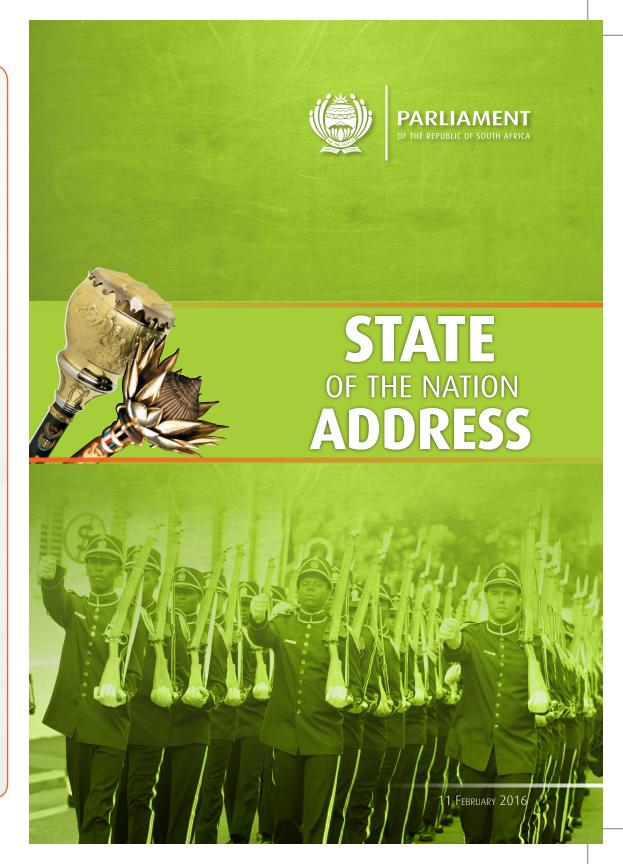
- The proceedings can also be viewed via video streaming on Parliament's website: www.parliament.gov.za
- · For further information please contact Parliament via telephone at
- 021 403 2911 or E-mail: info@parliament.gov.za
- You may also visit Parliament's website at www.parliament.gov.za or visit our mobile site on m.parliament.gov.za
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#### What is the State of the Nation Address?

• It is an annual address to the nation by the President of the Republic of South Africa as the Head of State. It is delivered at a joint sitting of Parliament – customarily at the beginning of an annual session.

### When is the State of the Nation Address happening?

- The State of the Nation Address (or SONA) will be delivered at a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament (National Assembly and National Council of Provinces) on 11 February 2016 at 7pm.
- The proceedings will be broadcast live from Parliament from 5pm onwards.

#### What is the theme for the 2016 State of the Nation Address?

• The 2016 theme is: **"Following up on our commitments to the people".** 

## What happens during the State of the Nation Address?

- The President sets out government's key policy objectives and deliverables for the year ahead.
- It highlights the achievements and challenges experienced over the past year and maps the year ahead and beyond.
- It covers wide-ranging political, economic and social matters and considers the general state of South Africa.
- It deliberates on South Africa's domestic affairs as well as its continental and international relations.
- · The full address is recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

## What happens after the State of the Nation Address?

- Political parties have an opportunity to debate, comment and raise questions on matters addressed in the President's speech during a debate on the President's State of the Nation Address.
- This debate usually takes place over two days in a joint sitting. This year the debate is scheduled for 16 to 17 February.
- The President will have the opportunity to reply to the debate on 18 February 2016.

## The link between the State of the Nation Address, Budget and the oversight function of Parliament

- The State of the Nation Address outlines government's priorities for the year.
- The Minister of Finance allocates the Budget in line with the priorities outlined in the State of the Nation Address.
- Parliament conducts oversight to ensure that government delivers on the priorities set out in the State of the Nation Address and that allocated funds are spent accordingly.

## How can the public participate in the State of the Nation Address?

- · Attending the State of the Nation Address as invited guests of Parliament
- Part of Civil Guards of Honour, Junior Guards of Honour or Eminent persons.
  - o The Civil Guards of Honour are made up of ordinary South Africans.
  - o The Junior Guards of Honour are drawn from schools around SA.
  - Eminent persons are nominated by the Speaker of each Provincial Legislature
    nominated on the basis of their contribution to society.

# How can you access more information about the State of the Nation Address or about what's happening in our Parliament?

- The State of the Nation of Address will be broadcast live on:
  - SABC radio stations
  - o SABC TV
  - DStv Channel 408
  - o eNCA
  - o ANN7



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