

## **FAST FACTS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS, 3 JUNE 2009**

### **Public broadcast of the State of the Nation Address**

The State of the Nation Address will be broadcast live through:

- Parliament's website ([www.parliament.gov.za](http://www.parliament.gov.za))
- SABC television and radio
- Other television and radio stations
- 50 big screens spread across all provinces, in public spaces mainly in rural areas..

### **What is the State of the Nation Address?**

- The State of the Nation Address following a general election has special significance because it is the newly-elected President's first State of the Nation Address to a first joint sitting of a newly-constituted Parliament (the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces sitting together in one venue – the National Assembly Chamber)
- It is an address to Parliament by the President of the Republic of South Africa, as the representative of the people on the state of the South African nation, and is delivered annually to a joint sitting of Parliament.
- It is called by the President, through the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, when the President writes to them to request a joint sitting of Parliament.
- It is a state occasion and one of the key events on South Africa's Parliamentary and political calendar.
- The President addresses the nation in his capacity as Head of State and not as head of Government.
- It is one of the rare occasions when the three arms of the state come together in one place – the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature.
- The State of the Nation Address on 3 June is a full ceremonial one - involving a mounted police escort and a military ceremonial motor escort, the lining of the President's route to Parliament by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), a national salute by the Ceremonial Guard of the SANDF and a military band (the Air Force Band on this occasion), a fly-past by the South African Air Force and a 21-gun salute. It also includes civilian participation in the walk by the President, accompanied by Parliament's Presiding Officers, from the Slave Lodge to the saluting dais in front of the New Wing, where the National Assembly Chamber is located.
- Scaled down versions of the State of the Nation Address would involve less or no participation by the military.

### **Parliament's theme for the 3 June 2009 State of the Nation Address**

- The theme is "Parliament entrenching people-centred democracy in achieving development goals".
- This means that Parliament's function of monitoring and evaluation over the Executive sits at the centre of its activities.
- Parliament has to be an enabler of public participation.

### **What will happen on the day of the State of the Nation Address?**

The main events on 3 June start at around 8.00, in the following order:

- Members of the Judiciary, Speakers of Provincial Legislatures, Provincial Premiers and Diplomats arrive at the Company Gardens entrance to the National Council of Provinces building.
- Guests and members of the Executive (Cabinet) start to arrive.
- Junior and Civil Guards of Honour and Eminent Persons take up positions on both sides of the red carpet along Parliament Street from the entrance to the Parliamentary precinct.
- An imbongi takes up a position at the Slave Lodge to welcome the President. The imbongi later does the same at the entrance to the National Assembly Chamber when the President enters the Chamber.
- Former Presidents, former Deputy Presidents and the former Chief Justice arrive at the entrance to the New Wing.
- Procession of Premiers, Speakers of Provincial Legislatures, Judiciary, Parliament's Presiding Officers, Deputy President and President.
- The President takes the national salute on a podium outside the New Wing.
- The President delivers his State of the Nation Address in the National Assembly Chamber.
- Parliament's Presiding Officers adjourn the joint sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.
- The President, Deputy President and Parliament's Presiding Officers leave the National Assembly Chamber.
- Guests and Members of Parliament leave the National Assembly Chamber.

### **Public participation**

With the dawn of democracy in 1994, Parliament's doors opened to all South Africans. The occasion of the State of the Nation Address became a celebration of our nation, with public participation adding to the State's ceremonial activities.

Members of the public take part in the ceremony through the:

#### Junior Guard of Honour (about 250)

This comprises school students from schools in all provinces. Schools are invited and selected on the basis that they have represented South Africa or their province at international, national, provincial or local level competitions in the areas of sport, the arts and culture or participated in any other competition or award that has helped to boost the profile of the country, province or locality. The learners participating in the Junior Guard of Honour will carry provincial flags.

Schools invited to send representatives to form the Junior Guard of Honour at the 3 June State of the Nation Address are:

- **Eastern Cape** – Bisho High, Breidbach High and Dale College.
- **Free State** – Petunia Secondary, Mafikadiytshiu Primary and Kruitberg.
- **Gauteng** – Hulwazi Secondary, Sir John Adamson High and Zacharia Park Combined School.
- **KwaZulu Natal** – Ladysmith Secondary School, Sacred Heart Secondary and Carter High School.
- **Limpopo** – Balabela High School, Makgwahleng High School and Modumo High School.

