

Tuesday, 24 June 2025]

No 101—2025] SECOND SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

1. Membership of Committees 2
2. Referral to Committees of papers tabled 2

National Council of Provinces

1. Transmission of Bills for concurrence 3

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. Speaker and Chairperson 4
2. Minister of Employment and Labour 83

National Assembly

1. Speaker	83
------------------	----

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.....	84
2. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.....	106
3. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.....	125
4. Water and Sanitation	138
5. Water and Sanitation	167

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Membership of Committees

- (1) The following committee membership changes have been made by the African National Congress:

Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans

Discharged: Muthambi, Ms AF [Alternate]
 Appointed: Jama, Ms SP [Alternate]

Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment

Discharged: Mokoena, Ms JL
 Appointed: Muthambi, Ms AF
 Appointed: Mokoena, Ms JL [Alternate]

Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs

Discharged: Muthambi, Ms AF
 Appointed: Jama, Ms SP

2. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

- (1) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs** for consideration and report:
- (a) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Electoral Commission for 2025/2026.

- (2) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour** for consideration and report:
 - (a) Revised Strategic Plan of the Department of Employment and Labour for 2025/26 – 2029/30.
 - (b) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Employment and Labour for 2025/26.
 - (c) Revised Strategic Plan of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration for 2025/26 – 2029/30.
 - (d) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration for 2025/26.
- (3) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development** for consideration and report:
 - (a) Revised Strategic Plan of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development for 2025 – 2029.
 - (b) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development for 2025 – 2026.
- (4) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation** for consideration and report
 - (a) Revised Strategic Plan of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation for 2025 – 2030.
 - (b) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation for 2025 – 2026.

National Council of Provinces

The Chairperson

1. Bills passed by Assembly and transmitted to Council for concurrence

- (1) Bill passed by National Assembly and transmitted for concurrence on 24 June 2025:
 - (a) **Public Sector Pension and Related Payments Bill [B3–2025]** (National Assembly – sec 77)

The Bill has been referred to the **Select Committee on Appropriations** of the National Council of Provinces.

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Speaker and the Chairperson

DELEGATION REPORTS ADOPTED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PGIR) ON 13 JUNE 2025.

- (1) Report of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament June – July 2024



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa

Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911

www.parliament.gov.za

www.parliament.gov.za

REPORT ON THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

24 JUNE-05 JULY 2024

**GALLAGHER ESTATE, MIDRAND, GAUTENG
PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

REPORT OF THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Third Ordinary Session of the Sixth Pan African Parliament (PAP) was held from 24 June to 5 July 2024 at the Pan-African Parliament headquarters in Midrand, South Africa. The Session was held under the overall African Union (AU) Theme for 2024, which is:

“Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.”

The delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa didn't attend the Session of Parliament had not yet concluded its internal processes to designate Members to the PAP after elections. In accordance with the PAP procedure, the Session also included the sitting of the Permanent Committees to discuss and finalise the reports that were presented and adopted by the Plenary.

One of the key highlights of the Third Ordinary Session was the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the PAP. The PAP was formed on 18 March 2004. The Third Ordinary Session adopted 11 resolutions presented by various committees and various recommendations. One of the key resolutions emphasised the need for more countries to support the ratification and domestication of the Malabo Protocol and other AU legal instruments. The Malabo Protocol aims to extend the powers of the Pan-African Parliament.

Furthermore, Members of Parliament agreed to initiate advocacy missions in AU Member States that have not yet ratified the Malabo Protocol. These missions aim to raise awareness about the importance of the Protocol and encourage its signature and ratification as soon as possible. The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa is one the AU Member Parliaments that has not yet ratified the Malabo Protocol.

In addition to the above, the Plenary approved a request by the West Africa Regional Caucus to undertake advocacy missions to Liberia, Nigeria, and Senegal, which have not yet ratified the Protocol to lobby them to ratify the Protocol.

The Plenary also resolved to identify specific AU legal instruments to be promoted for signature and ratification by their members in their respective countries. The Plenary encouraged the Pan-African Parliament members to proactively question the Executive on the status of AU legal instruments' signature and ratification.

Moreover, the Plenary called upon all PAP members to report to their respective Regional Caucuses on the status of the Protocol's signature and ratification. Each

Caucus Chairperson is expected to present this status to the Pan-African Parliament Plenary at every Ordinary Session.

The Third Ordinary Session of the Sixth Pan African Parliament adopted 11 resolutions and several recommendations. The following are some of the resolutions adopted by Plenary at the conclusion of the Third Ordinary Session:

- Resolution on the African Union theme 2024: “Educate an African fit for the 21st century: building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.”
- The Resolution on the Adoption of the Model Law on Cooperatives in Africa
- Resolution on the Legal and Policy Framework Paper of the Draft Model Law on Gender Equality and Equity in Africa
- Resolution on challenges to the effective implementation of decisions of the African Union governance and human rights bodies
- Resolution on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Africa
- Resolution on the consideration of the Performance Report of the Pan-African Parliament
- Resolution on the Gambian Bill aimed at reversing the Ban on Female Genital Mutilation
- Resolution on Advancing Free Movement in Africa
- Resolution on funding of the regional caucuses of the Pan-African Parliament.
- Resolution on Drugs and Substance Abuse as an impediment to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Education in Africa
- Resolution on the Outcomes of the 14th Pan-African Parliament Conference on Women’s Rights

The full details of the resolutions of recommendations adopted by the Third Ordinary Session of the Sixth PAP are attached on a separate document for ease of reference.

Executive Summary: Report of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament June – July 2024

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa

Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911

www.parliament.gov.za

www.parliament.gov.za

REPORT ON THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

24 JUNE - 05 JULY 2024

**GALLAGHER ESTATE, MIDRAND, GAUTENG
PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

REPORT OF THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Third Ordinary Session of the Sixth Pan African Parliament (PAP) was held from 24 June to 5 July 2024 at the Pan-African Parliament headquarters in Midrand, South Africa. The Session was held under the overall African Union (AU) Theme for 2024, which is:

“Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.”

The delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa didn't attend the Session of Parliament had not yet concluded its internal processes to designate Members to the PAP after elections. In accordance with the PAP procedure, the Session also included the sitting of the Permanent Committees to discuss and finalise the reports that were presented and adopted by the Plenary.

One of the key highlights of the Third Ordinary Session was the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the PAP. The PAP was formed on 18 March 2004. The Third Ordinary Session adopted 11 resolutions presented by various committees and various recommendations. One of the key resolutions emphasised the need for more countries to support the ratification and domestication of the Malabo Protocol and other AU legal instruments. The Malabo Protocol aims to extend the powers of the Pan-African Parliament.

Furthermore, Members of Parliament agreed to initiate advocacy missions in AU Member States that have not yet ratified the Malabo Protocol. These missions aim to raise awareness about the importance of the Protocol and encourage its signature and ratification as soon as possible. The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa is one the AU Member Parliaments that has not yet ratified the Malabo Protocol.

In addition to the above, the Plenary approved a request by the West Africa Regional Caucus to undertake advocacy missions to Liberia, Nigeria, and Senegal, which have not yet ratified the Protocol to lobby them to ratify the Protocol.

The Plenary also resolved to identify specific AU legal instruments to be promoted for signature and ratification by their members in their respective countries. The Plenary encouraged the Pan-African Parliament members to proactively question the Executive on the status of AU legal instruments' signature and ratification.

Moreover, the Plenary called upon all PAP members to report to their respective Regional Caucuses on the status of the Protocol's signature and ratification. Each Caucus Chairperson is expected to present this status to the Pan-African Parliament Plenary at every Ordinary Session.

- (2) Report of the South African delegation to the X BRICS PF Meeting July 2024



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911
www.parliament.gov.za



**REPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION
TO THE X BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (PF)
ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
11-12 JULY 2024**

1. Introduction and Background

The Russian Federation assumed Chairship of BRICS on 01 January 2024. Likewise, as it was the case during the South African 2023 BRICS Chairship and as per the norm, under its tenure Russia was expected to prepare and host both the recent 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum (PF) Assembly and the forthcoming 16th BRICS Head of States Summit later this year.

Between 11th and 12th April 2024, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation held a Meeting of the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs of BRICS member countries in Moscow, Russia with a view of preparing for the 10th BRICS PF.

In addition to discussing the agenda and programme of the 10th BRICS PF, this meeting of Chairpersons of Committees of International Affairs was also aimed at outlining and elaborating on the cooperation vision for various fields and a series of planned activities during the Russian Federal Assembly's 2024 BRICS-PF Chairship. This included the plan to ensure seamless integration of new member parliaments to the BRICS PF. Based on the outcomes of that meeting, the 10th BRICS PF was held on 11-12 July 2024 in St Petersburg, Russia under the theme, 'The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security'.

The purpose of this report therefore is to give an account of the programmatic aspects and outcomes of the 10th BRICS PF Meeting.

2. Purpose of the 10th BRICS PF Meeting

Jointly organised by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation IPU and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation- the 10th BRICS PF Meeting was planned to facilitate structured deliberations on the theme 'The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security'.

Whilst the 10th BRICS PF was also intended for the admission and seamless integration of new member parliaments- a key consideration riding high above others

was the signing of the Protocol to the MoU establishing the BRICS Parliamentary Forum that was signed during the South African Parliament's 2023 Chairship in Johannesburg, South Africa.

3. Composition of the South African Delegation

The South African delegation to the 10th BRICS PF in St Petersburg, Russia consisted of the following Honourable Members of Parliament and delegation secretariat:

- Hon. Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane- NCOP Chairperson and Leader of the Delegation
- Hon. Hon. Supra Mahumapelo- Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation

The protocol, research and content support to the delegation was provided by the following members of the delegation secretariat:

- Advocate Adv. Modibedi Phindela, Secretary to the NCOP
- Mr. Thembani Mbadlanyana, Policy Analyst, International Relations and Protocol Division (IRPD)
- Ms. Akhona Dlomo- Multilateral and Bilateral Relations Office (IRPD)

4. Day 1: Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address

The first day of the meeting on 11 July 2024 kicked off at Ekaterininsky Hall, Tavrishesky Palace with a photo session for the heads of BRICS parliamentary delegations. As per the programme, the first day was dedicated to three main agenda items, namely; a) the key note address by President of the Russian Federation H.E Mr. Vladimir Putin; b) the signing ceremony of the Protocol on the MoU establishing the BRICS PF and; c) deliberations on the main plenary of the 10th BRICS

Parliamentary Forum held under the theme "The BRICS Parliamentary dimension: prospects for strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation".

In his keynote address President Putin extended warm welcome to the delegates and thanked organisers of the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum. He also welcomed and acknowledged the presence of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Dr. Tulia Ackson. President Putin indicated that Dr. Ackson's participation in the forum was a sign of support for the constructive partnership among representatives of legislatures in the countries of the Global South and East, and indeed, of all countries interested in constructive interaction and cooperation, and their initiatives on key issues on today's international agenda.

He told the delegates that the theme of the 10th forum was extremely important, and it spoke for itself, highlighting the nature of the fundamental global transformations underway today. He further told them that the open plenary discussions, the face-to-face conversations between legislators representing their voters fully align with the principles that underpin BRICS philosophy. These include consideration of each other's interests, reliance on democracy in international relations, respect for sovereignty of nations and their right to determine their own development trajectories.

According to President Putin, these principles are close and understandable to all state parties of the BRICS group, which is growing rapidly and gaining a qualitatively new influence on the global dynamics and developments.

President Putin was emphatic that, again, parliamentary dialogue, including within the BRICS framework, is more important today than ever. He reminded the delegates that, after all, as speakers for the interests of their people, as representatives of their political and national will, they ought to be keenly aware of the genuine demands, sentiments and needs of millions, or even billions of people on our planet.

He expressed his confidence that delegates will make a significant contribution to the socioeconomic progress of the BRICS countries, and to their citizens' prosperity. And they will certainly do their utmost best to reduce international tensions, to create a more just, democratic, multipolar and multilateral world.

President Putin further said that, as Russia they understand very well that formation of a world order that reflects the real balance of forces and the new geopolitical,

economic and demographic reality is a complicated and, unfortunately, even painful process – mainly because the efforts of the BRICS members and other developing countries are facing fierce resistance from the ruling elites of the so-called “golden billion” states.

The delegates were informed that, acting contrary to historical logic and often to the detriment of the long-term interests of their own nations, these ruling elites of the so-called “golden billion” states seek to cement a certain order based on their own so-called rules that nobody has ever seen, discussed or adopted. These rules are written or corrected every time anew, to suit every specific situation and in the interests of those who consider themselves exceptional and arrogated the right to dictate their will to others. This is classical colonialism at its best, a clear attempt to replace legitimate international law and monopolise the ultimate truth – and this monopoly is destructive.

According to President Putin, the pressure on those who have their own stance is growing. Contrary to the principles of international law, these ruling elites are using force and coercion, unilateral sanctions, selective application of trade rules, and blackmail. For him, we have seen attempts to restrict direct contacts between lawmakers, which goes against the principle of free interparliamentary cooperation and the sovereign right of official representatives of every state to protect their national interests. That is why today the significance and relevance of collective work by people’s representatives on the constructive agenda of our association are rising dramatically.

President Putin also took the opportunity to remind delegates that the main goal of Russia’s BRICS Chairmanship this year is to create the most favourable conditions for consistent development of all its members. He indicated that he is convinced that, by acting together in unity, we will be able to fulfil our countries’ potential in the economy, investment, technology, and human capital; to strengthen the positive impact of BRICS on global developments and make the world safer and more harmonious.

Reflecting on the expansion of the BRICS grouping, President Putin pointed out that this year, the number of BRICS members has reached ten. He was of the view that every state is unique and carries its centuries-old culture, customs and traditions, building its own model of socio-economic and political development. Russia is taking

every effort for new members to smoothly fit in the multi-faceted mechanisms of BRICS.

He made mention of the fact that over the years, he has repeatedly said that BRICS is one of the key elements of the emerging multipolar international system, which increasingly reflects the interests and aspirations of the states of the Global South and East, and other supporters of our philosophy around the world – there are many of them, and their number is growing. He indicated that Russia is open to greater cooperation with all countries interested in the BRICS agenda; we are engaged in a dynamic dialogue in the BRICS Plus/Outreach format and is in the process of creating the Partner States category. He further pointed out that one of the association's priorities is to achieve positive changes in the global economy. And as Russia, they are specifically focusing on increasing the share of national currencies in trade and investment, as well as creating safe and reliable financial instruments and mechanisms for mutual payments.

The Russian President remarked that we are now past the midpoint of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship and work is in full swing across the board, covering various areas of cooperation including politics and security, economy and finance, and cultural and humanitarian ties. Russia has also launched regular mechanisms of cooperation in transport and nuclear medicine. The BRICS Sports Games have been a success, with athletes from 82 countries competing for 387 sets of medals. He informed the delegates that Russia is going to further increase the pace of its progress. It has many more events planned before the BRICS Summit in October.

President Putin further touched on the principles that unite the BRICS countries, which include– openness, justice and equality. And for him, parliamentary forums and conferences play a truly enormous role in promoting these principles in global affairs.

More importantly, he mentioned the fact that BRICS does not have its own official parliamentary organisation at this stage and expressed his believe that this idea will definitely be materialised somewhere down the road. But what was a highlight of his remarks was the fact that he underscored the importance of the BRICS PF and acknowledged the fact that the Forum's meetings have already proved to be an example of trust, mutual support and free dialogue and have contributed to promoting BRICS's status and its global influence.

President Putin concluded his keynote address by wishing the delegates a success and expressed his hope that they will have rewarding discussions during the two-day long 10th BRICS PF.

5. Day 1: Signing ceremony of the Protocol to the Memorandum

Shortly after the keynote address by President Putin on the morning of 11 July 2024, there was a signing ceremony of the Protocol to the BRICS PF. In terms of the preparations, only one representative of a country was supposed to sign the document and as the leader of the South African delegation, Hon. Ms Mtshweni-Tsakane- NCOP Chairperson- attended the ceremony and signed on behalf of the South African Parliament.

The Protocol outlines and elaborate on the modalities for implementing the provisions of the MoU on the BRICS Parliamentary Forum signed on 28 September 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Amongst others, the Protocol makes provisions for and explain procedures and processes relating to; the governance principle of chairmanship rotation and hosting; delegation compositions; development of agenda for the annual meetings; decision—making and financial implications associated with hosting of the annual meetings.

The Protocol was signed in nine original copies in English language and became effective on the date of signature and will remain in effect for as long as the Parties deem appropriate. But what is important to highlight in this regard is that the present Protocol is not a treaty and does not create rights and obligations governed by international law.

6. Day 1: Side-line Events

Following the signing ceremony, a luncheon was held for the heads of delegations at Atrium, Tavrishesky Palace. The luncheon was followed by optional guided tour of the Tavrishesky Palace and bilateral meetings.

The first day ended on a higher note with an official reception in honour of the 10th BRICS PF participants. The official reception included a concert at the Home Theatre at Yusupov Palace.

7. Day 2: Plenary Sessions

On the second day, three plenary sessions in the expanded format were scheduled. These plenary sessions were aimed at providing leaders of the delegations selected with an opportunity to make interventions and share experiences, lessons learned and good practices on different ways of facilitating and harnessing BRICS inter-parliamentary exchanges and partnerships. The sessions also sought to provide, inter alia, a platform for dialogue for the leadership level of chambers, foreign affairs committees and groups of parliamentarians and to create an ideational space for them to discuss and share ideas on how to synergize parliamentary cooperation at the national, regional and global levels.

The 1st Plenary session in the expanded format was scheduled to take place on the first day under the theme: "The role of parliaments in enhancing the efficiency of the system of international relations and ensuring its democratization". However, due to some adjustments in the programme the first plenary session became part of the two other parallel plenary sessions on the second day. The 2nd Plenary session in the expanded format was held under the theme "The role of parliaments in countering the fragmentation of the multilateral trade system and overcoming threats related to the consequences of global crises". The 3rd Plenary session was held in the expanded format under "Inter-parliamentary cooperation in the humanitarian and cultural spheres".

Heads of delegation discussed the role of parliaments in ensuring the effectiveness and democratic nature of international relations, in countering the fragmentation of the multilateral trading system and overcoming threats resulting from global crises, as well as humanitarian and cultural co-operation. The expanded sessions were attended by delegations from CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly member states, as well as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania Tulia Ackson.

Federation Council Chair Valentina Matvienko kicked off the discussions by emphasizing that the Forum was being held for the first time with participation of BRICS new members: “The nature of this format provides a good opportunity for focused, in-depth discussion of topical issues between national parliaments within BRICS.” According to Valentina Matvienko, BRICS has enormous potential and is firmly established as one of the pillars of the modern world order. BRICS is a dynamically developing mechanism for co-operation based on mutual respect, equality, openness, and consensus.

Valentina Matvienko added that the heads of parliaments of CIS Interparliamentary Assembly member states and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will also take part in the expanded discussion of the agenda. She said that “The BRICS Parliamentary Forum is a vivid example of unity, support, and unhindered multilateral dialogue. It is a testament to the importance of parliamentary diplomacy to interstate relations,”

Chairman of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin spoke during the plenary session about the way BRICS was set apart by a willingness to build relations on equal and mutually beneficial terms to improve quality of life in each member state. In this regard, he said, it is important to work more actively within the parliamentary framework to implement the decisions of country leaders and bring cooperation to a new level by maintaining a constant dialogue.

As the leader of the South African delegation, Hon. Mtshweni-Tsipane- Chairperson of the NCOP also participated in the plenary discussions. She prefaced her intervention by joining in welcoming the new members to the BRICS PF- a forum that, according to her, “serves as an indispensable conduit of parliamentary diplomacy and an integral part of the evolving BRICS ecosystem”. She remarked that the admission of their respective countries to the BRICS grouping on 01 January 2024 and their subsequent membership to an expanded BRICS PF give adequate expression to commitments to deepen and harness the friendly relations that exist amongst BRICS member countries and their respective legislative bodies.

Reflecting on the BRICS PF MoU and the signing of the Protocol thereto— the NCOP Chairperson remarked that it is historic because, it does not only epitomise continuity in change, but also marks a monumental shift from being an informal, voluntary and

loose inter-parliamentary forum of BRICS parliaments with shared interests into a formidable formal inter-parliamentary structure that serves as conduit of parliamentary diplomacy. For her, the Protocol Document reflects a united vision to entrench and institutionalize the parliamentary dimension within the BRICS cooperative mechanism and bears testimony to the remarkable progress and inroads that have made in the Forum's almost 10 years of existence. She expressed her confidence that these two seminal documents of this inter-parliamentary structure also give credence to and attest to a reality that BRICS PF continues to grow in leaps and bounds and has managed to reposition itself as a citadel of parliamentary diplomacy in the broader global community.

She concluded her intervention by urging her counterparts to re-affirm their commitment in strengthening the BRICS-Africa partnership and promote a rules-based approach towards a just global order. She emphasized South Africa's commitment to facilitating and fostering BRICS-Africa partnership and pointed out that pursuant to implementation of the 2023 Johannesburg Declaration, the South African Parliament looks forward to engaging with BRICS partners to share ideas on how they can realize the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and thus create a win-win solution for all.

She implored BRICS PF members to remain mindful of their collective resolve to see the resolutions of the 15th BRICS Summit, the 9th BRICS PF and the 10th BRICS PF actualized within their parliaments, thereby bolstering the prominence of BRICS, particularly in optimizing the opportunities embedded in the AfCFTA for BRICS trade partnerships, for the evolution and integration of Africa, and the augmentation of South-South cooperation.

8. Day 2: Bilateral Meetings and Sideline- Events

Immediately after her intervention in the plenary session, Hon. Mtshweni-Tsipane was joined by Hon. Mahumapelo in two bilateral meetings. The first bilateral meeting was with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Dr. Tulia Ackson. This bilateral meeting served as an introductory between the two leaders. Amongst others, the NCOP Chairperson appraised the IPU President about the outcomes of the recent general elections and processes relating to the establishment of the 7th democratic

parliament in South Africa. Following that, a second bilateral meeting with the leader of the delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Belarus. In this meeting, the focus was on revisiting the Cooperation Agreement between the NCOP and the Council of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus signed on the 19th of June 2007.

Following the bilateral meetings and the 10th BRICS PF closing ceremony, the delegation concluded its official trip by attending the cultural programme and a boat cruise along the Neva River- both organized by the host.

9. Conclusion and Outcomes of the 10th BRICS PF

The 10th BRICS PF was concluded on the 12th of July 2024. The key highlights of this meeting included the signing of the Protocol on the BRICS PF MoU and issuance of the St. Petersburg Joint Declaration Statement on the 10th BRICS PF. Another notable development worth reporting is the forthcoming BRICS Chairship of the Federative Republic of Brazil in 2025. This will mean that the National Congress of the Federative Republic of Brazil will take over from the Russian Federal Assembly and assume the 2025 BRICS PF Chairship.

The following are recommended issues for noting and/or action by Parliament:

- Take note and support the commendable strides by the South African Parliament for continuing with the campaign to keep the establishment of a BRICS PF Permanent Secretariat on top of the Forum's agenda.
- Take note of the fact that the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations, Hon. Supra Mahumapelo together with officials from the International Relations and Protocol Division (IRPD) have received an acclaim for the prominent role they played and positive contributions they have made during the preparatory meetings, negotiations and Draft Committee meetings in the run up to the 10th BRICS PF Meeting in St. Petersburg.
- Offer continued political and administrative support to the South African Parliament Delegation to BRICS. This will ensure that the delegation is able to leverage on and make use of parliamentary diplomacy to ensure

that the African agenda in the form of BRICS-Africa strategic partnership (particularly within the framework of the AfCFTA)- does not lose momentum during Brasil's rotating chairship of BRICS in 2025.

END

DRAFT

Executive Summary: Report of the South African delegation to the X BRICS PF Meeting July 2024



SUMMARY

REPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO THE X BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (PF) ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA 11-12 JULY 2024

04 March 2025

1. The 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum (PF) was held on 11-12 July 2024 in St Petersburg, Russia under the theme, 'The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security'.
2. In her capacity as the Leader of the South African Delegation, Hon. Ms Mtshweni-Tsakane- NCOP Chairperson- attended the signing ceremony and signed the Protocol to the Memorandum Establishing the BRICS PF on behalf of the South African Parliament. The Protocol outlines and elaborate on the modalities for implementing the provisions of the MoU on the BRICS Parliamentary Forum signed on 28 September 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Amongst others, the Protocol makes provisions for and explain procedures and processes relating to; the governance principle of chairmanship rotation and hosting; delegation compositions; development of agenda for the annual meetings; decision—making and financial implications associated with hosting of the annual meetings.
3. The Leader of the Delegation, Hon. Mtshweni-Tsipane was joined by Hon. Mahumapelo in two bilateral meetings. The first bilateral meeting was with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Dr. Tulia Ackson. This bilateral meeting served as an introductory between the two leaders. Amongst others, the NCOP Chairperson appraised the IPU President about the outcomes of the recent general elections and processes relating to the establishment of the 7th democratic parliament in South Africa. A second bilateral meeting with the Leader of Delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Belarus. In this meeting, the focus was on revisiting the Cooperation Agreement between the NCOP and the Council of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus signed on the 19th of June 2007.

The 10th BRICS PF was concluded on the 12th of July 2024. The key highlights of this meeting included the signing of the Protocol on the BRICS PF MoU and issuance of the St. Petersburg

Joint Declaration Statement on the 10th BRICS PF. Another notable development worth reporting is the forthcoming BRICS Chairship of the Federative Republic of Brazil in 2025. This will mean that the National Congress of the Federative Republic of Brazil will take over from the Russian Federal Assembly and assume the 2025 BRICS PF Chairship.

The following are recommended issues for noting and/or action by the PGIR:

- I. Take note and support the commendable strides by the South African Parliament for continuing with the campaign to keep the establishment of a BRICS PF Permanent Secretariat on top of the Forum's agenda.
- II. Take note of the fact that the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations, Hon. Supra Mahumapelo together with officials from the International Relations and Protocol Division (IRPD) have received an acclaim for the prominent role they played and positive contributions they have made during the preparatory meetings, negotiations and Draft Committee meetings in the run up to the 10th BRICS PF Meeting in St. Petersburg.
- III. Offer continued political and administrative support to the South African Parliament Delegation to BRICS. This will ensure that the delegation is able to leverage on and make use of parliamentary diplomacy to ensure that the African agenda in the form of BRICS-Africa strategic partnership (particularly within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)- does not lose momentum during Brasil's rotating chairship of BRICS in 2025.

END

- (3) Report of the visit by the Standing Committee on Health, Social Services and Labour Affairs of the Parliament of Namibia to the Parliament of RSA 28 August 2024 Parliamentary Precinct



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

28

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa

Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911

www.parliament.gov.za

**REPORT OF THE BENCHMARKING STUDY VISIT BY MEMBERS OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND LABOUR
AFFAIRS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF NAMIBIA TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
RSA ON WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2024, IN PARLIAMENT.**

1. Purpose of the Report

To report on the Benchmarking Visit by Members of the Standing Committee on Health, Social Services and Labour Affairs of the Parliament of Namibia to the Parliament of the RSA on Wednesday, 28 August 2024, in Parliament.

2. Background

The Parliament of Namibia initiated the visit.

3. Purpose of the benchmarking study visit

The purpose of the benchmarking visit was to learn and share experiences on best practices with regards to health and social welfare matters.

Namibian delegation: Hon Hans Mambondi, MP – Chairperson and Leader of the delegation; Hon E Muteka, MP; Hon L Lipinge, MP; Hon R Nguvauva; Hon M Lukaezi, MP; Hon J Karondo, MP. Ms H Kapuku – the Chief Parliamentary Clerk and Ms P Kulula – the Parliamentary Clerk.

South African side: Portfolio Committee on Health: Dr SM Dhlomo, MP– the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health; Ms ST Xego, MP; Ms FL Shabangu, MP; Ms MM Senne, MP; Ms JQ Khumalo, MP; Dr SS Thembekwayo, MP; Ms MO Clarke, MP Dr KWDP Le Roux, MP; Mr M Motubatse, MP; Mr PA Van Staden, MP; Dr TKS Letlape, MP; Ms N Mhlongo, MP and Mr V Zungula, MP.

Portfolio Committee on Social Development: Ms BS Masango, MP - the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development; Ms Makgato, MP;

Mr KS Ramaila, MP; Ms N Tafeni, MP; Ms A Abrahams, MP; Ms K De Bruing, MP; Ms P Marais, MP; Mr TB Munyai, MP

Ms V Majalamba, Ms L Ntsabo (Committee Secretaries) and Mr Z Cawe from the IRPD supported the meetings.

4. Meeting discussion

The Namibian delegation held two separate meetings with the PC on Health and the PC on Social Development.

During the meeting with the PC on Health, Dr Dhlomo, MP - the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health made a presentation focusing mainly on Tobacco legislation in the RSA. He gave a brief background starting from the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1983. The Act did not keep up with the innovations in the industry nor the international standards.

Considering those challenges, it had to be repealed, and a new Tobacco Control Bill was introduced in 2022. The new bill sought to strengthen public health measures and align the SA tobacco control law with the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Bill proposes several strict measures such as: banning of smoking in public places, packaging with graphic health warnings, regulation of electronic delivery systems such as e-cigarettes, ban display of tobacco, etc.

Since the Bill was introduced towards the end of the 6th Parliament, the PC on Health could not complete the legislative process. The Bill lapsed. Upon revival of the Bill, the Committee would advance the legislative process through consultation with relevant stakeholders through public hearings.

After the presentation, Dr Dhlomo, MP mentioned the Universal Health Coverage Bill which would be introduced in the 7th Parliament.

The meeting deliberated further and concluded as follows:

- On NHI, those against it, support the universal Health Coverage and are concerned about certain sections e.g pricing, scrapping of medical aid and rampant corruption. Reiterated a need to take such concerns by people and groups on board.
- Universal Health Coverage seeks to address the inequalities on Health
- The Namibian delegation was urged to engage all stakeholders. Inputs from all sides should be taken into consideration because they are important in making decisions. The importance of public participation in the legislative process was stressed.
- The Namibian delegation expressed appreciation for all the information.

During the meeting with the PC on Social development, the delegation received a presentation from Ms BS Masango, MP focusing on social relief of Distress Grant. The presentation highlighted unemployment, poverty and inequality including the impact of Covid 19 as major challenges in the RSA. As a result of these challenges, the Social Relief Distress (SRD) was introduced, along with other social grants, by the Social Assistance Act (No13 of 2024).

