Friday, 29 November 2024]

No 93—2024] FIRST SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2024

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

(1) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development** for consideration and report. Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information is referred to the **Standing Committee on Public Accounts** for consideration:

(a) Report and Financial Statements of the Ingonyama Trust Board for 2023-24, including the Report of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements and Performance Information for 2023-24.

(2) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development**:

(a) Proclamation No R.225, published in Government Gazette No. 51627, dated 22 November 2024: Referral of Matters to Existing Special Investigating Unit: in respect of the affairs of the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

(b) Proclamation No R. 226, published in Government Gazette No. 51627, dated 22 November 2024: Referral of Matters to Existing Special Investigating Unit: in respect of the affairs of the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

(c) Proclamation No R. 227, published in Government Gazette No. 51627, dated 22 November 2024: Referral of Matters to Existing Special Investigating Unit: in respect of the affairs of the Ngqushwa Local Municipality, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

(d) Proclamation No R. 228, published in Government Gazette No. 51627, dated 22 November 2024: Referral of Matters to Existing Special Investigating Unit: in respect of the affairs of Airports Company of South Africa SOC Limited, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

(3) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs** for consideration and report:

(a) Addendum to the Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Cooperative Governance for 2024/25.

(4) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment**:

(a) Regulations for the Management of Mercury in South Africa, 2024 (the Mercury Regulations), in terms of section 25(3) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

(5) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development** for consideration and report:

(a) Revised Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development for 2024/25.

TABLINGS

National Assembly

1. The Speaker

(a) Reply by the Minister of Agriculture to Report of Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development on *2024/25 Annual Performance Plans and Budget of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and entities and Vote 29*, as adopted by the House on 22 July 2024.

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Agriculture** and **Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development.**

(b) Reply by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to Report of Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition on *Budget Vote 39: Trade, Industry and Competition*, as adopted by the House on 22 July 2024.

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Agriculture** and **Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development.**

(c) A petition from the school governing body of Leruntse Lesedi High School, North-West province, calling on the Assembly to investigate the dilapidated infrastructure at their school. (Mr N P Pharamela)

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Basic Education** and **Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure** for consideration and report.

(d) A petition from the community of Pholane Park, Ivory Park Extension 14, calling on the Assembly to investigate the provision of electricity in their area. (Ms B S Masango)

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs** for consideration and report.

National Council of Provinces

1. The Chairperson

[The following entry replaces the tabling entry, which was published on page 3 of the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports (ATC), dated 28 November 2024].

(a) NCOP Three Sphere Planning Session Report: 27-28 August 2024.

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PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THREE-SPHERE PLANNING SESSION

27 -28 AUGUST 2024

TOWARDS AN OVERSIGHT AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT:

Delineating key Policy and Oversight Priorities for the Seventh Parliament



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1. INTRODUCTION

On 27 and 28 August 2024, the National Council of Provinces convened the 1st Three Sphere Planning Session for the 7th Parliament within the context of the Government of National Unity (GNU). The planning session was convened under the theme: *"Towards an Oversight Agenda for the Seventh Parliament: Delineating Key Policy and Oversight Priorities for the NCOP in the Seventh Parliament".*

Positioned as a course correction and three-sphere coherence mechanism, the NCOP's three-sphere planning session sought to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms and systems are put in place, to effectively address *policy implementation weaknesses* and coordination disjunctures across the three spheres of government, particularly as the seventh dispensation commences its work.

1.2 The overarching objectives of this three-sphere planning session are therefore to:

- Delineate key policy priorities for implementation and targeted oversight by the NCOP in the seventh Parliament, as informed by the three overarching priorities announced by the State President, in his Opening of Parliament Address (*with further development policy emphases on the NDP, SONAs, SOPAs, including cascaded development planning perspectives at the local sphere, to commence and give targeted shape to the work of the NCOP in Seventh Parliament);*
- Identify and Implement Targeted Mechanisms to address Three-Sphere Planning Weaknesses and Disjunctures across the three spheres of government, focusing on the development priorities of national line departments, provinces, metros and districts across all nine provinces;
- Institutionalize the utilization of three-sphere planning development data to crystalize a thematic focus on the key policy priorities over the medium term, to strategically shape the NCOP's Medium Term Oversight Agenda;
- Enable the NCOP to perform its constitutional mandate, to appropriately serve as a strategic construct for *three-sphere Intergovernmental Relations and Cooperative Governance Oversight;;*
- Identify and address underlying weakness across the political and bureaucratic interface, which often impede the accelerated implementation of key development priorities;
- Develop and Implement a comprehensive three sphere-planning oversight framework and mechanism to facilitate intergovernmental relations, which will be aimed at

enhancing cooperation among the three spheres of government. Within this context, the apex priority is anchored in ensuring that each level of government is able to effectively execute its functions while minimizing duplication of efforts and potential losses;

- Beyond convening annual three sphere planning sessions, the three sphere-planning oversight framework and mechanism will enable regular and targeted IGR and CG oversight, by conducting oversight over critical IGR structures across the three spheres, which must facilitate sustained three sphere engagement, towards joint and integrated planning and the implementation of key development priorities. *Importantly, the IGR and CG oversight mechanism, will also serve as a mechanism to enable the effective operationalization of the District Development Model;*

- Within the context of the Three-Sphere Planning Oversight Framework and Mechanism, the commensurate tracking, monitoring and report back systems and tools will be developed, which will run in tandem with the implementation timelines that will be cumulatively and incrementally articulated during the annual three sphere planning sessions.

The Three-Sphere Planning session was attended by Members of the NCOP, the Deputy President, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Members of the Provincial Executive Councils, the SALGA National Executive Committee, Mayors, Legislative Sector Representatives, Academics, as well as institutions supporting democracy, including representatives and Commissioners of the National Planning Commission.

1.3 Contextualizing the imperatives of three-sphere planning – Hon. Mr. P. Govender

The Hon Mr. P. Govender, opened the two-day session and addressed the session based on the following overarching sub-themes:

- Contextualizing the imperatives of Three-Sphere Planning, for improved Three-Sphere Coordination and implementation of Key Development Priorities of the NDP
- Actively Giving Expression to the NCOP's Constitutional Imperative of Intergovernmental Relations and Cooperative Governance Coordination Oversight
- Three-Sphere Planning is a key enabler for targeted Three-Sphere Oversight Mapping for the NCOP.

The NCOP seeks to institutionalize the utilization of Three-Sphere Planning data to delineate key policy priorities, so as to effectively shape a targeted medium term oversight agenda for the NCOP. A clear delineation of policy and oversight priorities, particularly as the seventh dispensation commences its business, will enable the NCOP to effectively perform its Constitutional mandate of Intergovernmental Relations and Cooperative Governance Oversight, towards improved development policy implementation outcomes.

1.4 A synopsis of the presentation

- The NCOP of the 7th Parliament is mindful of the overarching policy priorities announced by the State President in his 2024 Opening of Parliament Address, i.e.

(i) Driving inclusive economic growth and job creation

(ii) Reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living

(iii) Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state.

- The Deputy chairperson highlighted the need to take collective responsibility for the constitutional obligations members across the three-spheres are appointed for. Given South Africa's prevailing developmental challenges, he further emphasized the imperative to crystalize a common understanding of the developmental challenges facing the country, which must be addressed by developing the appropriate three sphere planning mechanisms and systems, to address the South Africa's social and economic challenges. The attention of the collective was drawn to postulations on South Africa's endemic levels of poverty, with some academics and research findings articulating that South Africa is considered chronically poor. Furthermore, South Africa is also home to a transient segment of its population who are characterized as "non-poor but vulnerable." This segment of society refers to those who face the dire risk of slipping into poverty through their basic needs not being met.

- The National Planning Commission (NPC) recently released a 10-year Review Report on Government's performance towards implementing the National Development Plan (NDP), which confirms the current state of South Africa's economy and its developmental trajectory.

- Based on the NPC's 10 Year Review findings, the administrative architecture across the broader state machinery, which includes government's Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) and Cooperative Governance (CG) institutional architecture, are not

fully functional or effectively coordinated, to facilitate the timeous implementation of South Africa's development plans across the three spheres of government. Therefore, Three Sphere planning, Three-Sphere Coordination weaknesses and disjunctures, remain as major impediments to policy implementation, which must be urgently addressed.

1.5 Identification of Key Issues for Oversight and Collaboration

- The NCOP has a critical role to play in facilitating strategic and coherent three sphere planning, which it is well positioned to facilitate through an effective Three-Sphere Planning and IGR and Cooperative Governance Oversight Framework, by ensuring a targeted, integrated planning approach across the three spheres of government, to advance the effective implementation of Government's key developmental priorities across all provinces, metros, districts, and local municipalities.
- Considering South Africa's current developmental challenges, it is imperative that the NCOP repositions itself as an Apex Chamber for Three-Sphere and integrated planning, leaning on and tapping into its IGR and Cooperative Governance Constitutional Mandate, to oversee the effective and collaborative functioning of the three spheres of government and by so doing, accelerate policy implementation.

1.6 Plans to be Implemented by the NCOP to Achieve Better Policy Implementation outcomes

- Will in the Seventh Parliament become more proactive and effective in conducting Three-Sphere Planning and IGR and Co-operative Governance oversight.
- The NCOP will ensure the three spheres of government work together harmoniously to achieve cooperative governance and sound intergovernmental relations.
- The NCOP will institutionalize joint consultations, joint planning, and program planning by the three spheres of government, to achieve improved integration and synergy for improved policy implementation outcomes.
- NCOP will Undertake a rigorous oversight mapping approach (which will be actualized through the development of an ***Oversight Priority List for the NCOP*** and ***Supported by an NCOP Medium-Term Oversight Agenda***) delineating key developmental and transformative policy priorities, which must find sustained expression across all of the NCOP's deliberative oversight platforms over the medium term.

