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Partnerships for Effective Evidence-Based Policy Work and Parliamentary Scrutiny: A Practical Approach



Presentation

B. M. Mathooko
Parliamentary Research Services
Parliament of Kenya

INTRODUCTION

Presentation:

- ❑ Underscores the importance of partnerships as a practical approach to effective evidence-informed parliamentary policy work and scrutiny.
- ❑ Contributes to the need for researcher engagement as a mechanism for deepening evidence use in decision making.
- ❑ Noting the critical impact of the attention, demands and rational expectations of an increasingly enlightened citizens has on parliamentary policy work, scrutiny and decision making hence the need for a robust evidence use regime.

Discussion Issue

- ❑ Parliamentary research and library services are the drivers of evidence use and support this through a wide range of products on evidence synthesis.
- ❑ Despite progress made in the uptake of evidence informed research outputs in parliaments, the [supply side remains less engaged](#) (Walker *et al.*, 2019).
- ❑ This gap requires initiatives to deepen engagement with [research institutions](#), the [academia](#), [think tanks](#) and other stakeholders for policy work and parliamentary scrutiny to elicit the desired impactful outcomes.

The Supply and Demand for Evidence:

- ❑ The research-to-policy context is akin to the supply and demand side in evidence-based policy work and parliamentary scrutiny.

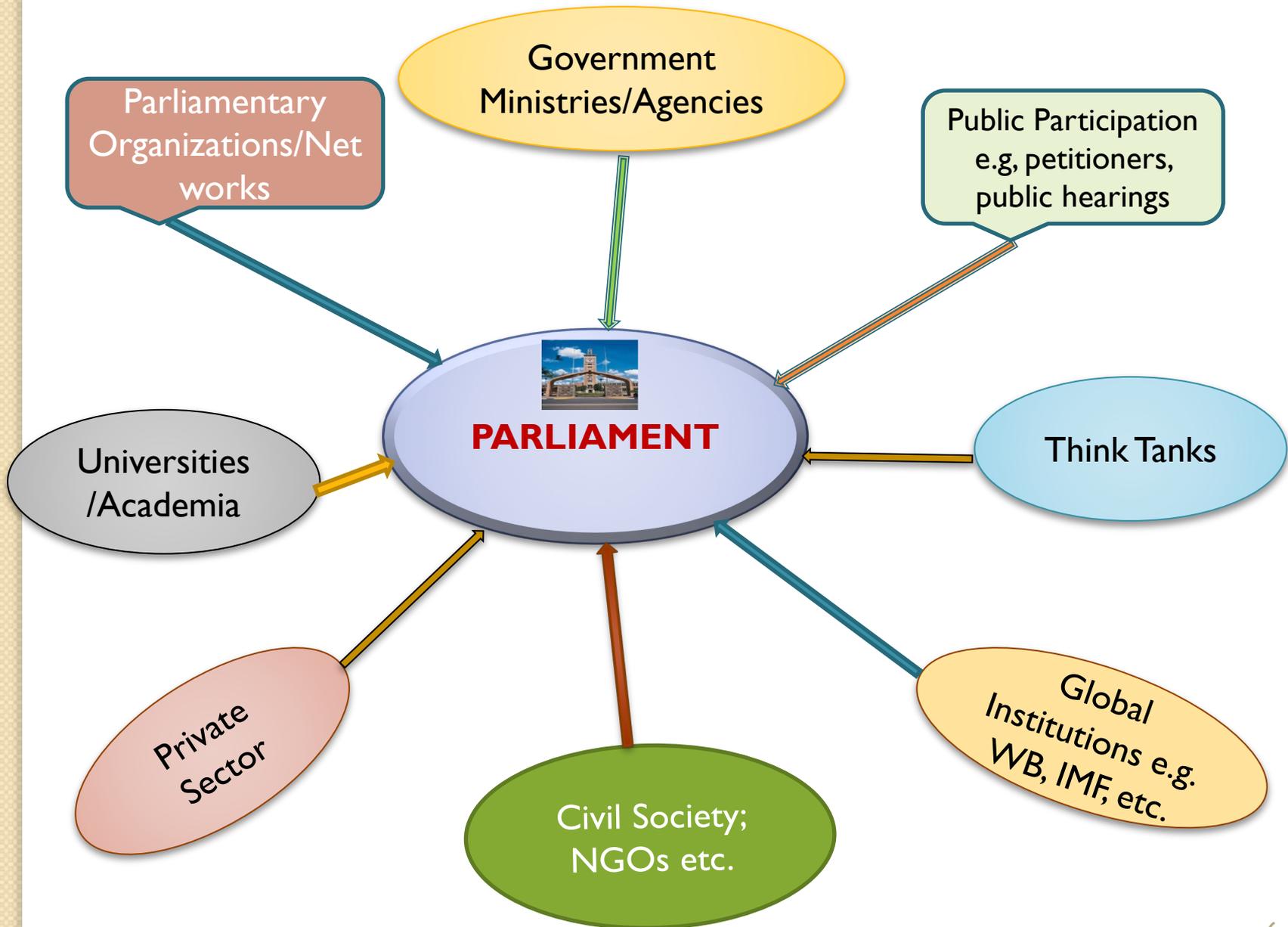


- ❑ Supply of evidence not matched by demand.

