

The Constitution

OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996

As adopted on 8 May 1996 and amended
on 11 October 1996 by the Constitutional Assembly

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CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Manner of reference to the Act, previously “Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996”,
substituted by s. 1 (1) of the Citation of Constitutional Laws, 2005 (Act No. 5 of 2005)
[Assented to 10 December 1996]

[DATE OF PROMULGATION: 18 DECEMBER, 1996]
[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 4 FEBRUARY, 1997]
(unless otherwise indicated - see also s. 243[5])
(English text signed by the President)

as amended by

Constitution First Amendment Act of 1997
Constitution Second Amendment Act of 1998
Constitution Third Amendment Act of 1998
Constitution Fourth Amendment Act of 1999
Constitution Fifth Amendment Act of 1999
Constitution Sixth Amendment Act of 2001
Constitution Seventh Amendment Act of 2001
Constitution Eighth Amendment Act of 2002
Constitution Ninth Amendment Act of 2002
Constitution Tenth Amendment Act of 2003
Constitution Eleventh Amendment Act of 2003
Constitution Twelfth Amendment Act of 2005
Constitution Thirteenth Amendment Act of 2007
Constitution Fourteenth Amendment Act of 2008
Constitution Fifteenth Amendment Act of 2008
Constitution Sixteenth Amendment Act of 2009
Constitution Seventeenth Amendment Act of 2012

In terms of Proclamation No. 26 of 26 April, 2001, the administration of this Act has been assigned to the
Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development.

ACT

To introduce a new Constitution for the Republic of South Africa and to provide for matters incidental
thereto.

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PREAMBLE

*We, the people of South Africa,
Recognise the injustices of our past;
Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;
Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and
Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.
We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme
law of the Republic so as to -*

*Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social
justice and fundamental human rights;*

*Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on
the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;*

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and

*Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign
state in the family of nations.*

May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.

