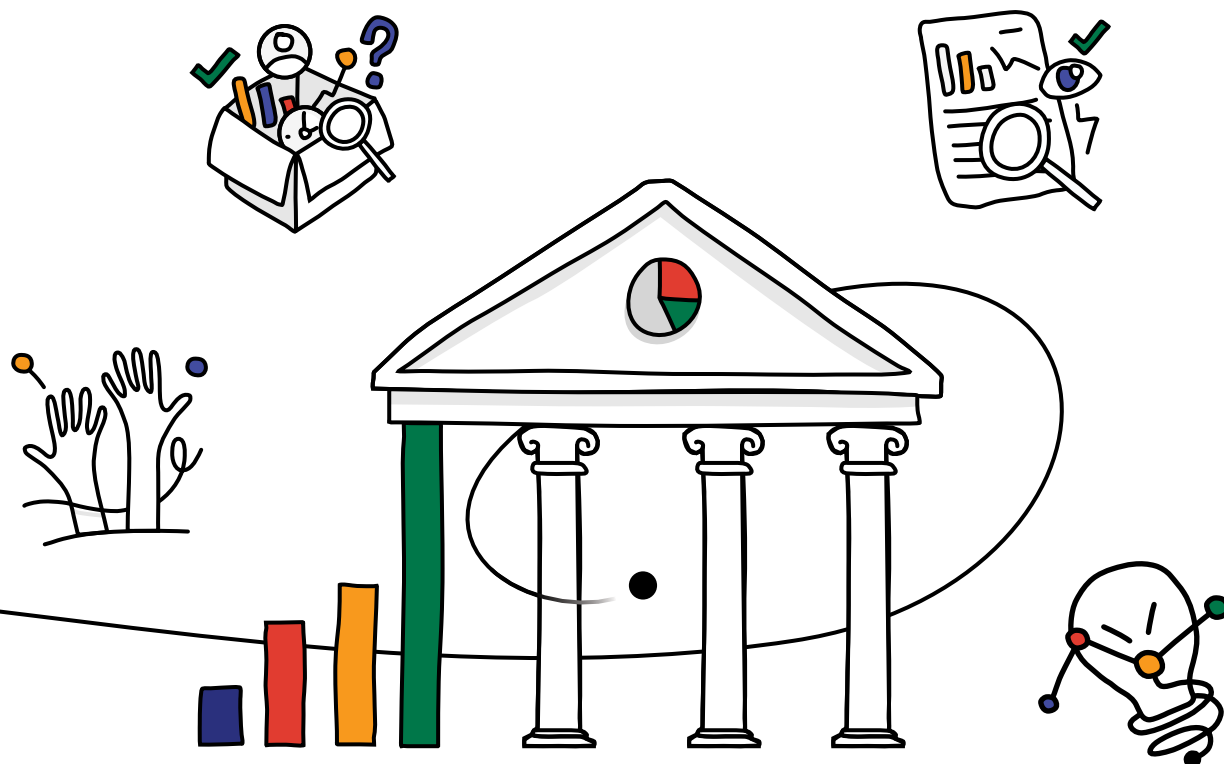




A Review of Parliamentary Legacy Reports:

Looking into South Africa's
Fourth to Sixth Parliament



Co-funded by
the European Union

PMG PARLIAMENTARY
MONITORING GROUP
OUTA openup:
ORGANISATION UNDOING TAX ABUSE

Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse

Table of Contents

1. Acronyms	5
2. Acknowledgements.....	7
3. Executive Summary.....	8
4. Introduction	10
5. Themes from Analysis of Fourth to Sixth Parliamentary Legacies	12
6. Analysis of Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Parliamentary Legacy reports.....	18
6.1 Fourth Parliament	19
6.1.1 Background	19
6.1.2 Achievements.....	19
6.1.3 Outstanding activities	19
6.1.4 Outstanding policy imperatives	20
6.1.5 Legislation	25
6.1.6 Challenges faced	25
6.1.7 Continuation of projects/programmes/ initiatives	26
6.1.8 Observations	28
6.2 Fifth Parliament.....	29
6.2.1 Background	29
6.2.2 Achievements.....	29
6.2.3 Outstanding activities	30
6.2.4 Outstanding policy imperatives	31
6.2.5 Legislation	34
6.2.6 Challenges faced	34
6.2.7 Continuation of projects/ programmes/ initiatives	34
6.2.8 Observations	35

6.3 Sixth Parliament	36
6.3.1 Background	36
6.3.2 Achievements.....	37
6.3.3 Outstanding activities	40
6.3.4 Outstanding policy imperatives	41
6.3.5 Legislation	42
6.3.6 Challenges faced	42
6.3.7 Continuation of projects/ programmes/ initiatives	44
6.3.8 Observations	46
7. Key findings of the Fourth to Sixth Parliaments.....	47
7.1 Weak Oversight Mechanisms.....	47
7.2 Policy Implementation Gaps	47
7.3 State Capture and Corruption	48
7.4 Public Participation and Inclusivity	48
7.5 Ineffective Intergovernmental Collaboration.....	49
7.6 Civil Society Organisation Collaboration	50
7.7 Actionable Steps.....	51
8. State Capture and Zondo Recommendations	56
8.1 Establish a Dedicated Parliamentary Oversight Mechanism.....	56
8.2 Fast-track Legislative Reforms to Prevent State Capture	56
8.3 Enforce Accountability for Non-Compliance.....	56
8.4 Reform Appointment Processes for Key Institutions	57
8.5 Institutionalise Anti-Corruption Education and Training.....	57
9. Lessons to be learnt for the Seventh Parliament	58
9.1 The lessons learnt from the Zondo Commission.....	58
9.2 The lessons learnt from the Fourth to Sixth Parliaments	60
10. Key recommendations	61
11. Future Research Opportunities.....	62

12.	Conclusion.....	64
13.	References.....	66
14.	Glossary.....	70

List of Figures

Figure 1	Themes emerging from the fourth to sixth Parliament Legacy.....	13
Figure 2	Overview of Methodologies used	18
Figure 3	Actionable Steps from Zondo Recommendations.....	52
Figure 4	Functions of the NACAC	54
Figure 5	The six strategic pillars of the Strategy.....	54
Figure 6	Lessons learnt from the Zondo Commission Recommendations.....	58
Figure 7	Lessons learnt from the fourth to sixth Parliament	60

List of Tables

Table 1	Themes, categories and focus areas of the fourth to sixth Parliament Legacy	17
Table 2	Summary of Progress on fourth Parliament outstanding activities.....	20
Table 3	Summary of Progress on fourth Parliament outstanding policy imperatives.....	25
Table 4	Summary on addressing fourth Parliament's challenges	26
Table 5	Summary of concerns identified by the Joint Rules Committee	28
Table 6	Summary of Progress on fifth Parliament outstanding activities	31
Table 7	Summary of Progress on the fifth Parliament outstanding policy imperatives	34
Table 8	Summary on addressing fifth Parliament's challenges	34
Table 9	Summary of progress on the continuation of projects/programmes/ initiatives/activities for the fifth Parliament	35
Table 10	Outstanding items from the fourth and fifth achieved in the sixth Parliament	39
Table 11	Summary of Progress on the sixth Parliament outstanding activities	41
Table 12	Summary of Progress on the sixth Parliament outstanding policy imperatives	42
Table 13	Summary on addressing the sixth Parliament's challenges.....	44
Table 14	Summary of progress on the continuation of projects/programmes/ initiatives/activities for the sixth Parliament	46

1. Acronyms

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
BBBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
BRRR	Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWP	Community Works Programme
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-based violence
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IPID	Independent Police Investigative Directorate
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
LETOFO	Legislature Tourism Oversight Forum
MP	Member of Parliament
MYRP	Multi-Year Research Plan
NA	National Assembly
NACAC	National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council
NACS	National Anti-Corruption Strategy
NCOP	National Council of Provinces
NDP	National Development Plan
NHI	National Health Insurance
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority

OUTA	Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse
PA	People's Assembly
PAP	Pan African Parliament
ParliMeter	Parliamentary Oversight Dashboard
PCO	Parliamentary Constituency Offices
PDO	Parliamentary Democracy Offices
PEO	Public Education Office
PMG	Parliamentary Monitoring Group
PPSA	Public Protector of South Africa
SAA	South African Airways
SADC-PF	Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SASL	South African Sign Language
SCOPA	Standing Committee on Public Accounts
SIU	Special Investigating Unit
SOC	State-owned company
SOE	State-owned entity

This report was compiled by OUTA's Parliamentary Engagement Office:

- Naailah Parbhoo, Parliamentary Engagement and Research: Senior Researcher

2. Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the [EU-co-funded project](#): Enhancing Accountability and Transparency Programme for making this project and subsequent research report possible. This report aligned with the goals set out by the EU project. We are also grateful to the [Parliamentary Monitoring Group \(PMG\)](#) for making the information needed to produce this report available.

We also appreciate the insight and guidance given by other team members of the [Parliamentary Engagement and Research Team](#).

3. Executive Summary

The analysis of the fourth, fifth, and sixth parliamentary legacy reports offers an insightful overview of the progress made in South Africa's parliamentary landscape and challenges encountered across these terms. Parliament plays a critical role in overseeing government expenditure, monitoring the achievement of annual performance plans, and holding the executive accountable for its socio-economic development initiatives, all within the framework of South Africa's constitutional democracy.

The [fourth parliament \(2009-2014\)](#) was instrumental in establishing foundational institutions such as the Parliamentary Budget Office and the Treasury Advice Office, and it marked the commencement of strategic governance reforms. Key achievements include the refurbishment of parliament's chambers and the introduction of critical infrastructure improvements. However, several strategic initiatives, particularly in the realms of technology integration, public participation, and oversight mechanisms, remained incomplete, and these legacy issues were inherited by the fifth parliament.

The [fifth parliament \(2014-2019\)](#) focused on consolidating parliamentary processes and enhancing accountability mechanisms. It prioritised public participation, strengthening the oversight of government departments, and fostering international relationships through participation in global forums. However, despite these efforts, several critical initiatives were either delayed or unaddressed, including the review of the Language Policy and the implementation of the Gender-Responsive Budgeting framework. The fifth parliament was also tasked with addressing the consequences of State Capture, which exposed deep weaknesses in oversight and accountability mechanisms.

The [sixth parliament \(2019-2024\)](#) faced unprecedented challenges, including the global Covid-19 pandemic and the devastating fire that impacted the National Assembly, which severely disrupted parliamentary operations. Despite these issues, the sixth parliament succeeded in passing key legislative reforms, such as the recognition of South African Sign Language as an official language and the passage of the Electoral Amendment Bill, which enabled independent candidates to stand for election. Parliament also made significant strides in public engagement, leveraging digital tools and hybrid meeting formats to ensure continuity and transparency. However, critical challenges persist, including the ongoing impact of socio-economic inequality, the need for greater intergovernmental collaboration, and the unfinished work stemming from the [Zondo Commission's](#) recommendations on State Capture.

The overarching themes from the fourth to sixth parliaments highlight the need for stronger oversight mechanisms, enhanced public participation, and the continued modernisation of legislative processes. The transition to digital platforms proved essential, but further progress is needed to ensure inclusivity and accessibility, particularly for marginalised groups. Furthermore, issues such as the effective implementation of anti-corruption measures and the completion of long-standing policy initiatives remain crucial for the continued strengthening of South Africa's democracy.

The development of the Parliamentary Oversight Dashboard (ParliMeter), supported by the EU co-funded Enhancing Accountability and Transparency Programme, aligns with these parliamentary goals. The dashboard's role in improving oversight and public engagement is directly linked to the ongoing need for stronger accountability mechanisms, as seen across the fourth to sixth parliaments. ParliMeter will play a critical role in enabling real-time monitoring of legislative processes and enhancing transparency, a key requirement for South Africa's democratic growth.

The main themes from the fourth to sixth parliaments highlight the necessity for stronger oversight, enhanced public participation, and modernised legislative processes. ParliMeter will be used as a tool for increasing parliamentary transparency and can aid in addressing these needs. Digital transformation and inclusivity, especially for marginalised groups, remain priorities. Moreover, the implementation of anti-corruption measures and the finalisation of key policy initiatives are essential for strengthening South Africa's democracy.

The seventh parliament will inherit a combination of achievements and unresolved challenges. It is recommended that priority be given to revitalising lapsed bills, improving oversight frameworks, implementing critical anti-corruption reforms, and advancing digital transformation. In doing so, the seventh parliament will have the opportunity to build on the successes of the previous terms, ensuring a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable system of governance that aligns with the aspirations of South Africa's constitutional democracy.

4. Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the fourth, fifth, and sixth parliamentary legacy reports, focusing on the progression, achievements, and challenges experienced by South Africa's parliament over the past three terms. As one of the core pillars of South Africa's democratic framework, parliament plays an essential role in shaping the nation's laws, policies, and overall governance. Through its oversight responsibilities, parliament ensures that the Executive is held accountable and that the government's actions align with the constitutional mandate to promote democracy, human dignity, and equality.

This report delves into the strategic priorities and key initiatives undertaken during each parliamentary term, highlighting both successes and areas where work remains ongoing. The analysis covers the institutional, legislative, and procedural advancements achieved during these terms, while also identifying gaps that need to be addressed in future parliamentary sessions. In particular, the sixth parliament marked a significant period in South Africa's democratic history.

The NA and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) form the two Houses of Parliament. They work collaboratively to pass legislation, oversee the executive, as well as ensure that provincial and national interests are represented. While the NA primarily represents the body of voters, the NCOP focuses on provincial concerns.

Following consultations between the Office of the Chief Justice and parliament, the first sitting of the National Assembly was provisionally scheduled for 22 May 2019. The Chief Justice officially confirmed this date, with the swearing-in or affirmation of the 400 members of the National Assembly (NA) being a key feature of the opening proceedings. During this session, members of the NA pledged their allegiance to the Republic of South Africa and its Constitution. Furthermore, the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker took place, with the Chief Justice presiding over the election of the Speaker. Following this, the Chief Justice oversaw the election of the President from among the members of parliament (MP). Once elected, the President ceased to be a MP and assumed office after taking the oath of office within five days of the inauguration.

Simultaneously, the first sitting of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) was scheduled to take place. For this to occur, the Provincial Legislatures had to first convene to swear in their members. The Chief Justice, exercising constitutional authority, confirmed the date and delegated the Judges President of the High Court Divisions to oversee these sittings. During these sessions, Provincial Premiers and Speakers were elected, and each Provincial Legislature appointed their permanent

delegates to the NCOP. The NCOP, a crucial body in the South African legislative process, comprises ten delegates from each province, including six permanent delegates and four special delegates, allocated proportionally based on political party representation.

The legislative process is also captured in the [ParliMeter](#), they are categorised by the following: when the [bill](#) was introduced, if it was updated, when it lapsed, date it was revived, was it passed, has it been signed, enacted and the Act commenced.