In conclusion, the delegation was informed of the challenges that were brought /came to the fore because of the SRD grants: The introduction of the SRD grant stretched the work of SASSA to the limit. SASSA had a capacity to service 120k applications per month. SRD grant stretched it to 200k applications per month. Payments were made to ineligible applicants due to weaknesses in the verification system. There were budget implications because the National Treasury allocated a budget for payments but not for SASSA administrative costs.

The delegation was urged to take the above-mentioned challenges into consideration if Namibia intends to introduce the SRD grants.

6. Recommendations and/or Action by Parliament

None

- (4) Report of the meeting between Mr. S Mahumapelo, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation and H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs 29 August 2024 Parliamentary Precinct



**REPORT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN MR SUPRA MAHUMAPELO, MP – THE
CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AND H.E. MR. ESPEN BARTH EIDE - THE
NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HELD ON THURSDAY, 29
AUGUST 2024, IN PARLIAMENT.**

1. Purpose of the Report

To report on the meeting between Mr Supra Mahumapelo, MP – the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation and Mr H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide - the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs held on Thursday, 29 August 2024, in Parliament.

2. Background

The Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria initiated the meeting.

3. Purpose of the meeting

H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Foreign Minister of Norway was on an Official Visit to the RSA and requested a meeting with Mr Supra Mahumapelo, MP – the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation. The purpose of his visit was to strengthen the existing cordial bilateral relations between the RSA and Norway.

Norwegian side: H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Foreign Minister; H.E. Mr. Gjermund Sæther, Ambassador of Norway in the RSA; Ms. Milla Skaug Ødegaard; Ms. Iselin H. Haukaas; Ms. Tuva Bogsnes; Ms. Siv Katherine Moe
Ms. Camilla Høgberg-Hoe; Mr. Henrik Harboe; Mr. Ørnulf Strøm; Mr. Sondre Eriksen.

South African side: Mr Supra Mahumapelo, MP – the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation and Ms AN Nkumbaca, MP.

Ms N Sonjica – the Section Manager: Bilaterals and Multilaterals and Mr Z Cawe from the IRPD; Ms L Mosala – the Content Advisor; Dr D Madlala – the Researcher and Mr L Sigwela – the Committee Secretary supported the meeting.

4. Meeting discussion

In his opening remarks, Mr Supra Mahumapelo, MP – the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation welcomed the delegation and expressed sincere thanks and appreciation for meeting the Minister and delegation. He also stressed the existing historical ties between South Africa and Norway which dates back during the struggle days. He commended the solidarity support provided by Norway to the struggle against Apartheid. He called for further strengthening of relations at all levels between the two countries and urged for the continuation of engagements on important matters.

He further informed the Minister about the National Elections held in May 2024 and the emergence of the Government of National Unity (GNU) with leadership from most political parties which would be in charged until 2029.

In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, the Foreign Minister of the Norwegian Government expressed his gratitude to be warmly received in South Africa and indicated the purpose of his official visit to the RSA which is to strengthen the existing cordial relations between South Africa and Norway, among others. He informed Mr Mahumapelo, MP of his engagements with the leaders of the Norwegian

companies in the RSA especially those involved on energy matters. He reiterated a need for the RSA and Norway to strengthen relations at all levels including at the multi-lateral institutions.

5. General outcome of the meeting

The meeting further deliberated and concluded as follows:

- 1) Mr Supra Mahumapelo, MP reiterated the position of the government of South Africa on the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. The RSA would not take sides and would continue working with other states in bringing peace through dialogue which has to be always pursued.
- 2) H.E Mr. Espen Barth Eide, the Foreign Minister of the Norway pointed out that Norway also favours peace and dialogue which has always been Norway's virtue. They took sides against Apartheid and were never neutral in conflicts e.g they took a decision to recognise the State of Palestine.
- 3) In the two cases before the International Court of Justice: 1) Genocide and 2) illegal occupation. Norway commended the RSA on its stance against genocide in Palestine. Norway pursued the one against illegal occupation of Palestine.
- 4) Both Norway and the RSA condemns the double standards played by European countries: They are against Ukraine occupation but silent on Palestine occupation.
- 5) Norway expressed its support for an African country to be accorded a seat in the UN Security Council
- 6) The meeting further noted the scheduled meetings between H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, the Foreign Minister of the Norwegian Government with the Mr MC Ramaphosa – the President of the Republic and Mr RO Lamola – the Minister of IR

and Cooperation. H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide scheduled address at Unisa the following day (Friday, 30 August 2024).

- 7) H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide was accorded an opportunity to sign the distinguished visitors book.
- 8) The meeting was a success.

6.Recommendations and/or Action by Parliament

Mr Supra Mahumapelo, MP – the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation expressed a wish to reciprocate the visit by his Norwegian counterpart and delegation which took place in late 2023.

He urged H.E. Mr. Gjermund Sæther, Ambassador of Norway in the RSA to facilitate a one-on-one virtual meeting with his counterpart at the Parliament of Norway at a mutually convenient date. It was later advised that Mr. Sondre Eriksen at the Embassy of Norway in Pretoria would be the contact person for the virtual meeting between Mr Mahumapelo, MP and his counterpart.

- (5) Report of the Pan African Parliament Statutory Committee Sitings 13 – 20 September 2024 Gallagher Estate, Midrand, South Africa



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa

Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911

www.parliament.gov.za

www.parliament.gov.za

**REPORT ON THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT
STATUTORY COMMITTEE SITTINGS**

**GALLAGHER ESTATE, MIDRAND, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH
AFRICA**

13-20 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. PAP COMMITTEE SITTINGS AND THE SWEARING IN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Pan African Parliament held its Statutory Committee Sittings at its Headquarters, in Gallagher Estate, Midrand, from 13 to 20 September 2024. These Committee Sittings were held under the overall 2024 Theme of the African Union, which is: *“Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive Lifelong, Quality and Relevant Learning in Africa”*.

The holding of the Committee Sittings also coincided with two important Conferences which were held on the sidelines of the Committee Sittings:

1. The 5th Annual Meeting of the Association of Secretaries-General and Clerks of African Parliaments (ASGAP), which was held on 17 September 2024; and
2. 12th Conference of Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments, which was held on 18-20 September 2024.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Her Excellency Hon Ms Angela Thoko Didiza attended the 12th Conference of Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments, while the Secretary to Parliament, Mr Xolile George attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of Secretaries-General and Clerks of African Parliaments.

The 12th Conference of Speakers discussed various important issues, including the following:

1. Agenda 2063 Progress, Challenges and Way Forward: What National and Regional Parliaments can do to contribute to the attainment of the continental development blueprint;
2. The status of Peace and Security in Africa and its Impact on Continental Integration and Economic Development.
3. Progress in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA).

4. The Impact of Climate Change on the Continent and Africa's Strategic Pursuits going into COP 29.
5. Food and Energy Insecurity on the Continent and how African National Parliaments can contribute to the enhancement of production and energy self-sufficiency.
6. Efficacy of PAP Institutional Arrangements and how it links with National and Regional Parliaments; and
7. AU Institutional Reforms and Envisaged Impact.

At the end of the 5th Annual Meeting of the Association of Clerks and Secretaries-General of the African Parliaments, the Secretaries-General and Clerks issued a Final Communiqué, which is attached for ease of reference. In the same wavelength, the Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments issued the Final Communiqué at the end of their Conference. The abovementioned Final Communiqué is also attached for ease of reference.

2. THE SWEARING IN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION

The South African Delegation to the Pan African Parliament were successfully sworn in as Members of the Pan African Parliament during the Special Plenary Sitting on 16 September 2024. However, only the following 4 (four) Honourable Members were sworn in:

1. Hon Ms Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, the Chairperson of the NCOP and leader of the South African Delegation;
2. Hon Mr Mdumiseni Ntuli, Chief Whip of the Majority Party in the National Assembly;
3. Hon Ms Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla; and
4. Hon Mr Vuyani Pambo

Hon Chetty was not present to be sworn in as he is still recuperating at home. An apology was duly submitted to the Pan African Parliament, and it is expected that he will be sworn in during the Plenary Sitting in November 2024.

Notwithstanding the fact that the South African Delegation to the Pan African Parliament has not yet been designated to the Permanent Committees of their choice by the Southern Africa Regional Caucus, they participated in various Committee Sitzings as observers throughout the duration of the Committee Sitzings.

The designation of the South African Delegation to the Permanent Committees of their choice will be done by the Southern Africa Regional Caucus Leadership during the Plenary Sitting in November. All the Regional Caucuses, including the Southern Africa Regional Caucus did not meet to designate new Members to various Committees during the Committee Sitzings. On the basis of the above, this report doesn't include the activities of various Committees of the Pan African Parliament.

3. MEETING BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

The South African Delegation held a meeting with the Senior Officials of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). This meeting was convened at the request of DIRCO Officials. The purpose of the meeting was to enable DIRCO Officials to introduce themselves to the South African Parliament Delegation and to brief them about important issues relating to the Pan African Parliament.

These issues included progress report on the building of the Permanent Seat of the PAP in accordance with the Host Country Agreement. In addition to the above, DIRCO Officials briefed our Delegation about the unemployment of South African citizens in the senior positions in the PAP Administration. At the end of the briefing, the South African Parliament Delegation resolved to convene a meeting with DIRCO and Department of Public Works and Infrastructure during Parliament recess to comprehensively discuss these issues.

4. BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH HER COUNTERPARTS FROM EGYPT, MOROCCO, WESTERN SAHARA AND DJIBOUTI

The Hon Speaker of the National Assembly held four Bilateral Meetings with the Hon Speakers of Egypt, Morocco, Western Sahara and Djibouti to discuss issues of mutual interests. These were brief meetings of meet and greet between the Hon Speakers. The Hon Speaker of Djibouti in particular thanked the Government of the Republic of South Africa for its unwavering support to the People of Palestine.

5. CHALLENGES OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY DURING THE COMMITTEE SITTINGS

The Government of the Republic of South Africa was subjected to unnecessary embarrassment during the Committee Sitzings and Speakers Conference when there was electricity blackout and the unavailability of water in the PAP precinct. The electricity blackout delayed the start of the Speakers Conference and Committee Sitzings. While the electricity challenge was resolve on the same day, the unavailability of water continued for the whole day.

This was so embarrassing and damaging to the image of our country as it happened in the presence of National and Regional Speakers, Members of the PAP and all invited guests. The absence of water also put the lives Members, including Speakers at risk more especially during the current period of mpox outbreak. It is therefore, important that before any sitting in the PAP, the Parliament should engage DIRCO in order to ensure that all measures have been put in place to avoid the recurrence of similar embarrassing challenges.

Executive Summary: Report of the Pan African Parliament Statutory Committee
Sittings 13 – 20 September 2024 Gallagher Estate, Midrand, South Africa



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa

Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911

www.parliament.gov.za

www.parliament.gov.za

**REPORT ON THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT
STATUTORY COMMITTEE SITTINGS**

**GALLAGHER ESTATE, MIDRAND, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH
AFRICA**

13-20 SEPTEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pan African Parliament held its Statutory Committee Sitzings at its Headquarters, in Gallagher Estate, Midrand, from 13 to 20 September 2024. These Committee Sitzings were held under the overall 2024 Theme of the African Union, which is: *“Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive Lifelong, Quality and Relevant Learning in Africa”*.

The holding of the Committee Sitzings also coincided with two important Conferences which were held on the sidelines of the Committee Sitzings:

1. The 5th Annual Meeting of the Association of Secretaries-General and Clerks of African Parliaments (ASGAP), which was held on 17 September 2024; and
2. 12th Conference of Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments, which was held on 18-20 September 2024.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Her Excellency Hon Ms Angela Thoko Didiza attended the 12th Conference of Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments, while the Secretary to Parliament, Mr Xolile George attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of Secretaries-General and Clerks of African Parliaments.

At the end of the 5th Annual Meeting of the Association of Clerks and Secretaries-General of the African Parliaments, the Secretaries-General and Clerks issued a Final Communique, which is attached for ease of reference. In the same wavelength, the Speakers of National and Regional Parliaments issued the Final Communique at the end of their Conference. The abovementioned Final Communique is also attached for ease of reference.

- (6) Report of the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, CPA Africa Region, 29 September – 7 October 2024 Arusha, Tanzania



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa

Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911

www.parliament.gov.za

REPORT OF THE 53rd COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE,

CPA Africa Region

29th September – 7th October 2024

Arusha, Tanzania

1. Background and Overview

The purpose of this report is to give an account of the outcomes of the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Region held in Arusha, Tanzania

The conference brought together Speakers, Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff representing the four sub-regions of the CPA – Africa Region.

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa together with the Provincial Legislatures is affiliated and participates in the political activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at both Africa Region and International level. This participation fulfils one of Parliament strategic objective premised on deepening and enhancing parliamentary international engagement and cooperation.

The convening of this conference is in accordance with article 16 (3) of the CPA Africa Region constitution which provides a platform for Executive Committee and the Secretariat to account for the activities of the Association.

This 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region) Annual General Conference under the Theme ***“African Parliaments at the forefront of addressing existential global challenges: Food insecurity, climate change and youth employment”*** comprising of Parliamentarians from National and Sub-National branches, committed to the ideals of the African Union and the Commonwealth. The representation of the South African delegation constituted of the following;

- **Parliament of the Republic of South Africa: Hon R Mtsweni (Leader of Delegation**
- **Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature:**
- **Kwazulu Natal Provincial legislature**
- **Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature**

- **Free State Provincial Legislature**
- **North West Provincial Legislature**
- **Western Cape Provincial Parliament**
- **Northern Cape Provincial Legislature**
- **Limpopo Provincial Legislature**

2. Messages of Solidarity

The 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Africa Region was officially opened by the Vice President of the Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, DR. Philip Isdor Mpango and Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson, MP. Speaker of the Parliament of URT and President of IPU.

Key main messages of solidarity draw an understanding to the effect that this conference is a platform that brings together Parliamentarians from across the Africa region, to foster dialogue, share best practices, and strengthen parliamentary democracy. This incited hope that delegates will effectively use this opportunity to do exactly that and connect with peers. CPA Africa Region also aims at promoting peace, unity, democracy, good governance and stability in all Member States.

In view of that, the choice of the theme for the 53rd conference, which is **“African Parliaments at the Forefront of Addressing Existential Global Challenges: Food Insecurity, Climate Change, and Youth Employment”** is both pertinent and timely. Indeed, food insecurity, climate crisis and Youth unemployment pose serious threats to socio-political and economic stability of the continent, thus requiring immediate and coordinated action. Therefore, Parliaments in Africa, as key actors for promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, have a crucial role to play in tackling the said main global challenges, by leveraging their legislative powers, budgetary control and oversight functions.

Food Insecurity stands out as one of the most pressing challenges facing our continent. Despite Africa's vast agricultural potential, millions of our people still go hungry! The continent, lags behind in attaining SDG 2 targets on food security and nutrition, as well as the Malabo Agreement on ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition come 2025. It is estimated that the proportion of the population in Africa that is facing both moderate and severe food insecurity stands at 61%, which is more than twice that of the global level, estimated at 29.6%.

In this regard, the strategic role of Parliaments is to urge and vote for enhanced public investments in agriculture and supportive sectors, in terms of budgetary resources for increased supply and access to farm inputs, infrastructure and services. They include irrigation infrastructure and feeder roads, farming equipment's, access to credit, quality seeds, pesticides, extension services, storage facilities and access to markets, particularly to rural communities. In other words, Parliaments are responsible for enacting legislations that support food security and facilitate investment in the agriculture and allied sectors.

In this regard, addressing the global challenges of food insecurity, climate crisis, and youth unemployment requires collective action of all stakeholders. Importantly, it also requires sustained peace in Africa. In this regard, African parliaments are uniquely positioned to spearhead this drive through effective legislation and oversight. Furthermore, the Vice President concluded by encouraging delegates to seize the opportunity offered by this conference to exchange best practices and country experiences on tackling these global challenges more effectively, alongside greater resolve to end conflicts and silence the guns in Africa. Peace is imperative for tackling all burning global challenges. Together, we can overcome them and build a better Africa for future generations as envisioned in the 2063 Agenda: The Africa we Want.

3. Discussion and Analysis on Workshops:

Beyond Numbers: Re-examining the Contribution of Women in Parliaments

The Agenda 2030 for sustainable development has the target price of achieving equality and empower of women and girls in pursuit of human dignity and respect for fundamental human rights.

Empowering women may lead to better outcomes through focusing on ensuring women's full and effective participation as well as equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in social economic political and public affairs. Female representation at all levels of decision making is considered as a paramount to achieving their equality and realizing the idea of global security; leaving no one behind in ensuring that countries globally and in Africa including members of the Commonwealth commit with explicit policies and legal instruments or undertaking avenues to realize female inclusion.

Significant strides are evident as so far, according to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) Report on Women's Representation 2023, different regions in the world have improved women's presentation in parliament and Africa had recorded their highest among all regions. An example of these in Rwanda in Africa so far reported the highest rate among countries that held elections in 2023.

Women representation in the legislature has valuable contribution in transforming societies for the greater good. What was important for the CPA was to ask the question on how we can shape ourselves to be transformational leaders and be agents of change beyond just numbers.

The key question is to establish the correlation in terms of positive outcome of increased women representation in decision making organs, which give the flow to positive and negative criticism around the role of women in leadership.

We will continue to have difficulties with exercising their right to vote due to cultural religious and economic impediments.

There have been significant improvements in Namibia and as of July 2024 there are more women legislators since its independence in 1990 with 55% women representation. Most notably, of the four candidates to contest the presidential elections, three are women.

Beyond numbers also involves supporting equal rights and working together and sharing experiences.

UN SDGs: Women's equal participation and leadership in political and public life are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Women have initiated and advocated for gender inclusive projects to ensure SDGs are met and the ultimate realisation of the Beijing conference.

Human Rights: Women have been instrumental in initiating and supporting equal rights agenda and the protection of the girl child. These include Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

Gender sensitive laws: A number of legislations have been passed in our respective countries with women at the forefront including the push for gender sensitive budgeting.

We can still do more and have done even more as women elected representatives. All we need is the support of our male counterparts to continue with the good work we have done so far.

- This must start from the political parties' lists submitted to the electoral commission to have more women representatives including political party reforms.
- There is a need for a gender sensitive legal framework that will give meaning to the representation of women parliamentarians.
- Male parliamentarians must proactively contribute to making the lives of women parliamentarians better and should ensure that the Legislature is gender sensitive and inclusive of young mothers.
- There is a need for a change of strategy to include men, youth and all sectors of society on issues of gender.
- There should be a follow up on the numbers through a benchmarking exercise in particular in countries that have made substantial progress towards gender equality and a minimum of 50% representation of women must be adopted by the CPA Africa Region.

- There is a need for women in position of power to support the empowerment of other women to assume leadership positions as well.

4. REFORMING ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN AFRICA TO ADDRESS THE MOUNTING CRISIS OF MISTRUST IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Electoral reform is an integral part of democratic development. In broad terms, electoral reforms are undertaken to improve the electoral process by promoting the electoral rights of citizens and by operationalizing key principles such as impartiality, inclusiveness, transparency, integrity and accuracy. Continuous reflection, reform and adaptation of the legal framework governing electoral processes that are based on experiences, reviews and assessments are necessary in both old and new democracies. During the workshops delegates deliberated on the importance of free, fair, and transparent elections as a cornerstone of democratic governance and political stability in Africa. They further acknowledged the mounting crisis of mistrust in political institutions across various African nations due to perceived electoral malpractices and lack of transparency and further recalling the principles enshrined in both regional and international conventions which emphasize the need for credible and inclusive electoral processes;

It was also noted with concern that electoral disputes and irregularities have often led to political instability, violence, and undermined public confidence in democratic institutions. To this end, delegates emphasized the role of independent electoral commissions in ensuring impartiality and integrity during election and affirmed the necessity for robust legal frameworks that support transparent and accountable electoral processes. It was also recognized further that technological advancements can enhance the transparency and efficiency of electoral processes if implemented with adequate safeguards against misuse.

5. On Harnessing Abundant Renewable Energy Sources in Africa to Speed Up Industrialization: Opportunities and Challenges

In addressing the question of renewable energy, delegates deliberated on the need for African Governments to establish financial mechanism that involves the private sector and international organization specifically aimed at supporting renewable energy projects for developing renewable energy infrastructure in Africa. They further African Governments to launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the benefits of renewable energy and encourage community participation in local projects and the African Governments to reform policies and legislation to a direction that discourages use of fossil oil as a source of electricity and focus on less costly and sustainable sources of electricity that supports industrialization. In this regards, Parliaments were **encourage to ensure that** African Governments develop clear regulatory frameworks that support the integration of renewable energy into national grids and create regional framework for joint ventures and collaborative projects aimed at harnessing cross-border renewable energy resources.

Reforming Education System in Africa to address Youth Unemployment

Education reforms globally are driven by the need to improve the accessibility, quality, and relevance of education. Education reforms to equip students with the capabilities needed for success in the 21st Century, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration.

. Further, in response to advancements in digital technologies, reforms are also addressing the integration of technology in education to enhance teaching and learning. The integration of technology in education can support personalised learning, provide access to educational resources, promote digital literacy skills, and facilitate communication and collaboration among students and educators

Education has a substantial impact on employment prospects. However, today's education systems are poorly suited to prepare young people for a vastly different and uncertain future

disrupted by conflict, climate change, technology, globalization, and a fast-changing job landscape.

Traditional classroom practices need to shift to nurture a broader range of competencies such as creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital skills. Globally, nearly 25 percent of jobs will be disrupted by technology in the next five years and by 2030 about 230 million jobs in Africa will demand digital skills. With globalization, knowledge and skills are at a premium, and global hiring is on the increase. One major obstacle facing trained youth in their transition to the world of work is the mismatch between their training and the requirements of the job markets. Addressing this issue requires enhancing the relevance of acquired skills through adapted curricula, aligning them with actual needs, and introducing entrepreneurship skills. African countries should invest in relevant curricula and infrastructure to support the development of productive skills and employability for the youth.

6. The Devastating Impact of Climate Change: A Call for Parliamentary Intervention.

Climate change is rapidly emerging as one of the most acute environmental problems of the 21st century. It poses one of the greatest challenges while its economic consequences are especially severe for most least-developed and developing countries including South Africa, especially in terms of the efforts needed to arrest it, by reducing emissions and adapting to its impacts. These countries are often ill-equipped and lack financial resources to put in place adaptation or mitigation measures. Tackling climate change has far-reaching implications for socio-economic development, for production and consumption patterns, and thus for employment and income levels and poverty reduction. Climate change poses a serious threat to poverty reduction and threatens to undo decades of development efforts and hinder progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Climate change exacerbates existing environmental, social and economic problems while bringing new challenges such as the frequency and intensity of floods and wild fires, heat waves and droughts in various parts of the world including South Africa. These climate change induced challenges aggravate water management problems, reduce agricultural production and food security, increase health risks, cause damage to critical infrastructure and interrupts the provision of basic

services such as water and sanitation, education, energy and transport¹ particularly in developing countries and vulnerable communities.

The poor and most vulnerable have become the worst affected due to their inability to adapt to the adverse impacts of the climate phenomenon. Climate change poses particularly difficult challenges for policy-makers. It demands action across all sectors of the economy and across all of society.

To this end, Climate change contemporary challenges demands forceful leadership and a strong international response, as its adverse impact stand to harm economies, threaten nations and imperil communities and ecosystems. During the deliberations, delegates proposed the following recommendations;

- Call on African Governments to undertake policy reforms that will integrate climate change policies into all levels of government planning and decision-making processes;
- Advise African Governments to consider community involvement by conducting public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the risks associated with climate change and actions they can take;
- Encourage African Parliaments to engage fully by influencing legislation and fund allocations to alleviate poverty as a way to mitigate the effects of climate change and all other mitigating measures;
- Further encourage African Governments to consider international cooperation as a crucial solution of obtaining funding, acquiring technology and capacity building for implementing mitigating strategies as well as coping with the consequential disasters;

Executive Summary: Report of the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, CPA Africa Region, 29 September – 7 October 2024 Arusha, Tanzania



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911
www.parliament.gov.za

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: REPORT OF THE 53rd COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, ARUSHA, TANZANIA

The 53rd CPA Africa Region conference brought together Speakers, Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff representing the four sub-regions of the CPA – Africa Region.

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa together with the Provincial Legislatures is affiliated and participates in the political activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at both Africa Region and International level. This participation fulfils one of Parliament strategic objective premised on deepening and enhancing parliamentary international engagement and cooperation.

The convening of this conference is in accordance with article 16 (3) of the CPA Africa Region constitution which provides a platform for Executive Committee and the Secretariat to account for the activities of the Association.

This 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region) Annual General Conference under the Theme ***“African Parliaments at the forefront of addressing existential global challenges: Food insecurity, climate change and youth employment”*** comprising of Parliamentarians from National and Sub-National branches, committed to the ideals of the African Union and the Commonwealth. The theme of the conference was both pertinent and timely **Food Insecurity** stands out as one of the most pressing challenges facing our continent. Despite Africa’s vast agricultural potential, millions of our people still go hungry! The continent, lags behind in attaining SDG 2 targets on food security and nutrition, as well as the Malabo Agreement on ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition come 2025. It is estimated that the proportion of the population in Africa that is facing both moderate and severe food insecurity stands at 61%, which is more than twice that of the global level, estimated at 29.6%.

In this regard, the strategic role of Parliaments is to urge and vote for enhanced public investments in agriculture and supportive sectors, in terms of budgetary resources. They include irrigation infrastructure and feeder roads, farming equipment's, access to credit, quality seeds, pesticides, extension services, storage facilities and access to markets, particularly to rural communities. In other words, Parliaments are responsible for enacting legislations that support food security and facilitate investment in the agriculture and allied sectors.

The 53rd conference was also a platform for the Africa Region to prepare for the incoming 67 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was destined to conduct elections for the position of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the CPA International. Africa Region had two candidates from Zambia and Nigeria who contested the position. Equally, the conference received briefing from the Secretary General of the CPA International on the question of the progress for the Change of Status for the CPA. A report was given regarding the bill passed by the United Kingdom Branch on the Change of the Status of the CPA.

During the Workshops, the conference discussed and made resolutions on the following topics;

- Beyond Numbers: Re-examining the Contribution of Women in Parliaments
- Reforming Electoral Systems in Africa to Address the Mounting Crisis of Mistrust in Political Institutions
- On Harnessing Abundant Renewable Energy Sources in Africa to Speed Up Industrialization: Opportunities and Challenges
- Reforming Education System in Africa to address Youth Unemployment
- The Devastating Impact of Climate Change: A Call for Parliamentary Intervention

Recommendation for PGIR

It is recommended that the focus of the PGIR must note the progress made on the change of the Status of the CPA and further discuss the resolutions adopted at the conference arising from the different topics during the Workshops.

- (7) Report of the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and related meetings_13
– 17 October 2024 Geneva



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911
www.parliament.gov.za

REPORT OF THE 149th INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

13 – 17 October 2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hundreds of parliamentarians from around the world gathered in Geneva for the 149th IPU Assembly from 13-17 October 2024.

In line with South Africa's foreign policy and parliamentary past endeavours on Palestine, the South African delegation voted in favour of an emergency item (resolution) titled 'Enforcing UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 and ensuring accountability' presented by the Arab Group. This proposal called for the establishment of an IPU task force to monitor the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24, with a notable emphasis on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. Despite the item not garnering the required two-thirds majority votes, the act underscores Parliament's determination to remain consistent on critical foreign policy matters.

Furthermore, the global parliamentary community adopted a significant resolution titled 'The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.' Remarkably, the South African delegation contributed notable amendments that were integrated into the final text. Notably, South Africa's proposed amendments for the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on the resolution were also incorporated in the final text and included in the approved Report of the Forum by the Assembly. This resolution emphasises the urgent need for parliaments worldwide to efficiently develop and implement robust legal frameworks and policies for the responsible creation, deployment, and use of AI technology. Subsequently providing valuable guidance for the relevant parliamentary committees in their preparation for AI legislation.

Additionally, the delegation delivered statements in preparation for the 150th Assembly resolutions, outlining progressive measures for parliaments to enact. These encompass 'the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine', with a focus on urging respective governments to recognise the State of Palestine in alignment with the spirit of United Nations Resolutions 181 and 1967. Furthermore, the statements on 'parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts on sustainable development', emphasised parliamentary advocacy for the prohibition of "blood minerals" trade, which serves as a conflict fuel in certain African regions. The success in curbing this illicit trade relies on the implementation of effective enforcement mechanisms, including the enactment of legislation and fostering international cooperation.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS / DEVELOPMENTS

The following are other worthy decisions/developments that Presiding Officers need to note:

- **Nomination of the NA Speaker to the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament:** the Governing Council endorsed the nomination of Madam Speaker, T. Didiza to the Preparatory Committee. Parliament's delegation nominated Madam Speaker during the Africa Group meeting on the 12th of October. The Conference will take place in July 2025 in Geneva. Additional members

of the Preparatory Committee from the Africa Group include presiding officers from Algeria, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria. The IPU President Tulia Ackson chairs the Committee.

- **Parliament's Report on the Implementation of IPU Resolution:** The Executive Committee nominated *South Africa to be one of the 5 SADC Geopolitical members* that will be reporting in 2025. The report involves highlighting actions taken to follow-up on the IPU declarations, resolutions and other initiatives pursuant to the IPU Strategy 2022-2026 and the IPU Statutes. South Africa's last report was in 2021.
- **Parliamentary debate on the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine:** In preparation for the resolution to be adopted during the 150th Assembly in April 2025 on the item. According to the IPU Statutes, any Member Parliament may submit amendments to draft resolutions. For Parliament to submit an enriched amendments on the item, it may be advisable for Parliament to hold a debate to inform the amendments. South African foreign policy on the item 'South Africa working together with the international community, seeks to ensure a lasting and durable peace that produces a viable, contiguous Palestinian State, existing side-by-side in peace with Israel, within the 1967 internationally recognised borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital'.
- **Law-making and oversight:** The Parliamentary Group on International Relations (PGIR) is advised to refer the resolution 'the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law' for action to the Portfolio Committees on Justice and Constitutional Development/ Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as well as the Select Committee on Security and Justice. The resolution recommends several legislative and oversight strategies to parliamentary committees on strengthening AI regulations. **See more information on page4.**
- **Note the future Assembly and related meetings:** The Governing Council approved the 150th IPU Assembly and related meetings to be held in Uzbekistan from 5th to 9th April 2025. The 151st Assembly to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 19th to 23rd October 2025.
- **Note the capacity-building Opportunities for MPs:** The IPU has several capacity-building opportunities for MPs including on climate change, gender-sensitive parliaments, SDGs, disarmament, reconciliation, and conflict prevention as well as counterterrorism. These opportunities provide access to tools, research, and good practices, and building standards to assist parliamentarians and parliaments in their work.
- **Note the BRICS+ Rules of Procedure of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group:** On the 14th of October 2024, the BRICS+ parliaments convened at the invitation of the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The purpose of the meeting was to draw the attention of BRICS parliaments to the proposal for the establishment of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group along with its corresponding Rules of Procedure. The primary objective of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group is to synchronise actions and policies on IPU matters, encompassing vacancies and emergency items.

