

MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER – Learning from Madiba

Insession



The official newsletter of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

ISSUE 12 2018

Rolling out
the red
carpet

2018

STATE
OF THE NATION
ADDRESS



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mace of National Assembly

Vision

An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society.

Mission

Parliament aims to provide a service to the people of South Africa by providing the following:

- A vibrant people's Assembly that intervenes and transforms society and addresses the development challenges of our people;
- Effective oversight over the Executive by strengthening its scrutiny of actions against the needs of South Africans;
- Participation of South Africans in the decision-making processes that affect their lives;
- A healthy relationship between the three arms of the State, that promotes efficient co-operative governance between the spheres of government, and ensures appropriate links with our region and the world; and
- An innovative, transformative, effective and efficient parliamentary service and administration that enables Members of Parliament to fulfil their constitutional responsibilities.

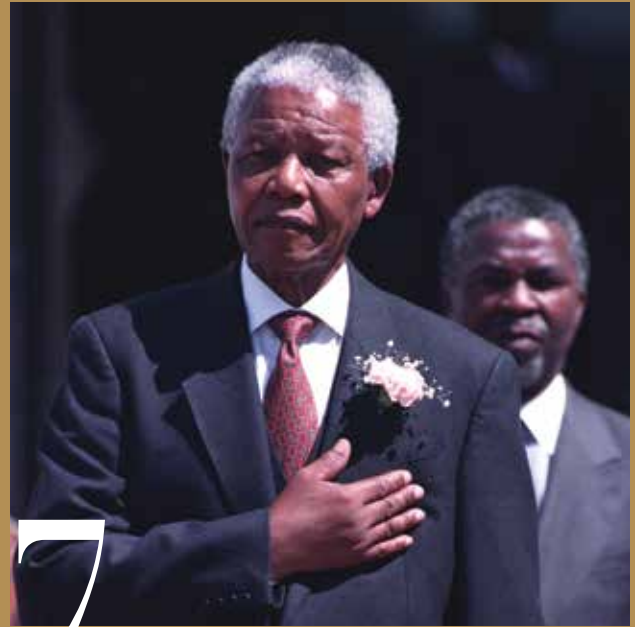
Strategic Objectives

1. Strengthening oversight and accountability
2. Enhancing public involvement
3. Deepening engagement in international fora
4. Strengthening co-operative government
5. Strengthening legislative capacity



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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OUR IDEALS

Vision

An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society.


Strategic Objectives


Strengthening oversight and accountability; enhancing public involvement; deepening engagement in international fora; strengthening cooperative government; strengthening legislative capacity.

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Presiding Officers of Parliament



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The significance of the State of the Nation Address

The *State of the Nation Address (Sona) traditionally takes place in Parliament in February and is attended by the three arms of the state: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The content of the address is the sole responsibility of the executive because it is the executive that has a mandate to run the country in accordance with the prescripts of the Constitution.*

This event takes place in front of the two Houses of Parliament, the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). The joint sitting symbolises the fact that Sona is a national event of great significance.

Sona is also an event hosted by Parliament because it is an authoritative seat of the state. The state and its prescripts, which flow from the Constitution, are formulated

by Parliament and, equally, can be dissolved by Parliament. Sona is an assessment from the executive of the general state of the nation. It is an event in which the President of the Republic gives a retrospective analysis of the achievements of the past year and the country's challenges, as well as plans to overcome them. In other words, it sets the tone for the priorities of the forthcoming financial year and how the legislative budgetary framework and appropriation thereof should respond to them.

Sona is a political statement of the President that sets out a social contract that seeks to embrace the concerns and views of various constituencies that constitute the fabric of our nation. In that, it is a non-partisan address that maps a holistic pathway to the future. It is this contract, informed by a range of national priorities, that sets our country's public discourse that urges the public to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue on various policy

matters for the good of our civilisation. It is this social pact that also serves as a barometer to judge the performance of the state in the coming year.

