



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The role of Parliament in the climate change response

Nhlanhla Ginindza

Parliamentary Research Unit



**FOLLOWING UP
ON OUR COMMITMENTS
TO THE PEOPLE, MAKING
YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER.**

20 October 2022



South Africa's Realities

01

Four stubborn problems

- Poverty
- Inequality
- Unemployment
- Poor governance

02

Financial troubles

- Debt to GDP ratio of ~75%
- Gross loan debt R4.65 trillion and growing
- Budget deficit of R386.6 billion or 6% of GDP
- JT requiring ~R6 trillion
- Reneging on commitments

03

CC Realities

- Extreme weather events (storms, heatwaves,...)
- Agricultural production failures
- Freshwater availability (Day Zero)
- Alien Invasive Species
- Diseases – resp., infections,...
- Forest and veld fires
- Extinctions
- Migration...



Climate change

- Climate change is about people
- The impacts and responses are cross-cutting and multisectoral – require a coordinated, coherent, efficient and effective response
- South Africa's approach -
Manage climate change impacts, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- The country's response strategy is designed to be:
developmental, transformational, needs-driven, evidence-based, cost-effective, integrated and aligned in all spheres of government

The Climate Change Bill builds on the response strategy, with the primary focus on:

- Aligning policies that will provide direction where there are contradictory policy directives;
- Reduce GHG emissions, build climate resilience, reduce risk of job losses, promote green economic sectors
- Strengthen coordination and implementation towards Nationally Determined Contributions

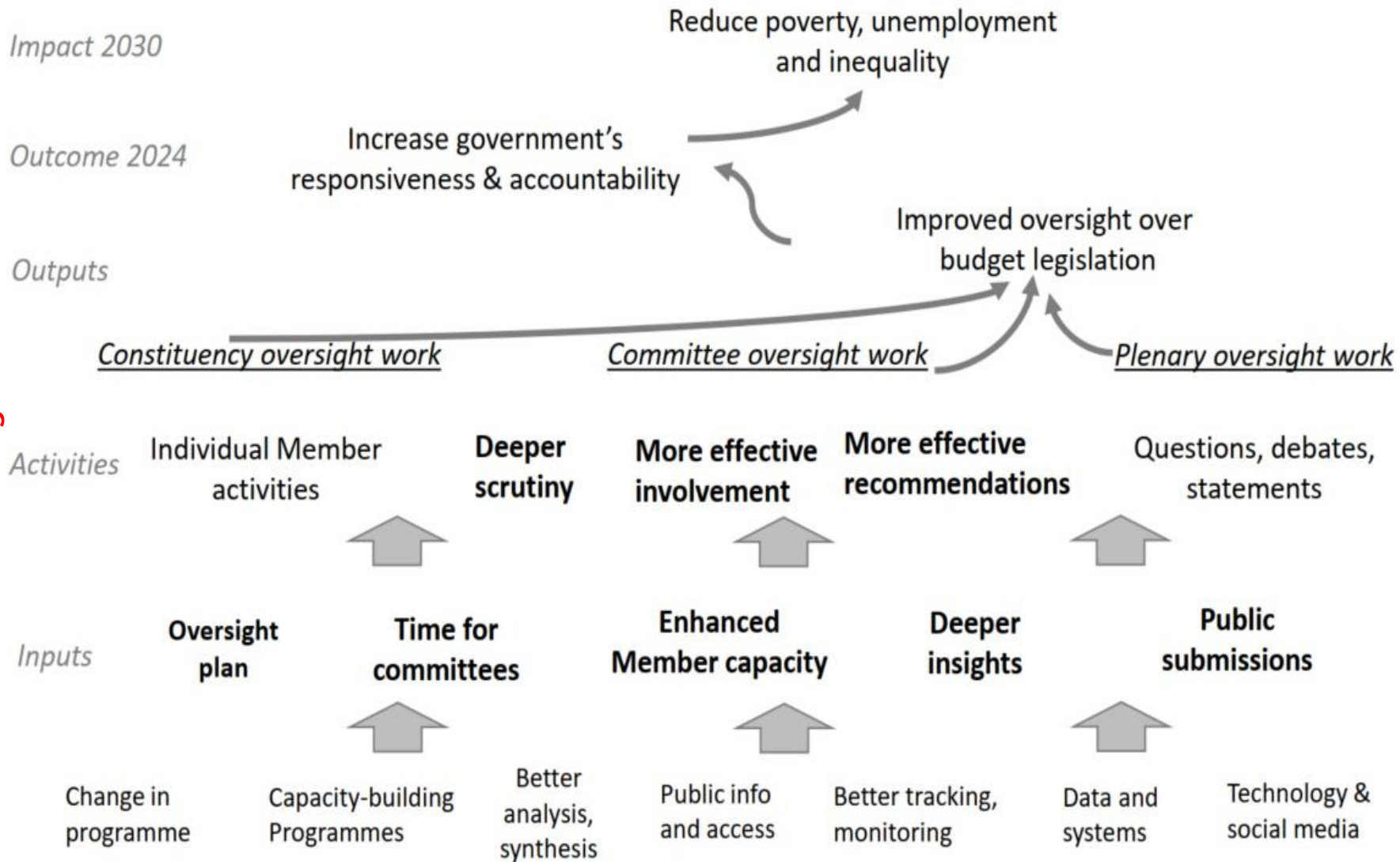
Where are we?

- The Bill is long overdue – finally introduced in February 2022
- Currently with the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
 - 13 200 written submissions
 - 13 000 submissions facilitated through DearSA
 - Many repeat submissions
 - Variety of inputs – brilliant proposals, support, rejections, issues to consider, abusive comments, etc.,
 - 82 substantive submissions
 - Indexing of submissions
- The Committee held a workshop on the Climate Change Bill in May 2022.
- Started holding online briefings by stakeholders (7 Sep and 20 Sep 2022).
- More public hearings still coming, including hosting of public hearings in provinces.



Sixth Parliament's Strategy

Evaluation, monitoring, reporting and consequence management





Needed actions

Execute the core mandate

- Integrated oversight across committees – eliminate working in silos + the functioning of the Steering Committee on Climate Change
- Oversee the gradual and calculated shift towards renewable energy.
- Monitor pilot reskilling and sustainable job creation projects in the coal value chain and associated businesses in an inclusive and consultative manner.
- Ensure strengthening of governance in the public sector and implementation of corrective action and consequence management to deter or eliminate deviations.
- Improve parliamentary oversight and accountability by better cooperation with provincial legislatures, non-governmental organisations, Think Tanks and civil society.
- Create interactive dashboards to improve transparency and accountability that will factor in key indicators on Just Transition.
- More research capacity, knowledge and independent data use around the subject



Thank you