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the meetings: To deliberate on the Assembly's theme '*Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a peaceful and sustainable future*'; to debate and adopt a resolution including resolutions for the 150th Assembly on the agendas of the Standing Committees

Delegation Members:

- Ms R Mtshweni-Tsipane, NCOP Chairperson, MP and the leader of the Delegation.
- Dr. A. Lotriet, NA Deputy Speaker, MP.
- Ms D. Dlakude, MP.
- Mr D. Ryder, MP.
- Mr N. Hadebe, MP.
- Ms D. Zuma-Sambudla, MP.
- Mr M. Dlamini, MP
- Mr B. Nodada. MP

Delegation Secretariat:

- Ms. M. Monnakgotla (Content support to the delegation).
- Ms. A. Dlomo (support to the NCOP Chairperson).
- Mr. M. Mbatha (NCOP Chairperson: Media and Communication).

1.1. OUTCOME OF THE 149TH IPU ASSEMBLY: ACTION FOR PARLIAMENT

- **Strengthening law-making and oversight**

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights debated and approved the resolution 'the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.' **The co-rapporteurs (drafters of the resolution) applauded Ms Dlakude and Ms Zuma- Sambudla for their notable amendments that were integrated into the final text.** This resolution emphasises the urgent need for parliaments worldwide to efficiently develop and implement robust legal frameworks and policies for the

responsible creation, deployment, and use of AI technology. Subsequently providing valuable guidance for the relevant parliamentary committees in their preparation for AI legislation.

The **Parliamentary Group on International Relations (PGIR)** is advised to refer the **resolution ‘the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law’ for action** to the Portfolio Committees on Justice and Constitutional Development/ Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as well as the Select Committee on Security and Justice. The resolution underscores the need for parliaments to stay ahead of the curve in regulating AI, striking a balance between innovation and the protection of fundamental rights. **The resolution recommends the following parliamentary action:** <https://www.ipu.org/event/149th-ipu-assembly-and-related-meetings#event-sub-page-33825/>

- Calls upon parliaments to effectively and transparently adopt or maintain strong legal frameworks and policies for the responsible creation, deployment and use of AI technology, and to contribute to efforts to establish global standards and frameworks.
- Invites parliaments, in cooperation with civil society groups, academia and research groups, to give priority to reviewing existing legislation and regulations to ensure that advances in AI technology do not result in loopholes in existing protections for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and State sovereignty.
- Calls on parliaments, with a view to enhancing gender mainstreaming in the development of AI, to promote legislation and policies aimed at enabling and increasing girls’ and women’s access to education, careers and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Invites parliaments to ensure that advances in AI do not result in the perpetuation of discrimination stemming from biases present in training data and algorithms.
- Urges legislative action to prevent the creation and distribution of deepfake intimate images, recognizing that most of such content is pornographic in nature and disproportionately targets women and girls, as well as to prevent the distribution of other AI-generated content that propagates hate speech or incites violence, including gender-based violence.
- Calls for the development, deployment and accessibility of new and existing tools to help people verify the provenance and authenticity of AI-generated images and content, to protect data privacy, and to prevent the misuse of personal information and data.
- Calls upon parliaments to promote AI systems that advance, protect and preserve linguistic and cultural diversity, considering multilingualism in their training data and throughout the life cycle of the AI system.
- Urges parliaments to place a high priority on debates related to AI and to ensure their policy responses evolve in line with advances in AI technology, so as to ensure these responses are conducive to the well-being of humanity and the principles of sustainable development.

- Calls on parliaments to strengthen their capacity to proactively address rapid technological developments, particularly in the AI field, including through training programmes for members of parliament and staff...

2. MEETINGS PRECEDING THE 149TH ASSEMBLY

The 149th IPU Assembly was preceded by the following meetings:

2.1. The SADC and Africa Geopolitical Group meetings

The SADC and Africa Geopolitical Groups met on 12 October 2024 to adopt common positions on some of the items on the agenda of the 149th Assembly and other substantive issues, including:

- **Emergency Item:** The Group meeting failed to reach a consensus on the emergency items due to conflicting political views.
- **Nomination of a female Speaker to the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament:** the Geopolitical groups endorsed the nomination of Madam Speaker, T. Didiza to the Preparatory Committee.

2.2. The 38th Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The 38th Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians met on 13th of October 2024. It brought together 147 participants, including 104 parliamentarians (99 women and 9 men) from 77 countries. Amongst others, it considered the following:

- **Contributions to the work of the 149th Assembly from a gender perspective –** ‘The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law’ (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights). Participants discussed the draft resolution from a gender perspective and issue recommendations on gender-related amendments to be submitted by the Standing Committee:

South African Delegation accepted text ‘Of particular concern is technology-facilitated gender-based violence’, a rapidly spreading problem that evolves with each new technological advancement. This not only poses serious challenges to digital governance but also creates a persistent lag in the adaptation of laws and policies to effectively tackle this issue. In this regard, South Africa proposes the following amendments:

- Calls on parliaments to, through legislative action, prioritise the prevention, elimination and responses to all forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence and discrimination. This includes enhanced content moderation, accessible and effective reporting systems and the establishment of content removal processes compliant with international human rights law.
- **Panel discussion: Sustaining peace and providing justice to women girls:** Participants were invited to explore how post-conflict situations can offer opportunities to advance women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment and, in so doing, sustain

peace. Participants called for greater international cooperation and solidarity as well as a substantial increase in women's participation and inclusion in peace talks and reconstruction processes. The aim is to achieve justice and dignity for victims by effectively enforcing international instruments and national laws, which are essential for any lasting peace.

2.3. Forum of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 14 October 2024. It brought together approximately 125 participants, including 67 parliamentarians (24 young women and 43 young men) from 47 countries, as well as representatives from organisations. The Forum, amongst others, considered the following:

- **Discussion on the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law':** Amongst others, emphasized the importance of providing access to AI for underrepresented groups so that everyone could benefit from it, as well as involving young people in AI policymaking.
- **Open Session of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians:** Amongst others, young MPs agreed that it was essential to continue strengthening their links to mutually empower one another and better advance youth participation and outcomes benefiting young people.

3. MEETINGS OF THE 149th ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

3.1. The Assembly

The following are some of the items considered during the 149th Assembly:

- **General debate on the theme of the Assembly:** Concluded with the adoption of the Declaration *'Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a peaceful and sustainable future'*. Legislators expressed their determination to harness and regulate science, technology, and innovation (STI) for the betterment of humanity. The Declaration underscores the importance of bridging digital divides, upholding human rights, and encouraging international cooperation in STI governance. Furthermore, parliamentarians committed to fulfilling these obligations through legislative, budgetary, and oversight measures, aiming for a fair and technologically advanced global landscape. During the debate, NCOP Chairperson, among others, noted that it is crucial to ensure that AI's development and use are guided by responsible regulation. By enacting thoughtful and forward-looking regulations, parliaments can harness artificial intelligence's potential while mitigating potential negative impacts.
- **Adoption of the emergency item:** *'Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability'* put forward by France and the United Kingdom, along with Germany, the Netherlands and Canada. It calls for a "complete rejection of the indiscriminate targeting by armed forces of civilians, wherever they may be, particularly emergency personnel, health and education workers, and medical, education and other public infrastructure".

3.2. The Governing Council

The following are some of the reports adopted by the Governing Council:

- **Nomination of the NA Speaker to the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament:** the Governing Council endorsed the nomination of Madam Speaker, T. Didiza to the Preparatory Committee. Parliament's delegation nominated Madam Speaker during the Africa Group meeting on the 12th of October. The Conference will take place in July 2025 in Geneva. Additional members of the Preparatory Committee from the Africa Group include presiding officers from Algeria, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria. The IPU President Tulia Ackson chairs the Committee.
- **Future Assembly and related meetings:** The Governing Council approved the 150th IPU Assembly and related meetings to be held in Uzbekistan from 5th to 9th April 2025. The 151st Assembly to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 19th to 23rd October 2025.

4. MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

4.1. Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Committee's key agenda item:

- **Debate on the next resolution:** *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine.* The Committee endorsed 6 co-rapporteurs to draft the resolution indicating the seriousness of the item. During the debate, Mr Dlamini, amongst others, called upon parliaments to urge their respective governments to recognise the State of Palestine in alignment with the spirit of United Nations Resolutions 181 and 1967

For Parliament to submit an enriched amendments on the item, it may be advisable for Parliament to hold a debate to inform the amendments. South African foreign policy on the item reads 'South Africa working together with the international community, seeks to ensure a lasting and durable peace that produces a viable, contiguous Palestinian State, existing side-by-side in peace with Israel, within the 1967 internationally recognised borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital'.

4.2. Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Committee's key agenda item:

- **Debate on the next resolution:** *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts on sustainable development.* The Deputy Speaker, amongst others, emphasised parliamentary advocacy for the prohibition of "blood minerals" trade,

which serves as a conflict fuel in certain African regions. The success in curbing this illicit trade relies on the implementation of effective enforcement mechanisms, including the enactment of legislation and fostering international cooperation.

4.3. Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Committee's key agenda items:

- **Financing the United Nations system: A critical perspective:** the segment provided an overview of the UN system budget-making process, highlighting immediate reform needs as well as long-term institutional challenges. It will further explore the role of parliaments in overseeing national contributions to the UN system with a view to securing a stable funding base as well as stronger accountability for results. Mr Ryder, among others, noted that parliaments play a significant role in monitoring and authorising the budgets related to the UN contributions. Therefore, encouraged committees on international affairs to continuously engage in debates and inquiries related to the country's contributions to the UN, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability in the process. By scrutinising and providing oversight, parliaments contribute to upholding the nation's commitment to the UN and its global initiatives.
- **THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE G20: COMPLEMENTARITY OR REDUNCY:** the segment reviewed the working methods and basic areas of work of the G20 and scrutinised the question: where does the G20 stand in relation to the UN? Do they complement each other in the realization of common objectives. Mr Ryder, among others, noted that South Africa supports the establishment of the UN-G20 high-level meetings. These summits would bring together UN representatives, G20 leaders, and heads of relevant institutions such as the WTO and the IMF, providing a platform for more inclusive and holistic discussions and decision-making processes.

5. OTHER MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

On the margins of the 149th Assembly, South African Delegation attended the following engagement:

5.1. The BRICS+ Parliamentary Forum meeting

On the 14th of October 2024, at the invitation of the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the South African Delegation led by the NCOP Chairperson Mtshweni-Tsipane attended the BRICS+ Parliamentary Forum (BRICS PF) meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to draw the attention of BRICS parliaments to the proposal for the establishment of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group along with its corresponding Rules of Procedure. The primary objective of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group is to synchronize actions and policies on IPU matters, encompassing vacancies and emergency items.

6. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The South African Parliament is invited to note the following key issues:

- **Nomination of the NA Speaker to the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament:** the Governing Council endorsed the nomination of Madam Speaker, T. Didiza to the Preparatory Committee. Parliament's delegation nominated Madam Speaker during the Africa Group meeting on the 12th of October. The Conference will take place in July 2025 in Geneva. Additional members of the Preparatory Committee from the Africa Group include presiding officers from Algeria, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria. The IPU President Tulia Ackson chairs the Committee.
- **Parliament's Report on the Implementation of IPU Resolution:** The Executive Committee nominated *South Africa to be one of the 5 SADC Geopolitical members* that will be reporting in 2025. The report involves highlighting actions taken to follow-up on the IPU declarations, resolutions and other initiatives pursuant to the IPU Strategy 2022-2026 and the IPU Statutes. South Africa's last report was in 2021.
- **Parliamentary debate on the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine:** In preparation for the resolution to be adopted during the 150th Assembly in April 2025 on the item. According to the IPU Statutes, any Member Parliament may submit amendments to draft resolutions. For Parliament to submit an enriched amendments on the item, it may be advisable for Parliament to hold a debate to inform the amendments. South African foreign policy on the item 'South Africa working together with the international community, seeks to ensure a lasting and durable peace that produces a viable, contiguous Palestinian State, existing side-by-side in peace with Israel, within the 1967 internationally recognised borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital'.
- **Law-making and oversight:** The Parliamentary Group on International Relations (PGIR) is advised to refer the resolution 'the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law' for action to the Portfolio Committees on Justice and Constitutional Development/ Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as well as the Select Committee on Security and Justice. The resolution recommends several legislative and oversight strategies to parliamentary committees on strengthening AI regulations. **See more information on page4.**
- **Note the future Assembly and related meetings:** The Governing Council approved the 150th IPU Assembly and related meetings to be held in Uzbekistan from 5th to 9th April 2025. The 151st Assembly to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 19th to 23rd October 2025.
- **Note the capacity-building Opportunities for MPs:** The IPU has several capacity-building opportunities for MPs including on climate change, gender-sensitive parliaments, SDGs, disarmament, reconciliation, and conflict prevention as well as counterterrorism. These opportunities provide access to tools, research, and good practices, and building standards to assist parliamentarians and parliaments in their work.
- **Note the BRICS+ Rules of Procedure of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group:** On the 14th of October 2024, the BRICS+ parliaments convened at the invitation of the

Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. To alert them to the proposal of the BRICS + IPU Geopolitical Group and the accompanying Rules of Procedure. The aim of the BRICS + IPU Geopolitical Group is to coordinate the action and policy on IPU matters, including on vacancies and emergency items.

END

Executive Summary: Report of the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and related meetings 13 – 17 October 2024 Geneva



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE 149TH IPU ASSEMBLY

Hundreds of parliamentarians from around the world gathered in Geneva for the 149th IPU Assembly from 13-17 October 2024 under the theme 'Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a peaceful and sustainable future in Geneva, Switzerland.

In line with South Africa's foreign policy and parliamentary past endeavours on Palestine, the South African delegation voted in favour of an emergency item (resolution) titled 'Enforcing UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 and ensuring accountability' presented by the Arab Group. This proposal called for the establishment of an IPU task force to monitor the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24, with a notable emphasis on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. Despite the item not garnering the required two-thirds majority votes, the act underscores Parliament's determination to remain consistent on critical foreign policy matters.

Furthermore, the global parliamentary community adopted a significant resolution titled 'The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.' Remarkably, the South African delegation contributed notable amendments that were integrated into the final text. Notably, South Africa's proposed amendments for the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on the resolution were also incorporated in the final text and included in the approved Report of the Forum by the Assembly. This resolution emphasises the urgent need for parliaments worldwide to efficiently develop and implement robust legal frameworks and policies for the responsible creation, deployment, and use of AI technology. Subsequently providing valuable guidance for the relevant parliamentary committees in their preparation for AI legislation.

Additionally, the delegation delivered statements in preparation for the 150th Assembly resolutions, outlining progressive measures for parliaments to enact. These encompass 'the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine', with a focus on urging respective governments to recognise the State of Palestine in alignment with the spirit of United Nations Resolutions 181 and 1967. Furthermore, the statements on 'parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts on sustainable development', emphasised parliamentary advocacy for the prohibition of "blood minerals" trade, which serves as a conflict fuel in certain African regions. The success in curbing this illicit trade relies on the implementation of effective enforcement mechanisms, including the enactment of legislation and fostering international cooperation.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS / DEVELOPMENTS

The following are other worthy decisions/developments that Presiding Officers need to note:

- **Parliament's Report on the Implementation of IPU Resolution:** The Executive Committee nominated *South Africa to be one of the 5 SADC Geopolitical members* that will be reporting in 2025. The report involves highlighting actions taken to follow-up on the IPU declarations, resolutions and other initiatives pursuant to the IPU Strategy 2022-2026 and the IPU Statutes. South Africa's last report was in 2021.
- **Parliamentary debate on the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine:** In preparation for the resolution to be adopted during the 150th Assembly in April 2025 on the item. According to the IPU Statutes, any Member Parliament may submit amendments to draft resolutions. For Parliament to submit an enriched amendments on the item, it may be advisable for Parliament to hold a debate to inform the amendments. South African foreign policy on the item 'South Africa working together with the international community, seeks to ensure a lasting and durable peace that produces a viable, contiguous Palestinian State, existing side-by-side in peace with Israel, within the 1967 internationally recognised borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital'.
- **Law-making and oversight:** The Parliamentary Group on International Relations (PGIR) is advised to refer the resolution 'the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law' for action to the Portfolio Committees on Justice and Constitutional Development/ Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as well as the Select Committee on Security and Justice. The resolution recommends several legislative and oversight strategies to parliamentary committees on strengthening AI regulations.
- **Note the future Assembly and related meetings:** The Governing Council approved the 150th IPU Assembly and related meetings to be held in Uzbekistan from 5th to 9th April 2025. The 151st Assembly to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 19th to 23rd October 2025.
- **Note the capacity-building Opportunities for MPs:** The IPU has several capacity-building opportunities for MPs including on climate change, gender-sensitive parliaments, SDGs, disarmament, reconciliation, and conflict prevention as well as counterterrorism. These opportunities provide access to tools, research, and good practices, and building standards to assist parliamentarians and parliaments in their work.
- **Note the BRICS+ Rules of Procedure of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group:** On the 14th of October 2024, the BRICS+ parliaments convened at the invitation of the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The purpose of the meeting was to draw the attention of BRICS parliaments to the proposal for the establishment of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group along with its corresponding Rules of Procedure. The primary objective of the BRICS+ IPU Geopolitical Group is to synchronise actions and policies on IPU matters, encompassing vacancies and emergency items.

- (8) Report of the courtesy call on Ms. AT Didiza, the Speaker of the National Assembly by H.E. Mr. Yerkin Akhinzhanov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan
22 October 2024 Parliamentary Precinct



**REPORT OF THE COURTESY CALL ON MS AT DIDIZA, MP – THE SPEAKER
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) BY H.E MR YERKIN AKHINZHANOV –
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE RSA HELD
ON TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2024, IN PARLIAMENT.**

1. Purpose of the Report

To report on the Courtesy Call on Ms AT Didiza, MP – the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) by H.E Mr Yerkin Akhinzhanov – the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the RSA held on Tuesday, 22 October 2024, in Parliament.

2. Background

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the RSA initiated the courtesy call.

3. Purpose of the courtesy call

The purpose of the courtesy call was to the further development of the Kazakhstan – South African inter-parliamentary relations, amongst others.

Kazakhstan Embassy side: H.E. Mr Yerkin Akhinzhanov – the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the RSA and Mr Amir Kenzeluyev - the Embassy official.

South African side: – Ms AT Didiza, MP – the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA). Mr S Ntombela - the Special Advisor: Office of the Speaker; Mr K Ngcobo – the Stakeholder and Communication Specialist, Office of the Speaker; Ms N Sonjica – the Section Manager: Bilaterals and Multilaterals, IRPD and Mr Z Cawe – the IR Officer: Bilaterals, IRPD supported the meeting.

4. Meeting discussion

In his remarks, H.E. Mr Yerkin Akhinzhanov – the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the RSA thanked the Speaker for agreeing to the meeting. He

commended South Africa for establishing the Government of National Unity after the 2024 National Elections. He also informed the Speaker that Kazakhstan has started a process of finding a balance in relation to powers of the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary as a result, parliamentarians in Kazakhstan would be keen to share experiences on best practices.

He also informed Speaker of the recently established Kazakhstan – South Africa Parliamentary Friendship Group comprising of MPs from both Houses in the Kazakhstan Parliament and that they would be keen to establish relations with counterparts in the Parliament of the RSA.

He reiterated his call for a structured relationship between the Parliament of the RSA and Kazakhstan citing the exchange of visits at Committees-to-Committees level for a start and the delegations of both Parliaments share notes on the sidelines of international forums like the IPU. He expressed a concern regarding the deterioration of the International Legal System and urged for the reform of the United Nations Security Council. He informed the Speaker that the President of Kazakhstan, at the invitation of the President of Russia, Mr V Putin, would be attending the upcoming BRICS Summit to be held in Kazan, Russia.

In 2023, during his meeting with the former Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Naledi Pandor showed interest on how Kazakhstan dealt with the issue of moving the capital to another city. South Africa would like to learn and understand how Kazakhstan dealt with that issue.

He cited the areas for cooperation namely visa wavering regime between the two countries, mining, people-to-people, business, education, as examples. He highlighted mining as an important area for cooperation because both countries are very strong in the mining sectors. He cited the proximity of Kazakhstan to Russia and China and that proximity could be used by the RSA as a gateway to Central Asia.

In conclusion, Ambassador Akhinzhanov urged for further strengthening of relations between the RSA and Kazakhstan.

In response, Ms AT Didiza, MP – the Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) thanked H.E. Mr Yerkin Akhinzhanov – the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the RSA for agreeing to the change of the date for the courtesy call. She was sure that Ambassador Akhinzhanov had a fruitful meeting with Ms R Mtshweni – Tsipane, MP – the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) that morning.

The Speaker promised to meet Ms R Mtshweni – Tsipane, MP – the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to look at what the Ambassador raised to both.

The Speaker agreed to the suggestion that the RSA and Kazakhstan should cooperate in the UN and IPU gatherings. Also, the point that Kazakhstan is a gateway to Central Asia because of close borders with Russia and China. The WTO a very interesting area for the RSA and Kazakhstan hence the RSA has been calling for years for the reform of the trade regime which is ruled base especially on

Agriculture. The delegations of both countries and parliaments should try and meet on the sidelines of the meetings of the IPU and /or UN.

The Speaker concluded her remarks by expressing a view that cooperation could work especially at the parliament-to-parliament level and will inform Kazakhstan Parliament when the Parliament of the RSA has established the RSA – Kazakhstan Parliamentary Friendship Group. She attributed the delay to the establishment of the new 7th Parliament after the May 2024 elections.

5. General outcome of the meeting

The meeting further deliberated and concluded as follows:

- 1) Noted the need for the strengthening of the existing bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the RSA
- 2) Ambassador Akhinzhanov commended the RSA for establishing the Government of National Unity after the 2024 General Elections
3. The Ambassador was accorded an opportunity to sign the distinguished guest book and exchange gifts with the Speaker.
4. The courtesy call was a success.

2. The Minister of Employment and Labour

- (a) Revised Strategic Plan of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) for 2025/26 – 2029/30.
- (b) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) for 2025/26.
- (c) Revised Strategic Plan of the Compensation Fund for 2025/26 – 2029/30.
- (d) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Compensation Fund for 2025/26.
- (e) Revised Strategic Plan of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) for 2025/26 – 2029/30.
- (f) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) for 2025/26.

National Assembly

1. The Speaker

- (a) Reply by the Minister of Agriculture to *Report of Portfolio Committee on Agriculture on Oversight visit to Onderstepoort Biological Products and Agricultural Research Council in Gauteng Province from 7 – 11 October 2024*, as adopted by the House on 05 June 2025.

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Agriculture**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON STRATEGIC PLANS 2025/30, ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS 2025/26 AND BUDGET 2025/26 FOR BUDGET VOTE 9: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, DATED 11 JUNE 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

On 06 February 2025, the President delivered the State of the Nation Address to the nation. SONA outlines the government's priorities for the year. The budget allocation of such priorities followed this critical event. On 21 May 2025, the Minister of Finance tabled the 2025/26 budget to the National Assembly to fund the government's key priorities. The budget reflects the choices made by the government during the State of the Nation Address, as it serves as a tool to achieve socio-economic development goals.

The extended Cabinet Lekgotla adopted the South African Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024-2029 on January 30, 2025, and it was formally approved by the Cabinet on February 26, 2025. This five-year plan serves as the guiding framework for South Africa's development priorities, focusing on inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and building a capable state. The expectation is that all governments' strategic and annual performance plans should be aligned with the MTDP and reflect priorities set in all their processes.

The DPME strategic plan identifies five outcomes for implementation over the next five years, aligning with the three priorities of the government as articulated in the MTDP. The outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1: Improved Governance and Capacity of the Department.

Outcome 2: Improved government-wide planning.

Outcome 3: Continuous assessments in the implementation of the NDP/MTDP targets and produce reports to inform stakeholders.

Outcome 4: Improved utilisation rate of evidence in planning, implementation and monitoring of government priorities.

Outcome 5: Engage relevant stakeholders (government departments, civil society, private sector) in the development and refinement of development goals espoused in the NDP/MTDP

Through the budget, the government sets priorities and indicates how the funding will be spent (expenditure) from the income it has collected through its revenue. The budget serves as a tool to operationalise the government's key activities towards the achievement of its priorities. Budget analysis is an instrument used to determine whether allocated budgets are aligned with the government's key priorities encapsulated in the Medium-Term Development Plan as well as the State of the Nation Address 2025.

The primary objective of performance budgeting is to enhance the quality of public services by more effectively allocating resources in line with socio-economic goals, improving efficiency, economy, and effectiveness in their use, and increasing accountability. This can be put more simply as an increasing focus on what the public sector is accomplishing with the resources provided, as distinct from the narrower focus on how much money is being spent. The primary purpose of the budget analysis is to provide an analysis to establish whether the allocated budget is in line with policy priorities as determined by the government.

Budget analysis is conducted to enforce fiscal discipline and allocative and operational efficiency. It also assists in improving an understanding of the extent to which funds are allocated to different programmes and economic classifications, highlights budgetary inefficiencies and exposes areas where budgets are not aligned with policy and priorities.

This paper analyses Budget Vote 09 of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, intending to determine how much budget was allocated and how programmes are funded to achieve department priorities. In analysing the budget, it is critically important to ensure that the budget allocated is aligned with the policy imperatives contained in the National Development Plan (NDP), the Medium-Term Development Framework (MTDP) and the 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA).

2. EXPLANATION OF PLANNED PERFORMANCE OVER THE FIVE YEARS

The 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is the Department's commitment to continue leading and catalysing the development and improvement of developmental outcomes. It is the definitive affirmation of the Department's commitment to play a role in the institutionalisation of integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation and to promote the inclusion and empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities. The DPME will continue to play a key role in leading and coordinating government plans, monitoring key priorities, and evaluating government programmes to enhance outcomes, as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP).

The Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation for the 2025-30 period is currently organised as follows:

Programme 1: Administration - The purpose of the programme is to provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the Department. This programme consists of the following Sub-Programmes:

- Ministerial Support
- Departmental Management
- Corporate and Financial Services
- SOE

Programme 2: National Planning Coordination – The programme consists of the following sub-programmes:

Programme 2A: National Planning Commission Secretariat – The purpose of the sub-programme is to guide and advise on national and long-term development planning, to monitor the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) and to mobilise the country to support the plan. This Sub-Programme consists of the National Planning Commission Secretariat.

Programme 2B: National Planning Coordination - The purpose of the sub-programme is to contribute to improved country development outcomes through the coordination and institutionalisation of an integrated government planning system. This Sub-Programme consists of the following components:

- Management: National Planning Coordination

- National Planning Coordination, Resource Planning, Planning Alignment, Spatial Planning and GIS

Programme 3: Sector Monitoring Services - The purpose of the programme is to develop, facilitate, support and monitor the performance of government priorities, sector plans and intervention strategies toward the achievement of intended results. In addition, the programme contributes to policy coherence in government. This Programme consists of the following Sub-Programmes:

- Management: Sector Monitoring
- Outcome Monitoring and Support
- Intervention Support

Programme 4: Public Sector Monitoring & Capacity Development - The purpose of the programme is to support the implementation of the medium-term development plan by monitoring and improving the capacity of state institutions to develop, implement plans and provide services. This Programme consists of the following Sub-Programmes:

- Management: Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development
- Public Sector Monitoring and Support
- Frontline Monitoring and Support
- Capacity Development Coordination
- Public Service Priority 3: Building a capable, ethical and developmental state

Programme 5: Evidence & Knowledge Systems - The purpose of the Programme is to coordinate and support the generation, collation, accessibility and timely use of quality evidence to support performance monitoring and evaluation across government. This Programme consists of the following Sub-Programmes:

- Management: Evidence and Knowledge Systems
- Evaluation, Research, Knowledge and Data Systems

3. LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

The constitutional mandate of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is derived from Section 85(2) (b-c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which states that the President exercises executive authority, together with other members of Cabinet,

by developing and implementing national policy and coordinating the functions of the state departments and administration.

The Department has no specific legislation governing its mandate. The following pieces of legislation guide the work of the Department:

3.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996

The Constitution envisions South Africa as a unitary state comprising national, provincial, and local spheres of government. Section 42 of the constitution provides that each sphere shall perform its functions in a manner “*that does not encroach on the geographic, functional or institutional integrity of government in another sphere*”. In addition, the constitution enjoins the three spheres to work together in “*mutual trust and good faith*”.

Section 42 (2) of the Constitution also provides for the enactment of legislation to promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations. To this end, the Intergovernmental Framework Act (Act 13 of 2005) was passed. The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act was intended to, amongst other things:

- establish a framework for the national government, provincial governments and local governments to promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations;
- provide mechanisms and procedures to facilitate the settlement of intergovernmental disputes and
- provide for matters connected therewith.

Section 85(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the President to exercise executive authority, together with other members of Cabinet, by:

- Implementing national legislation;
- Developing and implementing national policy;
- Coordinating the functions of state departments and administrations;
- Preparing and initiating legislation; and
- Performing any other executive function provided for in the Constitution or national legislation.”

Section 195 of the Constitution sets out the values of the principles of the public administration, amongst others: Efficient, economical and effective use of resources must be promoted; Public administration must be development-oriented; Public administration must be accountable; and Transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, accessible and accurate information.

The Constitution envisions South Africa as a unitary state comprising national, provincial, and local spheres of government. Section 42 of the constitution provides that each sphere shall perform its functions in a manner “that does not encroach on the geographic, functional or institutional integrity of government in another sphere. In addition, the constitution enjoins the three spheres to work together in “mutual trust and good faith”.

3.2 Presidential Proclamation No. 47 of 2014

Section 3.3 of the proclamation establishes and entrusts the functions of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to the Minister in the Presidency through Proclamation 47, July 2014, in terms of Section 97 of the Constitution.

The Presidency has a critical role to play in coordinating, overseeing, and supervising all spheres of government and to support the President, Deputy President, Ministers, and Deputy Ministers in the Presidency in their primary duty to uphold, defend, and respect the Constitution of the Republic.