- **Mpumalanga** – Vukani Primary School, Inkosinatsi Primary School and Sehlagabie High School.
- **Northern Cape** – Lukhanyiso Lower Primary School, Velalanga Primary School and Simbruner Primary School.
- **North West** – Klerksdorp Secondary School, Boitsenape Secondary School and Letsatsing High School.
- **Western Cape** – Excelsior Secondary, St Mary's Primary School, Wynberg Girls High School, Muizenberg Junior School, Thembaletu Special School and Ikhwezi Lesizwe.

#### Civil Guard of Honour (about 100)

For the 3 June State of the Nation Address, civil society organisations active in the gender/women, economic development, youth/children development and disabled fields have been invited to send representatives to form the Civil Guard of Honour. Organisations invited are the:

- Women's Legal Centre
- Gender Advocacy Programme
- New World Foundation
- Social Change Assistance Trust
- Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies, based at the University of the Western Cape
- Engender
- Utshani
- Participation Junction
- Community Development Programme
- Imizamo Yethu Development Forum
- Hangberg Housing Project
- Youth Commission
- Disabled People of South Africa

#### Eminent Persons (nine)

These are people who have achieved outstanding results in a particular field or been recognised for their contribution to society. They are nominated by Provincial Speakers from all nine provinces – one per province. Their names and profiles as sent by provinces are:

##### **Eastern Cape: Mr Bonisile Norushe**

He has been a Trade Unionist from the late 1970's to 1990. He is a former organizing Secretary of the then African Food and Canning Workers Union until he left the Country in 1983. In Lusaka, Zambia he was an NEC member of the then South African Congress of Trade Union. Initially, he occupied the position of National Treasurer where he was responsible for raising funds internationally for the administration at headquarters and channeling funds secretly to the underground operations inside the country.

Later he was re-deployed to be Head – International Relations of the same organisation from 1988 until the movement was unbanned in 1990.

He received his military training in Lesotho in 1983 and in 1984 in Zambia and received his advanced military training in Moscow in the then Soviet Union in 1986. He worked in the army with

Comrade Charles (Nkrume) and the late Comrade Chris Hani in preparing guerillas who were entering the Country on how to conduct themselves once inside the Country especially those who were coming to the Border Region of the Eastern Cape.

During the same period he was also the Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Youth Section in the Liland Branch. At the time of the unbanning he was also operating at District level of the SACP under the leadership of Comrade John Nkadimeng, who, at that time was the General Secretary of SACTU and also a member of the President's Council.

In 1990 he left Lusaka to go and do academic studies in Great Britain. He graduated in 1995 with a BA (Hon) Business Administration, majoring in Human Resources.

To date he is a Treasurer in the Dairy Co-operative at Keiskamahoek which is located in the Eastern Cape Region. From 2005 to date he has been organising ANC veterans. He is the Provincial Chairperson of the ANC Veterans League.

Recently he was appointed by the ANC Zone at Keiskamahoek to chair and lead the Keiskamahoek Development Initiative. He is taking the initiative of identifying all Government Projects at Keiskamahoek and accessing whether service delivery is up to scratch. He is also pursuing new projects like Paprika and the Blue Berry. Lastly, he is running an advice centre called Qobo-qobo Advice Centre whose primary purpose is to fight poverty in areas which comprises of 38 Villages.

#### **Gauteng: Mr Simon Ismael Noge**

He is a retired professional teacher who served in the planning committees during the bus boycott in Alexandra. He spent the better part of his time in exile in Swaziland and this is where he practiced as a teacher. Currently, he is very much involved in community development as member of the Alexandra Land and Property Association. He is also involved in a programme of assisting schools in introducing School Human Rights which is meant to assist learners to understand issues of human rights. He is a member of the Alexandra Teachers Committee where he is playing an advisory role around the curriculum.

#### **Free State: Mr Sekhoane Lebentlele**

He is an ANC veteran who spent better part of his life in countries such as Angola and Lesotho. He is the survivor of the Maseru raids that were carried out by the then SADF. In coming back to the country, he was amongst the MK soldiers that were integrated in the SANDF where he worked until retirement.

#### **KwaZulu Natal: Rev Dingane Sithole**

He played a prominent role during the struggle against apartheid where he assisted many political activists when they were sought and harassed by the security forces. He also provided spiritual support to those who lost their family members through torture and killings by apartheid forces.

#### **Limpopo: Mr Legora Campbell Molaba**

He is an MK veteran who spent better part of his life in exile. Currently, he is involved in community development through a vegetable garden project. The project is assisting in poverty alleviation in

the area of Ga Mphahlele Seleteng by supplying the vegetables to the local pre schools. He has also started orchards which supply fresh fruits to the local communities.