- Intends to assess the (a) spatial reach of development priorities across all provinces, metros, districts, and municipalities, including the (b) envisaged impact of identified policy priorities and accompanying legislative instruments.

- Importantly, through the Three-Sphere Planning sessions, the NCOP intends to ensure alignment of project planning among all three spheres of government and ensure effective oversight and operationalize the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM) to (i) prevent sectors from working in silos and (ii) to avoid duplication.

- The NCOP has a vital role to play in addressing (a) situations where planned projects were budgeted for, money was paid spent, but the projects never took off the ground, and (b) wasteful expenditure amounting to millions of rands of taxpayers' money, but communities did not benefit.

2. Towards an Articulation of NCOP Policy Priorities for the Seventh Dispensation – Hon. Ms. R.M. Mtshweni-Tsipane

Introduction

The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) opened the three-sphere planning session by articulating the constitutional mandate of the NCOP and the policy priority areas for the 7th administration. The Chairperson indicated that the NCOP is mandated to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government and thus must promote national unity through cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations across the three spheres of government.

Discussion of Presentation

2.1 Towards a more Interventionist and Proactive Policy Oversight Approach, to engender Intergovernmental and Cooperative Governance

The chairperson highlighted that delegates and leaders who are strategically occupying the three spheres of governance, were invited to participate in the mission of the NCOP to strategically reshape its Oversight Agenda, towards a more interventionist and proactive approach, thereby engendering intergovernmental and cooperative governance. The session would allow a re-articulation and re-constitution in Three-Sphere Coherence, in the planning, budgeting, and implementation of strategic and catalytic policy priorities for the 7th Administration.

The Chairperson further indicated that in the spirit of our Constitution, at its foundational moment, saw the NCOP as a necessary arm of state, that would facilitate national cohesion under its legislative framework, in ways that can guarantee Intergovernmental relations and cooperative governance. Its insistence was to underscore transformational innovation, to deepen democracy in the legislative and governance processes of the country.

In terms of the extent to which parliament has lived up to the spirit and expectations that underline the formation of the NCOP, the chairperson elaborated that the NCOP, in its unique position, must give effect to its constitutional mandate by articulating the strategic objectives of a transformative national agenda, to discontinue the history of oppression, domination, and exploitation.

2.2 Improved utilisation of the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and the District Development Model (DDM)

The chairperson highlighted that the strategic intent is to refashion our three spheres of government in ways that can deepen connection amongst each other. This will elevate the interrelatedness, interdependence, and mutuality that our Institutions share, to sharpen the capability of the state to drive the process of social change. It was further stated that there's a need to better utilise the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and the District Development Model (DDM), through the local sphere as a strategic site for implementation.

In terms of the NCOP operational context concerned, the Chairperson reiterated that the policy priorities driving the NCOP oversight mandate, shall accordingly focus on Inclusive growth and job creation, reduction of poverty and tackling the high cost of living, and building of a capable, ethical, and developmental state.

These priorities indicate that policies that advance inclusive economic growth, expansion of the labour market to create more jobs for the poor and marginalised, and the creation of a solid social protection base for the vulnerable, are among the most important areas towards building a developmental state.

To achieve these policy priorities; the NCOP would need to ensure that the capability of the state to plan, budget, implement, and develop growth catalysing priorities is enhanced.

Consequently, central to the Oversight agenda and political imperatives, as a necessity of this moment, is to gradually dismantle the colonial structures and designs, that set the scene of post-apartheid South Africa, as the most unequal economy in the world, which in effect enriched a minority by withholding economic opportunities and incomes for the majority.

The persistence of highly concentrated economic power is reinforced by continued inequalities in education, geographical location, infrastructure, and work organization. Therefore, there is a need for a paradigm shift across the Three spheres of government, to ensure that Three Sphere Planning Sessions are not merely serving as platforms for perpetual repetition without change.

2.3 Three Sphere Planning Session will Enable the NCOP to Delve Deeper into the imperatives and objectives of the IGR Framework Act, to Ensure Coherent Governance

Therefore, the NCOP through Three Sphere Planning, will advance the intended objectives of the developmental state focusing on policy priorities that catalyse the implementation of South Africa's transformation agenda. The Three Sphere Planning Session will also enable the NCOP to delve deeper into the imperatives and objectives of the IGR Framework Act, which include ensuring a coherent government, the effective provision of services, monitoring the implementation of policy and legislation, and realization of national priorities. Furthermore, the three-sphere planning will ensure the following:

- That Sector Parliaments play a dynamic role with better oversight tracking and impact assessment mechanisms.
- recommendations of Chapter 9 Institutions become standard items of the Executive, wherein parliament can meticulously track and oversee processes.
- Review the programme structure of Parliament to allow more time for plenaries, committees, and work performed in constituencies.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive three-sphere-planning IGR and CG Oversight framework and mechanism, to facilitate intergovernmental relations and cooperation.

Within this context, the NCOP is well positioned to ensure that each level of government can effectively execute its functions, while minimizing duplication of efforts and potential losses. This will be achieved through targeted and regular Three-Sphere Intergovernmental Relations and Corporate Governance oversight, by conducting oversight over critical Intergovernmental relations structures across the three spheres, which facilitate sustained three-sphere engagement, towards joint and integrated planning and the implementation of key development priorities. Equally, these will serve as a mechanism to enable the effective operationalization of the District Development Model.

2.4 Identification of Key Issues for Oversight and Collaboration

- The questions addressed to the house gave credence towards forward thinking as follows:

  To what extent has the institution fulfilled its constitutional obligations? Has the NCOP been sufficiently utilised as a strategic platform to rectify the injustices of South Africa's past? Has the NCOP widened its interpretation of its IGR and Cooperative Governance Constitutional mandate, to include proactive oversight over the effective functioning of critical IGR and Cooperative Governance structures, systems and mechanisms of the state?

2.5 Response to the overarching Questions Posed

- The NCOP to play a more proactive oversight role in assessing the functionality, efficacy and effectiveness of three-sphere IGR and Cooperative Governance structures of the state
- The NCOP to ensure, through proactive oversight, that the three spheres of government coherently prioritize development catalysing and transformative policy priorities, to ensure a concerted approach in implementing South Africa's development agenda
- Joint consultation, joint planning, three-sphere coordinated implementation and policy formulation were urged.
- The District Development Model was highlighted as vital for local-level implementation.
- The NCOP is urged to gradually dismantle the colonial structures and designs contributing to the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities.
- The perception presented is that not enough has been done to bring about change and equality.
- The NCOP is urged to monitor the implementation of policies and legislation and test the efficacy of legislation passed by Parliament (including impact assessments). This would be done in accordance with the NCOP's constitutional mandate of IGR and Cooperative Governance, to facilitate three-sphere cohesion in the implementation of transformative priorities
- In addition, the NCOP is to consider minimising duplication between the three spheres by overseeing the implementation of key development priorities.

3. OVERARCHING ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PLANNING SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS, GEARED TOWARDS ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S KEY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES – HON MS M. RAMOKGOPA, MP

3.1 Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment Systems

- Planning waves and transitions since the adoption of the NDP
- Interventions to address three-sphere planning disjunctures
- Interventions in place to address misalignment in government planning cycles
- Interventions to ensure that government plans, performance objectives and budgets (short and medium-term, across the three spheres of government and sectors) are aligned to the overall objectives of the NDP
- Interventions to accelerate the overall implementation of the NDP
- Provide a Detailed Report on the Efficacy and Impact of Key Planning Policies and Legislation, including Proposed Planning Legislation, towards Improved Implementation Outcomes of the NDP

Introduction

The government has undertaken several planning reforms since the dawn of democracy to support better coordination and towards the realization of developmental goals. To further articulate, the discussion involved an overview of the planning system towards the implementation of the development goals of the NDP.

3.2 The Four Waves of Planning in South Africa

Since 1994 there have been four waves of planning in South Africa, namely:

(i) Setting the foundation of planning
(ii) Driving coordination and intergovernmental relations (IGR)
(iii) Planning, monitoring, and evaluation at the center of government
(iv) Advancing the institutionalization of planning.

The four waves reflect the major strides towards the institutionalization of planning in South Africa and provide insight on how to better support integrated planning of the 7th Democratic Administration of Government and beyond.

3.3 Diagnostic Study on the state of national and provincial government planning

To better understand the landscape in 2022, the Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DPME), undertook a diagnostic study on the state of national and provincial government planning, which highlighted areas where the government had made progress in institutionalizing planning; and identified several challenges that remain, including the need to improve alignment across long-, medium- and short-term plans.

To ensure priorities are cascaded into Developmental Plans and intergovernmental coordination across the three spheres of government, these need to be improved to enable improved integrated planning.

3.4 The District Development Model

The District Development Model (DDM) seeks to address these key challenges. The National Planning Commission (NPC) has proposed the development of master plans for District Models (DMs), for better coordination and implementation outcomes.

In September 2022, Cabinet approved the Policy Framework for Integrated Planning to align key components of the reforms process towards improved harmonization and optimization of different planning instruments towards developing results. DPME plays a key role in managing the overall framework and improving alignment across medium- and short-term planning through its oversight and institutional planning.

DPME undertakes annual assessments of departmental Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans in November each year, which identifies gaps and makes recommendations to departments on areas to improve the alignment of medium-term priorities.