The social compact is critical in re-establishing trust with citizens. People want a government that is responsive, honest, ethical and developmental. The Centre of government is essential to supporting the work of the President.

3.3 Public Finance Management Act, No. 1 of 1999.

Section 27(4) of the PFMA provides the basis for developing measurable objectives that must be included in the annual budgets of national and provincial institutions. Sections 40 (3) and 55 (2) provide the basis for reporting performance against predetermined objectives in institutions’ Annual Reports.

The abovementioned roles are inherent to the Centre of Government. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) defines the Centre of government as “the administrative structure that serves the executive (president or prime minister, and the cabinet

collectively)". A survey of OECD member countries found that the top four priority tasks of the strategic centre of government across jurisdictions are:

- **Supporting decision-making by the Head of government** and the cabinet, which involves administrative tasks related to cabinet meetings, as well as the provision of policy advice.
- **Policy coordination across government**, which increasingly involves leading cross-cutting policy priorities or initiatives.
- **Strategic planning for the whole of government.**
- **Communicating** government messages to the public and across the administration.
- **Monitoring functions** in the government.

DPME developed the Policy Framework on Integrated Planning to address key challenges in the planning system and to improve harmonisation and alignment across the planning system. The cabinet approved the Policy Framework in September 2022 and also served as a basis for revising the Development Planning Framework Bill.

The following policies are still relevant:

3.4 Green Paper on National Strategic Planning (2009) and its Revision in 2010

The National Strategic Planning 2009 outlines the need for long-term planning and coordination amongst spheres of government to ensure coherence in policy-making and implementation.

3.5 Green Paper on Improving Government Performance: Our Approach (2009)

The Green Paper emphasises the need to improve the performance outcomes of the government by introducing a Result-Based Approach to Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of Government Programmes.

3.6 Policy Framework for the Government-wide Monitoring and Evaluation Systems 2007

The GWMES, which applies to all entities in the national, provincial and local spheres of government, is the overarching policy framework for monitoring and evaluation in the South African Government. It sets out the policy context for supporting frameworks, such as the

National Treasury's Framework for Managing Programme Performance information and Statistics South Africa's South African Statistics Quality Assurance Framework.

3.7 Policy Framework on Integrated Planning, 2022

DPME developed the Policy Framework on Integrated Planning to address key challenges in the planning system and to improve harmonisation and alignment across the planning system. The cabinet approved the Policy Framework in September 2022 and also served as a basis for revising the Development Planning Framework Bill.

3.8 Intergovernmental Relations Framework Regulations, 10 May 2024

The following policies are still relevant:

- 2019-2024 Revised Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF)
- Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans
- Budget Prioritisation Framework
- National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF)

3.9 National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF)

The NEPF was first approved by the Cabinet in 2011 and then updated in 2019 to set standards for evaluation across government institutions and applicable to all three spheres of government and other government components listed in the Public Service Act (PSA) (1994) and Chapter 9 of the Constitution.

4. MANDATE

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is mandated to:

- support the National Planning Commission.
- facilitate the implementation of policies, legislation and regulations related to the National Development Plan (NDP) to optimise the national planning system, coordinate national medium-term plans and delivery agreements, and monitor and evaluate their implementation.
- ensure the alignment of departmental strategic and annual plans with budget allocations and the government's medium-term development plan.

- monitor the performance of individual national and provincial government departments and municipalities and facilitate targeted intervention programmes.
- monitor frontline service delivery, manage the presidential hotline, develop and implement the annual national evaluation plan, and support the national evaluation system.
- promote sound planning, monitoring and evaluation practices in government.

5. BUDGET ANALYSIS

5.1 Expenditure Overview

In line with the department's aim to strengthen its planning, monitoring and evaluation programmes over the medium term to support the implementation and achievement of government priorities, it will focus on supporting the implementation of the NDP through the National Planning Commission, coordinating and strengthening the national planning system; monitoring the implementation and achievement of government programmes and priorities; and producing research, evaluation and data-driven analysis to support evidence-based planning and interventions on government priorities.

Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 3.8 per cent, from R494 million in 2024/25 to R552.1 million in 2027/28. As the department mainly relies on personnel for its work, spending on employee compensation accounts for an estimated 72.7 per cent (R1.2 billion) of its budget over the period ahead. As part of the 2024 national macro-organisation of government, the administrative duties of the Department of Public Enterprises, as outlined in the Public Service Act (1994), were transferred to the department, along with the responsibility to establish a state-owned holding company. Amounts of R35.6 million in 2025/26, R29.4 million in 2026/27 and R30.8 million in 2027/28 will be transferred to the department to support this initiative.

5.2 Supporting the implementation of the NDP through the National Planning Commission

The department is tasked with facilitating the implementation of the NDP. This is carried out by the National Planning Commission, which is mandated to provide an independent and critical view of the country's developmental trajectory, monitor its implementation and provide feedback and guidance. Over the medium term, the commission plans to conduct and complete

one report per year on research projects that support the implementation of the NDP, engaging all social partners and forging new partnerships. In 2025/26, it will begin developing a new national development plan that builds upon the NDP's Vision 2030. This work is expected to be completed by the end of 2026/27. Part of this work entails the commission facilitating strategic engagements and partnerships to develop cross-cutting views on issues such as the investment needed in the water and energy, social security and social protection sectors to find sustainable and innovative solutions to obstacles that hinder the realisation of Vision 2030.

Related activities are carried out through the *National Planning Commission Secretariat* subprogramme in the *National Planning Coordination* programme. Spending in the subprogramme accounts for an estimated 51.3 per cent (R124.9 million) of the programme's budget over the medium term.

5.3 Coordinating and strengthening the national planning system

The pursuit of the NDP's vision is supported by the government's 2024-2029 medium-term development plan (MTDP), which reflects the government's strategic priorities, outcomes, and interventions for the current administration's five-year term. The government's 2024-2029 MTDP translates the NDP's goals into strategic priorities, outcomes, interventions and targets while considering the government of national unity's electoral mandate. Guided by the MTDP, in 2025/26, the department will develop an annual budget prioritisation framework to outline key priorities for the annual planning cycle for departments. It will also collaborate with the National Treasury during the yearly budgeting process.

The department convenes various planning forums to improve and strengthen integrated planning across the government. These include the National Steering Committee on Integrated Planning, which serves as a platform for engagement, consultation, and communication among the department, other central government departments, and premiers' offices regarding planning and its supporting instruments and mechanisms. The purpose of this initiative is to provide strategic leadership and enhance coordination across the three spheres of government, aiming to achieve improved development results. To enhance the quality of strategic plans, the department will issue circulars and other guidance to departments on institutional planning, aligning with the revised framework for strategic and annual performance plans.

To ensure that the planning system encourages sustained spatial transformation, the department will, over the next 3 years, support other departments in analysing spatial trends and dynamics

during their planning processes in line with the national spatial development framework. The department will also address the integration of the framework into the government's 2024-2029 Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), develop supporting guidelines, and continue to provide geospatial analysis and mapping in support of planning, monitoring, and evaluation activities. This work will be facilitated through the *National Planning Coordination* subprogram, which is part of the National Planning Coordination programme and is responsible for national planning processes and systems. Spending in the subprogramme accounts for an estimated 45.5 per cent (R113.6 million) of the programme's budget over the MTEF period.

5.4 Monitoring the implementation and achievement of government programmes and priorities

Over the period ahead, the department will monitor the performance of individual national and provincial government departments and municipalities and facilitate targeted interventions, such as research, rapid assessments, and site visits, to validate and verify data and specific outcomes reported by government institutions.

The research will ensure evidence-based monitoring and the proposal of innovative solutions to emerging challenges. These activities are carried out in the *Outcomes Monitoring and Support* subprogramme in the *Sector Monitoring Services* programme. Spending in the subprogramme accounts for an estimated 84 per cent (R187.9 million) of the programme's total budget over the MTEF period.

As the department is tasked with monitoring frontline services to find areas of improvement, it plans to produce two reports per year over the medium term on frontline service delivery. These services include complaints and compliments received through the presidential hotline, which is estimated to cost the department an estimated R63 million over the medium term. The department will also support the performance management and development of heads of departments and monitor and strengthen governance capabilities and the implementation of capacity development measures across the public sector to improve planning, monitoring and evaluation. These activities are carried out in the *Public Service Monitoring and Capacity Development* subprogramme in the *Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development* programme. Spending in the subprogramme accounts for an estimated 95.2 per cent (R253 million) of the programme's budget over the MTEF period.

5.5 Research, evaluation and analysis to support evidence-based planning and interventions

Decision-making based on evidence strengthens accountability, transparency, and informed policymaking. Accordingly, as part of its support for the production, collation, accessibility, and timely use of high-quality evidence to enhance planning, performance monitoring, and evaluation, the department will aim to update the national evaluation policy framework over the medium term to develop the 2025-2029 national evaluation plan. It also plans to produce five evidence reports each year over the MTEF period, comprising two evaluations, two research projects and one development indicator report. These activities will be carried out through the *Evaluation, Research, Knowledge and Data Systems* subprogramme, which is allocated an estimated R113.9 million over the MTEF period in the *Evidence and Knowledge Systems* programme.

Table 1: Actual budget allocation, May 2025

Programme	Budget			
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
R million				
Programme 1: Administration	228.7	236.9	236.5	241.8
Programme 2: National Planning Coordination	72.2	70.6	78.3	82.4
Programme 3: Sector Monitoring Services	62.1	65.3	70.8	74.4
Programme 4: Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development	73.3	80.4	84.2	88.7
Programme 5: Evidence and Knowledge Systems	39.7	40.9	39.2	40.9
TOTAL	455.9	494.0	509.1	528.1

Source: Estimates of National Expenditure 2025

6. PROGRAMMES

To give effect to its mandate and strategic objectives, the Department implements its work through five distinct yet interrelated programmes. Each programme is designed to contribute to the realisation of the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030 and the Medium-Term

Development Plan (MTDP) for 2024–2029. These programmes serve as operational vehicles for delivering on key government priorities, improving planning and monitoring systems, enhancing public sector performance, and promoting the use of evidence-based decision-making. The following section provides an overview of each programme, detailing its strategic objectives, budget allocations, key activities, and performance outlook for the 2025/26 financial year. The Department has five programmes:

6.1 Programme 1: Administration

The primary objective of the programme is to provide strategic leadership, management, administrative, financial, and human resource services, enabling the Department to achieve its strategic and operational goals. The Programme's key focus is to implement a revised organisational structure, recruit key personnel, improve the quality of performance information, maintain sound financial management practices to sustain clean audit outcomes and strengthen communication around the National Development Plan.

The budget allocated for the Programme is R 236.5 million for the 2025/26 financial year, compared to R 236.9 million for the 2024/25 financial year. This represents a slight decrease in allocation but is expected to grow over the medium term. The allocations for the three sub-programmes are expected to be as follows: ministerial support, R43.6 million; departmental management, R31.4 million; and corporate and financial services, R166.7 million in 2026/27.

This program has appropriated almost half of the department's budget. The highest cost driver in this programme is employee compensation, followed by goods and services.

The programme missed three targets that are compliance related. The targets relate to financial disclosure requirements, which were set at 100% compliance, as well as the development of a Risk Disaster Plan and targeted procurement spending on women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Efforts are being made to ensure that all designated employees disclose their financial status as required. Where deviations are experienced, an investigation is conducted to establish the reasons for non-compliance. Where the reasons are not acceptable, disciplinary measures are taken to ensure that non-compliance is discouraged. Regarding targeted procurement spent on previously disadvantaged individuals (PDIs), suppliers are provided with the necessary information to ensure they benefit from the set-aside. The Disaster Assessment exercise will be conducted in collaboration with other sister departments that have the required capacity.

6.2 Programme 2: National Planning Coordination

The purpose of the Programme is to develop, implement planning frameworks, and facilitate the alignment of the planning and budgeting functions across government and in the Department. The key objective of this Programme is to ensure the achievement of the NDP's goals by 2030 by developing an annual budget prioritisation framework and embedding the national spatial development framework in the strategic and annual performance plans of national and provincial departments over the medium term.

The programme contributes to the Strategic outcomes of an Improved government-wide planning system, Continuous Assessments in the implementation of the NDP/MTDP, Data Collection for Improved utilisation rate of evidence in planning, implementation and monitoring of government priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan 2025-2030; and Stakeholder Engagement: Engage relevant stakeholders (government departments; civil society, private sector) in the development and refinement of developmental goals espoused in the NDP/MTDP.

The budget allocated for the Programme is R78.3 million for the 2025/26 financial year, compared to R70.6 million in the 2024/25 financial year. It is expected to grow in the next medium term. The program comprises three sub-programmes: management, national planning coordination, and the National Planning Commission secretariat.

The department, in its annual performance plan, outlines that the programme is highly constrained both in terms of human capacity and operational budget as a result of compulsory budget reductions. The baseline reductions for the National Planning Commission hurt the Commission's work and its ability to provide the necessary advice to the Government on long-term planning. During the 2025 MTEF period, there will be a reduction in research conducted, resulting in fewer outputs produced by the Commission and reduced stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement often thrives through collaboration between institutions and partners that require funds to coordinate. Under-resourcing remains a key risk for the National Planning Commission, the government, and the country in ensuring that the government's planning mandate is fulfilled, particularly around long-term planning.

6.3 Programme 3: Sector Monitoring Services

The purpose of the branch is to monitor government performance against the three priorities of government, as expressed through the five-year medium-term government plan. It also monitors the intervention strategies aimed at achieving the intended results as outlined in the MTDP.

The budget allocated for Programme 3 is R 70.8 million for the 2025/26 financial year, as compared to R 65.3 million in the 2024/25 financial year.

The programme contributes to the Strategic outcome of Continuous Assessments in the implementation of the NDP/MTDP; Data Collection for Improved utilisation rate of evidence in planning, implementation and monitoring of government priorities as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2025-2030; and Stakeholder Engagement: Engage relevant stakeholders (government departments; civil society, private sector) in the development and refinement of developmental goals espoused in the NDP/MTDP.

The monitoring objectives are to track the government's performance in realising the three priorities outlined in the NDP, as expressed through the MTDP, by focusing the whole government on outcomes in addition to outputs. Monitoring aims to identify and resolve problems, accelerate the implementation of key interventions, and ensure that the needs of women, youth, and people with disabilities are prioritised in how the work is reported.

The branch supports all MTDP priorities by monitoring progress, reporting, and proposing interventions. Additionally, it identifies specific strategic blockages through Bi-Annual reports to intervene and resolve them.

6.4 Programme 4: Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development

The purpose of the programme is to support the implementation of the medium-term development plan by monitoring and enhancing the capacity of state institutions to develop and implement plans, as well as provide services. The objectives of this programme include the following: Strengthen state governance, efficiency, effectiveness and equity by:

- monitoring the achievement of targets related to MTDP priority 3 (build a capable, ethical and developmental state) and reporting progress to the Cabinet biannually

- ensuring the alignment of performance agreements for heads of departments with the government's 2024-2029 MTDP annually
- facilitating service delivery improvements through frontline and citizen-based monitoring and effective complaints monitoring through the presidential hotline on an ongoing basis
- monitoring public service capabilities and the governance of public entities on an ongoing basis.

The budget allocated for the Programme is R84.2 million for the 2025/26 financial year, compared to R80.4 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

In the main, the programme contributes to the Strategic outcome of Continuous Assessments in the implementation of the NDP/MTDP and data collection, with an improved utilisation rate of evidence in planning, implementation, and monitoring of government priorities, as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

The programme undertakes frontline monitoring of selected projects and facilities nationwide. The purpose of these site visits is to verify and complement the performance monitoring reports submitted by departments through the Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reporting System. The views of frontline staff and citizens are captured. Improvement plans are developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and are closely monitored.

The primary objective of this target is to enhance the government's responsiveness to citizens' complaints received through the PH. PH staff support departments to unblock challenges to resolution through a National Public Liaison Forum and through the identification of strategic interventions that are undertaken.

The objective of the HoD PMDS system is to manage the career incidents of accounting officers (Directors-Generals and Heads of Departments). The system is also designed to enhance the performance of departments by holding accounting officers accountable for achieving their objectives.

The objective of this target is to identify capability challenges and weaknesses in departments and facilitate the implementation of appropriate corrective measures. This is done through the assessment conducted across four key performance areas: Planning and Programme Performance, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, Governance, and accountability

The primary objective is to enhance oversight capacity within departments by effectively identifying challenges in state-owned enterprises (SOEs) across key performance indicators, including Planning and Performance, Financial Management, Governance, and Oversight.

6.5 Programme 5: Evaluation, Evidence and Knowledge Systems

The purpose of the programme is to coordinate and support the generation, collation, accessibility, and timely use of quality evidence to inform planning, monitoring, and evaluation across government. The objectives include the following:

- Support the department's planning, monitoring and evaluation functions by:
 - managing and supporting evaluations of priority government policies, programmes and systems in line with the national evaluation policy framework over the medium term.
 - Conducted research and evaluation in identified key policy areas and produced four evidence reports annually.
 - improving the department's capability for data integration, analytics and knowledge management to
 - support its role in evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation across government over the medium term.

The budget allocated for the Programme is R39.2 million for the 2025/26 financial year, compared to R40.9 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

Over the medium term, the Programme will focus on providing technical expertise and incrementally developing integrated knowledge management and reporting platforms. These platforms will ensure enhanced access to knowledge products, data and analytic services, thereby supporting evidence-based decision-making to improve accountability and transparency within government.

The 2025/26 Evidence Plan will align with the Strategic Priorities of the 7th Administration, as outlined in the MTDP 2024–2029, while also allowing for some overlap to facilitate the phasing out of evidence priorities from the 2019–2024 MTSF. Given that 2025/26 marks the start of the 7th Administration, the plan will adopt a five-year perspective. To maintain responsiveness to evolving contexts and emerging issues, it will be updated annually. This medium-term approach will ensure continued evidence support for the NDP Vision 2030, which remains the country's long-term plan.

The focus of evaluations will remain to assess, systematically and objectively, the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of policies, programs and interventions. This will equip policymakers with actionable insights on whether to continue, enhance, terminate or discontinue interventions. Stakeholder involvement throughout the evaluation process will be crucial to ensure ownership and utilisation focus (i.e., towards a defined primary intended use and users).

Focus will also be placed on implementing the Data Strategy, which helps align data-related initiatives with the department's strategic objectives. An immediate priority is to develop digital and integrated reporting systems, such as dashboards, which will present data in an accessible and user-friendly format. These activities must align with the priorities of the Digital Transformation initiatives that The Presidency leads.

Greater attention will be given to the timely dissemination of findings and lessons from various evidence projects. This includes (1) Communicating insights in ways that are meaningful and actionable for citizens and policymakers; (2) Strengthening methods to facilitate and track the uptake of recommendation and their utilisation; (3) Supporting custodian departments in adopting improvement plans to achieve tangible changes and improvements that have an impact.

7. KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

7.1 The Committee noted with concern the absence of a dedicated legislative framework outlining the statutory mandate and functions of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). In the absence of such a framework, the Committee sought clarity on how the Department interprets and applies Chapter 3 of the Constitution, which pertains to cooperative governance, in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (Act No. 13 of 2005). Specifically, the Committee aimed to determine whether these instruments provide a sufficient statutory basis for the Department to effectively fulfil its planning, monitoring, and evaluation functions across all spheres of government.

7.2 The Committee noted the absence of an articulated oversight model within the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) for ensuring compliance by other national departments. The Committee expressed interest in understanding the specific mechanisms, tools, and methodologies employed by DPME to monitor performance and enforce accountability across the national sphere. Concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness

and enforceability of the Department's oversight functions in the absence of binding compliance measures.

- 7.3 The Committee noted a lack of clarity regarding the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation's (DPME) processes for assessing the viability and feasibility of action plans submitted by other national departments. The Committee expressed interest in how the DPME collaborates with departments to evaluate whether these plans are realistic, implementable, and aligned with national priorities. Additionally, concerns were raised about the absence of a clearly defined matrix or performance-tracking mechanism used by the DPME to monitor progress and measure improvements across departments over time.
- 7.4 The Committee expressed concern that, despite the oversight and planning role of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), tangible improvements in the performance outcomes of State-Owned Entities (SOEs) remain limited. The Committee sought clarity on the measures employed by the DPME to address persistent underperformance, improve productivity, enhance service delivery quality, and ensure that state-owned enterprises (SOEs) meet their established targets and deadlines. The lack of demonstrable impact raised questions about the effectiveness of DPME's interventions and support mechanisms in the SOE sector.
- 7.5 The Committee noted the absence of a clearly defined consequence management framework within the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) for addressing non-performance or non-compliance by other departments. The Committee inquired about the specific measures or recommendations put forward by the DPME to enforce accountability and ensure that departments are held responsible for failing to meet agreed-upon targets, timelines, and performance standards.
- 7.6 The Committee noted a lack of clarity on how the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) intends to achieve its set strategic goals. The Committee sought to understand the specific methodologies, implementation strategies, and resource allocations that the Department would employ to realise its objectives. The absence of an articulated roadmap raised concerns about the Department's ability to translate its planning into measurable outcomes effectively.
- 7.7 The Committee observed a lack of specificity regarding the economic indicators utilised by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) to assess and monitor economic growth. The Committee sought clarity on which quantitative metrics or data sets the Department relies upon to evaluate financial performance, inform planning processes, and track progress toward national development objectives.

- 7.8 The Committee found that Program 2, specifically the National Planning Commission and its coordination functions, is under-resourced. This under-sourcing poses a risk to the Commission's ability to deliver on its long-term planning outputs and to develop impactful research that informs policy and benefits the public. The Committee stressed that the Commission's critical consultative and coordinating roles must be adequately supported and should not be compromised.
- 7.9 The Committee noted that the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) does not have a clearly defined or consistently tracked turnaround time for responding to issues raised by other National Departments. This lack of clarity hinders the Committee's ability to assess the efficiency and responsiveness of the DPME in addressing interdepartmental concerns.
- 7.10 The Committee noted that the current quarterly reports lack measurable progress indicators and detailed accounts of implementation challenges. This limits the Committee's ability to conduct proactive oversight and ensure timely corrective action. The Committee, therefore, emphasised the need for quarterly reports to include quantifiable progress updates and to highlight the challenges encountered during implementation.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee makes the following recommendations to the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation:

- 8.1 To initiate the development of a dedicated legislative framework to define its mandate, powers, and functions. This framework should clarify the Department's role in Chapter 3 of the Constitution and the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, thereby ensuring legal certainty and improved coordination across the various spheres of government. The Department should also engage with relevant stakeholders, including the National Treasury, COGTA, and Parliament, to ensure alignment with broader governance and service delivery objectives.
- 8.2 develop and formalise a comprehensive oversight and compliance model. This model should outline transparent methodologies, performance monitoring tools, escalation procedures, and consequences for non-compliance by national departments. Furthermore, the DPME should consider strengthening its institutional authority through

interdepartmental agreements or policy directives and report regularly to Parliament on the status of departmental compliance and remedial actions taken.

- 8.3 develop and institutionalise a standardised framework for evaluating the feasibility of departmental action plans. This framework should include clear criteria for viability, alignment with national priorities, and the capacity for implementation. Furthermore, the DPME should establish a measurable performance matrix or dashboard to systematically track progress and improvements across departments, enabling evidence-based oversight, early identification of implementation risks, and timely support for intervention.
- 8.4 strengthen its performance oversight mechanisms for State-Owned Entities (SOEs) by implementing targeted support and intervention strategies. This should include the development of performance improvement plans, stricter monitoring of milestone delivery, and closer collaboration with shareholder departments. Additionally, DPME should introduce measurable performance indicators specific to SOEs and regularly report on progress, challenges, and corrective actions taken to ensure increased productivity, improved service quality, and the timely achievement of set targets.
- 8.5 develop and implement a formalised consequence management framework in collaboration with the Presidency and relevant oversight bodies. This framework should outline specific, enforceable actions for addressing departmental underperformance, including escalation procedures, remedial measures, and potential sanctions. Furthermore, the DPME should integrate consequence management into its monitoring and reporting processes to promote a culture of accountability and continuous improvement across all spheres of government.
- 8.6 develop and communicate a detailed implementation strategy outlining how its strategic goals will be achieved. This strategy should include defined action plans, timelines, resource requirements, performance indicators, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective implementation. Additionally, DPME should ensure that this roadmap is aligned with its annual performance plan and is regularly reviewed to track progress and adjust interventions where necessary to ensure goal attainment.
- 8.7 develop and publish a clear set of economic indicators that it uses to monitor and assess economic growth. These indicators should be aligned with national development priorities and include both macroeconomic and sector-specific metrics. Furthermore, the DPME should ensure that these indicators are integrated into its planning and reporting frameworks and that regular updates are provided to Parliament to support informed oversight and policy decision-making.

- 8.8 that additional resources—both financial and human—be allocated to Program 2, with a specific focus on strengthening the capacity of the National Planning Commission and its coordination functions. This includes increasing budgetary support for strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and policy research initiatives. The National Treasury, in collaboration with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, should urgently review current funding levels and provide targeted support to ensure the Commission can fulfil its mandate effectively. Failure to address this under-resourcing may compromise the Commission’s ability to deliver long-term, evidence-based planning that is critical to national development. The Committee noted that the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) does not have a clearly defined or consistently tracked turnaround time for responding to issues raised by other National Departments. This lack of clarity hinders the Committee’s ability to assess the efficiency and responsiveness of the DPME in addressing interdepartmental concerns.
- 8.9 should develop a comprehensive planning roadmap that institutionalises structured, intergovernmental interaction across all three spheres of government: national, provincial, and local, before the finalisation of Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Strategic Plans.
- 8.10 must report to the committee on the alignment of the MTDP and the annual performance plans of the National and Provincial governments.
- 8.11 the Planning Commission must undertake a thorough process to develop a new robust long-term plan for South Africa.

9 Source Documents

1. Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Annual Performance Plan, 2025/26
2. Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Medium Term Development Plan, 2024-2029.
3. Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Strategic Plan, 2025/30
4. National Planning Commission, National Development Plan, 2030
5. National Treasury, Republic of South Africa, The 2025 Estimates of National Expenditure

Report to be considered.

2. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON STRATEGIC PLANS 2025/26-2029/30, ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS 2025/26 AND BUDGET 2025/26 FOR BUDGET VOTE 14: STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA, DATED 11 JUNE 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

On 06 February 2025, the President delivered the State of the Nation Address (SONA) to the nation. SONA outlines the government's priorities for the year. The budget allocation of such priorities followed this critical event. On 21 May 2025, the Minister of Finance tabled the 2025/26 budget to the National Assembly to fund government priorities. The budget reflects the choices the government made during the State of the Nation Address, as it serves as a tool to achieve socio-economic development goals. The Budget also aims to address cost pressures and new policy priorities by reprioritising and reallocating budgets within departments.

Through the budget, the government sets priorities and indicates how the funding will be spent (expenditure) from the income it has collected through its revenue. The budget serves as a tool to operationalise the government's key activities towards achieving its priorities. Budget analysis is an instrument used to determine whether allocated budgets are aligned with the government's key priorities encapsulated in the Medium-Term Development Plan 2025-2030, as well as the State of the Nation Address 2025.

The primary objective of performance budgeting is to enhance the quality of public services by more effectively allocating resources in line with socio-economic goals, improving the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of their use, and increasing accountability. This can be put more simply as an increasing focus on what the public sector is accomplishing with the resources provided, as distinct from the narrower focus on how much money is being spent. The primary purpose of the budget analysis is to provide an analysis to establish whether the allocated budget is in line with policy priorities as determined by the government.

Budget analysis is conducted to enforce fiscal discipline and allocative and operational efficiency. It also assists in improving an understanding of the extent to which funds are allocated to different programmes and economic classifications, highlights budgetary inefficiencies and exposes areas where budgets are not aligned with policy and priorities.

This paper analyses Budget Vote 14 of Statistics South Africa to determine how the budget was allocated and how programmes are funded to achieve the Stats SA mandate. In analysing the budget, it is critically important to ensure that the budget allocated is aligned with the policy imperatives, thereby assisting the country in producing credible, reliable, and quality statistics.

2. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT 2025

Making tough decisions in an uncertain and fast-changing world requires a steadfast commitment to statistics and evidence-based reasoning. By grounding decisions in empirical data and sound statistical analysis, leaders can navigate ambiguity and uncertainty with greater confidence. Statistics and evidence-based decisions provide a beacon of objectivity in uncertain times, enabling leaders to make informed, data-driven choices that drive progress, growth and sustainable development.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in the 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA), said: *“Our most urgent task is to grow our economy so that we can create jobs, reduce poverty and improve the lives of all South Africans.”* Leveraging data as an infrastructure enhances democracy by enabling the monitoring of progress, identifying areas that need improvement, and ensuring that development initiatives are both practical and inclusive. The country needs insightful data to guide better decision-making, fostering transparency, accountability, and equitable growth, enhancing the well-being of its citizens.

The importance of accurate and reliable data has never been more critical, especially in today’s data-driven world. The statistical system in South Africa does not meet the country’s diverse and emerging data needs. However, there are numerous opportunities within the data ecosystem to capitalise on, such as exploring the use of emerging technologies and alternative data sources to supplement official statistics.

National Statistics Offices (NSOs) worldwide are exploring the use of big data, leveraging emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to identify patterns and trends that may not be visible through traditional methods, thereby enhancing the timeliness and relevance of official statistics. The use of alternative data sources, as well as geospatial data, can reduce the burden on respondents and increase the depth and frequency of statistical outputs. These will require investments in new capabilities by NSOs and strengthened collaborations with both public and business partners in the data ecosystem.

The future of data and statistics enabled by technology is exciting. At the core of the strategy is the digital transformation of Stats SA, aimed at better achieving its mandate. This will allow Statistics South Africa to redefine the organisation's business model, delivering more diverse product and service offerings to inform better policymaking and decision-making that impact the lives of South Africans.

To address the data and quality gap and adapt to external changes and disruptions, Stats SA will focus on the following priorities over the next five years:

- Sustaining the quality of national indicators to inform evidence-based decisions and bring new insights to users;
- Driving statistical reform through strengthening statistical coordination and the National Statistics System (NSS) of the country; and
- Driving a transformation and change agenda to optimise, innovate and diversify the operations and capability of the organisation in the data ecosystem.

3. BUDGET ANALYSIS

3.1 Expenditure Overview

Over the medium term, the department will focus on protecting and sustaining the quality of statistical information, implementing the continuous population survey, modernising its business operating model and strengthening statistical reform. To fund an average of 2,504 departmental posts over the next three years, spending on compensation of employees is estimated to constitute 65.7 per cent (R5.7 billion) of its total budget of R8.7 billion. Total expenditure is set to increase at an average annual rate of 4.7 per cent, from R2.6 billion in 2024/25 to R3 billion in 2027/28, mainly due to inflationary adjustments.

