

**DRAFT NCOP STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PLAN
(2009-2014)**

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DRAFT NCOP STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PLAN

CONTENTS:

1. Introduction
2. Mandate of the National Council of Provinces
3. Relationship with South African Local Government Association
4. Statement of Commitment
5. Strategic Analysis
6. Strategic Objectives (2009-2014)
7. Oversight Priorities
8. Public Participation
9. Reporting
10. Monitoring and Evaluation
11. Administrative Support
12. Conclusion

DRAFT NCOP STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Framework Plan is intended to guide the work of the National Council of Provinces during the electoral mandate period of the fourth Parliament.

The overriding principle is to focus the work of the NCOP with a view to ensuring maximum impact in the fulfilment of its mandate.

The Plan is informed by the strategic priorities as identified in government's Medium Term Strategic Framework in order to improve the lives of the people of South Africa.

DRAFT NCOP STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION (contd)

"As government we have long recognised the imperative value of partnerships across all fronts. What needs to be emphasised however, is the need to ensure that we use partnerships to maximum advantage, such as in addressing service delivery challenges.

"Achievement of government Programme of Action goals assumes exactly that our efforts are well-coordinated across the three spheres of government, consciously driven by common imperatives".

Deputy President K.P. Motlatho, NCOP Strategic Planning Workshop, 13 August 2009

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MANDATE OF THE NCOP

The National Council of Provinces represents the provinces to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. It does this mainly by participating in the national legislative process and by providing a national forum for public consideration of issues affecting provinces.

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RELATIONSHIP WITH SALGA

Section 67 of the Constitution makes provision for participation by local government representatives in the NCOP as follows:

Not more than ten part-time representatives designated by organised local government in terms of section 163, to represent the different categories of municipalities, may participate when necessary in the proceedings of the National Council of Provinces, but may not vote.

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STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Guided by the following constitutional imperatives:

- Representation of the interests of provinces
- Promotion of the principles of co-operative government and intergovernmental relations

The NCOP recognises the importance of ensuring that government works together with the people to improve their living and working conditions for the better. Commits itself to carrying out its mandate as required by the Constitution and to build a united and democratic South Africa.

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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

The term of the fourth Parliament provides a significant opportunity for the NCOP to enhance its legislative, oversight and public participation activities/programmes.

There is common understanding of the need to improve planning and co-ordination of the work of government across all the three spheres of government.

The NCOP appears better positioned to carry out its mandate in its second decade of existence (the first ten years were characterised by intense scrutiny of its work and how it functions).

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (2009-2014)

To promote provincial interests and adherence by the three spheres of government to the principles of co-operative government and intergovernmental relations.

To follow up on the implementation of government priorities as identified for the three spheres of government.

To enhance public participation programmes through educating the people, especially in rural villages, and creating forums for public consideration of issues affecting provinces.

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OVERSIGHT PRIORITIES

[The section to be developed from reports of commissions and input from plenary]

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

[The section to be developed from reports of commissions and input from plenary]

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REPORTING

Regular reporting by structures within the NCOP (e.g. quarterly reports by committees) is critical for purposes of facilitating an informed assessment process at the end of each year.

Regular reports on the work of the NCOP should be made accessible to the legislative arm across the three spheres of government.

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MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The NCOP must establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the implementation of the Strategic Framework Plan.

Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Plan should be done on an annual basis.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Responding to oversight priorities will require an assessment of the administrative capacity in the NCOP and in the provincial legislatures as well as the alignment of resources.

There is a need for better articulation of the mandate of the NCOP structurally at the level of administration.

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CONCLUSION

The following are processes to be followed in finalising the Strategic Framework Plan:

- Drafting of the Strategic Framework Plan document
- Consideration of the Draft Strategic Framework Plan document by the House
- Distribution of the Strategic Framework Plan upon adoption by the House
- The NCOP Strategic Framework Plan to inform the development of Parliament's Strategic Plan for 2009-2014

THANK YOU