



The Conference on the Constitution, 13 – 16 March 2023

Over the past two and half decades, South Africa has made significant gains in addressing the divisions of the past and establishing a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. This serves as a testament to the progressive and transformative nature of its current Constitution.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, is the supreme law of the land. It was signed into law by South Africa's first democratically elected President the Hon. Mr Nelson Mandela in 1996 and it officially came into effect in 1997. Its primary concern is to facilitate change in political, economic and social relations in South Africa. It encompasses the Bill of Rights which enshrines the rights and freedoms of all people in South Africa, and the Bill of Rights obliges the state not only to respect but also to protect, promote and fulfil all the rights listed in the Bill of Rights.

The Conference on the Constitution, will recognise the 25th Anniversary of the Constitution's coming into effect and celebrate this significant milestone in the nation's constitutional democracy.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, working in collaboration with its partners, will bring together some 500 guests and participants from diverse fields representing senior government officials, academics, research experts, civil society formations and business practitioners, for an engaging exchange of ideas and best practices (about 400 of these are expected to attend physically and about 100 to join through a virtual platform). The National Conference will be broadcast live to enable the nation at large to access the sessions.

The Conference aims to explore forward-looking themes in the changing landscape of South Africa's constitutional democracy, as well as reflect on key constitutional issues pertaining to court jurisprudence and government policies - including, reviewing service delivery challenges and proposing sound solutions which will take the country forward to the next decade.

Plenary sessions and parallel group discussions will focus on mapping and meeting future demands for human rights and freedoms, and how the constitution can stay relevant in the face of the demographic changes, heightened racial and political conflicts, growing public expectations of service delivery and unethical, shady practises of corruption.

Programme Director:**DAY 1 – Monday, 13 MARCH 2023****Sub-theme: Transforming society, building unity and national cohesion**

08:00 – 08:45	Registration and Information Desk
08:45 – 08:50	Welcome and Singing of the National Anthem
08:50 – 08:55	Reading of the Constitution's Preamble
08:55 – 09:00	A Moment of Silence for the Fallen Heroes of our Democracy

SESSION 2: Formal Presentations

09:00 – 09:10	Opening Remarks	
09:10 – 09:20	Message of Support	
09:20 – 09:30	Message of Support	
09:30 – 09:40	Introduction of the key note speaker	
09:40 – 09:45	Imbongi	
09:45 – 10:15	Key Note Address	
10:15 – 10:35	TEA BREAK	
10:35 – 10:45	The Voice of the Chapter 9 Institutions	
10:45 – 10:55	The Voice of Civil Society	
10:55 – 11:05	The Voice of Business	
11:05 – 11:15	The Voice of the African Union	
11:15 – 11:25	The Voice of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	

SESSION 3: Honouring those who Suffered for Justice and Freedom in our Land

11:25 – 11:30	A short documentary on the making of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Constitutional Hill)
11:30 – 12:00	Honouring all those that suffered during apartheid
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH

SESSION 4: Plenary Sitting

13:00 – 13:30	Social Cohesion and Nation Building	
13:30 – 13:45	UN Special Report on Racism	
13:45 – 14:00	Special Rapport on Violence against Migrants	
14:00 – 14:15	Report on Sexism and Gender-based Violence	
14:15 – 15:15	FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS	
15:20 – 15:40	TEA BREAK	

SESSION 5: COMMISSIONS		
15:40 – 16:40	Confronting Service delivery issues of health, housing, education, access to water and electricity	Facilitator
	Addressing local government issues	Facilitator
	Improving community safety and tackling violent crimes	Facilitator
	Addressing migration challenges	Facilitator
	Increasing voice of civil society	Facilitator
16:40 – 17:40	REPORT BACK ON COMMISSIONS	
17:40 – 18:00	CONCLUSION AND CLOSURE	

Programme Director:

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2023		
Sub-theme: Transforming National Economic State, tackling inequality, poverty and unemployment		
08:00 – 08:45	Registration and Information Desk	
08:45 – 08:50	Welcome and Singing of the National Anthem	
08:50 – 08:55	Taking a Collective Pledge on the Founding Provisions of the Constitution	
	A Moment of Silence for the Fallen Heroes of our Democracy	
08:55 – 09:15	Remarks on the Constitution and the making of the Nation	