3.2 Protecting the quality of statistical information

The department publishes official statistics as a reliable evidence base for policy and decision-making in line with the National Development Plan, the medium-term development plan and other policy frameworks. To this end, it plans to release at least 250 publications per year over the period ahead related to socioeconomic statistics, including those on GDP, price indexes and labour markets. Costs associated with this work are spread across the *Economic Statistics* and *Population and Social Statistics* programmes, which receive a combined R1.9 billion over the medium term.

3.3 Implementing the continuous population survey

The continuous population survey was reconceptualised and redesigned in 2024/25 to integrate existing household surveys within the department's survey programme, including the general household survey, the income and expenditure survey and the living conditions survey. The aim is to create a single, continuous data collection vehicle that produces frequent, lower-level data. Whereas existing surveys publish statistical information periodically at the provincial level, not the district level, the constant population survey employs a modular approach that allows new topics to be introduced into the survey at different intervals, thereby better positioning the department to respond to emerging needs. The department will disseminate various types of statistics that arise from the survey as data become available. Updating the frame and piloting methodologies for data collection are scheduled for 2025/26 and 2026/27, and data collection is planned for 2027/28. To fund activities related to the continuous population survey, R577.8 million is allocated over the medium term in the Poverty and Inequality Statistics subprogramme of the *Population and Social Statistics* programme.

3.4 Modernising the business operating model

The department is in the process of modernising its business operating model by integrating and automating the department's systems in the areas of statistical production and governance. The department began its modernisation drive by introducing digital data collection in household surveys, including the population census.

Over the medium term, it plans to expand this functionality to economic surveys, the continuous population survey and the business register. In response to the increasing demand for data and statistics, the department is also in the process of establishing an interconnected statistical system that facilitates data acquisition, processing, integration, analysis and visualisation. This project will extend beyond the medium term. An estimated R198.9 million is allocated over the MTEF period to the *Business Modernisation* subprogramme in the *Statistical Support and Informatics* programme to carry out these activities.

3.5 Strengthening Statistical Reform

To drive statistical reform, amendments to the Statistics Act (1999) were approved by the President in 2024 and will be implemented over the medium term. Among other things, the amendments provide for the development and implementation of a national statistics system and strategy for the development of statistics, as well as for enhancing coordination and collaboration among producers of statistics. In preparation for implementing these stipulations and to create awareness among state organs of their implications, the department's communication and advocacy strategy is expected to be completed by 2025/26. These and other activities concerning statistical reform are funded through the *South African National Statistics System* programme, which is allocated R152.3 million over the medium term.

Table 1: Actual budget allocation February 2024/26

Programme	Budget			
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
R million				
Programme 1: Administration	746.9	707.7	742.7	779.1
Programme 2: Economic Statistics	288.9	295.5	310.5	325.0
Programme 3: Population and Social Statistics	322.0	286.7	307.7	322.8
Programme 4: Methodology and Statistical Infrastructure	149.9	158.1	166.1	174.0
Programme 5: Statistical Support and Informatics	256.8	305.4	306.7	322.6
Programme 6: Statistical Operations and Provincial Coordination	924.3	848.1	889.2	931.6
Programme 7: South African National Statistics System	35.0	44.6	48.2	50.8
TOTAL	2 723.9	2 646.2	2 771.3	2 905.6

Source: Estimates of National Expenditure 2025

4. PROGRAMMES

Statistics South Africa has seven programmes, which are as follows:

4.1 Programme 1: Administration

The purpose of the programme is to provide strategic leadership, management and services to the department. The Administration programme comprises four sub-programmes, which are as follows: Department Management, Corporate Services, Financial Management Services, Internal Audit, and Office Accommodation.

The programme is allocated a budget of R742.7 million in 2025/26, which is a slight increase from the R707 million allocated in 2024/25.

The strategic intent of the programme is to lead the strategic direction of the organisation and enable it to transform its capabilities as it moves into the future. The organisation will embark on Phase 2 of realigning the organisational structure to the new strategy. Part of the key deliverables over the medium term is the mapping of business processes to enhance efficiency and service delivery. The programme is leading the development and implementation of a digital transformation strategy in collaboration with the Business Modernisation Unit as key enablers for the future.

Key deliverables for 2025/26 include developing plans to transform the accommodation environment, improving the Minimum Information Security System environment, and developing an organisational strategy to reduce risk in times of disaster.

The implementation of the skills development strategy is a critical path to harness talent and skills in a restricted fiscal environment. Investing in new skills for the future will form the basis of career path development and multipronged programmes to ensure that critical skills are retained. Achieving national employment equity targets remains a challenge due to a declining fiscal position and limited opportunities for staff recruitment. Engagements are ongoing with the National Treasury regarding the challenges the organisation is facing with its Compensation of Employees allocation and overall budget allocation.

The primary cost driver is expenditure on employee compensation. Within the remaining goods and services budget, the primary cost driver relates to fleet management services, travel and subsistence, and communications. Office accommodation is funded by Programme 1.

4.2 Programme 2: Economic Statistics

The Economics Statistics programme aims to produce economic statistics to inform evidence-based economic development and transformation in line with internationally recognised practices. Programme Management for Economic Statistics provides strategic direction and leadership. There are seven sub-programmes, which are as follows: Programme Management for Economic Statistics, Business Cycle Indicators, Structural Industry Statistics, Price Statistics, Private Sector Financial Statistics, Government Financial Statistics and National Accounts.

The programme has been allocated a budget of R310.5 million in this financial year compared to R295.5 million in the previous year.

The programme focuses on providing insightful data. To this extent, it produces a range of statistics that describe the dynamics of the economy and its links to job creation, economic growth, price stability, the environment, and society. The data adhere to relevant international frameworks, classifications, standards and good practices.

The existing surveys vary in terms of their scope, coverage and frequency. It includes various monthly, quarterly, annual and periodic sample surveys based on the statistical business register. Where relevant, administrative data are used to compile the statistics. Each statistical series has various local and international users, including those from the public and private sectors, academia, and non-governmental institutions. Additionally, these series contribute to the development of estimates of the gross domestic product. The branch responds to the economic indicators outlined in the Integrated Indicator Framework, contributing to the monitoring of the country's National Development Plan, the Medium-Term Strategic Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Agenda 2063 at the continental level.

A critical strategic intent is to increase the supply of economic statistics by developing new surveys and enhancing existing ones, funded through efficiency gains within the current resource constraints. These will primarily focus on creating a better understanding of the behaviour of prices in the services sector of the economy.

The branch is considering different approaches to ensure the business operating model becomes more agile. This is possible through an increase in the use of technology during the data collection phase of the statistical value chain, aimed at improving efficiency. Furthermore, additional research and alignment with international best practices are necessary to evaluate the use of administrative data as a supplement to existing surveys and as a data source for new indicators.

The branch outputs do not occur in isolation but depend on other actors within the data ecosystem to provide data. Therefore, the objective of Stats SA's interconnected statistical systems is relevant to the programme. The existing partnerships will be strengthened, and the branch will engage new partners as needed. The intention is to reduce the costs of the current operating model whilst broadening the scope of available data.

The branch aims to transform the capabilities of its staff members. The continuous development of staff is crucial to ensure that the workforce is prepared to adapt to the anticipated changes in the business model. In addition, the teams must be equipped to function increasingly professionally as the branch moves towards modernising its current data collection model.

4.3 Programme 3: Population and Social Statistics

The purpose of the Programme is to produce population, demographic, labour market and social statistics to inform socio-economic development. Population and social statistics inform evidence-based socio-economic development and transformation in line with internationally recognised practices. Programme 3 contributes to the strategic objective of sustaining the national population and social indicators to inform evidence-based planning, monitoring, and decision-making for use by the public and private sectors through the publication of numerous series, such as labour market and employment surveys.

The sub-programme in this programme includes the following: programme management for population and social statistics, demographics and population statistics, health and vital statistics, social statistics, labour statistics and poverty and inequality statistics.

The budget allocated for this programme is R307.7 million in this financial year compared to R286.7 million in the previous financial year.

Stats SA needs to grow and transition from being solely a data and information producer to an information and knowledge-based organisation that oversees the country's statistical ecosystem. There is an ever-increasing demand for data and information in South Africa to understand the evolution of social and economic phenomena. The organisation aims to increase its responsiveness to user needs through deeper analysis and explore the use of alternative data sources by harnessing and unlocking data in the broader ecosystem while maintaining the quality of key national indicators. Population and Social Statistics as a branch subscribes to insightful data as its primary strategic outcome.

Population and Social Statistics will continue to sustain the quality of key national indicators and to increase responsiveness to users' basic statistical needs and demands by collecting and analysing data across a range of themes, including living conditions, domestic tourism, transport, education, gender and marginalised groups, governance, crime and safety, employment, poverty and inequality, the demographic profile of the country and substantive analysis of key analytical themes related to the demography of the country, e.g. fertility, migration, mortality and causes of death, recorded live births, health reports, marriages and divorces, tourism and migration monthly and other annual reports. Furthermore, in-depth thematic research reports will be conducted annually, exploring innovative methods and covering analytical themes related to the country's demography, as well as a focus on women, children, and persons with disabilities. The country's demography is captured through mid-year population estimates produced annually at various geographic levels, as well as projections that form part of the suite of products from the population estimates programme. Additionally, the Census 2022 data will continue to inform the provision of data at national, provincial, and local government levels for planning purposes.

The high levels of inequality and challenges in reducing poverty, the need to frequently update the CPI basket of goods and services, and the increasing concerns about food security globally, as well as nationally, require proper and specialised measurement of household income and expenditure, poverty and inequality, multidimensional poverty, and household food security. In response to these demands, Stats SA has conducted an Income and Expenditure Survey in 2023/24. The IES results were published in 2024/25. Stats SA will release updated national poverty lines based on the most recent spending and consumption data from the 2022/2023 Income and Expenditure Survey in 2025/26.

These themes inform the Integrated Indicator Framework (IIF) and contribute to evidence-based policymaking across the government. Issues related to women, children and people with disabilities are integrated into the various Population and Social Statistics outputs. Outputs specifically include an annual indicator report on marginalised groups (women, the youth, older persons, and people with disabilities), as well as various thematic reports on issues relating to gender and marginalised groups. Statistics produced by the branch are disaggregated by sex and age to facilitate a broader understanding of the living circumstances of women and children. Thematic reports on health, child poverty, men, women, and children, fertility, mortality, and education provide a deeper analysis of marginalised groups, focusing on socio-economic issues that affect children and women.

The outputs produced within the Population and Social Statistics branch will contribute to monitoring the MTDP 2024–2029, the National Development Plan goals and indicators, Agenda 2063, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, as outlined in the IIF.

The strategic intent of this programme is to integrate survey content through the introduction of a Continuous Population Survey (CPS). Stats SA is currently collecting statistical information on living conditions, service delivery and poverty through the General Household Survey (GHS), the Income and Expenditure Survey (IES), the Living Conditions Survey (LCS), and the Community Survey (CS). In response to growing user demands, particularly for data at the sub-provincial level, and to ensure the production of high-quality and timely products, Stats SA is undertaking a review of the content of the questionnaires for these surveys, as well as their survey methodology. One of the outcomes of this process is the introduction of a modular approach, where a rotational system of in-depth service delivery modules will be developed and implemented at regular intervals as part of a Community Participation System (CPS) for household surveys. Continuous collection is expected to capture seasonality in the data more effectively and provide additional opportunities for quality assurance. The Continuous Population Survey will integrate current survey instruments – the General Household Survey (GHS), Living Conditions Survey (LCS), Income and Expenditure Survey (IES) and elements of the Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) – and will provide an integrated tool for the collection of living conditions, life circumstances and poverty data. The CPS will be conceptualised, tested, and implemented from 2024/25. This survey will create a more agile and cost-effective operating model for survey data collection, as it will provide a broad platform to cover a range of thematic areas (including household income and expenditure data, living conditions, service delivery, health, demographic data, and education) regularly.

This programme plays a pivotal role in the operational inputs that contribute towards achieving other strategic outcomes. Specifically, the digitalisation of relevant phases in the statistical value chain (development of electronic questionnaires) contributes towards achieving an *Agile operating model*.

A key strategic intent of this programme is to explore and increase the use of administrative data as alternative data sources to complement existing publications and produce new indicators. Although Population and Social Statistics will continue to use survey data into the foreseeable future, it will also investigate the availability and use of various administrative data

sources through harnessing and unlocking data in the ecosystem to complement and, perhaps, eventually replace existing survey data sources that are connected through statistical principles, standards and frameworks. Two areas that are already being utilised, in addition to GHS and other survey data, to produce statistical information and reports are the Learner Unit Record and Information Tracking System (LURITS) of the Department of Basic Education and the Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) of the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Extensive skilling and reskilling in data analytics, data mining, and other related digital capabilities are required to meet the requirements of the new data ecosystem. We will invest in building a diverse, skilled and versatile workforce that embraces change and can deliver innovative solutions. Specific training in data science, big data analysis, and data mining, among other areas, will be required. This will create a cadre of analytical capability to drive and increase value in the data ecosystem.

The primary cost driver is expenditure on employee compensation. Within the remaining goods and services budget, the primary cost drivers are related to communication, data costs, and training costs.

4.4 Programme 4: Methodology and Statistical Infrastructure

The purpose of the Programme is to set standards, statistical frameworks, and methodologies and conduct statistical research. The main objective of the Programme is to enhance the quality and methodological soundness of statistical information by researching, developing, reviewing, and applying statistical methods, standards, classifications, and procedures in the statistical value chain annually. The Programme further monitors and evaluates the methodological compliance of statistical operations by conducting independent evaluations on statistical practices annually. Additionally, it ensures the creation of complete and accurate sampling frames to enhance the quality of economic and social statistics by maintaining and updating frames for business and geographic information on an annual basis.

The sub-programmes in this programme include the following: programme management for methodology and statistical infrastructure, Statistical Methods, Statistical Standards, Business Register, Geography, Survey Monitoring and Evaluation and Innovation and Research.

The programme was allocated a budget of R166.1 million for the current financial year, compared to R158.1 million for the previous year.

The programme contributes towards achieving the organisational strategic outcomes of the agile operating model and interconnected statistical systems. The key deliverables are essential and critical elements that form the support system and foundations of core statistical products.

Statistical standards are the enablers of achieving uniformity, consistency, comparability, integration and ultimately, data sharing and thus increased use of statistical products. The correct implementation of statistical standards promotes operational efficiency and increases productivity. Standards are a precondition for the production of good-quality statistics. The branch must ensure the availability of and access to relevant statistical standards and classifications for Stats SA and SANSS partners. Over the medium term, the branch will focus on the adoption, adaptation, or revision of international classifications.

Geo-enabled statistical frames and geospatial support services provided to Stats SA and the external stakeholder community enable the creation and use of geospatial frames, as well as the application of geospatial tools and support in geo-statistical analyses. The Geospatial Information Frame (GIF) is an input frame in the statistical value chain, consisting of layers of geo-referenced structures, including dwellings, businesses, place names, enumeration areas, and small areas. The GIF serves as the base reference for planning, operations, and dissemination of censuses and surveys. Geospatial information and reliable evidence are fundamental to achieving South Africa's development agenda. The lack of common and trustworthy information for planning is a significant constraint in achieving policy targets and guiding decision-making regarding available resources, service backlogs, required inputs, and other relevant factors. It is, therefore, fundamental that this process be based on a foundation of reliable data, as the quality of decisions depends on the timeliness, applicability, and accuracy of the information on which they are based. Furthermore, the necessary skills and competencies to understand, analyse, and utilise geospatial details are vital.

The Statistical Business Register serves as a basis for all economic sample surveys conducted by Stats SA. It is a database containing selected information on all formal businesses in South Africa, regardless of size or economic activity, that have registered their business with at least one of the following government authorities, namely the Department of Trade and Industry and/or the South African Revenue Service (SARS). To innovate, the geo-snapshot and geo-frame creation processes will be enhanced through the automation of operations. Initiatives to compile an inventory of administrative data sources in the state that are relevant for the maintenance of the Statistical Business Register will be pursued further.

The branch is also responsible for developing, designing and implementing a diverse range of statistical, data and analytical solutions to support and inform critical stages of the statistical value chain in Stats SA. In this regard, the broad range of methodological support can be classified into providing statistical techniques and practices concerning official statistics; survey design including data sourcing and survey methodology; survey data analysis; as well as providing methodological support in the form of expert guidance and specialist advice covering a wide-ranging portfolio of surveys across Stats SA and the broader data ecosystem encompassing stakeholders under the South African National Statistics System umbrella. The application of sound statistical methods is the cornerstone of quality statistics.

For the organisation to sustain the quality of key indicators and address the challenges of declining data quality, there is a need to reposition and strengthen its quality management approaches. In this regard, it is envisaged that monitoring and evaluation systems will be enhanced through the refinement and implementation of the quality management system (QMS). Addressing the quality gap requires a multi-pronged approach. This includes standards development to support and guide statistical production, quality assessment through the SASQAF to certify statistical products as official, as well as monitoring the correct application of standards throughout production processes and evaluation of statistical products and processes against approved statistical standards and methods. It is envisaged that the Code of Practice for QMS will be piloted and tested before rollout can commence.

The transition of statistical production processes from manual systems to digital platforms requires the branch to upskill and reskill its personnel to ensure that they provide the relevant and necessary support to production systems. Disruptions and their subsequent impact on the production of statistics underscore the importance of this aspect of the work, as well as the need for increased emphasis and methodological support in production areas and among SANSS members.

4.5 Programme 5: Statistical Support and Informatics

This Programme enables service delivery programmes by using technology in the production and use of official statistics. The main objective is to modernise business processes by building enterprise architecture and applying emerging technologies for data collection, processing and the dissemination of statistical information over the medium term. The Programme further aims

to enable the department's production of official statistics by providing a technology infrastructure that is reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective in the medium term to inform policy with statistical geography.

The sub-programmes for this programme include the following: programme management for statistical support and informatics, advocacy and dissemination, business modernisation, publication services, information, communication and technology and analytical studies.

The budget allocated for this program is R306.5 million in this financial year compared to R305.5 million in the previous year.

The programme exists to utilise technology to optimise data ecosystems, serving current user needs and meeting evolving user needs as defined in the Integrated Indicator Framework (IIF) from potential users. Key outputs to achieve insightful data include the implementation of the branding strategy, which aims to place stakeholders at the centre of our operations by delivering products and services that are in line with user requirements to position Stats SA as a leader within the data ecosystem; to innovate interactive platforms by continuously enhancing the website to improve accessibility and use of our statistical products and services; and to compile specialised research reports and knowledge products for better insights into planning and policy development processes.

The programme provides the technology backbone in the form of an enterprise architecture (EA) that can anticipate growing demand and identify areas that need to be scaled down to save costs based on system requirements. A well-designed EA provides an organisation with an environment that allows easy and faster adoption of newer technologies while supporting smooth organisational transformation. An EA offers dexterity, effectiveness and robustness in unifying and coordinating different foundational aspects of an organisation, from planning and prioritising to identifying and managing interdependencies and risks and enabling governance. It amalgamates and integrates the organisation's fundamental elements to streamline efforts, reduce costs and bring about the required value in the shortest timespan possible. An EA will be rolled out over the medium term, providing for an interconnected statistical system within the data ecosystem.

The exponential growth of the digital world has significantly impacted how organisations conduct their business, and those who do not adapt are likely to face difficulties and possibly the cessation of their business altogether. For Stats SA to keep pace with this digital growth and its possibilities, the ICT infrastructure and staff must stay up to date with the capacity and

skills required to enable the organisation to thrive in a multi-data ecosystem environment. Investments in digital capability will also focus on ensuring that staff members are equipped with the necessary capabilities to learn, live and work in an evolving digital society.

4.6 Programme 6: Statistical Operations and Provincial Coordination

The purpose of the Programme is to collect and process data and interact with stakeholders and users at the provincial and local levels to inform policy implementation and support decision-making through statistical information. It engages stakeholders through platforms and provides effective communication services.

The sub-programmes in this programme include the following: programme management for statistical operations and provincial coordination, as well as provincial and district offices, data operations, household surveys, and censuses.

The programme was allocated a budget of R889.2 million in this financial year compared to R848.1 million in the previous year.

The strategic intent of the Statistical Operations and Provincial Coordination branch within the data ecosystem is to ensure well-coordinated, quality-assured data collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. The primary target is to have household surveys and population census multi-mode collections online and technology-driven, with all fieldwork staff appropriately skilled in the use of new technology and different modes by 2027.

Insightful data: The organisation conducted the Income and expenditure survey (IES) and commenced with the dissemination of the IES results in 2024/25. The dissemination of the IES results will continue, with the poverty report and poverty trends expected to be available later in the 2024/25 year. The Poverty results will be used to track poverty and inequality, which are the biggest challenges we have in South Africa.

The organisation has introduced a multi-modal approach to data collection for the Census. This approach provides respondents with the option to be enumerated without any physical contact with a Stats SA official, should they wish to do so. Testing for the use of multi-modal methods will continue for the remainder of the Household Surveys. The implementation of an Integrated Operations Model will be rolled out in a phased approach over the medium term.

A key strategic focus of the branch will be on reskilling our staff to meet the new requirements of work methods in both digital and hybrid work environments. The focus will not only be on digital capabilities but also on ensuring that our staff have the necessary capabilities and capacity as we are implementing an Integrated Operations Model for data collection.

Key challenges facing the branch relate to filling critical vacancies and de-investing in the statistical infrastructure at both provincial and local levels to facilitate a hybrid working environment.

4.7 Programme 7: South African National Statistics System

The purpose of the Programme is to develop and coordinate the national system in South Africa. The objective of the Programme is to ensure that national statistics are produced by common statistical standards and principles, providing ongoing statistical support and advice, and certifying statistics as official annually. It manages the distribution of statistical information by establishing and delivering mechanisms, platforms and criteria for sharing data annually. It drives statistical reporting by coordinating the compilation of statistical reports in line with the annual Integrated Indicator Framework.

The sub-programmes in this programme include the following: programme management for the South African National Statistics System, economic subsystem, and social subsystem. Partnerships with all role players in the data ecosystem are essential to realise the full benefits of the data revolution, as well as modernised independent quality assessment, statistical reporting, and data and information management.

The programme was allocated a budget of R48.4 million in this financial year compared to R44.6 million in the previous year.

Partnerships with all role players in the data ecosystem are essential to realise the full benefits of the data revolution and modernised national statistics systems. The statistics system is composed of entities in the NSS that must subscribe to governance and ethical principles for all producers of statistics. Additionally, insofar as production activities are concerned, all entities of the NSS subscribe to standards and frameworks as directed by the Statistician-General (SG) under the mandate of the Statistics Act. The Integrated Indicator Framework (IIF) is a tool designed to promote coordination among producers of official and other statistics, thereby advancing the quality, comparability, and optimal use of official statistics. It is also a key contributor to achieving the interconnected statistics system. Increasing the number of

frameworks within the IIF will expand the indicators of national importance that comply with statistical principles as directed by the SG. Once fully developed, the IIF will be able to identify the information gap in the statistics system.

Stats SA has tabled the Statistics Amendment Bill in Cabinet in 2022/23. The Amendment Bill has been introduced in Parliament and gazetted in the 2023/24 financial year. The Bill was deliberated and approved at the National Assembly. The Bill was signed into law by the President on December 20, 2024, paving the way for the rollout of the legislative changes to commence.

The Statistics Act (No. 6 of 1999), as amended by the Statistics Amendment Act (No. 29 of 2024), directs the development and implementation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS). This aims to build capacity and strengthen coordination amongst entities of the NSS. Through the NSDS, NSS entities will be able to set up statistical units and compile annual statistical plans informed by the IIF. All data that will be used to report on the IIF will be taken through a quality assessment process using the South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF). The latter is used as a framework for designating statistics as official by the Statistician-General as per his mandate in the Statistics Act. A key strategic intent of Stats SA is to institutionalise the SASQAF self-assessment portal over the medium term, which was launched in 2021/22. This will enable all partners to conduct their quality assessment before an independent evaluation is performed by Stats SA, facilitating the certification of statistics as official.

Through the NSDS, technical support and advice will be provided to entities of the NSS, and the implementation of the IIF, as well as the coordination aspects of the Statistics Act, will be fully realised. The online platforms used for assessments and reporting on development frameworks will ensure access to quality data, contributing to the achievement of the country's priorities.

Stats SA is also responsible for developing and coordinating the country's report on the Sustainable Development Goals. During 2023/24, the SANSS branch published the SDG country report, reporting on the development and progress South Africa has made since the adoption of the global sustainable development agenda. The following SDG report is scheduled for publication in 2025/26.

5. KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

Parliament considered the following issues:

- 5.1 The Committee inquired about the mechanisms Stats SA intends to use for data collection and emphasised the importance of leveraging ICT infrastructure. The Committee sought clarity on the strategy for interdepartmental collaboration, particularly with institutions such as the Departments of Home Affairs, Human Settlements, Health, and other relevant entities, to enhance the breadth, accuracy, and efficiency of data collection efforts.
- 5.2 The Committee was concerned about Stats SA's high vacancy rate, which is due to financial constraints. With 1.5% of individuals with disabilities sitting at 40% of women, the committee was curious about the statistics. When it comes to the NDP, the Committee was particularly interested in learning about the strategic plan to increase the number of individuals with disabilities. Regarding the equity requirements, the committee wanted to know how Stats SA plans to meet those targets.
- 5.3 The Committee inquired about the data gathered through GBV, poverty lines, and other methods. The Committee was interested in learning how Stats SA can obtain more accurate, segregated data that speaks to sectors frequently overlooked during census collection.
- 5.4 The Committee sought to understand the realistic financial expectations or needs of Stats SA that would enable it to function optimally. A figure of R300 million, in addition to the funding, is a requirement according to the department.
- 5.5 The Committee inquired on whether the current budget allocation aligned with Stats SA's strategic priorities, particularly digital transformation, statistical reform, and the modernisation of data collection methods.
- 5.6 The Committee noted concerns regarding the retention of skilled employees at Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), particularly in the context of high vacancy rates and limited resources.
- 5.7 The Committee sought to determine whether the shortage of a full staff complement and tenure acting persons in positions at Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) had an impact on the organisation's productivity, particularly within the executive management team. It was found that officials in Stats SA remained in acting positions for longer, which contravenes the Public Service Administration legislation.
- 5.8 The Committee found that there was a lack of clarity on how Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) intended to measure the impact and effectiveness of its proposed innovations, raising concerns about the ability to assess their outcomes and value.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Committee recommends that the Minister ensures that the Department undertakes the following activities:

- 6.1 Stats SA should develop a plan to implement the census in a 10-year cycle.
- 6.2 Stats SA should develop digital tools to enhance data collection and statistical collection by organs of the state.
- 6.3 Because the world is changing, Stats SA must improve its statistical output by concentrating on new areas and features of living situations.
- 6.4 Additional resource allocations for Stats SA for critical vacancies and to upgrade ICT infrastructure.

7. *Source Documents*

- 1. Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Medium Term Development Plan, 2024-2029.
- 2. National Planning Commission, National Development Plan, 2030
- 3. National Treasury, Republic of South Africa, The 2025 Estimates of National Expenditure
- 4. Statistics South Africa, Strategic Plan, 2025/26-2029/30
- 5. Statistics South Africa, Work Program, 2025/26

Report to be considered.

3. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON STRATEGIC PLANS 2025-2030, ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS 2025/26 AND BUDGET 2025/26 FOR BUDGET VOTE 14: BRAND SOUTH AFRICA, DATED 11 JUNE 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

On 06 February 2025, the President delivered the State of the Nation Address (SONA) to the nation. SONA outlines the government's priorities for the year. The budget allocation of such priorities followed this critical event. On 21 May 2025, the Minister of Finance tabled the 2025/26 budget to the National Assembly to fund government priorities. The budget reflects the choices the government made during the State of the Nation Address, as it serves as a tool to achieve socio-economic development goals. The Budget also aims to address cost pressures and new policy priorities by reprioritising and reallocating budgets within departments.

Through the budget, the government sets priorities and indicates how the funding will be spent (expenditure) from the income it has collected through its revenue. The budget serves as a tool to operationalise government key activities towards the achievement of its priorities. Budget analysis is an instrument used to determine whether allocated budgets are aligned with the government's key priorities encapsulated in the Medium-Term Development Plan (2025-2030) as well as the State of the Nation Address 2025.

The primary objective of performance budgeting is to enhance the quality of public services by more effectively allocating resources in line with socio-economic goals, improving the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of their use, and increasing accountability. This can be put more simply as an increasing focus on what the public sector is accomplishing with the resources provided, as distinct from the narrower focus on how much money is being spent. The primary purpose of the budget analysis is to provide an analysis to establish whether the allocated budget is in line with policy priorities as determined by the government.

Budget analysis is conducted to enforce fiscal discipline and allocative and operational efficiency. It also assists in improving an understanding of the extent to which funds are

allocated to different programmes and economic classifications, highlights budgetary inefficiencies and exposes areas where budgets are not aligned with policy and priorities.

This paper analyses the budget of Brand South Africa to determine how the budget was allocated and how programmes are funded to achieve its mandate.

2. Policy Mandates

Policy mandates informing Brand South Africa's focus over the 2025 to 2030 period include:

1) Global and regional policy alignment:

(a) United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Informs Brand South Africa's communication strategy in alignment with global sustainable development goals, focusing on inclusive growth, equality, and fostering partnerships.

(b) African Union Agenda 2063: Promotes a unified African identity and vision, positioning South Africa as a key player in continental development and socio-economic transformation.

(c) Southern African Development Community (SADC) Vision 2050 and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030: Supports regional integration and industrialisation, with Brand South Africa's messaging highlighting the country's leadership role in trade and economic growth within the region.

2) National development framework:

(a) National Development Plan Vision 2030 (NDP): Informs Brand South Africa's focus towards the goal to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, and reduce unemployment and to enhance social cohesion through nation-brand building and advocacy that inspires pride and unity.

(b) GNU Statement of Intent: Post-election priorities focused on inclusive economic growth, social justice, investment in people, and safety.

(c) Cabinet Lekgotla Resolutions (August 2024): Reinforce the government's commitment to inclusive economic growth, promoting social cohesion, and building state capability.

