

THE STATE PRESIDENT'S FLAG SINCE 4 SEPTEMBER 1984

Miss René Terblanché*

The State President's flag was registered as a heraldic representation in terms of the Heraldry Act of 1962 (Act No 18 of 1962). At the inauguration of Mr P.W. Botha, as the first executive State President of South Africa on 14 September 1984, it was displayed for the first time.

The heraldic description of the flag reads as follows: a rectangular tricolour, ratio three by two, with three triangular fields (top to bottom) in orange, white and blue. The white charged in the hoist with the coat of arms of the Republic of South Africa. Above the coat of arms the letter 'SP' are ensigned in gold with black fimbriation.

The State President's flag is displayed next to the National Flag at the official residence of the State President and at his offices in Pretoria and Cape Town, depending upon where he happens to be in residence. The State President's flag is always displayed at the official Opening of Parliament and on other occasions when the State President acts in his official capacity. A smaller version of the flag is also displayed on the tables of senior officials in the office of the State President. No official instructions for the display and use of the flag exist, because it is for the exclusive use of the State President and his office only.

The ceremonial-sized State President's flag is displayed together with the ceremonial National Flag on separate flag-poles at the official residence where the State President is residing.

When the State President pays official visits to other centres, both flags are displayed at the functions held there. When the flag is hoisted and struck, the National Flag is hoisted first and struck last. The ceremony at official residences is undertaken by the State President's Guard or members thereof. When the State President is not present, only the National Flag is hoisted and struck in customary manner by the Special Guard Unit of the SAP.

A member of the SAP hoists and strikes the State President's flag and the National Flag at the Union Buildings and also at Tuynhuys. When the State President visits other centres, the flags are either hoisted by the State President's Guard or by the organisers of the function.

The previous State President's flag consisted of a blue field charged with the ceremonial State President's coat of arms. The flag was displayed only at the official residence where the State President was in residence.

* Miss Terblanché is attached to the office of the State President.

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