This report also highlights the significant achievements, legislative progress, and the evolving role of parliament in strengthening democracy, improving governance, and addressing socio-economic issues through strategic oversight and legislative reforms. However, it also addresses ongoing challenges such as public participation, transparency, and effective implementation of critical policies and legislation, which remain essential for parliament to effectively serve the citizens of South Africa.

5. Themes from Analysis of Fourth to Sixth Parliamentary Legacies

Figure 1 depicts the themes that came to light from the parliamentary legacy reports.¹

During the fourth parliament the following themes emerged: Economic Development and Job Creation; Crime and Justice, Safety; Social Cohesion; Service Delivery; Land Reform and Rural Development; Governance and Accountability, and Anti-Corruption; Healthcare Reform; Education and Skills Development; Environmental Sustainability; Youth and Gender Empowerment; Socio-Economic Development; Inclusivity and Public Participation; and Oversight.

During the fifth parliament the following themes emerged: Economic Growth and Transformation; Crime, Justice and Safety; Social Cohesion and Nation Building; Service Delivery, Improvement, and Infrastructure Development; Land Reform and Rural Development and Agrarian Transformation; Governance and Accountability, and Anti-Corruption; Healthcare Reform; Education, Skills Development, and Training; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Youth and Gender Empowerment; Job Creation, Skills Development, and Unemployment; Socio-Economic Development and Equity; Inclusivity and Public Participation; and Oversight.

During the sixth parliament the following themes emerged: Economic Recovery; Crime and Justice, Safety and Public Safety; Social Cohesion and Nation Building; Service Delivery, Improvement, and Infrastructure Development; Land Reform and Rural Development and Agrarian Transformation; Governance and Accountability, and Anti-Corruption; Healthcare Reform; Education, Skills Development, and Training; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Youth and Gender Empowerment; Job Creation, Skills Development, and Unemployment; COVID-19 Response and Health Care; Digital Transformation and Innovation; Institutional Development and Capacity Building; Socio-Economic Development and Equity; International Engagement and Diplomacy; Inclusivity and Public Participation; and Oversight.

¹ Note to reader: These themes can guide future research reports. Refer to section 11 on Future Research Opportunities for further information.

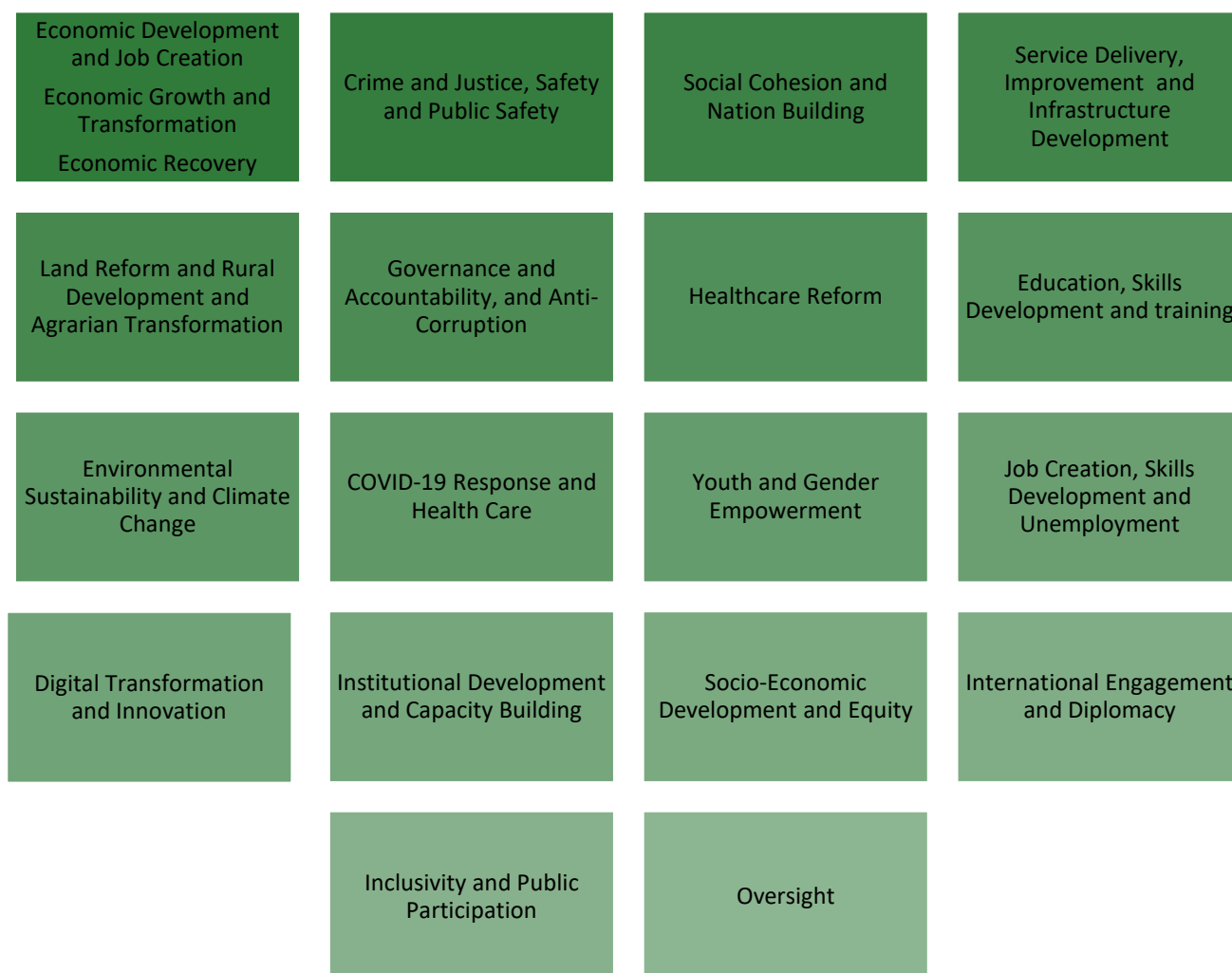


Figure 1 Themes emerging from the fourth to sixth Parliament Legacy

Table 1 shows the categories in which the identified themes fall within. These categories include: accountability, transparency, governance, oversight, anti-corruption, innovation, digital transformation, inclusivity, and equality. The table also shows the focus areas from the fourth to sixth parliament that fall within each theme.

Themes	Category	Focus Areas Fourth Parliament	Focus Areas Fifth Parliament	Focus Areas Sixth Parliament
Economic Development and Job Creation	Inclusivity, Governance	Focused on infrastructure-led growth and job creation through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).	Prioritised the National Development Plan (NDP).	Addressed economic recovery post-COVID-19 and developing the Public Procurement Bill to promote job creation.
Economic Growth and Transformation	Governance, Transparency, Inclusivity, Equality	Adopting various Industrial policies to boost manufacturing and exports.	Improving transformation by incorporating the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) policies.	Integrating economic transformation through the land as well as public procurement reformation.
Economic Recovery	Accountability, Governance, Transparency, Inclusivity	Recovery which focused on post-2008 global financial crisis by investing in infrastructure and economic diversification.	Addressed stagnation with energy security measures, specifically Eskom's finance and operational challenges.	Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic through the Tax Relief Bills and the Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.
Crime and Justice, Safety and Public Safety	Accountability, Governance, Oversight	Strengthened anti-corruption mechanisms as well as established the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation.	Fought against systemic corruption, gender-based violence (GBV), and improved police accountability by implementing the Independent Police Investigative	Implemented the GBV legislation and reducing hate crimes through the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill Act no. 16 of 2023.

			Directorate (IPID) Act no. 1 of 2011.	
Social Cohesion and Nation Building	Inclusivity, Equality	Aligned various programmes with the NDP.	Developed campaigns against xenophobia and racism.	Developed transformative legislation, such as the Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill [B18-2021 (s74)] and the Electoral Amendment Bill (B1-2022(s76)).
Service Delivery, Improvement, and Infrastructure Development	Accountability, Transparency, Governance	Prioritised housing, water, and electricity infrastructure.	Addressed inefficiencies in municipal service delivery and infrastructure development.	Addressed service delivery backlogs and the parliamentary fire disruptions.
Land Reform and Rural Development and Agrarian Transformation	Accountability, Governance, Oversight, Inclusivity	Introduced the Green Paper on Land Reform.	Debated constitutional amendments for expropriation without compensation.	Improved the Land Expropriation Bill [B23-2020 (s76)] to address land reform and agrarian transformation.
Governance and Accountability, and Anti-Corruption	Anti-Corruption, Accountability, Transparency	Focused on institutionalising governance structures.	Initiated state capture investigations and inquiries into corruption of State-owned entity (SOE).	Implementation of State Capture Commission recommendations.
Healthcare Reform	Accountability, Governance, Innovation, Inclusivity, Equality	Piloted the National Health Insurance (NHI) project.	Debated the NHI Bill.	Legislative work continues on the NHI Bill.

Education, Skills Development, and training	Innovation, Digital Transformation, Inclusivity	Expanded on free basic education.	Addressed higher education funding issues #FeesMustFall.	Improving vocational education.
Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change	Accountability, Inclusivity, Innovation	Adopted renewable energy programmes.	Enacted the Carbon Tax Act no. 15 of 2019.	Passed the Climate Change Bill [B9-2022 (s76)].
Youth and Gender Empowerment	Inclusivity, Equality	Focused on youth employment initiatives and women's empowerment.	Improved the GBV responses and implemented youth development programmes.	Improved on gender equity legislation and youth empowerment initiatives.
Job Creation, Skills Development and Unemployment	Inclusivity, Equality	Promoted job creation through EPWP.	Addressed unemployment with skills development.	Prioritised technical skills training and job creation.
COVID-19 Response and Health Care	Accountability, Governance	N/A	N/A	Responded to the pandemic with emergency legislation, vaccine rollouts, and increased health funding.
Digital Transformation and Innovation	Innovation, Digital Transformation	Introduced policies for broadband expansion and ICT infrastructure.	Promoted digital literacy and implemented basic ICT frameworks in education.	Adopted hybrid parliamentary sessions, launched e-Petitions systems, and integrated digital tools into legislative processes.
Institutional Development and Capacity Building	Transparency, Governance, Accountability	Improved parliamentary functions and strengthening	Introduced leadership programmes to build institutional capacity.	Enhanced parliamentary ICT systems and implemented the

		administrative structures.		Graduate Development Programme.
Socio-Economic Development and Equity	Accountability, Governance, Inclusivity, Equality, Transparency	Implemented policies aimed at reducing economic disparities.	Reduced unemployment and disparities.	Developed recovery measures to mitigate the impact of Covid-19.
International Engagement and Diplomacy	Transparency, Governance, Accountability	Building international relations through participation in forums like the African Union.	Focused on regional integration.	Advocated for climate justice and human rights in international forums.
Inclusivity and Public Participation	Inclusivity, Equality, Governance, Transparency	Encouraged public participation in legislative processes.	Promoted inclusivity in decision-making.	Promoted inclusivity in decision-making.
Oversight	Accountability, Governance, Oversight	Establishing robust mechanisms.	Investigations into state capture.	Focused on the impeachment and disciplinary processes against high-profile officials and implementing the Zondo Commission recommendations.

Table 1 Themes, categories and focus areas of the fourth to sixth Parliament Legacy

6. Analysis of Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Parliamentary Legacy reports

For this report, an array of methodologies was used to analyse and draw insights from. Figure 2 provides a brief overview on the usage of each methodology used.

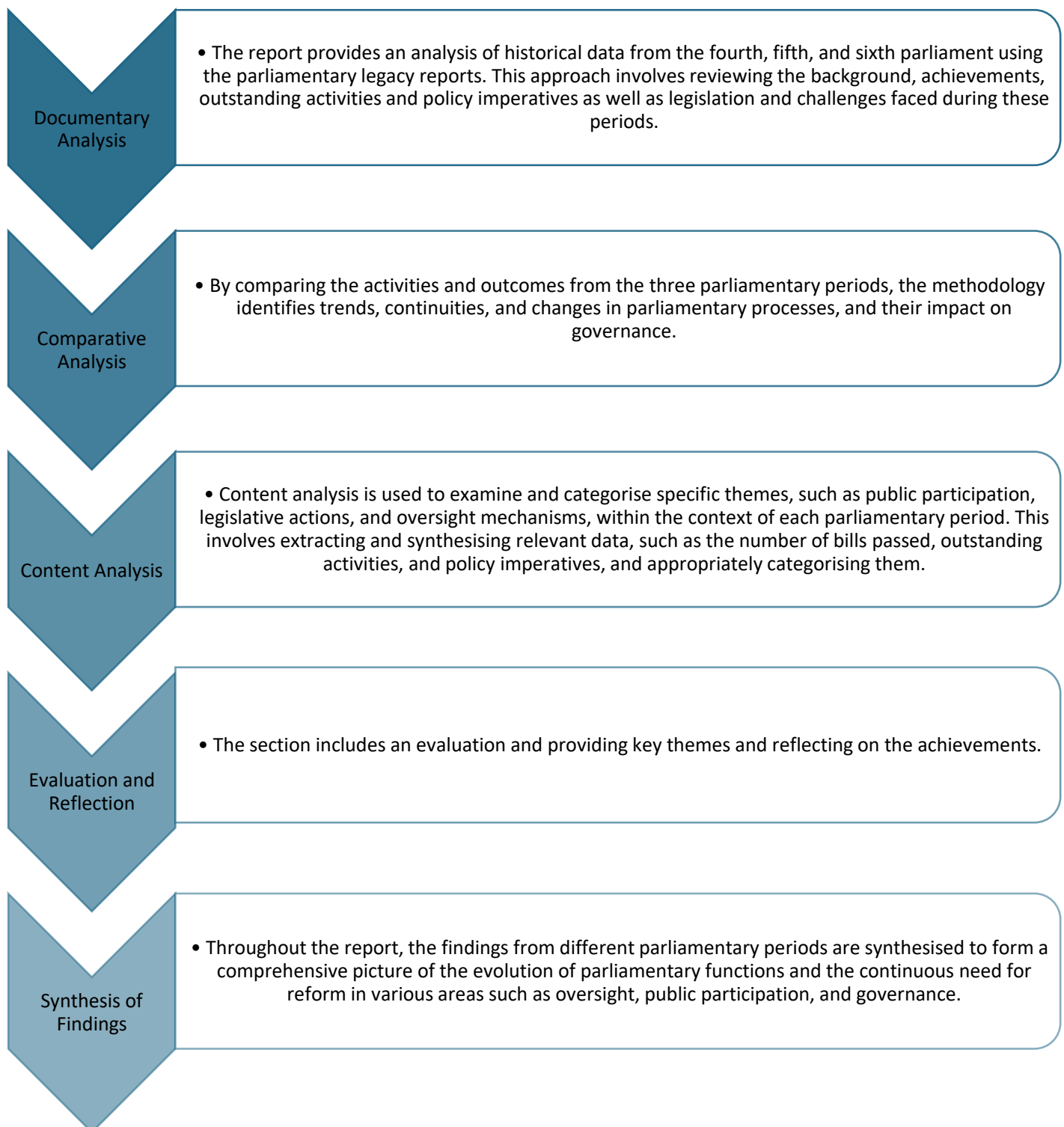


Figure 2 Overview of Methodologies used

6.1 Fourth Parliament

6.1.1 Background

The period of the fourth parliament commenced in 2009 and continued until 2014, following the April 2009 elections. It was established to build upon the foundation set by the preceding three democratic parliaments.