(d) MTDP 2024-2029: Bridges the NDP's long-term goals with actionable interventions for the next five years. Brand South Africa plays a pivotal role in advancing the objectives of the NDP through its direct contribution to two MTDP priorities and their related outcomes as follows:

Priority 1: Inclusive growth and job creation. **Promote South Africa's national brand as a favourable investment destination and trade partner.** Brand South Africa will intensify its efforts to position the country as an attractive investment hub and reliable trade partner in key global markets. This aligns investment and promoting industrialisation.

Priority 2: Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living. **Promote South Africa's identity through constitutional values:** Brand South Africa will reinforce the nation's identity, emphasising constitutional values such as non-racialism, non-sexism, social justice, and human dignity. This contributes to the emphasis on social cohesion, nation-building, and upholding democratic principles.

Promote nation brand advocacy: By advocating for the nation brand, Brand South Africa will support the broader efforts to foster national unity and pride, which is essential for building a cohesive society that embraces diversity.

(e) South Africa Country Investment Strategy: Aims to position South Africa as an attractive destination for foreign direct investment (FDI). Brand South Africa's national branding aligns with these efforts by promoting the country's economic potential, showcasing opportunities for investment in priority sectors, and contributing to sustainable development in line with national priorities.

(f) Climate change and disaster management strategies: Aim to position South Africa as a leader in sustainable development and green investment.

3) Sectoral policy alignment:

(a) Economic Diplomacy Strategic Framework: Supports South Africa's global footprint and economic interests through strategic messaging and positioning of the country as a preferred partner in trade, investment, and diplomatic relations.

(b) National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Strategy: Position South Africa as an attractive destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with Brand South Africa aligning its national branding efforts to support investment opportunities.

(c) Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Act and Policy Framework: Promotes economic transformation and inclusion, with Brand South Africa's initiatives emphasising economic empowerment and social justice in all messaging.

(d) Social Cohesion and Nation-Building Strategy: Seeks to build a unified and cohesive society, with Brand South Africa contributing through campaigns that encourage national pride and active citizenship.

(e) Integrated Marketing and Communications Policy for Government: Ensures coordinated messaging across government entities, promoting a unified national narrative.

3. Budget Analysis

3.1 Entity overview

Brand South Africa was established in 2002 to manage South Africa's national brand to improve the country's global reputation and competitiveness. The entity's primary objective is to develop and implement proactive and coordinated reputation management, communications and marketing strategies for South Africa to attract investment, trade and tourism.

Over the medium term, the entity will focus on implementing integrated communications and marketing activities that contribute to shaping South Africa's image and reputation in a positive light. This will be done through interventions such as profiling South Africa as a preferred investment destination in Africa and assuring investors by positively positioning the nation's brand. Forums that the entity will leverage to amplify nation brand messaging include South Africa's G20 presidency, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the Nation Brand Forum, the South African Investment Conference, the Mining Indaba and the Play Your Part programme. Expenditure for these activities is within the brand marketing and reputation management programme's allocation of R316.2 million over the medium term. The entity aims to ensure that South Africa maximises its influence and visibility among international audiences during its G20 presidency, thereby driving economic benefits and strengthening the country's global reputation. The G20 presidency presents a significant opportunity to shape global perceptions and engage with international audiences on critical issues, including sustainable development, economic equity, and innovation.

To give effect to these aspirations, the entity's G20 marketing and communications plan outlines activities such as targeted international campaigns, stakeholder engagements and media partnerships. An additional allocation of R21.3 million in 2025/26 is set aside for these activities.

Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 7.3 per cent, from R192.3 million in 2024/25 to R237.4 million in 2027/28, due to an additional allocation of R21.3

million in 2025/26 from the department related to South Africa's G20 presidency. The entity is set to derive 97 per cent (R678 million) of its revenue over the period ahead through transfers from the department. Revenue is expected to increase in line with expenditure.

Table 1: Actual budget allocation February 2025/26

Programme	Budget			
R million	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Programme 1: Administration	96.3	96.3	105.3	108.4
Programme 2: Brand Marketing and Reputation	105.3	82.3	114.4	99.8
Programme 3: Stakeholder Relations	21.7	13.4	15.5	18.0
TOTAL	221.1	192.3	235.2	226.3

Source: Estimates of National Expenditure 2024

4. PROGRAMMES

Brand South Africa has three programmes, which are as follows:

4.1 Programme 1: Administration

The Administration Programme provides strategic leadership, management, and support services to the core business functions of Brand South Africa. It is overall responsible for ensuring sound governance, high performance, and optimal utilisation of available capital and resources.

The programme was allocated a budget of R105.3 million in this financial year compared to R96.3 million in the previous year.

Programme 1 focuses on internal administrative functions. Outputs developed within Programme 1 aim to ensure that the organisation is internally equipped with the support to effectively deliver on its mandate, which is to market South Africa's brand both domestically and internationally.

The outcome of Programme 1 is to Improve the reputation of Brand South Africa as an entity, focusing on critical operational issues such as finance, governance, and human capital. In essence, the programme aims to enhance its enablement functions to the point that it improves the way internal and external stakeholders perceive the organisation, which is the key outcome indicator.

Programme 1 provides strategic leadership, governance, and operational support, enabling Brand South Africa to deliver on its mandate effectively. This program ensures the organisation runs efficiently, adheres to sound governance principles, and maintains stakeholder trust. Through modernised systems, skilled staff, and sound financial management, Programme 1 creates the foundation for Brand South Africa's long-term success.

Key areas of focus for 2025/26 MTEF:

1) Governance and financial controls: Sound governance is at the heart of Programme 1. Maintaining unqualified audit outcomes demonstrates accountability and builds stakeholder trust. The organisation will:

- (a) Strengthen governance structures through a fully functional Board of Trustees and oversight committees.
- (b) Improve risk management by appointing a Chief Risk Officer and risk champions in each unit.
- (c) Monitor and address audit findings proactively to prevent recurring issues.

2) Payment of suppliers within 30 days: Timely payment of suppliers supports operational efficiency and builds trust with stakeholders. To achieve this, Brand South Africa will:

- (a) Monitor invoice tracking systems continuously to ensure there are no delays or outstanding payments.
- (b) Improve turnaround times for resolving disputes and escalate bottlenecks efficiently.
- (c) Centralise the receipt and distribution of invoices for better control and accountability.

3) Building organisational capacity: Filling vacancies and optimising staff capacity are essential to achieving strategic goals. Programme 1 will prioritise:

- (a) Recruitment and workforce planning to maintain a vacancy rate of no more than 10%.
- (b) Developing creative solutions within each department to enhance performance and track progress towards achieving a 100% organisational performance rating in the long term.

4) Improving organisational climate: A favourable organisational environment ensures staff morale and productivity. Programme 1 will:

- (a) Conduct an Organisational Climate Survey and develop a two-year improvement plan based on its findings.
- (b) Monitor progress to ensure continuous improvement in the work environment, fostering employee well-being and retention.

5) Advancing B-BBEE compliance: Brand South Africa is committed to supporting economic transformation by improving its B-BBEE rating. Key actions include:

- (a) Developing a comprehensive B-BBEE strategy that aligns with supply chain management and HR policies.
- (b) Integrating B-BBEE principles across all procurement processes to achieve a Level 3 B-BBEE rating in 2025/26.

6) ICT modernisation and security: Digital transformation is a priority for improving operational efficiency and information security. Programme 1 will:

- (a) Develop and approve the ICT Master Plan in consultation with stakeholders.
- (b) Implement cybersecurity measures to safeguard critical systems and data, ensuring resilience against cyber threats.

Programme 1 plays a critical role in achieving Institutional Outcome 4: Enhanced reputation of Brand South Africa as an entity. By embedding good governance, building organisational capacity, and fostering a positive work environment, this programme ensures that Brand South Africa earns the trust and confidence of its stakeholders. Effective administration enables the organisation to deliver on its broader nation-branding objectives, ensuring that Brand South Africa remains a respected, high-performing entity.

As a brand reputation management agency, Brand SA must maintain a solid reputation across all sectors. The resources allocated to Programme 1 will drive sound governance practices by strengthening governance structures, enhancing the maturity of risk management practices, and maintaining a robust internal control environment.

4.2 Programme 2: Brand Marketing and Reputation

The Brand, Marketing, and Reputation Management Programme aims to develop and articulate a national brand identity that will enhance South Africa's long-term positive reputation and global competitiveness. This includes using research to monitor sentiment and the performance of the nation's brand, analysing trends, and providing insights that will inform decision-making and communication strategies and to communicate the country's value proposition and values and highlight progress being made proactively and reactively.

The programme was allocated a budget of R114.4 million in this financial year compared to R82.3 million in the previous year.

Programme 2 focuses on brand, marketing, and reputation management, ensuring that South Africa's national brand is well-positioned to enhance global competitiveness and foster national pride. This programme plays a pivotal role in improving South Africa's reputation as a favourable destination for investment, trade, and tourism while promoting active citizenship, social cohesion, and patriotism.

Through targeted campaigns and strategic advocacy initiatives, Programme 2 supports the organisation's mission to build a respected and admired national brand. Its outputs directly align with national priorities, contributing to economic growth, social cohesion, and the promotion of constitutional values.

Key areas of focus for 2025/26 MTEF:

1) Nation brand marketing and communication campaigns: Promoting South Africa's strengths and competitive advantages is essential for building investor confidence and showcasing the nation's attractiveness. Key actions include:

- (a) Implement marketing campaigns that address economic challenges, safety, and security concerns while promoting South Africa's achievements in sectors like technology, finance, and infrastructure.
- (b) Utilise communication interventions to rebuild and reassure stakeholders, with a focus on economic recovery, political stability, and energy security.
- (c) Highlight the diverse economy and South Africa's leadership within the region to attract international investment.

2) Nation brand advocacy and active citizenship: Promoting patriotism and social cohesion through the Play Your Part Programme and the Global South Africans ambassador network.

Key actions include:

- (a) Mobilise Play Your Part ambassadors and citizens to promote active citizenship and pride through community initiatives and celebratory milestones.
- (b) Address national brand disablers, such as gender-based violence and inequality, through targeted advocacy and awareness campaigns.
- (c) Leverage Global South African ambassadors to promote South Africa abroad and strengthen international networks that advocate for the nation's brand.

3) Leveraging strategic platforms for national brand promotion: Position South Africa as a leader in Africa and globally by engaging stakeholders through Team South Africa platforms.

Key actions include:

- (a) Showcase South Africa's role in peacekeeping and regional development to reinforce the nation's leadership within Africa.
- (b) Collaborate with strategic partners across government and business to align messaging with Ministerial priorities.
- (c) Use platforms like BRICS and the African Union to highlight South Africa's influence in global affairs.

4) Data-driven insights and digital transformation: Research and analytics play a critical role in shaping Brand South Africa's campaigns and ensuring evidence-based decision-making.

Key actions include:

- (a) Produce national brand perception surveys and insights reports to measure sentiment, brand performance, and stakeholder satisfaction.
- (b) Implement a digital transformation strategy that drives data-driven decision-making and operational efficiencies.
- (c) Foster a digital culture within the organisation, supported by leadership, change management, and capacity-building initiatives.

5) Promoting constitutional values: Aligning nation brand campaigns with constitutional values, promoting democratic participation and civic responsibility. Key actions include:

- (a) Implement campaigns focusing on voter education, tolerance, and unity, with a special focus on the 2024 election year.
- (b) Collaborate with the Outcome 14 Committee to promote constitutional awareness, addressing issues such as gender-based violence (GBV) and racism.
- (c) Promote the democratic right to vote, fostering engagement and unity during the election period.

Programme 2 plays a key role in achieving two institutional outcomes:

- 1) Enhanced Positioning and Communication of the Nation Brand:** Through targeted marketing and communication campaigns, the programme positions South Africa as an attractive investment destination and trusted trade partner, contributing to economic growth and job creation.
- 2) Increased Nation Brand Advocacy and Active Citizenship:** By promoting active citizenship and aligning advocacy efforts with constitutional values, the programme strengthens social cohesion, national pride, and public engagement, supporting the broader goal of a patriotic and cohesive nation.

Programme 2 ensures that South Africa's national brand remains globally competitive and domestically relevant. Through marketing campaigns, advocacy initiatives, and data-driven insights, the programme strengthens South Africa's reputation, promotes active citizenship, and fosters national pride.

4.3 Programme 3: Stakeholder Relations

The Stakeholder Relationships Programme aims to foster and leverage collaborative partnerships to integrate and coordinate efforts and approaches that promote the nation's brand identity and value proposition and to engage meaningfully with stakeholders who drive or influence the nation's brand and reputation.

The programme has been allocated a budget of R15.5 million for this financial year, compared to R13.4 million in the previous year.

Programme 3 focuses on stakeholder relationships, ensuring the aligned execution and experience of the national brand domestically and internationally. The success of South Africa's national brand depends on collaboration across public, private, and civil society sectors to ensure that the message is consistent and that stakeholders engage meaningfully to promote South Africa's value proposition.

The reputation of a national brand reflects more than just government actions; it encompasses the collective contributions of business, tourism, arts, science, innovation, and civil society. Programme 3 aims to coordinate these efforts by establishing strategic partnerships and aligning stakeholders to deliver a consistent and positive message about South Africa.

Key areas of focus for 2025/26 MTEF:

1) Nation brand toolkit alignment: Ensure consistent messaging across sectors by promoting the use of the Nation Brand Toolkit. Key actions include:

- (a) Deliver South Africa masterclasses to help stakeholders align their messaging with the nation's brand.
- (b) Expand access through the online Masterclass format, allowing stakeholders to participate at their own pace.
- (c) Monitor and increase toolkit registrations to drive the adoption of aligned messaging.

2) Strategic collaborations and partnerships: Develop partnerships with public sector entities, business associations, and civil society to promote the nation's brand and address challenges.

Key actions include:

- (a) Engage strategic partners through collaborative initiatives to build the nation's brand's reputation and address disablers such as inequality and crime.
- (b) Strengthen coordination through Team South Africa platforms, aligning messaging across stakeholders.
- (c) Align collaborative activities with ministerial priorities and national development goals.

3) Resource mobilisation for strategic projects: Mobilise resources to sustain and expand national brand initiatives. Key actions include:

(a) Develop a resource mobilisation strategy to attract funding from both public and private partners.

(b) Ensure effective tracking of resource mobilisation targets to support strategic campaigns and projects.

4) Sharing research insights with stakeholders: Empower stakeholders by sharing research insights on the national brand's performance. Key actions include:

(a) Host roundtable discussions and distribute newsletters to share insights and build alignment.

(b) Utilise research to identify the enablers and disablers of the nation's brand and inform stakeholder engagement efforts.

(c) Continuously integrate stakeholder feedback to enhance collaborative activities.

Programme 3 supports Institutional Outcome 2: Aligned nation brand execution and experience domestically and internationally by fostering consistent communication, promoting stakeholder collaboration, and ensuring:

1) Consistency in messaging: Ensuring stakeholders deliver a unified national brand message aligned with strategic priorities.

2) Strengthened partnerships: Building collaborative relationships across sectors to enhance the impact of national brand initiatives.

3) Sustainable resource mobilisation: Securing resources for key projects and ensuring operational sustainability.

5. KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

5.1 The Committee noted a keen interest in understanding the extent and effectiveness of Brand South Africa's collaboration with other state institutions, particularly in terms of enhancing visibility and delivering tangible outcomes through its communication strategy.

5.2 The Committee observed Brand South Africa's influence on the continent and internationally. It sought to understand how these platforms are being leveraged to achieve more positive outcomes, especially considering the current geopolitical landscape and prevailing global tensions.

5.3 The Committee sought clarity on the nature and effectiveness of the relationship between Brand South Africa, Tourism South Africa and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

5.4 The Committee sought to determine the extent of Brand South Africa's engagement with the private sector, including existing collaborative partnerships, and to assess whether these relationships have delivered positive and measurable outcomes.

5.5 The Committee observed that the core mandate of Brand South Africa is to promote the country's image internationally, with a key objective being the attraction of foreign investment.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Committee recommends that the Minister ensures that the Department undertakes the following activities:

6.1 Brand SA should enhance its coordination with other state organs, such as Tourism SA, GCIS, and DTIC.

6.2 Brand SA should have strategies in place to respond to economic, political, and social threats, thereby protecting the image of the country.

7. Source Documents

1. Brand South Africa, Annual Performance Plan, 2025/26
2. Brand South Africa, Strategic Plan, 2025-2030
3. Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Medium Term Development Plan, 2024-2029.
4. National Planning Commission, National Development Plan, 2030
5. National Treasury, Republic of South Africa, The 2025 Estimates of National Expenditure

Report to be considered.

4. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND SANITATION ON BUDGET VOTE 41 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION AND ITS ENTITIES FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR, DATED 24 June 2025

The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation (the Committee) considered the Budget Vote 41, Strategic and Annual Performance Plans from the Department of Water and Sanitation (the Department) as tabled, and reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Committee considered Budget Vote 41, Strategic Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 and the Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2025/26 to 2027/28 of the Department and its Entities on the 22 April 2025 and 17 June 2025. Budget Vote 41 provides the details of the appropriation for the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and its Entities (Water Boards, Catchment Management Agencies, Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority and Water Research Commission). The purpose of the Vote is to ensure the availability of water resources, facilitate equitable and sustainable socio-economic development, and ensure universal access to water and sanitation services. The Department's legislative mandate emanates from the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), Water Research Act, 1971 (Act No. 34 of 1971) and the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 107 of 1997). These legislations operationalise, among others, Section 24 and 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Hence, the mandate of the DWS is to ensure that the country's water resources are protected, managed, used, developed, conserved and controlled through regulating and supporting the delivery of effective water supply and sanitation.

It is worth noting that this is the first year of the Government of National Unity (GNU)'s Medium Term Development Plan 2024-2029 (MTDP) which redirects the strategic direction of the Department up to 2029. In this regard, the Department is set to focus on five priorities: namely, Priority 1: Water services aimed at increasing access and reliability to water and sanitation services. The Department plans to implement several interventions that will facilitate household access and improve reliability of services. Priority 2: National water resource management and national water infrastructure, aimed at broadening of water resource mix

which is critical for water security as the potential to further develop surface water resources is limited. It is also aimed at gradually reducing the proportion of surface water use in the water mix and increase the proportion of alternative water sources such as groundwater, re-use of effluent and desalination to reduce the over-reliance on surface water. In addition, to implement and support initiatives that protect and restore ecological infrastructure. Priority 3: Regulation, this priority will focus on implementing and supporting initiatives that will halt the declining performance and improve the performance water services systems (wastewater and water treatment systems including the distribution network systems). Priority 4: Administration and governance aimed at the implementation of digitalisation interventions across the departmental operations that are required to enable the achievement of building a capable, ethical and developmental state. It would also include the implementation of support initiatives that will improve and maintain the financial sustainability of its entities.

The Committee Budget Vote 41 Report provides a brief on the processing of the tabled Budget Vote 41, Strategic Plan and the Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Water and Sanitation which includes its Entities and their respective APPs and budget allocations. It also includes the observations and recommendations made by the Committee in the consideration of the budget vote.

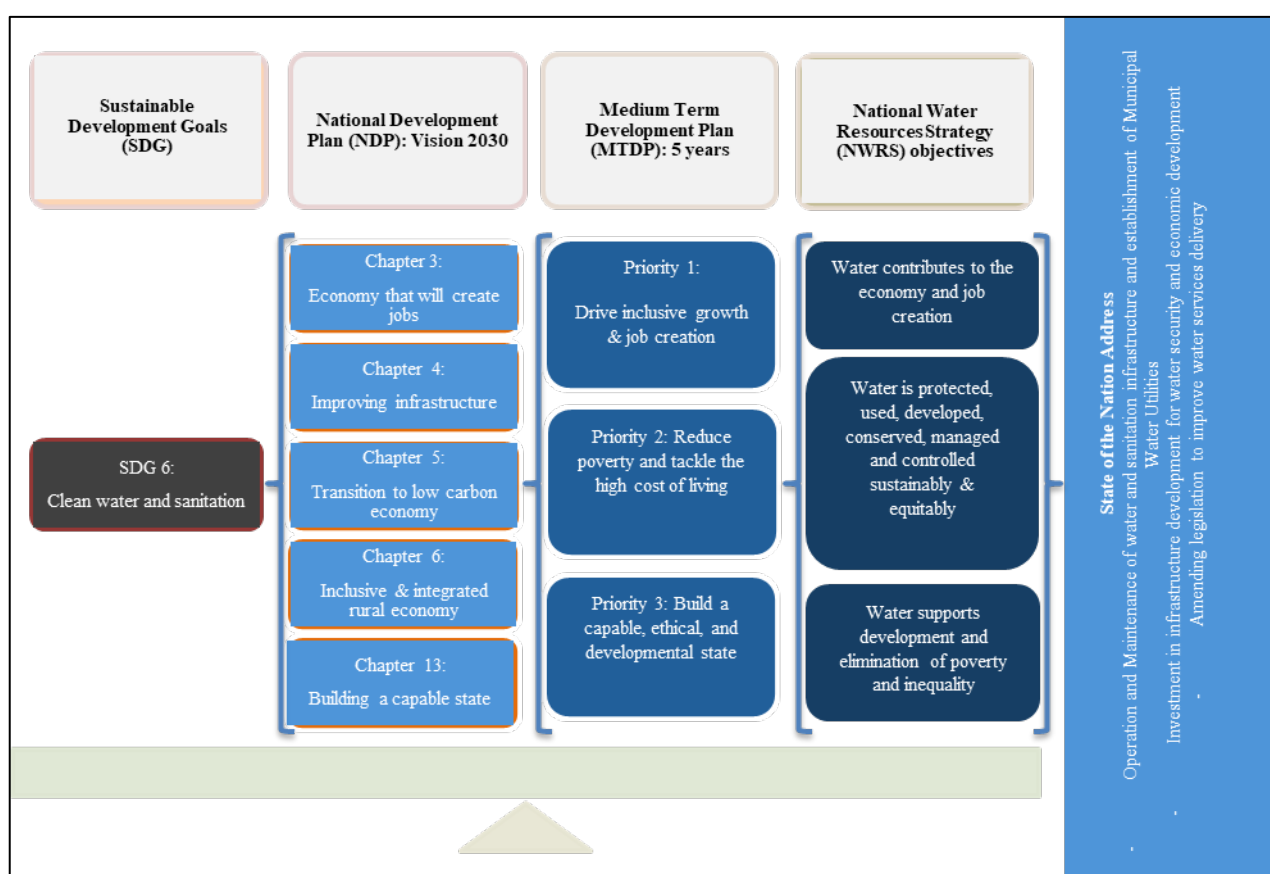
2. OVERVIEW OF THE ALIGNMENT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGIC PLAN WITH THE CONSTITUTION, MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, AND OTHER KEY NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

The in-depth analysis of the Strategic Plan of the Department demonstrates a succinct alignment with the Constitutional health, environmental, water and sanitation imperatives; pronouncements in the State of the Nation Address 2025 (SONA 2025), the transformation and developmental agenda encapsulated in the National Development Plan Vision 2030 (NDP), and the Medium Term Development Plan 2024-2029 (MTDP); the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan, the African Union's Vision 2063, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in general and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) in particular.

The Constitution says that everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected. Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing, and to have the environment protected. Everyone has the right to have sufficient food and water. Section 27(1)(b) and (2) guarantees the right to water and calls for government to take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realization of the right to water.

The SONA 2025 prioritised the investment in development, operation and maintenance of water infrastructure for water security and development; and the amendment of legislation to improve water services delivery. These priorities are aligned with the sectoral priorities as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Overview of the global alignment of the National Water and Sanitation Strategic Priorities with the global



Water supply and sanitation services are a function over which municipalities have executive authority in terms of Section 156 (1) (a) of the Constitution read together with Schedule 4 Part

B and the relevant provisions of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000). Although municipalities have executive authority, other sections of the Constitution and legislation require government (national and provincial) to support municipalities and to intervene in municipalities where there is failure of municipal water and sanitation services - Schedule 4 of the Constitution states that municipal water and sanitation services are a functional area of national and provincial concurrent legislative competence – therefore national legislation such as the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 107 of 1997) provides for minimum norms and standards for municipal water and sanitation services.

Sections 40 and 41 of the Constitution require all spheres of government to work in a cooperative manner while Sections 100 and 139 of the Constitution empower national and provincial government to intervene in the affairs of municipalities where there is failure to fulfil their constitutional obligations.

In as far as the public sector expenditure in infrastructure (integrated water services, management, infrastructure planning and development) is concerned, the Department has prioritised several strategic water infrastructure projects (including projects aimed at meeting high water demand for large strategic users, such as Eskom, Sasol and Exxaro) with an estimated value of R139.1 billion. These projects are expected to create about 20 000 jobs during construction and 14 000 jobs during the operational phases. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II, which has an estimated capital investment of R53 billion (initial estimate was R42.1 billion), is expected to be completed in 2030 (initial end date was 2028). The TCTA has raised about R20 billion from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the African Development Bank (AFD) and the New Development Bank (Brics Bank), among others. Construction is under way for the three main contracts (the Polihali Dam, the transfer tunnel from Polihali to Katse Dam and the Senqu Bridge).

The Mokolo-Crocodile River Water Augmentation Project Phase II has an estimated capital investment of R12.3 billion and is expected to be completed in 2028. Funding proposals from development finance institutions and capital markets have been evaluated and negotiations of loan agreements with preferred funders are at an advanced stage.

The uMkhomazi water augmentation project has an estimated capital investment of R25 billion, and construction is expected to be completed in 2032. The National Treasury approved an application for R12 billion through the BFI to improve affordability of the project. Credit

enhancement mechanisms are being used to crowd in private-sector investment. The institutional arrangements and water supply agreements are being negotiated.

The Olifants River Water Resources Development Project Phase II has an estimated capital investment of R25 billion and is expected to be completed in 2030. The Department of Water and Sanitation has appointed Lebalelo Water User Association to implement this phase.

The Mzimvubu Water Project has an estimated capital investment of R14.7 billion and is expected to be completed in 2030. The Department of Water and Sanitation has undertaken a technical review to reconfigure the project. In the meantime, funding has been made available to build advance works like access roads and water supply. The Berg River-Voëlville Augmentation Scheme has an estimated capital investment of R1.1 billion and is expected to be completed in 2027. Water supply agreements between the DWS and municipal and irrigation users have been signed. Funding proposals from financing institutions have also been evaluated by the TCTA and loan negotiations are at an advanced stage.

To improve the provision of reliable water and sanitation services in municipalities, over the medium term, the Department plans to complete 60 regional bulk infrastructure project phases (15 mega, 32 large and 13 small) and 291 small water infrastructure projects through the regional bulk infrastructure grant and the water services infrastructure grant, which supports municipal water services authorities and certain water boards. The department also plans to construct new water and sanitation infrastructure and refurbish existing infrastructure over the medium term to respond to recent water shortages. In doing so, it will accelerate the provision of interim and intermediate water supply to rural communities in the 27 district municipalities, also through the water services infrastructure grant. With funds from the regional bulk infrastructure grant amounting to R19.8 billion over the medium term, municipalities will continue to construct water and sanitation infrastructure to enable them to provide essential services. These grants are funded through the Water Services Management programme, which is allocated R44 billion over the next three years. These plans are in line with pronouncements made in the SONA 2025.

The Department intends to diversify its water mix by exploring other sources, such as groundwater and aquifer systems, and by treating acid mine drainage (AMD) water and desalinating sea water. Accordingly, four catchment plans for mine water and wastewater

management are scheduled for implementation over the medium term. There are also plans in place to maintain and refurbish water resource infrastructure to ensure its optimal performance in securing water supply. These plans are related to the maintenance of conveyance systems, such as the Orange-Vaal, Vaalharts, and Fish River-Sundays River Canal governmental water schemes and the Qamata irrigation scheme. Funding for these initiatives is made available in the Water Resources Infrastructure Management sub-programme of the Water Resources Management programme, with a budget of R20.8 billion over the next three years.

The review of policies will, amongst others, seek to align departmental policies with the national (NDP, MTDP and SONA 2025 among others), regional, continental and global development agendas, as well as to strengthen their existing alignment and contributions to the global agendas. To this end, the National Water Act and the Water Services Act will be amended over the MTEF while the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency (NWRIA) establishment will be finalised during the year under review, refer to the Strategic Plan Priorities and Targets 2025-2030 below.

Strategic Plan Priorities and Targets for 2025-2030				
	Priority 1 Water Services			
Outcome			Baseline	2029/30
1	Reliability of water services improved	Percentage of water services and reliability improved	68	80
2	Reduction of unserved communities	Percentage of unserved communities for water reduced	3	0
		Percentage of household access to sanitation increased	83,3	90
	Priority 2 National water resource management and national water infrastructure (%)			
3	Water mix diversified	Surface water proportion in the water mix reduced	69,95	68,36
		Ground water proportion in the water mix increased	23,03	21,35
		Re-use of effluent proportion in the water mix increased	6,61	9,22

		Desalination proportion in the water mix increased	0,41	1,07
4	Ecological Infrastructure protected and restored	Decline in ecological condition of rivers reduced (%)	6	5
	Priority 3 Regulation			
5	Decline in the performance of municipal water and sanitation services halted	Percentage of water systems in critical condition reduced	47	32
		Percentage of wastewater systems in critical condition reduced	40	25
		Percentage reduction of national average for non-revenue water	47	32
	Priority 4 Administration and Governance			
6	Efficiency and effectiveness in organisational operations improved	Number of additional digitalisation initiatives implemented	21	5
7	Entities' sustainability improved	Percentage of unsustainable entities reduced	33	0

3. OVERVIEW OF THE 2025/26 – 2027/28 MEDIUM-TERM ANNUAL FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

The Department of Water and Sanitation operates two financial accounts: The Main Account and the Water Trading Entity. The Main Account is funded by the fiscus (Vote 41). The Water Trading Entity account mainly receives voted amounts from the Main Account toward implementing infrastructure and generating revenue through bulk water sales. Over the medium term, the department will continue to focus on: improving the regulation of water quality; implementing the integrated water resource management approach aimed at the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of water resources while supporting the government's developmental priorities; and facilitating the improved management of municipal water services.

The Department's budget consists of two components: (1) Main account which is funded from budget allocations from National Revenue Fund (Fiscus) and (2) Water Trading Entity (WTE) which is responsible for billing and receives revenue from the sale of raw water. The revenue is used for transfers to the TCTA to enable it to repay its loans, as well as to fund operation and maintenance of national water resource infrastructure. The Department's budget over the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) is R137.3 billion. This consists of allocations of R46.6 billion, R45.8 billion and R45 billion in the 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years respectively.

