

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1 Calling of Joint Sitting

CALLING OF JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms T R Modise, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mr A N Maseko, in terms of Joint Rule 7(2), have called a hybrid joint sitting of the Houses of Parliament to conduct a debate on the President's State-of-the-nation Address on 16 and 17 February 2021 at 14:00. The President's reply to the debate is scheduled for 18 February at 14:00.

***T R MODISE MP
SPEAKER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

***A N MASEKO MP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF PROVINCES***

2. Joint Rules applicable to Virtual or Hybrid Joint Sitzings made in terms of Joint Rule 2 (Unforeseen matters)

Joint Rule 2 of the Joint Rules of Parliament provides that the Speaker and Chairperson of the Council, acting jointly, may give a ruling or make a rule in respect of any matter for which the Joint Rules do not provide, having due regard to the procedures, precedents, practices and conventions developed by joint sittings of both Houses and on the basis of constitutional values and principles underpinning an open, accountable and democratic society. A rule framed by the Speaker and Chairperson, acting jointly, remains in force until a meeting of the Joint Rules Committee has decided on it.

Pursuant to Joint Rule 2 of the Joint Rules, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces and the Speaker of the National Assembly have made the following Rules to enable the National Council of Provinces and the National Assembly to conduct hybrid or virtual joint sittings.

Part A - Application of Rule

These Rules apply to hybrid and virtual joint sittings of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces.

Part B - Venue

The venue of a virtual or hybrid joint sitting shall be deemed to be Cape Town, the seat of Parliament.

Part C – Papers

In terms of these Rules, all Papers of the hybrid or virtual joint sitting shall be distributed by electronic means to which Delegates to the National Council of Provinces and Members of the National Assembly have access.

Part D - Privilege and application of Joint Rules in hybrid or virtual joint sittings

In a virtual or hybrid joint sitting –

- (a) Delegates to the National Council of Provinces and Members of the National Assembly shall have the same powers, privileges and immunities which they ordinarily enjoy in parliamentary proceedings; and
- (b) the Joint Rules shall apply.

Part E - Presiding Officers

In a virtual or hybrid joint sitting, the Presiding Officers shall have all the powers as provided for in the Constitution, any other law and Joint Rules.

Part F – Attendance

- (a) For the purposes of a hybrid sittings attendance shall be constituted by those Members of the National Assembly and Delegates to the National Council of Provinces who have logged in and those who are physically present in the Chamber.
- (b) For the purposes of virtual sitting those Members of the National Assembly and Delegates to the National Council of Provinces who have logged in shall be deemed to be present.

Part G – Control of microphones

- (a) In the event of a Member or Delegate not complying with an order or ruling or direction of the Presiding Officer, or acting in a disruptive or grossly disorderly manner during the sitting, the Presiding Officer may direct that the Delegate's or Member's mic be muted/switched off.
- (b) Before proceeding in terms of Subrule (a), the Presiding Officer must inform the Member or Delegate and the House of the intention to do so.

Part H – Public Access

Public access to hybrid or virtual joint sittings shall be facilitated in a manner consistent with participatory and representative democracy and, wherever possible, a virtual or hybrid joint sitting must be livestreamed.