For instance, Sona is closely watched by foreign investors for its assessment of our country's gains or challenges. They use it to deduce whether there is any shift in our country's economic policy and whether South Africa's economic policies are still in harmony with its economic interests. As such, Sona often determines investors' appetite for South African markets.

On the legislative front, Parliament determines its legislative priorities in the coming year on the basis of Sona. It also uses the prescripts of Sona as a law-making framework to advance our country's transformation and developmental agenda as enshrined in the National Development Plan (NDP), and also as an oversight instrument to hold the Executive accountable.

State of the Nation Address: A map of the future

The *State of the Nation Address (Sona) provides a platform for the Head of State to reflect on government's performance during the previous year and outline plans and programmes for the new year. It is also a tradition that presidents make key government announcements during this important joint sitting of Parliament.*

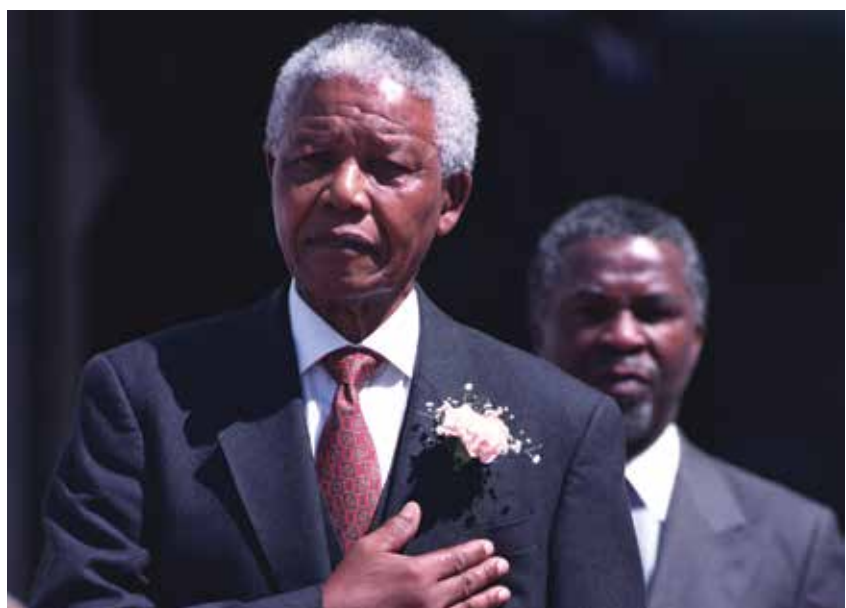


Former President Frederik Willem de Klerk

In his first State of the Nation Address to a democratically elected Parliament, **Mr Mandela** made major policy changes and announcements, with a primary focus on nation-building through the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

He also announced that children under the age of six and pregnant mothers would receive free medical care in state hospitals and clinics where such need exists. Similarly, a feeding scheme was implemented in every primary school where there was a need.

Mr Mandela said: "My government's commitment to create a people-centred society of liberty binds us to the pursuit of the goals of freedom from want,



Former President Nelson Mandela

This practice can be traced back to the pre-democracy era, when **former president Mr Frederik Willem (FW) de Klerk** made the historic announcement during the 2 February 1990 State of the Nation Address that the former president of the first democratically elected government, the late Mr Nelson Mandela, would be released from prison and all political parties would be unbanned.

Mr De Klerk said: "I wish to put it plainly that the government has taken a firm decision to release Mr Mandela unconditionally. I am serious about bringing this matter to finality without delay. The government will take a decision soon on the date of his release. Unfortunately, a further short passage of time is unavoidable."

During his last Sona address in February 1994, Mr De Klerk announced the dates of the country's first free and fair elections to be held from 26 to 28 April, and urged full participation by everyone.

freedom from hunger, freedom from deprivation, freedom from ignorance, freedom from suppression and freedom from fear.

“The things we have said constitute the true meaning, the justification and the purpose of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, without which it would lose all legitimacy. When we elaborated this programme we were inspired by the hope that all South Africans of goodwill could join together to provide a better life for all. We were pleased that other political organisations announced similar aims.

