



**MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation,  
Minister Maropene Ramokgopa**

**Debate following the Address by the President on the Opening of  
Parliament for the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration, 19 July 2024**

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Deputy Speaker,**

**Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of  
Provinces,**

**Your Excellency, Mr President,**

**Honourable Members**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

Honourable members, April 2024 marked 30 years since the advent of democracy in South Africa. Commemorating this milestone, the President launched the 30-Year Review Report on 08 May 2024, a report that presents the government's assessment of progress from 1994 to date.

The review was based on a set of 13 themes identified from the National Development Plan (NDP) and the priorities of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration. On the 30 Year Review and Social Transformation, **the orientation of the public service has shifted from serving the minority to serving all**

**sections of the population.** Consequently, by 2022, the number of households with access to electricity, piped water and sanitation was above 80%. This has removed millions of households from deprivation, thereby improving indicators on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and the Human Development Index.

South Africa's social wage is one of the most comprehensive in the world and has proven to be an effective anti-poverty tool. The social wage, covers health care services, free water and electricity for the indigent, fee-free schools, public housing, school nutrition, early childhood development, and expanded financial support for students at universities and TVET Colleges through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

We have provided 13,7 million people (close to a quarter of the population) with homes through various social housing programmes – an unprecedented scale anywhere globally.

Our country is moving towards universal access to education at all levels, improved overall educational outcomes, and skills development opportunities, resulting in improved population-level educational outcomes, such as literacy and levels of educational qualifications per age cohort. These are important pillars for a modern, knowledge-based society.

Equally, we have improved access to healthcare, and are now working towards an ambition of universal access to health. Among others, the expansion of clinics, hospitals, and other health infrastructure, increased access to Primary Health Care (PHC) services from 68 million in 1998 to

138,8 million in 2022/23, and the Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution Programme reached 5,6 million beneficiaries. These interventions have led to the improved health status of citizens in terms of life expectancy, maternal health, child health, reduced disease burden, and AIDS-related deaths.

Progressive frameworks and interventions to advance and empower the designated segments of society, namely women, youth, and persons with disabilities and LGBTQI.

**On NDP vision to eradicate poverty and inequality, central planning and coordination and policy & planning GNU programme and MTDP**

The **National Development Plan (NDP)** remains our lodestar and long-term plan as adopted by all parties in 2012. Its goals are to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and reduce unemployment. The 10-year review of the NDP highlighted that insufficient progress had been made, but also proposed corrective actions for the remaining six years of implementation.

To support the implementation of the NDP, the DPME is leading a process to develop **the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024 – 2029** as the five-year plan of the 7<sup>th</sup> administration of the Government of National Unity. The MTDP builds on the consensus reached during the Cabinet Lekgotla on the weekend of the 13-14 July 2024. It incorporates the key Principles and Programme of Priorities of the GNU as outlined by the President in his Opening of Parliament Address.

Emerging areas of priority, which have been outlined in the Address by the President are **centred around inclusive economic growth and job creation**. This is a full appreciation of a major task we have to get the economy to perform at its full potential and create employment and economic opportunities for the people of South Africa, to improve their income and livelihoods.

In order to improve coordination and agenda setting during this term the Presidency will be strengthened to improve coordination of policy, integrated planning and oversight in support of development outcomes.

The MTDP 2024-2029 will be supported by a results framework that will enable the **integrated monitoring of progress against the set indicators and targets**. Government clusters will support the MTDP with their own implementation plans which will also allow them to respond to emerging issues. Priorities will also be cascaded in the institutional plans, Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans of Departments and Entities and into the performance management system of government. There is a greater focus on accelerating implementation, supported by application of relevant monitoring and evaluation tools. DPME is working on the systems and processes to ensure that service delivery improvements are implemented and there is accountability by different sectors of government.

### **On District Development Model (DDM) and intergovernmental approach**

The DDM is designed to address problems with service delivery by allowing all spheres of government to work together in a more effective

and coordinated way. This is intended to assist municipalities to better plan, budget and implement programmes and to ensure that the work of municipalities is managed and monitored.

The Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) published an integrated set of regulations in April 2024 providing a mandatory and regulatory framework for the institutionalisation and implementation of the DDM across the 9 Provinces and 44 Districts Municipalities and 8 Metropolitan Municipalities. The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 Regulations on DDM will greatly assist in ensuring a common approach toward the DDM and therefore the DCOG is embarking on socialising the regulations through provincial wide roadshows targeting ALL national, provincial and local government stakeholders inclusive of social and business stakeholders.

Through the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) the DPME will continue to monitor the implementation of DDM and its effectiveness. A synthesis evaluation report on the DDM is being developed by DPME. This report aims to consolidate, confirm and improve the findings and recommendations of the various DDM reports.

### **On repositioning of SOEs for growth and productivity**

Given the governance and performance of SOEs, the President established the Presidential SOE Council (PSEC) in June 2020, to reform, reposition and revitalise state-owned enterprises as effective instruments of economic transformation and development. (PSEC) noted the critical developmental role of SOEs, recognized serious deficiencies in the South African model and functioning of SOEs, including the dependence on the fiscus. To address the challenges

faced by the SOEs, PSEC recommended South Africa adopt a centralised shareholder model for the management of the SOEs. A State-Owned Holding Company be established to house strategic SOEs and to exercise a coordinated shareholder oversight.

To give effect to the centralised model as recommended by PSEC, National State Enterprise Bill 2023 was gazetted in September 2023 and approved by Cabinet on 08 December 2023. The Bill is currently before the Parliament.

### **On Operation Vulindlela (OV) approach and impact**

Operation Vulindlela was established in October 2020 as a 'delivery unit' approach to support the President and Cabinet to accelerate the implementation of priority structural reforms. Its delivery units serve four primary functions, identifying measurable objectives based on the mandate of the executive, filtering priorities based on impact and achievability. Tracking progress on the priorities through collecting, analysing and reporting on performance data, investigating and intervening to solve problems where progress appears to be slipping off track (e.g. by conducting in-depth investigations, convening stakeholders or providing technical assistance) and providing high-quality information to political principals to empower decision-making and intervention.

Five desired outcomes of Operation Vulindlela as part of Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan:

1. Stabilisation of electricity supply
2. Reduced costs and increased costs of quality digital communications
3. Sustainable water supply to meet demand

4. Competitive and efficient freight transport
5. A visa regime that attracts skills and grows tourism

Key milestones on Operation Vulindlela and its impact, significant progress has been made in reforming the energy sector to establish a competitive electricity market, enable investment in new generation capacity, and accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources. Rail reform is at advanced stage, and progress has been made to introduce private sector participation in container terminals and improve the performance of our ports system. Auction of high demand spectrum, alongside other measures to unlock investment in the telecommunication sector and reduce the cost of data has been a key success of Operation Vulindlela.

The water use license system was re-engineered and the backlog of license applications cleared. The water quality monitoring system has been reinstated to ensure transparency and enable intervention where municipalities fail to meet minimum norms and standards. Revised Immigration Regulations have been published to give effect to the recommendations of the work visa review. The eVisa system was implemented and expanded to additional countries. The system is now available in 34 countries, including China, India, Kenya and Nigeria, while most other countries enjoy a visa waiver.

**I thank you.**

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