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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the National Assembly assembled at the Cape Town International Convention Centre at 10:04.

The Acting Serjeant-at-arms announced the Honourable Chief Justice, Justice Raymond Mnyamezeli Mlungisi Zondo, who was received by members standing.

The Chief Justice took the Chair.

The National Anthem was sung by the Parliamentary Choir.

The Chief Justice requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

MEETING OF FIRST SITTING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Hon members, this meeting has been convened by me as Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa in terms of section 51(1) of the Constitution of the Republic.

The purpose of this meeting is for the Chief Justice to swear in all members of the National Assembly, to preside over the election of the Speaker, for the Speaker to preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker and, ultimately, for the Chief Justice to preside over the election of the President.

I would like to remind you that this meeting is deemed to be in the precinct of Parliament as defined in section 2 of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act.

The swearing in of the members of the National Assembly is important because, in terms of section 48 of the Constitution, members of the National Assembly must swear or affirm faithfulness to the Republic and obedience to the Constitution before they begin performing their functions.

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I take this opportunity to say that I consider it an honour to chair this important meeting. It is an important meeting because of where we are as a country, having finished 30 years of our constitutional democracy and starting another 30 years. It is an important milestone because, as South Africans, we get an opportunity to look back on the road we have travelled, see where we have made mistakes and where we have done well, and make sure that, in the fourth decade of our democracy, we do not repeat the mistakes that we made in the first 30 years.

I congratulate each and every one of the members who will be sworn in today and want to stress the importance of the position that members of the National Assembly occupy. They make laws for our country and, in that way, shape the future of our democracy.

Therefore, as you take the oath or make the affirmation today, you will recall the huge responsibility that the people of South Africa have placed on your shoulders and the honour and privilege that you have been given to be part of this very important body in our country.

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RULES GOVERNING THE FIRST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Let me announce that, in accordance with, item 9 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution, I have made the Rules that govern the sitting today. Those Rules were published about a week ago. Yesterday, certain amendments were made to those Rules and those amendments have also been published.

We will, therefore, now, start with the first item, namely, swearing in of members of the National Assembly.

Members will be called in groups of up to 10 as arranged by the political parties. Members will, when their names are called out, please step forward to the stage to take their oath or affirmation, as the case may be. Members will, after taking the oath or affirmation, return to their seats to sign duplicate certificates at their desks. Members are requested to leave their certificates at their desks when they leave the Chamber.

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After I have countersigned the certificates, members will receive one of the certificates for their records. These certificates will be sent to members through their party representatives.

OATH AND SOLEMN AFFIRMATION

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): The oath and affirmation that members of the National Assembly will take, reads as follows:

I –

and then the name of the member –

swear –

if taking the oath, or –

solemnly affirm –

if it's an affirmation –

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that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other laws of the Republic. I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a member of the National Assembly to the best of my ability.

If it's an oath they then say "So help me God" or, if it's an affirmation, they then say "I do".

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The following members made and subscribed the oath or solemn affirmation:

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES.]

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Chief Justice, we want to request a 30-minute break to have a caucus before we start with the process of nominating the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. We are requesting a 30-minute break to have a caucus to consolidate our positions.

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Hon member, at this stage what I propose to do is to read what I need to read and, once I've finished that, we can then take it from there. So, I need to read this first and then we will look at whether we can have a break or not.

RULES FOR ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): As members have been sworn in, we will now proceed to the election of office bearers as envisaged in sections 52(1) and 86(1) of the Constitution. As I have indicated, I have made Rules for the conduct of this, as contemplated by the Constitution in Item 9, Schedule 3. I understand that copies of the Rules are on your desks.

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): As indicated, I have appointed the following persons to be Returning Officers to assist me in the proceedings in this meeting. They are Mr X George as Returning Officer, and the following as Assistant Returning Officers: Mr M Xaso, Ms

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T V Lyons, Mr T R Maleeme, Adv V P Ngaleka, Mr M H Plaatjies, Adv J Manyange, Mr A T Nage, Mr P Hahndiek, Adv A A Ephraim, Mr F J Basson, Ms R Thinda, Mr M Toti, Ms N C Manjezi, Mr G Matakane, Adv N Mongo, Mr K I Buso, Ms C N Bhengo, Ms F Ismail.

As I indicated, they have all taken the oath and affirmation for such office before me.

NOTICE CALLING MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Returning Officer read out the following Notice, dated 14 June 2024:

Determination of the first sitting of the National Assembly by the Chief Justice in terms of section 51(1) of the Constitution. Following up on the declaration of the national and provincial election results by the Independent Electoral Commission, on Sunday 2 June 2024, I the undersigned, Raymond, Mnyamezeli Mlungisi Zondo, Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, hereby determine in terms of section 51(1) of the Constitution:

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That the first sitting of the National Assembly shall be on Friday 14 June 2024 at 10:00.

Signed in Johannesburg on this Monday, 10 June 2024.

Raymond, Mnyamezeli Mlungisi Zondo, Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): The meeting will now proceed to the election of a Speaker of this House. Before I call for nominations, I have to remind members that, in terms of the Constitution, each nomination must be submitted on the prescribed form and duly seconded.

Furthermore, I have to draw the attention of the members, especially to Item 4 of Part A of Schedule 3 of the Constitution in terms of which there may be no debate. There will now be an opportunity for nominations for Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Chief Justice. Chief Justice.

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): I will attend to you just now.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: But how do ... But we have asked for a break. [Interjections.] It is basic. Can we be given a break to caucus, please? [Interjections.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Was it hon Shivambu who had requested an adjournment? Do you want to make your request again?

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Can we make a request to have a break for 30 minutes to have a caucus about the process that is about to happen now? We want to consolidate our position. It is constitutional to make this request. It is within the law. How do you refuse us to talk? You cannot suppress the freedom to talk.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Are you asking for 15 minutes?

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: I said 30 minutes.

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Thirty?

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Yes.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): And the purpose is?

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: To caucus about the process that is about to happen now.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): But why would you not have caucused before?
[Interjections.]

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: We want to consolidate the position now. Chief Justice, we want to consolidate the position. It is allowed. It is a request. It is allowed to make a request. It is within the Constitution. Please, protect our rights.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Well, you know, everybody has known we are going to have this first sitting today for quite some time now.

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Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Can you please allow us our right to go and consolidate a position? It is a request that Members of Parliament must be allowed to make. Don't force-feed us a different approach. We are asking for a caucus for 30 minutes now. Please.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Well, what I am going to do, I am going to allow a comfort break of 15 minutes and then we are going to return. [Interjections.] The proceedings are then suspended for now.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 11:53 AND RESUMED AT 12:20.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The House proceeded to the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Chief Justice reminded members that nominations had to be submitted on the prescribed form and duly seconded.

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The Chief Justice informed members that in terms of Item 4 of Part A of Schedule 3 of the Constitution no debate would be allowed.

The Chief Justice called for nominations.

Ms P C P Majodina seconded by Mr S O R Mahumapelo nominated Ms A T Didiza for Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Chief Justice requested Ms A T Didiza to indicate her acceptance of her nomination for Speaker of the National Assembly. Ms A T Didiza confirmed her acceptance of her nomination for Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Returning Officer reported to the Chief Justice that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

Mr V Zungula seconded by Mr B H Holomisa nominated Ms N V Mente-Nkuna for Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Chief Justice requested Ms N V Mente-Nkuna to indicate her acceptance of her nomination for Speaker of the National

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Assembly. Ms N V Mente-Nkuna confirmed her acceptance of her nomination for Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Returning Officer reported to the Chief Justice that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

There being more than one candidate nominated, that being Ms A T Didiza and Ms N V Mente-Nkuna, the Chief Justice announced that a secret ballot would take place in terms of Item 6 of Part A of Schedule 3 of the Constitution and suspended proceedings for the preparation of ballot papers.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 12:40 AND RESUMED AT 14:00.

The House proceeded to the secret ballot for the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

In terms of Item 8 of the Rules for the First Sitting of the National Assembly, National Council of Provinces and Provincial Legislatures, amended on 13 June 2024, the Chief Justice, at the request of parties, determined that he would allow party representatives to observe the counting of the votes in the counting room.