To improve collaboration and coordination at the center of government and with provinces and local government, the DPME has introduced the National Steering Committee on Integrated Planning which includes representatives from the provincial offices of Premiers and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

As indication of progress made, the Deputy Mayor of Mangaung City has been given the responsibility of dealing with the issues of implementing performance and ensuring that she monitors and evaluates the performance of her municipality. The municipality is commended

for giving this responsibility to a politician to work together with officials to ensure that whatever they do in their Integrated Development Plan (IDP) will also be informed by this step. All other municipalities, especially the metros, are implored to adopt a similar model to ensure political accountability and to ensure that the performance of all the institutions is cascaded down to all municipalities, deepening accountability at the highest level of municipalities.

3.5 Implementing the Public Service Professionalization Framework

As part of the broader Provincial Professionalization Framework, the DPME is focusing on improving planning functions and skills within government and is currently working with the National School of Government on planning-related training. It is also undertaking an evaluation of the Theory of Change which is vital for results-based planning, as well as exploring the use of new technologies in support of planning, monitoring, and evaluation through an NDP data hub to leverage business intelligence tools and artificial intelligence for analysis of government development performance.

It was noted that four waves of development goals were undertaken since 1994. These four waves represent major strides on how to better support better-coordinated support between the three spheres of government. In addition, the National Steering Committee on Integrated Planning has been introduced to support monitoring and evaluation. It was highlighted that planning and evaluated related training was and is provided and continuously explored to advance the capacity of the state.

3.6 NDP Remains as the long-term vision to guide planning, monitoring, and evaluation

The NDP was noted as remaining the long-term vision to guide planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Furthermore, the National Planning Commission continues to play an important role in identifying key aspects to include during national government's planning processes. The Local Government Improvement Model is called upon to assist with improving local government service delivery. The Draft MTDP was also highlighted as key, once passed by cabinet, to build on national priorities.

3.7 Identification of Key Issues for Oversight and Collaboration

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 remains the loadstar and long-term country vision to reduce poverty, inequality, and unemployment. The NDP goals will be aligned with the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) (previously called the Medium-Term Strategic Framework), to set out the priorities for the medium-term priority of the 7th Administration.

The Cabinet Lekgotla has agreed to a minimum program of priorities and the President has further announced the three strategic priorities of the 7th Administration at the Opening of Parliament Address, as delivered on the 18th of July 2024. The MTDP will provide the details for these three strategic priorities, including their supporting targets.

The National Planning Commission (NPC) has identified key areas that should be incorporated into the government planning processes, which includes consultation with the state, business, labour, and civil society.

Ongoing collaboration will be required by the National Treasury to improve alignment of planning within the budget process, and departments must also ensure that their programs and budgets are aligned in their Annual Performance Plan (APP) to support alignment between performance objectives and their budget allocations.

Once the MDP is approved, the DPME will develop the Budget Prioritisation Framework.
As an annual input that draws on key government plans, priorities, and commitments relevant for the upcoming cycle and brings forth the national budget process for deliberation, Government must work together to improve coordination through the District Development Model.

The DPME, Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs will continue to collaborate to improve coordination and implementation of the DDM model and will play an oversight role over the DDM process that will monitor the performance of local government through the Local Government Management Improvement Model.

The country's planning system has evolved over the past 30 years of South Africa's democracy and is now focusing on improving integrated and results-based planning.
The draft Medium-Term Development Plan of 2024 to 2029 (MDP) will build on the goals of the NDP and the program of priorities of the Government of National Unity (GNU) to ensure that we are in an even better position to meet South Africa's development goal.

The MDP should now also be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda 2063. We are also being able to account to the UN regarding South Africa's contribution to global developmental goals.

There is a need to improve alignment between long-, medium- and short-term plans formulated by the three spheres of government. (It is noted that the DDM seeks to address these challenges)

Recommendation that the Master Plans must be established for DDMs to allow for monitoring of DDM's efficacy in meeting the needs of communities

4. POVERTY AND INEQUALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA – STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

Introduction

The work of Statistics South Africa was introduced, as guided by the five thematic areas listed below:

- Dimensions and Dynamics of Poverty and Inequality in South Africa
- Key Drivers of Poverty and Inequality in SA
- Who are the Poorest and Most Vulnerable in SA and Where do they Reside?
- Why South Africa is Characterised as the Most Unequal Society in the World
- Labour Market Dynamics and Poverty

Discussion of Presentation

Statistics South Africa provided an overview of the dimensions and dynamics of poverty and inequality in South Africa. The presentations highlighted the key drivers of poverty and Inequality in South Africa; labour market dynamics and poverty; who are the poorest and most vulnerable in SA and Where they reside; and reasons why South Africa is characterized as the most Unequal Society in the world.

4.1 The greatest drivers of poverty in South Africa in order from the highest to the lowest:

- Unemployment
- Years of Schooling
- Poor sanitation
- Assets
- Energy for heating
- Water
- Energy for cooking
- Energy for lighting
- Type of dwelling
- School attendance
- Child mortality

4.2 Income and inequality

- It was stated that poverty and inequality can be regarded as pervasive, cyclical and multi-general in some instances
- Stats SA emphasised how deprived South African households are in terms of poverty drivers (adults present in a house, unemployment, years of schooling access to lighting, heating, water, flushed toilets, access to transport, school attendance, and child mortality).
- In addition, Stats SA evaluates the efficacy of government initiatives in overcoming poverty drivers. It was noted that poverty is still high in provinces previously identified as homelands (high levels of poverty in rural areas of SA).
- It was emphasised that the gap between White, Indian, Coloured, and Black Africans as indicated by the Median income is too much.

4.3 Defining who the poor in South Africa are

- Female-headed households remain more impoverished as compared to male-headed households.
- Unemployment is positively related to poverty – unemployed people display extremely high levels of poverty.

- Education and employment remain important tools in the fight against poverty, little or no education and unemployment displayed significantly higher levels of poverty.
- On average female-headed households are deprived of more indicators than male-headed households.

4.4 Areas with the poorest municipalities

Locations of the top 10 poorest municipalities in South Africa by headcount (2016) were listed as follows:

I. Intsika yethu = 28%
II. Msinga = 25%
III. Umzimvubu = 24%
IV. Port St. Johns = 23%
V. Engcobo = 23%
VI. Ntabankulu = 23%
VII. Mbizana = 23%
VIII. Umhlabuyalingana = 23%
IX. Emalahleni = 23%
X. Ngquza Hill = 22%

4.5 Identification of key Priorities for Oversight and Collaboration

- It is recommended to explore SAMPI. SAMPI helps to evaluate the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies implemented. (Stats SA evaluates the efficacy of government initiatives in overcoming poverty drivers).
- The legacy of apartheid is still the key cause why South Africa is characterised as the most unequal society in the world.
- StatsSA release the following linked to the poverty levels of South Africa: Household Income and Expenditure Statistics, the Poverty Trends Report, Inequality Report, Child MODA, Youth MPI, SAMPI, and others. It is recommended to engage with these once released.

5. PRESENTATIONS BY THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The National Planning Commission, which is responsible for advising cabinet on key development priorities for implementation by government, articulated, its contribution to discussions, under the below listed sub-themes:

- Unpacking South Africa's Overarching Developmental Landscape 1994 to 2030.
- The Imperatives of Strategic Policy Prioritization, for the Accelerated implementation of the NDP Over the Medium Term:
- Drivers of Change and Demographic In SA Trends
- Government's Performance in Implementing the NDP (Ten-Year Review Perspectives – Opportunities and Threats to realizing South Africa's Transformation Agenda)
- Delineation of Key Policy and Transformation Priorities for Targeted Oversight Over the Medium-Term *(National Planning Commission Guidance provided to All Line Departments)*

  (Equipping NCOP Committees to formulate targeted policy priorities and oversight programmes, as guided by emerging trends on South Africa's development landscape and informed by development catalyzing priorities of the NDP)

5.1 The Important Role Played by the NCOP Towards Building a Capable and Ethical Developmental State

The National Planning Commission under the priority of building a capable, ethical, and developmental state, particularly as one of the priorities mentioned during the 2024 State of Nation Address (SONA), postulates the important role to be played by the NCOP as empowered by its constitutional mandate, in ensuring:

- Executive accountability
- Overseeing the implementation of the professionalisation of the public sector
- The Institutionalisation of integrated planning approach
- Improvement of coordination of delivery within the state
- Digital transformation and modernised processes for improved service delivery.

5.2 NDP Targets

- Quality healthcare for all
- Improving the quality of education, training, and innovation
- Reversing the spatial effects of apartheid
- An economy that will create more jobs
- Transition to a low-carbon economy
- An inclusive and integrated rural economy
- Social protection
- Building safer communities
- Reforming the public service

5.3 The 2020 NDP Ten Year Review Report Findings revealed the following salient issues

Overarching Problem Statement:

Since the adoption of the NDP in 2012, progress towards achieving the plan's main goals has been slow. The NDP review shows that while important achievements have been attained and headway made on key aspects of the NDP's policy goals and projections, such as education, health, social protection and the social wage, the required changes are slow and lack the desired impact. Economic growth has been spiraling downwards, investment restrained, employment stagnant, and poverty and inequality consequently remaining deeply entrenched.

The economic, social and spatial legacy of apartheid continues to undermine both South Africa's competitiveness and the potential and capabilities of its people, depriving South Africa of the skills it needs to build an inclusive economy, geared towards addressing the social ills faced by many South Africans.

