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The Speaker of the NA, Ms Thandi Modise (left), President Cyril Ramaphosa, the first lady Tshepo Motsepe and the Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Amos Masondo (far right) on the steps of the NA.

Seven priorities to drive the National Development Plan – President Ramaphosa



President Cyril Ramaphosa told the nation that his government will focus on seven priorities, writes Zizipho Klaas.

The priorities are, economic transformation and job creation, education, skills and health, consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services, spatial integration, human settlements and local government,

social cohesion and safe communities, a capable, ethical and developmental state, a better Africa and world.

He said all the government programmes and policies across all departments and agencies will be directed in pursuit of these overarching tasks.

At the same time, President Ramaphosa said the government must restore the National Development Plan (NDP) to its place at the centre

of the national effort, to make it alive, to make it part of the lived experience of the South African people.

“As South Africa enters the next 25 years of democracy, and in pursuit of the objectives of the NDP, let us proclaim a bold and ambitious goal, a unifying purpose, to which we dedicate all our resources and energies,” he stressed.

Within the priorities of this administration, President Ramaphosa said **2** ➔



The Khoisan praise singer praises President Ramaphosa.

they must agree on five fundamental goals for the next decade. “Let us agree, as a nation and as a people united in our aspirations, that within the next 10 years we will have made progress in tackling poverty, inequality and unemployment, where no person in South Africa will go hungry, where the economy will grow at a much faster rate than our population, two million more young people will be in employment, schools will have better educational outcomes and every 10 year old will be able to read for meaning and where violent crime will be halved”.

He said while the African National Congress’s government has made great progress in providing housing, many South Africans still need land to build homes and earn livelihoods. In the next five years, he said his government will accelerate the provision of well-located housing and land to poor South Africans.

President Ramaphosa delivered the first State of the Nation Address in the sixth Parliament on 20 June 2019.

On health, he said to improve the quality of life of South Africans, to reduce poverty in all its dimensions and to strengthen the South African economy, his government will attend to the health of the South African people. To do so the government must attend to the capacity of South African hospitals and clinics.

He said the time to tell people at hospitals and clinics to go home because there is no doctor or no medication is over.

“An 80-year-old grandmother cannot spend an entire day in a queue waiting for her medication.

“An ill patient cannot be turned away because there is a shortage of doctors and nurses. A woman in labour cannot have her unborn child’s life put in danger because the ambulance has taken too long to come” reiterated President Ramaphosa.



He said his government must urgently improve the quality of the health system, and finalise the Presidential Health Summit Compact, which draws on the insights and will mobilise the capabilities of all

the administration of the NHI Fund. “We want a South Africa with a high-tech economy where advances in e-health, robotics and remote medicine are

threat, which includes increasing the number of people on treatment by at least another 2 million by December 2020. On education President Ramaphosa reiterated the call he made

Ramaphosa early reading is the basic foundation that determines a child’s educational progress, through school, through higher education and into the work place. “All other interventions – from the work being done to improve the quality of basic education to the provision of free higher education for the poor, from our investment in TVET colleges to the expansion of workplace learning – will not produce the results we need unless we first ensure that children can read” said President Ramaphosa.

He said it is through initiatives like the National Reading Coalition that they as government will be able to coordinate this national effort.

“All foundation and intermediate phase teachers are to be trained to teach reading in English and the African languages, and we are training and deploying a cohort of experienced coaches to provide high quality on-site support to teachers” he said.



key stakeholders to address the crisis facing South African clinics and hospitals.

On the National Health Insurance (NHI) he said that government is far advanced in revising its detailed plan of implementation, including accelerating quality of care initiatives in public facilities, building human resource capacity, establishment of the NHI Fund structure, and costing

applied as we roll out the National Health Insurance” said President Ramaphosa.

On HIV/AIDS he said concerns remain about rising HIV infections rates, particularly among young women, and the relatively low numbers of men testing for HIV and starting treatment.

He committed his government to end HIV as a public health

in his February State of the Nation Address for early child reading to ensure educational progress of a child.

President Ramaphosa said if South Africa wants to ensure that within the next decade, every 10 year old child will be able to read for meaning, the entire nation must be mobilised behind a massive reading campaign. According to President

President Ramaphosa said the government is implementing the Early Grade Reading Programme, which consists of an integrated package of lesson plans, additional reading materials and professional support to Foundation Phase teachers. 🌸

6th Parliament begins – new Presiding Officers elected

Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, who presided over the establishment of the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in May this year, extended the moment of silent prayer and meditation to three minutes, reports Mava Lukani.

He emphasised the importance of prayer or meditation at a time when South Africa is facing many challenges. "This is not a meaningless ritual," the Chief Justice said, "but rather an opportunity for Members of Parliament to reflect on the challenges of corruption, unemployment and rising crime."

He urged members to pray for solutions to the problems he had highlighted.

The new members of the NA and NCOP are a mixture of men, women and young people.

The youngest among them at 20 years of age is Mr Itumeleng Ntsube a delegate to the NCOP representing Free State Province, Ms Naledi Chirwa of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), Mr Sibongiseni Ngcobo of the Democratic Alliance (DA) and Nompandolo Mkhathswa of the African National Congress (ANC).

The veteran and the oldest NA Member of Parliament is Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), who has been a member of the NA in all the democratic Parliaments and who said he is looking forward to making meaningful contributions to debates.

There are 14 political parties in the NA in the sixth Parliament.

They are the African National Congress, Democratic Alliance, Economic Freedom Fighters, Inkatha Freedom Party, Freedom Front Plus (FF+), African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), National Freedom Party (NFP), African Independent Congress (AIC), African Transformation Movement (ATM), Congress of the People (Cope), United Democratic Movement (UDM), GOOD Party, Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and Al Jama-ah.

Ms Thandi Modise was elected as the Speaker of the NA and Mr Lechesa Tsenoli as the Deputy Speaker of the NA.

In the NCOP, Mr Amos Masondo was elected as the Chairperson, Ms Sylvia Lucas as the Deputy Chairperson and Mr Seiso Mohai as the Chief Whip.

As the Constitution stipulates, Members of the NA elected the President of the Republic of South Africa – and Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa was duly elected.

In a jovial mood, leaders of all the 14 political parties represented in the NA expressed congratulatory messages to Mr Ramaphosa on behalf of their parties.

The Leader of the new GOOD Party, Ms Patricia de Lille who is not new to the NA and who was among the members of the first democratic NA that was established in May 1994, reminded the House that Mr Ramaphosa was the Chief Negotiator for the ANC during South Africa's transition to democracy.