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The Chief Justice announced that business would be suspended to allow the votes to be counted.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Hon members, are there any members of the House who have been sworn in, who have not been called to vote? No. Okay, we are done then. The assistant returning officers will now close and seal the ballot boxes.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Chief Justice?

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Yes.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Could you kindly explain the process? Where are you going with these ballots?

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Excuse me?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: It would be a free and fair election with nothing to hide if you count where we can all see.

[Laughter.] But maybe in the intelligence of the Chief

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Justice, there is something else. We wanted to know what the procedure is. Why are you closing and all of that?

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Well, I'll tell you the procedure now. The proceedings are suspended now to enable the returning officer to count the votes and to report to me. The bells will be rung for five minutes before resumption of proceedings.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Chief Justice, can these cameras that are showing us here also show the vote counting? I'm speaking, sorry. Sorry, Chief Justice?

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): I'm sorry, one second. I'll give you attention just now.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Okay, thanks.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Let me read this before I give you attention, and your question might fall away. The counting of votes goes according to the following rules:

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Rule 7(1) states that, as soon as the voting has been completed, the presiding officer must suspend the proceedings and the returning officer and the assistant returning officers must remove the ballot box and all papers to a room where the counting is to take place.

Rule 7(2) states that, the ballot box must be opened by the returning officer in the presence of the presiding officer and the counting of the votes must then be proceeded with.

Rule 7(3) states that, no person other than the presiding officer, the returning officer and the assistant returning officers may be present in the room while the votes are being counted.

Rule 7(4) states that, after the votes have been counted, the returning officer must report to the presiding officer, informing him or her of the result of the counting of the votes.

Rule 7(5) states that, on receipt of the report, the presiding officer must return to the place of the meeting, which is here and announce the results of the election.

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Rule 7(6) (a) states that, the returning officer must retain the nomination papers. The used ballot papers and the counterfoils thereof in a sealed packet for a period of at least one year.

Rule 7(6) (b) states that, the sealed packet may not be opened except by an order of court.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Chief Justice? Chief Justice?

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Yes, hon member?

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: We want to state the simple and obvious fact that Rule 7(3) can't be constitutional, can't be consistent with the democratic culture of observing the counting of votes. You can't have a rule that says that when the counting happens, the presiding officer must be alone without any observation. It doesn't happen anywhere under democratic process. So, this rule is undemocratic. You can't go and count the votes in secret somewhere in a room without us observing what is happening with the votes.

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When we had the secret ballot on President Zuma and majority and some members of the ANC including President Ramaphosa voted against Zuma in a secret ballot. We counted in the middle of this National Assembly Chamber, in front of everyone observing that process. So, please delete Rule 7(3) so that we can open the ballot and count the votes in front of everyone. That is how we must proceed, please. [Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): This rule has been here for many years. This is a rule that was here in 2019. It is a rule that was here in 2014 on my understanding. This this is one of the rules that were made by the previous Chief Justice, which has been taken over, which has simply been taken over by me.

So, the rules as they stand, are those rules that applied in 2019 and I believe before and the only change I made was in the annexures. So, the rules are the same, but I cannot decide to delete the rule as it is. It is in here. If it's unconstitutional, it would have to be set aside by a competent court.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Chief Justice?

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Yes

Hon MEMBER: Chief Justice, may I have your attention this side from the ANC?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: I think he's recognising me.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): I'm sorry, I'm trying to see who is speaking.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: It's Ndlozi.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Oh, yes. Okay.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Yes, thanks, Chief Justice. Chief Justice, firstly, these rules are not the rules of Parliament. Secondly, you cannot say because apartheid made a law and I inherited it, even if it is undemocratic, I have nothing to do. That can't be a responsible response.

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As the head of the judiciary, we are appealing that surely you agree, that it is undemocratic to say the counting cannot be observed. What are we teaching the country now? What are we telling the South Africans who are watching these proceedings? What are we telling the international community? That the head of our judiciary says counting is going to be done in secret.

We're appealing to you, set this rule aside, nobody will do anything. It's your rule. It's not us. It doesn't have to be subjected to anything. It is undemocratic, it's inconsistent with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and no one is going to lose anything. These cameras that are showing me now must zoom in as the counting is happening.

The last thing I want to say is that, in 2019, there was an outright winner. In 2019, there was no contestation. But we have been here when there was a contestation and voting happened in secret, but counting was observed by everyone, and it happened on the floor of the National Assembly. Hon Mmusi Maimane was contesting the hon Gedleyihlekisa *Jikijela Mkhonto* Zuma and we counted here. I'm appealing to you, Chief

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Justice. It's undemocratic to say the counting cannot be observed

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): I'm going to allow a limited time of discussion on this in terms of Rule 8(3) of the Rules governing this sitting, which is part of the amendments that were made yesterday. It allows me to allow very limited discussion. I've heard Dr Ndlozi, and basically his concern is that the counting should happen here. Is that correct? Yeah, and he says that in the past, it has happened. Let me hear a few more views. Let me start this side.

Ms S GWARUBE: Thank you very much, Chief Justice. Just a couple of things: I think it would be improper for us to essentially want to amend Rules which were approved by the Chief Justice on the 27 May 2024. Additionally, these Rules were circulated to Members of Parliament. Therefore, if Members of Parliament had problems with particular Rules here, those should have been raised before. We cannot now be sitting here and asking to amend Rules on the fly.

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It would essentially delegitimise the fact that we've got approved by Rules that we are governing this section. In addition to that, these Rules are not just Rules that have been created by the Chief Justice. They emanate from the Constitution, under Section 9 of schedule 3 of the Constitution. So, I think it would be improper for us to now belatedly say we want to change Rules on the floor of the House. [Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Thank you.

Mr M B B NTULI: Thank you very much, hon Chief Justice. [Interjections.]

Mr J S MALEMA: Chief Justice, you can't see some of us. We are behind the voting booth.

Mr M B NTULI: Thank you very much, hon Chief Justice. I would like to suggest that instead of having the counting taking place here at the plenary, let's rather agree as a sitting, that we designate party Whips to observe the counting

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wherever it will be taking place, than having it taking place at the plenary of the sitting. [Applause.]

I'm of the view that this approach would not necessarily cause the amendments of the Rules, but it addresses the concern arising from what has been referred to as a past experience -where the counting was observed at the plenary of the National Assembly. That's what we want to propose. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr J S MALEMA: Chief Justice!

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): One second, I will be with you just now.

[Interjections.] I will come to the one who wishes to have my attention. I'm advised that because it's a new Parliament there wouldn't be any Whips. You would have to have representatives. So, maybe your proposal would need to be amended to say: Instead of Whips, we must have representatives of parties.

Mr M B NTULI: Yes, Chief Justice I would support that we have each party represented. Thank you.

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Okay. Alright!

Mr J S MALEMA: Chief Justice, it is Julius Malema here.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Yes, hon Malema.

Mr J S MALEMA: Thank you very much, Chief Justice. I never thought I would sit in a meeting where we argue with the head of the judiciary about internationally acceptable methods of running democratic elections. For you to observe the elections, it is a democratic practice which is internationally acceptable, and we cannot have a debate about that.

No one stands to lose anything out of observation of elections, unless someone seeks to do something that is undemocratic. But if it is in line with democratic principles, it is internationally accepted that free and fair elections will, amongst other things, include that they were observers who observed the proceedings of the elections.

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So, I fully support what the hon Ntuli suggest, that if you want to go and enjoy Cape Town while people are counting, let's get people to go and represent us. However, in the past - all Members who are returning members here know it. In the past, we used to count in the middle of the plenary. It is not something strange.

Floyd was an observer in one of those counts that happened here and hon Mmusi was a candidate of such a contestation. Those people, both of them who are here, were there before. So, we support that motion. However, anything else that is not democratic, that is being suggested by the DA is not supported; it is strongly opposed because it even comes from wrong people.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Chief Justice, this is Nqabayomzi Kwankwa from the UDM.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Hon members, I know that there are members who still want to say something. Among the Rules that were introduced into the Rules by way of amendment, yesterday, there is Rule 8, which I will start reading:

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Rule 8(1) - shall apply to any procedural matters not provided for in these Rules which are relevant to the business of the day;

Rule 8(2) - a question of procedure may be raised with the Presiding Officers by a member, or in the event of an election under these Rules in the National Council of Provinces or head of a provincial delegation on behalf of a delegation and seconded by another member, or by the head of another delegation, on behalf of such other delegation as the case may be; and

Rule 8(3) - if he or she considers it necessary or desirable in a particular case, the Presiding Officer may permit a discussion of the question and may limit participation in and the duration of the discussion in such manner as he things fits. A question of procedure posed by a member and seconded by another member in terms of this Rule must address a procedural matter in relation to the proceedings to which these Rules apply.