6.1.2 Achievements²

The following were achieved within the fourth parliamentary term:

- Establishment of the Parliamentary Budget Office.
- Establishment of the Treasury Advice Office.
- Hosting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference.
- National Assembly and National Council of Provinces chamber refurbishments.
- Installation of Bust of first democratic President.
- Declaration of parliament as a national heritage site.

Further achievements include:

- **Co-ordinated oversight:** This was an ad hoc committee that conducted visits in rural and urban areas to enquire about service delivery issues/challenges, especially in protest areas.
- **Co-operative government:** The local government-specific annual engagement session, introduced in 2012 and continually succeeding in 2013, served as an important platform for sharing lessons and identifying solutions to challenges faced by local government. This remained a key platform for government.

6.1.3 Outstanding activities

The following activities were indicated as outstanding for the fourth parliament, including projects that started but were not completed and those that had not started but were planned for the fifth parliament:

² Note to reader: The establishment of various offices can be tracked for future research reports. Refer to section 11 on Future Research Opportunities for further information.

Institutional Initiatives and Projects Started but Incomplete	Parliament's Video Broadcast Upgrade	While significant progress was made, the project was not fully completed within the term.	Ongoing
	ICT Integrated Support to Members	While some improvements were achieved, the system was not fully optimised.	Ongoing
	Members' Time and Attendance System	The system faced challenges in full implementation and integration.	Ongoing
Institutional Initiatives and Projects Not Started	Enhancing Performance Information within parliament with an Integrated ICT Backbone	Plans to enhance performance information through an integrated ICT system were proposed but not initiated during the sixth parliament.	Not started
	Integrating and Strengthening Process and Endorsement of Policies within the Operational Purview of parliament	The integration and strengthening of policy processes within parliament were identified as areas for improvement but were not addressed during the sixth parliament.	Not started
	Bed Down the Administration Divisions with Clear Workflows and Appropriately Placed	Efforts to establish clear workflows, appropriate placement of administrative divisions, and standardised job descriptions were not undertaken during the sixth parliament.	Not started

Table 2 Summary of Progress on fourth Parliament outstanding activities

6.1.4 Outstanding policy imperatives

Parliament adopted various Policy Imperatives in 2009. These matters remained incomplete for the fourth parliament:

Constitutional Legislation	Legislation in terms of section 47(2) [<i>Limits on Eligibility for National Assembly Membership</i>] and 106(2) [<i>Limits on Eligibility for Provincial Legislature Membership</i>] of the South African Constitution	Legislation to address the removal of members of parliament and members of provincial legislatures was not enacted.	Not completed
	Scope and procedure for adopting Charters of Rights (section 234 of the South African Constitution) [<i>This provision provides for the creation of documents that define and safeguard the rights of individuals, and it outlines the process through which such charters may be adopted</i>]	The procedures for adopting charters of rights were not initiated or completed.	Not completed
Long-Term Strategic Planning:	30-year vision for South Africa and strategic shift in thinking	A 30-Year Review was conducted, but full implementation of the vision and strategic shift remained ongoing.	Partially completed
	Identify a select set of indicators to measure long-term impact and provide a baseline measurement	This step was not fully addressed.	Not completed
	Determine the present baseline outcomes for parliament's indicators	No clear baseline outcomes for parliament's indicators were established.	Not completed

Strengthening Oversight Functions	National Development Plan Alignment	The alignment continued in the sixth parliament, but full integration is still in process.	Ongoing
	Acknowledging exceptional performance in service delivery	Discussions about performance acknowledgment mechanisms remained ongoing but were not implemented.	Ongoing
	Developing protocols to assess the performance of organs of state	Protocols have not been established.	Not completed
	Assessing the impact of legislation passed in the last 20 years	This assessment has not been carried out as suggested.	Not completed
	Establishing mechanisms for setting oversight priorities	These mechanisms were not fully established.	Not completed
	Setting guidelines for portfolio committees	These guidelines were not developed or implemented.	Not completed
	Developing institutional knowledge management strategy	No clear strategy has been established.	Not completed
	Implementing monitoring and evaluation systems	Monitoring and evaluation systems remain in progress.	Not completed
	Improvements on the quality of oversight reports	Some improvements were made, but the process is ongoing.	Ongoing
Public Participation	Completing and adopting the Public Participation Model	The model was not adopted or completed.	Not completed
	Public Participation Standards	These standards were not provided.	Not completed

	Survey on the public's understanding of parliament and participation processes	No survey was conducted to provide this baseline information.	Not completed
	Public involvement and participation strategy	No strategy has been fully developed or implemented.	Not completed
	Mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of constituency offices	Efforts were made to improve the effectiveness of constituency offices, but it is still a work in progress.	Ongoing
	Establishing feedback apparatus on public participation	No formal feedback apparatus has been established.	Not completed
	Overseeing multilingual compliance of executive departments and organs of state	Multilingual compliance was not fully monitored or implemented.	Not completed
Cooperative Government	The integration of a state-wide programme was aimed at deepening democracy through integrated education programs across the legislative, executive, and judicial spheres. It was an initiative designed to strengthen democratic governance and improve the understanding and functioning of key state institutions	This program were not fully integrated or established.	Not completed

	Establishing a system for auditing statutes	No such system has been implemented.	Not completed
	Designing uniformity in legislative processes for cooperation	No uniform process for cooperation has been established.	Not completed
	Building on governance concepts for national budget chapters	No significant progress has been made on this front.	Not completed
International Representation	Develop mechanisms to support parliament in ratification of international treaties	Mechanisms for supporting treaty ratification were not developed.	Not completed
	Strengthening the role of Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) in regional parliament	Efforts continued, but full transformation within the regional parliament remains a work in progress.	Ongoing
	Implementing Pan African Parliament (PAP) protocols and participation systems	These protocols and systems have not been fully implemented.	Not completed
	Establishing conflict resolution mechanisms	No formal mechanisms have been established.	Not completed
	Setting up a policy framework for global governance	No clear framework for global governance has been established.	Not completed
	Mechanisms to monitor the implementation of international agreements	No monitoring systems are in place for international agreements.	Not completed
	System(s) to monitor the implementation of international agreements	There was no indication of a formal system established to	Not completed

		monitor the implementation of international agreements.	
--	--	---------------------------------------------------------	--

Table 3 Summary of Progress on fourth Parliament outstanding policy imperatives

6.1.5 Legislation

Number of bills passed over the period was 166.

Number of bills that stood over to the next parliament was 194.

6.1.6 Challenges faced

There were various challenges that occurred in the fourth parliament. These included:

Women's Parliament	Capacity Development of Women and Women in Rural Development	The issues occurred in the capacity development of women and women within rural areas. This issue remained ongoing and was expected to continue in the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Co-ordinated Oversight	Ad Hoc Committee Visits	The ad hoc committee conducted visits in rural and urban areas to assess service delivery challenges, particularly in protest areas. This initiative remained an ongoing effort.	Ongoing
Co-operative Government	Local Government-Specific Annual Engagement Sessions	The local government-specific annual engagement sessions, introduced in 2012, served as a platform for sharing lessons and addressing challenges faced by local government. This initiative remained an ongoing effort.	Ongoing
Public Works	Infrastructure Projects	Due to funding challenges, key infrastructure projects (e.g., a 1500-seat multi-purpose chamber and office tower for MPs) were not completed. These are expected to continue into the seventh parliament.	Not completed

Policy	Review of Members' Travel Facilities Policy	The review of the Members' Travel Facilities Policy was initiated due to identified gaps within the policy, including internal requests for information concerning the utilisation of these facilities by members. The review addresses various issues, such as air travel, journeys by motor vehicle, travel allowances for dependents, and the definition of a member's dependent. The review remained ongoing, with further attention expected in the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
---------------	---------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

Table 4 Summary on addressing fourth Parliament's challenges

6.1.7 Continuation of projects/programmes/ initiatives

The visit to the Parliamentary Democracy Offices (PDOs) could not be fulfilled in the fourth parliament and was continued in the fourth parliament. Identifying the best funding methods for the PDO offices was designated as a project for the fifth parliament. Any bills that lapsed in the fourth parliament were required to be revived at the beginning of the fifth parliament. These included: the Rental Housing Bill, the Financial Management Amendment Bill and the Women Empowerment Bill. The mediated bill under the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Amendment Bill was also included.

The committee needed to consider the President's response to the [Public Protector's Report](#) regarding the upgrades to security at the President's Residence. The President's responses as well as a copy of the report were subsequently tabled in parliament. This committee reported that they did not have sufficient time to complete its mandate and recommended that the matter be referred to the fifth parliament. The following concerns were identified by the Joint Rules Committee as legacy issues for the committees of the fifth parliament:

Membership of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence	Membership of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence: In the fourth parliament the Joint Standing Committee on Defence's membership had 37 members, making it cumbersome and	Not completed
--------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

	<p>difficult to manage. A proposal was put before the JRC to amend the Joint Rules of Parliament to allow the JRC to determine the size (ie total membership) of that committee at the start of each parliament. However, the matter required a constitutional amendment and this was a matter that the fifth parliament needed to attend to.</p> <p>The proposal to amend the committee's membership to manage size more effectively was not addressed. A constitutional amendment is required and remains pending.</p>	
Mandate of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence	The issue of improving confidentiality within the committee remained unresolved.	Not completed
Mandate of the Constitutional Review Committee	Recommendations for improving the powers and functions of the Constitutional Review Committee were not acted upon.	Not completed
Interim Joint Committee on Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation	Interim Joint Committee on Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation: Consideration was given to establishing a permanent mechanism for scrutinising delegated legislation, or whether the fifth parliament would continue with the interim joint committee. If the decision had been made to maintain the interim mechanism, the draft operational guidelines proposed by the current committee would have been reviewed. The decision to establish a permanent mechanism for the scrutiny of delegated legislation was not pursued. Operational guidelines were also not implemented.	Not completed
Oversight Mechanism on Financial Administration of Parliament Act	The NA passed the Financial Administration of Parliament Amendment Bill. After progressing through the legislative process in the NCOP, the Bill was returned to the NA with amendments and	Lapsed

	<p>then lapsed. Once enacted, the JRC would need to establish the oversight mechanism outlined in Section 4 of the Financial Management of Parliament Act, and the necessary rules should have been drafted by the fifth parliament.</p> <p>Amendments to the Financial Administration of Parliament Act lapsed, preventing the establishment of the oversight mechanism intended under section 4.</p>	
Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act	<p>Following the decision by the JRC, the Standing Committee on Finance was instructed by resolution to initiate an amendment procedure for the Amendment Act. The Standing Committee did not present these amendments. The Standing Committee on Finance did not present the amendments to the Act as instructed.</p>	Not presented
Role of parliament in Treaty-Making Processes	<p>The Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, provided a report in the ATC on the role of parliament in treaty-making processes. Recommendations were made to affect both Houses and required discussion by the JRC of the fifth parliament. A report was provided on the role of parliament in treaty-making processes, but further discussion and action by the Joint Standing Committee.</p>	Pending discussion
Public Participation Model	<p>The Public Participation Model was handed over to the fifth parliament as a legacy matter for finalisation and later was passed to the sixth parliament.</p>	Was handed over to the sixth parliament

Table 5 Summary of concerns identified by the Joint Rules Committee

6.1.8 Observations

The fourth democratic parliament made significant strides in enhancing South Africa's parliamentary framework that aligned with the country's evolving democratic principles. Key achievements included

the establishment of critical institutions like the Parliamentary Budget Office and the Treasury Advice Office, as well as infrastructure improvements and international engagements. However, several strategic initiatives remained incomplete during this parliamentary term, these included: technological upgrades, oversight mechanisms, and policy frameworks. These incomplete tasks and outstanding legislative processes represented legacy issues that would require focused attention in the fifth parliament.

Furthermore, the challenges faced, such as capacity development for women, cooperative governance, and budget constraints highlighted the complexities within the parliamentary evolution. The success of the fifth parliament relied heavily on its ability to tackle these challenges and complete the critical tasks it inherited. This was essential not only for strengthening parliament's role in oversight, public participation and international relations but also for ensuring it could effectively adapt to the evolving demands of governance in South Africa.

6.2 Fifth Parliament

6.2.1 Background

The period of the fifth parliament began in 2014 and lasted until 2019. The fifth parliament legacy report indicated that parliament had already established itself as the nerve centre of people's power, participation and governance. Its functionality was crucial to the values of socio-political activism and the expression of people-centred governance across the three arms of the state. Parliament consistently affirmed its role as the legislative arm of the state, focused on accelerating the eradication of any remnants of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa.

6.2.2 Achievements

Over the fifth parliamentary term the following were successfully achieved:

- The 2015 Youth Roundtable Discussion was convened under the theme: "Africa Rising: Creating a Capable State through Youth Empowerment by 2030".
- The 2015 Women's Roundtable was convened under the theme: Accelerating Women's Empowerment and Development through Engendering the National Development Plan and Financing for Gender Equality.
- The 2016 Kliptown Youth parliament was held in commemoration of the 1976 Soweto Youth uprising.

- The 2016 International Conference on Women and the Changing World of Work was held, giving effect to the Sixty-First Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- The 2017 Inaugural Disability Rights parliament was held under the theme: celebrating 20 years of the rights of persons with disabilities under our democracy.
- The 2018 Children's parliament was hosted under the theme: 20 years of democracy, moving the Madiba legacy forward.
- The 2018 Youth Summit was hosted in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.
- The 2018 Women's Charter Review Conference, which sought to review the strides that were made in implementing the provisions contained in the 1954 Women's Charter as well as the 1994 Women's Charter for Gender Equality.
- The 2018 Inaugural Men's parliament was held in collaboration with the Men's Sector (Takuwani Riime), to institutionalise an integrated approach to root out Gender Based Violence.

6.2.3 Outstanding activities

In the fifth parliament there were some outstanding activities that needed to be address in the sixth parliament. These included:

Collaboration and Active Participation in Multilateral Forums and Bilateral Engagements	Despite efforts with organisations like SADC-PF, PAP, IPU, BRICS, and others, many MPs were unaware of parliament's participation. This issue remains ongoing and will continue into the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Development of Capacity Building and Induction Programs for parliament	Capacity building and induction programs were developed, but further improvements were planned. The goal was to establish a parliamentary institute to strengthen parliament and Provincial Legislatures, which was expected to continue into the seventh parliament.	Ongoing

Ensuring Government Strategies Reflect Global, Continental, Regional, and National Development Agendas	There is a continued focus on ensuring that government strategies align with global, continental, regional, and national development agendas. This will remain a priority in the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Improvements to Plenary Debates for Strengthening Oversight	Efforts to improve the value and effectiveness of plenary debates in strengthening oversight continue. This focus will carry forward into the seventh parliament.	Ongoing

Table 6 Summary of Progress on fifth Parliament outstanding activities

6.2.4 Outstanding policy imperatives

The following have been identified as outstanding policy imperatives for the fifth parliament.

