

**APPENDIX B****OFFICIAL ORDER OF PRECEDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Rules to be observed:

- (1) The order of precedence laid down in the Table of Precedence shall be observed on all official occasions and the host may deviate from it only with the approval of the President of the Republic of South Africa.
- (2) When foreign relations or interests are the main focus of an official function, or when precedence above office-bearers in Rubric 5 is given to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps in terms of international protocol, the Minister of Foreign Affairs shall be given precedence above the Doyen and the office-bearers in Rubric 5.
- (3) When foreign relations or interests are the main focus of an official function, the Director General of the relevant department hosting the function, shall enjoy precedence after the Secretary of the Cabinet, the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, and the Director General of Foreign Affairs.
- (4) Rubric 15(a): Should the Public Protector already hold a higher position on the Official Table of Precedence, he/she shall retain his/her personal higher precedence for all official functions.
- (5) Rubric 15(e) is included, provided that Chairpersons of State Corporations are invited, when the particular function relates to their specific fields or according to the choice of the host, should he or she wish to invite all or any of the Chairpersons.
- (6) Persons not appearing in the Table shall not be placed above persons appearing in it unless they either have been accorded ad hoc precedence in terms of Rubric 19 of the Table or are invited as guests of honour.
- (7) Courtesy precedence is restricted to persons who are not normally resident in the Republic of South Africa, but includes church dignitaries within the Republic, as well as other dignitaries, office bearers and functionaries for whom separate provision has not been made in the Table.
- (8) Amendments to the Table shall be effected only by the President of the Republic of South Africa and shall be published in the Government Gazette.
- (9) Visiting dignitaries of other countries holding the same rank will take precedence over South Africans holding that rank.

(Please note that this Order of Precedence gives special recognition to senior politicians and other political office bearers and members of the judiciary. Public officials should never aspire or expect to be elevated to the level/rubrics of democratically elected politicians)

**Official Table of Precedence as amended 1 January 1996**

Compiled by the Presidency.

**Rubric 1**

The President of the Republic of South Africa or the Acting President.

**Rubric 2**

Deputy President and the President-elect (for the period between his or her election and assumption of office).

**Rubric 3**

- (a) The Chief Justice or the Acting Chief Justice.
- (b) President of the Constitutional Court or the Acting President of the Constitutional Court.

**Rubric 4**

- (a) Former Presidents of the Republic of South Africa, in order of seniority.
- (b) Former Deputy Presidents, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 5**

Cabinet Ministers, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces and Premiers of the respective Provinces, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 6**

- (a) Ambassadors, in order of seniority.
- (b) Envoys, Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary, in order of seniority.
- (c) Chargé d'Affaires en titre, in order of seniority.
- (d) Heads of other permanent Diplomatic Missions, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 7**

- (a) Deputy Ministers, Members of the Executive Councils and Speakers of Provincial Legislatures, in order of seniority.
- (b) Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces in order of seniority.
- (c) The Chief Whip of the majority party in the National Assembly and NCOP and Deputy Speakers of Provincial Legislators, the Chairperson of the Standing

Committee on Public Accounts in the National Assembly and the Parliamentary Councillor of the President, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 8**

The Secretary of the Cabinet and the Chief of the National Defence Force.

**Rubric 9**

- (a) Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Embassies, in order of seniority.
- (b) Charges d'Affaires ad interim of Legations, in order of seniority.
- (c) Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of other permanent Diplomatic Missions, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 10**

Leaders of the different Political Parties in the National Assembly and the NCOP, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 11**

- (a) Deputy President of the Constitutional Court.
- (b) Judges of Appeal, in order of seniority.
- (c) Judges of the Constitutional Court, in order of seniority.
- (d) Judges President, in order of seniority.
- (e) Deputy Judges President, in order of seniority.
- (f) Judges of the Supreme Court, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 12**

Former Chief Justices, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 13**

Chairperson of the Commissions established under the Constitution (No 200 of 1993), in order of seniority.

Examples of these Commissions are:

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Youth Commission
- Gender Commission
- Independent Broadcasting Authority
- Independent Electoral Commission

**Rubric 14**

- (a) Members of the National Assembly and of the National Council of Provinces, in order of seniority.
- (b) Members of the Provincial Legislative Authorities, in order of seniority.
- (c) Local Royalties, in order of seniority.
- (d) Chairman of the Council for Traditional Leaders.
- (e) Chairpersons of the Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 15**

- (a) The Auditor-General, Governor of the SA Reserve Bank, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission, and the Public Protector, in order of seniority.
- (b) Members of the Public Service Commission, in order of seniority.
- (c) Directors-General and their equivalents of Government Departments, including the Secretary to the National Assembly and the Secretary to the NCOP, Secretary for Safety and Security, the Defence Secretary and Directors-General of the respective Provinces, in order of seniority.
- (d) Attorneys-General, in order of seniority.
- (e) Chairpersons of State Corporations, in order of seniority.

**Rubric 16**

- (a) The Mayor of the capital of the Province in which the function is held.
- (b) Chairpersons of the Metropolitan Councils of the region in which the function is held.

**Rubric 17**

Mayors of Provincial capitals, with seniority according to the grade in which the Local Authority was categorised.

**Rubric 18**

The spouses of the foregoing persons (or in the case of single or divorced persons or widowers/widows, the ladies/men officially recognised by the Government as their hostesses) enjoy the precedence of their spouses (or the persons for whom they act as host/hostesses) and vice versa.

**Rubric 19**

The President of the Republic of South Africa may on special occasions, accord persons who do not appear in this Table courtesy precedence.