The provisions and the amendments ultimately give the Presiding Officer, which is me in this case, the powers to

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deal with the matter as I see fit, which I read to be a qualification of the other Rules. Therefore, unless there is an opposition to the suggestion made by the member here. I am inclined to accept the proposal that there would be representatives of various parties present when the counting happens. So, I'm inclined to agree to one representative per party to observe during the counting, in the counting room. It looks like everybody accepts this.

Mr N SINGH: Agreed!

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Thank you. That is the ruling!

Mr J S MALEMA: We have started now. Superior logic will always prevail!

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Well, we have disposed of those issue. Therefore now, I have already said I am suspending the proceeding. The proceedings are suspended so that the Returning Officers can go and count. One representative per party may attend and observe.

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For those representatives who are going into the counting room, please don't take any photos; or if you can ...

[Interjections.] ... don't go in there with cellphones. Don't go in there with cellphones!

Mr N SINGH: Chief Justice, it is Singh from the IFP.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Yes!

Mr N SINGH: We agree with the ruling and the principle of observing. Can we designate those members here as the Returning Officers are designated, before we proceed to the room, so that we will have an idea of who is representing which party? Thank you.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): You mean each party can then say who they are representative will be? Is that what you are saying?

Mr N SINGH: Yes, sir. The IFP will be represented by myself.

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Okay. Can each party announce who their representative will be, just so that only the representatives will be allowed in the room? The space is not big.

Mr M B NTULI: Chief Justice, the ANC will be represented by hon Pemmy Majodina. Thank you very much.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Secretary, you will be taking their names. Thank you very much.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: The UDM will be represented by Mr Nqabayomzi Kwankwa.

Ms T L MARAWU: Chief Justice, the ATM will be represented by the President of the ATM, Mr V Zungula. Thank you.

Ms S GWARUBE: Chief Justice, I thought we were going to go by descending sizes of parties. [Laughter.] Nonetheless, the DA will be represented by hon Sarupen.

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Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Chief Justice, the EFF will be represented by Commissar Natasha Ntlangwini.

Mr G Mc KENZIE: Chief Justice, the PA will be represented by Ms Jasmine Peterson.

Rev K J R MESHOE: Chief Justice, the ACDP will be represented by hon Steve Swart.

Mr M A MAIMANE: Chief Justice, Build One South Africa will be represented by Nobuntu Hlazo-Webster.

Mr M BEAUMONT: Chief Justice, the Action SA will be represented by Ms Lerato Ngobeni.

Mr F ADAMS: Chief Justice, the National Coloured Congress will be represented by Sakinah Frechman.

Dr C P MULDER: Chief Justice, the FF-Plus will be represented by myself, Dr Mulder.

Mr L W MAHLATSI: The UAT will be represented by Mr Wonder Mahlatsi.

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Mr S ZIBI: Chief Justice, the Rise Mzantsi will be represented by Mr Makashule Gana.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Thank you very much. Have all parties disclosed the identity of their representatives? It looks like they have.

The Chief Justice announced that business would be suspended to allow the votes to be counted.

BUSINESS INTERRUPTED AT 15:46.

RESUMPTION AT 16:45

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

The Chief Justice took the Chair and announced the results of the ballot as follows:

Ms Thoko Didiza: 284.

Ms Veronica Mente-Nkuna: 49.

Spoilt ballots: 9.

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The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): In terms of Item 6 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution, I accordingly declare the hon Didiza duly elected Speaker of the National Assembly. [Applause.]

The Acting Serjeant-at-Arms to conduct the hon Speaker to the Chair. [Applause.]

HON MEMBERS: Singing.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Let's hope the DA will enter the song.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Will all members rise please?

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY NEW SPEAKER

The SPEAKER (Ms A T Didiza): Thank you very much. You may be seated.

HON MEMBERS: [Applause.]

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The SPEAKER (Ms A T Didiza): Order, hon members, Chief Justice, Your Excellency, the President and Deputy President, hon Members of Parliament, the leaders of the various parties present here, the people of South Africa, I would like to thank all of you as members, who have participated in this democratic process of electing the Speaker of the National Assembly in the 7th Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.

I would like to thank my organisation, the African National Congress, for having nominated me to represent them as the movement, but also the people of South Africa, supported by the parties that have voted me. But I also know that the other party that might have nominated a candidate duly supports this nomination.

But as a country, and as a democratic state, we have an opportunity to express our views representing our constituency and that is why we have to elect and participate in such a process wherein the one who is elected take the responsibility. But it does not mean that those who might have voted differently are not supportive of the work of the institution.

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This indeed is an important institution of our country, where we have to pass laws and represent our people and ensure that the work that we do as legislators in passing those laws, and also ensuring that we play an oversight role on the executive. We do so in the interests of our people.

The role of the Speaker in this Parliament is that of ensuring that we conduct the debates within the rules in a manner that is fair. And I commit that I will working with the team in the Speaker's Office, together with the House Chairperson, that will be duly elected do exactly that. I also commit that I will work with all the parties led by their Whips and their representatives to make sure that we conduct the business of this Parliament in a manner that indeed reflects the will of the people of South Africa. Thank you very much for this honour. We now continue with the business of the day. [Applause.]

The House will proceed with the election of a deputy speaker in terms of the procedure set out in part A of schedule three of the Constitution and in accordance with rules of Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa. Members are reminded that there will be no debate, and that each nomination must

be submitted on the prescribed form and duly seconded. There will now be an opportunity for nomination of candidates for the election as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The House proceeded to the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The SPEAKER called for nominations.

Mr Nyiko Floyd Shivambu, seconded by Mr L W Mahlatsi nominated Mr Vuyo Zungula for election as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Returning Officer reported to the Chief Justice that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

Ms Siviwe Gwarube, seconded by Ms D van der Walt, nominated Dr Annelie Lottriet for election as Speaker of the National Assembly.

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The Returning Officer reported to the Chief Justice that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

There being more than one candidate nominated, the Speaker announced that a secret ballot would take place in terms of Item 6 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution and suspended proceedings for preparation of ballot papers.

BUSINESS INTERRUPTED AT 17:03 AND RESUMED AT 17:58.

The House proceeded to the secret ballot for the election of the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The SPEAKER: We shall now proceed with the voting. Assistant returning officers will now show that the ballot boxes are empty and close them. Thank you very much. The procedure of voting is as follows: According to the rules for the conduct of this meeting, in terms of item 9 of schedule 3 of the Constitution, one ballot paper with the official mark must be issued to every member present and eligible to vote at this meeting. Members will be called in alphabetical order according to their surnames. When their names are called, members must collect a ballot paper from the voting table. As

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previously mentioned, members of the National Assembly must swear or affirm faithfulness to the Republic and obedience to the Constitution before they can perform their functions, and therefore members who have not been sworn in will not be called.

As you know, all of you who are here have already been sworn in. After collecting a ballot paper, each member must proceed to one of the ballot booths and must record his or her vote by placing a cross against the name of the candidate for whom he or she desires to vote in the space provided on the ballot paper. After making the mark on the ballot paper and while still in the booth, members must fold their ballot paper in such a manner that the official mark thereon is visible to the assistant Returning Officers at the ballot box.