<u>High-Level Panel Report</u>	The High-Level Panel Report was finalised and submitted to parliament. The report focuses on assessing legislation and speeding up fundamental changes in South Africa's governance. The key change identified was the strengthening of public participation and the improvement of parliamentary processes. This involved a push for more inclusive governance, transparency, and accountability, as well as addressing issues such as social inequality, gender-based violence, and improving social cohesion. Other key areas of reform include: legislative improvements, gender equality and traditional leadership, public involvement and accessibility, undoing colonial and apartheid-era governance structure. The JRC set up a sub-committee to process the report and engage with recommendations affecting Select and Portfolio Committees.	Ongoing
<u>Language Policy</u>	The Language Policy, handed over from the fifth parliament, was not finalised by the review task team and remains an ongoing issue.	Not completed

<u>Gender Responsive Budgeting</u>	The Multi-Party Women's Caucus responded to the strategic resolution on gender responsive budgeting by introducing a process to ensure that committees in parliament collected the requisite information to review revenue projections and assess budget appropriations regarding gendered implications. The policy was handed over to the sixth parliament to provide guidance on how budgeting and planning from the gender perspective needed to be approached in accordance with the legacy report. The Gender Responsive Budgeting was adopted, with the Multi-Party Women's Caucus ensuring that committees reviewed gendered implications in budgeting.	Ongoing
Operationalisation of Rule 136	A system to monitor unanswered questions by the Executive was required under Rule 136. The NARC sub-committee was formed to oversee this, with further attention required in the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Amendment of the Parliamentary and Provincial Medical Aid Scheme	The National Assembly as well as the National Council of Provinces assigned an ad hoc committee that will enquire into and make recommendations on the tariffs of members of the parliamentary and provincial medical aid scheme. This ad hoc committee was assigned to consider the need for options about Parmed and other competitive medical aids for MPs. The sixth parliament was tasked with investigating further amendments to the Parliamentary and Provincial Medical Aid Scheme Act 28 of 1975. Investigations into Parmed and other medical aid options for MPs were ongoing, and the seventh parliament was tasked with making further amendments.	Ongoing
Office and Room Meeting of Members	Recommendations for improving and standardising MPs' offices and creating adequate meeting rooms were not completed and remained a pending issue.	Not completed
Parliamentary Democracy Offices (PDO)	The PDOs were piloted in three provinces. Integration into Parliamentary Administration was planned, subject to budget availability and staff integration. This remains ongoing.	Ongoing

Integrate the PDOs Piloted in Northern Cape, Northwest, and Mpumalanga as Permanent Structures	The process of integrating PDO staff into the Parliamentary Administration Services remains ongoing.	Ongoing
Integrate PDO Staff into the Parliamentary Administration Services	The process of integrating staff from the PDO into the Parliamentary Administration Services was underway. This integration was part of the effort to enhance the operational capacity of parliament and improve the alignment of PDOs with the broader parliamentary functions. This initiative continued in the seventh parliament, subject to budget availability and the ongoing restructuring of the parliamentary administrative framework.	Ongoing
Roll-out of PDOs Subject to Budget Availability and Staff Integration	The roll-out of the PDOs was contingent on budget availability and the integration of staff, which were considered as part of the organisational realignment.	Ongoing
Utilisation and Implementation of Oversight Instruments	The Sector Oversight Model, used to oversee NDP and regional/global policies, was implemented and would need to be continued.	Ongoing
Development of the Virtual Parliamentary Institute	The development of the Virtual Parliamentary Institute was explored, with strategic partnerships and collaboration considered for the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Assessment of Operational Risk Environment and Development of Business Continuity Plan	An assessment led to the development of a Business Continuity framework. The ICT Disaster Recovery Strategy and Facilities Business Continuity Plan were set for implementation.	Ongoing

ICT Disaster Recovery Strategy and Facilities Business Continuity Plan	An assessment led to the development of a Business Continuity framework. The ICT Disaster Recovery Strategy and Facilities Business Continuity Plan were set for implementation.	Ongoing
Digital Recording and Transcription System	The Digital Recording and Transcription System was suspended in 2018.	Suspended

Table 7 Summary of Progress on the fifth Parliament outstanding policy imperatives

6.2.5 Legislation

Number of bills passed was 112.

Number of bills stood over to the next parliament was 39.

6.2.6 Challenges faced

The challenges that have occurred during the fifth parliament:

Support for Approving the Strategic Plans and Budgets of Departments	The support of members in approving the strategic plans and budgets of departments was crucial for ensuring that development agendas received the necessary financial resources. This remained an ongoing challenge.	Ongoing
Assessment of Plenary Processes and Utilisation of Information	An assessment of plenary processes identified gaps in ensuring that matters debated in the Houses are not lost to competing demands. Efforts continue to improve the efficiency and meaningful use of available information.	Ongoing

Table 8 Summary on addressing fifth Parliament's challenges

6.2.7 Continuation of projects/ programmes/ initiatives

This report highlights the continuation of projects, programmes, initiatives and activities of the fifth parliament.

Roundtable Discussions with Parliamentarians, Government Ministers, Academia, and Research Institutes	Roundtable discussions brought together key stakeholders such as parliamentarians, ministers, and academia as part of the efforts to engage on critical issues related to 4IR.	Ongoing
EXPO on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Awareness and South African Innovations	The EXPO held in 2018 raised awareness about the 4IR and South African innovations. Efforts to build on this initiative continued into the sixth parliament.	Ongoing
Workshops and Discussion Groups on 4IR for Parliamentary Officials and School Learners	Workshops and discussions focused on engaging parliamentary officials and school learners on the opportunities, risks, and concepts related to 4IR, which remains an important area of focus.	Ongoing
Building on 4IR Initiatives for the sixth parliament	The sixth parliament was expected to build further on the initiatives related to the 4IR, ensuring continuous engagement and action on this front.	Ongoing
Ensuring MPs Keep Pace with Exponential Advances in 4IR	Ensuring that MPs stayed up to date with the exponential advances in technology and focused on the legal, ethical, and policy concerns related to 4IR was a primary focus for the sixth parliament.	Ongoing

Table 9 Summary of progress on the continuation of projects/programmes/ initiatives/activities for the fifth Parliament

6.2.8 Observations

The fifth term of parliament was marked by dynamic debates on public interest issues and parliamentary procedures, contributing significantly to the evolution of parliament as the cornerstone of South Africa's constitutional democracy. An important aspect of the fifth term was the relationship between the Legislature and the Executive, essential for ensuring government accountability, scrutinising policies and focusing efforts on areas for improvement. The fifth parliament developed a strategic plan to guide its operations and resource allocation, with a strong emphasis on oversight, accountability, and the implementation of the NDP to support a capable, developmental state. The secretary to parliament was tasked with expediting the restructuring and realignment of parliamentary administration to better support MPs. Key areas of focus included enhancing professional legal, content, and research services for MPs and Committees; expanding the use of ICTs to improve

efficiency and access to information in alignment with developments from the 4IR; addressing the shortage and quality of workspaces and meeting facilities; and providing capacity-building programs tailored to the specific roles and responsibilities of MPs. The fifth parliament also prioritised active public participation and engagement in parliamentary processes. The challenges faced during this period reflect a maturing democracy, fostering greater public awareness of parliamentary functions and increasing demands for more effective executive accountability. These experiences, covered in the fifth parliament legacy report, were intended to fuel continued growth and improvement in the sixth term of parliament.

Furthermore, the State Capture was one of the most significant features of the fifth parliament. This issue gained widespread attention, specifically after former Public Protector Thuli Madonsela released her pivotal report, *State of Capture*, in 2016 (during the fourth parliament). The report exposed the excessive influence of private interests on state-owned enterprises and government processes, which set the stage for subsequent investigations and reforms. Madonsela's first findings on [State Capture](#) were to shed light on the extent of corruption and mismanagement within the public sector, and they led directly to the formation of the Zondo Commission. The commission was tasked with investigating the extent to which state capture had infiltrated South Africa's government and state-owned enterprises and played a critical role in uncovering evidence of corruption at the highest levels of government. The Zondo Commission's investigations and findings continued into the sixth parliament, represent a key part of South Africa's ongoing efforts to restore trust in public institutions. The sixth parliament would need to carry forward the work of the fifth parliament by continuing to monitor and implement the Commission's recommendations.

6.3 Sixth Parliament

6.3.1 Background

The period of the sixth parliament began in 2019 and continued until 2024. On 8 May 2019, South African citizens participated in the country's sixth democratic election, marking a significant milestone that coincided with the 25th anniversary of South Africa's constitutional democracy. According to South African law, the Houses of Parliament were required to be constituted within 14 days of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) announcing the election results. This process began with the inaugural sittings of the National Assembly and the NCOP. The Chief Justice, as mandated by the Constitution, determined the dates and presided over critical aspects of these first sittings. Following consultations between the Office of the Chief Justice and parliament, the first sitting of the NA was provisionally scheduled for 22 May 2019. The first sitting of the NCOP was provisionally scheduled for

23 May 2019. The Chief Justice presided over the swearing-in of the NCOP's permanent delegates, as well as the election of the NCOP Chairperson, chosen from the permanent delegates. The Chairperson then oversaw the election of the Deputy Chairperson, House Chairpersons and the Chief Whip. In June 2019, the President delivered the State of the Nation Address during a joint sitting of the sixth democratic parliament. By this time, parliamentary committees focused on specific government departments and entities were established, further solidifying the legislative framework for governance in South Africa.

6.3.2 Achievements

Over the sixth parliamentary term the following were successfully achieved:

- **Key legislation were passed:** 1. Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill, which recognised South African Sign Language as the 12th official language, 2. the Electoral Amendment Bill, which enabled independent candidates to contest elections, 3. the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Act, 4. National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill, and 5. the COVID-19 Economic Relief Legislation, which was an enactment of the Disaster Management Tax Relief Bill and Tax Administration Bill to address economic challenges stemming from the pandemic.
- **Strengthening Oversight Mechanisms:** Improvements were made in the quality of committee reports and systematic executive performance scrutiny, including quarterly performance reviews. Furthermore, 1237 House Resolutions were approved to address governance improvements.
- **Judicial Accountability:** The impeachment of Judges John Hlophe and Nkola Motata for serious misconduct, alongside the removal of Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane as Public Protector through the establishment of the [Committee](#) on Section 194 Enquiry. These have set precedents for further similar occurrences.
- **Post-Parliament Fire:** The successful implementation of continuity measures following the 2022 fire which included the securing of alternative venues, transition to virtual meetings and reconstruction planning.
- **Improving Public Participation Initiatives:** The record engagement during the NHI Bill process amounting to 338,891 submissions and conducting 562 public hearings nationwide, which enhanced inclusivity by involving children and marginalised groups.
- **Digital Transformation:** The successful transition to virtual and hybrid operational models during the pandemic, enabled cost savings, increased participation and uninterrupted public

access. ICT systems were enhanced by the implementation of Microsoft Teams and live streaming of proceedings.

- **Innovative ICT Projects:** By developing tools and online systems to allow e-Petitions and e-Submissions, integrated legislative systems as well as chatbot for public education.
- **Parliamentary Diplomacy:** By actively participating in international events such as the IMF Spring Meetings and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) meetings and sittings of the Pan-African Parliament.
- **National Development Plan Goals (NDPs):** Improvements were made on reducing poverty, inequality mitigation, as well as fostering economic growth that aligns with the NDPs.
- **Recognition of South African Sign Language (SASL) as the 12th Official Language:** Recognition of South African Sign Language (SASL) as the 12th Official Language: In July 2023, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law the constitutional amendment recognising South African Sign Language (SASL) as the country's 12th official language. This milestone promoted the rights of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, ensuring their inclusion in South Africa's linguistic and cultural heritage.
- **Electoral Reform Consultation Panel:** Was established to investigate and recommend further reforms for future elections.

Achievements	Fourth Parliament	Fifth Parliament	Sixth Parliament
Key legislations were passed	Groundwork was done for the Green Paper on NHI in 2011.	The NHI White Paper was published in 2017.	NHI Bill passed.
Electoral Amendment Bill	Van Zyl Slabbert Commission Report on Electoral Reform (2003) was published.	Momentum was gained following the 2016 Constitutional Court ruling in the 'My Vote Counts' case.	The Electoral Amendment Bill was passed.
Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill	N/A	Groundwork was done for recognising South African Sign Language.	Passed the Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill.
COVID-19 Economic Relief Legislation	N/A	Economic resilience frameworks and disaster management systems	The Disaster Management Tax Relief Bill and Tax

		were strengthened to prepare for unforeseen crises.	Administration Bill were passed.
Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Act	N/A	The draft of the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill was completed.	The Bill was finalised and enacted.
National Development Plan (NDP) Goals	NDP 2030 was adopted in 2012.	Worked towards aligning legislative priorities with the NDP 2030.	Progress was made by the sixth Parliament.
Judicial Accountability	Initial discussions on how to address misconduct by judicial officers were conducted.	Complaints against Judges and Public Protector were formally raised and investigated.	The impeachment of Judges and the removal of Public Protector was done.
Digital Transformation	Efforts to modernise parliamentary processes included initial investments in ICT and e-governance.	Invested in improving ICT infrastructure.	The full-scale implementation of digital transformation initiatives as well as hybrid and virtual operational models were done.
Improving Public Participation	Efforts were focused on improving public consultation mechanisms.	Introduced the e-petitions and expanded public hearings.	Record levels of public participation during the NHI Bill process.
Recognition of South African Sign Language (SASL)	N/A	Legislative groundwork and discussions were initiated in the fifth parliament.	Final constitutional amendment and recognition occurred.
Electoral Reform Consultation Panel	Efforts to reform electoral processes were initiated.	Reflects a follow-through from the fourth parliament.	Momentum occurred and panel was established.

