



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

JOINT WHIPS PLANNING MEETING PRESENTATION

08 February 2021





Contents

1. Introduction
2. The Parliament precinct during the COVID-19 Pandemic
3. Management of COVID-19 for SONA
4. SONA Format
5. Protocol Management
6. Communications Management
7. Health and Safety



Introduction

The President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa has in terms of Section 84 (2)(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, read with Rule 7(1)(a) of the Joint Rules of Parliament, called a Joint Sitting of the Houses of Parliament for Thursday, 11 February 2021, at 19:00, to deliver the State of the Nation Address.



The Parliament precinct during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- ❑ Parliament has established a COVID-19 Rapid Response Team that is fully functional in order to assist it with the Management of the COVID-19 pandemic. An approved Policy on COVID-19 Management, established screening processes and Health and Safety measures in place to ensure the precinct is safe.
- ❑ The infection rate amongst staff has been well managed during the First Wave of Infections, from March till 15 December 2020 Parliament had 29 Infections, 28 recoveries and one fatality. The measures put in place enabled the establishment of a database for monitoring.



The Parliament precinct cont..

- ❑ Parliament was able to navigate through the different alert levels of lockdown from level 5 through 1. There were also strengthened COVID-19 systems and processes during the peak of the infections in Cape Town (Wellness Support and response, Therapeutic Sessions etc.).
- ❑ December 2020, saw the onset of the second wave of COVID-19 infections with a new strain identified, leading to a resurgence in infections placing a huge burden on the Health Sector. This led to an increase of fatalities of both MP and Staff.
- ❑ Consequently, a total of thirteen (13) Members of Parliament and five (5) staff members passed away due to COVID-19 (inclusive of 1st and 2nd wave). These numbers exclude party political staff as well as contractors.



The Parliament precinct cont..

- ❑ Parliament has maintained its protocols similar to those under alert level 5 and also aligned its responses to regulations laid down by the National Coronavirus Command Council. The protocols will continue to protect Parliament and assist in the mitigation of the risk of infections.
- ❑ The resident Doctor has advised that the number of people coming to the Precinct should remain at a minimum to contain the spread.

Management of COVID-19 for SONA

- A Wellness Plan has been developed. It includes a process flow for case management.
- Safety Rules to be adhered to inside the chamber will include use of face masks, physical distancing and sanitizing of hands and equipment
- Screening for COVID–19:
 - Professional nurses will conduct:
 - screening of Members of Parliament and staff at Nieuwmeester.
 - screening of Presiding Officers and Ministers at the female gym entrance
 - The clinic will be for consultations and one room in the clinic will be reserved for emergencies.
 - A doctor and a paramedic on site.



SONA Format

- Theme:** “Following up on our commitments to the people: Making your future work better”.
- No dinner** post the President’s address.
- No ceremonial processions** along the red carpet.
- The Executive Authority resolved on **a hybrid format** for the State of the Nation Address.
- In line with the COVID-19 protocols, only **fifty (50) Members of Parliament** will be in attendance.
- All other Members will be linked to the sitting virtually.
- Provincial Speakers, Premiers and the Judiciary will be linked to the sitting virtually.



SONA Format cont..

- ❑ A webinar will be set up to ensure the categories of standing invitations for guests are included to the SONA.
- ❑ This webinar will have the capacity for 1 000 guests. The platform used for the webinar will be non-interactive, with no chat capabilities.
- ❑ Categories to be included in the webinar platform are:
 - ❑ Guests of the Presidency;
 - ❑ VVIPs i.e. Former Presidents, Former Presiding Officers;
 - ❑ The Diplomatic Corps;
 - ❑ Select members of the community including the Business sector;
- ❑ Measures are being taken to ensure ICT Security – Parliament ICT and SSA
- ❑ All ceremonial aspects such as the 21-gun salute and the Ceremonial Guard on Stalplein, will be virtual – a selection of stock footage will be used.
- ❑ Parliament will commemorate those who lost their lives due to COVID-19.
 - ❑ A concept for a lantern lighting ceremony at the foyer of the National Assembly is being finalized.
 - ❑ Selection of a poet has been initiated.



Communications Management

- ❑ A communications management plan has been developed and implementation is in progress.
- ❑ 10 members of the media will be permitted inside the NA Chamber.
- ❑ Engagements with communicators (GCIS, Presidency, SANDF, SAPS, DPW, City of Cape Town) are ongoing.
- ❑ Presiding Officers hosted a media briefing on 27 January 2021 to provide an update on SONA preparations.



Protocol Management

- Engagements with stakeholders are ongoing.
- A draft Order of Proceedings has been developed.
- All ceremonial aspects have been excluded – these will be virtual.
- A dry run and briefing of the Presiding Officers has been scheduled for 9 February 2021.
- A request has been made to the Presidency to conduct the dry run for the President on the same day.