In the earlier voting, it was recorded that nine votes were actually spoiled ballot votes because of various reasons. One of those is the mark that has been recorded in the space allocated for voting. I just want to advise members that when voting, we do not make a tick, we actually make a cross - we make an X. It does not mean you do not want that person. So, I'm just advising members so that we appreciate that when we

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do the voting, we mark a cross instead of a tick. After the assistant Returning Officer has noted the official mark on the ballot paper, members should deposit it in the ballot box and resume their seats. The Returning Officers will now call upon members to vote:

Majodina P C P; Ramaphosa M C; Mashatile S P; Mantashe G S;
Ramokgopa M L; Lamola R O; Simelane T P; Ntshavheni K P S;
Tolashe N G; Mahlobo M D; Kekana P S; Masondo D; Kubayi M T;
Mahambehhlala T; Lekganyane M S; Manamela K B; Mchunu E S;
Chikunga L S; Godlimpi Z; Mhlauli N B; Steenhuisen J H;
Gwarube S; Lotriet A; Labuschagne C; Van Der Walt D; Masango
B S; Nodada B B; Kohler D; Mcgluwa J J; George D; Malatsi M
S; Mazzone N W A; Macpherson D W; Marais E J; Breytenbach G;
Bergman D; Sarupen A N; Hunsinger C H H; Basson L J; Whitfield
A G; Botes A; Moraka A T; Gigaba K M N; Nalumango R S;
Maswanganyi M J; Boshielo S P; Ntuli M; Maimela K J; Masemola
N D; Pule D D; Malema J S; Mente-Nkuna V Z; Shivambu N F;
Maotwe O M C; Dlamini M M; Mailola P R; Mkhaliphi H O; Mathys
L; Ndlozi M Q; Nolutshungu N; Hlabisa V F; Buthelezi E M;
Singh N; Ngcobo S L; Hlengwa M; Cebekhulu R N; Mncwango M A;
Zondo S S; Majosi Z; Buthelezi N Z; McKenzie G; Sauls A;
Rorke F S; Wilskut C; Khojane S G; Freeman E; De Bruin K;

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Jonas G F; Petersen J S; Groenewald P J; Mulder C P; Wessels W W; Van Staden P A; Boshoff W J; Denner H; Gungubele M; Muthambi A F; Creecy B D; Mathale C C; Koornhof G W; Capa R N; Ramokgopa K D; Chauke B F; Meth N; Didiza A T; Beesley A D; James D E; Kobe M P; Letlape T K S; Ngobeni L M; Trollip R A P; Motsoaledi P A; Mnganga-Gcabashe L A; Godongwana E; Sangoni K L N; Mahumapelo S O R; Nzuza N B; Ndabeni-Abrahams S T; Masina M C; Motshekga M A; Mkhize Z L; Abrahams A L A; Alexandra W R; Atkinson P G; Aucamp W A S; Bagraim M; Baptie E V; Bateman A G; Bath E M; Bodlani T K; Bollman N J; Tetyana Y; Dlamini M; Pambo V; Mohlala R; Mashabela R; Khawula S M; Matiase S N; Mathulelwa B; Tafeni N; Yako Y N; Nkabane N P; Legoete M D; Zikalala S; Nzimande B E B; Malematja C N; Nemadzinga-Tshabalala J; Mgcina P S; Adams R C; Aphiri M J; Bartlett M; Bila T J; Bilankulu N K; Burns-Ncamashe Z; Chabane M S; Chauke T M; Cloete E A; Davids S W; Dhlomo S M; Dikgale M C; Direko D R; Dithebe S L; Dlakude D E; Dlelanga M; Dugmore C M; Dunjwa M L; Frolick C T; Gantsho N; Gina N; Govana Y; Hala M M; Luthuli B N; Van Der Merwe L L; Buthelezi S A; Hadebe N M; Sithole K P; Machi B E; Mhlongo N H; Hassan F; Hlongo A S; Kegakilwe B M; Kgabo G D; Khumalo J Q; Kumbaca A N; Letsie W T; Letsike M S E; Ligaraba L E; Louw S T D; Lucas S E; Mabe B P; Maduna N; Maeco S M; Magagula T E;

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Mahlangu S S; Mahlaule M G; Makasi N; Makgato M P; Burke M J;
Cameron I; Chance R W T; Chetty M; Christians D C; Christie K
A; Clarke M O; Cuthbert M J; De Blocq van Scheltinga A D; De
Villiers J N; Engelbrecht J; Essack F; Gondwe M M; Gouws R;
GrahamMaré S J; Hattingh C; Horn W; Ismail H; Jacobs L C;
Jordaan C; Marais P; Mokoena L G; Hlonyana K N F; Thembekwayo
S S; Niehaus C G; Gcilishe S; Manyi M; Mogale T; Blose M;
Shikwambana M; Makhubela L S; Maneli B M; Mashele T V;
Mathabatha C S; Mathafa O M; Mbiyo I M; Mchunu T V B; Mgweba
T; Mhaule M R; Mkutu L; Kgobisa-Ngcaba K; Khakhau K L;
Khanyile T A; Klopper D D; Krüger H C C; Le Roux K W D; Linde
E; Lorimer J R B; Mabhena T B; Madikizela B S; Maseko L M;
Mdluli M M; Michalakis G; Mileham K J; Moore S J; Mphithi L;
Myburgh N G; Nhanha M E; Peach W D; Poole C J; Potgieter L R;
Powell E L; Ramongalo T R; Roos A C; Schickerling L;
Schreiber L A; Seithloho I S; Shelembe M L; Singh S; Sithole
R J; Meshoe K R J; Thring W M; Swart S N; Holomisa B H;
Kwankwa N L S; Nontenja C T; Zibi S S; Gana S M; Maimane M A;
Webster N L; Mmolotsane M L; Modise-Mpya M; Moela M S;
Mofokeng M L; Mohai S J; Mokoena J L; Molwele N A; Morolong I
K; Mosikatsi S; Mrara M; Mtolo N E; Munyai T B; Mvana N Q;
Ndalane N A; Ndamase P; Neale-May H E; Nel A C; Nkopane N S;
Nkosi N E; Nontsele M; Zungula V; Marawu T L; Hendricks M G

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E; Adams F; Frenchman S; Nyhontso M; Mahlatsi L W; De Lille P; Managa L; Komane L M; Mkhwebane B J; Mkhonto C N; Letlape M S; Montwedi M; Diale B K; Tito L; Ntlangwini E N; Smit C F B; Smith R; Spies E R J; Van Zyl A M; Wakelin K H; Vilakazi S G; Zondi S; Nqola X; Ntshalintshali L L; Phaahla M J; Phiri C M; Pholwane M B; Plaatjies W T D; Ramaila K S; Ramolobeng A; Sapo L; Seabi A M; Sekoati S C; Selamolela S D; Senne M M; Shabangu F L; Shiviti T G; Sibiya N M; Siweya R T; Skosana G J; Sokanyile T; Sokopo M M; Sompá-Masiu N S; Sotyú M M; Subrathie S I; Swarts B; Tikana-Gxotiwe W; Tlhong K C; Tshotetsi N T; Xaba-Ntshaba P P; Xego S T.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Are there any members who have not voted and wish to do so now? If not, the assistant Returning Officers will close and seal the ballot boxes.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes, hon member.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Please don't forget the observers.

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The SPEAKER: [Laughter.] Thank you very much, hon Shivambu. Indeed, I was going to request if parties do not have a problem if the same representatives who were observers in the first voting process can do so, but if they wish to nominate others they can do so too.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: They will proceed like that. So, the same observers ...

The SPEAKER: Are all parties okay that the same representatives become the observers. [Interjections.] Thank you very much.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: I was representing everyone speaker, so we are fine. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order. I now suspend proceedings to enable the Returning Officers to count the votes in my presence and report the results to me. As we suspend these proceedings, other members are requested that they go and have their dinner at the same place where they had their lunch, so that when we come back with the announcements of the votes, we would have had dinner and those of you who needs comfort

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break would have done so already. The bells will be rung for five minutes later, before resumption of the proceedings.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 19:28 AND RESUMED AT 20:21.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER: I wish to ask the returning officer to give me the results. Hon members, the report of the results of the counting of votes for the position of the Deputy Speaker are as follows. The total number of ballot papers issued were 339. The total number of ballot papers counted were 338. The total number of invalid ballot papers were 12, meaning that there were 11 that were spoiled and there was one which had been issued, and yet it was actually stamped on both sides, and it was therefore not used.

Now I want to announce who got how many votes. Hon V Zungula got 55 votes. [Applause.] Hon Annelie Lotriet got 273 votes. [Applause.]

On behalf of all present here, I wish to congratulate you on your election, hon Lotriet - on your election as the Deputy

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Speaker. [Applause.] You now have the opportunity to address the House for few minutes as an expression of honour on being elected. You can utilise the podium. [Applause.]