Table 10 Outstanding items from the fourth and fifth achieved in the sixth Parliament

6.3.3 Outstanding activities

The following activities were still outstanding and were recommended for addition to the seventh parliament's mandate:

Finalisation of the Public Procurement Bill	Efforts to finalise the Public Procurement Bill are ongoing, with continued engagement and refinement in the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Expansion of Climate-Responsive Legislation	Work on expanding climate-responsive legislation continues, with a focus on addressing climate change through policy and legal frameworks.	Ongoing
Implementation of Gender-Responsive Budgeting	Gender-Responsive Budgeting is being implemented, ensuring that budget allocations consider gendered impacts. This initiative continues in the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Review of Section 25 Amendment	The review of the Section 25 amendment for land reform is ongoing, with discussions and legal processes continuing in the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Strengthening Public Participation Index	Efforts to strengthen the Public Participation Index to enhance democratic engagement remain a focus for the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Legislation on Coalition Governance	Legislation addressing coalition governance continues to be discussed, with a focus on improving political stability and governance frameworks.	Ongoing
Parliamentary Rules for Hybrid Sessions	The establishment of parliamentary rules for hybrid sessions is ongoing, particularly after the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.	Ongoing
Restoration and Reconstruction of Parliament Post-Fire	The restoration and reconstruction of parliament following the devastating fire are ongoing, with efforts focused on rebuilding and improving infrastructure.	Ongoing
Finalisation of Organisational Culture Reset	The organisational culture reset is being finalised, with a focus on improving the working	Ongoing

	environment and governance structures in parliament.	
Follow-Up on State Capture Commission Recommendations	The follow-up on the recommendations from the State Capture Commission continues, with action plans for addressing corruption and governance failures being implemented.	Ongoing

Table 11 Summary of Progress on the sixth Parliament outstanding activities

6.3.4 Outstanding policy imperatives

Outstanding policy imperatives included:

Gender-Responsive Budgeting and Developing a Comprehensive Framework to Integrate Gender Equality into Budgeting	Gender-responsive budgeting remains an ongoing priority, with efforts focused on integrating gender equality considerations into budgeting processes across the legislative sector.	Ongoing
Follow-Up on Policy Measures and Legislative Amendments Recommended by the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture	Follow-up on the recommendations from the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture continues, with legislative amendments and policy measures being actively pursued.	Ongoing
Parliamentary Rules for NCOP	The review of procedural rules to address defects in handling bills returned under Section 79 of the Constitution is an ongoing initiative.	Ongoing
Policy on Inclusive Legislative Processes and Expanding Mechanisms for Representation of Marginalised Groups	The development of a policy for inclusive legislative processes and expanding mechanisms to ensure representation and participation of marginalised groups continues.	Ongoing
Refine and Implement the Public Involvement Index	The Public Involvement Index is being refined to measure and improve the effectiveness of public engagement in parliamentary processes.	Ongoing

Strategies for Including Marginalised Groups	Strategies are being developed to ensure the inclusion of marginalised groups, particularly women and children, in parliamentary processes.	Ongoing
Completion of Ongoing ICT Projects	Ongoing ICT projects, including the Integrated Legislative System, Big Data and Analytics initiative, and VoIP upgrades, are in progress.	Ongoing
Finalisation and Implementation of the Cultural Transformation Plan	The cultural transformation plan is being finalised, with efforts to create a more agile and collaborative parliamentary environment.	Ongoing
Building Partnerships within Africa Aligned with Agenda 2063	Efforts to build partnerships within Africa and expand South Africa's influence on international platforms, in alignment with Agenda 2063, are ongoing.	Ongoing

Table 12 Summary of Progress on the sixth Parliament outstanding policy imperatives

6.3.5 Legislation

Number of bills passed was 145.

Number of bills stood over to the next parliament was 160.

6.3.6 Challenges faced

The sixth parliament faced many challenges, ranging from economic, operational, legislative, oversight, governance, policy development and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Universal Economic Slowdown in 2019 and Economic Impact of the Pandemic	The economic slowdown and the pandemic presented severe challenges, exacerbating South Africa's existing vulnerabilities and fiscal challenges. These issues remained a key focus for the sixth parliament as it worked to address economic recovery.	Ongoing
Devastating Fire in January 2022 Destroying Portions of the National Assembly	The fire that destroyed significant portions of the National Assembly in January 2022 disrupted parliamentary operations. Restoration and reconstruction efforts were ongoing in the sixth parliament.	Ongoing
Adapting to Digital Transformation:	The shift to virtual and hybrid meeting formats due to Covid-19 required rapid adaptation of parliamentary	Ongoing

Transition to Virtual and Hybrid Meeting Formats Due to COVID-19	processes, presenting challenges in infrastructure and technology that were still being addressed during the sixth parliament.	
Lack of Public Participation and Need for Improved Grassroots Engagement Systems	There is an ongoing need to enhance public participation mechanisms to ensure more inclusive and responsive parliamentary processes.	Ongoing
Limited Resources Restricting Parliamentary Constituency Offices and Public Education Initiatives	Limited resources restricted outreach and engagement efforts, particularly in PCOs and public education initiatives, impacting the effectiveness of engagement.	Ongoing
Unresolved Issues from the Fifth Parliament	Many issues, including lapsed bills and incomplete reforms from the fifth parliament, remained unresolved and continued to require attention in the sixth parliament.	Ongoing
Parliamentary Committees Struggling with Effective Oversight	Committees continued to struggle with effective oversight, particularly in following up on plenary debates and holding the executive accountable.	Ongoing
High-Profile Ethical Violations	High-profile ethical violations, including the resignation of the Speaker of the National Assembly and allegations against President Cyril Ramaphosa, have been significant challenges in the sixth parliament.	Ongoing
Difficulties in Intergovernmental Collaboration	Poor participation from provincial and local government levels hindered effective intergovernmental collaboration, and this issue remained a focus for improvement.	Ongoing
Persisting Issues with Inequality, Unemployment, and Poverty	The ongoing challenges of inequality, unemployment, and poverty required transformative legislative and governance interventions, which remained a priority in the sixth parliament.	Ongoing
Ineffective Implementation of Recommendations from Key Reports	The failure to implement recommendations from key reports, such as those issued by the High-Level Panel, highlighted critical areas that needed reform to improve service delivery and public trust.	Ongoing

Insufficient Implementation of the State Capture Commission's Recommendations	There was insufficient implementation of the recommendations from the State Capture Commission, which emphasised the need for rigorous oversight to prevent corruption and ensure ethical governance.	Ongoing
Lack of Implementation of High-Level Panel's Evaluations (2017)	The evaluations made by the High-Level Panel in 2017 highlighted areas requiring immediate reform. These evaluations needed to be addressed to improve service delivery and restore public trust in institutions.	Ongoing

Table 13 Summary on addressing the sixth Parliament's challenges³

6.3.7 Continuation of projects/ programmes/ initiatives

There were various projects, programmes and initiatives identified to continue into the seventh parliament, including the revival of various bills that lapsed during this period.

Revival of Various Bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National State Enterprises Bill [B1-24 (s75)]. • Protection of State Information Bill [B6H-2010 (s75)]. • SA Reserve Bank Amendment Bill [B26-18 (s75)]. • Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Amendment Bill [B8-23 (s75)]. • Merchant Shipping Bill [B12-23 (s75)]. • Electoral Commission Amendment Bill [B15-23 (s75)]. <p>These bills, which lapsed during the current parliamentary term, will be revived and considered in the seventh parliament.</p>	Ongoing
Continued Oversight of Enacted Laws	Oversight of laws that have already been enacted will continue, particularly to ensure that their objectives are being met, including the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Amendment Act.	Ongoing

³ Note to reader: These challenges can be considered for further research reports such as the Parliamentary Oversight Report. Refer to section 11 on Future Research Opportunities for further information.

Strengthening Oversight by Modernising Data-Driven Mechanisms and Improving Accountability Measures	Efforts to modernise and enhance data-driven mechanisms to improve accountability measures and strengthen oversight will continue.	Ongoing
Oversight of Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture Recommendations	Continued oversight of the recommendations made by the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture will be carried out, with focus on ensuring implementation by relevant government departments and institutions.	Ongoing
Improvements Within Parliamentary Committees	Further improvements within various committees will be made through restructuring and rebuilding their capacities to enhance their effectiveness.	Ongoing
Improving Public Participation	Efforts to improve public participation by developing new metrics like the Public Involvement Index and refining existing mechanisms will continue.	Ongoing
Reinstating Public Engagement through the People's Assembly	The People's Assembly will be reinstated to broaden participation, especially for marginalised groups, using appropriate technology and social media.	Ongoing
Strengthening Local and Intergovernmental Collaborations	Efforts to strengthen local and intergovernmental collaboration through skilled representatives in national discussions will continue.	Ongoing
Increasing Oversight through the LETOFO	The LETOFO will continue to develop within all government spheres to further increase oversight.	Ongoing
Building Partnerships within Africa Aligned with Agenda 2063 and Promoting Regional Development	Continued efforts to build partnerships within Africa, in alignment with Agenda 2063, to promote regional development.	Ongoing
Upgrading Telephony Systems for Improved Communication and Efficiency	Upgrades to telephony systems will continue to improve communication and operational efficiency.	Ongoing

Implementation of Cultural Reset Plan to Foster a Collaborative and Active Working Environment	The cultural reset plan aimed at fostering a more collaborative and active working environment will continue into the seventh parliament.	Ongoing
Mentorship and Development of Young Professionals	The mentorship and development of young professionals to enhance diversity and institutional capacity will remain a focus.	Ongoing
Leadership Programmes	Ongoing leadership programs, including the Women in Leadership Programme and Executive Leadership Development Programme, will continue to develop future leaders within the parliament.	Ongoing

Table 14 Summary of progress on the continuation of projects/programmes/ initiatives/activities for the sixth Parliament

6.3.8 Observations

The legacy report of the sixth parliament highlighted a term defined by resilience, innovation and commitment to democratic principles. Owing to the significant challenges, including global economic stagnation, the Covid-19 pandemic and the parliamentary fire, parliament adapted to unprecedented situations to fulfil its constitutional mandate.

Key legislative advancements such as the recognition of South African Sign Language as the 12th official language and reforms to the electoral system, reflected a commitment to inclusivity and justice. Efforts to strengthen governance accountability and ethical standards further illustrated parliament's dedication to transparency and responsiveness.

However, the sixth parliament legacy report also highlighted continual challenges including socio-economic inequalities, resource constraints and the need for greater intergovernmental alignment, which required sustained focus. Ultimately, the sixth parliament's legacy is one of determination and progress. While challenges remained, its achievements provided a good platform for the seventh parliament to build upon, thus ensuring the continuous evolution of South Africa's democracy and the realisation of a better life for all citizens.

7. Key findings of the Fourth to Sixth Parliaments⁴

7.1 Weak Oversight Mechanisms

Parliamentary committees which play a central role in holding the Executive to account, have often struggled to exercise effective oversight. This is particularly evident in the failure to prevent State Capture during the fourth and fifth parliaments, as well as the delayed implementation of key oversight reforms in the sixth parliament. Challenges include:

- Inadequate follow-up on plenary debates and committee recommendations.
- Limited capacity to monitor government spending and performance effectively.
- Resource constraints preventing thorough oversight visits.

Recommendation: To address some of these gaps, it is important that parliament strengthens its oversight capacity by providing committees with dedicated resources and adopting data-driven tools like the Parliamentary Oversight Dashboard (ParliMeter). These tools would allow for real-time monitoring of legislative actions and provide parliamentarians and the public with clearer insights into the implementation of policies and bills. Setting clear reporting deadlines for committees would help in ensure that recommendations are acted on effectively. Creating a dedicated budget for oversight activities, including resources for committee members to travel, conduct investigation and to hire experts or consultants to support their work. Implementing independent bodies such as an independent office of parliamentary oversight to hold executives accountable.

7.2 Policy Implementation Gaps

Across the three parliamentary terms, a recurring issue has been the inability to implement policies and recommendations efficiently. While various progressive policies and reports such as the High-Level Panel Report and the Zondo Commission recommendations, have been tabled, many have not been fully implemented. Examples include:

- **Lapsed bills:** Significant pieces of legislation have not been revived or processed.
- **Policy imperatives:** Legacy issues like gender-responsive budgeting and ICT infrastructure remain incomplete.

⁴ Note to reader: Based on the recommendations made, future research could include monitoring the implementation and/or assessing the progress. Refer to section 11 on Future Research Opportunities for further information

Recommendation: It is important that parliament introduces tracking frameworks like a ParliMeter to monitor the progress of policies and ensure they are effectively implemented. Setting clear timelines for each policy that is accompanied by regular updates, will allow parliament to maintain focus and accountability. By strengthening the capacity for policy execution within parliamentary committees will also improve its effectiveness. Consider establishing an independent entity that will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of all major policies. This entity will need to report directly to parliament and provide regular updates on the progress of policy execution.

7.3 State Capture and Corruption

The legacy of State Capture, particularly during the fourth and fifth parliaments, continues to impact governance, public trust and institutional integrity. Despite improvements in the sixth parliament, corruption remains pervasive due to:

- Weak enforcement of accountability measures.
- Ineffective monitoring of state-owned entities (SOEs) and procurement processes.
- Delayed implementation of anti-corruption laws and reforms.

Recommendation: To combat corruption more effectively, parliament must fully implement the Zondo Commission's recommendations and establish independent anti-corruption agencies such as the proposed Chapter Nine Anti-Corruption Commission (Ch9ACC) which are assigned to handle some or various corruption issues. Furthermore, stricter legislative frameworks should be put in place to ensure transparency in procurement processes and to protect whistleblowers from any form of retaliation. Regular reviews of the implementation of these reforms are also necessary to maintain pressure on institutions. Develop a mandate that all SOEs need to follow a standardised accountability protocol(s) for financial reporting, decision-making, and audit procedures. Furthermore, reforming the boards of SOEs to include individuals with relevant experience in governance and anti-corruption practices. Conduct regular audits and evaluations and findings need to be publicly disclosed.

7.4 Public Participation and Inclusivity

While public participation has been a constitutional imperative, the effectiveness of public engagement processes has been inconsistent. Key challenges include:

- Limited outreach to marginalised groups, particularly in rural communities.
- Resource constraints within Parliamentary Constituency Offices (PCOs).

- Inadequate platforms for grassroots engagement, especially in law-making processes.

Recommendation: Strengthen participation mechanisms through digital engagement platforms (e.g., e-Petitions and online submissions), reinstate grassroots initiatives like *People's Assembly*, and establish measurable engagement metrics such as the Public Involvement Index. Furthermore, integrating these marginalised groups into decision-making through targeted outreach and public education on parliamentary procedures will provide opportunities for citizens.

7.5 Ineffective Intergovernmental Collaboration

The coordination between parliament, provincial legislatures and local governments remains weak, undermining the effectiveness of governance and service delivery. Persistent challenges include:

- Lack of active participation from provincial and local government representatives in national policy discussions.
- Poor alignment of development goals across governmental levels.
- Resource and capacity constraints hindering cooperative governance.

Recommendation: Create structured platforms to enhance collaboration, align intergovernmental policies with Agenda 2063 and NDP goals, and ensure active participation in national decision-making processes.

Furthermore, a key issue in the sixth parliament has been the Covid-19 pandemic. Most committees indicated that the pandemic disrupted their meeting schedules. They reported that working remotely has had a negative impact on their work. Other key issues that are identified, include:

- **Long-standing issues:** Corruption and mismanagement, lack of service delivery, education (unfunded resource allocations, quality of education, lack of teacher training and professional development, poor condition of public schools and student debt), health (Strain on health system, corruption and mismanagement around procurement processes as well as scandals involving the procurement of medical equipment and supplies), unemployment and environmental unsustainability.
- **Oversight visits:** By conducting visits to departments and associated entities oversight bodies can directly assess the implementation of policies and the effectiveness of public services, thereby making recommendations that those departments and PCs can adopt and implement accordingly.