Economic growth had been stagnant in general and the South African economy has remained in a recession terrain for an extended period of time. Income poverty has also been rising since 2015. 19.4 million have been living in poverty, with the impact of poverty disproportionately affecting South Africans based on race and gender. Research findings indicate that SA remains characterised as the most unequal society in the world with incomes that are highly polarised. Wealth inequality is much larger than consumption expenditure inequality. Unemployment has increased to 32.9%, with 8.0 million unemployed and about 3.6 million discouraged job seekers. Lack of energy security, and particularly a reliable electricity

supply, is widely recognised as a major obstacle to economic growth, which requires sustainable and long-term solutions to address South Africa's developmental challenges.

The government's initiatives are piecemeal, under-resourced, and without demonstrable impact. Trust in nearly all institutions is low and declining. Spatial policy reform is noted as being inadequate as the majority are located far from employment opportunities, emphasizing an inadequate approach to human settlements and economic transformation. In addition, despite government measures, crime remains, including gender-based violence and femicide. *Existing challenges are further exacerbated by the slow implementation of key transformation programmes.*

5.4 NDP Implementation Challenges

The NPC's Review of the country's performance on NDP goals has identified various implementation challenges, including the following:

- Key prerequisites for effective implementation of the Plan have not been met, such as focused leadership;
- The NDP has not been effectively endorsed as a Plan for all, not just government;
- Institutional capability; resource mobilization; agreement on trade-offs; as well as a strategic social compact on how to tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality were found to be lacking and or inadequate;
- A key challenge also involves government's inability to translate public policy and high-level aspirations into actual implementable plans;
- Implementation has also been impacted by corruption; institutional instability and political interference in administration, including challenges involving the ineffective coordination and citizens' engagement. To this end, there is a need for the capacity of the state to be overhauled and strengthened, so as to deliver on its transformative constitutional mandate.
- Over the Years, service delivery has worsened, and coupled with the economy's labour market difficulties, has negatively affected the delivery of the social wage to the poorest households
    - Unemployment has been on the rise
    - Spatial inequality challenges persist

It was emphasized that taking decisive action against:

- Economic crimes such as theft, infrastructure vandalism, construction sector extortion, and illegal mining are vital component towards advancing policy implementation.

Additional Challenges highted for prioritization included:

- Addressing logistics issues and licensing bottlenecks to unlock the mining industry's potential.

It was further noted that addressing:

- Financing challenges, land reform, logistical constraints, and irrigation rights to unlock the agriculture sector's potential is also vital.

5.5 The NPC Initiated Reforms with Multiplier Effects

The NPC initiated a process of identifying key proposals that will have multiplier effects based on the following three criteria

- Reforms that will accelerate the developmental objectives of the NDP
- Reforms that are capable of execution within the medium-term
- Reforms that will have the most significant impact, taking into account data and evidence, as well as input from business, labour, and civil society consultations

6. Committee specific Recommendations

6.1 Select Committee on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture

NDP CHAPTER 9: EDUCATION

6.2. Improve the coordination of Early Childhood Development and rapidly scale registration of ECD facilities:

- Strengthen cross-department and inter-governmental coordination from conception through a single cross-departmental outcome for Early Childhood Development (ECD) with department-specific indicators.
- Implement reforms to modernize management systems and reduce red tape for the mass registration of ECD facilities, targeting registration of 35 000 programmes in the midterm and 40 0000 by 2029.

6.3 Improve planning for successful Basic Education

- The systemic inequalities and contextual constraints that undermine early reading and mathematics performance must be addressed through a planning process involving all spheres of government and should be regularly monitored to implement the appropriate corrective action.

- Data to ensure the inclusion of all learners with a disability should collected and published for planning purposes.

- The “3-stream” model that introduces vocational and occupational streams from Grade 10 should not proceed without a socio-economic impact assessment, consideration of the cost implications for duplicating education and training provided by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the GTAC costing of the model, and research examining implementation challenges. This should be followed by publishing a policy document for comment.

6.4 Revise goals and targets for Post School Education and Training

- The sectors of potential growth and the skills-absorbing capacity of the economy should be assessed to address the current skill employment opportunities. The relationship between building skills for economic participation and youth unemployment must be considered.

- There should be a focus on the broader system goals and objectives rather than a fragmented focus on individual targets.

- A smaller, high-quality, responsive and agile TVET system, which supports the needs of the economy and leads to employment opportunities, should be created.

- Goals and targets must align with the medium-term fiscal programme and build on work done by DHET and NT. Strategic plans should then be aligned with the revised targets.

- There should be realistic plans to grow the size, quality, and credibility of community colleges as a mechanism for NEET youth to have access to skills

training, as well as providing 'second chance' education. This could be linked to district development plans.

- The efficacy of the skills planning and provisioning system should be improved so that providers are empowered to adapt skills and training to suit workplace requirements and that skills levies are provided directly to institutions to allow employment sectors to ensure that skills training meets the industry requirements.

- Affordable broadband to make education more accessible across all socio-economic dimensions

NDP CHAPTER 15: TRANSFORMING SOCIETY & UNITING THE COUNTRY

6.6. Oversee Implementation of the National Strategy for Social Cohesion crafted by DSAC and adopted by the Cabinet

- A consolidated and coherent programme to promote constitutional values and combat the root causes of distrust, lack of respect, and conflict within our society delivered at the local level through partners including civil society, business and local government.

- An audit of existing government, private sector and civil society interventions that respond to the threats to social cohesion, and research how these policies could be modified to effectively support social cohesion.

- Ongoing research into the root causes of conflict, intolerance, mistrust, lack of respect, and weak participation within society, an assessment of effective countervailing strategies.

6.7 Social Cohesion Framework

- Inequality (perceived disparities within and across groups – economic, social, political and cultural)

- Trust (levels of trust in institutions and among individuals).

- Identity (shared sense of identity and belonging).

6.8 Regular Public Accounting on the State of Social Cohesion by monitoring

- Equality and social inclusion (assessing inclusivity and equal opportunities).
- Social and institutional trust (gauging trust in institutions and social networks).
- Measures of shared identity (understanding common identity and belonging).

6.9 Civics Education

- The rate of participation in community processes such as the IDP and ward committees
- Improved voter turnout statistics

6.10 National Youth Service

- Reduction in the number of NEETs
- Improved capacity of the civil sector with an increase in compliant PBOs registered with DSD.

- Involve Chapter 9 institutions and leaders in business, labour, and civil society in the Social Cohesion Framework proposed by the NPC
- Advance reforms that reinforce social cohesion in communities
- Develop and implement a civics education curriculum

7. Select Committee on Social Services

NDP CHAPTER 11: SOCIAL PROTECTION

7.1 Strengthen financial support for targeted groups in line with cost-of living increases and Widen coverage as part of a comprehensive approach to social assistance

- Increase the amount of the Child Support Grant (CSG) to R760, in line with the 2024 Food Poverty Line (FPL) and ensure that the annual increases keep abreast
- with the projected inflation for subsequent years.

- Increase old age and disability grants in line with inflation and cost-of-living increases.

- Improve disability baseline statistics and, using this, increase the coverage of the Disability Grant by addressing challenges in the assessment system.

- Introduce a pregnancy grant (during the second trimester) for support in the first 1000 days.

7.3 Widen coverage as part of a comprehensive approach to social assistance

- Address the exclusion errors and challenges related to stigma, inadequate data, and the application of policy.
- Improve the interdepartmental coordination by linking data systems to create interoperability and a common digital identifier, between the Departments of Health, Social Development, Employment and Labour, Home Affairs and the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), including for the timeous issuing of birth certificates, and identity documents to access social grants.
- Complete the coverage of South Africa's comprehensive social protection approach (inclusive of social security and social assistance) by funding and incrementally enhancing the SRD grant. Use this combined with other grants to reach the FPL and target the Upper Bound FPL of R1500 as the long-term goal. This should build on work already done, including that of the Taylor Commission (2002) and the Expert Panel on Basic Income Support (2023), and address repeated calls for guaranteed minimum income support to reduce food insecurity and eliminate extreme poverty.

7.4 Strengthen developmental social services infrastructure

- Improve the efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness of the services provided through progressively modernising social services management and operating systems.
- Focus on greater coordination of social protection systems through adopting and monitoring a social protection index.
- Train and employ the social service professionals required to deliver the services.

- Fix the functioning of the Unemployment Insurance Fund and Compensation for Occupational Illnesses and Diseases systems so that benefits can be claimed.

7.5 Strengthen Social Wage Delivery

- Improve the efficiency and quality of local indigent policy to increase access to clean water.

NDP CHAPTER 10: HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

7.6 Promoting Health - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

- Reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio to fewer than 100 deaths per 100 000 Live births.
- Reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by accelerating government, social partners and other related interventions that reduce the burden of disease and strengthen the health system. The proposed acceleration efforts will further assist in reaching the SDG target of less than 70 per 100 000 live births in 2030.

7.7 Reduce NCDs related deaths by one third

- The national Department of Health (DoH), key stakeholders, and implementing partners must accelerate the implementation of the goals and objectives of the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, 2022 –2027.
- This implementation acceleration process must apply an innovative, cascadin approach to address the NCD health problem, specifically the burden of hypertension and diabetes including lessons from the HIV and TB programmes and their 90-90-90 strategy.
- Funding for the programme should be increased including through blended funding with nongovernment actors, such as the one used to combat HIV and TB.

