

**UNDERSTANDING THE
CONCEPT, PURPOSES
AND NEEDS OF
REPRESENTATION AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

OUTLINE

- Representation
- Accountability
- The Nexus Between Oversight, Representation And Accountability

Representation

- One of the chief functions of the legislature as a branch of government is to represent the people in lawmaking process. The legislative or parliament is made up of members from different constituencies, and their purpose is to represent the interests of their constituents and defend them on a continuous basis. The interests of constituents are often aggregated as good governance, security, welfare, health facilities, basic rights, infrastructure etc. This is the essence and logic of representation.
- Representation is a process whereby elected official represent, articulate and defend the interests of the people or community that elected them. Elected representatives speak for their community in Parliament. The legislature can play a key role in promoting health matters and health equality and other socio-economic matter through their representatives. To be able to properly and adequately represent the interests of their communities, elected representatives (and even unelected officials) need to have a good understanding of their communities and environment, their challenges, resources and the social groups within the communities.

Accountability

- Accountability is a process or mechanism by which elected representatives and unelected public officials are liable to give account on their stewardship or services they render to the communities they represent or serve. It is a process of feedback to their communities on how they carry out their assignment or mandate and what they achieve within a specified time frame. Accountability also entails public officials giving reasons why they could not achieve certain goals and promises.

The Nexus Between Oversight, Representation And Accountability

- It is clear from the preceding definitions of oversight, representation and accountability that the three concepts are related in policy making process.
- When applied to health matters and other socio-economic policies, the meaning of legislative oversight can be narrowed down to two major things; (1) to monitor policies or services, and (2) evaluate policies or services. For elected representative, the essence of monitoring and evaluating policies is to be involved in processing complaints. This is the essence of representation and accountability.
- Parliaments continuously provide a platform for public voice on national socio-economic policies, including health matter through legislation, budget commitments and oversight of the performance of the Executives branch of government in delivering the good dividends of policies and programmes to the people they represent. That constitute good representation and accountability

THANK
YOU