



Human and Social Sciences: HSSC4

LESSON 15

Unit Standard: 115480 - SO 4

INTRODUCTION

We are focussing again on diversity. In this part, we are looking at those things that marked a change from apartheid to democracy. We will for now discuss the Coat of Arms and the national anthem. We will also have a short explanation on the mace. Follow this lesson with your open mind. You are free to include any other information that you know.

Topic 1: Coat of Arms.

Coat of Arms symbolise the independence (being on its own) of a country and the pride it has on its achievements. So, it differs from one country to another. Coat of arms says many things about the history of the country and its wealth (riches). Every symbol of the Coat of Arms carries an important meaning for the country and its people. Unlike a flag, Coat of Arms is placed in official government buildings and in parliament.

It is the highest emblem of the country. The current Coat of Arms for South Africa replaces the one that served the country since 17 September 1910. It reflects an inclusive society ((all population groups are included) of the democratic rule.

A summary of meanings on the symbols found South Africa's Coat of Arms is given. You may also read the extended information below to increase your knowledge.





The South African Coat of Arms has two parts that are oval in shape (round like an egg). The first is Oval foundation (at the bottom) the other one is Oval shape of ascendance (up or top). The shape explains unity (showing two parts that were away and now they are uniting).

The motto: Is written in the Khoisan language of the Xam people. !ke e: /xarra //ke, means 'Diverse people unite'

Elephant Tusks - Elephants are known for having wisdom and strength. In the coat of arms, they also represent moderation and eternity.

The Ears of Wheat - The wheat represents fertility. Germination and growth of the wheat symbolise the growth and development of our nation to achieve an unlimited potential. It also relates to the nourishment of the people and represents the agricultural bounty from the earth.

The Shield - Has two functions in the coat of arms, it represents the spiritual defence of our nation and also holds the figures that represent our identity.

The Human Figures - These figures are derived from the world famous South African rock art images found on the Linton stone, which is now housed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. As the oldest known inhabitants of our land, the Khoisan, are a testament to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures in the image are depicted in an act of greeting one another, this is to symbolise unity. They also represent the individual's journey for transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Spear and Knobkerie - These represent the symbols of defence and authority, they also represent the powerful legs of the secretary bird. As the spear and knobkerie are lying down, it symbolises peace.

The Protea - Is shown as an emblem representing the beauty of our land, with the flower representing our potential as a nation in the pursuit of an African Renaissance. It also symbolises growth from the earth and nurtures from above, depicting the complete integration of forces. The most popular colours of Africa have been assigned to the protea; green, gold, red and black.

The Secretary Bird - On the Coat of Arms, the secretary bird is shown to be in flight, depicting growth and speed. A powerful bird, whose legs, represented by the knobkerrie and spear, assist in its hunt for snakes, which symbolises protection to the nation against all enemies.

The bird is a messenger of the heavens, symbolising here a divine majesty. The uplifted wings are an emblem for the ascendance of our nation, whilst also offering protection. The secretary bird is depicted in gold, symbolising its association with the sun and the highest power.