7.8 The acceleration and funding processes must prioritise the following strategic objectives

- (Review and mobilise sustainable resources and partnerships to support the delivery of NCD+ activities),
- (Provide quality and affordable NCD+ services), (Establish a platform to engage academic, research and other institutions, as well as civil society, on an appropriate national research agenda), and (Strengthen capacity for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on key NCD+ indicators for reporting at global and local levels).

7.9 Improve Primary Health Care facilities, management and staffing

- The DoH should accelerate the process to acquire and strengthen the maintenance of Ideal Clinic status by PHC facilities so that the target of 100% can be maintained by 2026.

- The DoH should address the financial management of the ICRM programme by identifying and addressing limitations so that 100% is utilised by 2025.

- The DoH should accelerate the implementation of the electronic Health Patient Registration System by modernising management processes and moving all health facilities from paper based to electronic filing by 2026 through the allocation of increased funding and other related resources to reduce waiting times and improve access to healthcare by patients at any primary healthcare facility in the country.

8. Select Committee on Public Infrastructure

NDP CHAPTER 4: ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

8.1 Rapidly scale blended funding of infrastructure

- Aggregate capital and more effectively blend public and private sector funding of infrastructure over the next decade to achieve the NDP goal of fixed capital formation of 30%. Institutions such as the Infrastructure Fund, the newly-created Water Agency and TCTA are examples of the available institutional capacity that should be supported so that they contribute to the infrastructure investment goal of NIP 2050, which is R5 trillion by 2050, or R200 billion per annum for the next five years.

- Develop a 'whole systems' approach to the financial ecosystem that will identify the most impactful balance sheet reconfigurations to unlock Rapidly scale blended financing of infrastructure infrastructure investments.
- National Treasury (NT) should finalise the revision of the PPP framework to enable the upscaling of blended finance solutions.

- Persuade the GEPF/PIC to purposively and aggressively invest in South Africa's infrastructure programmes in addition to its current exposure (it holds a large chunk of Eskom debt) so that they prioritise energy, water, digital and logistics.

- Implement the decision to shift the prudential authority of the DBSA from the NT to the South African Reserve Bank so that the DBSA could gain greater access to capital markets that may, in turn, allow it to substantially increase the funding available for infrastructure.

8.2 Prioritize the implementation of the Energy Action Plan and the Transmission Development Plan and revision of the Integrated Resource Plan 2023

- Implement the Energy Action Plan (EAP) and Eskom's Transmission Development Plan (TDP) to end loadshedding by early 2025, ensure energy security for all by 2030, and net zero by 2050. This will require a total investment in new generation and transmission grid extension averaging R150 billion per annum from public and private sources and deploying the $8.5 billion made available by the International Partners Groups, most of which is earmarked for investment in the transmission grid.

- The draft Integrated Resource Plan 2023 (IRP 2023), which is inconsistent with the EAP, TDP, NIP2050 and Nationally Determined Contribution and has been questioned by investors, should be revised through the current public consultation process to address the contradiction of its recommendation that South Africa shift its dependence on coal to gas even though South Africa has no significant gas resources.

- Review of the efficacy of the constitutionally mandated authority that local government to provide electricity. In the absence of a constitutional amendment, this will require restructuring the distribution system and setting up the current Eskom Distribution Division as a separate entity (like NTC) and interfacing it with municipal distribution systems, which should be restructured and, possibly, refinanced. This will also require

systemic interventions to ensure far more effective mechanisms of municipal debt collection.

8.3 Increase public and private sector investments in the water sector

- A sustainable approach to water management should be implemented as this is the lowest cost option, requiring a total investment of R215 billion per annum. This is R50 billion cheaper than business-as-usual (which ignores climate change), but R75 billion more than the total current levels of public and private sector investment.

- The Water Agency should be mandated to blend funding allocations from the national budget, with private sector investments in the water sector. This should be guided by the NIP 2050 approach of leveraging private funding on a 1:10 ratio.

- An implementable and well financed infrastructure strategy should be developed to support local governments to manage the municipal water grids and focus on gradually reducing non-revenue water levels.

8.4 Implement the Freight Logistics Roadmap and consider reforms for passenger transport

- The Freight Logistics Roadmap, produced by the National Logistics Crisis Committee, should be implemented. This includes improving operations and rolling stock by repairing broken locomotives through agreements with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to ensure a supply of spares, or by appointing a step-in OEM. Expanding and sustaining operations will require capital investment of around R500 million per annum, according to NIP 2050.

- Collaboration with law enforcement agencies should ensure the security and safety of the rail network.

- Commence development of a Passenger Transport Roadmap by no later than 2026.

8.5 Implement the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on 4IR

- The commercial benefits and costs of broadband infrastructure and the over-the-top audio, video and other media content services that rely on broadband network infrastructure must be investigated so that they can be better regulated.

- Amendments to the Electronic Communications Act should result in fit-for-purpose policy and regulatory reforms that are more dynamic. This should reinforce the respective roles of policy-makers to foster innovation, competition and investment, the regulator to implement and enforce policies, and the industry to enhance investments.

- Network infrastructure should be protected from vandalism and criminal actions by collaborating with law enforcement agencies to target hot spots and improve response times, having tougher sentences, and designating ICT infrastructure as critical infrastructure of national significance.

- Access to devices should be expanded by recognising them as essential, rather than luxury goods. Consideration should be given to removing the 15% luxury tax, 7% duty and 15% VAT taxes, which increase costs and ensuring a non-disruptive switching off of 2G and 3G networks so that specific indigent groups are not subjected to higher costs and diminished access.

8.6 Enhance local government capacity for infrastructure management, development, maintenance and renewal

- Local government's capacity for managing existing and constructing new infrastructure should be substantially enhanced by identifying what works to obtain clean audits or which score highly on compliance indicators such as the Governance Performance Index (GPI).

- The debt-forgiveness mechanism, proposed by NT, should be implemented so that incremental debt forgiveness is linked to institution-building strategies over a set period that address the governance, and technical weaknesses of local governments could yield better outcomes over the long run.

- Key national institutions that work with local governments (COGTA, SALGA, DBSA, NT and banks) need to collaborate to develop a national strategy for fixing local government finance systems through stakeholder engagement and supported by professional staff through an incremental approach.

- A deliberate strategy to enlist the private sector to provide capital and skills to improve local government capacity should be designed and implemented.

9. Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration

NDP CHAPTER 8: TRANSFORMING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
9.1 Prioritise and strengthen integrated and coordinated planning and infrastructure development

- Use the intergovernmental structures, outlined in the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, and programmes such as the District Development Model (DDM), to coordinate and align spatial, temporal, and financial planning between departments and entities working on the built environment to improve infrastructure provision across government.

- The DDM should be guided by the Municipal Systems Act, Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, and newly gazetted DDM regulations.

9.2 Enhancing spatial planning and alignment

- Finalise the location of the spatial planning function in a national department that has the capacity and authority to manage spatial development across sectors and spheres.

- Enhance skills and capacity for developmental and spatial planning across all spheres of government, focusing on local government and aligning sectoral initiatives with the NSDF.

- Implement national spatial action as indicated in the NSDF by focusing on transformation and economic transition in the eastern escarpment, northwestern and coastal areas. This will require consolidating development in fully-fledged and transformed national urban regions and nodes, creating strong connections between different notes, new connections such as the N2- extension, and strengthening existing connections.

- Provide municipalities with greater support to ensure that their IDPs and SDFs actively implement the aims of the NDP.

- Ensure greater spatial alignment between the various sectoral plans, including the National Infrastructure Plan and masterplans.

- Address municipal land use and zoning constraints, which prevent the integration and densification of urban areas to allow a greater mix of land uses, such as having small businesses in residential and township areas.

9.3 Targeted investment and infrastructure development for rural and urban areas

- Use the NSDF and Census data to guide investment in rural areas so that it addresses the lack of infrastructure, particularly in the former 'homelands', which were purposely under-developed during apartheid. Implement national urban spatial transformation and economic transition, as outlined in the NSDF, in regions such as KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and greater Cape Town, as the regions with the bulk of economic activities and job opportunities. Action plans should include integrated and targeted government investment to support a more compact, sustainable urban form and a focus on the impact of climate change, adaptation, and disaster management, among others.

- Improve investment in transport and connective infrastructure to enhance linkages between and within urban and rural areas, with mechanisms to ensure maintenance and upgrades. In urban areas, transport services and infrastructure should be focused on reducing commuting costs for low-income households and promoting spatial integration. This will require improved intergovernmental coordination and alignment of transport, human settlements, and land use planning.

- Implement national spatial action areas as indicated in the NSDF by managing competing and incompatible land uses as a focus on national resource risk areas, e.g. mining, agriculture, and ecotourism.

- Prioritise natural resource management by, amongst others, introducing far more stringent protection and wise management of the country's scarce natural resources, including high-potential agricultural land.

9.4 Human Settlements and infrastructure alignment

- Renew the focus on the implementation of the Integrated Urban Development Framework(IUDF).

- Shift the housing focus from providing top structures to facilitating diverse housing opportunities, prioritising rental, social housing, and rent-to-own options.

- Improve tenure security, without only focussing on ownership options.

- Ensure that the location of new housing opportunities is aligned with the provision of adequate basic and social services, and transport infrastructure.

- Manage and mitigate the impacts of dense human settlements and intense economic activity on national water resources. The NSDF identifies the repurposing of industrial and mining land in the Central Innovation Belt around Gauteng to support economic growth and diversification. Provide greater support and advice to owner-builders and smalls-cale builders that allow for, and support, the construction of safe, climate-responsive and cost effective structures.