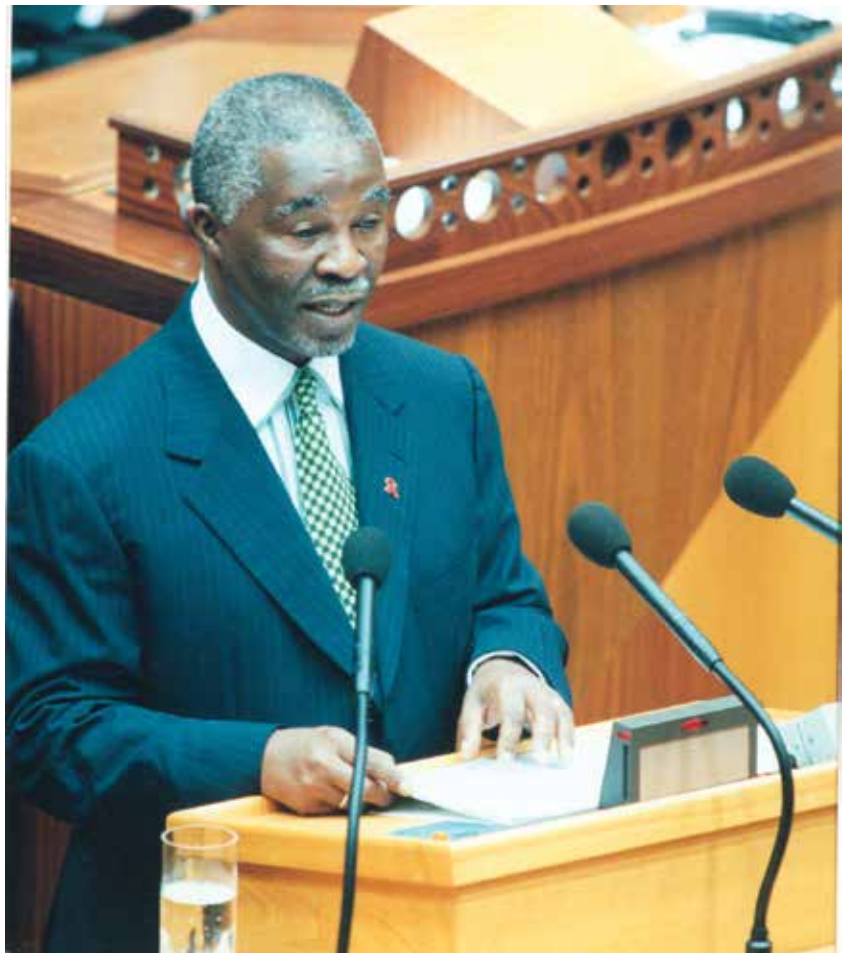
“Today, I am happy to announce that the Cabinet of the Government of National Unity has reached consensus not only on the broad objective of the creation of the people-centred society of which I have spoken, but also on many elements of a plan broadly based on that programme for reconstruction and development.

“This will start with an appropriation of R2,5 billion in the 1994/95 budget that will be presented next month. This should rise to more than R10 billion by the fifth year of the life of this government.

“The government will also use its own allocation of funds to the Reconstruction and Development Programme to exert maximum leverage in marshalling funds from within South Africa and abroad. All of us must take this on board that the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme will not have been realised unless we see in visible and practical terms that the condition of the women of our country has radically changed for the better and that they have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society.

“Our road to that glorious future lies through collective hard work to accomplish the objective of creating a people-centred society through the implementation of the vision contained in our reconstruction and development plan.”

During his tenure as president in the second democratically elected Parliament, **Mr Thabo Mbeki** made it clear during his State of the Nation



Former President Thabo Mbeki

Address after the 1999 general elections that the RDP would continue to be the main driver of service delivery.