- **Cost Equity shares:** Funds need to be distributed appropriately to programs/ projects and regular audits must be conducted.
- **Meeting attendance:** Improve attendance by enhancing physical and IT infrastructure. A return to in-person meetings should be considered.
- **Public participation:** Develop a user-friendly online system/platform that all citizens can access and be allowed to engage in the legislative process, furthermore, making the public participation systems accessible and inclusive for minority groups, and people with various disabilities. Consider conducting campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of public participation and how citizens can get involved.
- **Deadlines for reports:** Late reports affect decisions, creating a ripple effect on department funds, projects and strategic outcomes. Strict guidelines and consequences must be communicated and implemented.

7.6 Civil Society Organisation Collaboration

CSOs play an important role in advancing accountability and transparency within governance systems. Their independent and innovative approaches complement formal governmental mechanisms. The collaborative efforts of entities such as AmaBhungane, Open Secrets and the Civil Society Working Group on State Capture demonstrates how CSOs can drive systemic reforms. One example is the initiative by Open Secrets and AmuBhungane in developing the [Zondo Recommendations Tracker](#), a tool designed to monitor the implementation of findings from the Zondo Commission on State Capture. This tool highlights the potential of partnerships between civil society and governance structures in ensuring that critical reforms remain on the national agenda. By systematically tracking progress, the tracker mitigates the risk of relegating the Commission's recommendations to symbolic gestures, thus fostering accountability. The collaboration highlights the strategic importance of civil society in addressing structural governance challenges and ensuring that reforms lead to tangible outcomes.

1. Zondo Recommendations Tracker:

- Tracks the implementation of findings and recommendations from the Zondo Commission.
- Provides a transparent and accessible framework for public and parliamentary oversight.
- Highlights gaps in the adoption of reforms and creates public pressure for action.

2. OUTA's Submission to Parliament:

- OUTA's "[No Room to Hide: A President caught in the act](#)" report presents detailed evidence of systemic corruption.
- Reinforces the role of CSOs in identifying governance failures and offering solutions.
- Encourages robust oversight through informed parliamentary deliberations.

3. Civil Society Working Group on State Capture:

- A coalition of organisations advocating for reforms in governance and public procurement.
- Plays an advisory role in prioritising legislative and institutional reforms.

Recommendations:

- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Encourage sustained collaboration between civil society organisations and parliamentary committees to ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation of governance reforms.
- **Enhance Oversight Mechanisms:** Leverage tools like the Zondo Recommendations Tracker to strengthen parliamentary oversight processes and hold implementers accountable.
- **Resource Key Institutions:** Prioritise the allocation of resources to investigatory bodies and anti-corruption units to address systemic vulnerabilities effectively.
- **Legislative Reforms:** Act on civil society submissions such as OUTA's recommendations to address governance gaps, particularly in procurement processes and fiduciary accountability.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Use CSO-led initiatives to educate the public on the importance of governance reforms and the progress of Zondo Commission recommendations.
- **Regular Reporting:** Mandate regular updates from both CSOs and governance institutions on the progress of reforms to maintain transparency and public trust.

7.7 Actionable Steps

Implementing the findings of the Zondo Commission in the seventh parliament necessitates a clear roadmap of actionable steps. Key recommendations include:



Figure 3 Actionable Steps from Zondo Recommendations

According to the fourth to sixth parliaments' legacy reports, there have been many positives during the three parliamentary terms. However, it must be noted that there is dissonance between the positives portrayed and realities faced, which tend to be disappointing. In no instance is the pervasiveness of inadequate oversight as obvious as those observed during the state capture years. Below follows a reflection of the positives as captured in the legacy reports.

In the fourth parliamentary term, efforts were made to enhance oversight functions and increase public engagement in the legislative process. Programs like "[Taking Parliament to the People](#)" provided communities with opportunities to interact directly with their elected representatives, contributing to a closer connection between the legislature and the public. Legislation aimed at improving women's rights and addressing gender-based violence was developed and committees such as the Multi-Party Women's Caucus, advocated for gender-responsive governance. The adoption of the NDP 2030, focused on reducing poverty and inequality, also marked a significant initiative for long-term socio-economic development. However, there were some challenges in fully realising the potential of these programs and policies, and progress was uneven in various areas.

During the fifth parliamentary term, parliament continued to strengthen its role in holding the executive accountable, particularly by overseeing government departments and state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Committees such as the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) played a role in investigating financial misconduct and irregularities in government spending. Efforts were also made to address corruption through investigations into state capture with the establishment of the Zondo Commission in 2018, reflecting parliament's commitment to transparency and accountability.

While these initiatives represented progress, there were ongoing struggles with the extent to which accountability could be enforced and state capture effectively addressed. Gender equality efforts continued with the introduction of bills aimed at protecting women and children, such as the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill and Sexual Offences Amendment Bill, highlighting parliament's commitment to advancing social justice. However, the broader implementation and impact of these measures were mixed.

The sixth parliamentary term was heavily shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic, which required parliament to oversee the government's response. This included monitoring emergency regulations, approving relief funding and ensuring that resources were distributed fairly. Parliament also played a key role in approving policies related to the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan aimed at stimulating economic growth and protecting vulnerable communities. While efforts were made to address gender-based violence through legislation such as the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bill, and the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill, challenges remained in achieving consistent results in reducing violence. The sixth parliament also focused on advancing South Africa's digital transformation agenda, recognising the role of technology in driving economic growth. However, the overall impact of these efforts was limited by ongoing implementation issues.

Internationally, the sixth parliament engaged actively in multilateral platforms to advance South Africa's interests, while also championing democratic values and human rights. However, there was recognition of the need for better mechanisms to track and evaluate the implementation of international commitments, highlighting some shortcomings in this area.

While there were positive strides made in several areas, it is clear that there were also significant challenges and failures during the fourth and sixth parliamentary terms, which limited the overall effectiveness of some of the initiatives undertaken.

The report presented a series of recommendations for the seventh parliament. These include reviving lapsed bills, enhancing oversight frameworks, prioritising climate action, and integrating technology to streamline legislative operations. It also calls for greater alignment of intergovernmental policies, improved public participation mechanisms and expanded capacity-building initiatives to address institutional constraints.

On the 28 August 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed the [National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council \(NACAC\)](#) based on the recommendation from the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). This multi-sectoral advisory body was established to oversee and provide guidance on the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy. The goal of the strategy is to significantly reduce corruption levels and enhance both investor and public confidence in SA. The following are [functions of the NACAC](#):



Figure 4 Functions of the NACAC

The [six strategic pillars](#) that constitute the key components of the Strategy:

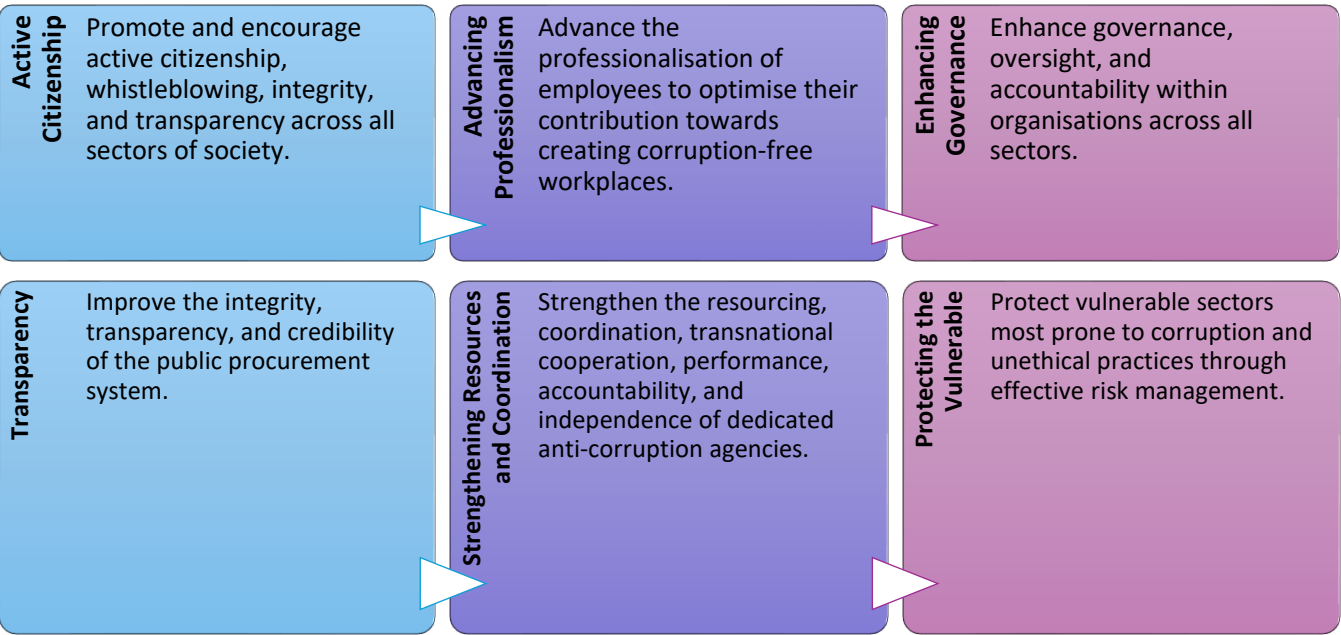


Figure 5 The six strategic pillars of the Strategy

The NACAC starts by reviewing existing anti-corruption policies and frameworks within government bodies, public institutions, and the private sector. This helps the council identify gaps in policy, areas for improvement, and compliance levels. Based on the review, NACAC may issue guidelines and best practices that set standards for anti-corruption measures. It regularly monitors government and corporate behaviour to detect any signs of corruption or unethical conduct as well as collects data from surveys, reports from whistleblowers, or public submissions to measure the level of corruption within various entities and departments. If corruption is detected, this may lead to a formal investigations. These could be based on whistleblower complaints, media reports, or its own monitoring activities.

After an investigation is done, the NACAC advises the government and relevant bodies on corrective actions. These recommendations may include changes in policy, enhanced transparency measures, stricter enforcement, and better training programs for public servants. Thereafter the NACAC publishes periodic reports on its findings, discussing key issues, progress, and areas where corruption continues. They may also engage in public awareness initiatives to educate citizens about the importance of anti-corruption measures and encourage them to report suspicious activities.

The NACAC provides protection for whistleblowers and encouraging individuals to report corruption without fear of retaliation. The seventh parliament should consider deploying the strategy for high profile cases, corruption and maladministration occurs.

8. State Capture and Zondo Recommendations

8.1 Establish a Dedicated Parliamentary Oversight Mechanism

- **Recommendation:** Form a permanent Oversight Committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Zondo Commission's recommendations.
 - Mandate the committee to review progress reports from relevant departments, state-owned entities (SOEs) and law enforcement agencies.
 - Require regular public reporting on implementation milestones to enhance transparency.
 - Include independent experts and civil society observers to strengthen accountability.

Rationale: A dedicated mechanism will ensure structured and consistent oversight of anti-corruption reforms.

8.2 Fast-track Legislative Reforms to Prevent State Capture

- **Recommendation:** Prioritise and expedite amendments to key legislation aimed at closing systemic loopholes highlighted by the Zondo Commission, including:
 - **Whistleblower Protection Act:** Amend existing legislation to ensure comprehensive protection, financial support and legal recourse for whistleblowers. Anti-Corruption should include further provisions to protect whistleblowers, by aiming to develop mechanisms to safeguard individuals who report corruption, ensuring they receive legal protection against any form of retaliation. It should also aim at providing incentives to encourage the reporting of illegal activities by creating a safe environment for whistleblowers.

Rationale: Legislative gaps allowed corruption to flourish; prioritising these bills will address vulnerabilities and strengthen governance.

8.3 Enforce Accountability for Non-Compliance

- **Recommendation:** Implement a system of consequences for departments, institutions and officials failing to act on Zondo Commission findings.
 - Develop clear timelines and deliverables for implementing recommendations.
 - Introduce parliamentary sanctions for non-compliance, such as summoning officials to appear before committees and withholding budgets where reforms are delayed.
 - Support the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and law enforcement agencies in holding individuals accountable through criminal prosecution.

Rationale: Ensuring accountability for inaction will reinforce parliament's role in overseeing ethical governance.

8.4 Reform Appointment Processes for Key Institutions

- **Recommendation:** Introduce stricter vetting processes and competency-based appointments for leadership roles in oversight institutions and SOEs.
 - Amend regulations to ensure independent panels, free from political interference, conduct the selection process for heads of entities like SARS, NPA and SOEs.
 - Enhance parliamentary oversight during appointment processes by requiring formal approval and public interviews for critical positions.

Rationale: Transparent and merit-based appointments will prevent political capture of key state institutions.

8.5 Institutionalise Anti-Corruption Education and Training

- **Recommendation:** Introduce anti-corruption education programmes for parliamentary staff, MPs, public officials, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions of learning as well as research institutions to entrench a culture of integrity and ethics.
 - Conduct mandatory annual training on ethical governance and compliance with anti-corruption laws.
 - Partner with the Public Service Commission, Public Protector of South Africa (PPSA), academic institutions and civil society organisations (CSOs) to develop courses and workshops on anti-corruption mechanisms.
 - Approval of the proposed Chapter Nine Anti-Corruption Commission (Ch9ACC). This bill was presented to the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development on the 26 November 2024, by Democratic Alliance (DA) member of parliament Glynnis Breytenbach. This bill seeks to establish an independent Anti-Corruption Commission as a Chapter Nine institution. It is dedicated solely to the investigation and prosecution of serious corruption cases. It is designed to address concerns regarding the effectiveness of current institutions, such as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) when tackling high-level corruption.

Rationale: Preventing corruption requires a proactive focus on building a culture of integrity within governance institutions.

