

# Evaluation Capacity Building For Parliamentarians To Strengthen Their Oversight Role



**TWENDE MBELE**

*Parliament hold the executive branch of government to account on behalf of the people, ensuring that government policy and action are both efficient, effective and that it reflect the needs of the public.*



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## 01. Introduction

Twende Mbele is a peer-learning initiative between six partner countries (Benin, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Niger), with an objective of fostering knowledge sharing, peer learning and collaboration among partner countries to build their Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems, and to strengthen government performance and accountability, this includes the competencies of parliamentarians in M&E processes.

Twende Mbele has previously conducted M&E capacity building activities in South Africa, Uganda and Benin in 2018/29, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of members of parliament who have the responsibility of providing oversight to the executive and government ministries. This is premised on the understanding that members of parliament can serve as strategic allies in advancing the use of evidence to deepen good governance through their legislative, oversight and representative roles.

## 02. Objective

The aim of the capacity building and peer-learning workshop for members of parliament workshop was to:

- Enhance the capacity and strengthen the demand and use of evaluation evidence among members of parliament and parliamentary support staff.
- Link evaluation practices to the oversight roles of members of parliament;
- Integrate evaluation into planning and budget processes of parliament.

## 03. Delivery of the Workshop

The workshop was conducted from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31 of May 2025. The workshop brought together participants, notably Members of the South African Parliament (members of the Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Chairpersons of allied Portfolio Committees, MPs and content advisors) each Twende Mbele member country parliaments, as well as a select number APNODE (African Parliamentarians Network on Development Evaluation) members.

The three-day training covered the following thematic areas:

- The importance of M&E and building a culture of using evidence in oversight and accountability
- Evidence-based policy-making cycle and Medium-Term Development Plan
- Integrating evidence in planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation processes
- The importance of theory of change in measuring outputs, outcomes and impact, assumptions and risks in implementation of policy plans, strategies and programme
- The role of research and sources of empirical evidence in M&E processes
- How to use credible, reliable sources of data in problem diagnosis and decision-making
- Developing actionable recommendations and improvement plans
- Collaboration between parliamentary committees and key stakeholders

## 04. Post Workshop Assessment

The overwhelming majority (92.3%) of respondents to the post-training survey rated the workshop as very pertinent to them/their work. Further, most respondents found the training content to be timely and informative (76.9%), while almost everyone (92.3%) highlighted the need for a follow-up training.



## 05. Recommendation

Twende Mbele Proposes for a follow-up session (hybrid) that will deepen what has been done thus far by mainly focussing on practical tools to embed the use of M&E evidence in the work of Parliament such as stakeholder mapping, evidence synthesis and visualization which can help researchers and content advisors to identify and utilise a variety of sources of evidence.

