

South Africa's National Symbols



Coat of Arms



The new South African flag was adopted and first flown on Freedom Day (27 April 1994). It was again flown on 10 May 1994—the day of former President Nelson Mandela's inauguration. It is the only six coloured flag in the world!

The Flag

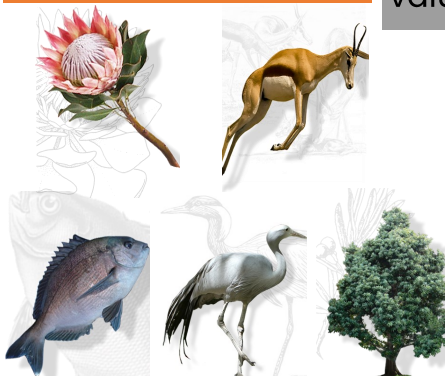


The Coat of Arms is South Africa's highest visual symbol. Our new coat of arms was designed by Iaan Bekker and launched on 27 April 2000. It contains South Africa's motto: *!ke e: /xarra //ke*. This is written in the San language of the /Xam people and means *diverse people unite*.

National Living Heritage Symbols

South Africa has five National Living Heritage Symbols:

- Animal: springbok
- Flower: king protea
- Tree: yellowwood
- Bird: blue crane
- Fish: galjoen



The National Anthem

<p>Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo, Yizwa imithandazo yethu, Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo</p>	isiXhosa and isiZulu	<p>The national anthem is a combination of two well known pieces of music—Enoch Sontonga's <u>Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika</u> and <u>The Call of South Africa (Die Stem van Suid Afrika)</u> which was written in 1918 by author and poet C J Langenhoven. It is sung in five languages: isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans and English, thereby uniting diverse languages and traditions.</p>
<p>Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso, O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho, O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso, Setjhaba sa South Afrika – South Afrika.</p>	Sesotho	
<p>Uit die blou van onse hemel, Uit die diepte van ons see, Oor ons ewige gebergtes, Waar die kranse antwoord gee,</p>	Afrikaans	
<p>Sounds the call to come together, And united we shall stand, Let us live and strive for freedom, In South Africa our land.</p>	English	

Parliamentary Coat of Arms

Parliament's Coat of Arms echoes the National Coat of Arms in that the oval shape once again dominates the design. It represents the values of our democracy.



Symbols of Parliament

Parliament is opened with a solemn ritual involving its highest symbols—the Mace and the Black Rod. When these items are carried into the Houses of Parliament, all those present are reminded that both Houses (the National Assembly and the Council of Provinces) are in session and that proceedings are official.