9. Lessons to be learnt for the Seventh Parliament

9.1 The lessons learnt from the Zondo Commission

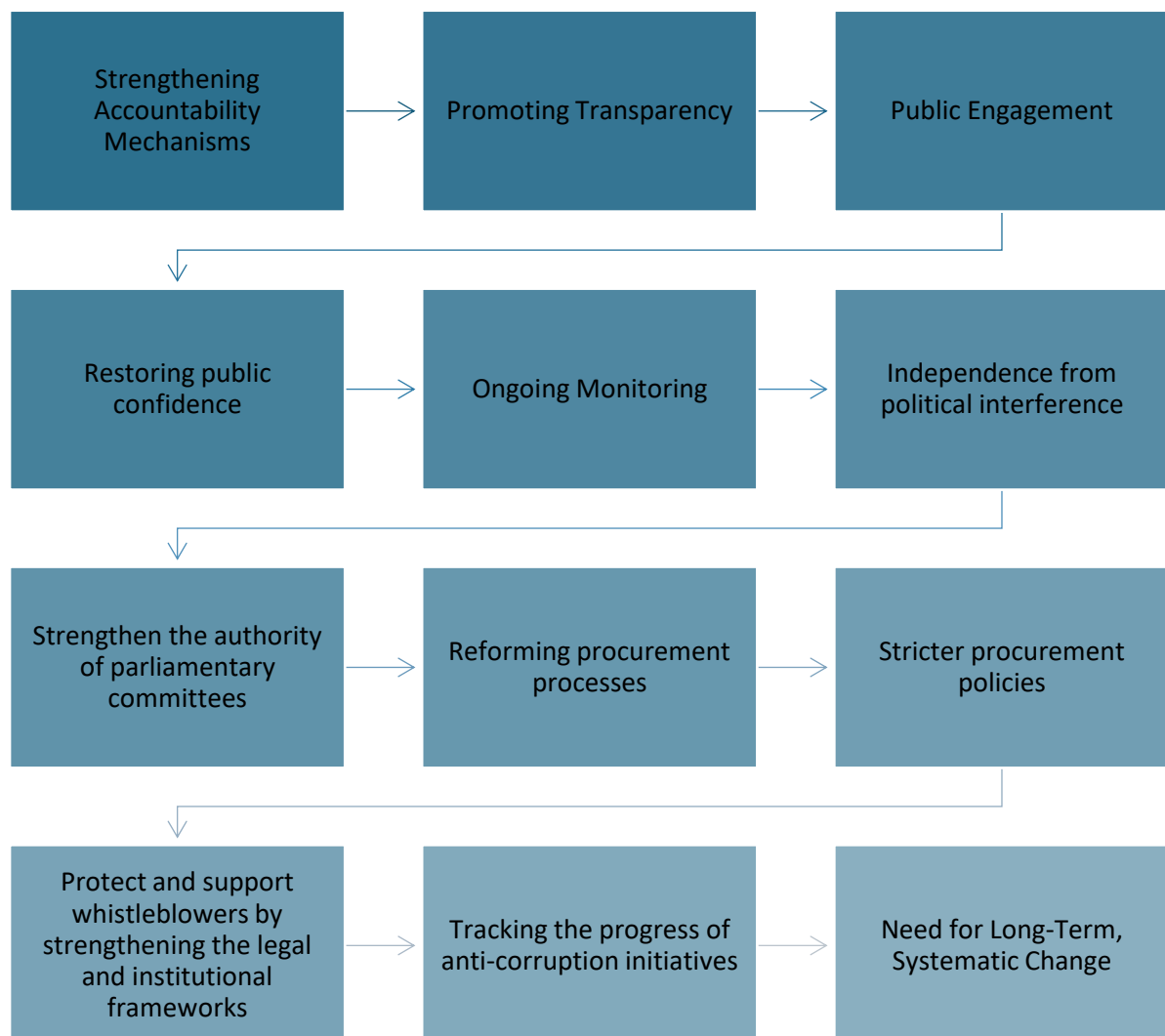


Figure 6 Lessons learnt from the Zondo Commission Recommendations

- **Strengthening accountability mechanisms:** This could involve strengthening parliamentary committees by ensuring the proper use of oversight tools as well as increasing the resources allocated to committees.
- **Promoting transparency:** This could be achieved by improving reporting mechanisms by making government documents more accessible and using technology to keep citizens informed.
- **Public engagement:** This could include regular public consultations and hearings as well as making the legislative process more accessible. Engagement must also reach marginalised groups in ensure inclusivity.

- **Restoring public confidence:** Transparency, accountability and public engagement are key to rebuilding trust.
- **Ongoing monitoring:** The system must track progress and flag delays or failures. Real-time tracking tools such as the ParliMeter, could be used for transparency.
- **Independence from political interference:** This could be achieved by creating more autonomy for parliamentary committees and institutions that monitor governance. The equitable representation of the electoral system also safeguards against political interference, thus supporting the independence of parliamentary committees and governance-monitoring institutions.
- **Strengthening the authority of parliamentary committees:** This includes increasing their budget, capacity and legal power.
- **Improve parliament's rules and policies:** By providing guidance as some rules and policies are outdated and need to be revised to remain effective.
- **Reforming procurement processes:** By ensuring fairness, transparency and competition will aid in reducing corruption and enhance government spending efficiency.
- **Stricter procurement policies:** Implementing stricter policies for public procurement will prevent negative influences and ensure that public contracts are awarded based on merit, efficiency and value of the service or product.
- **Protect and support whistleblowers by strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks:** By protecting whistleblowers legally and offering incentives can encourage more people to come forward and report maladministration and corruption. However, legal and institutional frameworks need to be strengthened in order for whistleblowers to report without any form of retaliation .
- **Tracking the progress of anti-corruption initiatives:** Using monitoring mechanisms to aid in evaluating the implementation of anti-corruption laws and reforms.
- **Need for long-term, systematic change:** There should be a long-term, systematic approaches to institutionalising these reforms in governing structures.

9.2 The lessons learnt from the Fourth to Sixth Parliaments

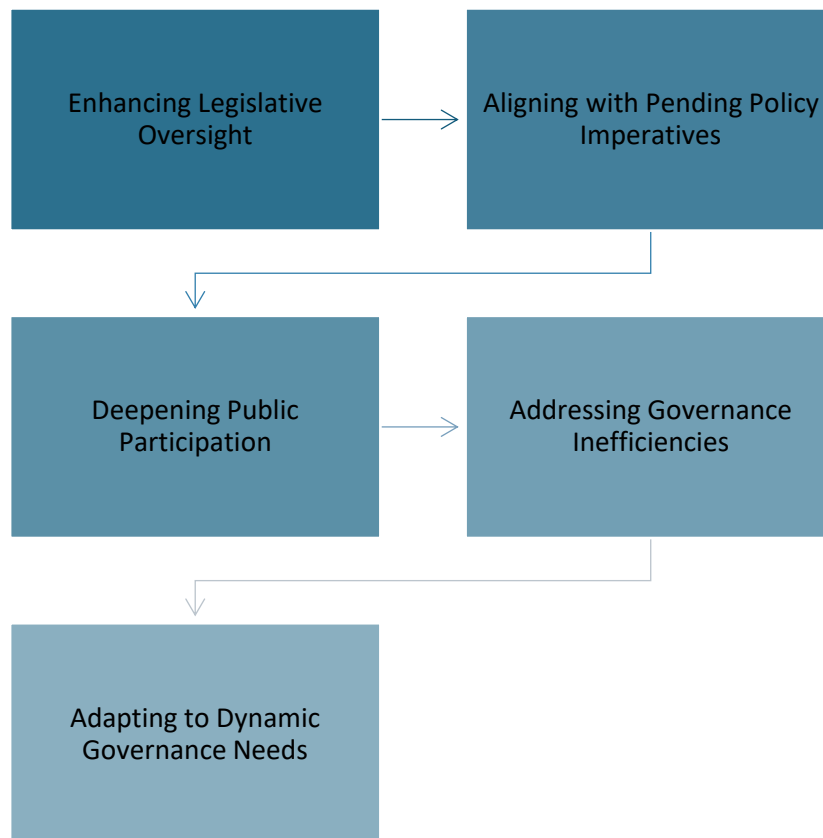


Figure 7 Lessons learnt from the fourth to sixth Parliament

- **Enhancing legislative oversight:** Ensures that government actions are scrutinised to prevent corruption and mismanagement.
- **Aligning with pending policy imperatives:** Ensure that parliaments do not work in isolation from the immediate needs of the country by aligning legislative work with pending imperatives means prioritising legislation and reforms that address the most pressing national issues.
- **Deepening public participation:** By engaging the public in the legislative process is essential for strengthening democratic accountability. Public's input can guide policy decisions, create transparency and ensure that the legislative process reflects the needs of all citizens.
- **Addressing Governance Inefficiencies:** By addressing inefficiencies, government can be made more responsive, accountable and effective.
- **Adapting to Dynamic Governance Needs:** It is important to adapt to dynamic governance needs owing to the influenced by factors such as technological advancements, global economic changes, and local socio-political shifts. Therefore, legislative bodies must be flexible and responsive to these changes.

10. Key recommendations

While significant progress was made in establishing the fourth parliament, many issues and challenges did not come to light until the fifth parliament. There have been outstanding issues stemming from the fourth to sixth parliament and this should be a concern for the members. Meetings need to be held and decisions made, need to be implemented.

1. **Anti-Corruption and Whistleblower Protection:** Establish and/ or restructure independent anti-corruption agencies, enhance laws and policies to protect whistleblowers, and strengthen enforcement mechanisms.
2. **Transparency and Public Access to Information:** Create open-source government data to increase public access to information, enabling citizens to hold the government accountable and ensuring transparency in governance.
3. **Parliamentary Oversight and Accountability:** Provide parliamentary committees with effective resources for oversight visits, ensure departments act on recommendations, and use data-driven tools to enhance oversight effectiveness and executive responsiveness.
4. **Public Participation and Civil Engagement:** Improve public consultation processes for legislation, foster stronger relationships with CSOs and develop tools like the Public Involvement Index to measure and enhance engagement.
5. **Financial Management and Budget Transparency:** Increase financial control, provide clear and transparent budgetary information and allow public input to strengthen financial oversight.
6. **Legislative Process and Bill Management:** Reintroduce lapsed bills aligned with national development goals, ensure thorough deliberation of bills affecting provinces and guarantee the effective implementation of critical laws on gender equality and customary law.
7. **Coalition Governance and Legislative Frameworks:** Develop a framework to regulate coalition dynamics informed by past experiences, and formalise structured impeachment processes with clear rules for accountability of judicial and Chapter 9 institutions.
8. **Modernisation of Parliamentary Processes:** Finalise initiatives to modernise parliamentary processes, reorganise select committees for better support and expand digital tools for enhanced accessibility and transparency.
9. **Engagement with Local and Regional Governance:** Encourage active participation of local government representatives in national policy discussions and strengthen partnerships within Africa to align with Agenda 2063 and enhance South Africa's global role.
10. **Research and Evidence-Based Decision-Making:** Align the Multi-Year Research Plan (MYRP) with oversight priorities and the National Development Plan (NDP) to support evidence-based decision-making.

11. Future Research Opportunities

Based on the research done, the following research possibilities have emerged that can be considered by parliamentary oversight entities such as CSOs, as well as other researchers:

1. Themes from Analysis of Fourth to Sixth Parliamentary Legacies

- How do the recurring themes identified from the analysis of the fourth to sixth Parliamentary Legacy Reports aid as a guiding framework for evaluating the alignment and impact of priorities outlined in the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRs)?

In order to implement this question, one needs to use the themes as an analytical framework that will be used to assess the consistency and effectiveness of the BRRRs for 2025. This will enhance and/or improve parliament's oversight and accountability strategies.

2. Establishment of various Parliamentary Offices and Divisions

- How have the various Parliamentary Offices and their entities progressed and performed since their establishment in the fourth parliamentary term?
- How can their performance help in measuring accountability in regard to parliament's achievements and goals?

The aim of these questions are to evaluate the already established parliamentary offices on their performance, in terms of fulfilling their intended mandates, their various contribution to public engagement and increase public participation as well as improving service delivery. Investigating these can determine if they are aligned with parliament's strategic priorities.

3. Addressing the sixth parliament's challenges

- How can the follow-up recommendations, and continuation of challenges found in the sixth Parliamentary Legacy Reports, be integrated into assessment criteria for the seventh parliament's portfolio committees with regards to oversight and reform?

One can investigate how the insights and challenges that have been outlined in Parliamentary Legacy Reports, inform the assessment criteria for all portfolio committees. This research question aims to consider what effective actionable strategies can be implemented to address long standing challenges, while enhancing oversight, and ensuring solutions and recommendations are applied accordingly. Furthermore, this can be considered as an evaluation for the annual [parliamentary oversight report](#) written and published by OUTA.

4. Key findings of the Fourth to Sixth Parliaments

- What assessment framework(s) can be implemented to track the implementation and/or progress of key recommendations from the “*A Review of Parliamentary Legacy Reports: Looking into South Africa’s Fourth to Sixth Parliament*” report?

This research is aimed at evaluating the fourth to sixth Parliamentary Legacy Reports. In addition, it provides recommendations made by OUTA to parliament, and whether parliament has achieved the desired outcomes. It also identifies further challenges during implementation, as well as proposes possible strategies for the seventh parliament to enhance overall parliamentary oversight.

12. Conclusion

The analysis of the fourth, fifth, and sixth parliamentary legacy reports provides a comprehensive view of South Africa's parliamentary evolution – from 2009 to 2024 – highlighting achievements, challenges and areas requiring continued focus. The transition from one parliament to the next has demonstrated both resilience and progress, as each term sought to address the complex socio-economic and governance issues faced by the nation.

The fourth parliament marked significant milestones in establishing key institutions such as the Parliamentary Budget Office and Treasury Advice Office, but several initiatives, especially those concerning technology and public participation, remained incomplete.

In the fifth parliament, efforts focused on strengthening the relationship between the legislature and the executive with key achievements in gender equality and international engagement. However, challenges such as capacity development, lack of awareness regarding parliamentary participation in international forums and incomplete policy development, continued to affect progress. The introduction of the State Capture investigations, especially through the Zondo Commission, brought to light the severe weaknesses in oversight mechanisms which had been exploited for corruption and mismanagement.

The sixth parliament faced unprecedented challenges, particularly the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, the devastating fire in the parliament buildings, and continued socio-economic disparities. However, the sixth parliament managed to pass significant legislation, including the recognition of South African Sign Language as the 12th official language and the Electoral Amendment Bill, signalling progress in inclusivity and governance.

However, issues such as the incomplete implementation of state capture recommendations, ineffective intergovernmental collaboration and the continued need for stronger oversight mechanisms, remain issues.

The key lessons from these parliaments emphasise the need for more robust oversight structures, increased public participation and a stronger focus on anti-corruption initiatives. The transition to digital platforms has proven vital for maintaining parliamentary operations, yet further steps are necessary to ensure accessibility and inclusivity, especially for marginalised communities.

The seventh parliament will inherit both a legacy of significant accomplishments and unresolved challenges, particularly in the realms of governance, public participation and legislative reforms. Key recommendations for the upcoming term include addressing lapsed bills, strengthening parliamentary oversight frameworks, enhancing digital transformation and ensuring the full implementation of anti-

corruption measures. By building on the foundations laid by the previous parliaments, the seventh parliament should continue to evolve South Africa's democracy, making strides towards a more inclusive, transparent and accountable system of governance.