Approach

- ❑ While there are numerous opportunities for interactions between research and parliaments in the utilization of evidence generated, the discourse for this paper adopted the micro governance perspective.
- ❑ The Partnerships model is advanced here as a reliable practical approach for strengthening evidence use. The focus is on both the supply and demand side of evidence.
- ❑ In advancing the partnerships approach, the paper draws from the micro perspective of institutional governance from the evidence-based policy-making models advanced by Weyrauch et al. (2016).

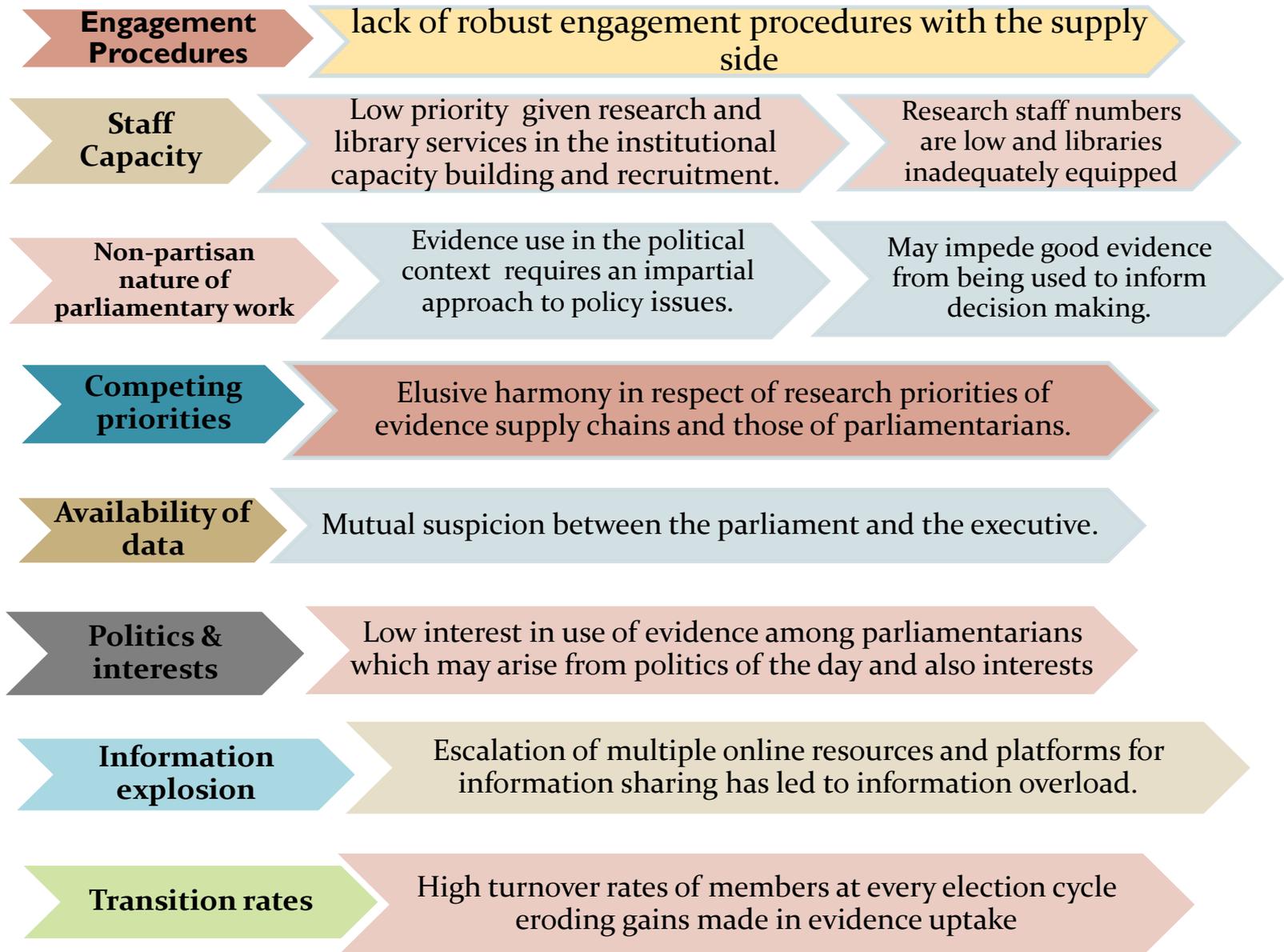
Evidence Supply Ecosystem for Parliaments