**Mpumalanga: Ms Nora Patricia Fakude**

She is involved in many community development projects that are dealing with women empowerment in the area of White River. She has played an important role in the improvement of lives for rural communities through initiatives such as ensuring that rural communities have access to public transport.

**Northern Cape: Mrs Mietha Seperepere**

She is the struggle veteran who spent her life in exile. She has served as an ANC Representative in many countries while the ANC was still banned. She has also served as a Member of Parliament from 1994 until 1999.

**North West: Ms Sylvia Benjamin**

Profile not sent yet

**Western Cape: Mr Phillip Bam**

He is a well-respected community leader who has been involved in community organisations and represented their interests in various forums.

**What is the significance of the:**

Presidential procession to the National Assembly Chamber?

The ceremony, which starts at the Slave Lodge, just outside the entrance to the Parliamentary precinct, is a combination of public participation and a formal state ceremony.

It is normally an annual (there are two in an election year) ceremony of state at which the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature play out their constitutional roles in full view of the nation.

The public participation part of the procession is important because Parliament strives to make the institution accessible to people and to encourage public participation in its workings.

Former President Nelson Mandela introduced the public participation component.

The first part of the procession from the Slave Lodge to the gates of Parliament involves a military guard of honour.

From the entrance to the Parliamentary precinct, members of the South African public line the red carpet.

There is a Junior Guard of Honour from the entrance of Parliamentary precinct to the end of the National Council of Provinces building.

A Civil Guard of Honour and nine Eminent Persons line the route after this until the end of the Old Assembly Wing.

Entertainers also perform along the public participation section of the route.

From the end of the Old Assembly Wing, the procession becomes part of a formal, state ceremony.

A Ceremonial Military Guard of Honour takes up a position in front of the New Wing in which the National Assembly Chamber is located and a military band – this year the Air Force Band – sets up to the right of the New Wing (the side nearest Tuynhuys) and plays the national anthem. A 21-gun salute and an Air Force fly-past takes place while the President takes the national salute from a special dais.

#### The red carpet?

Rolling out a red carpet was originally reserved for kings and queens and signified a welcome of great hospitality and ceremony. Over time, the red carpet was also used to welcome Heads of State.

#### The 21-gun salute?

The tradition of rendering a salute by firing cannon originated in the 14<sup>th</sup> century when cannon and firearms came into use. Originally, warships fired seven-gun salutes, seven probably chosen because of the number's astronomical and Biblical significance.

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, the national flag, a visit from the Head of State of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family and a former Head of State.

#### Buildings along the procession route?

##### **The Slave Lodge**

This building is part of Iziko Museums of Cape Town and nowadays serves as a site of memory and commemoration of slavery in South Africa. The Slave Lodge dates back to 1679 and is the second oldest colonial building in Cape Town. It was initially used as a lodge for the slaves of the Dutch East India Company. As one of the main government buildings in Cape Town over the centuries it had many functions, including serving as a post office, a hospital, a public library and the seat of the Supreme Court.

From 1827 to 1833 it was the seat of the British Council of Advice. In 1834 the Cape was given a new constitution by the British, and two councils were established: an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. The Legislative Council met in the Slave Lodge. For the first time members of the public and reporters were allowed to attend the sessions of this new Council – in the past all business had been conducted behind closed doors.

The first two-chamber Cape Parliament was instituted in 1853. The new Legislative Council of 15 members functioned as the first colonial “Upper House” to which all members were elected. They continued to meet in the records room of this building until in 1884 they could move into the newly completed Parliamentary building.

##### **The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) building**

The oldest section of the Buildings of Parliament, which today houses the National Council of Provinces, was completed in 1885. The original design was by Charles Freeman, who designed other famous buildings in Cape Town such as the Standard Bank building in Adderley Street and the Methodist Church on Greenmarket Square. However, various financial and building problems were experienced and the project was reallocated to the Scottish architect Henry Greaves, who had just joined the Department of the Public Works. In the end the building took 10 years to be completed, from 1875 to 1885, and cost £220 000 – far more than the initial budget of £40 000.

The building was used from 1885 – 1910 for the two Houses of the Cape Parliament, namely the Cape Legislative Council (the Upper House in terms of the Westminster parliamentary system) and the Cape Legislative Assembly or Lower House.

With the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910 the Cape Parliament ceased to exist. The chamber of the old Cape Legislative Assembly became the Senate, first of the Union of South Africa in 1910 until 1961, and then of the Republic of South Africa until 1980, when the Senate was abolished. The chamber was used again from 1983 – 1994 for plenary sittings of the House of Representatives, comprising of so-called coloured members who were part of the tri-cameral Parliament established in terms of the 1983 Constitution.

