



10 June 2024

Media Statement

DETERMINATION OF THE FIRST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE

1. On the 2nd of June 2024 the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) declared the 2024 National and Provincial Elections Results. On the 6th of June 2024 the IEC handed the lists of designated members of Parliament (MPs) and members of Provincial Legislatures (MPLs) to the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa who, in turn, handed the lists over to the Secretary to Parliament in preparation for the first sitting of the National Assembly.
2. Section 51(1) of the Constitution provides that, after an election, the first sitting of the National Assembly must take place at a time and on a date determined by the Chief Justice but not more than 14 days after the election results have been declared.
3. By virtue of the powers vested in the Chief Justice in terms of section 51(1) of the Constitution, Chief Justice Zondo has determined that the first sitting of the National Assembly shall be on Friday, 14 June 2024 at 10h00. The 14th June falls within the prescribed period. The determination is attached.



4. During the first sitting of Parliament the Chief Justice will administer the prescribed oath or affirmation, as the case may be, to members of the National Assembly. This is an oath or affirmation of faithfulness to the Republic and obedience to the Constitution which section 48 of the Constitution requires members of the National Assembly to take before they may perform their duties as members of the National Assembly.
5. After the members of the National Assembly have been sworn in or after the prescribed affirmation has been administered, the Chief Justice will then preside over the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly. Once the Speaker of the National Assembly has been elected, he or she will then preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker.
6. After the Deputy Speaker has been elected, the Chief Justice will then take over again and preside over the election of the President.
7. The Secretary to Parliament has received formal correspondence in this regard and will henceforth make the necessary arrangements for the first sitting of the National Assembly to take place in accordance with the determination made by the Chief Justice.
8. As far as the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) is concerned, the Chief Justice has determined that its first sitting will be on Saturday 15 June 2024. The Chief Justice will swear in, and administer the prescribed affirmation to, members of the NCOP and, thereafter, preside over the election of the Chairperson of the NCOP. Thereafter, the Chairperson of the NCOP will preside over the election of the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP.



9. As far as the first sittings of the Provincial Legislatures are concerned, the Chief Justice has designated Judges-President in the Provinces to determine the first sittings of the Provincial Legislatures in their respective Provinces. In terms of the Constitution such sittings are also required to take place not more than 14 days after the declaration of election results. The Judges-President will administer the prescribed oath / or affirmation to members of the Provincial Legislatures, preside over the election of the Speaker of the Legislature and the election of the Premier.

-Ends-

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice on behalf of the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Chief Justice R M M Zondo.