“The RDP and the Growth, Employment and Redistribution Programme (Gear) were implemented by our first democratic government to achieve socio-economic transformation and macro-economic stability. The RDP and Gear will remain the basic policy objectives of the new government to achieve sustainable growth, development and improved standards of living.”

President Mbeki also announced the implementation of an integrated rural development programme for the development of the rural areas. He said: “The rural areas of our country represent the worst concentrations of poverty. No progress can be made towards a life of human dignity for our people as a whole unless we ensure the development of these areas.”

Other key announcements made during State of the Nation Addresses in the democratic era include an announcement that the government

would identify a suite of apex priorities as catalysts to accelerate progress. The identification of these priorities implies that the three spheres of government – national, provincial and local undertake to focus their energies on advancing the quality of life of all South Africans.

The apex priorities are:

- the further acceleration of economic growth and development
- speeding up infrastructure building
- improving the effectiveness of interventions directed at the second economy and poverty eradication
- enhancing the impact of programmes targeting education and training
- accelerating achievement of health for all
- revamping the criminal justice system to intensify the fight against crime
- further strengthening the machinery of government to ensure that it has the capacity to respond to development imperatives; and
- enhancing the focus on international relations, with particular focus on some African issues and South-South relations.



Former President Kgalema Motlanthe

During his short stint as caretaker President, following the resignation of President Mbeki, **President Kgalema Motlanthe** and his administration continued with the ruling party's poverty eradication programmes and the improvement of service delivery.

In his February 2009 Sona, he made the following remarks: "As part of the many detailed projects contained in the government's Programme of Action, we will pay particular attention to:

- Creating the capacity necessary for improved service delivery and better integration within and across the spheres of government, including national strategic planning;
- Continuing with the War on Poverty campaign and finalising the draft of the Comprehensive Anti-poverty Strategy through the public consultations now under way;
- Implementing the comprehensive programme we have put in place to eliminate the incidence of cholera in various parts of the country;
- Continuing research and consultations on the Comprehensive Social Security System, including the matter of National Health Insurance;
- Intensifying the campaign to save energy, so as to manage the current difficulties and change our own behaviour, while at the same time speeding up the projects to build new capacity and utilise alternative energy sources - recognising that in addition to the consequences of climate change, resources such as fossil fuels and water are declining in the same measure as demand is increasing;

- Integrating into the work of the relevant Clusters the findings of research on Second Economy interventions such as the community works programme, support for small and micro-enterprises and rural development initiatives;
- intensifying efforts to revamp the criminal justice system, including better forensic capacity, rapid increase in the number of detectives, optimal utilisation of information and communications technology, and better management of the courts"



Former President Jacob Zuma

During one of his State of the Nation Addresses, **President Jacob Zuma** said: "We shall this month launch the Kha Ri Gude (Let Us Learn) mass literacy campaign. This will include the training of master trainers who will provide basic literacy classes to 300 000 adults and youth in 2008."

President Zuma also introduced the signing of performance agreements with ministers in an effort to ensure speedy service delivery and accountability. "Ministers who are responsible for a particular outcome will sign a detailed delivery agreement with the President. It will outline what is to be done, how, by whom, within what time period and using what measurements and resources.

"As you are aware, we are committed to five priorities: education, health, rural development and land reform, creating decent work, and fighting crime. In addition, we will work to improve the effectiveness of local government, infrastructure development and human settlements."

In last year's State of the Nation Address, President Zuma announced the establishment of a one-stop-shop/ Invest SA initiative which he said was "to signal that South Africa is truly open for business. We will fast-track the implementation of this service, in partnership with the private sector."

He also made important policy announcements on the economy and job creation. "Our economy needs a major push forward," he said. "We would like to share with you our nine-point plan to ignite growth and create jobs."

The nine points are:

1. Resolving the energy challenge.
2. Revitalising agriculture and the agro-processing value chain.
3. Advancing beneficiation or adding value to our mineral wealth.
4. More effective implementation of a higher impact Industrial Policy Action Plan.
5. Encouraging private sector investment.
6. Moderating workplace conflict.
7. Unlocking the potential of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), cooperatives, township and rural enterprises.
8. State reform and boosting the role of state-owned companies, information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure or broadband roll-out, water, sanitation and transport infrastructure; as well as
9. Operation Phakisa aimed at growing the ocean economy and other sectors.