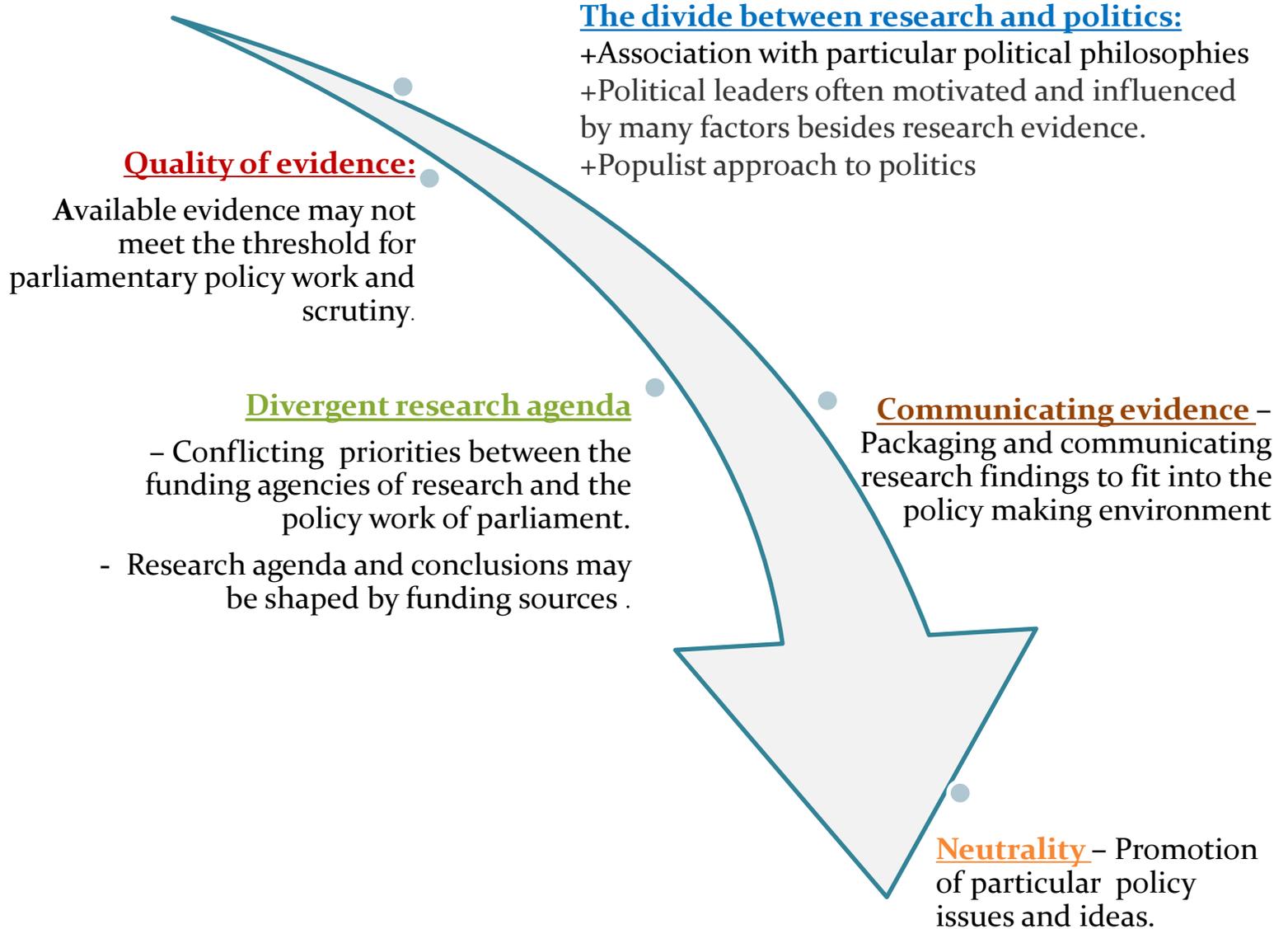
The Evidence Uptake Challenges

- ❑ Evidence informed parliamentary policy work and scrutiny is replete with challenges.
- ❑ The challenges are best addressed by looking at the unique challenges of the demand and supply side of evidence.

