



**Publication:** Citizen, The (Daily) - Main  
**Title:** Heritage and modernity in new early  
**Publish date:** 08 Mar 2023  
**Page:** 8

**Reach:** 43693  
**AVE:R** 20860.36  
**Author:** Staff Reporter

# Heritage and modernity in new parly

The reconstruction of parliament is a unique opportunity for combining deep heritage elements with modernity to meet the demands of a “people’s parliament”, secretary to parliament Xolile George says.

The fire-gutted parliamentary buildings were handed over to the parliamentary team on Monday by the department of public works and infrastructure and its implementing agency.

This follows parliament’s recent announcement that it will partner with the Development Bank of Southern Africa

on the project.

George said South Africa is a melting pot of various cultures, with its parliament resembling many facets of the people’s rich heritage, some of which were destroyed. He said every effort will be made to preserve as much of this heritage as possible.

“We must ensure that modernity and heritage blend perfectly. The team must ensure the new buildings meet the requirements of modern communications technology, occupational safety and those that support the constitutional work of parliament,”

George said.

He said the fire crisis necessitated higher levels of vigilance in mitigating risks, including unprecedented weather patterns, to ensure parliament’s continuity is not disrupted in future.

The fire broke out on 2 January, 2022 and burnt for at least three days. The man suspected of starting it, Zandile Mafe, confessed to the crime after he was arrested inside the building.

George stressed efforts will be made to ensure reconstruction is concluded within two years. – *SAnews.gov.za*