Public Participation in a people's Parliament

Parliament's constitutional mandate stipulates that it should communicate its work to all citizens as broadly as it can. This is to advance one of its constitutional obligations of "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 the people of South Africa". It is from this pronouncement that Parliament's commitment towards a people's Parliament and the declaration of the Fifth Parliament as an "Activist Parliament" emanate.

To live up to this expectation, Parliament has ensured that this event becomes as public an event as possible. Part of its broader public participation process involves the use of various forms of communication, such as radio, television and social media, to advance this object.

Of all communication platforms, radio has been identified as the most effective mass communication outlet that reaches the widest possible South African audience in all 11 languages and all nine provinces. As a result, the Parliamentary Communication Services (PCS) uses 18 South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) radio stations and 60 community radio stations as central platforms for information dissemination and calls for public participation in the build-up to Sona.

As part of promoting public participation during the State of the Nation Address, Parliament has forged a partnership with the SABC to facilitate its promotions aimed at publicising the radio competition and public education interviews and live-read campaigns aimed at disseminating information about Parliament and the State of the Nation Address and to further encourage and enhance its public participation mandate. The radio campaign comprises 5 to 10 minute

radio interviews, 45 seconds live reads and a competition.

Competition



The radio competition, which encourages public participation in parliamentary processes and citizens' involvement in the State of the Nation Address, will be preceded by public education interviews and live reads which seek to promote the State of the Nation Address 2018, to enhance public education on matters affecting Parliament, and to build a two-way engagement between ordinary South Africans and Parliament and to profile the work of Parliament and the Presiding Officers.

The competition is often aimed at Grade 12 pupils. They are asked to write an essay on the annual

topic of Parliament to express their understanding of it in relation to the work of Parliament. The writers of the winning essays from each province are then invited to be part of the State of the Nation Address.

This competition has helped to increase the awareness among school-going youth about the work of Parliament and its role in society, as well as the significance of Sona in our country's political life and how it affects their daily lives. The completion has created great enthusiasm among pupils. It has also solidified Parliament's efforts to open its doors to ordinary citizens from all over the country who would ordinarily not have the opportunity to attend a prominent event like the State of the Nation Address.

This radio campaign, which has been adopted since the inception of our democratic Parliament, has had an unparalleled reach and frequency that has helped to publicise Sona and the role of Parliament in it. Radio has proven beyond doubt that it is, by far, the most effective and accessible form of communication whose reach and participatory format has enriched Parliament's public education objectives. The 2018 campaign is set to reach well over seven million listeners.

Television



Parliament has recognised television's potential to be the central cog in publicising Sona and it has proven to be another effective form of communication.

Over the years, television has delivered Sona to many South African households as one of the major news items of our national television calendar. Now, millions tune in to watch the President deliver his address on the state of our nation.

It is television that has guaranteed the viewers the seat in Parliament's public gallery. That made them feel as if they are part of the live parliamentary session. Since the introduction of Sona live on television, its reach has expanded and it has occupied the imagination of South Africans from all

walks of life. It is now a mainstay of our country's broadcasting calendar.

Sona has also preoccupied the minds of analysts and journalists who always prepare themselves for this event well ahead of time. No media house would pass up this event because of its rich contribution to public discourse.

As such, the television coverage of Sona is an important source of information and education because it affords the viewers multiple analyses and perspectives. People can also switch to various news networks at will to follow their desired news angle on Sona. This media activity often puts Parliament at the centre of our country's political life. It enhances Parliament's profile and significance and that, in turn, helps to position Parliament as an authoritative arm of the state. Furthermore, this access system and method for providing interactive access through television has enhanced Parliament's public education about its role in Sona and parliamentary processes in general.