13. References

- Department Women. (2012). *Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting Framework*. [online] Available at: <https://static.pmg.org.za/180612Gender_Responsive.pdf> [Accessed:19 December 2024].
- European Commission. (2023). *EU-co-funded project*. [online] Available at: <<https://tinyurl.com/48trzfjz>> [Accessed:19 December 2024].
- Government Communication and Information System. (2016). *Language policy of the government communication and information system*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gcis.gov.za/sites/default/files/images/resource_centre/GCISLanguagePolicyJune2016.pdf> [Accessed:19 December 2024].
- High-Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change. (2017). *Final Report*. [online] Available at: <https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Pages/2017/october/High_Level_Panel/HLP_Report/HLP_report.pdf> [Accessed:19 December 2024].
- Madonsela, S. (2018). Critical Reflections on State Capture in South Africa. *Insight on Africa*, 11(1), pp.113-130. [online] Available at: <<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0975087818805888?journalCode=ioaa>> [Accessed: 13 December 2024].
- National Planning Commission. (2012). *National Development Plan 2030: Our future - make it work*. Pretoria: Government Printer. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/ndp-2030-our-future-make-it-workr.pdf> [Accessed: 9 December 2024].
- Open Secrets. (2024). *Zondo recommendations tracker*. *Open Secrets*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.opensecrets.org.za/zondo-recommendations-tracker/>> [Accessed: 6 January 2025].
- OUTA. (2017). *No Room to Hide: A President Caught in the Act*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.outa.co.za/blog/newsroom-1/post/no-room-to-hide-a-president-caught-in-the-act-401>> [Accessed:19 December 2024].
- OUTA. (2025). *Oversight of Parliament*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.outa.co.za/projects/government-policy/parliament>> [Accessed: 13 January 2025].

OUTA. (2025). *Public Governance*. [online] Available at:

<<https://www.outha.co.za/projects/government-policy>> [Accessed: 13 January 2025].

Parliament of South Africa. (2024). *Fourth Parliament: Legislative highlights and achievements*.

[online] Available at:

<https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/BusinessPubs/website_5_Fourth_Parliament_Legacy_report_final.pdf> [Accessed: 8 April 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2024). *Fifth Parliament: Legislative highlights and achievements*. [online]

Available at:

<https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/BusinessPubs/2021/october/12-10-2021/5th_Parliament_Legacy_Report_07_May_2019.pdf> [Accessed: 19 December 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2019). *Oversight and Accountability Model*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Pages/2019/august/19-08-2019_ncop_planning_session/docs/Parliament_Oversight_and_Accountability_Model.pdf> [Accessed: 11 December 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2019). *Parliament Strategic Plan 2019-2024*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/StratPlan/6/Parliament_strategic_plan_2019_2024.pdf> [Accessed: 8 April 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2024). *Project Event Details: 43*. [online] Available at:

<<https://www.parliament.gov.za/project-event-details/43>> [Accessed: 16 September 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2024). *Sixth Parliament: Legislative highlights and achievements*.

[online] Available at:

<https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/BusinessPubs/2024/10-12-2024/Legacy_Report_of_the_6th_Parliament_2024_NEW_1.pdf> [Accessed: 14 December 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2023). *Taking Parliament to the People: Overview and Initiatives*.

[online] Available at: <https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Pages/2022/10-november/02-11-2022_Taking_Parliament_to_the_People_2022/report/ATC-28-2023-03-06-ENG.pdf> [Accessed: 19 December 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2023). *The NA Approves South African Sign Language as the 12th*

Official Language. [online] Available at: <<https://www.parliament.gov.za/press-releases/na->

approves-south-african-sign-language-12th-official-language> [Accessed:19 December 2024].

Parliament of South Africa. (2024). *What Parliament Does*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.parliament.gov.za/what-parliament-does>> [Accessed: 8 April 2024].

Parliamentary Monitoring Group. (2024). *Homepage*. [online] Available at: <<https://pmg.org.za/committee/290/>> [Accessed:19 December 2024].

Parliamentary Monitoring Group. (2019). *5th Parliament Legacy Report - 07 May 2019*. [online] Available at: <https://static.pmg.org.za/5th_Parliament_Legacy_Report_-_07_May_2019.pdf> [Accessed: 2 February 2024].

Parliamentary Monitoring Group. (2024). *6th Parliament Review: Statistics on Committee Activities*. [online] Available at: <<https://pmg.org.za/6th-parliament-review/statistics/committee-activities>> [Accessed: 4 September 2024].

Parliamentary Monitoring Group. (2014). *Fourth Parliament Legacy Report Final*. [online] Available at: <https://static.pmg.org.za/5_Fourth_Parliament_Legacy_report_final.pdf> [Accessed: 2 February 2024].

ParliMeter. (2025). *Parlimeter*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.parlimeter.org.za/>> [Accessed: 13 March 2025].

ParliMeter. (2025). *Bill Tracker*. [online] Available at: <<https://dashboard.parlimeter.co.za/bill-tracker/>> [Accessed: 13 March 2025].

Pillay, P., Chitunhu, K. & Chivandire, L. (2023). State Capture in South Africa: Going Back to Basics. *African Journal of Public Affairs*, 14(1): pp. 152-173. [online] Available at: <https://journals.co.za/doi/epdf/10.10520/ejc-ajpa_v14_n1_a9> [Accessed: 11 December 2024].

Public Service Commission. (2023). *About the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC)*. (PowerPoint presentation). [online] Available at: <https://anticorruption.gov.za/assets/Documents/National%20Dialogue%202023/About%20the%20NACS%20_%20NACAC.pdf> [Accessed: 4 February 2025].

Public Service Commission. (2025). *About the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC)*. [online] Available at: <<https://anticorruption.gov.za/About>> [Accessed: 4 February 2025].

- Public Procurement Bill. (2023). *Public Procurement Bill Overview*. [online] Available at:
<https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202312/b18b2023publicprocurement.pdf> [Accessed: 12 December 2024].
- Public Protector of South Africa. (2024). *Public Protector Reports*. [online] Available at:
<<https://www.pprotect.org/?q=content/investigation-reports-categories>> [Accessed:19 December 2024].
- Public Protector of South Africa. (2016). *State Capture*. [online] Available at:
<<https://www.saflii.org/images/329756472-State-of-Capture.pdf>> [Accessed:19 December 2024].
- SA News. (2020). *Parliament Launches Public Engagement Campaign*. [online] Available at:
<<https://www.sanews.gov.za>> [Accessed: 12 December 2024].
- Zondo Commission. (2022). *Final Report of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture*. [online] Available at:
<<https://www.statecapture.org.za/site/information/reports>> [Accessed: 13 December 2024].

14. Glossary

Accountability Mechanisms	Systems put in place to ensure that government officials and public institutions are answerable for their actions, including financial audits, oversight committees, and independent investigations.
Anti-Corruption Measures	Legislative and institutional efforts to detect, prevent, and punish corruption, ensuring that public officials are held accountable for misuse of public office.
Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa	An association of five major emerging economies, which cooperate on political, economic, and development issues at a global level.
Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment	A policy aimed at increasing economic participation by black South Africans in the formal economy, particularly in business and ownership opportunities.
Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports	Parliamentary reports evaluating the expenditure of government departments, assessing how effectively they are using their allocated budgets and providing recommendations for improvements.
Civil Society Engagement	Efforts to involve non-governmental organisations, advocacy groups, and the public in the legislative process, ensuring that policy development reflects a wide range of interests and concerns.
Civil Society Organisation	Non-governmental organisations that advocate for various social, economic, and political issues, playing a key role in monitoring government actions and policies.
Committee on Section 194 Enquiry	A parliamentary committee responsible for investigating allegations of misconduct and considering the removal of high-ranking public officials, such as the Public Protector, through a formal inquiry process.
Constitutional Amendment Bill	Special processes that allow for changes to a nation's constitution, often requiring a supermajority in parliament and public consultations.

Constitutional Review Committee	A parliamentary committee tasked with reviewing South Africa's constitution and making recommendations for amendments to ensure it remains relevant and reflective of the nation's democratic values.
Digital Literacy	The ability to use digital technology effectively, a focus within parliamentary reforms to ensure that all citizens and government officials are equipped to engage with digital tools and platforms.
Electoral Amendment Bill	Legislation aimed at amending South Africa's electoral laws, particularly focusing on enhancing the independence of candidates and improving the electoral system's inclusivity and transparency.
Expanded Public Works Programme	A government initiative designed to create temporary work opportunities for the unemployed, primarily in infrastructure development and public services.
Expanded Public Works Programme	A government initiative to provide temporary work opportunities, particularly for marginalised groups, in public infrastructure and services, aiming to reduce poverty and unemployment.
Financial Administration Amendment Bill	Legislation intended to revise or improve the management of public finances within parliament, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with budgetary standards.
Financial Administration of Parliament Act	Legislation governing the financial management and administrative operations within parliament, ensuring transparency and effective use of public funds in parliamentary activities.
Gender-Based Violence	Violence that is directed at an individual based on their gender, particularly violence against women and children, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.
Hybrid and Virtual Meeting Models	New approaches to parliamentary meetings and sessions that incorporate both in-person and digital participation, allowing for broader involvement, especially in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Independent Electoral Commission	A body tasked with overseeing elections in South Africa, ensuring they are free, fair, and conducted in accordance with the country's constitution.
Independent Police Investigative Directorate	An independent government agency responsible for investigating complaints against the police, particularly cases involving misconduct or abuse of power.
Integrated ICT Backbone	A robust infrastructure system for integrating information and communication technology across various sectors within parliament, aimed at improving efficiency, data-sharing, and service delivery.
Integrated ICT System	A system that integrates various information and communication technologies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of parliamentary operations and service delivery.
Integrated Legislative System	A technology-driven system aimed at modernising parliamentary functions, allowing for better management of legislation, procedures, and parliamentary records.
International Parliamentary Forums	Platforms where national parliaments meet to discuss and address global issues, such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Pan-African Parliament, fostering collaboration and shared solutions.
Inter-Parliamentary Union	An international organisation of national parliaments, promoting democracy, peace, and cooperation among member states through dialogue and shared experiences.
Joint Rules Committee	A parliamentary committee responsible for setting and overseeing the rules and procedures that govern the functioning of both the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.
Judicial Commission of Inquiry	A formal investigation by a commission established to examine a particular issue or set of issues, often involving allegations of misconduct, corruption, or systemic failure in government or public institutions.

Legislative Committees	Subdivisions of parliament focused on specific areas of public policy or government operations, tasked with reviewing legislation, conducting investigations, and making recommendations for action.
Legislative Framework for Governance	A set of laws and regulations that guide the operations of government institutions, ensuring their actions align with constitutional principles and democratic ideals.
Legislative Reforms	Changes to existing laws and procedures intended to improve the effectiveness, transparency, and inclusivity of the legislative process, often in response to challenges such as corruption or inefficiency.
Legislative Transformation	The process of evolving legislative frameworks to be more inclusive, responsive to public needs, and aligned with democratic principles, including legal reforms like the amendment of the constitution.
Legislature Tourism Oversight Forum	A forum designed to enhance oversight by promoting accountability in government tourism activities and ensuring effective use of state resources in the sector.
Multi-Party Women's Caucus	A parliamentary group composed of female parliamentarians from different political parties, focused on advancing gender equality and addressing issues affecting women in South Africa.
Multi-Year Research Plan	A long-term strategic plan designed to guide and prioritise research within parliament, focusing on areas critical for policy development, legislative effectiveness, and national development.
National Assembly	One of the two houses of South Africa's Parliament, representing the people of the country, and tasked with legislating and holding the executive accountable.
National Council of Provinces	The second house of South Africa's Parliament, which represents provincial interests and ensures that national legislation considers the impact on provincial governments.

National Development Plan	A strategic policy document aimed at achieving long-term socio-economic development in South Africa, focusing on reducing poverty and inequality.
National Health Insurance	A proposed system aimed at providing affordable healthcare to all South Africans, regardless of their financial status, through a centralised, government-managed fund.
National Prosecuting Authority	An independent body tasked with prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of the state, ensuring that individuals suspected of criminal activity, including corruption, are held accountable.
Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse	A civil society organisation focused on promoting transparency, accountability, and governance reform in South Africa.
Pan-African Parliament	The legislative body of the African Union (AU), consisting of members from each AU member state, focusing on promoting peace, democracy, and economic integration across the continent.
Parliamentary Constituency Offices	Offices established to serve as a link between Members of Parliament (MPs) and the communities they represent, providing support for constituents and facilitating parliamentary functions at the grassroots level.
Parliamentary Democracy Offices	Offices established to promote democratic engagement and participation, ensuring that parliamentary activities are accessible and inclusive, particularly in underserved areas.
Parliamentary Monitoring Group	An organisation that monitors the activities and proceedings of the South African Parliament, providing critical oversight and ensuring that legislative actions align with public interest.
ParliMeter	A tool designed to monitor and improve parliamentary oversight, increasing transparency and public engagement.

People's Assembly	An initiative designed to bring together citizens and parliamentarians, fostering dialogue, understanding, and participation in the legislative process.
Public Education Office	A body responsible for educating the public about parliamentary functions and promoting public participation in legislative processes.
Public Involvement Index	A tool used to measure the level of public participation in parliamentary processes, aiming to improve engagement and ensure that legislative actions reflect the needs of the population.
Public Participation Model	A proposed framework to ensure that citizens have a meaningful opportunity to participate in legislative processes, enabling greater transparency and inclusivity in decision-making.
Public Participation Standards	Guidelines for involving the public in legislative and policy-making processes, ensuring that citizens have a meaningful opportunity to provide input on decisions affecting their lives.
Public Protector of South Africa	An independent institution established to investigate complaints of maladministration, abuse of power, and violations of rights within government institutions.
Public Works Programme	A government initiative to create work opportunities for vulnerable groups by engaging them in community development projects aimed at improving public infrastructure and services.
Sector Oversight Model	A strategic framework designed to enhance the oversight function of parliament by providing clear guidelines and methods for monitoring and evaluating government performance across different sectors.
Special Investigating Unit	A government agency tasked with investigating and preventing corruption and other serious financial misconduct within state bodies.

Specialised Committees	Parliamentary committees focused on specific areas such as defence, health, or finance, tasked with scrutinising related government activities and ensuring accountability.
Standing Committee on Public Accounts	A parliamentary committee responsible for overseeing government expenditure, auditing financial records, and ensuring public funds are spent efficiently and legally.
State Capture	A form of systemic corruption where private interests influence state decision-making for personal gain. It was widely discussed in the context of the Zondo Commission and its findings.
State-Owned Companies	Entities owned and operated by the government, often involved in key industries like energy, transport, and telecommunications, which are subject to parliamentary oversight to ensure proper governance and accountability.
State-Owned Entity	A legal entity created by a government to undertake commercial activities on its behalf, typically in sectors such as energy, transportation, and telecommunications.
Treasury Advice Office	An office within parliament that provides guidance and advice on financial matters, including budgeting, expenditures, and financial governance, to support effective decision-making.
Youth and Gender Empowerment	Legislative efforts focused on improving opportunities for young people and women, addressing issues like employment, education, and gender-based violence, and promoting equal participation in society.
Zondo Commission	Officially known as the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, this was a commission of inquiry set up to investigate allegations of corruption in South Africa's government and state-owned enterprises.