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY NEW DEPUTY SPEAKER

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Speaker, Chief Justice, Mr President, hon members and guests, I would firstly want to congratulate you on your election as the Speaker. I can assure you of my support, and I wish you strength, courage and wisdom. This is a tremendous honour and privilege as well as a great responsibility that has been bestowed on me. This is a position that I do not take lightly. I fully understand the trust that has been placed on me. I undertake to fulfil my duties with care, commitment and humility and to be fair and just and to do all in my powers to do justice to this position.

I would like to thank you for the trust that you have placed on me. I undertake to do everything not to disappoint you and that we will make this Seventh Parliament the best Parliament ever. We will work for the interest of the people of this country. I thank you so much. [Applause.]

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Inkosi E M BUTHELEZI: Hon Speaker, I want to check whether the Speaker can use her discretion to also announce the results of KwaZulu-Natal?

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Buthelezi. May I ask the returning officers to move the ballot boxes a bit so that I can see members at the back. Well, hon Buthelezi, I would have loved to do so but all the provinces have already undertaken their elections. These results are very interesting in overall.
[Applause.]

Hon members, we have concluded the proceedings for the election of the Deputy Speaker of the House. In consultation with our religious leaders as it is always the norm after the Deputy Speaker has been elected, they usually bless the House. We have asked them to do so after the election of the President. I would now ask the Chief Justice to come and proceed.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Speaker, thank you very much. We have sent you a letter, using Rule 119 of the National Assembly Rules, to request that you should invoke section 89(1) of South Africa's Constitution to invoke the impeachment process in

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relation to the report which was tabled here in the National Assembly in relation to Mr Cyril Ramaphosa's involvement in the Phala Phala case. We have sent you the letter as an immediate issue of focus and area of focus and that a motion should be invoked as per Rule 119 of the National Assembly Rules. The immediate urgent motion that we must attend to should be the impeachment process of Mr Cyril Ramaphosa for the case which was established to have *prima facie* basis by a panel which was led by the former Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court. We have also delivered the hard copy letters to you and the Deputy Speaker of the DA so that you can pay attention to it as a matter of urgency. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Shivambu.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: Can you please acknowledge it.

The SPEAKER: Hon Shivambu, thank you very much. Your representative has just delivered an envelope indicating that this is the letter sent to you. I am not sure whether the Deputy Speaker has received such a letter. However, this matter will need to be deliberated upon as you know that

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there was a process that was undertaken by the Sixth administration, and that matter was concluded as such. Therefore, in this instance, once we have considered your letter, we will give you the response on how the Seventh administration would like to respond to this matter. For now, we will proceed with the election of the President of the Republic of South Africa. Chief Justice! [Applause.]

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Hon members, we are now at the stage where we have to deal with the election of the President. There will now be an opportunity for nominations of the President of the Republic of South Africa. Are there any nominations?

Mr B M NTULI: Thank you very much, Chief Justice. My name is Mdumiseni Ntuli, the Chief Whip of the ANC. I hereby nominate hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa as the President of the Republic of South Africa. Thank you. [Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Is there a seconder?

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Mr V F HLABISA: Hon Chief Justice. I am Velenkosini Hlabisa and I hereby second the name of hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa to be the President of the Republic. Thank you.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Thank you very much. Although the nominee will be required to signify in writing whether he accept or not, but I would like to find out at this stage whether the nominee accepts the nomination. [Interjections.] I think he is reluctant.

Mr M C RAMAPHOSA: Chief Justice, I do accept the nomination with pleasure. [Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Are there other nominations?

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Yes, Chief Justice. I am right here at the back. Must I stand up?

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Hang on one second.

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Mr N L S KWANKWA: I will pick up the mic.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Okay, it's fine. This nomination complies with the requirements, and it is valid. Are there other nominations?

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Yes, Chief Justice. I am already on the floor.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Please, go ahead.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: I thought my nomination was making you nervous a bit. I, Nqabayomzi Lawrence Saziso Kwankwa, hereby nominate Julius Sello Malema as candidate for election as the President of the Republic of South Africa. I thank you very much. [Applause.]

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Order! Order! Is there a seconder for that nomination?

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Mr V ZUNGULA: Chief Justice, I, Vuyolwethu Zungula, second the nomination.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Although the nominee will be required to signify in writing if he accepts the nomination, I would like to know at this stage whether the nominee accepts the nomination.

Mr J S MALEMA: I, Julius Sello Malema, accept the nomination.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): The nomination of the second nominee for the position of the President of the Republic of South Africa complies with the requirements, and it is valid. [Applause.] I now wish to announce that the candidates that have been properly nominated for the position of the President of the Republic of South Africa are Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and Mr Julius Sello Malema. Is there any further nomination? There is none! Since more than one candidate has been nominated, a secret ballot will take place in terms of item 6 of Part A of schedule 3 of the Constitution. I now suspend the proceedings to allow the returning officers to prepare ballot papers. We

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shall resume proceedings when the bells are rung. The proceedings are suspended.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu B H HOLOMISA: Niyadlalisa nina.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 20:40.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 20:43 AND RESUMED AT 21:38

The House proceeded to the secret ballot for the election of the President of the Republic of South Africa.

Voting.

The Chief Justice announced that business would be suspended to allow the votes to be counted.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 22:33 AND RESUMED AT 23:08

The Chief Justice took the Chair and announced the results of the ballot as follows:

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Mr M C Ramaphosa – 283.

Mr J S Malema – 44.

Mr M C Ramaphosa accordingly elected as President of the Republic of South Africa.

The Chief Justice congratulated Mr M C Ramaphosa on his election as President.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, we will have the time to make our reflections and celebrate. But there are certain issues that still need to be done before we can ululate and do so joyously. Congratulations, Mr President-elect.

Hon members, I thank the Chief Justice for having conducted these proceedings. I will now afford each political party two minutes to extend their congratulatory messages and the President-elect an opportunity to address the House.

Order, hon members. I will start with the DA, followed by the EFF, followed by the IFP, the PA, the FF Plus, Action SA, ACDP, UDM, Rise Mzansi, Build One South Africa, ATM, Al Jama-

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ah, NCC, PAC, UAT, GOOD and the ANC. Can we now start with the DA. You have got two minutes. It's on the timer, when it has depleted, we can close.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Mr J H STEENHUISEN: Madam Speaker, congratulations on your election. Mr President, congratulations on your election. I think today is a historic day for our country and I think it is the beginning of a new chapter – a new chapter of building, a new chapter of co-operation, a new chapter of us putting our country and its interests and future first.

In this election, the voters chose not to give any party its own majority. In doing so, they have told us that they want us to work together to build a prosperous, non-racial, united South Africa, with a growing economy that works for everybody. We must now as the members of this House rise to that occasion and rise to the call of South Africa.

Despite the political party t-shirts that we wore during the election, every one of us is a South African first. Our country needs us now to step up, to end the era of finger

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pointing and to start a new era of collectively putting our shoulder to the wheel to ensure that the country that we all love prospers into the future and that the people that we have been sent to this House to serve get value money and ensure that we give effect to the dreams, the hopes and aspirations of every South African.

The DA and I look forward to working with you, Mr President, and the rest of the team that will be forming part of the Government of National Unity to put our country first, to take hands and to work collectively in the interests of the people we serve and the country we love. Thank you very much.

Mr J S MALEMA: Madam Speaker, congratulations to you. You know very well that under normal circumstances we would have ordinarily supported you because we believe in your commitment to a Parliament that is going to work effectively and efficiently. We have an experience of working with you before and we do not doubt your capacity. Our contestation of you was necessarily to contest the betrayal of our people. And it has nothing to do with you as an individual.

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Congratulations, Mr President. We accept the results and the voice of the people of South Africa which was expressed on the 29th of May. We also accept the results from today's gathering, because it's a reflection of democratic practices. But we contested because we wanted to demonstrate to South Africa that we do not agree to this marriage of convenience to consolidate the white monopoly power over the economy and the means of production in South Africa.

This marriage is a marriage that seeks to undermine the changing of property relations in South Africa. We refuse to sell out. We have never done so when we're young and we're not going to do so today. We don't have a history of being collaborators. We are going to ensure that this Parliament is functional. We can reassure you that we will not fight with any bouncer. We are going to be the best and effective opposition that is going to ensure that both you and the DA are held accountable. This is not a government of National Unity. This is a grand coalition between the ANC and the white monopoly capital. History will judge you and judge you harshly. Thank you.

