

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR SONA  
09 FEBRUARY 2017**

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**1. Introduction**

- a. Parliament cherishes and will protect the right of the media to report on its activities including the State of the Nation Address
- b. Media freedom is a defining characteristic of a vibrant constitutional democracy and Parliament will always endeavour to sustain and promote this as part of citizen empowered.
- c. Parliament had established good and dynamic relationship with the media since the advent of democracy and the adoption of the Constitution 20 years ago.
- d. The existing relations and collaboration between media and Parliament will progressively be improved quantitatively and qualitatively, with simplified guidelines, outputs and outcomes.

**2. Managing relations with objectives**

- a. The principled position taken by Parliament in respect of media operations, is a commitment of the apex leadership both politically and administratively to ensure openness as well as media and public access to Parliament.
- b. A lead agency of Parliament for driving the execution of this policy position, is the Parliamentary Communication Services (PCS) led by a Divisional Manager, that reports to the support services Deputy Secretary to Parliament (DSTP), who in turn reports to the Secretary to Parliament (STP). In cases of any doubt about any policy or regulatory matter affecting the media, PCS is the point of call, and unresolved matters should be escalated to the DSTP and STP.
- c. In managing the flagship programme of the State of the Nation Address, Parliament has a primary responsibility to ensure precision and professionalism in its execution. To realise this goal there are a number of non-negotiables, that have become

well known traditions to the media as well. These include: accreditation on time, basic security checks, searches at entrances, non-interference with proceedings when the programme starts, media's right of access to be able to report on parliamentary events.

- d. The changes made to the logistics of managing accreditation, have been necessitated by the intensity of the processes and growth the among others numbers of media houses and media workers seeking accreditation, in addition to guests. Details of how these matters will be handled are outlined hereunder:

### **3. COLLECTION OF ACCREDITATION (ACCREDITED MEDIA ONLY):**

All media will be issued with photo-accreditation and it will be available for collection as follows:

- **49 HOPE STREET- GOVERNMENT GARAGE- (3 TO 9 FEBRUARY)**
- Collection of tags opened on **3 February and will run until 9 February 2017**. Media personnel are encouraged to collect their accreditation to avoid long queues on the day of the State of the Nation Address.
- Broadcasters who need to be on air by 6am on the day of the State of the Nation Address must collect their accreditation prior as no accreditation will be available before **8am**. The Flame of Remembrance entrance will open from 4am to allow access for accredited broadcasters (Please produce your accreditation tags for entry).
- **NB No accreditation is issued in Parliament at all. Accreditation is only available at 49 Hope Street**
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- Media personnel should collect their accreditation in person and present their identification documents (identity document, passport) **and** Press Card, for the collection of accreditation tags and sign upon receipt of accreditation tags.
- **All accredited media with accreditation tags (collected at 49 Hope Street), enter Parliament through Flame of Remembrance in Plein Street on 09 February 2017.**

### **4. SET UP FOR OUTSIDE BROADCAST VEHICLES**

- Only accredited media will be allowed to access designated areas
- Only essential vehicles (outside broadcast) will be allowed onto the Parliamentary precinct.
- All set-ups, in designated locations, must be complete and ready for inspection by Parliamentary officials on Wednesday, **08 February 2017 at 16:00** **(no set up will be allowed on 09 February 2017)**
- Assistance with overhead cables will be provided
- This media information will be available on Parliament's website
- Please adhere to Health and Safety requirements.
- Please ensure all relevant clearance certificates are submitted by **08 February 2017**

#### **5. BROADCAST MEDIA AND LIVE FEEDS:**

All accredited broadcast media may obtain live feeds from Parliament's Broadcast and Audio Visual Office (For Television) and the Government Communication and Information System (For Radio). Please contact the media officials below for details.

#### **PLEASE ATTEND AN IMPORTANT MEETING ON 09 FEBRUARY 2017 AS FOLLOWS:**

- Venue: Imbizo Centre (GCIS), 120 Plein Street Building (09 February 2017)
- Time: 13:00 and lunch will be served after the meeting.  
Refreshments
- Tea, coffee, water and juice is available between 9am and 12noon at the Imbizo Centre, cups to be thrown in the provided bins at Imbizo Centre.

#### **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHERS**

- **NB:** Compulsory meeting with all the National Assembly Pool Photographers to take place at 16:30, Imbizo Centre.
- Please do not use flash photographer or tripod in the National Assembly Chamber
- Please keep your belongings with you at all times

#### **ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER**

- Accreditation to the National Assembly Media Bays is strictly not transferable. Media accredited to these bays will have their access indicated on their general accreditation cards and there will be no armbands/tickets issued like previous years.

- Media who confirmed their attendance are urged to attend to avoid unnecessary empty seats which cannot be occupied by anyone else. All media must be seated in the National Assembly Chamber by **18:00**.
- Taking of pictures from Media Bay is strictly prohibited (by cell phones/Tablets/still cameras). Pictures can only be taken by accredited photographers from the Public gallery.
- Photographers and broadcast media accredited with access to stationary/fixed positions in the National Assembly Chamber foyer or the National Assembly Chamber's public gallery must be in position by **17:30**. There can only be 6 photographers at a time in the Gallery (photographers will be expected to alternate with colleagues and a media management official will manage the process)

### PLEASE DO:

- Collect your photo-accreditation registration tag from the accreditation centre at 49 Hope Street (**03 to 09 February 2017**) and present your identification (ID book, passport) and Media/Press Card.
- Follow instructions from media management officials and security personnel.
- Wear your accreditation tag while you are in the Parliamentary precinct.
- Schedule interviews ahead of the State of the Nation Address, if possible.
- Conduct on-the-spot interviews and take photos only in designated areas.
- Be seated in the National Assembly Chamber by **18:00**, if you have accreditation for the media bay in the chamber.
- Be in position by **17:30** if you have accreditation for stationary/fixed positions in the National Assembly Chamber foyer.
- If you are in the pool of media allowed to rove along the red carpet, please keep three metres away from the carpet at all times.
- Notify the Media Management Unit if you are a broadcaster and wish to obtain a feed of the President's State of the Nation Address. The feed is available from Parliament.
- Obey requests of designated Media Management Officials.

### PLEASE DON'T:

- Try to obtain accreditation on **09 February** if you did not receive notification that you have already been accredited.
- Try to gain access to the National Assembly Media Bay if you have not been accredited for the media bay with a seat number on your accreditation tag.

- Try to bring people or structures onto the Parliamentary premises for which you have not received permission.
- Erect temporary structures on the Parliamentary precinct for which you have not submitted a service provider clearance certificate, approved by the relevant Parliamentary and Department of Public Works officials.
- Behave in a manner that disrupts proceedings and processions.
- Crowd or block entry to Poorthuys or the National Assembly building before/after the State of the Nation Address. A designated space for interviews before and after the address will be set aside and will be clearly marked with a red rope.
- Try to cross the red carpet after **17:30**.
- Use a flash or tripod when photographing inside the National Assembly Chamber.
- Try to film in the National Assembly Chamber. Feed of proceedings in the Chamber is available to all to broadcasters.

**Who to contact:**

Manelisi Wolela – 0760622180 (Acting Divisional Manager of PCS and Acting Spokesperson to Parliament)

Letebele Jones - 073 651 7096 (Unit Manager for Media Management)

Liezil Cerf 076 778 2380

Estelle Randall – 071 6899 992

Modise Kabeli – 081 715 9969

Nolizwi Magwagwa – 081 716 5823

Masego Dlula – 081 715 9398

Manelisi Ntsodo – 081 716 2021

Mlindi Mpindi – 081 716 7329

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