SESSION 7: Formal Presentation		
09:15 – 09:45	The Constitutional Imperative for Overcoming Inequality and Instituting Economic Equity in South Africa	
09:45 -10:15	An insightful analysis of significant, national indicators for tackling economic inequality in South Africa	
10:15 – 10:45	Reflections on State Capture Commission's Recommendations	(Expert in Corruption/State Capture)
10:45 – 11:00	TEA BREAK	
11:00 – 12:00	GROUP BREAKAWAYS	
	A: Land reform, restitution and redistribution	Facilitator
	B: Enabling Financial Support for Small Business	Facilitator
	C: Addressing economic gap between rural and urban areas	Facilitator
	D: Mainstreaming Youth and Women Economic Empowerment programmes	Facilitator
	E: Assessing Social Security and Poverty Alleviation Programs	Facilitator
	F: Addressing Challenges Faced by People Living with Disabilities	Facilitator

12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH
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SESSION 8: Focus Discussion Groups		
13:00 – 13:45	Group Report Back – A-C	Facilitator
13:45 -13:55	Questions and Answers	
13:55 – 14:35	Group Report Back D – F	Facilitator
14:35 – 14:45	Questions and Answers	
14:45 -15:00	TEA BREAK	
15:00 – 16:20	Summary of Day's Resolutions	
16:20 – 16:30	Conclusion and Closure	

Programme Director:

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2023	
Sub-theme: Transforming Legal and Political state	
08:00 – 08:45	Registration and Information Desk
08:45 – 08:50	Welcome and Singing of the National Anthem
08:50 – 09:00	A Short Video on Youth Challenges in South Africa (BrandSA)

SESSION 9: Formal Presentation		
09:00 – 09:25	Examining the state of Chapter 9 Institutions in 25 Years through various Human Rights Reports	
09:25 -09:55	The State of the Public Service Administration	
09:55 – 10:15	Transformation of the Judiciary	
10:15 – 10:30	TEA BREAK	
10:30 – 11:00	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	
11:00 – 11:15	Reflections on the Programmes of the Public Protector	
11:15 – 11:30	Reflections on Programmes of the National Prosecuting Authority	
11:30 -12:00	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH	

SESSION 10: COMMISSIONS		
13:00 – 14:30	1. Fighting Corruption and Enforcing Good Governance	
	2. Tackling Voter Empathy and Non-Participation	
	3. The Role of Traditional Leadership in a Constitutional Democracy	

	4. Improving Access to Justice for the Vulnerable Groups	
14:30 -14:50	TEA BREAK	
14:50 – 15:30	Commission Report Back	

SESSION 11: A Special Report from the Judiciary		
15:30 – 16:00	Reflections on the role of the Judiciary in strengthening Constitutionalism	
16:00 – 16:20	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	
16:20 – 16:30	Closing Remarks	

Programme Director:

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023		
Sub-theme: Adopting Conference Resolutions and Decisions		
08:00 – 08:45	Registration and Information Desk	
08:45 – 08:50	Welcome and Singing of the National Anthem	
08:50 – 09:00	A Short Video on the making of the Constitution (Constitution Hill)	

SESSION 13: Adoption of Resolutions of Day 1 and Day 2		
09:00 – 09:45	Summary of Issues raised on Day 1: Transforming society, building unity and national cohesion	Day 1 Programme Director
09:45 -10:30	Proposals for Decisions	ALL
10: 30 – 10:45	TEA BREAK	
10:45 – 11:15	Adoption of Resolutions	
11:15 – 12:15	Summary of Issues raised on Day 2: Transforming National Economic State, tackling inequality, poverty and unemployment	Day 2 Programme Director
12:15 – 13:00	Proposal for Decisions	ALL
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 -15:15	Adoption of Resolutions	
15:15 – 15:30	TEA BREAK	

SESSION 14 : Adoption of Resolutions of Day 3		
15:30 – 16:15	Summary of Issues raised on Day3: Transforming Legal and Political State	Day 3 Programme Director
16:15 – 17:00	Proposal for Decisions	ALL
17:00 – 17:30	Adoption of Resolutions	
17:30 -17:45	CLOSING BY:	