She said Mr Ramaphosa had a clear vision and deep spirit for the creation of a united and non-racial South Africa. In sittings that took place

after the establishment of the sixth Parliament, the NA and the NCOP elected the House Chairpersons.

The House Chairpersons for NA are Mr Cedric Frolick, Ms Mmatlala Boroto and Mr Madala Ntombela.

The NCOP elected Mr Jomo Nyambi as House Chairperson for Committees; Ms Winnie Ngwenya as House Chairperson for Oversight and Institutional Support; and Mr Edward Joyisile Njandu as the National Council of Provinces' Programming Whip. 🇷🇵



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Youth unemployment a national crisis – President Ramaphosa

President Ramaphosa made a commitment in his SONA that within the next decade, it is the ambition of his government that the South African economy should be growing at a rate far greater than the population, writes Mava Lukani.

President Ramaphosa said it is only when they reach consistently high rates of growth that they will be able to reverse the economic damage of the past. “We make this assertion at a time when the economic outlook is extremely weak” he said.

According to President Ramaphosa, following the sharp contraction in growth in the first quarter, the Reserve Bank now projects that growth in 2019 is likely to be lower than anticipated in the February Budget. He said one reason for the lacklustre economic performance has been the load shedding early this year, together with the continued uncertainty in the supply of electricity and the state of Eskom.

To meet the economic growth targets they have set, his government will rebuild the foundations of the economy by revitalising and expanding the productive sectors. He said this requires of them to reimagine their industrial strategy, to unleash private investment and energise the state to boost economic inclusion.

For these reasons, President Ramaphosa said the Constitution of the Republic



of South Africa mandates the South African Reserve Bank to protect the value of the currency in the interests of balanced and sustainable growth.

“Today we reaffirm this constitutional mandate, which the Reserve Bank must pursue independently, without fear, favour or prejudice. Our Constitution also requires that there should be regular consultation between the Reserve Bank and the Minister of Finance to promote macroeconomic coordination, all in the interests of employment creation and economic growth” emphasised President Ramaphosa.

On international competitiveness and attraction of international investment, President Ramaphosa said the government must address the high cost of doing business and complicated and lengthy regulatory processes. “We must reach a point where no company need wait more than six months for a permit or licence and new companies should be able to be registered

the private sector, labour and the international community we will step up our adaptation and mitigation efforts”.

President Ramaphosa said the economic growth will have little value unless it creates employment on a far greater scale. According to President Ramaphosa the fact that the unemployment rate

implement a comprehensive plan – driven and coordinated from the Presidency – to create no fewer than two million new jobs for young people within the next decade” said President Ramaphosa.

He said his government is already working with the private sector to create pathways into work for young people through scaling up existing pathway management networks.

On a dream of a new city, President Ramaphosa said he has a dream of a South Africa where the first entirely new city built in the democratic era rises, with skyscrapers, schools, universities, hospitals and factories. This dream he said has been fueled by his conversations with four people that included President Xi Jinping of China, whose account of how China is building a new Beijing has helped to consolidate his dream.

within a day” he said. Furthermore he said his government will continue to reduce the cost of doing business by reducing port export tariffs, pursuing lowest cost electricity generation options, and making rail transport more competitive and efficient.

Guided by the NDP he said it is their responsibility to pursue inclusive, sustainable development that is resilient in the face of climate change. “Working in partnership with

among young South Africans is more than 50% is a national crisis that demands urgent, innovative and coordinated solutions.

“And because more young people are entering the labour force every year, the economy needs to create far more jobs for youth than it currently does merely to keep the youth unemployment rate steady. It is therefore essential that we proceed without delay to

“This is a dream we can all share and participate in building. We have not built a new city in 25 years of democracy.

Seventy percent of South Africans are going to be living in the urban areas by 2030.

The cities of Johannesburg, Tshwane, Cape Town and Ethekewini are running out of space to accommodate all those who throng to the cities” said President Ramaphosa. 🇿🇦



For economic growth, we need a reliable supply of electricity – President Ramaphosa



BOLD TURNAROUND PLANS:
President Ramaphosa outlines his turnaround plans for Eskom.

The President has conceded that of all the ills of the state-owned enterprises, Eskom's load shedding remains a thorn on the flesh of the developmental agenda of our country due to the significance of energy in driving economic growth, writes Abel Mputing.

"One reason for the lacklustre economic performance has been the load shedding early this year, together with the continued uncertainty in the supply of electricity and the state of Eskom."

To him, the lesson is clear: "For [economic] growth, we need a reliable and sustainable supply of electricity. Eskom is facing serious financial, operational and structural problems. But there has been progress as Eskom has made much progress in implementing its

9-Point plan: ensuring better maintenance of its generation fleet, reducing costs and ensuring adequate reserves of coal."

He said this can be attributed to both the Eskom Sustainability Task Team and the Technical Review Team. "Eskom is deploying its most skilled and experienced personnel to where they are needed most.

The utility's financial position remains a matter of grave concern. Government's commitment to fund Eskom would ensure that it has sufficient cash to meet its obligations until the end of October 2019. The government has chipped in to ensure that it does not default on its loans, because such a move will have a huge impact on the already constrained fiscus," he said.

"But what Eskom is faced with cannot be solved through a short-term plan, a long-term funding framework is needed – and as a result of that, plans



are in place to table a Special Appropriation Bill on an urgent basis to allocate a significant portion of the R230 billion fiscal support that Eskom will require over the next 10 years in the early years."

He emphasised why this has to be done.

"This we must do because Eskom is too vital to our economy to be allowed to fail.

Further details will be provided by the Minister of Finance in due course." He also mentioned that plans are

afloat to announce the Chief Restructuring Officer and new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the utility.

And praised the outgoing CEO, Mr Phakamani Hadebe, for stabilising it in most difficult times in its history.

"He came in at a difficult time at Eskom and has done a great deal with the board led by Mr Jabu Mabuza to stabilise the company.

The former CEO's task would be to reposition Eskom financially, with careful attention to the

mix between revenue, debt and cost structure of the company."

He also stressed that one of the thorny issues that has crippled the utility's financial standing is the non-payment of electricity by municipalities and individual users.

"As a country, we must assert the principle that those who use electricity must pay for it.

Failure to pay endangers our entire electricity supply, our economy and our efforts to create jobs," he said. 🇿🇦

Oath of office reminds MPs of their duty to all South Africans, says Chief Justice Mogoeng

The Constitution places the responsibility for the swearing-in of Members of Parliament and Presiding Officers in the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng.

After announcing the election results, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) hands over the proposed list of Members of Parliament (MPs) to the Chief Justice who then hands it over to the Secretary to Parliament.

