

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

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NO. 108 OF 1996

[DATE OF PROMULGATION: 18 DECEMBER, 1996]

[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 4 FEBRUARY, 1997]

(unless otherwise indicated)

(English text signed by the President)

as amended by

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Amendment Act, No. 35 of 1997

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Amendment Act, No. 65 of 1998

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Second Amendment Act, No. 87 of 1998

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Second Amendment Act, No. 2 of 1999

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Amendment Act, No. 3 of 1999

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Amendment Act, No. 34 of 2001

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Second Amendment Act, No. 61 of 2001

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Amendment Act, No. 18 of 2002

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Second Amendment Act, No. 21 of 2002

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Amendment Act, No. 2 of 2003

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Second Amendment Act, No. 3 of 2003

GENERAL NOTE

In terms of section 4 of Act No. 65 of 1998, the expression "Human Rights Commission", wherever it occurs, is substituted by the expression "South African Human Rights Commission". 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.