9.5 Transforming Human Settlements and the National Space Economy at a Glance
The following improvements were identified

- Reforming the national spatial a developmental planning system to ensure greater integration across spatial, transport, infrastructure, and environmental planning. Improving coordination between the national, provincial, and local spheres of government.

- Improving spatial governance by aligning Integrated Development Plans to the NDP and the IUDF and ensuring greater public participation in planning processes.

- Improving the availability and use of spatial and developmental data to support decision-making.

- Addressing spatial and living standard disparities between urban and rural areas. Improving living conditions for the indigent and most socio-economically excluded.

- Promoting efficient land use through increased density.

- Advance infrastructure investment to lower living costs for low income households and reduce business costs.

- In rural areas, targeted service delivery, land reform, and the development of green economies.

- Urban development should integrate the indigent through transport infrastructure investments, upgrade informal settlements, and ensure low-income communities have access to quality living environments and services.

NDP CHAPTER 13: A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

9.6 Professionalisation of the Public Sector

- Finalise and sign the Public Service Amendment Bill, Public Administration Amendment Bill, and the Public Service Commission Amendment Bill into law so that the professionalisation of the public sector as envisaged in the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector can be institutionalised. This will require a regulatory framework for implementation by the Department of Public Service and Administration and guidelines by the Public Service Commission.

- Stabilise the politicaladministrative interface in all the spheres of governance by separating decision-making, giving the head of the public service full legislative powers to manage career incidents of the DGs, providing security of tenure for DGs and senior management, and implementing merit-based appointments and a performance management system that encourages innovation. Such systems must be linked to impact rather than simply outputs.

- Reduce the number of vacancies and acting arrangements in senior and key technical positions.

- Implement the work of the Presidential State-Owned Enterprises Council along with the recommendations of the Zondo Commission about turning around SOEs. Improve human resource management practices, including adopting a national capability building implementation programme to improve performance and accountability in strategic state institutions.

- Ensure stable leadership at SOEs through transparent merit-based appointment processes and functioning independent boards with the right skill set.

- Finalise and adopt the National Enterprise Bill to professionalise SOE boards and increase transparency of appointments based on merit and a transparent recruitment system.

- Build state capacity with urgent attention to the local sphere for improved service delivery and better governance through merit driven appointments, immediate filling of posts, and zero vacancies for people in the positions of municipal managers and Section 57 managers, including that of the chief financial officer. This requires continuous professional development.

- Promote cooperation and collaboration among state institutions and with private sector stakeholders.

9.7 Institutionalization of integrated planning approach and improving coordination of delivery within the state

- Expedite the finalisation of the National Development Planning Framework Bill to provide a legislative framework for integrated planning within the state.

- Reconfigure the macroorganisation of the state to institutionalise the whole-of government approach and to facilitate a shared function or joint-outcomes framework so that different ministries, public administrations, and public agencies collaborate on programmes, projects or activities.
- Institutionalise relational governance - improved trust and confidence - as an approach to state reconstruction and building institutional capabilities through mobilising the strategic sectors of society (labour, business and communities) for the public good.

- Mobilise resources for the National Planning Commission to develop and finalise the next long term plan for the country - NDP 2050.

9.8 Digital transformation and modernized processes for improved service delivery

- Ensure coordination of digital transformation across relevant departments and entities to develop a roadmap and joint outcomes on shared infrastructure, data and digital identity, payments and interoperability.

- Enhance data integration to inform policy and improve the targeting of beneficiaries. Develop shared infrastructure for an integrated digital identity and payments system, interoperability of the state, and the building of digital capacity within the state for improved service delivery.

- Adopt modern and streamlined management methods. Build capabilities within the state through the National School of Government and establish a dedicated modernisation delivery unit that uses evidence-based policy-making, measurement of inputs and outputs, business process re-engineering, and continuous efforts to improve performance.

9.9 In the advance to Build a Capable and Developmental State to Drive the country's development, the following Key actions have been identified

- Stabilising the political-administrative interface.
- Making public service and local government careers of choice.
- Developing technical and specialist professional skills.
- Strengthening delegation, accountability, and oversight.
- Improving interdepartmental coordination.
- Improving relations between national, provincial, and local governments.
- Strengthening local government.
- Clarifying the governance of SOEs.
- Leveraging technology to optimise the state's effectiveness in to deliver the public good.

10. Select Committee on Security and Justice
NDP CHAPTER 12: BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES
10.1 Accelerated implementation of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS)

- The Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Inter-Ministerial Cluster and the JCPS Directors-General (DGs) Coordinating Committee should develop a common joint outcomes framework and lead the coordination of the implementation of the ICVPS across the relevant departments, with specific inclusion of community-based,

bottom-up interventions and the recapacitating of the police services (number of people and capacity).

- A detailed work plan (with clear and achievable targets), accompanying budget, and a monitoring and reporting mechanism to implement the ICVPS should be developed.

- Progress with implementing the ICVPS should be included in the performance agreements of the relevant ministers and DGs.

10.2 Accelerated implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide

- Implement the institutional arrangements and modalities envisaged in the Plan.

- A detailed work plan with clear and achievable targets, and accompanying budget, and a monitoring and reporting mechanism to implement the Plan should be developed.

10.3 Demilitarisation of the South African Police Service (SAPS)

- The SAPS should develop and implement a specific demilitarization strategy that gives effect to the recommendations in Chapter 12 of the NDP. Such demilitarisation should result in the SAPS becoming a more caring and human rights-centred police and professional organization that works with crime-affected communities to solve crime-related problems collaboratively.

10.4 Policing of firearms and ammunition

- As firearms are the leading weapon used in murders in South Africa particularly in collective violence (associated with gangs, extortion, and illegal mining), SAPS should prioritise actions that will result in the large-scale confiscation and destruction of illegal firearms and ammunition.

- As the diversion of legally held firearms by civilians (including private security companies) and government into the illegal sector is a significant problem, the SAPS administered firearm licensing processes should be strengthened, and more effective controls of firearm holdings at SAPS stations should be implemented.

NDP CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

10.5 Finalise the anti-corruption system structure

- Implement the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council's (NACAC) recommendations about institutionalising an effective anticorruption system by enhancing the existing ones and adequately resourcing it rather than creating new institutions.

- The strengthening of the anticorruption system must proceed with other critical public sector reforms, as referred to in Chapter 13 of the NDP. Attention must be given to managing disciplinary procedures in the public sector and promoting an ethical public service. The Public Service Commission and the Department of Public Service and Administration should work with NACAC on managing these.

- Publish the recommendations of NACAC to encourage accountability on interventions to combat corruption.

10.6 Restore anti-corruption ethics in the public service

- Accelerate the reform of South Africa's public administration by finalising and implementing the amendment to the Public Service Act. Implement the provision in Chapter 10 of the Constitution to develop national legislation to monitor and enforce the values and principles for public administration.

- Re-establish the powers of the Public Service Commission as an independent statutory body responsible for vetting and recommending senior appointments in government.
- Review the regulatory system governing discipline in the public sector and the management thereof.

10.7 Strengthen public procurement processes

- Expeditiously bring into effect and implement the recently signed **Public Procurement Act** to provide for a coherent national system of procurement regulations, create national oversight systems over procurement awards above a certain quantum and reduce opportunities for awards outside the existing regulatory and legislative framework.

- Establish an independent public procurement regulatory authority that may refer corruption and procurement fraud to relevant law and enforcement bodies.

- Modernise and digitise, with clear principles on open data and transparency, the **Office of Chief Procurement Officer** so that it can collect and make procurement data from across the country and at all tiers of government publicly available. Embed open contracting reforms throughout the full procurement cycle to strengthen anti-corruption measures.

- Introduce a coherent e-procurement system across all spheres of government, following the open contracting data standards through which the public can access public procurement tenders and awards. Protect whistleblowing about public procurement within the framework established by the Protected Disclosures Act by providing institutional capacity to drive these reforms.

- Make provision for a national anticorruption charter to be signed by all bidders on state contracts, as envisaged by the Zondo Commission.

10.8 Establish an investigating directorate against corruption

- Implement the NPA Amendment Act by creating the investigating directorate against corruption.

- Implement the State Capture Commission's recommendations.

In Chapter 14, the NDP observes that South Africa suffers from high levels of corruption that undermine the rule of law and hinder development and socioeconomic transformation. While it affects all South Africans, corruption weakens state institutions while 'rent-seeking' undermines the efficiency of markets. As the indigent pay the highest price for corruption, the NDP insists there be zero tolerance for corruption in South Africa. It proposes this can be achieved by empowering citizens with confidence and knowledge to hold public and private officials accountable and by building an effective anti-corruption system with well-resourced agencies to investigate cases and pursue culprits.

10.9 The NDP rests on four pillars concerning the elimination of corruption

- Building an anti-corruption system

- Strengthening the accountability of public servants, ensuring that they are responsible to the needs of citizens
- Creating an open, responsive and accountable procurement system.
- Strengthening judicial governance and the rule of law and ensuring the independence of judges and the courts.

11. SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE
NDP CHAPTER 3: ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT (NDP BASED PRIORITIES 2024 – 2029)
11.1 SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE WORK OPPORTUNITIES TARGETING THE YOUTH

- By mid-2025, develop and implement a common outcome-based framework across all spheres of government to coordinate and accelerate youthwork opportunities. Adopt a targeted approach focusing on labour-intensive, and future-facing sectors, involving the private sector and society.

- By mid-2026, review and strengthen public employment programmes, reframed as transitions into sustainable work opportunities.