Chief Justice Mogoeng explains that “on 15 May, at Constitution Hill, the IEC commissioners and executives came to hand over the list of MPs and the list of Members of the Provincial Legislatures (MPLs) to me, which I in turn handed over to officials and the Chairperson of the NCOP so that they can embark on an exercise of ensuring that all the logistics are in place and for the purpose of the swearing-in ceremonies”.

“Because the Constitution places the responsibility on my shoulders to determine the date for the swearing-in of Members of the NA and also to preside at the first sitting of the NA, the NCOP and the provincial legislatures, I then determine the dates on which this was going to happen, in consultation with my colleagues.”

The Chief Justice asked the Judges President to administer the oath of office to members of the provincial legislatures. This is because the swearing-in of members of the NA and the provincial legislatures takes place on the same day.

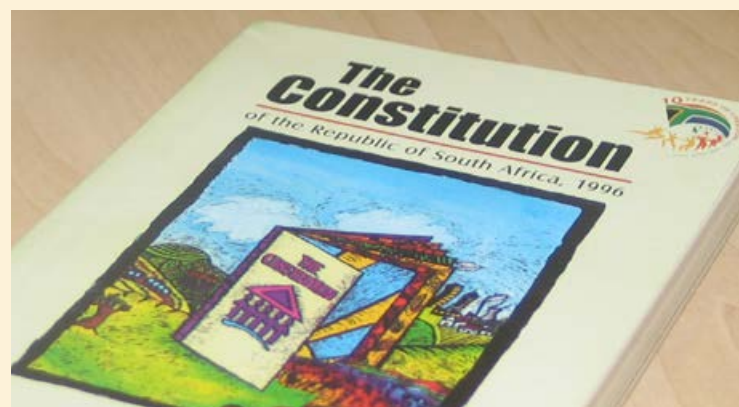
“After the swearing-in of the Members of the national legislature, the Speaker must

be elected, and there is always a possibility that we may have more than one name. If there is one name, it doesn’t matter because then what I will do is just declare that candidate officially. But, if we have more than one name, we run elections, very much like the IEC.”

“The same process is embarked upon by provincial legislatures in terms of the rules, and those rules, in terms of which the swearing-in and the elections happen, are made by the Chief Justice. They have been in place, but every year I revise them and cause

candidate, then we will have to hold elections. That is what the Constitution requires of us. The same process is followed at a provincial level.”

The Chief Justice reminds us that “the President and the Premiers are not able, in law, to commence with their official duties unless an oath of office or an affirmation has been administered. This oath is important. It says to us an oath is not just part of the traditional ritual that people must go through as a matter of course. No. It is of critical significance. That is why you can’t do anything related to



A similar process is followed with the swearing in of Premiers. The Chief Justice cautions that “it would be highly irregular for them to act as if they have the constitutional authority to appoint people before their authority has been properly

corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Never forget that you may be corrupted.

Never forget that you may forget that this is not your homestead and begin to act as if the whole public owes you something. It’s a critical responsibility. It is an honour, a humbling opportunity to occupy the space, so give it your best for the good of the broader public.

Speaking for myself, what helps me, is to never forget that people died. People who did not even know me took it upon themselves to sacrifice their convenience, the wellbeing of their families and even their lives, so that South Africa could get to a point where everybody, regardless of colour, creed or race, can vote.”

Calling on MPs to serve South Africans “with dignity and integrity”, Chief Justice Mogoeng, concluded that we have “a great country.

We’ve got a very wealthy country. We owe it to posterity as constitutional office bearers, public representatives, members of the public, children and the youth, to spend time every day reflecting on what it is that we can do to make a difference to the future of South Africa. Let us reject greed. There’s nothing wrong with being wealthy, as long as it is not at the expense of others.” 🌟



DEFINING THE PROCESS:
Chief Justice
Mogoeng Mogoeng.

them to be gazetted so that if anyone is interested in the regulatory framework process they can access them with relative ease.”

After the election of the Speaker, the Chief Justice does not “have the authority to preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker. That authority resides with the Speaker” said the Chief Justice.

“Once that process is complete, the Constitution requires me to chair again, to preside over the election of the President, and the procedure is basically the same. If there is one nominee or one candidate, I declare that person duly elected. If there is more than one nominee or

your responsibilities, even though you are duly elected, until you have been cautioned about the nature of the office you are about to assume, and the critical responsibilities that go with it for the benefit of the broader public.

“So, that is what the Chief Justice and the Judges President representing him or her are supposed to do, administer the oath.

Once the president or premier has been sworn into office, then and only then are they in a position to announce who the Deputy President is going to be, who the Ministers are going to be, who the Deputy Ministers are going to be”.

conferred on them”. “One could say: ‘But why can’t you just allow people to read the Constitution, internalise it and begin to function as they are required to?’ It is necessary, especially in the presence of witnesses, that an oath is administered to a person. It’s a caution – be aware, the power does not belong to you.

Be aware that the budget that we assign to your department or your unit is not your money, it is public funds. We must make sure, as required by the Constitution, that power and resources are used only for their intended purpose.

Chief Justice Mogoeng called on MPs to remember the “expression that says power

Smaller parties promise tough oversight in 6th Parliament

Malatswa Molepo talked to some leaders of the smaller political parties at the IEC (Independent Electoral Commission) results centre immediately after the election results were declared free and fair by the IEC.

Smaller political parties have promised more oversight in the 6th Parliament to ensure effective service delivery. The hotly contested national and provincial elections produced 14 political parties that will represent South Africans in the 6th Parliament.

In what was the longest ballot in the South African history, 48 political parties contested the election. Following the election, the IEC declared that only 14 political parties had secured enough votes to guarantee a seat in the National Assembly.

One of the parties that saw a sizeable growth in the elections was the Freedom Front Plus (FF+), which increased its seat allocation from four seats in 2014 to 10 in 2019. Speaking at the IEC results centre in Tshwane, FF+ Chairperson Adv Anton Alberts said they were happy with the number of votes they received during the 2019 elections.

This has meant that they can send more representatives to both the national and provincial legislatures. “We will continue with the work we have done before, whereby we will be fighting against the expropriation of land without compensation. We will try to stop that legislation from going through. We will also try to enforce that the Minister of Labour gives us an undertaking that there will be a sunset clause on affirmative

action and that affirmative action laws must not focus on race anymore, but on socio-economic circumstances,” Adv Alberts said.

The Congress of the People (Cope) said its main consideration going into the 6th Parliament is to ensure that the decorum of the House is returned to its glory days, something which will ensure effective oversight. Cope lost one seat and will have only two seats in the 6th Parliament. “We must also ensure that the executive is accountable. They must account to Parliament. We must not say that the Ministers are our bosses. They must account to Parliament,” said Cope’s spokesperson Mr Dennis Bloem.

