



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo IeNtshona Koloni

**THE FIRST SITTING DAY OF
A NEW PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**

FACT SHEET 1

REVISION 1, 4 JULY 2016

The first sitting of the Provincial Parliament after a general election convenes under rules laid down by the Judge President. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, requires that three tasks be performed at this first sitting. They are:

- the swearing-in of Members;
- the election of the Premier; and
- the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Members may choose between taking the Oath or the Solemn Affirmation and Members normally do so in groups of up to five in front of the Table in the Chamber.

Once all the Members have taken the Oath or Affirmation, the meeting proceeds to the election of the Premier.

The Presiding Officer calls for the nomination of candidates for Premier. Nominations are made on a prescribed form. The form must be signed by two Members of the Provincial Parliament as well as by the person who is nominated.

If only one person is nominated, the Presiding Officer declares that candidate duly elected. If more than one candidate is nominated, a vote is taken by secret ballot, with each Member present having one vote. After the ballot the Presiding Officer announces the name of the successful candidate.

The same rules that govern the election of the Premier apply to the election of the Speaker. Having been elected, the successful candidate takes the Chair as Speaker and expresses his/her sense of the honour conferred upon him/her.

If a Deputy Speaker is elected, the same rules apply but the Speaker presides over the election.