11.2 Coordinate and build strategies for radically expanding economic participation and work opportunities for women

- By mid-2026, develop and implement a common outcome-based framework to coordinate and radically accelerate women's economic participation and work opportunities, including dealing with discriminatory workplace practices and regulatory frameworks.

- By mid-2026, review and strengthen public employment programmes into a common outcomes-based framework, reframed as transitions into sustainable work opportunities that deliberately include how to increase women's economic participation and citizenship.

11.4 Rapidly accelerate the growth of the formal and informal SMME sector -Develop a focused and coordinated plan and joint outcomes-based framework to create and support at least 5.8 million SMMEs

- Reduce red tape compliance burdens through business process enhancement and digitisation. This should be done through a coordinated and prioritized approach across government in strategic and high-impact areas such as registration for

underserviced early childhood development facilities, registration of agricultural products, applications for tour and e-hailing transport licences and liquor licences, as well as the processing of Unemployment Insurance Fund claims and VAT refunds.

- Initiate an official statistics series that improves data collection of formal and informal SMMEs to monitor progress and improve policy implementation.

- Introduce a R10 billion small business debt fund, with R2,5 billion first loss provision by government and R7,5 billion raised by the private sector for debt financing via non-bank financial institutions.

11.5 Enable future-facing, job-rich sectors

- Refocus sector masterplans and their implementation on highimpact sectors such as digital and global business services, tourism, and agriculture and agri-processing. Develop master plan specific strategies for exports and investment, demand-led skilling, and job creation that are informed and implemented through partnerships and collaboration between the state, business, and labour.

- Actively work with strategic sectors to unblock existing and emerging inhibitors in an agile and solutions orientated manner e.g. removing exploration challenges for mining, and biosecurity for agriculture. This will require capacitating sector desks in key departments such as the DTIC with staff that deeply understand how to unlock sector investment drivers.

11.6 Revitalise the process of economic policy development

- Regularly review economic policy in a collaborative process involving stakeholders to identify and support impactful intervention that will achieve the NDP's goals of inclusive growth and employment.

- Refresh industrial policy, focusing on export-led growth, including through the identification of priority sectors that will significantly contribute to growth and work opportunities

- Coordinate strategies for radically expanding economic participation and work opportunities for women.

Chapter 3 of the NDP focuses on rapidly growing the South African economy to reduce poverty and inequality by addressing the marginalised. The chapter addresses the vision of achieving full employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods to improve living standards and ensure a dignified existence for all South Africans by:

- Increasing the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2.7 times the 2010 level in real terms, with an average annual GDP growth of 5.4%.

- Raising GDP per capita from R64,000 per capita in 2010 (using 2015 prices) to R140,000 per capita in 2030

- Reducing the unemployment rate from 24.9% in 2012 to 6% by creating an additional 11 million jobs and increasing total employment from 13 million to 24 million.

- Increasing national savings from 16% of GDP to 25% and boosting the level of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) from 17% to 30% of GDP, with public sector fixed investment rising to 10% of GDP by 2030.

11.7 Critical Actions to Expand Economic Growth

- Reducing the cost of living for indigent households and costs of doing business

- through microeconomic reforms.

- Removing the most pressing constraints on growth, investment and job creation, including energy generation and distribution, and urban planning.

- Broadening the expanded public works programme to cover 2 million full-time equivalent jobs by 2020.

- Adopting a more open approach to immigration to expand the supply of high-level skills and enhance local skills development.

- Promoting employment in labour absorbing industries. The labour-absorbing growth of the economy was expected to eliminate income poverty with the share of the population living below the lower-bound poverty line (LBPL) declining to zero by 2030. This was also expected to reduce income inequality with the share of national

- income earned by the most marginalised 40 expected to increase from 6% to 10%, resulting in a decline in South Africa's Gini coefficient.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 3 of the NDP The Ten-Year Review of the NDP reports that the targets identified in Chapter 3 have not been achieved. Specifically:

- The economic growth rate has consistently diverged from the rates projected in the annual budget statements.

- Real GDP per capita has declined, averaging an annual growth rate of 0.99% during the period under review. GDP per capita fell from R80,191 in 2013 to R74,907 in 2021 (2015 prices), just over half of the target.

- Unemployment rose to 33.9%, deviating markedly from the NDP's job creation target, and is concentrated among the youth (15 - 34 years), where unemployment rate is currently over 45%.

- Investment levels have consistently missed the annual 30% of GDP target. GFCF averaged 19.6% of GDP from 2012 to 2019, dropping to 14.7% from 2018 to 2021. The private sector's investment, crucial for growth, accounted for 9.9% of GDP in 2021, and public investment was at 4.1%, both less than half the targets. According to the National Infrastructure Plan 2050 (NIP 2050), only 2% of the previous Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) was executed via public-private

- partnerships (PPP). The failure to grow the economy not only missed the NDP targets but also resulted in a reversal of earlier improvements in the share of the population living below the LBPL, and significantly reduced the prospect of the targets for poverty or inequality being achieved by 2030.

The trends point to job creation constraints, a lack of business confidence, and infrastructure deficiencies, among others. Slow investment growth is attributed to policy uncertainty, reduced government and state-owned enterprise (SOE) spending, and the

economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the number of informal enterprises dropped by 25%, while the formal small business sector saw significant declines. By the first quarter of 2020, SMME employment contribution fell to 63.5%, down from 66.5% in 2019.

The International Financing Corporation reported a $30 billion credit gap for this sector in South Africa, owing to challenges such as a mismatch in credit demand and supply, unmet credit demands, and limited collateral by SMMEs, among other Persistent high market concentration and barriers to entry stifle competition, innovation, and economic transformation. The top 10% of businesses earn 86% of total income, leaving the bottom 50% with just 1.6%. The financial sector's concentration is notable.

NDP CHAPTER 7: SA IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD
11.8 (expanding South Africa's Economic transformation reach through economic diplomacy, friendship and cultural exchange) - Translate diplomacy into economic development
Positioning South Africa in the World – NDP-based Priorities (2024 - 2029)

- Increase South African exports and participation in the AfCFTA though targeted economic diplomacy to promote business deals in area already subject to lowered tariffs.

- Further elevate economic diplomacy backed up by sound political diplomacy for increased trade, investment, technological cooperation, and cultural relation with Asian, Latin American and Middle Eastern countries, while maintaining established trade relations. Use sound political relations to shift the focus to strategies for sustaining this through productive trade and investment deals focused on high impact products, services, and markets.

- Contribute to promoting stronger multilateral governance, north-south, and south-south cooperation centring on critical skills transfer and partnerships to enhance innovation and scientific cooperation.

- BRICS should remain an essential part of South Africa's diplomatic footprint.

11.9 Enhance our ability to build beneficial economic, social and cultural exchange

- Strengthen the state's capacity to conduct strategy development research, and analysis that enhance economic diplomacy outcomes. Government must invest in a stronger capacity to interpret developments and strategies to harness global and

regional actor dynamics with changing interests for positive economic and developmental outcomes.

- The National Reporting Committee consisting of stakeholders with the capacity to do data-driven analysis and reporting on the alignment of international agreements, protocols, and treaties with the National Interests Framework and economic diplomacy should be operationalised.

- Improve the capacity of diplomatic missions with demonstrable expertise in facilitating economic, technological, and developmental outcomes. Ensure that diplomatic deployment benefits from technical expertise in and outside government to drive innovative economic diplomacy.

11.10 Co-ordinated strategy and interventions on migration

- Provide a human-centred approach to migration by developing a coordinated strategy with clear accountability and delivery indicators allocated to relevant departments.

11.11 Trade and investment infrastructure and services

- Improve the capacity to coordinate and facilitate trade and investment, country marketing, state visits, trade shows, and tourism. Develop an efficient, modernised e-visa system with provisions for tourism, business start-ups, remote work, and critical skills visas while clearing the internal visa backlog. Use tariffs to produce positive economic and developmental outcomes.

- Facilitate upgrading and maintaining the trans-Africa highway to extend South Africa’s role in regional economic corridors.

- Focus on economic diplomacy particularly in strategic investment sectors, including harnessing critical minerals.

- Address slow progress in establishing efficient border posts and policies hindering South Africa's regional market integration and global economic positioning.

12. Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources
NDP CHAPTER 5: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

12.1 Improve governance and coordination of the Just Transition Framework and the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan.

NDP based Priorities (2024-2029)

- The capacity and structures necessary to implement the Just Transition Framework and the Just Energy Transition Investment and Implementation Plans in government should be institutionalised under the leadership of the PCC and the Just Energy Transition Project Management Unit (JET PMU) in the Project Management Office in the Presidency.

- The JET PMU and its government partners should support municipalities by building capacity and financing the implementation of just transition mitigation and adaptation projects. The capacity and financing systems to support upgrading municipal distribution grids are priority areas for action and investment.

- The systems and measures in the Climate Change Act and other legislation must be implemented to ensure that the country meets its carbon emissions reduction targets as set out in the NDC lodged with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2021. This should include the development of capacity, regulations, and reporting systems, including the mitigation system established by the Act.

- The country's national adaptation action plan must be updated and implemented, including ensuring that resilience is built proactively and that measures to respond to extreme weather events, including early warning systems, are in place across all sectors and spheres of government.

- A national adaptation investment plan must be developed to guide finance mobilisation and expenditure.

- A comprehensive green skills plan must be developed to build the capacities and skills needed to implement the Just Transition.

- The Just Transition Framework must be mainstreamed to ensure that the principles of procedural, restorative, and distributive justice are embedded in both climate and developmental initiatives. Priority must be given to ensuring that the most dispossessed and marginalised are included in a manner that is differentiated and

targeted. This should include skills development for the unemployed, versatile, intergenerational skills for youth, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities as part of distributive justice. Women should be a primary target group to ensure access to decent jobs.