Parliament has embraced television as a cornerstone of democracy and a pillar of freedom of expression, principles

that are enshrined in our Constitution, under the custodianship of Parliament.

Social media

The broadcasting of Sona on various media platforms triggers reaction on social media. Parliament uses social media – Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, and so on – to publicise Sona. This has ensured that the event has a worldwide reach.

Unlike other forms of communication, social media has ensured that as many South Africans as possible rally around a common interest. Sona reaches them in their preferred form of communication, wherever they are, and they are able to express their views about it as freely as they like, without fear or favour. Social media has enhanced our parliamentary and participatory democracy in a way never conceived of before. This is testimony to the fact that Parliament is utilising the power of social media to advance its goals.

In this way, Parliament is able to connect with anyone in the world and people from around the globe can connect with Parliament to learn and share their thoughts on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Parliament's website.



A special category of participants and guests

Civil Guard of Honour



This guard of honour continues where the Junior Guard of Honour ends, in front of the House of the National Council of Provinces. The selection of its participants is based on the parliamentary theme of the year. Participants are chosen to reflect different aspects of the theme, *Making your future work better - Learning from Madiba*.

Eminent Guests



These are South Africans who have achieved outstanding results in their respective fields or who have been otherwise recognised for their contribution to society. They are nominated by their provincial Speakers to be the guests of Parliament for the event. They line up towards the National Assembly and conclude the public participation part of the ceremonies.

Junior Guard of Honour



This category consists of school learners around the country. They form a guard of honour from the gates of Parliament near the building called the Slave Lodge, where the President disembarks. These school learners are selected because they have represented their provinces or the country nationally, provincially and internationally in sports, music or cultural events. Alternatively, they must have received an award that put the country or their province on the world map. The selection criterion takes into account rural and urban dynamics.



Why is Parliament central to the delivery of the Address?

Parliament

is an institution with unique significance in the political history of the people of this country. This democratic Parliament is esteemed for its profound influence on the development of South Africa's participatory democracy, founded on the strength of its Constitution, which is recognised worldwide for its commitment to human rights, regardless of race, religion or culture.

Parliament has a central role to play in our national life and has, since its inception in 1994, been considered a treasure around the world for the way it exemplifies constitutional democracy and its unequivocal entrenchment of the culture of the respective and private rights of individuals and civil society. The constitutional principle of the separation of powers remains an inspiration to many across the globe.

Sona takes place before the two Houses of Parliament because these institutions are charged with ensuring that all the work that flows from this address becomes a lived reality. As such, Sona is a social pact that informs

the service delivery commitments of the national, provincial and local spheres of government for the coming financial year. It also is a guide for the annual performance plans of government departments at all levels of government.

Sona is South Africa's map for the year ahead. It alerts us to obstacles and plans how to avoid them.

Sona also has an influence on how laws are made and must ensure that they live up to the letter and spirit of Sona-identified priorities. To this end, departments appear before Parliament to determine whether the legislative prescripts that govern their mandates are in line with priorities articulated during Sona. Sometimes laws are amended or repealed to be in line with these priorities.

If a need arises, Parliament will, through its Committees, embark on public hearings to garner public opinion and participation on the formulation of legislation, and then amend or repeal it in accordance with its legislative mandate.

Most importantly, Sona is delivered in Parliament because the priorities articulated in it have budgetary

implications that demand robust oversight, which is one of Parliament's constitutionally designated responsibilities. Parliament has the authority to approve the national budget.

Of the three arms of the state, it is Parliament that has the mandate to accept, reject or amend the allocation of budget to various government departments. The various Portfolio and Select Committees are Sona's instrument during the Budget Votes to determine whether the departments' annual performance and strategic plans are in line with the national priorities as outlined by the President in his State of the Nation Address. If not, Parliament has a right to withhold budgets of those departments whose annual performance plans are not in line with Sona priorities.

In fulfilling this role, Parliament owes much to its entrenched desire to achieve a realistic balance between the legitimate mandate of government and the rights of those subject to it. This encapsulates its role of placing limits on the exercise of power of government and the nation's political institutions to ensure that they evolve with stability.



