

PHASE FOUR

- The Inauguration Ceremony commences with inter-faith prayers and a recital of the Preamble to the Constitution of South Africa.
- Following the Swearing-In of the President by the Chief Justice, the President will take the Oath of Office before signing the swearing-in certificate.
- The President as Commander in Chief will take the National Salute by the South African National Defence Force.
- The National Ceremonial Guard will perform a Guard of Honour and National Salute for the Inauguration Ceremony.
- The South African Air Force will execute a fly past during the National Salute.
- The SANDF will perform 21-gun salute during the National Salute.
- The newly inaugurated President will also address the nation.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR DEMOCRACY

- Following the inauguration the Opening of Parliament Address will take place at the first joint sitting of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces at a date to be set by the Speaker of Parliament after the administration of the seventh democratic administration has been set up.
- The Opening of Parliament Address (OPA) is conducted by the President of the Republic.
- The OPA occurs once every five years, after elections, to announce the new administration's plans and marks the beginning of the new parliamentary term.
- The Opening of Parliament is more than a ceremonial occasion; it is a platform where the government's vision and priorities are presented, setting the tone for the legislative and administrative actions to follow. It also symbolises the functioning of the new Parliament, reflecting the continuity and stability of governance.
- The State of the Nation Address (SONA) is the annual address in February by the President to outline the government's plans and priorities for the year and report on the state of the nation.



FACTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S INAUGURATION.

- The day of the inauguration includes a number of events that have become traditional.
- The inauguration signals the transition from one administration to the other.
- It is a formal ceremony to mark the beginning of the incoming President's term of office.
- On inauguration day, the President takes an oath of office to officially become President of the Republic of South Africa.
- By taking the oath of office, the new President promises to perform the responsibilities of the office and uphold the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
- The presidential inauguration is an opportunity for the President to outline the policies of the incoming administration.
- The inaugural address informs South Africans of the new President's intentions as Head of State.
- The President will name a new cabinet shortly after the inauguration.
- South Africa's presidential inauguration holds immense historical significance, symbolising transition, unity, and the resilience of its people.

PHASE ONE

- South Africa's seventh democratic election held on 29 May will result in the formation of the seventh democratic Parliament.
- The seventh democratically elected Parliament will be made up of political parties and independent candidates who received enough votes in the election to get representation in Parliament.
- Election results must be declared within seven days after an election in terms of Section 57 of the Electoral Act.
- Following this, members for the National Assembly are designated by the Electoral Commission, and the list is handed by the Commission to the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, who then hands them over to Parliament through the Secretary of Parliament.
- The first sitting of the National Assembly must occur no more than 14 days after election results are declared.
- The Chief Justice of the Republic determines and gazettes the date for this sitting.
- The Chief Justice will officially declare the date of the first sitting of the National Assembly.

PHASE TWO

- The seventh democratically elected Parliament will convene for its first sitting.
 - At its first sitting, members of the National Assembly will elect the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and also the President of the Republic.
 - The Chief Justice will also preside over each Member of the National Assembly's swearing in or affirmation of faithfulness to the Republic of South Africa and obedience to the Constitution.
 - Section 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa directs that the Chief Justice must preside over the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly or designate another judge to do so.
 - The newly elected Speaker will then preside over the election of a Deputy Speaker.

- The Chief Justice will again preside over the election of the President, selected from amongst the Members of Parliament in the National Assembly.
- The President, once elected, ceases to be a Member of Parliament, and must take up office within five days of being elected.
- The election of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and President is done via a secret ballot, and a candidate only wins if he or she obtains more than an absolute majority of the votes cast.
- The President, after taking the oath of office, exercises a constitutional prerogative to constitute the National Executive or Cabinet.
- In terms of section 91 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Cabinet consists of the President, as head of the Cabinet, a Deputy President and Ministers. The President appoints the Deputy President and Ministers, assigns their powers and functions, and may dismiss them. The President may select no more than two Ministers from outside the Assembly to Cabinet.
- The President appoints the Leader of Government Business, in terms of section 91(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Leader of Government Business is responsible for the affairs of the national executive in Parliament.

PHASE THREE

- South Africa will inaugurate its 7th democratically elected President on 19 June 2024.
- The Presidential Inauguration will take place at the Union Buildings in Tshwane under the theme "30 years of Democracy; Partnership and Growth".
- The inauguration will be attended by guests from various sectors of South African society, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, leaders of political parties as well as esteemed guests from the African continent and the international community.
- Heads of State and Governments have also been invited to attend this prestigious event at the Union Buildings.