The Parliamentary (Demand Side) Challenges



The Research (*Supply Side*) Challenges

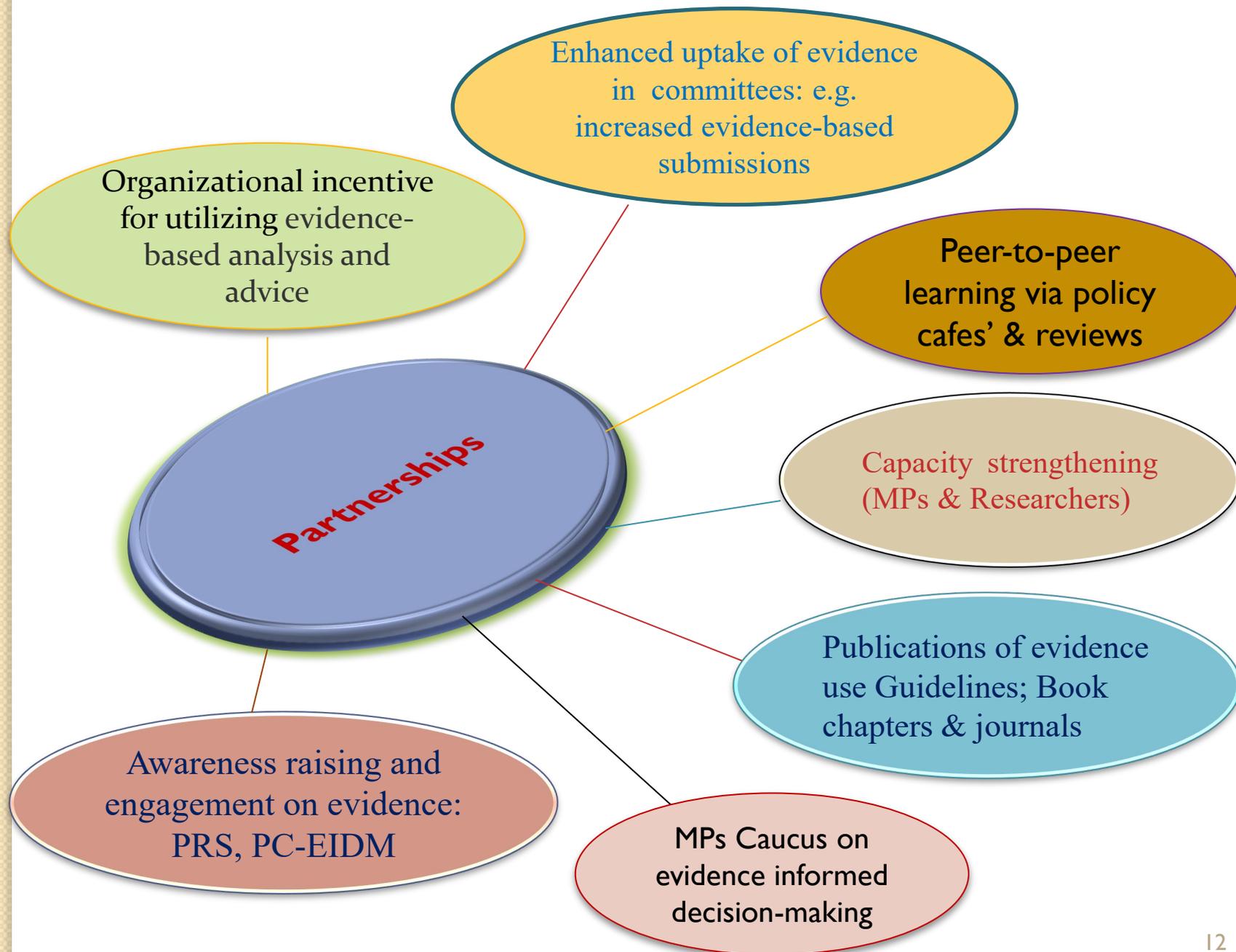


MECHANISM FOR PARTNERSHIPS IN THE PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

- ❑ The fulcrum of any approach to evidence use is a vibrant research and library services capable of translating the evidence into action, and a supply side keen on evidence communication.
- ❑ The Parliamentary Research Services (PRS) is a pivotal driver of evidence use and synthesis in the Parliament of Kenya.
- ❑ An integral and pragmatic enabler for partnerships is the strategic direction assigned to the PRS and embedded in the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) Strategic Plan, that is: ***“forge and maintain strong networks with policy research institutions at national, regional and international levels”***.
- ❑ Other mechanisms are enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya which have widened the scope for engagement and enriched the evidence use environment in Parliament.

- ❑ The PRS has leveraged on strategic direction and Constitution to proactively build evidence use partnerships with other organizations.
- ❑ The partnerships cut through government agencies, research institutions, policy institutions, think tanks, public participation, non-state actors/civil society, and international organizations in the evidence use spectrum.

Milestones Achieved through the Partnerships Frameworks





Any Question?