



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

We, the People...

...Believe that South Africa belongs to those who live in it, united in our diversity...

We reject xenophobia, racism and all forms of intolerance in our country and commit ourselves to solidarity with all those experiencing oppression, on our continent and world-wide.

We will always remember, with appreciation, the support given to us during our own struggle for freedom, particularly by the people of Africa.

We live according to the principles of the Freedom Charter and our Constitution, which entrenches our common humanity and outlaws all racism, sexism and intolerance.

We therefore condemn, in the strongest terms possible, all expressions of xenophobia and intolerance in our democratic country and support the

majority of people who have made it clear that they want no part in this ugly form of discrimination and intolerance.

Freedom Day, which has just passed, reminds us of our first democratic, non-racial election in 1994 which demonstrated our ability as South Africans to come together in peace to forge our shared democracy.

The Africa Month celebrations in May provide an opportunity for us to further promote our African identity and good relations with our brothers and sisters from the continent. We look forward to the celebrations of Africa Day in every province on 25 May.

Issued by:
Parliament's Presiding Officers





Celebrating unity in Africa

Parliament is getting ready to celebrate Africa Day on 25 May. Every year on this day we remember the establishment in 1963 of what was then known as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now called the African Union.

We recall the words of the OAU Charter, signed by the 32 signatory countries. It commits the people of Africa to “a common determination to promote understanding among our peoples and cooperation among our states in response to the aspirations of our peoples for brotherhood and solidarity, in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences”.

It recognises that to achieve “human progress, conditions for peace and security must be established and maintained”.

This year these words take on a special significance for us as South Africans in the aftermath of the recent xenophobic violence.

Africa Day 2015 will be an opportunity to reaffirm our common African identity and reassert our shared humanity as Africans. We will remember the words of our president, Mr Jacob Zuma: “Violent attacks against foreign nationals violate all the values that South Africa embodies, especially respect for human rights, human dignity and ubuntu.”

As Africa Day approaches, we welcome the opportunity to promote our shared African identity and good relations with our brothers and sisters from the continent.

Parliament is committed to peace and unity on our continent. Our programme of action during this month and beyond includes a Joint Sitting of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces to celebrate Africa Day on 25 May.

**Reconciliation, human solidarity
and freedom for all**