3.1. Main Account

Department has been allocated R74.9 billion over the MTEF. This consists of allocations of R26.7 billion, R25 billion and R23.3 billion in the 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 respectively. The allocation to the main account includes conditional infrastructure grants for municipal water services totalling R36.953 billion over the MTEF. This includes R19.8 billion for the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and R17.1 billion Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), refer to Table 1 for detailed allocations.

Table 1 Budget Allocation – Main Account (R'000)				
Programmes				
Administration	2 401 951	2 506 936	2 615 180	7 524 067
Water Resources Management	9 333 849	8 505 319	6 377 038	24 216 206
Water Services Management	14 942 935	13 987 345	14 270 611	43 200 891
Total	26 678 735	24 999 600	23 262 829	74 941 164
Economic Classification				
Current payments	3 967 205	4 139 314	4 354 779	12 461 298
Compensation of Employees	2 098 292	2 195 116	2 294 407	6 587 815
Goods and Services	1 868 913	1 944 198	2 060 372	5 873 483
Transfers and Subsidies	18 113 126	16 024 678	13 881 581	48 019 385
Payments for Capital Assets	4 598 404	4 835 608	5 026 469	14 460 481
Total	26 678 735	24 999 600	23 262 829	74 941 164

3.2. Water Trading Entity

The WTE also receives some transfers from the fiscus for infrastructure projects. The WTE has budgeted R62.4 billion over the MTEF consisting of R19.9 billion, R20.8 billion and R21.7 billion in 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 respectively, refer to Table 2.

The Department has successfully reduced its under-expenditure against its budget in recent years – in 2021/22 there was R2.5 billion under-expenditure (14.3% of the budget), in 2022/23 there was R860 million under-expenditure (5% of the budget), and in 2023/24 there was R44 million under-expenditure (0.2% of the budget). In terms of the preliminary year-end report for 2024/25, the under-expenditure was below 0.1% of the budget.

It is worth noting that Main Account has not incurred any irregular, wasteful and fruitless expenditure in 2023/24 and as at quarter 3 of the 2024/25 financial year. However, the investigations by law enforcement agencies on irregular and other financial malfeasance continues on the past cases.

Table 2 Budget Allocation - Water Trading Account (R'000)				
Programme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Administration	1 366 813	1 428 653	1 493 830	4 289 296
Operations, maintenance and refurbishment of national water resources schemes	2 653 963	2 774 065	2 900 881	8 328 909
Financing and investment in raw water infrastructure	12 270 323	12 823 223	13 407 616	38 501 162
Bulk water supply to strategic users	4 920 601	3 575 394	3 738 835	3 738 835
Implementation of dam safety projects	162 340	171 779	179 658	513 777
Total	19 874 040	20 773 114	21 720 820	62 367 974
Economic Classification	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Compensation of employees	1 773 913	1 855 513	1 955 710	5 585 136
Goods and services	5 489 015	5 737 728	5 994 779	17 221 522
Depreciation	3 315 365	3 464 888	3 620 115	10 400 368
Interest, dividends and rent on land	9 295 747	9 714 985	10 150 216	29 160 948
Total	19 873 940	20 773 114	21 720 820	62 367 974

3.3.Overview of the RBIG and WSIG

The Department administers two grants, namely RBIG and WSIG which are both conditional grants and are divided into Schedule 5, part B, which are grants that fund specific responsibilities and programmes implemented by municipalities. And Schedule 6, part B that are grants in-kind through which a national department implements projects in municipalities, refer to the Table 3 and 4. The RBIG is used to develop new, refurbish, upgrade and replace ageing bulk water and sanitation infrastructure of regional significance that connects water resources to infrastructure serving extensive areas across municipal boundaries or large regional bulk infrastructure serving numerous communities over a large area within a municipality; to implement bulk infrastructure with a potential of addressing water

conservation and water demand management projects or facilitate and contribute to the implementation of local water conservation and water demand management projects that will directly impact on bulk infrastructure requirements.

Table 3. Direct Infrastructure Grants 5B (R'000)				
Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Eastern Cape	725 000	493 290	466 079	1 684 369
Free State	231 112	281 112	292 596	804 820
KwaZulu-Natal	722 834	499 441	616 556	1 838 831
Limpopo	155 509	255 509	207 387	618 405
Mpumalanga	400 887	500 887	555 767	1 457 541
Northern Cape	574 000	579 000	490 000	1 643 000
Northwest	457 588	396 086	397 660	1 251 334
Western Cape	490 000	225 000	0	715 000
Total	3 756 930	3 230 325	3 026 045	10 013 300
Water Services Infrastructure Grant				
Provinces	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Eastern Cape	553 071	578 196	599 474	1 730 741
Free State	391 680	400 290	415 020	1 206 990
Gauteng	201 975	241 745	276 802	720 522
KwaZulu-Natal	1 121 129	1 205 000	1 280 929	3 607 058
Limpopo	467 217	481 847	507 939	1 457 003
Mpumalanga	468 966	489 243	507 247	1 465 456
Northern Cape	342 574	355 548	368 426	1 066 548
Northwest	466 685	489 243	507 450	1 463 378
Western Cape	205 264	170 719	148 050	524 033
Total	4 218 561	4 411 831	4 611 337	13 241 729

The WSIG is used to facilitate the planning and implementation of various water and sanitation projects to accelerate backlog reduction and enhance the sustainability of services especially in rural municipalities; provide basic and intermittent water and sanitation supply that ensures provision of services to identified and prioritised communities, including spring protection and groundwater development; support municipalities in implementing water conservation and

water demand management projects; support the close-out of the existing Bucket Eradication Programme intervention in formal residential areas; support drought relief projects.

Table 4 Indirect Infrastructure Grants 6B (R'000)				
Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant				
Province	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Eastern Cape	300 916	301 429	348 000	950 345
Free State	845 175	669 438	723 910	2 238 523
Gauteng	600 037	746 221	749 372	2 095 630
Limpopo	708 170	799 407	831 383	2 338 960
Mpumalanga	535 042	369 598	384 382	1 289 022
Northern Cape	37 140	105 000	80 000	222 140
Northwest	184 011	224 374	243 748	652 133
Western Cape	16 016	16 040	16 843	48 899
Total	3 226 507	3 231 507	3 377 638	9 835 652
Water Services Infrastructure Grant				
Province	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Eastern Cape	45 000	45 000	47 000	137 000
Free State	67 833	67 833	33 600	169 266
KwaZulu-Natal	235 331	457 655	475 961	1 168 947
Limpopo	444 364	444 364	503 848	1 392 576
Mpumalanga	117 026	117 026	122 877	356 929
Northern Cape	30 000	30 000	31 700	91 700
Northwest	179 378	179 378	186 921	545 677
Total	1 118 932	1 341 256	1 401 908	3 862 096

The shortage in funding for mega infrastructure development is a cause for concern. For example, the estimated cost of the mega infrastructure projects is more than R80 billion, and the available budget is R2.4 billion, which is less than 3 % of this estimated cost. This means it will take decades to fully achieve the infrastructure development needs of the country.

4. EVALUATION OF THE BUDGET ALLOCATION AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

Programme 3: Water Services Management (P3) dominates expenditure under this Vote, consuming 56% of the total allocation to the Vote, while Programme 2: Water Resources Management (P2) receives 35% and Programme 1: Administration (P1) 9%, refer to Table 5. It is worth noting that P1 Administration and P2 Water Resources Management are the only two programmes that experience growth in real terms which was the case in 2024/25.

Table 5 Budget Allocations (R million)								
Programme	Budget				Nominal Rand change	Real Rand change	Nominal % change	Real % change
R million	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2024/25-2025/26		2024/25-2025/26	
P1: Administration	2 248.8	2 402.0	2 506.9	2 615.2	153.2	45.3	6.81	2.02
P2: Water Resources Management	6 532.4	9 333.8	8 505.3	6 377.0	2 801.5	2 382.5	42,89	36.47
P3: Water Services Management	15 068.4	14 942.9	13 987.3	14 270.6	- 125.5	- 796.3	-0.83	-5.28
TOTAL	23 849.6	26 678.7	24 999.6	23 262.8	2 829.2	1 631.5	11.86	6.84

The significant real increase experienced by these two programmes is in line with the Department's plans to strengthen integrated water resources planning and development, and regulatory oversight during the year under review. This is in line with some of the key planned targets in P2, for example the assessment of 1004 wastewater systems (green drop regulatory reports), amendment of the National Water Act, 1998; Water Services Act, 1997 and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Water Resources Strategy Edition 3 (NWRS-3). The decrease (R796 million) to P3 implies that the Department may not be able to carry out substantial infrastructure development and water services delivery projects during the year under review.

Programme 1: Administration

The purpose of this programme is to provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the Department. The programme also develops and promotes international relations

on water resources management with neighbouring countries. This Programme is allocated R2.4 billion in the 2025/26 financial year, up from R2.3 billion in 2024/25.

This programme has six sub-programmes (SPs). SP 3: Corporate Services, dominates allocations under this Programme, consuming R957.9 million, followed by SP 5: Office Accommodation and SP 4: Financial Management, with allocations of R582.2 and R318.9 million, respectively. These allocations are in line with the planned targets for the year under review. For example, SP 3: Corporate Services provides enterprise-wide support comprising human resources, legal services, communications, the learning and development academy, and transformation policy and coordination. Through this SP, the Department aims to implement 98% of the annual communication and public participation programme during the year under review. The Department will also aim to keep the vacancy rate for engineers and scientists at less than 10%.

The only sub-programmes that receive significant real increases are SP 6: Provincial, Entity Governance and International Cooperation, at 2%, SP 2: Departmental Management at 0.7% and SP 4: Financial Management, at 0.2%. This will see foreign governments and international organisations sharing R7 million during the year under review. For example, Orange-Senqu River and Incomati & Maputo Watercourse Commissions will respectively receive R1.6 million and R3.9 million each.

Although SP 2: Departmental Management only receives the fourth largest allocation, it has two very important targets, namely the 100% monitoring of compliance with the audit plan and 100% compliance with the implementation of the risk management plan. These functions cut across all other programmes. It is worth noting that the importance of this SP is matched by concomitant real increase in its budget allocation. Equally important is the SP 4: Financial Management, through which the Department intends to implement its financial recovery and turnaround plan while ensuring that it spends its entire budget.

The Department intends to establish and operationalise the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency (NWRIA) during the year under review under the SP 6: Provincial, Entity Governance & International Cooperation. The NWRIA will develop and manage national water resources infrastructure to ensure a sustainable, equitable and reliable supply of water from national water resources infrastructure. It will utilise its asset base and cash-flow to

raise funds to develop national water resources infrastructure for social and economic development purposes and operate and maintain the national water resources infrastructure and fund the costs thereof; And perform the Treaty and non-Treaty functions currently being performed by the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA).

Programme 2: Water Resources Management

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that the country's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed, controlled and planned in an integrated and a sustainable manner for the benefit of all people and the environment. This is done by developing a knowledge base and implementing effective policies, procedures and integrated planning strategies for water resources. This Programme constitutes 35% of the overall departmental budget, is allocated R9.3 billion in the 2025/26 financial year, up from R6.5 billion in 2024/25.

Expenditure under this programme is dominated by SP 5: Water Resource Infrastructure Management, consuming 49% of the total budget allocated to this Programme. This is in line with the Department's APP which, among others, aims to prepare four bulk raw water projects for implementation (Foxwood, Coerney, Nwamitwa, raising of Gcuwa Weir and Zalu Dam); construct four bulk raw water projects (Tzaneen Dam (100% complete), Mzibvubu Water Project (4% complete), and Clanwilliam Dam (24% complete)); complete 40 dam safety evaluations and 4 dams under construction for dam safety (Bloemhof, Casteel, Mtata, Kwagaskloof and Rietspruit); and create 120 job opportunities from augmentation projects during the 2025/26 financial year. These targets are in line with the SONA 2025 pronouncements on bulk infrastructure projects.

SP 4: Water Resources Information and Management receives the second largest allocation (R602.5 million) in this programme. The Department, through this SP, seeks to review and maintain eight (8) water resources monitoring programmes on Ground Water, Surface Water, National Chemical Monitoring Programme (NCMP), National Wetlands (NWMP), National Microbial and National Eutrophication Monitoring Programme (NEMP), National Estuary, and River Eco-status Monitoring Programmes. It also plans to maintain six (6) water and sanitation information systems, (namely NIWIS, HYDSTRA, NGIS, WMS, GIS, and FMFS) during the year under review. All these activities entail or hinge on water information management.

In as far as SP 6: Water Resources Policy, Strategy and Evaluation is concerned, the Department intends to table a National Water Amendment Bill in Parliament in Quarter 3 (October – December 2025). It also intends to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the NWRS3 and finalise 80% of high-risk water use licence applications within 16 working days of receipt. The Department intends to develop the draft economic regulator Bill during the year under review.

Programme 3: Water Services Management

The purpose of this programme is to develop, rehabilitate and refurbish water services infrastructure to meet the socio-economic and environmental needs of South Africa. This is the priority Programme of the Department with respect to budget allocation, as it receives the highest allocation of the entire departmental budget. Briefly, this programme receives R14.9 billion in the 2025/26 financial year, which constitutes 56% of the overall departmental budget. This programme incurred a real decrease of R796 million, which would slightly affect service delivery during the financial year. This programme is responsible for strategic infrastructure development, such as dams and bulk water pipelines. This means there will be a delay in delivering some of these projects, which would ultimately affect water service delivery to communities and businesses. One such project is the uMzimvubu Dam that is supposed to provide water for both domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes in the Eastern Cape Province.

SP 3: Regional Bulk Water Grant (RBIG) and SP 6: Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), dominate expenditure under the Programme, consuming 59.5% and 36.6% of the overall share, respectively. It is worth noting that most of these funds will be transferred to municipalities for various bulk water infrastructure projects that will be carried out by district municipalities. In this regard, 42 large regional bulk infrastructure projects will be under construction at various phases during the year under review, while 580 job opportunities will be created through the implementation of regional bulk infrastructure projects. These targets are also in line with the SONA 2025 with respect to the Investment in Infrastructure Development for Water Security and Economic Development. For example, the number of regional bulk infrastructure projects phases funded through Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) that will be under construction are a prime example of the alignment of this budget with the SONA 2025 which pronounced on new and innovative funding mechanisms to increase the

construction of bulk water infrastructure to improve water access to both rural and urban communities and encourage economic growth, refer to Table 6 for a list of Augmentation Projects.

The Department intends to complete seven bulk sewer projects (in Arlington, Petrus Steyn, Clocolan, Senekal, Reitz, Dealesville and Ficksburg) to support the eradication of existing bucket sanitation systems in formal settlements during the year under review. Of concern is that these interventions have continued throughout the past two years. However, by the end of the 2023/24 financial year no bucket toilets were eradicated in Northern Cape and Free State provinces.

It also plans to continue with the implementation of the Vaal and Giyani BWS interventions through the WSIG. It is worth noting that the Water Service Amendment Bill will be tabled in Parliament during the financial year through SP 5: Water and Sanitation Services Policy, Strategy & Evaluation.

Table 6 Augmentation Projects				
Project name	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Mdloti River Development Project: Raising of Hazelmore Dam	10 000	-	-	10 000
Groot Letaba River Development: Raising of Tzaneen Dam	140 461	229 539	-	370 000
Olifants-Doorn River Water Resources: Raising of Clanwilliam Dam	360 000	1 100 000	535 727	1 995 727
Mzimvubu Water Project	59 297	250 000	151 731	461 028
Mokolo and Crocodile Water Augmentation Project: Phase 2A	84 231	100 000	42 900	227 131
Olifants Management Model: 2D and 2F: Bulk Distribution water	1 500 000	1 000 000	700 000	3 200 000
Groot Letaba River Development Project: Nwamitwa Dam	35 803	250 000	120 121	405 924

Olifants Management: 2B and 2B+: Raw Water Pipeline	982 829	200 000	1 158 306	2 341 135
Lusikisiki Regional Water Supply Scheme: Zalu Dam	17 465	178 000	82 188	277 653
Foxwood Dam	9 336	83 794	39 125	132 255
Algoa Water Supply System: Coerney Dam	9 161	129 009	93 604	231 774
uMkhomazi Water Project	3 600 000	1 386 103	113 212	5 099 315
Dam Safety Rehabilitation Programme	154 813	202 104	253 111	610 028
Thukela Goedertrouw	11 500	-	-	11 500
Gcuwa Weir (Raising)	14 659	45 000	78 078	137 737
Raising of Klipfontein Dam	11 968	310 000	62 205	384 173
Cwabeni Off-Channel Storage Dam	-	323 335	265 818	589 153
Stephen Dlamini Dam	-	117 872	96 904	214 776
Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)	130 312	266 796	127 896	525 004
Finance Support	329 972	349 770	370 756	1 050 498
Infrastructure Management Support	395 477	419 206	444 358	1 259 041
Construction Management Support	89 294	94 652	100 331	284 277
Total	7 578 946	7 035 180	4 836 371	19 818 129

5. OVERVIEW BUDGETS AND MANDATES OF THE ENTITIES SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department has 15 entities dealing with infrastructure development, research and development, water resources management and bulk water supply. These entities are allocated R10.1 billion for the 2025/26 financial year.

Table 7 List of Entities with Allocated Budgets within Budget Vote 41				
Entities	Budget Allocations (R'000)			MTEF
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Water Trading Entity (WTE)	7 946 578	7 035 180	4 836 373	19 818 131
Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA)	59 894	75 678	79 100	214 672
Total	8 006 472	7 110 858	4 915 473	20 032 803

Catchment Management Agencies	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Vaal-Orange	28 328	29 624	30 964	88 916
Breede-Olifants	66 594	69 645	72 794	209 033
Pongola-Umzimkhulu	22 524	23 556	24 621	70 701
Mzimvubu-Tsitsikamma	22 524	23 556	24 621	70 701
Limpopo-Olifants	31 635	33 085	34 581	99 301
Inkomati-Usuthu	75 545	79 007	82 580	237 132
Total	247 150	258 473	270 161	775 784

Water Boards	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	MTEF
Magalies Water Board	1 165 000	-	-	1 165 000
uMngeni-uThukela Water Board	151 468	158 436	165 601	475 505
Vaal Central Water Board	505 709	790 302	826 040	2 122 051
Total	1 822 177	948 738	991 641	3 762 556

Table 8 shows a complete list of the entities reporting to the Department with their respective mandates and the budget estimates for the year under review as reported in their respective Annual Performance Plans or business plans with exception of the Water Boards and TCTA (funded through WTE and Markets). The restructuring of the Water Management Areas (WMA) from 19 to 9 and then to 6 resulted in the establishment of 6 CMAs. The restructuring was done to ensure economies of scale and reduce administrative and governance costs. The budget requirements for CMAs are higher than the allocated budgets in the Budget Vote 41. Detailed performance information for these entities is obtainable from their tabled APPs.

Table 8 Department of Water and Sanitation Entities		
Entity	Mandate	Budget Allocation 2025/26 (R000’)
Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA)	Established in 1986 as a state-owned entity specialising in project financing, implementation, and liability management. The Lesotho Highlands Water Treaty is a contractual agreement governing the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project, as well as the export of water to South Africa.	R15 400 340
Water Research Commission (WRC)	Established in terms of the Water Research Act, (Act No. 34 of 1971) to promote coordination, cooperation and communication in water research and development; establish water research needs and priorities; promote the effective transfer of information and technology; and enhance knowledge and capacity building within the water sector.	R431 300
Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) are established in terms of section 78 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). A CMA has the following initial functions in terms of Section 80 of the National Water Act: to investigate and advise interested persons on the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of the water resources in its water management area; to develop a catchment management strategy; to co-ordinate the related activities of water users and of the water management institutions within its water management area; to promote the co-ordination of its implementation with the implementation of any applicable		

development plan established in terms of the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 108 of 1997); and to promote community participation in the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of the water resources in its WMA.

Breede-Olifants	Western Cape Province	R196 947
Inkomati-Usutu	Mpumalanga Province	R213 767
Limpopo-Olifants	Limpopo, Northwest, Gauteng	R277 602
Mzimvubu-Tsitsikamma	Eastern Cape Province	R130 128
Pongola-Umzimkulu	KwaZulu Natal province	R148 920
Vaal-Orange	Gauteng, Northwest, Free State and Northern Cape	R328 515
Water Boards - established in terms of section 38 of the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 108 of 1997) to provide water services (bulk and reticulation) to other water service authorities (municipalities) within its service area in terms of section 29 of the Water Services Act.		
Amatola Water	Eastern Cape	
Lepelle Northern	Limpopo	
Magalies Water	Northwest and Gauteng	
Overberg	Western Cape	
uMngeni-uThukela	KwaZulu Natal	
Vaal Central	Free State and Northern Cape	
Rand Water	Gauteng, Northwest, Mpumalanga, Free State	

6. Committee Observations, Questions and Responses

The Committee having considered the presentations by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), the Water Research Commission (WRC) and Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) raised several questions and observations mainly on budget allocations, water services delivery issues (non-revenue water, water pollution, and municipal debt to water boards) infrastructure maintenance and development, research and innovation. While the observations on CMAs were mainly on the compositions of governing boards, performance measures, budget shortfalls, transformation and inclusivity, roles of CMAs versus water boards, and operational challenges.

6.1. Water Quality and Water Supply Reliability

The Committee observed that the percentage of water supply systems with poor microbiological water quality compliance has risen from 5% in 2014 to 46% in 2023 while water supply reliability is at a disputable 68%. In this case, what plans exist to improve water quality and supply reliability?

The Department acknowledges deteriorating water quality and the challenges of non-revenue water (NRW). The Department has a comprehensive plan to improve water supply reliability from 68% to over 80% in the next five years by focusing on asset management, fixing leaks, and operational efficiency. The plan includes, among others, interventions in 105 municipalities identified as dysfunctional. The Department undertook to share the detailed intervention plans for these municipalities once all stakeholders have reached a consensus.

6.2. Reprioritisation of the Budget and Short-Term Interventions

The Committee acknowledged budgetary constraints and commitment and probed whether the Department could consider reallocating funds (between R1-2 billion rand) to municipalities specifically to fix water leaks and address NRW as a short-term intervention?

The Department emphasised that some of the interventions do not necessarily require funding but deployment of personnel and technical support. The Department is hamstrung with policies

and procedures on what it can or cannot do. The department is seized with ensuring that there is water security in South Africa. The department is concerned with supply and reliability. The department is calling for increased investment in local government accompanied by prudent leadership and financial management. The grants are there to address water issues in local government including municipal infrastructure grant (MIG) and Human Settlements, Urban Development Settlement Grant. The equitable share is also supposed to be used on water services delivery. More than R60 billion comes from these grants but it is not used properly. There is too much wastage in the system. Infrastructure is overburdened by illegal connection. There is a need to deploy blended finance similar to the rollout at Ebenezer Water Scheme. The private sector funding needs to come in. The use of SPV could also address some of these water sector challenges. In this regard, the Department is working on intervention plans for the 105 municipalities and coordinating with other departments such as Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). In addition, the Department emphasised the need for innovation and creative approach within the existing financial allocations while pursuing a multi-departmental cooperation.

6.3. Regulation and Enforcement

The Committee inquired about the departmental plans to strengthen its regulatory role over water services and address water resource pollution from sewage spills and non-compliance by municipalities?

The Department is enhancing internal capacity, working closely with the WRC, CMAs, and water boards to monitor water quality and enforce compliance. Apart from these measures, the Department has initiated legal actions against some water services authorities and municipalities for pollution and non-payment. Furthermore, the Department supports community-led forums to address pollution issues such as the National Water and Sanitation Forum. The Department is also amending legislation to introduce and improve utility models and performance-based contracts.

6.4. The Role of WRC in addressing current Water Sector Challenges

The Committee requested WRC to elaborate on its role in addressing water quality challenges, leaks, and on its support in capacity building especially for women, youth, and rural communities.

The WRC conducts research on water quality, sanitation technologies, water reuse, treatment of AMD, sludge treatment, and emerging contaminants. It also supports postgraduate students, including women-led research projects, and shares its innovations with municipalities and water boards. Post Graduate Students are linked to funding programmes across all universities, such as Sol Plaatjie, Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal universities. There is a retraining of internal researchers on digital technologies. Municipal engineers are being trained locally and abroad. WRC has contracted 50 post-doctoral graduates. However, uptake of innovations has been slow due to procurement challenges under government regulations, which favour established technologies over emerging technologies. The WRC advocates for special procurement mechanisms to support homegrown technologies.

6.5. Financial Mismanagement and Irregular Expenditure

The Committee raised a concern about financial malfeasance and requested the Department to elaborate on measures that exist to address irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and whether it would consider criminalising irregular expenditure?

The Department is implementing procurement policies, oversight mechanisms, internal and external audit committees, and corrective action plans to reduce irregular expenditure. Companies that are involved in financial malfeasance and poor performance are recommended for blacklisting and litigation. In fact, the audit and recovery plan has reduced irregular expenditure which involves control measures aligned to implementing agents. The blacklisting is being done for companies and directors for failure to deliver on projects. Litigation is one of the corrective actions that mainly relates to companies. The department also uses the intergovernmental relations (IGR) to settle disputes with municipalities.

6.6. TCTA Capital Projects and Financing

The Committee noted the need for funding for new capital projects by TCTA and probed whether TCTA has the impetus to raise the required funds reported to be in region of R30.4 billion for new water projects and implications on public finance and water tariffs.

TCTA assured the Committee that all funding applications and agreements are signed off by the Ministers of Water, Finance and National Treasury. In addition, funding is based on customers' ability to pay, meaning the cost is ultimately borne by consumers. The TCTA reported that delays in projects increase costs for both construction and funding (Credit). Government guarantees help reduce funding costs for water capital projects. The TCTA acknowledges the rising cost of electricity and inflation impacting on project budgets.

6.7. Intervention in Dysfunctional Municipalities

Are there plans to intervene directly in municipalities failing to provide reliable water services, possibly by establishing Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)?

The Department is working with other government spheres to intervene using legislative tools such as Section 63 of the Water Services Act, 1997 and Section 139 of the Constitution. The department acknowledges that there is a resistance and legal challenges but insists on the importance of collaboration and accountability. Pilot interventions are underway in Gauteng at eMfuleni Local Municipality.

6.8. Governing Boards of CMAs and Performance Indicators

The Committee raised a concern about missing details on APPs of CMAs relating to, among others, board members, their qualifications, experience, term durations, and remuneration packages including staff salaries. It was also noted that performance indicators lacked comparison with previous years, making it difficult to measure progress.

The Department indicated that detailed governing boards information will be included in the 2024/25 annual report currently being audited, and 2023/24 annual report contains previous years' data. The Committee should note that contents and outline of APPS are regulated by the

Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation and National Treasury, so CMAs cannot selectively include or exclude information or deviate from the APP guidelines provided in the National Treasury (2007) Framework for Managing Programme Performance Information.

The CMAs explained that the nature of their work requires skilled technical staff, which attracts market related salaries for this expertise such as engineers, scientists and lawyers etc. Board members receive hourly sitting fees per national treasury guidelines; these are budgeted separately and disclosed. CEO salaries are aligned with chief director public service levels. The Department appoints the selection panel for board members following rigorous process of advertisement and stakeholder consultations to ensure representation of water users and all sectors of society. Board governance policies are being developed and approved to enhance oversight and accountability.

6.9. Role of Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) and Water Boards

A concern was raised about possibility of duplication of functions between CMAs and water boards which may result in wasteful expenditure or resources.

The Department explained that CMAs have a regulatory function related to catchment management under the Section (78) of the National Water Act, 1998, while water boards provide bulk municipal water services under the Section (38) of the Water Services Act, 1997. The two have distinct mandates. There is a clear constitutional rationality for the existence of CMAs.

6.10. Viability and Funding of CMAs

The Committee observed that all CMAs have budget shortfalls and raised a concern that these shortfalls may affect their viability.

The Department indicated that the CMAs funding mainly comes from water use charges, governed by the pricing strategy. However, nonpayment by municipalities and other water users threatens viability of the water sector not only the CMAs. Nevertheless, the Department is implementing measures to improve revenue collection and financial sustainability of CMAs which includes credit control and shared services models, among others. The department

augments the funding for CMAs to address the effect of debtor's day on the finances of the CMAs.

6.11. Lebalelo Water User Association (currently known as Badirammogo WUA)

An allegation was raised about a board member (Mr Leonardo Manus) being unqualified and conflicts of interest involving his spouse at the Lebalelo Water User Association and the lack of transformation at this WUA.

The Department clarified that this issue was responded to through a written answer to a parliamentary question – the answer is contained in Question No. 1964 National Assembly. This WUA is located in the Sekhukhune area, composed of water users from Agriculture, Municipal and Mining sectors. It was predominantly white over a long period of time. It has been transformed. It includes Historically Disadvantaged Individuals (HDIs) in its management committee. Transformation issues are resolved, and it is no longer called Lebalelo but Badirammogo WUA. There was an issue on how to bring water from De Hoop dam to the communities. The mining sector is working with the government through an entity called Olifants Management Unit (Model) to coordinate delivery of water from De Hoop dam. It is funded by a 50/50 arrangement between government and private sector. This would ensure that communities around the dam (Sekhukhune area) get water from the dam. It is a R28 billion project finance with the collaboration of the infrastructure fund assisting with the blended finance. An application was made to National Treasury to transfer the funds to the WUA upfront to assist (R1.4 billion) with raising finance for the project. Leonardo Manus is a former employee of the department who was a chief director, while acting as DDG Infrastructure. He had the required qualifications and experience. He is currently heading the water department in the City of Cape Town. He was on the management committee of the WUA representing the Department. He was not a board member. His wife was an employee of Price Water House Coopers (audit firm) as a consultant which had a contract with the WUA. She was removed from the team once her husband started serving at this WUA.

6.12. Lack of Transformation and Inequitable Water Rights

A concern was raised about the slow pace of transformation in the water resources management that perpetuates inequality excluding historically disadvantaged individuals and communities.

The Department acknowledged historical challenges and explained ongoing transformation efforts, including revised constitutions for irrigation boards and WUA, licensing as an instrument for redress, and support programs for resource-poor farmers. Further workshops and presentations on transformation were proposed. The Department proposed a workshop on institutional arrangements processes in the department. Transformation for Irrigation board to Water User Association from Irrigation Act 1956 to National Water Act. This is in line with the constitution. Irrigation boards are mainly for Agriculture while WUA deals with both uses. The department used to have a poor resource farmers programme which was based on the number of hectares a farmer owns. The department understands the frustration with the slow pace of WUL or transformation in the use of water. Section 26-29 NWA allows water trading as confirmed by the constitutional court. The amendment of section 25(2) to stop trading with a “no use – lose it” principle. Section 25 provides a shopping list for the minister to develop regulations which do not address the issues around water use and access transformation.