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Mr V F HLABISA: Congratulations to you, hon Speaker and the hon Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the IFP, I congratulate His Excellency, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, on his election as the President of the Republic of South Africa. This is the beginning of a new era. The IFP stands ready to serve in the Government of National Unity, GNU, knowing that South Africa is utterly changed by the 2024 election results and the decisions that have been taken in the best interest of our country.

We enter the GNU with an open mind and eyes wide open. We have hope that the IFP's vision to rebuild South Africa take root as we provide our contribution to strengthen governance, creating social justice and securing economic development. We may not be able to silence those voices. There is a lot of those who lead in difficult times, but who will be remembered as people of courage - who chose to work together for the good of South Africa.

Hon President, rest assured of this, we will support you on every right decision. But where we must disagree, we will do so and advance valid reasons of our disagreement. The IFP will not be diluted nor lose its identity. We enter into this

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GNU not to support the ANC, the DA or any other political party, but for the interest of the people of South Africa. We wish you well, hon President. [Applause.]

Mr G MCKENZIE: Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate you. Mrs Lotriet, I would like to congratulate you and I did vote for you. [Interjections.] I would like to congratulate the President, Mr Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa.

In this country, I am standing here as a person that got a second chance. Ninety-six per cent of guys that come from prison, go back to jail. And my being here comes with a hope that I can show them that you don't need to go back to jail. And I think this country has received another chance. When you get a second chance, you must use it optimally. I think the voters gave all of us a second chance.

I would like to congratulate the ANC for accepting the result, even if they didn't get 50%. The world is full of stories of Presidents that only accept results when they get over 50%. I will support the GNU, and I am proud of the GNU. [Applause.]

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The leader of the DA has said that we are done with politicking. We might wear different t-shirts. There will be those amongst us who will call us sellouts only because they are not part of it. But we have learned from them. When they were doing that in 2016, they were not sellouts. They don't have the only rights. They have given themselves the right that if they work with white people then it is fine. When we work with white people, then we are sellouts. They are the sellouts! [Time expired.]

Afrikaans:

Dr P J GROENEWALD: Geagte Speaker, deur u aan die agb President, baie geluk.

Ek wil begin om te sê dat ... as ons kyk ... ons sit in 'n Nasionale Vergadering ...

English:

... and if you look at the banners, it is about equality and diversity, co-operative governments, but it is also oversight and accountability.

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Hon President, at the official announcements of the results at the *Results Operations Centre* you said that each and every Member of Parliament must remember that the seat they have does not belong to them, but to the people they represent. I want to put emphasis on that, because that's our constitutional obligation, as Members of Parliament.

Hon President, the slogan of the FF Plus in this election was: "Let's Restore and Build."

Afrikaans:

Kom ons herstel en ons bou.

En dit is wat die VF Plus wil doen: Ons wil herstel, en ons wil bou, tot almal se voordeel ...

English:

... but we will always have oversight and accountability.

Afrikaans:

Mag u die seën van ons Hemelse Vader ontvang. Dit is 'n groot las en taak op u skouers. Alleen, gaan u dit nie reg kry nie.

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Maar, met die hulp van ons Hemelse Vader, kan ons Suid-Afrika 'n land vir almal maak.

Baie seën en baie voorspoed.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Madam Speaker, on behalf of Action SA, please allow me to congratulate you on your election and the election of Madam Deputy Speaker. Congratulations, Mr President, on your re-election. We pray on behalf of all South Africans that your second term in office will be considerably better than your first term in office, where we noted that corruption got worse, crime reached an all-time high, and the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality were more pervasive than ever before.

We see that the media and social media hailing this new grand coalition as the high road option. Well, that remains to be seen because choosing the high road is one thing but passing milestones that you have set yourself on the high road and passing milestones of progress on that high road is the acid test of success. The people of South Africa deserve a better government. We pray that this will be a better government. As Action SA and as members of the opposition, we undertake that

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we will not oppose for the sake of opposing. Where you come with solid proposals that take this country forward, you will have our support. Where you do not meet your milestones, we will hold you to account because we want to fix South Africa. All the best, Mr President.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Hon Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, members of the press, fellow South Africans. The ACDP wishes to extend its congratulations to you, hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. I am sure the two of you are going to make an excellent team.

We also want to extend our congratulations to the newly elected President Ramaphosa. We want to state clearly that this meeting is a pivotal moment in the history of this nation. After 30 years of democracy, South Africans have spoken. They are saying they are tired of having one political party dominating the political scene.

While others in the past have said South Africa needs a two-party state like America, they have rejected that. So, we are grateful that they have said South Africans must learn to work together. We believe if we work together, we put our

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heads together, we prioritise South Africans and not our political parties, then South Africa will turn out to be one of the best countries in the world. It should be, because we have the potential, we have the capacity to be one of the best.

As I close, I want to remind members in this Chamber that our politics and our challenges in South Africa are so many. Some of them look so difficult and impossible. Because of that, I must emphasise the fact that we need God's help. We all as South Africans must say ...

Afrikaans:

Here, help ons, asseblief!

English:

May the Lord bless you. Thank you.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu B H HOLOMISA: Hayi ndiza kuthetha kakuhle, musa ukungxama.

English:

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Our hon Speaker, the Chief Justice, hon President and hon members. Congratulations to you Madam Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker. Allow me, on behalf of the UDM to congratulate you, Mr Ramaphosa on being elected as President of the Republic of South Africa for your second term.

The problems facing this country are well documented. They require a Marshall Plan to tackle them with a sound implementation strategy. Laziness and lack of discipline must not characterise the new government and its administration.

IsiXhosa:

Makusetyenzwe ngoku. Enkosi. [Kwaqhwytywa]

Mr S ZIBI: Madam Speaker, on behalf of Rise Mzansi I would first like to thank the Chief Justice for an excellent job done during the proceedings today. I want to congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election and you, Mr President, on your election.

Today is a day on which we get to see the miracle of democracy. The peaceful transfer of power from one administration to the next. It is something we must never

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ever take for granted, because other countries and societies are not so fortunate as to have what we have in South Africa.

Ours collectively is a very weighty task as public representatives. Fewer people trust the political system. Fewer people are voting. We need a strong Parliament. We need trustworthy public representatives. We need a strong, ethical and capable government in the executive, so that we may restore South African people's trust in our democracy.

The only way we can do that is to apply ourselves properly and with diligence to the task that the South African people have given all of us. Mr President, from today on, you are everybody's President not just the ANC. All of us are committed to doing the best we can for the South African people.

As one of my colleagues said, we will not oppose for the sake of opposing, but we will hold you and those in government to account when it is necessary. Because the power that is bestowed on you and all of us is held in trust, and we must never abuse it. Thank you.

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Mr M A MAIMANE: Hon Chief Justice, to our Speaker who's recently elected, fellow South Africans ...

Setswana:

... bagaetsho, dumelang.

English:

It is indeed a question one has to grapple with when I reflect on 29 of May. I ask myself a question that actually comes from the Bible that says, "Can a nation be born in a day?" I happen to believe the 29 May gave us a new start, a fresh beginning. I happen to believe that South Africa will never be the same again.

For that to happen, it's going to ask us a number of questions, Mr President and Speaker. The first is, are we willing to put up our hands and say this country deserves better than what it has had in the last 30 years, and we will chart our way forward for a better 30 years? It asks us the more difficult question that says, could as the Speaker of this House, hold the executive to account regardless of how it's put together so that our people will know that all

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actions will be held accountable for the good of all the people? And that certainly as BOSA we will be fighting to do.

Mr President, I wish to say this to you, that your role in 1994 was one such of bringing this nation and drafting a Constitution that built a new consensus. Today, the task feels a bit similar, even though in a different age. It asks of you to maybe in many ways ensure that the haves and they have nots have a conversation, so that all of us have something.

It asks us the question to say where there are divisions in our country, we will pull together to build a united South Africa. I wish you well in that task and I give you my assurance that when you want to build one South Africa, you will have my support. But when we defer from that, we will hold you too accountable.

Setswana:

A Morena a go boloke, ...