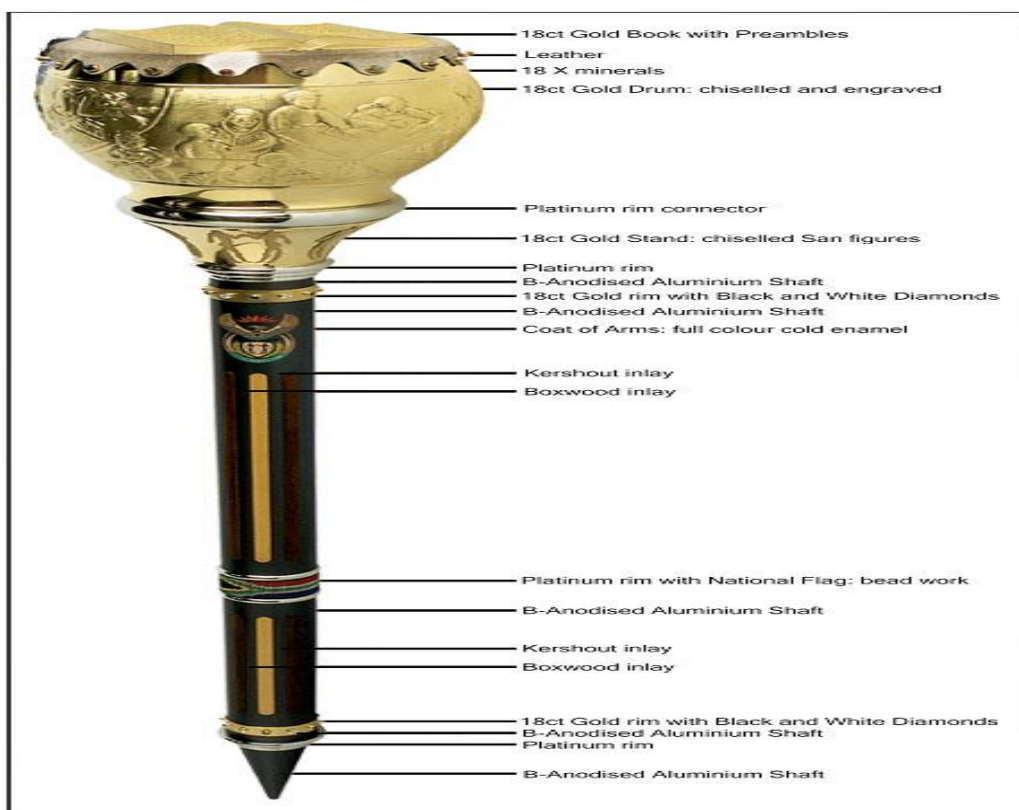


The Rising Sun - The sun is an emblem of brightness, splendour and energy. It symbolises knowledge, good judgment, willpower, and the ability of reflection and the promise of rebirth. It is the source of all life, of light and represents the ultimate wholeness of humanity.

All the elements of the Coat of Arms combine to form the lower and upper oval shapes forming a symbol of infinity. From the tusks to the rising sun the shape formed is that of the cosmic egg from which the secretary bird emerges. Symbolically, it implies the rebirth of the spirit of our great and heroic nation of South Africa.

Let us have a brief look at the mace ...

NB: Mace is a symbol of authority carried in the National Assembly of the South African parliament by Sergeant – at- Arms. It is placed before the speaker of parliament and signifies that the session and proceedings are official. The Sergeant –at- Arms keeps order. He/she supports the president by making sure that he has all the materials he needs before the meeting.



Remember that the parliament of South Africa is made of two houses: The **National Assembly** and the **National Council of Provinces**.



Work on this activity ...

Activity



- 1.1 Name the heading of the picture above.
- 1.2 Explain the meaning of each of the symbols on the picture.
- 1.3 Describe the two spheres of the picture.
- 1.4 In which language was the motto formulated.
- 1.5 Which flower was used as a symbol on the picture?
- 1.6 Why was the secretary bird chosen as a symbol?

Topic 2: The National Anthem.

Die stem van Suid Afrika was sung as a national anthem before democracy. It was initially a poem written by C.J Langenhoven in 1918 but later translated into music. When apartheid came to an end, it was retained (kept) as the national anthem. Nkosi Sikele'iAfrika' was composed by Enoch Sontonga in 1897. It was first sung as a church hymn but later as a political defiance against the apartheid government. Both songs were adopted as national anthems in 1994 and were sung during the inauguration of Nelson Mandela.

It was a problem to have two national songs in one country. In 1997, the two 'national anthems' were combined with the inclusion new lines in English and the exclusion of others from both songs. The new national anthem was changed so that it becomes inclusive of all races and to reflect diversity of our society.

The lyrics (words that make a song) have five of the most widely spoken of South Africa's eleven official languages – [Xhosa](#) (first stanza (' paragraph' of a song or poem), first two lines), [Zulu](#) (first stanza, last two lines), [Sesotho](#) (second stanza), [Afrikaans](#) (third stanza), and [English](#) (final stanza). The lyrics are sung in these languages regardless of the native language of the singer.

The first half was arranged by [Mzilikazi Khumalo](#)^[4] and the latter half of the song was arranged by [Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph](#), who also wrote the final verse.^{[4][5]}



First verse, first two lines in Xhosa (with translation)

*Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,*

Lord bless Africa
May her glory be lifted high,^[221]

First verse, last two lines in Zulu (with translation)

*Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho Iwayo.*

Hear our prayers
Lord bless us, your children.^[221]

Second verse in Sesotho (with translation)

*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.*

Lord we ask You to protect our nation,
Intervene and end all conflicts,
Protect us, protect our nation,
Protect South Africa, South Africa.^[221]

Third verse in Afrikaans (with translation)

*Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,*

From the blue of our skies,
From the depths of our seas,
Over our everlasting mountains,
Where the echoing crags resound,^[221]

Fourth verse in English

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.^[221]

I hope you will continue to study! Study! and study...!

Compilers:

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1. Human and Social Sciences, Media Works
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3. Google, pictures