The elected political parties will have to prove to the electorate that effective oversight will be implemented.

Another party that lost one seat and retained only two seats was the African Independent Congress (AIC). The party promised that this will not impact on its oversight work in Parliament. “Because of the experience we gained in the past five years, this will empower us to do more effective oversight. We could see in the last Parliament that there were various areas that needed more attention, especially on service delivery and social ills. We are very determined to ensure rigorous oversight. We are going there to work,” said Mr Lulama Ntshayisa, the Deputy President of the AIC.

The elections have come and gone. Now the elected political parties will have to prove to the electorate that effective oversight will be implemented. 🍎



HANDING OVER:
IEC Chairperson Glen Mashinini (left) hands over the party lists to Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng and Acting Secretary to Parliament Ms Baby Tyawa.

The number of political parties represented in the National Assembly of the 6th Parliament, the number of votes they received and the number of seats they occupy.

	PARTY	VOTES	%	SEATS
1	ANC	10 026 475	57.50 %	230
2	DA	3 621 188	20.77 %	84
3	EFF	1 881 521	10.79 %	44
4	IFP	588 839	3.38 %	14
5	FF PLUS	414 864	2.38 %	10
6	ACDP	146 262	0.84 %	4
7	UDM	78 030	0.45 %	2
8	ATM	76 830	0.44 %	2
9	GOOD	70 408	0.40 %	2
10	NFP	61 220	0.35 %	2
11	AIC	48 107	0.28 %	2
12	COPE	47 461	0.27 %	2
13	PAC	32 677	0.19 %	1
14	ALJAMA’AH	31 468	0.18 %	1

Let us represent the interests of the people, new Speaker urges MPs



Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng congratulates Ms Thandi Modise after election as Speaker of the National Assembly.

Newly elected Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Thandi Modise has urged her fellow Members of Parliament (MPs) to always “put first” and respect the people who voted for them to be in Parliament, writes Sakhile Mokoena.

Addressing the House shortly after her election to the position of Speaker, Ms Modise reminded the MPs that they were not in Parliament to represent themselves and their own interests, but those of the electorate.

“We do not represent ourselves, we represent the people of our country. As we start our term of the 6th Parliament, let us represent those who sent us to this Parliament well. Let us respect those who are asking us and entrusting us with the running of their country. Let us respect the voices of those who got elected into this House. It doesn’t matter how angry you might be or how different the views of the other member might be. Every member in this house represents a constituency somewhere out there,” she said.

Ms Modise served as Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in the fifth Parliament. She was elected National Assembly Speaker over the Democratic Alliance’s Mr Thembekile Majola by 250 votes to 83, after voting through a secret ballot.

“I am honoured by the nomination and election as the Speaker of the National Assembly, the second chamber of the Parliament of South Africa. I understand fully

the struggle to move South Africa forward, to recognise all her people, to recognise all languages, all cultures and traditions of South Africa.”

She further emphasised the need for Members of Parliament to adequately use their legislative powers to protect and promote human rights and hold the executive to account.

“As elected representatives, we are both the products and custodians of the values enshrined in our Constitution. These values set the tone for how we conduct ourselves and how we manage the affairs of our people for the common good.

“I understand the continuing battle for dignity and respect for the majority of South Africans.

I understand the differences and diversity of South African citizens and others who reside within our borders. I also understand the responsibilities of public representatives.”

Ms Modise also paid tribute to her predecessor, former Speaker Ms Baleka Mbete.

“I have learnt a lot working with former Speaker Mbete and the other House Chairpersons. I hope that the tradition of consulting, ensuring that the business

of Parliament is shared accordingly, will continue and we continue to run this Parliament of South Africa in a very dignified manner.

“The National Assembly of the 6th Parliament will also continue to strive for clean governance, fight against corruption as well as ensure that government delivers on the commitment to end poverty, inequality and unemployment.”

Returning Deputy Speaker Mr Lechesa Tsenoli called on the members to work hard to ensure cleanliness and corruption-free management of the affairs of the state across the board. 🇷🇵

Voting for the Speaker.



“Let us not disappoint the people who brought us here with the hope that we will work with them to fight effectively against poverty, inequality and unemployment in this country.”

Deputy Speaker
Mr Lechesa Tsenoli



6th Parliament MPs have the power to hold the executive accountable.



Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson: NCOP will put citizens first

“Let me take this opportunity to reassure you that we will do all we can to master and deepen the art of doing.”
Amos Masondo



The Presiding Officers of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) have committed themselves to always be guided by the constitutional values of accountability and transparency, when carrying out their new leadership responsibilities, reports Sakhile Mokoena.

Mr Amos Masondo was elected Chairperson and Ms Sylvia Lucas was elected Deputy Chairperson during the first sitting of the NCOP, marking the beginning of the 6th Parliament. In their acceptance remarks shortly after election, the new Presiding Officers made explicit commitments that the Constitution will guide them in the next five years.

“Let me take this opportunity to reassure you that we will do all we can to master and deepen the art of doing. We will not merely dwell on matters theoretically, important though this might be. We will grapple with the most difficult – the art of doing. We will seek and strive to build this culture as we grapple with critical issues in the context of cooperative governance.

“I commit myself and undertake to do so, sparing neither strength nor courage. To do so to the best of my abilities. I pledge to do so with integrity and being guided by the constitutional values of accountability, responsiveness

and openness,” said Mr Masondo, who was a member of the National Assembly during the 5th Parliament.

His deputy, Ms Lucas, the former Premier of the Northern Cape province, emphasised the importance of public consultation and participation in legislative processes as a key requirement for strengthening democracy. This must not be taken lightly by elected public representatives, she said.

“Democracy requires that citizens should be continuously engaged in governance through interactions with those who are making decisions. It is not only about dropping a ballot in the ballot box, it is also to understand that it is an important element of democracy, only one step in the process of building a society that genuinely serves the interest of all its people.

“Those who are elected to make policy and laws on behalf of the people are required to fulfil the

mandate through continuous consultation and dialogue with the citizens on whose behalf they are acting,” she said. Ms Lucas added that: “We should strive to build an activist and people-centred Parliament. We should ensure that legislatures are strengthened as part of building a developmental state. We should all recommit ourselves to ensure that constituency work should indeed be used more effectively to link the legislature to our people. 🌟

“We should strive to build an activist and people-centred Parliament. We should ensure that legislatures are strengthened as part of building a developmental state.”

PICTURED:
ABOVE RIGHT:
Mr Amos Masondo
Newly-elected
Chairperson of the NCOP.

RIGHT:
Ms Sylvia Lucas
Newly-elected Deputy
Chairperson of the NCOP.