English:

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... and may God bless our beautiful nation. Thank you very much. [Applause]

Mr V ZUNGULA: Speaker, on behalf of the ATM, we want to congratulate you on your election. We also want to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and the President that have been elected today. It is our view as the ATM that power is meaningless, if it does not translate into a good quality of life, and the resolution of the problems that are faced by the people.

People do not elect parties for the sake of electing parties. They elect parties with the hope that their lives will improve for the better. It is for that reason that as the ATM hope that this government will indeed lead this country towards the resolution of all the problems that are faced by our people.

The root causes of the problems that we face in our country lies in the structure of the economy. The structure of the economy has remained unchanged or untransformed since 1994. If that is not dealt with, then all these problems will continue to multiply.

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The economy of our country is still in the hands of few families and oligopolies. In our view as a party, there needs to be fundamental changes in the structure of the economy, not cosmetic changes that won't bring any meaningful change in the lives of the people. We want to commit as the ATM that we will continue playing our role in holding the executive accountable and, most importantly, we will fight that Parliament does indeed fulfil its constitutional mandate. Congratulations once more. Thank you.

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Hon Speaker, behind every President there is a First Lady. So, I would like to say congratulations to the First Lady. Round of applause! [Applause.]

I did give President Ramaphosa 10 out of 10 in the Sixth Parliament for building a new civilisation because the lives of women and children in Gaza are of concern to him.

Now, in South Africa, our President is trying to build a new nation and I don't know how I'm going to score him because he is faced with a great challenge. People burn flags, people want to secede, so we'd like to wish the President everything of the best. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

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Mr F ADAMS: Hon Speaker, Madam Deputy Speaker, Mr President, congratulations on your election. Mr President, it was five years ago that I begged you in Mitchell's Plain to do the right thing for the suffering coloured people on the Cape Flats. You shook my hand and said you would, but you never did.

Mr President, five years ago you spoke to us about Thuma Mina, and you mentioned the nine wasted years. We should add your last five to it.

Mr President, I stand here today delegated by a community so desperate for change that they sent a recovering drug addict and reformed gangster to tell this story.

Mr President, the coloured people are dying, and this House has done nothing about it. I want to support the government of national unity, but when you include the right-wing fringe into it, it makes it hard for me to get involved.

We wish you well because South Africa must succeed and this success, Mr President, lies at your door, but the voters are

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telling us that we do not have the full support of the ANC anymore.

This country is at a crossroads. One wrong move and our poor will continue to die. Our fear is that the wrong move has already been made. I hope that we are wrong. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Sesotho:

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Kgotso, MaAfrika. A ke qale ke lebohe Chief Justice, ke lebohe Sebui sa Palamente. Re a ho lebohisa, Mme. Re le UTA, re thekga bomme ba MaAfrika.

Mopresidente wa naha, re a ho lebohisa mongaka. Empa molaetsa wa rona ke ona: batho ba rona ba lapile; batho ba rona ba kena dikobong ka tlala; and batho ba rona ba sotleha.

Mopreseidente wa naha, bana ba rona ha ba voute ba tsubile. Ba tsubile nnyeu ena hothweng ke nyaope. Ha ba tsebe ba ya pele kapa ba ya moraho. Ha ba diplanneng tsa di development, ha ba na diprogramme. Ha ho na letho tse ba di etsang. Ba eme. Ho na le se ba se emetseng. Ba tsubile ntate wa rona.

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Batho ba rona ba lapile. Tswetswe, re le UTA molaetsa wa rona ke ona. Dipuong tsa lona ha le kopane le banana ba mmala wa lehodimo, re kopa o re kopele lefatshe. Re kopa o re kopele lefatse ka tlase ho lona re tsebe ho rekisa diminerale tsa rona. O re kopele lefatshe ka hodimo re itjalle dijo. Ha re batle ho fuwa tshelete le digrant. Re kopa ho itjalla dijo, ntate. Re kopa dithaba tsa rona re explore tourism. Ntate, re kopa didiba tsa rona re nwe metsi a hlwekileng.

Izwelethu!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. GOOD? Order, hon members. GOOD? Is hon member de Lille in the House?

Mr N SINGH: Not here, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I don't see the representative. The ANC?

Mr M B NTULI: Madam Speaker, the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, may I start by congratulating you, Madam Speaker, and your deputy, and of course also congratulate the President of the ANC and the President of our country, so the President for all of us.

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Mr President, I want to say that, as you would know, the Constitution of the Republic enjoins you in particular, and all of us in general as honourable members, with a very enduring responsibility to build a non-racial, a non-sexist, a democratic and a prosperous society.

I want to urge you, Mr President, that ... as you know, you are assuming office at a time when the country is at a point which we have defined as a moment of fundamental consequence, in which we are required, as public representatives and honourable members, to stand up together and ensure that we build a government and a country in the best interest of all South Africans, as opposed to our own partisan or parochial ideological differences. So, I do want to congratulate you, Mr President, and say that, as you assume office, this is a moment for you to take us to climb a particular mountain, not so that we can be seen, but in order for us to have a better view of the challenges we face as a country and act together effectively to overcome them.

I also want to say that the ANC is very pleased that a number of political parties have accepted to work together in

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building a government of national unity. [Time expired.]

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr J S MALEMA: We miss you, hon Majodina.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member. Hon Majodina is still in the House.

Mr J S MALEMA: We miss hon Majodina.

An HON MEMBER: We don't miss Mamina.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I know you have missed each other, particularly those of you who were in the Sixth Administration. We are all new, and I'm sure we will again exchange pleasantries and take each other to tea. I won't mention the other place because it's not here. When we go back to the Assembly once it's done, I know that after lunch, some of my members will visit another place, but they will still be orderly.

Mr President, I now afford you an opportunity to address the House. [Applause.]

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ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE REPUBLIC

Mr M C RAMAPHOSA: Madame Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Justice and leaders of all political parties represented here in our National Assembly, I wish to congratulate you, Madame Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, for being elected to your positions of leadership to lead this National Assembly in its work. I am humbled and honoured that you as members of the National Assembly have through your votes tonight decided to elect me to be the President of the Republic of South Africa. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

It is with pleasure that I accept. It will once again be a privilege and a pleasure to serve this great nation in the position of President. I accept this as a big responsibility. Therefore, I wish to thank all leaders for your congratulatory messages delivered here at this podium. Your messages are a clear clarion call for working together. Your messages constitute what I see as a well of encouragement, of good advice and of wisdom. I will spend some time to read all these wonderful messages that were delivered at this podium, because they are great messages from which I want to draw insights. I do believe that there is much that I can learn

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and glean from these messages. Therefore, thank you very much for your kind messages to all of you. [Applause.]

I want to thank the members of this august House who have voted for me and who through their vote have invested and placed their trust in me. I intend to work with all members and, indeed, to work together with even those who did not vote for me or who did not find their way clear to vote for me, and this is their democratic right. We are all South Africans, and I will serve all and work with even those who did not support me tonight.

The significance of the votes that were made and effected during the day and tonight for the office bearers, that is the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and myself, is not so much in the result of the vote that was delivered, but it is the historic meaning of the vote and this moment that we find ourselves in that is truly significant. That several parties that had opposed each other, but that represent the majority of South African voters, have decided to work together to deliver this result has given a new birth, a new era to our country. I do sincerely believe that this is an era of hope and it's also an era of inclusivity.

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As diverse political parties, we competed against each other in the election that we just had. The election was highly contested, and it was also divisive at times. When I spoke at the Independent Electoral Commission results announcement ceremony, I said:

The results of the election have made plain that the people of South Africa expect their leaders to work together to meet their needs. They expect the parties for which they have voted for to find common ground and to overcome their differences, to act and to work together for the good of everyone in our country.

The stark reality of the results of our past election is that no single party represented in this House achieved an outright majority to work alone legislatively and also at the executive level.

Through their votes our people expect all parties to work together within the framework of our Constitution and to work as political parties to achieve the objectives of a democratic society based on nonracialism, nonsexism, based on peace, justice and to ensure stability and also to tackle the

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triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality and to achieve prosperity for all.