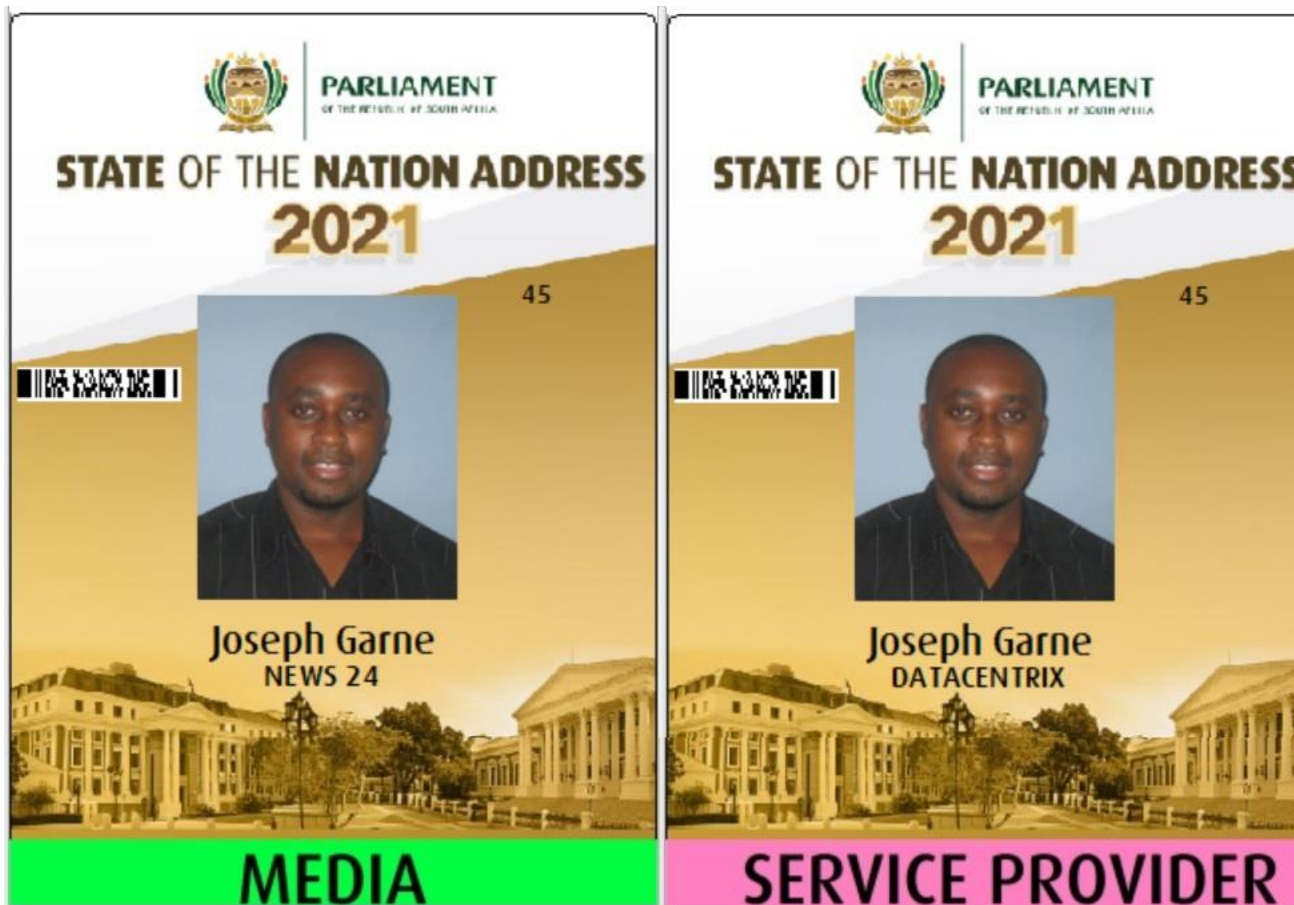


Security Management

- ❑ Engagements with the security cluster are ongoing.
- ❑ Facilities for evacuation have been confirmed.
- ❑ Permission for road closures has been granted by the City of Cape Town. These will be minimal to ensure safety of the precinct.
- ❑ Members of Parliament will utilize their parliament permits for access.
- ❑ Support staff of political parties will also use their parliament permit tags. No accreditation of staff will take place.
- ❑ Names of the support staff that require access on day of SONA should be submitted to ustevens@parliament.gov.za by 8 February 2021.
- ❑ Accreditation of the media and contractors will take place at the Tours Boardroom, 90 Plein Str., from 8 - 10 February 2021, 09h00 – 15h30.
- ❑ Accreditation designs have been prepared.
- ❑ Parking restrictions will apply from 10 February 2021.



Sample Accreditation





Health and Safety

- ❑ A Health and Safety Plan has been developed and implementation is underway.
- ❑ Inspections at venues to ensure that air-quality and cable suspension have taken place.
- ❑ Compliance inspections on all emergency escape routes and safety symbolic signage have been conducted.
- ❑ Compliance inspections at Electrical Substations, Air-conditioning plant rooms, Transformer rooms, Sprinkler Plant Rooms, Lift Rooms and Standby Generator Rooms have been conducted.
- ❑ Eskom has committed to minimizing load shedding on the day of SONA.



Members' Transport

- ❑ The Parliamentary shuttles will transport Members from Parliamentary villages and back.
- ❑ The shuttles will leave the villages at 16h00.
- ❑ Shuttles back to the Parliamentary villages will be available from 20h15.
- ❑ Shuttles will be sanitized before the passengers can embark.
- ❑ Members who use own transport will park in their bays inside the precinct.
- ❑ Staff supporting Members will park at Nieuwmeester.
- ❑ Wearing of masks, temperature checks, hand sanitization and physical distancing in the busses will also be practiced.



THANK YOU