The role of Imbongi in the Address

A new element of the State of the Nation Address since the birth of democracy is Imbongi, the praise singer. He or she is regarded as a scene setter and has become the mainstay of successive State of the Nation Addresses. Although our Parliament is based in the Westminster tradition, Imbongi has ensured that the event is an African event in an African Parliament. The praise singing gives Africanness a pride of place.

Imbongi occupies a special place in African culture as someone who recounts the historic moments of the nation, who reminds the nation how far it has come and where it has to go. Imbongi is a living heritage and the archive of the nation. It is spontaneous memory of successive royal lineages, praise and clan names and of the nation's defining moments. This is often coupled with magnificent traditional wear that proclaims cultural identity and heritage.

Imbongi is the curtain-raiser of a significant moment of the nation, thus setting the mood by capturing its collective sentiments in with poetic fervour. He utilises this skill to master the immense amount of knowledge and

oration, in this case about the country and the President. Her duty is to instil within the President a great sense of pride, by narrating his personal history, his clan and his family lineage in song, dance and narration. He does this with great accuracy that often fills the President with delight and surprise. This is often the task that illustrates the great intellectual capability needed for one to assume the enviable role of Imbongi.

The featuring of Imbongi in Sona seeks to ensure that in our new democratic dispensation, the African identity, its culture and heritage are reaffirmed and accorded the respect they deserve and are moved from the periphery of oblivion to the centre stage of our country's political arena.

As the conscience of the nation, Imbongi reminds the President of the work at hand, of the expectations that hinge on his impending address, of the address's role in wearing the fabric of society, that although South Africans are of different racial, religious and cultural groups, their future is cut from the same cloth. It is his role as an aide-mémoire, a voice of conscience and an entertainer that Imbongi juggles with great theatricality.

As a voice of conscience, Imbongi praises the courageous deeds of the President, criticises wrongdoing and gives the nation hope during trying times while encouraging people to work tirelessly to strengthen the moral fibre of the nation.

Interview with Imbongi.

An 11-year-old Mpumalanga Province's Schulzental Trust praise singer, Mr Given Lubisi (right), was selected to praise President Jacob Zuma before he delivered the 2017 State of the Nation Address.

Asked by *InSession* magazine how he felt about his selection to praise the President of the Republic of South Africa in a Joint Sitting of Parliament, Mr Lubisi said he was very excited when he heard the news of his selection.

"I felt an extraordinary excitement. I was looking forward to that time when I would be given such an opportunity given the fact that I praised the Members of the Executive Council and the Mpumalanga Premier when he delivered the State of the Province Address in 2016 and I realised that I was ready for the national platform level," said Mr Lubisi.

He said he was confident and looking forward to the moment when he was going to explode into action without being asked by the Speaker. "As a praise singer I wish I could go on now to do my work. The praise singing spirit is hatching within me waiting for the right moment to come," he said.

He said he was not intimidated by the size of the audience he was going to face. "My father, who is everything to me, is next to me and whenever I look at him I become more confident," he added.

According to Mr Lubisi, he got the praise singing gift from God as he is unable to say he was taught by someone.

"No one can say he or she taught me. I looked at my father when he rehearsed praise singing at home and developed a very strong interest in it," he said. "Given the depth of passion and interest within me for this gift, I am optimistic that praise singing is going to grow in me and take me to greater places like this 2017 State of the Nation Address," he said.



Did you know...?



What's with the red carpet?

Rolling out a red carpet was originally reserved for royalty and signified a welcome of great hospitality and ceremony. Over time, the red carpet was also used to welcome Heads of State and other dignitaries. The red carpet tradition is used at the State of the Nation Address as part of a number of elements to symbolise respect for the position of President of the Republic of South Africa.



What is the significance of the 21-gun salute?