Members of the National Assembly 



Delegates to the National Council of Provinces 

A President for all South Africans

ACCEPTS LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY: President Ramaphosa, accepts his election as the President.



“My mandate is not to advance the interest of certain groups, but to advance the interest of our people as a whole.” **President Cyril Ramaphosa**

Accepting his nomination at the first sitting of the Sixth Democratic Parliament, President Ramaphosa said he was “honoured and humbled” to serve as President and “will seek to act and be President for all South Africans, and not just for the African National Congress and those who voted” for his party.

Elected unopposed as the fifth President of South Africa, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa promised to advance “the interest of our people as a whole” and to be “a president for all South Africans”.

He called on all political parties represented in the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to work with him “to build the South Africa of our dreams”.

President Ramaphosa said his mandate was not to advance the interest of certain groups,



but to advance the interest of all South Africa’s people as a whole.

“We have a mandate to build a nation that is at peace with itself and the world.

“We have the responsibility to revive and rekindle our institutions of democracy to work well. Our people expect robust exchange of views in this House.”

Calling on parties to treat each other with honour, dignity and

respect, President Ramaphosa added that “the majority of our people do not want to see us being a House of disorder, chaos and disrespect”.

The composition of the National Assembly, he said, is a reflection of the will of the people. He therefore assured the country of his commitment to working with Parliament “to achieve prosperity”.

President Ramaphosa also congratulated Ms Thandi Modise and Mr Lechesa Tsenoli

for their election, respectively, as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The leaders of all political parties represented at Parliament congratulated President Ramaphosa on his election, with the Inkatha Freedom Party leader, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in particular welcoming it as an opportunity “to navigate away from the years of corruption and to secure the best interest of the country”.

Acknowledging the congratulatory notes and messages of support, President Ramaphosa thanked all South Africans who braved “all manner of weather conditions to go and vote for us to be here. They spoke clearly and emphatically. 🇿🇦

“We carry a common mandate to build a nation our people yearn for. What we do here must be in the best interest of our people.”

MPs to hold executive accountable

The nine provincial delegations that make up the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) have pledged their support for the Presiding Officers of the 6th Parliament. They also undertook to work hard to hold the executive accountable and ensure that services are delivered to the people of South Africa.



Eastern Cape – Ms Zukiswa Ncitha:

The Eastern Cape wishes to assure the citizenry of South Africa that the NCOP is ready to hit the ground running in turning the tide against the stubborn challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment by ensuring an effective sixth term of the council.

We are confident that the newly sworn-in permanent delegates and the appointed Presiding officers are fit for purpose to discharge their duties of ensuring an activist and people-centred NCOP that will enact meaningful public participation, rigorous oversight and progressive law-making. Always remember to represent the provinces that have deployed you.



Free State – Premier Sefora Ntombela:

I am sure all of us have moved around all the provinces during the elections and we have heard what our people want. We have listened to them as they were telling us their needs. We have heard our people crying for better and faster service delivery. They have cried that they want jobs for their children. They are crying for houses. They are crying that we must give them sites. They are crying for water and electricity.

Gauteng – Premier David Makhura:

I want to say on behalf of the delegation from the Gauteng province, one of



the first things we would like the NCOP to look at is that the Gauteng province, in terms of population, the size of our legislature is not optimal. We have put this matter before the 5th NCOP and that matter was not concluded. We have the largest population in the country. The maximum size of our legislature is supposed to be 80. The 5th Parliament did not complete this matter. On behalf of the people of our province, we want to say it should be the first amongst the first priorities of the 6th NCOP.



KwaZulu-Natal – Premier Sihle Zikalala:

We believe that this is a very important House, the NCOP. We believe that we should continue to work together as provinces to raise issues that affect our respective provinces. Without dwelling on these issues, we would also want to remind this House that it derives its existence from the will of the people as they expressed themselves on 8 May in the election.

While coming from different political parties, we should accept and work together and represent the South Africans genuinely and pursue their interests. We wish the NCOP leadership well.

Limpopo – Mr Seaparo Sekoati:

We also come here understanding that the NCOP carries enormous tasks and responsibility to ensure that the aspirations and the



Northern Cape – Mr Kenny Mmoiemang:

We have confidence in the ability of this House to ensure the foundational values that this Constitution is based on, like ensuring that at all times when we take decisions, whether it is at the other arms of government and also at the legislative sector, there is rationality in terms of the decisions that we take.

We are looking forward for this House to ensure that we exercise oversight and accountability in terms of ensuring that this House is in a position to ensure that the National Development Plan, which is aimed at ensuring that we eliminate poverty by 2030, is achieved. We are going to be robust as the delegation from the Northern Cape in terms of ensuring that the peculiar circumstances that are faced by our province are addressed.

One of the issues that we have set in the past is the issue of the review of the formula of the equitable share, precisely by virtue of the fact that it disadvantages us, because it doesn't take into account the numbers that we have, the vastness that we have and the fact that it is expensive to implement decisions in our province by virtue of the distances that we need to travel.

As the Northern Cape delegation, we commit ourselves to rally the members of this august House to ensure that we position our sector and our executive to ensure that poverty, inequality and unemployment are addressed.



North West – Premier Job Mokgoro:

The main issues that continue to plague our people are the provision of adequate clean drinking water, as well as improved rural road infrastructure linking them to major urban centres, to name but a few.

I am highlighting these two examples that we in the North West are faced with in our quest to provide a better life for our people.

Notwithstanding the fact that our province is still under section 100(1) of the Constitution, this in part being overseen by an ad hoc committee of the NCOP.

We are making steady progress in the recovery process to stabilise the public service in the North West, but I want to appeal that there is a dire need to place much more emphasis on the interventions in our ailing municipalities.



Western Cape – Jaco Londt:

This is a very powerful House of Parliament and if we make sure that we take hands on the issues across party political lines, we can make a difference here.

We are first and foremost South Africans and my plea is that we put South Africa first when we serve in this House.



As the 6th Parliament took shape with the swearing in of Members of the National Assembly (NA), the legislators promised not to disappoint the electorate over the next five years.

InSession spoke to both new and returning members about how they will use their legislative powers to improve the lives of citizens.



Mr Jerome Maake of the African National Congress (ANC), who was a member of NA in the fifth Parliament: "Usually as the ANC we have our manifesto, plan of action, which is what the people voted us for. They expect us to implement the promises. Our duty as ANC MPs is to deal with the issue of legislation, ensure that we enact legislation that will enable the implementation of our manifesto as we have promised."