6.13. Management of Transboundary Catchments

The Committee requested the CMAs to elaborate on the management of transboundary catchments shared with neighbouring countries and how they ensure water quality integrity in their WMA and ensure that the transboundary countries receive their fair share.

The IUCMA indicated that it shares catchments with Swaziland, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe through international agreements such as the International Agreement between the Republics of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Incomati and Maputo Water Courses, 2002 with a purpose to promote co-operation among the Parties to ensure the protection and sustainable utilisation of the water resources of the Incomati and Maputo watercourses. The Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) Agreement between Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa and the revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems (2000). The SADC protocol promotes the establishment of shared

watercourse agreements and institutions and enshrines the principles of reasonable use and environmentally sound development of the resource. It also supports Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the Regional Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (RSAP-IWRM).

7. Recommendations and Resolutions

7.1. The Department should provide a briefing to the Committee on the intervention plans and support that are in place for the 105 municipalities that are classified as critical in consultation with COGTA and National Treasury in the 3rd quarter 2025/26.

7.2. The Committee recommends that the department should prioritise to support or assist a few of the critical municipalities over a period (financial year) to ensure efficient and effective use of water services infrastructure grant and provide a prioritisation report in line with the Operation Vulindlela 2.0 to the committee in the 3rd quarter of 2025/26.

7.3. The Department of Water and Sanitation, Trans- Caledon Tunnel Authority and Auditor - General South Africa should brief the Committee on the progress and challenges regarding the construction of Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II including the LHWP Treaty, Project funding and delays.

7.4. The Department must provide quarterly reports on the implementation of all infrastructure projects funded by the Department.

7.5. The Department should provide detailed report on the functionality and financial viability or sustainability of the CMAs in the 3rd Quarter 2025/26.

7.6. The Department should provide an implementation progress report on Bucket Eradication Programme with specific reference to budget, expenditure, completion date. every 6 months.

7.7. The Committee recommends that the National Treasury should withhold a portion of the equitable share from municipalities that owe water boards to safeguard the going concern of the water boards.

Report to be considered.

5. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation on the 4th Quarter Expenditure Report for Vote 41 Water and Sanitation 2024/25 Financial Year, dated 24 June 2025

The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation (the Committee), having considered the Department of Water and Sanitation (the Department) 4th Quarter Expenditure Report for 2024/25, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation considered the 4th quarter expenditure report partly on 03 June 2025. The Committee's report presents a brief overview of cumulative 4th quarter expenditure and performance report for the 2024/25 financial year including the Committee's critical deliberations, observations, and resolutions.

2. Overview of the Strategic Water Sector Interventions by the Department of Water and Sanitation

2.1. Support to Municipalities

The Department has developed a Ministerial Support Programme that focuses on the 105 dismally performing Water Service Authorities (WSAs) to resuscitate delayed and complete old projects, develop and implement quick wins in some of the unserved communities. In other words, the Department seeks to improve water service provision and reliability in these municipalities. Water Boards have been deployed to provide support to some of these municipalities in Gauteng, Free State, Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal. For instance, Magalies Water Board is making progress with implementation of the Klipdrift Package Plant and completed 1 of 4 packages of the project which is now providing water to parts of Hammanskraal; Rand Water continues to implement the Section 63 intervention (of the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 107 of 1998) to curb sewer leakages in the community and into the Vaal River. This includes the unblocking of sewage pipelines, replacing collapsed sewage pipelines, repairing and refurbishing pumpstations, assisting the Emfuleni Municipality to

restore its operation and maintenance functions; Vaal Central Water Board continues to implement projects to restore functionality of water and sanitation in Matjhabeng and Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipalities in the Free State province; and uMngeni-uThukela Water Board is implementing various water supply projects in uMkhanyakude Municipality through Section 63 intervention.

2.2. Legislative, Funding and Institutional Reforms

The Department reported that the Water Services Amendment Bill is ready for Cabinet consideration. The National Treasury's Reform of Metropolitan Trading Services Programme and Phase 2 of Operation Vulindlela (OV 2.0) are set to reform the municipal water sector value chain to operate on a utility model (through either internal or external utilities). These reforms would in the main involve, Separation of the WSA and Water Service Provider (WSP) functions, as is already required by law; Ringfencing revenues from the sale of water for the water function; and Ringfencing all management functions related to the delivery of water and sanitation services, with single-point accountability.

Significant progress has been made in securing funding for large infrastructure projects through the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) and blended finance models by working with the Infrastructure Fund. In this case, A R3.2 billion has been secured for the next three years in BFI funding for the Olifants River Management project. In addition, the newly established Water Partnerships Office (WPO) is also making inroads into various municipalities, particularly through its Non-Revenue Water and Water Reuse Programmes. A case in point is the assistance to eThekweni metro with the establishment of a non-revenue water reduction pilot project funded through BFI funding with assistance from the Infrastructure Fund.

The Department has established the Platform for a Water Secure Gauteng (PWSG) and the Platform for a Water Secure eThekweni (PWSeT), which brings together government, civil society, business and sector experts, to coordinate efforts to reduce average consumption of water in Gauteng and eThekweni. These efforts would address localized water deficits in Gauteng and eThekweni metro in KZN.

Municipal water debts to the Water Boards threatens the entire water sector viability. In this case, the Minister engaged Premiers, Member of Executive Councils (MECs) for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and municipalities to make payments on

outstanding debt and enter into payment agreements with Water Boards. Furthermore, the Department supported by the National Treasury developed and finalised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) aimed at improving billing and revenue collection practices. Some of these strategies include withholding of the Equitable Share through National Treasury approvals, payment agreements between Water Boards and owing municipalities. These interventions are already showing a positive impact on the financial position of the affected Water Boards.

The Revised Water Pricing Strategy was completed and published, to ensure cost-reflective, equitable, and sustainable water use charges. Section 10 Tariff Standards (in accordance with the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 107 of 1998) were published to guide municipalities in setting fair and transparent water tariffs.

2.3. Water and Sanitation Indaba 2025

The objective of the Indaba was to identify measures to realise the water-related priorities of the 7th Administration, the Medium-Term Development Plan, the National Development Plan and the VO 2.0. The indaba transversed many water sector priorities including, among others, the development of water delivery models such as the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and Concessions such as Build Operate Train and Transfer (BOTT); Financial sustainability of the water sector (for example, through ringfencing revenue from the sale of water); Improve capacity of WSAs and build strong partnerships through the District Development Model (e.g. Presidential Working Group in eThekweni and Johannesburg).

2.4. Anti-Pollution Forum

To strengthen regulations, the Department has launched the Anti-Pollution Forum and established a multi-stakeholder platform to coordinate actions against water pollution and promote accountability. The forum is being piloted to support "polluter pays" principles.

3. Briefing on the 4th Quarterly Expenditure Report for the 2024/25 Financial Year

The comparative analysis of the Department 4th quarterly performance over the last 3 years shows a slight improvement in budget expenditure while it has regressed in the achievement of planned targets mainly in Programmes 1 and 2 as depicted in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Comparative Analysis of the 4th Quarterly Reports				
<i>Expenditure (%)</i>				
Programme	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Administration	88	98,3	99,1	99,2
Water Resources Management	97	99,1	99,7	99,9
Water Services Management	82	93,8	99,9	99,9
Overall Average	89	97,1	99,6	99,9
<i>Targets achieved (%)</i>				
Programme	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Administration	80	75	69	50
Water Resources Management	59	75	71	65
Water Services Management	65	70	69	70
Overall Average	68	73	70	62

3.1. The presentation highlighted key cumulative achievements; areas of underperformance and the concomitant remedial actions to address areas of poor performance over the quarter under review. The under expenditure was reported on two programmes, namely, the Programme 1 Administration, R195.7 million and Programme 2 Water Resources Management, R58.6. It is worth noting, an over expenditure on the Water Services Management programme by R211.6 million. The total expenditure for the 4th quarter amounted to R23.8 billion, representing 99.9% of the final adjusted budget of R23.8 billion. This results in total unspent funds of R33.7 million. However, it is worth noting that this under expenditure is less than the R42.7 million reported by the National Treasury in the 4th quarter report as tabled in Parliament.

- 3.2. The Department reported the budget and expenditure per economic classification as follows: The spending on compensation of employees (CoE) amounted to R1.89 billion which represents 97.7% of the total adjusted appropriation of R1.94 billion. The spending on goods and services amounted to R1.7 billion which represents 85.7% of the total adjusted appropriation of R2 billion. The spending on transfers and subsidies was R15.7 billion which represents 100% of the total adjusted appropriation of R15.7 billion. The spending on capital assets amounted to R4.4 billion, which represents 106.4% of the total adjusted appropriation of R4.1 billion. The expenditure incorporates accelerated regional bulk infrastructure and water services infrastructure projects including bucket eradication programme, implemented in line with the approved project plans and budgets.
- 3.3. The Water Trading Entity's preliminary spending was reported at 75% with a caveat that it is subject to change as the Entity is reporting on accrual basis of accounting and also incorporates related transactions from the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) and Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA).
- 3.4. The Department reported that it continues to implement the financial recovery plan, and the budget is monitored regularly to ensure compliance and spending within the approved budget. And that the full budget will be spent by the end of the financial year.
- 3.5. The table below shows a performance summary with a list of targets that were not achieved together with strategies to address under performance. It is worth noting that majority of targets were deferred to 2025/26 financial year mainly in Programme 2. For example, gazetting of the establishment of the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency and the Water Economic Regulator; Development of the National Water Act Amendment Bill; Oversight assessments conducted in Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs); and Wastewater systems assessed for compliance with the Green Drop Regulatory Requirements.

Programme	4 th Quarter		Areas of under performance	Strategies to overcome areas of under performance
	% actual achievement	% budget spent		
Administration (P1)	50	99.2	(1.1.2) Implementation of the risk management plan. (1.1.3) Reduction of vacancy rate for engineers and scientists. (1.1.4) Implementation of training interventions. (1.1.5) Conducting safety and security assessments for facilities and installations. (1.3.1.1) Targeted procurement budget spent on qualifying small enterprises. (1.4.1) Implementation	<u>Compliance with the implementation of risk management plan:</u> As the combined assurance plan is dependent on the finalisation of the revised strategic risk register, this will be finalised in the 2025/26 financial year. <u>Vacancy rate for engineers and scientists:</u> As the financial resources become available, the posts are filled to maintain the vacancy rate to below 10%. <u>Training interventions implemented in the department:</u> These will be implemented in the 2025/26 financial year as the financial resources become available. <u>Safety and security assessments for facilities and installations conducted:</u> These have been deferred to the 2025/26 financial year as the financial resources become available. <u>Targeted procurement budget spent on qualifying small enterprises (QSE):</u> The service providers in the QSE will be encouraged to respond to the requests. <u>Financial recovery plan and number of debtor days:</u> The Department has appointed service providers who are participating in

			of the financial recovery plan. (1.4.3) Reduction of debtor days	the National Treasury Transversal Contract on debt collection to assist Department with recovery of outstanding debts.
Water Resources Management (P2)	65	99.9	(3.3.1) Construction of new water resource gauging stations / weirs. (3.4.2) Bulk raw water projects in preparation for implementation and under construction. (3.5.1) Implementation of scheduled maintenance projects completed as a proportion of planned maintenance projects. (3.5.4) Completion of dam safety rehabilitation projects and conveyance systems. (5.1.1) Development of the National Water Act Amendment Bill.	<u>Percentage of applications for water use authorisation finalised within regulated period:</u> Recruitment of dedicated personnel to process application is underway. <u>Number of bulk raw water projects in preparation for implementation:</u> Due to the engineering skill constraints, the internal capacity is being augmented with graduates coming through the Learning Academy as well as the appointment of a professional engineering draw-down panel. This will see more projects being prepared for implementation concurrently. <u>Number of bulk raw water projects under construction:</u> To deal with procurement related delays, the Department adopted a new Infrastructure Procurement Strategy which will accelerate the implementation of water resource infrastructure projects. There is also collaboration with the private sector to jointly implement large projects with the objective of enhancing efficiency and bringing some fiscal relief. Various implementation models are being explored concurrently i.e., using different implementing agents, collaborating with the private sector with joint project implementation control, using internal capacity, etc. <u>Percentage scheduled maintenance projects completed</u>

			(2.1.2) Monitoring of rivers for the implementation of resource directed measures. (5.1.8) The water economic regulator gazetted for establishment: regulations development. (5.1.4) Finalisation of applications for water use authorization. (5.1.5) Oversight assessments for CMAs: compliance monitoring. (5.1.8) Green Drop Regulatory Assessments. (6.2.3) NWRIA: Governing Board appointments.	<u>as a proportion of planned maintenance projects:</u> Underperforming contractors are informed of their non-performance by formal letters. After their responses if the Department still experience underperformance. The Department then invoke clause 1.7 of the tender document which stipulate that in case of non-performance the Department reserve the right to appoint performing contractors to assist. The Department arranged for information sessions with contractors to capacitate them on administrative requirements for maintenance project. <u>Number of dam safety rehabilitation projects completed:</u> The Department developed a DWS Construction Efficiency Enhancement Strategy to improve the performance of the internal construction unit to ensure higher success rate of implementing projects within time and cost. <u>Number of kilometres of conveyance systems rehabilitated per annum:</u> The Department will review the plan of the Rehabilitation of Conveyance Systems programme and apply capital rationing to ensure meaningful impact in terms of project implementation at priority projects (thus reducing the number of projects). These projects will also benefit from the Construction Efficiency Enhancement Strategy.
Water Services Management (P3)	70	99.9	(3.8.2) No Drop Regulatory assessments. (3.9.2) Completion of	<u>WSAs assessed for compliance with the requirements of the No Drop Regulatory Programme:</u> This has been deferred to the 2025/26 financial year. <u>Implementation readiness studies for water and wastewater services</u>

			implementation readiness studies: RBIG projects. Mega regional bulk infrastructure project phases under construction and completed. (3.10.2) Completion of water services infrastructure grant projects. (3.10.4) Replacement of existing bucket sanitation in formal settlements. (5.2.1) Development of the Water Services Act Amendment Bill.	<u>projects (RBIG):</u> This has been deferred to the 2025/26 financial year. <u>Mega project phases under construction and completed:</u> The Department will intensify monitoring and constant engagement with various stakeholders that form part of projects implementation and completion. It will also enforce service level agreement clauses on those contractors which are under performing and ensure that penalties and /or terminations are imposed. To avoid project disruptions, there will be constant community engagements to ensure their understanding of the employment processes. To mitigate the delayed installation of transformers in the projects, the department has already created a platform to engage Eskom in ensuring that it fast-tracks this process. <u>Number of existing bucket sanitation backlog systems in formal settlements replaced:</u> All the contractors responsible for the Bucket Eradication Programme (BEP) in Free State were engaged to understand the status quo and current challenges.
Total	62 (50+65+70)/3	99.7		

3.6.The annual procurement from designated groups was reported as follows:

- Black companies with 50% or more ownership: 31% of procurement expenditure amounting to R3.7 billion with annual procurement expenditure of R12 billion
- Women companies with 50% or more ownership: 17% from the target of 40% amounting to R2.1 billion.
- Youth companies with 50% or more ownership: 7% from the target of 30%, amounting to R812 million.

- People with disability companies with 50% or more ownership: 1% from a target of 7%, amounting to R74 million.

3.7. The under expenditure in Programme 1 is attributed to, among others, unfilled funded positions and delays in processing invoices for SITA services, audit fees, property payments, delays in the procurement processes for Library services, Employee and Health Wellness (EHW) Project, National School of Governance Services, subscriptions and laundry services. Additionally, the Department further experienced delays in procurement of Information Technology (IT) network equipment, computers, office furniture and printers.

3.8. The under expenditure in Programme 2 is attributed to funded vacant posts, delays in the appointment of service providers (consultants) for the Blue and Green Drops project, review and update of Climate Change Policy for the Water and Sanitation Sector, and the projects under infrastructure planning services such as National Water balances, and delayed procurement processes for feasibility studies for Xhariep, Crocodile Wast, Algoa and Amathole projects.

3.9. The R211.6 million over expenditure in Programme 3 is attributed to payments for capital assets of fast-moving service delivery projects in the provinces of the Free State, Mpumalanga and Northwest funded under the Indirect Regional bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) 6B. The department plans to defray the excess expenditure through the year-end final shifting and journaling processes.

3.10. Department further highlighted and acknowledged unacceptable delays in some of the key infrastructure projects. However, good progress has been made to unblock and accelerate the delayed projects including the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, uMkhomazi Dam, Ntabelanga Dam, Stephen Dlamini Dam, Foxwood Dam and raising the wall of Clanwilliam Dam. The Olifants River Water Resource Development Project which is jointly funded by the government and the mining sector at a tune of R24 billion is currently underway. This project will increase water supply and ensure water security to enable investment in mining. Communities adjacent to the bulk pipelines will also benefit from the project alleviating the concern of communities that have been complaining that bulk water pipelines pass through their villages, yet they remain without water.

- 3.11. Department released the results of its Blue, Green and No-drop reports in 2023, as part of its work as the regulator of the water services sector in terms of the Water Services Act. The reports keep the public and stakeholders informed with credible information about the state of water and sanitation services in the country. The drop reports indicated that the performance of municipal water and sanitation services has declined since the last time the drop reports were issued in 2014. The drop reports were provided to all water services authorities, and they were advised as to the causes of the decline and what needs to be done about it. The identified causes include, amongst others, water and sanitation infrastructure being in poor condition due to a lack of maintenance and non-adherence to standard operating processes for drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment.
- 3.12. The Department is strengthening its role as the regulator of water services, by developing more comprehensive and stringent norms and standards for water services and standardising its regulatory processes. These include the amendments to the Water Services Act to more clearly separate the roles of Water Services Authorities (ensure that water services are provided to required standards) and Water Services Providers (provide the services) and to enable the Minister to intervene more effectively as the Regulator. The Water Services Amendment Bill went through a public consultation process during the reporting period and will shortly be submitted to the Cabinet for approval for submission to Parliament.
- 3.13. The Department is currently dealing with the historical unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred mainly between 2016/17 and 2018/19. Unauthorised expenditure emanates from the Bucket Eradication Programme (R292.269 million) and the War on Leaks (WoL) Programme (R348.825 million). The unauthorised expenditure is currently under consideration by Parliament (Standing Committee on Public Accounts). Projects that are under investigation are the Giyani Water Services Project; Upgrading of the Thukela Goedertrouw Scheme; Support and maintenance of SAP ECC6; War on Leaks Project; Vaal Intervention; Financial advisory services; Desalination Plant Richards Bay; Bucket Eradication Programme; and Usuthu Vaal Emergency works.

3.14. The Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful and Unauthorised (IFWU) expenditure are summarised in the table below. The total IFWU expenditure stood at a total of R6.68 billion as at the end of 4th quarter 2024/25.

Expenditure Variables	Main Account	Water Trading Entity	TOTAL
	Q4-2024/25 R'000	Q4-2024/25 R'000	Q4-2024/25 R'000
Unauthorised expenditure	641,109	-	641,109
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure	114	197,092	197,206
Irregular expenditure	4,793,882	1,056,101	5,849,983
Total	5,435,105	1,253,193	6,688,298

3.15. Some of the irregular expenditure cases are currently under investigation by the Department, South African Police Service (SAPS) and Special Investigating Unit (SIU) while some of the cases are before the courts of law. The Internal Audit is also investigating some of the reported irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure while Human Resource Management is conducting disciplinary hearings on some of these matters.

3.16. The Department has not incurred any unauthorised beyond the 2017/18 financial year owing to the following preventative measures: All mandates and projects are properly budgeted and approved before they commence; Stronger financial controls and oversight mechanisms by ensuring that all spendings are line with the approved budgets and mandates; Regular audits and reviews of financial processes and systems to identify and address any weaknesses or gaps through relevant approved oversight structures; Regular staff training on financial management and reporting to ensure that all employees understand their roles and responsibilities with respect to budgeting and spending; Clear policies and procedures for managing unexpected or unbudgeted mandates, including protocols for obtaining additional funding or reallocating existing budgets; and Standard Operating Procedures, and Circulars, which are continuously updated and exercised.

4. Committee Observations and the Department Responses

The observations and questions from the Committee are categorized into several key themes relating to both financial and non-financial indicators of the Department of Water and Sanitation. The observations are immediately followed by a response where applicable.

4.1. Irregular Expenditure

The Committee acknowledged the historical nature of the irregular expenditure. However, raised a concern with respect to the slow pace of investigations and consequence management, and requested more information on some of the affected projects such as the Desalination Plan in Richards Bay, War on Leaks and the Giyani Water Project.

The Department reported that irregular expenditure cases are currently under investigation internally by the Department, South African Police Service (SAPS) and Special Investigating Unit (SIU) while some of the cases are before the courts of law. In addition, recently reported irregular expenditure cases are part of investigations by Internal Audit, and disciplinary actions are being conducted by Human Resource Management in the Department. Detailed information on specific irregular expenditure cases is provided in slide 49-51 of the presentation. The committee should also note that consequence management is not confined to irregular expenditure only but various other issues in the Department. In this regard, the Committee is referred to the 13 May 2025 presentation to the Committee on progress regarding the status of disciplinary hearings, including cases investigated by SIU.

4.2. Achieved Targets vs Expenditure

The Committee observed that the targets achieved (62%) are less than the expenditure (99%) while some are deferred to 2025/26. For example, the eradication of bucket toilet systems in formal settlements remained at 10798, which has been the case since 2023 while the budget allocated to this target is spent in full; The target on the implementation of the 2022 preferential procurement regulations pertaining to Qualifying Small Enterprise (QSE) where 10% was achieved instead of 15%.

The Department indicated that the presentation provides reasons for all targets that were not achieved and the strategies to address under performance. However, it should be noted that the relationship between targets and expenditure is seldom linear due to the nature of the water and

sanitation infrastructure projects which are mainly multi year. The expenditure on Bucket Eradication Programme (BEP) relates to the construction of bulk infrastructure to connect the sanitation systems such as the sewer outfall system, refurbishment of pumpstations, wastewater treatment plants and upgrading of sewer transmission lines in Clocolan (Hlohlowane) in Setsotso local municipality, among other areas. These components are at various stages of implementation. It is unfortunate that the target can only be recorded as achieved when a fully functional toilet is installed without considering the preparatory work as explained.

The Department intervenes through RBIG and WSIG in municipalities. For example, the grants are transferred to municipalities to address some of these targets, but majority of municipalities lack capacity to implement and spend the grants. In this regard the department has identified 105 poor performing municipalities that would be assisted with the department's construction unit. It is also worth noting that grants are not enough to reach all municipalities. The Department undertakes to continue to improve its performance so that these targets are eventually met satisfactorily.

4.3. Vacancy Rate

The Committee raised a concern on vacancy rate (40%) which is over the set target by 30% for engineers and scientists.

The Department reported that the newly created organisational structure has increased the scientist and engineering posts. This structure was approved 18 months ago, and it is currently under implementation which involve a rigorous process of matching and placing candidates. There is also a lack of funding to fill all vacancies in the department as the budget allocation keeps on decreasing across all government departments. The new organisational structure is partially funded. However, the department is using funds freed up from the retiring employees to fund some of the positions in the new structure.

4.4. Eradication of Bucket Toilet Systems

The expenditure for the eradication of bucket toilets systems is a cause for concern. A cursory determination from 2023 shows that more than R250 million has been spent on the BEP but not a single bucket toilet has been removed. The presentation does not provide enough

information on this target which makes it impossible to understand the reason behind the slow pace of this programme.

Apart from this challenge, the committee observed that there is no mention of BEP in Mangaung where there is a backlog of pit latrines and bucket toilet systems.

The Department acknowledges that this programme is delayed, and the poor performance is multifaceted as it relates to independent contractors appointed by municipalities who the municipalities are unable to monitor and hold accountable for poor performance. However, the Department has engaged all contractors to understand the nature of their challenges so that appropriate solutions could be devised. The Department undertook to provide a full report on BEP which would be an additional to the briefing that was done on the 13 May 2025 which deeply reflected on the investigations on this programme both SIU and SAPS.

The bucket toilets are a legacy problem which dates back to many decades. The Department is developing norms and standards that would prohibit the use of bucket toilets and pit latrines in both formal and informal settlements.

4.5. Wastewater Pollution and Illegal Discharge of Waste into a Water Resource

The Committee observed with concern the discharge of wastewater into the Allan Ridge Pan in Matjhabeng Local municipality threatening human lives and preventing refurbishment of the wastewater treatment infrastructure. The executive mayor had indicated that R50 million will be paid towards the rehabilitation, but nothing has come forth from this undertaking while sewage continues to flow on the streets. In addition, what are the timelines for the expropriation of the land (acquisition of servitudes 9km in extent) in Matjhabeng for water and sanitation infrastructure?

The Committee should note that the Department is a regulator in the water sector with oversight responsibilities. The sewage pollution is at crisis level across municipalities. The Department has embarked on a programme to assist with the refurbishment of the wastewater treatment infrastructure to arrest sewage pollution across municipalities. The sewage pollution in the Vaal River is improving due to the Section 63 intervention that the department is implementing at

eMfuleni municipality. In addition, the legislation is being amended to ensure proactive intervention in municipalities.

In relation to Mangaung, the department has weekly meetings to discuss water and sanitation programme. In this regard, the department is monitoring wastewater treatment issues in Mangaung. The municipality has been issued with notices and directives for wastewater pollution transgressions, and it is requested to provide remedial actions to avoid criminal charges. However, a criminal referral has been issued against the Weppener wastewater treatment, and it is awaiting a decision from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Pertaining to Allan Ridge Pan in Matjhabeng, the Harmony Gold Mine has been taken to court for illegal discharge of waste in a water resource. The department has so far spent R12 million to address wastewater challenges, which is not enough. Of concern is the lack of commitment from the Matjhabeng municipality with respect to co-funding as it undertakes to contribute but the funding never comes forth. The issue of informal settlements in the waterlogged areas falls under the purview of the Department of Human Settlements which has a relocation programme.

4.6. Amendment of the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency SOC Act, 2024

The committee requested an update on the amendment of the NWRIA SOC Act, 2024.

The technical amendment is completed, and it is currently with Parliament. Moreover, the development of the roadmap for the implementation of the NWRIA SOC is underway and a project manager has been appointed.

4.7. Poor Performing Contractors

The Committee observed that there is poor performance in the RBIG funded projects in Northwest and Limpopo provinces where majority of projects set for completion could not be completed. The reason provided was that the contractors were performing poorly. In this regard, what measures has the Department put in place to address poor performing contractors?

The contractors are appointed by municipalities. The department has pleaded with municipalities to appoint competent contractors that have the resources and capacity to implement projects. Unfortunately, the Department cannot intervene between a contractor and municipality, but the department withholds the disbursement of funds when targets are not met. It is also worth noting that the Department is addressing delayed projects through its provincial heads who are working with the affected municipalities.

4.8. Water Use Licenses (WUL)/Authorisations

The Committee observed that the target on water use authorisation applications is partially met at 68% instead of 80%. However, a concern was raised that the farmers are on record complaining that the application processing takes more than a year, sometimes it takes a year to get an acknowledgement of the receipt of the application. This report came from the small-scale farmers in the Waterberg region in Limpopo province. Why is it taking so long to process a simple water use license application? How many water use authorisation applications are currently under consideration?

The WUL application completion rates stood at 76% for Limpopo as of 26 May 2025. There are only 6 WUL applications in the backlog list which do not relate to HDI or small-scale users. It should be noted that the HDI or small-scale user application is very simple but often these applications are mired with missing information which delays processing. Apart from the missing information, an application may have been rejected, and an appeal is lodged with the Water Tribunal which may also take time to process as the Tribunal has a shortage of staff. Nevertheless, the Director General would welcome any appeal or inquiry regarding delayed applications and would endeavor to provide progress within the shortest time possible. The committee is referred to the Electronic Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (e-WULAAs) which is a web-based portal used by the Department to manage and authorize water use applications. It allows prospective water users to register, submit applications, and interact with the department in a secure online environment. It also provides real-time status of all WUL applications. The department has advertised 100 technical positions to address delays in processing WUL applications. The positions are mainly related to engineers, hydrologists, and scientists.

4.9.Job Opportunities

The Committee requests a breakdown of created jobs with respect to province, municipalities, gender, race and other population attributes.

The Department undertook to provide a report on job opportunities in 14 days.

4.10. The Role of the National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency

The Committee sought clarity on the role of the NWRIA vis a vis that of water board and catchment management agencies.

The NWRIA will be responsible for the development and management of national water infrastructure while water boards will continue to assist municipalities with provision of water services. In fact, the Water Boards mandate is clearly stated in the Water Services Act, 1997 while the NWRIA mandate is stated in the National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency Act, 2024.

4.11. Quality of Performance Reporting

The committee observed with concern the lack of detail in some of the targets that they could only receive after asking questions. For example, the number of debtors days were 169 in the 3rd quarter while in the 4th quarter 489 days were reported which is impossible as a quarter has less than 100 days, so the 339 increase is mathematically impossible. The BEP expenditure is another example of a target that does not make sense without the explanation. In this regard, the committee recommended that the quarterly performance reporting should include footnotes or explanatory notes so that anyone that reads these reports is able to make sense of the information.

5. Resolutions

- 5.1. The department should provide a detailed report on the Bucket Eradication Programme within 14 days.
- 5.2. The department should provide a detailed report on the job opportunities per province and disaggregated demographics showing the department's transformation efforts within 14 days.
- 5.3. The department should provide a rollout plan of the Ministerial Support Programme to the 105 critical municipalities once it is developed. The department should advise the committee on the timeframe for the development of this plan as the committee understand that the plan involves other departments such as the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Presidency.
- 5.4. The department should provide a detailed report on the roles and mandates of the water boards, CMAs and the NWRIA to the committee within 7 days.
- 5.5. The department should provide a detailed report on the ability of NWRIA to resolve water infrastructure challenges within 14 days.
- 5.6. The department should present to the water pricing strategy an appropriate time to be decided by the committee.
- 5.7. The department should provide a quarterly report on irregular expenditure.
- 5.8. The department should submit an integrated report on the 105 poor performing municipalities conducted by the department and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs within 14 days.
- 5.9. The department should submit a report on the performance of each sub-program within 14 days.
- 5.10. The department should add explanatory footnotes to the reports to provide context and details on performance information in the quarterly reports.
- 5.11. The department should provide a report on acquisition of servitudes in Matjhabeng local municipality within 14 days.

Concluding remarks

The Committee noted and appreciated the responses from the Department on the 4th Quarterly Expenditure and Performance Report 2024/25.

Report to be considered.