After 1994 the Senate was re-established until 1997 as one of the two Houses of the first democratic Parliament of South Africa. In 1997, the Senate was replaced by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The Chamber underwent extensive renovations in 2001, changing the seating from a rectangular to a semi-circular layout. However, it still has its original deep red colour from the days when it was the Upper House of the Cape Parliament and modelled on the Upper House of the Westminster Parliament.

### **The Old Assembly Building**

With the Unification of South Africa in 1910, a building was added to the original 1885 building and a new Chamber for the Union Parliament was built. It was used for this purpose until 1961 when South Africa became a republic. Thereafter it was used until 1994 as the House of Assembly of the Republic of South Africa. Since 1994 it is used for committee meetings and for caucus meetings of the ANC. Public events like the annual Women's Parliament and the Youth Parliament also take place here.

After Unification in 1910, the second chamber of the old Cape Parliament was turned into a stately dining room for members and dignitaries, which it still is today. It was in this Old Assembly dining room that the former British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan made his famous "Winds of Change" speech in 1960.

### **Africa House**

Strategically placed in the heart of the South African parliamentary precinct, the former British High Commissioner's Office is a reminder of colonial links with the British Crown. This sandstone building was designed in 1937 by the architects John Perry & Lightfoot, who won an architectural award for it.

The building was sold to the Department of Public Works in 2003. It was renamed Africa House and is currently undergoing renovations for future use by Parliament.

### **Marks Building**

This building was commissioned by the business man and financier Sammy Marks as his Cape Town offices in 1904. The architect was the famous Herbert Baker. Originally it was a narrow building, only three bays wide, which was much extended at a later stage.

It was sold to the Department of Public Works a few years after completion.

This building housed the debating chamber of the House of Delegates (the Indian members of the 1983 tricameral Parliament) until their chamber in the new wing was completed in 1987. Today it houses MPs of the opposition parties, staff and members of the media.

### **National Assembly Wing**

The National Assembly Wing dates from 1983. It was built to accommodate the expanded needs of the Tricameral Parliament, and was added onto the south side of the existing building. It followed the same neo-classical architectural style. The project leaders were the architects Jack van der Lecq and Hannes Meiring.

Its main feature was a large new chamber, built for joint meetings of the three Houses of the Tricameral Parliament. Today this Chamber is used for the plenary sittings of the National Assembly. It is also used for joint sittings of the two Houses, eg for the President's State of the Nation Address and for addresses by international heads of state.

Above the new main Chamber was built a smaller chamber to house the plenary sittings of the House of Delegates. In terms of the 1983 Constitution this House was established for representatives of the Indian population group. This Chamber was completed in 1987. Today it is known as Committee Room E249 and used for committee meetings.

### **Good Hope Building**

This building has links with Parliament that go back a long time, as it was used for sittings of the Cape House of Assembly from 1854 – 1884. After that it served as the banqueting hall of the Good Hope Masonic Lodge until destroyed by a fire in 1892. It was then rebuilt as a music hall and theatre c 1900, known as the Good Hope Theatre.

The State purchased it from the Freemasons in 1916 for staff offices for the Governor who was seated in Tuynhuys. A new façade was built in 1925 in the Cape Revival style. It subsequently served as the State President's Office and the seat of the President's Council in the 1980s. Parliamentary members of the Inkatha Freedom Party occupied the building from 1994 – 2004. Since then it is used by MPs and staff of the ANC.

### **Tuynhuys and Stalplein**

Tuynhuys, which houses the Presidential offices, falls under the Presidency and is managed independently from Parliament.

Historically Tuynhuys (or Government House as it was called by the British) provided the grounds on which Parliament was built, with each extension creeping southwards into Tuynhuys gardens until in 1988 the buildings reached the Tuynhuys building itself. Tuynhuys still shares the same erf number with Parliament, and together were declared national monuments in 1984.

The large open area between the main gates and the front of Tuynhuys is called Stalplein. This name is derived from the Governor's horse stables. This area was originally the back yard of the building, with the main entrance on the side of the Government Avenue and the Public Gardens. This changed in 1913 when Government Ave was closed to vehicular traffic, and it became the main entrance to Tuynhuys. Stalplein was redeveloped in the early 1980s, when alterations to Tuynhuys also took place to accommodate the State President's Office.

### **Entertainers at Parliament on 3 June**

Poets Don Mattera and Lebo Mashile and Parliament's choir will perform in the National Assembly Chamber before President Jacob Zuma delivers his State of the Nation Address on 3 June.