



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

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END  
OF A PARLIAMENTARY TERM?

FACT SHEET 21

REVISION 1, 9 APRIL 2019



**Dissolution of Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP)**

- The WCPP is officially dissolved through a vote by its Members within 90 days of the date being set for the general election.
- The vote takes place after the Chief Whip tables a motion to dissolve the WCPP before or by the last scheduled sitting of the WCPP.
- No votes, sittings or parliamentary committee meetings will be scheduled during the WCPP's dissolution; however, the Premier may call an emergency sitting of the WCPP if an urgent matter arises.
- The WCPP cannot meet from the day of the general election until the commencement date of the new parliament, nor can Members conduct any parliamentary functions.

- A new parliament is officially constituted when, within 14 days of the announcement of the results of the general election, the first parliamentary sitting is held during which a judge, designated by the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, administers the oath of office to the newly elected Members.

### **What is the status of the Premier and the Cabinet after the dissolution of the WCPP?**

- The Premier and the Cabinet remain in their posts and retain their privileges and responsibilities until the election of a new Premier at the first sitting of the new parliament.
- The provincial government continues to operate under the leadership of the current Premier and Cabinet until a new Premier is sworn in and a new Cabinet is appointed.

### **What is the status of Members after the dissolution of the WCPP?**

- Members retain their positions during the dissolution of the parliament until midnight before election day.
- Members are required to vacate their offices by a set date before the general election and to return their access cards and any WCPP assets, such as library books, before they receive their final salaries.
- Returning Members are remunerated for the period between the general election and the first sitting of the new parliament.
- New Members only receive allowances and salaries from the date on which they take their oath of office.
- Departing Members receive a cash gratuity. This amount depends on the duration of their service.
- Departing Members may be eligible for a pension, depending on their age and the duration of their service.
- Departing Members can opt to retain membership of the Parmed medical aid scheme and will continue to receive a medical aid subsidy calculated according to the duration of their parliamentary service.

### **What is the status of political parties after the dissolution of the WCPP?**

- Allowances to political parties to maintain constituency offices and to employ administrative personnel will be paid on a pro-rata basis up to midnight before election day.
- Funding for returning political parties resumes after the election results are announced and this funding is based on the total number of seats won by each political party.
- Newly elected political parties will receive allowances from the date on which their representatives are sworn in and these allowances are based on the total number of seats won.