It is in this context that we, as political parties that participated in the elections that received the seats we now occupy need to pledge to co-operate to work together in two ways as a voluntary Parliament of National Unity and through a voluntary government of national unity. A number of parties have come together to agree on a statement of intent to form a government of national unity and this government of national unity will be constituted not by two, not by three, but by more parties that voluntarily want to participate ... [Applause.] ... and so, I wish to state very clearly that this is not a grand coalition of two or three parties. It is a government of national unity that we are constituting, and we've been here before. We were here in 1994, when we sought to unite our country and to effect reconciliation. We are here now as directed by the votes that our people delivered to work together to ensure that we address the challenges that they face and this we shall do, and this is what I am committed to achieve as the President of the Republic of South Africa. [Applause.]

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Hon members, this is a historic juncture in the life of our country, which requires that we must work and act together to entrench our constitutional democracy and the rule of law and build a South Africa for all its people and it is with this in mind that I hereby declare that I accept the mission that you are giving me to work with you all to serve the people of our beautiful country.

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the Chief Justice for steering these proceedings of the first sitting with great ability, patience and excellent leadership. Thank you very much, Chief Justice, for what you have done. [Applause.]

I'd like to thank the members of this august House for the decorum that was demonstrated here today. I also want to thank members of this House for the promise, the promises that have been articulated here today that the intention of all parties is that we work together and work together with good decorum which prevailed today, and I so wish that that continues.

In the end I wish to thank you all and wish you a good night following a hard day's job for giving effect to the will of

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our people. It hasn't been very often that we work from 10:00 until 00:00 midnight. Therefore, thank you very much. I thank you for all of this. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr President-elect. Hon members, on behalf of the presiding officers whom you have elected, we would like to congratulate you, Mr President-elect, for having been elected in this House. Therefore, I know this means that you will now not be a member when you assume your responsibility as the head of state. You've already seen that this House has started its work. Therefore, we now wait after your inauguration to enable us also to work, because in order for us to form committees, we will need to know how you structure your government so that we can start our oversight responsibility.

Therefore, I promise, Mr President, we will co-operate and work together, but we will do our oversight, as is necessary and, as is our responsibility as a legislature. [Applause.]

Hon members, I now afford the religious leaders to bless this House before the House is adjourned.

Mr V ZUNGULA: Speaker, can I address you quickly?

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The SPEAKER: I'm sorry, who?

Mr V ZUNGULA: Zungula, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Zungula!

Mr V ZUNGULA: Yes, Speaker. You know, when Parliament has got religious leaders playing a role in blessing the House, African indigenous spirituality is always sidelined, and it is a faith that is indigenous to Africa. Therefore, it is our view as the ATM that that must not continue going forward. There must never be any gathering of Parliament that will require blessing by religious leaders, and you find that African indigenous spirituality is not considered. Thank you.
[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Zungula, for reminding us on that. I'm informed by the Secretary of Parliament that, indeed, they were invited to come, but unfortunately for whatever reasons, they were not able to come. However, we will follow up so that in future we are as inclusive as we must. I'll now invite Bishop Templeton Mbekwa, Mr Kirtibhai Pandya from the Hindu Faith and Rev Rodney Whiteman from the

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Western Cape Provincial Council of Churches to bless the House.

BLESSINGS OF THE HOUSE

Dr Bishop T MBEKWA (Pentecostal Church): Madam Speaker, the people of South Africa have spoken, the political parties have spoken and now it is time for God to bless the first sitting of this Seventh Parliament. From the Book of Psalms 91 verse 15: "You will call on me and I will answer you. I will be with you in trouble. And I will deliver and honour you." God is talking and blessing this House. This is the homework of this House for the next five years: Call upon God in times of trouble. He will answer. God is depending on every political party that is represented in South Africa to call upon His name. And He wants to honour South Africa.

Can we stand and pray together in the name of Jesus? Heavenly Father, once again, we come before your throne. We acknowledge your sovereignty. You are such a tender, loving Father. You loved our country. For the love of our women, for the love of our children, for the love of our government, Father God, bless this House. Let this House be the House of

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solutions. Let this House be the House of your people, for the sake of your children. Father, God, here we are. We bless each and every individual under this roof right now.

We cancel every pathetic false prophet that have prophesised against this House and/or against South Africa. We are standing in the gap right now. We say, you Prophet of Doom, you have no place in this House.

Father God, we bless each and every one who is standing in the gap for the people of South Africa. Bless us, Almighty God, right now. I sprinkled the blood of Jesus upon each and every individual from the hair of their heads to the soles of their feet. I cut off every plan and scheme of the enemy against the people of South Africa. We reverse it right now in the name of Jesus. Bless you, Almighty God, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sanskrit:

Mr K PANDYA (Hindu Faith):

Om

Om

Om

Om Satyam Param Dhimahi

Om bhur bhuvah svah

Tat savitur varenyam

Bhargo devasya dhimahi

Dhiyo yonah prachodayat

Om

Sam gacchadhvam sam vadadhvam sam vo manamsi janatam

Deva bhagam yatha purve sanjanana upasate

English:

Let all assemble together! Let all speak together! Let all minds be in harmony! Let the proceedings be preceded by spirit of this verse.

Sanskrit:

Samani va akuti: samana hridayani vah

Samanamastu vo mano yatha va: susahasati

English:

This place is common to us

These thoughts are common to us

Let our hearts be shared

Let all thoughts, minds and hearts be united

So, all may enjoy peace and contentment

Sanskrit:

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

English:

The whole world is our family

O Almighty Parmatma

God

Maalik [Lord]

Grant all kinds of blessings on this beautiful rainbow

nation, South Africa, and on the whole world

May truth, love and compassion [*satya, prem, karuna*] always

be in this beautiful nation.

Let there be wealth and total health here!

Sanskrit:

Om

Asato ma sadgamaya

Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya

Mrttyorma amritam gamaya

English:

Almighty *Parmatma*,

lead us from darkness to light,

untruth to truth, and

from mortality to immortality

South Africa *Bhomini ki jai ho* [May we love our country South Africa]

Dharti mata ki jai ho [May we love our Mother Earth]

Om

Shaanti [peace]

Shaanti [peace]

Shaanti [peace]

Let there be peace, peace, peace.

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Rev R WHITEMAN (Western Cape Provincial Council of Churches):

We call upon you, divine creator of our universe and divine parent of all nations to look upon our nation and our leaders, as we enter the seventh democratic era and embark on the next chapter of our journey as a nation. We look back over the 30 years of our democracy and celebrate all the good achieved. We may also learn from our mistakes, for many of our people still live in impoverished circumstances. Crime and corruption go unpunished and sometimes, it is a lack of political will for meaningful transformation. Many of our youth, especially the unemployed, feel a sense of hopelessness.

Forgive us for our silences, our unwillingness to listen and to change for the good, as well as our unwillingness to receive the challenge for accountability. We call on you God Creator to open the minds and hearts of those who will govern us and will give us credible leadership on all levels of our national and provincial life. May they remember the calls for justice, equity, nation-building, economic justice and growth, equal opportunity, freedom from poverty and crime and the benefits of proper housing, education and health for all.

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Open their hearts to listen to the cries of all living on the margins, disempowered, and respond with sincere servant leadership, respect and compassion. Deliver the Chambers of governance from siloed thinking and inertia. Enable them to think inclusively, and despite disagreements, find consensus and the courage to implement, so that the quality of life of all citizens will improve and the potential of each person be freed to build a united, democratic South Africa.

By your Holy Spirit, breathe transformative life into these Chambers of governance, so that all citizens will grow in confidence for our nation and leaders, helping us to transcend from despair into the ambience of sincere hopefulness. Unlock the potential of each member to serve our people, and to uphold our constitutional values and principles with integrity.

By your grace, you enabled the voters to cast their votes. Let us hold on to our responsibility to pray for our leaders, to work with them for the common good, and with dignity, to hold them to account on all levels.

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We make our prayer in the name of the one whose earthly life embodied our frail humanity, our broken environment and our diversity, giving hope for a better life to the hopeless, courage to the voiceless and powerless, and challenge to those who hold power, even Jesus Christ. May justice prevail, so that peace may flow like a river and hope be assured. Amen.

The SPEAKER: Amen. Thank you to all our religious leaders who are here. [Applause.] That concludes the proceedings for the day. Order, hon members, may we still be seated? Members and guests are requested to remain at their places, until the procession has left the chamber. The procession will leave the House in the following order: the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, President-Elect, Secretary to Parliament and Secretary to the National Assembly, Chief Justice.

The House adjourned at 00:17.