Mr Shaun August of the GOOD Party: "When we campaigned we were campaigning with a promise to fix South Africa because we know what the



problems are. We are not only going to identify the problems; we are also providing solutions. As we campaigned in the past four months, we saw poverty and many other problems facing our communities. We are putting together solutions and bringing them with us to Parliament. One of our focus areas is spatial justice. Poor people still reside far from their places of work; they spend 40% of their earnings on travel. We are also going to delve into correctional services and safety to identify problems and provide solutions to these portfolios."



Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa of the United Democratic Movement (UDM): "Of course we have a mandate from our constituency. We will continue from where we left off in the 5th Parliament, to strive for clean governance and sound financial management. We were part of the Nkandla inquiries and we will use those experiences to continue fighting corruption. Unfortunately, our reduced number of seats means that our voice and participation

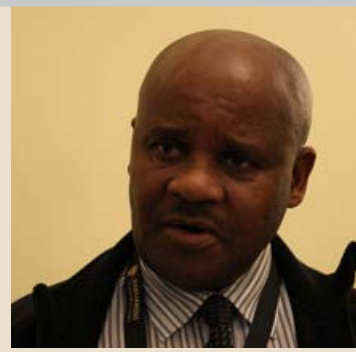
in the various parliamentary committees will be affected.

However, we will ensure that we have maximum impact in the committees that we do form part of and will ensure that our wishes are reflected. Most probably I will focus on the finance committees and party leader Mr Bantu Holomisa will be in the defence and environment committees, which he is very passionate about."



Mr Willie Madisha of the Congress of the People (Cope): "Although we have gone down from 30 members in the National Assembly (NA) during the 4th Parliament, three in the 5th Parliament and down to two in the NA in the 6th Parliament, our conviction to fight for change in the poor living conditions of ordinary South Africans across the length and breadth of the country grows stronger than ever before.

We are going to ensure that we make a strong voice in each and every debate in the House, demand accountability from government representatives on all the available platforms, including parliamentary committee meetings and service delivery sites, for accountability purposes."



Mr Lulama Ntshayisa of the African Independent Congress (AIC): "As a Member of Parliament I will do what is possible to ensure that the executive improves its record of service delivery, especially in rural areas where these services are most needed. And we will raise our voice as the party sharply on various platforms accorded to us by Parliament. And we trust that under the stewardship of President Cyril Ramaphosa, the executive will carry out its duties without any compromise."



Mr Pebane Moteka of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF): "During the 5th Parliament we went to our constituencies to familiarise ourselves with their concerns. We are now abreast of their struggles on the ground and we coming to the 6th Parliament with an informed and renewed mandate. We will fight and uphold their concerns through the parliamentary committees and we will continue to write questions to the President, the Leader of Government Business at Parliament and we will not relent until their issues are resolved. That is the mandate that we carry and we will do all what it takes to fulfil it.



Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP): "In this term we are hoping for an improvement in

Parliament's strategic oversight over the executive. For that to happen, committees need to improve their operational capacity and have a more focused resolve to hold the executive to account. This to ensure that the work of Parliament is not relegated to plenaries, for they are just a rubber stamp of executive decisions. Besides, I am of the view that in this term the idea of a Multi-Party Youth Caucus needs to be resuscitated.

The youth's participation in politics can no longer be confined to political affiliation. Parliament should play a meaningful role in uniting the voice of the youth on job creation, free education and the fight against drug abuse. If well constituted, this caucus would be a platform to share ideas, inspire hope and confidence in young people, critical issues that the Youth Parliament has failed to achieve over the years.



Mr Mzwakhe Sibisi of the National Freedom Party (NFP): "As Members of Parliament we have to listen to what the people on the ground have to say.

Most significantly, I am here to represent the will of my constituency. And I am here to advance its agenda.

I will ensure that our party does so to the letter. This is the responsibility that I hold dear in my heart and that informs my consciousness as my constituency's representative.

Most of all, I come from a deep rural area in KwaZulu-Natal and from the poorest of the poor. I am here to advance their needs. I won't betray the responsibility that my party and people have entrusted me with." 🌟

More women and youth MPs in 6th Parliament

Although there is no legislation enforcing equal gender representation in the national and provincial legislatures, Parliament continues to make strides towards improving women representation in the legislative arm of state, writes Sakhile Mokoena.



The sixth democratic Parliament has seen the number of women MPs in the National Assembly (NA) increasing to 45%, up from just over 42% in the fifth parliament.

“Of the current 393 NA MPs, 217 (55%) are men and 177 (45%) are women. This is a marked improvement on the NA of the fifth democratic Parliament, which had 168 (42.7%) women MPs”, Parliament spokesperson Mr Moloto Mothapo reported after the first sitting for the swearing-in of members following the May general elections.

In the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Permanent Delegates comprise 33 (61%) men and 21 (39%) women. This, also, improves on the 19 (35.2%) women Permanent Delegates in the NCOP of the fifth democratic Parliament.

The question of gender representation has been a major subject for discussion in Parliament and in international parliamentary forums. In the fifth Parliament, the Multi-Party Women’s Caucus resolved to lobby for amendments in the electoral laws to make the equal representation of men and women in Parliament and legislatures a legal obligation.

“We are also going to engage the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa

to lobby and advocate for possible review of the Electoral Act in preparation for the 2019 national and provincial elections,” said Ms Masefele Morutoa, the Chairperson of the women’s caucus during the fifth Parliament.

“I would like to encourage all women in this Parliament from both Houses to stand up with one voice and fight for 50-50 representation and participation. We need to ensure that there is proper legislation in place compelling all political organisations to ensure that there is 50-50 representation and participation in all party activities and in party lists.”

This campaign received a boost with the launch of South African chapter of the Commonwealth Women’s Parliament (CWP), whose mandate is also advancing gender equality in the legislative sector.

Some advocates of equal gender representation in the legislative sector argued that the presence of more women in Parliament and provincial legislatures brings a particular dimension and recourse into law-making and resource allocation.

Women MPs account for 44.5% of the sixth democratic Parliament (in both the NA

and NCOP), an improvement of about 3% on the number of women MPs in the fifth democratic Parliament. The fifth democratic Parliament had 187 (41.1%) women MPs and was ranked number 10 in the world in terms of women’s representation. This was out of 193 Parliaments, surveyed by the world body of parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The improvement in women MPs in both Houses of Parliament and the increase in the number of women cabinet ministers – 50% for the first time – will elevate the voice of this key sector of our society in executive decision-making, law-making and oversight of executive action. During the term of the fifth democratic Parliament, women made up 48.6% of cabinet ministers.

