

LEGISLATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MATERNAL DEATH SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE



Charles Ngwena
Centre for Human Rights
University of Pretoria

22 June 2022

Why legislation?

- **Giving legal status** to role and functions of MDSR systems
- Establishing a **mandatory** rather than **discretionary** MDSR systems
- Guaranteeing **legal protections** to individuals who take part as reviewers or respondents to encourage participation.
- Protecting **privacy** of participants and **confidentiality** of data

Why legislation?

- Integrating a **human rights-based approach** in MDSR through pursuing the goal of reducing maternal and perinatal death
- Ensuring the principles of **accountability, empowerment, participation, transparency**, (establishing committees, scheduling regular parliamentary reviews, ensuring participation of affected communities)
- Ensuring a MDSR system that aligns both with **international, regional and national** public health and human rights standards

Why Accountability?

- Facilitating accountability holistically - **legally, institutionally and socially.**
- Reconciling the objectives of surveillance, responsiveness and attaching no blame with the realisation of legal, institutional and social accountability
- MPDSR guarantees legal protections to participants and protects privacy and confidentiality in a framework that respects, protects, promotes and fulfils the human rights of women and children