

Learn and live the Constitution



In Controversy

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In May, South Africans voted in our sixth democratic general election, new members of Parliament were sworn in, our new president was inaugurated and a new cabinet (50% women) was appointed.

Our election results were no surprise to us – I think the only surprise was the Freedom Front Plus gaining a whole eight seats in Parliament. I was not as surprised, yet some South Africans displayed a great deal of intolerance about the phenomenon. But this is the point of democracy.

The FF+ serves a constituency, whether you agree with their politics or not. As the Constitution's preamble states: "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."

At the inauguration, SANDF paragliders fell on their behinds and one even knocked into an artillery weapon. The entire country poked fun at them. No, have respect for people who risk their life for our country.

Former president FW de Klerk arrived at the inauguration and was greeted to a mixture of cheers and booing from the crowd (more booing than cheers in my

opinion). No, show some respect for our former democratic leaders. As the Constitution's preamble states: "Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country."

But that was nothing compared to the sheer and utter disrespect former president Jacob Zuma displayed by not championing his comrade; by not showing his face at the inauguration. Are these sour grapes because his trial has started? Or showing defiance of the Ramaphosa faction? Was this display of total disrespect for our president-elect a message to us as citizens for his complicity in his guilt? For being a useless and corrupt president; who just did not fulfil his mandate?

If I felt guilty about mistreating someone, I too would not want to show my face at the party. No, uncle Jacob, as the Constitution states: "Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land."

In a surprising move, the president appointed GOOD leader Patricia de Lille to be the minister of Public Works and Infrastructure. I liked the idea of a non-ANC MP as a cabinet member because the president was making use of the Constitution in a practical way and showed us what it means to work for the people and not the party.

But, the DA was sour and showed its nasty side with its sarcastic comments. No DA, show some depth in your understanding about the Constitution and what the president is trying to do. As the Constitution's preamble states: "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."

C'mon SA, let us live with tolerance, respect and understanding. Let us learn and live the values entrenched in our Constitution. Is that too much to ask?