



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS



OUR SOUTH AFRICA – THE SUN

The sun heals the divisions of the past, improves the quality of life of all South Africans, frees the potential of each person and builds a united and democratic South Africa, taking its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.



OUR PEOPLE – THE PROTEA LEAVES

Our people, building on the foundation of a democratic and open society, freely elect representatives, acting as a voice of the people and providing a national forum for public consideration of issues.



OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM

The drum calls the people's Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to consider national and provincial issues, ensuring government by the people under the Constitution.



OUR CONSTITUTION – THE BOOK

Our Constitution lays the foundation for a democratic and open society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. It is the supreme law of our country, and ensures government by the people.

Produced by the Parliamentary Communication Services
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WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS?

The State of the Nation Address is the annual occasion when the President of the Republic of South Africa addresses Parliament and the Nation. This is commonly known as the Opening of Parliament.

WHAT IS COVERED BY THE ADDRESS?

- Achievements of the past year
- Challenges of the past year
- Challenges which lie ahead
- Government's programme for the coming year

WHEN IS THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

- The Address occurs annually in the first (or second) week of February.
- During an Elections Year, two State of the Nation Addresses are delivered:
 - One, preceding the final session of the outgoing Parliament, and
 - The other, after the elections when the new President and Parliament are established.

WHERE DOES THE ADDRESS TAKE PLACE?

The Address takes place at Parliament to a Joint Sitting of Parliament's two houses, viz.

- The National Assembly, and
- The National Council of Provinces.

HOW DOES THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS?

- Members of the Public are invited to attend the Address as guests of the Presiding Officers.
- Members of the public are invited to participate in the Civil Guard of Honour.
- Learners are invited to participate in the Junior Guard of Honour
- The Guards of Honour welcome the President along the Red Carpet upon his arrival.



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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS?

- The Address by the President is debated by the two Houses of Parliament.
- The Political Parties have an opportunity to give their opinions and raise questions on the issues addressed by the President's Speech.
- The President in turn is provided an opportunity to respond to these opinions and questions arising from the debates.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT PARLIAMENT?

The Tours Office of Parliament offers free tours of Parliament, as well as an opportunity for the public to observe debates from the galleries in the National Assembly or National Council of Provinces. They can also arrange meetings with a Member of Parliament and attend Public Hearings or Committee meetings.

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOURS, PLEASE CONTACT US.

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VISION

To build an effective people's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the people and that is driven by the ideal of realising a better quality of life for all the people of South Africa.