Three members of the Cabinet, which President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on 29 May, are not MPs. They are Mr Parks Tau (Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs), Mr Ebrahim Patel (Minister of Trade and Industry) and Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu (Deputy Minister of Social Development). Sections 91 and 92 of the Constitution, state that the President may appoint no more than two Cabinet Ministers and no more than two deputy Ministers who are not MPs of the NA.

In the fifth Parliament, the Multi-Party Women’s Caucus resolved to lobby for amendments in the electoral laws to make the equal representation of men and women in Parliament and legislatures a legal obligation.

The number of casual vacancies (vacancies arising from resignations after being sworn-in) in the 400-seat NA continues to increase due to resignations of former cabinet minister who were left out of the new cabinet announced by the President.

Mr Jeff Radebe, Dr Siyabonga Cwele, Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, Ms Susan Shabangu, Ms Mildred Oliphant and Ms Nomaindiya Mfeketo were some of the former ministers who resigned from Parliament. In addition, President Rampahosa ceased being an MP when the NA elected him as President of the Republic on 22 May.

In terms of South Africa’s definition of youth (14 to 35 years old), the presence young MPs has also almost

doubled in the sixth democratic Parliament. 51 (11%) MPs are youth – a significant improvement from the fifth democratic Parliament, which consisted of 27 (6%) young MPs.

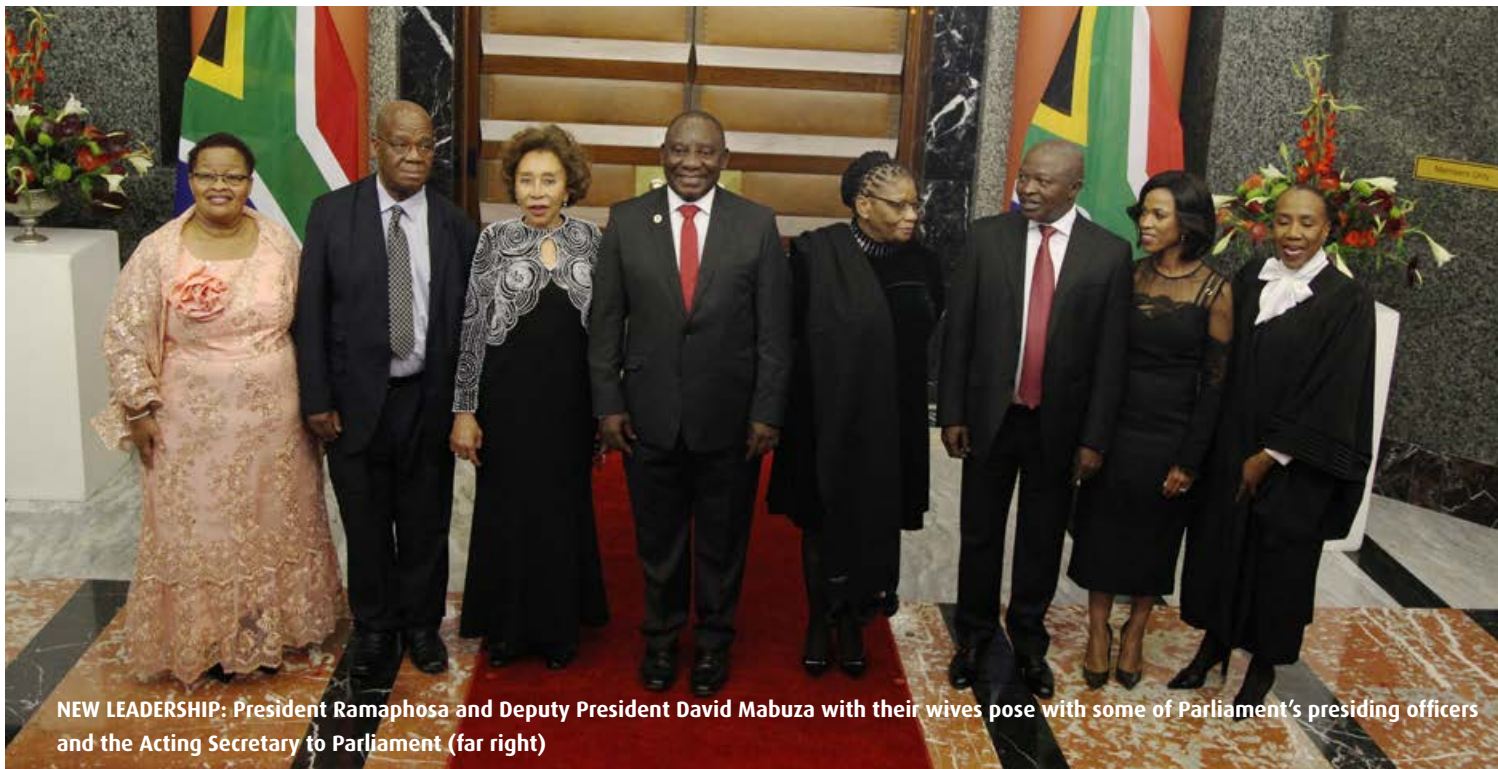
Of the youth MPs in the sixth democratic Parliament, 45 are NA MPs and six are NCOP Permanent Delegates. Of the total 51 youth MPs, 22 are women and 29 are men. Parliament’s youngest MP is 20-year-old Mr Itumeleng Ntsube, an African National Congress member and Free State Permanent Delegate to the NCOP.

The second youngest MP is 24-year-old Mr Sibongiseni Ngcobo, a Democratic Alliance MP in the NA. Fifteen youth MPs are younger than 31 – nine men and six women.

Parliament said the increase in young public representatives in the Cabinet and Parliament will further boost the national endeavour to tackling particularly the socio-economic challenges confronting our nation’s youth.

A StatsSA survey released last year showed that ours is mainly a young and female society. Women make up 51% of our population and 35.7% of our population is between 15 and 34 years old. 🇿🇦

The first State of the Nation Address of the Sixth Parliament



NEW LEADERSHIP: President Ramaphosa and Deputy President David Mabuza with their wives pose with some of Parliament's presiding officers and the Acting Secretary to Parliament (far right)

The first State of the Nation Address (SONA) in this new term of Parliament is called by the President of the Republic in terms of the Constitution.

The past 25 years have seen a progressive solidification and maturity of freedom and democracy through regular peaceful national and provincial elections, in which people's inalienable right to determine the government of their choice is exercised. The latest democratic elections held in May, have resulted in the establishment of the sixth Parliament, newly-established provincial legislatures, a newly-elected President and a newly-constituted National Executive.

The newly-constituted legislative and executive arms of the state, together with the judiciary, converged again in one place, since the election, for the President's State of the Nation Address on 20 June.

