



MAY 2020

BRIEFING NOTES FOR MULTI-PARTY WOMEN’S CAUCUS (MPWC) IN RELATION TO GENDER RESPONSIVE PLANNING, BUDGETING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND AUDITING FRAMEWORK (GRPBMEA)

1. Introduction

During the identification of focus areas, the MPWC acknowledged the challenges that women are still facing in the Country. The MPWC also recognised the critical role that government institutions can play in addressing those challenges by implementing gender responsiveness in all its processes from planning to auditing. The MPWC also recognised that it has a role to play, hence a decision to focus on activities aimed at supporting the implementation and roll-out of the gender responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation, and auditing framework.

The MPWC agreed on the following activities:

- Partner and regularly engage with the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with disabilities on the implementation of the GRPBMEA framework.
- Lobby and advocate for empowerment of all Members of Parliament on the GRPBMEA.
- Lobby and persuade parliamentary committees to adopt and implement the GRPBMEA framework as one of the oversight tools.

2. Importance of the GRPBMEA workshop for the MPWC

The briefing by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with disabilities to the MPWC is of critical importance in two ways. Firstly, it is to assist the MPWC to fully understand the GRPMEA framework as to effectively persuade other committees to adopt and implement the GRPBMEA framework as an oversight tool. Secondly, the MPWC has committed in lobbying for empowerment of all Members of Parliament on gender responsive planning and budgeting, so a prior briefing on GRPBMEA framework will enable Members of Parliament to ask practical questions related to the GRPBMEA framework during the planned workshop session.

3. Suggested issues to raise on the GRPBMEA framework

The following are some of suggested issues that members of the MPWC can raise in relation to the GRPBMEA framework:

1. Measures in place to ensure that 2019-2024 MTSF indicators are gender responsive and include gender priorities, deliverables, and indicators (including annual gender priorities on annual performance plans).
2. Whether the Department would consider developing a user-friendly format detailing annual gender priorities and targets (starting with financial year 20/21 annual targets) for use by Members of Parliament. The format would be used during training of Members of Parliament as well as used as a reference during oversight over the executive.
3. Current progress in tabling of legislative reforms (including the re-introduction of the WEGE Bill) to cater for mandatory implementation of GRPBMEA.
4. Whether there are any measures in place to capacitate all spheres of government institutions on the GRPBMEA framework to ensure that gender responsiveness is an integral part of all their planning and processes.
5. Considering the challenges affecting the gender machinery structures within government (e.g. gender focal points appointed in low ranks rendering them ineffective in impacting on Government programmes and budgets). Whether there are any

measures in place to assist government institutions to address these challenges towards effective, strengthened, and institutionalised gender mainstreaming.

6. Whether there are any timelines set for the National Treasury which is expected to drive GRB aspects of the GRPBMEA framework (specified tasks include gender indicators per each vote and allocations to key WEGE interventions to be included in MTBPS and National Budget Speech).
7. One of the stated objectives of the GRPBMEA is to ensure gender equality in the Country, and the framework is designed and focussed on government institutions. Whether the Department has any plans and/or intentions to bring the public sector on board and secure their buy in in the implementation of the framework.

4. Conclusion

The MPWC has also committed in focussing and addressing issues related to women with disabilities and LBTQIA+ community, so the GRPBMEA mandate and identified gender priorities should take all women in consideration.