The tradition of rendering a 21-gun salute by firing cannons originated in the 14th century when cannon and firearms came into use. In 1842, the 21-gun salute became the international norm for the highest honour a nation rendered and it is fired in honour of the Head of State. At the State of the Nation Address it is fired in honour of the President of the Republic of South Africa. The first shot of the salute is synchronised to coincide with the playing of the national anthem. The salute takes one minute and 40 seconds.



Aides-de-camp? What role do they play in the ceremony?

As the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, aides-de-camp are attached to the President of the Republic of South Africa at all ceremonies of the state. Their role in the country is limited to ceremonial duties. Once this task has been fulfilled they are immediately withdrawn.

During the State of the Nation Address, they travel with the President from President's place of

residence to Parliament. The aides-de-camp lead the presidential procession onto a saluting dais to receive the ceremonial honours, the guard of honour by the National Ceremonial Guard, the 21-gun salute, the national anthem and a salute flight. They then lead the procession into the chamber.



What is the step guard and what role do they play?

This is a structure of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and represents various formations or wings within the SANDF. Their purpose is to pay respect by giving salute to the President as the Commander in Chief of South Africa's armed forces.



Debates that follow the Address

After the State of the Nation Address (Sona), all the political parties at Parliament hold a debate to reflect, make comments and raise questions on matters raised by the President during Sona. This debate often takes the form of a Joint Sitting of Parliament before the representatives of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.

There is a cyclical link between Sona, the budget allocation and Parliament's oversight mandate. The budget is initiated and approved in Parliament. It is introduced to Parliament during Sona, where national priorities are promulgated. This address gives a hint of how the budget of a given financial year will be divided and appropriated. Thereafter, the executive formulates the budgetary allocations and appropriations in accordance with the priorities promulgated during Sona. After these formulations have been completed, the Minister of Finance invokes the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act to table before Parliament the state's budget.

When this process has unfolded, Parliament oversees the estimates of national expenditure votes by

each department. Parliament uses its oversight instruments to verify how they relate to the strategic and annual performance plan votes of the departments' programmes. This process is followed by in-year monitoring reports and quarterly performance reports.

The Budget Review and Recommendations Report (BRRR) is a budgetary process that makes adjustments in budget allocations in accordance with shifts in policy priorities or the budgetary needs of the state.

Parliament has a vested interest in this process because it wants to ensure that these adjustments are done in accordance with strategic and annual performance plans of each department. And in a manner that is in keeping with the Public Finance Act and the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related

Matters Act to safeguard the proper management of the public purse.

This is the case because there is an increasing realisation that budgeting systems are the most important components of service delivery, said the Deputy Director of the Policy Unit of the Parliamentary Budget Office, Ms Nelia Orlandi. "The budget is the instrument for translating policies and plans into public goods and services. Any policy or plan without a budget attached to it is unlikely to be successfully implemented. Economic success depends on the ability of the government to employ limited resources with maximum effect."

The role of Parliament in this regard cannot be overstated, she said. One of which is to "detect and prevent abuse. To prevent illegal and unconstitutional budgetary conduct on the part of the government. To make government budgetary operations more transparent and to hold the government answerable on how taxpayers' money is spent". This happens at different stages of the budget phases: from planning, formulation, legislative, to implementation phase.

Party Leaders, Chief Whips and Provincial Whips



Mr Mthembu Jackson
ANC



Mr Henry Steenhuisen
DA



Mr Floyd Shivambu
EFF



Mr Narend Singh
IFP



Mr Moses Khubisa
NFP



Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa
UDM



Mr Petrus Mulder
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Mr Patrick Lekota
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Ms Cheryllyn Dudley
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Mr Andries Plouamma
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Mr Richmond Mbinda
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Ms Tasneem Motara
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Ms Tsapane Mampuru
Provincial Whip Limpopo



Mr Moses Mhlanga
Provincial Whip Mpumalanga



Mr Dikgang Stock
Provincial Whip Northern Cape



Mr Boingolo Nthebe
Provincial Whip North West



Ms Cathlene Labuschagne
Provincial Whip Western Cape



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.

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