That SONA took place four days after the 43rd anniversary of the events of 16 June 1976. Parliament pays homage to

the youth of 1976 whose fearless actions inspired a revival of mass opposition against the apartheid regime. The sustained mass resistance contributed immensely to the collapse of apartheid minority rule and the founding of our democratic, non-racial and free South Africa.

The Youth Month is also being marked during the year in which we commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Congress of South African Students (Cosas), formed in 1979 to champion the struggles of students from Black schools nationally.

As South Africa marks these important milestones in the history of the youth struggle, it is worth recognising the increase in the representation of the young people in both Houses of Parliament, which is up from 6% to 11%. The socio-economic challenges, such as, unemployment and inequality confronting our youthful population, which stands at 37%, must be tackled with renewed vigour, energy and fearless oversight during this term.

SONA has taken place a few weeks since the first sittings of the Houses of Parliament

on 22 and 23 May 2019. Both Houses have established the structures and systems to enable the sixth Parliament to carry out its duties, according to the Constitution. Some of the issues which the sixth Parliament will have to consider would arise from the legacy reports of the fifth Parliament. A key issue for the remainder of this quarter, however, concerns Parliament's interrogation and consideration of the budget votes of all state departments and entities, including the Presidency and Parliament, and consideration of the Appropriation Bill, which allocates specific funds to specific state entities.

Mindful of the gravity of the work ahead, SONA provides the President with an opportunity to share government's comprehensive plans for the coming period.

The occasion also provides Parliament with an opportunity to interrogate the plans of government – through its oversight function – and to facilitate public involvement and put in place legislative interventions to realise the delivery of services.

The President's address, therefore, will be followed by

a debate through a joint sitting of both Houses on 25 June and the President's reply to the debate on 26 June.

While various features that have traditionally characterised both the preparations and the actual SONA ceremonies have been modified for this address, the occasion still preserved the decorum and solemnity of a key state event of this magnitude.

The guest list, however, had been carefully designed include ordinary members of the public.

The ceremony projected the constitutional make-up of the state (the three arms of the State) with a procession consisting of the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive, including a full ceremonial parade by the South African National Defence Force consisting of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

The military was also responsible for the Ceremonial Guard, the rendition of musical items, a salute flight by the South African Air Force and a 21-gun salute – which was synchronised to coincide with the playing of the national anthem.

As has occurred before, there was also a mounted police escort and a military ceremonial motor escort and the lining of the President's route to Parliament by the military.

A total of 1 200 guests of various categories were invited for this event.

Guest categories include:

- Representatives of statutory and Constitutional institutions
- Heads of Mission (the diplomatic corps)
- Representatives of the House of Traditional Leaders
- The Mayor of the City of Cape Town
- Representatives from civil society organisations, religious bodies, state-owned enterprises, business and trade organisations, trade union federations, academic and research institutions
- Members of the Judiciary
- Chapter Nine Institutions Supporting Constitutional Democracy
- Directors-general of national government departments
- Guests of political parties represented in Parliament
- Guests of members of Parliament. Members of Parliament, including ministers and deputy ministers, attend as part of their duties as public representatives

The SONA was broadcast on Parliament TV (DSTV 408) and was streamed live on Parliament's YouTube channel.

Members of the public participated through a wide range of interactive platforms. 📺

Young Members of Parliament talk about issues affecting South African youth

As Parliament celebrated Youth Month in June, some of its young Members of Parliament (MPs) talked about the work ahead and issues facing the South African youth, writes Zizipho Klaas.

Mr Itumeleng Ntsube – African National Congress

“The role of Parliament in advancing the interests of young people in South Africa is to make laws and legislations that are more advantageous to young people – and that should be the first priority of Parliament.”

Mr Baxolile Babongile Nodada – Democratic Alliance

“The biggest issue facing South Africans is the quality of our education and growing unemployment, both of which affect particularly young people. Parliament needs to

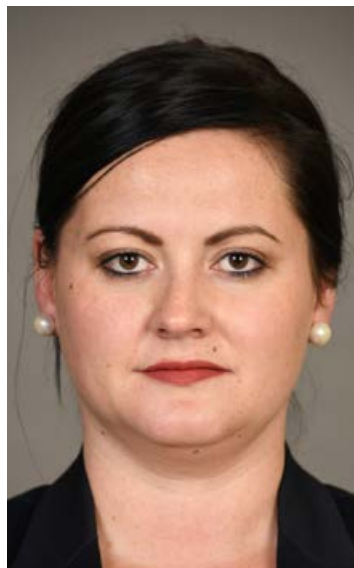
consider a Jobs Act, and we must focus our energies on school curriculums. We need to ask ourselves whether we are studying the correct things or bringing new ideas. Are we studying robotics, for example, or metallurgy, the things this country needs to stimulate growth? Parliament is that space where we influence policies and direct the country where it needs to be.”

Ms Nkagisang Poppy Koni – Economic Freedom Fighters

“The Economic Freedom Fighters have tried on so many occasions to pass a motion of free education to be realised in South Africa. Parliament should have done something in that regard. Even today, the majority of the youth are unemployed. Most of them are qualified to get proper jobs, but there are no jobs. As far as Parliament is concerned, I don’t think it is doing enough. The youth of 1976 wanted free education from early childhood learning up to higher education.”



Ms Moleboheng Modise – African National Congress



Ms Heloise Jordaan – Freedom Front Plus

Mr Mthokozisi Nkululeko Nxumalo – Inkatha Freedom Party

“As young MPs, we must ensure that we play an active role in all parliamentary structures and set an agenda for ourselves that will inspire other young people. Each generation of South African youth must define its own agenda and then accomplish it. Young people today are still at a stage where we are identifying ourselves and our own struggles. We must take our inspiration from the youth of 1976 and the things they championed at that time. We also need to push for what we believe will address youth unemployment, drug abuse and all the other social issues affecting the youth in South Africa.”

Ms Moleboheng Modise – African National Congress

“Parliament must advance the interests of the young people by passing legislation that speaks to the issues that affect young people in South

Africa. Put in the forefront the issue of youth unemployment. We need to look into how are we going to make sure that we improve our economy, so that we create jobs for young people. Parliament must ensure that young people after matric have access to higher education, so that in future they can be able to advance and make sure that they become entrepreneurs who can create jobs.”

Ms Heloise Jordaan – Freedom Front Plus

“Parliament as a legislative body must ensure that through legislation, a conducive environment for the promotion of opportunities for young people is created. The youth are the future of our country and it is the responsibility of Parliament to ensure that the potential of young people is harnessed, by empowering them through legislation that promotes equal opportunities for all young people in the country, and not just an elite few.”

History in the making: MP Ganief Hendriks (third from left), standing next to Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, the first MP to be sworn in on the Quran.