- Implementation actions and capacity development for climate change adaption and Mitigation.

12.2 Implementation actions and capacity development for climate change adaption and mitigation

- A climate change budget tagging framework that can address mitigation and adaptation should be implemented and tracked.

- The recommendations about climate-proofing infrastructure development outlined in NIP 2050 must be implemented.

- The proposals in the Electric Vehicles White Paper and the Green Hydrogen Commercialisation Strategy by the DTIC should be implemented.

- The South African Renewable Energy Masterplan related to localisation and industrialization by the DMRE and DTIC should be implemented.

- Mitigation and adaptation strategies should be designed with minimal red tape to generate employment and support SMME development (DFFE, DSBD).

- Green skills programmes that are linked to employment opportunities should be established across the tertiary sector.

- Economic diversification strategies should be developed and implemented for sectors and regions at risk
- The Just Energy Transition Implementation Plan, approved by Cabinet, should be implemented. (JET PMU).

NDP CHAPTER 6: AN INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE RURAL ECONOMY

12.3 An Integrated and Inclusive Rural Economy - Strengthen the agriculture and food regulation architecture

- The food regulation architecture should be reviewed to ensure increased coordination, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Processes should be modernised to reduce the cost of compliance for primary, secondary and tertiary agriculture businesses.

- Management processes of the multiple institutions that regulate food safety compliance across the state and the private sector should be rationalised and improved, including through digitisation, to ensure uniformity.

- A multi-sectoral food council, as required by the National Food and Nutrition Security Plan, should Be established with the monitoring of food security included in its mandate.

12.4 Improve training in agriculture and agro-processing

- A coordinated training, practical experience, and job placement strategy for agriculture students should be established (including those without post-matric qualifications).

- A sector placement platform should be developed to link and track graduates and trainees with farmers and agriculture businesses when practical experience, in-service training, and job placements are required.

- Graduate incubation/placement programmes like the Agriculture/ Biotech Accelerator (UNISA CAES) and National Rural Youth Service Corps should be expanded. These programmes should focus on women and youth, including provisions for young farmers with higher education qualifications.

- Farmer business development programmes that enhance access to innovative, climate-smart, and sustainable farming techniques should be supported to improve yields and efficiencies.

12.5 Improve and diversify access to agricultural technical expertise and innovation

- A baseline assessment of the ICT/4IR and climate-smart technology requirements for the agriculture sector should be undertaken.

- The quality, effectiveness and number of extension officers for smallholder farmers should be reviewed and improved to expand the competencies and capacity of farmer technical support. The allocation of extension officers at national and provincial levels should be increased with consideration for the number per farm and per product type.

- Extension and advisory services should be expanded to include post-harvest and offtake advice, e.g. agro-processing, food-waste, entrepreneurship and business development, and market access. Digital technologies should be expanded to enhance farmer access to information and knowledge, especially climate information and finance, including fast-tracking broadband access solutions for rural areas.

12.6 Rapidly advance an Agricultural and Agro-processing Commercialisation Strategy

- A strategy that will advance smallholder farmers to commercial farmers should be developed and resourced to meet the targets in the Agriculture and Agro-processing Masterplan (AAMP).

- Its education and skills development priorities should bridge the urban-rural divide and it should deliberately target youth and women.

- Public and private sector investment in the agricultural sector should be encouraged by supporting intermediaries and developing large-scale solutions, including financing start-up agribusinesses.

- The implementation of the AAMP should be addressed through sustainable agricultural practices, developing rural infrastructure, combatting crime and vandalism, providing access to finance, land, and local and international markets (e.g., African Continental

- Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) priority markets), and managing the social impacts on workers and communities.

- The detrimental anti-competitive impacts for the sector, such as the price of fertilizer for small farmers should be addressed through innovative and scalable approaches.

- An assessment of agriculture's contribution to job creation should be conducted across various commodity groups to build a skills and employment plan for the sector.

- A functional and coordinated biosecurity and phytosanitary management plan should be developed.

12.7 Rapid and coordinated plans to accelerate land reform

- Increase access to land and secure tenure systems and link it to commercialisation strategies through coordinated plans. This should deal with title deeds and community property associations, infrastructure, and agricultural development.

- Access to land should be matched with water rights and build on modernised management systems to drive greater efficiencies in allocating water rights and water use licenses.

- The recommendations of the High-Level Panel Report and Presidential Advisory Panel Report on Land Reform and Agriculture on establishing “A Land and Agrarian Reform Agency” should be implemented.

13. TOWARDS STRENGTHENING PLANNING AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE NCOP AND THE THREE SPHERES – DEPUTY PRESIDENT HON MR PAUL MASHATILE

Introduction

The Deputy President of the Republic, the Hon Mr PS Mashatile, opened his address by postulating, that during the opening address of the 7th Parliament, President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined three over-arching priorities of the Government of National Unity (GNU), which are the following:

- Driving inclusive economic growth and job creation
- Reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living
- Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state.

The Deputy President emphasised the imperatives of identifying key areas of priority for oversight as guided by the Opening of Parliament Address and the cabinet approved Medium-Term Development Plan.
Key Issues emerging from the Deputy President’s Address as follows:

13.1 An Overarching Perspective of South Africa's Endemic Challenges

- Acknowledged that whilst South Africa has made significant progress over the last thirty (30) years in reducing, poverty and inequality, the country remains faced with the challenges of a **slow growing economy; high unemployment and poverty rate; high incidence of crime, corruption, and lawlessness; and a highly fractured society**.

13.2 Government's Pinnacle Objective in the Seventh Dispensation of Building a Capable Developmental State

- Having noted the ongoing challenges, the 7th Administration has taken the decision to invest in the building of a capable, developmental state. A developmental state in our context is a state that will:
  I. Redirect resources towards job creation
  II. Ensure that people have access to asset ownership
  III. Access to economic opportunity
  IV. Access to quality education
  V. Access to Health care
  VI. Access to basic services.

- More importantly, in a quest for a developmental state, government will continue to invest in building safer communities, recognizing that building safer communities is not only police responsibility, but also it is a shared responsibility between the police, communities and all sectors of our society.

13.3 Through the JCPS, Government is bringing Resources together to bring an end to Extortion

- The persistent challenges relating to the high levels of extortion crimes, particularly in Mthatha, Eastern Cape were highlighted as a key concern. Through the JCPS, government is bringing together resources to put an end to extortion and ensure that communities may conduct business without fear or intimidation.

13.4 Government will embarking on a programme of Cleaning Cities

- Government is also embarking on a programme of cleaning cities campaign, recognizing that cleaner cities contribute towards attracting investors. Leaders of respective towns were urged to launch a competition of the cleanest towns, collaborating with the Minister of COGTA and SALGA to form a committee that will conduct an annual assessment of the cleanliness of cities and present awards.

13.5 Professionalization of the Public Service

- In realising the vision of building a developmental, capable, and ethical state, government will vigorously implement **the plan** to **professionalise the Public Service** and do so by investing in the capacity of the National School of Government (NSG).

13.6 Accelerate Policy Implementation in the Seventh Dispensation

- Over the last thirty (30) years, the South African Government has adopted progressive policies. In the 7th Administration, government will pay special attention to the speed of execution, this includes strengthening coordination through a refocused Presidency as the centre of government by pulling together other critical Government Departments such as COGTA and the National Treasury.

13.7 Alignment of Planning, budgeting and Implementation as part of Operationalizing the DDM

- Government will align planning and budgeting as part of implementing the District Development Model (DDM) premised on One Plan-One Vision, which will be done to achieve maximum results in building a better life for all.

13.8 Overcoming Local CAPEX Funding Gaps for Infrastructure

- Together with Local Government must prioritise overcoming local CAPEX funding gaps for infrastructure, for example, we are introducing a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in water supply with the National Treasury and the Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure that we resolve the potential water crisis as we have done in curbing energy and load shedding crisis. We need to act before there is a crisis. To this end, through the DDM in Waterberg, together with private sector participation,

much needed interventions are being implemented to create opportunities for the community. In eThekwini Metropolitan Area, the water crisis is being resolved to the extent that we are beginning to see much needed changes in the functioning of the municipality.

13.9 Crystalizing A Common Understanding of the Three Overarching Policy Priorities of the Seventh Dispensation

- There is a need to sharpen and crystallise a common understanding of the three overarching policy priorities of the 7th Administration. Equally, there is a need to develop a common appreciation of a tracking, monitoring, implementation and evaluation framework in line with the Intergovernmental Framework Act to realise the theme of the three-sphere planning session.

13.10 Recognizing the Importance of the Women's Charter

- 2024, marks exactly 70 years since the adoption of the 1954 Women's Charter. At the height of legislated and colonialist oppression in South Africa, women united across race, gender, and ethnic lines to adopt and legitimise the Women's Charter, demonstrating their resilience and leadership role. Today, many South African women are subjected to poverty, unemployment, gender-based violence, and femicide. During this seventh dispensation, government will deepen the struggle against gender-based violence and femicide and ensure gender parity in government, businesses, and all sectors of our society.

13.11 Illuminating the Fundamental Spheres of Planning

- The oversight function of the NCOP is vital in ensuring that government service delivery is efficient, equitable, and responsive to the needs of our people. In delineating the key policy and oversight priorities for the NCOP, it is imperative to focus on the three fundamental spheres of planning**: legislative, executive, and public participation.**

- It is imperative to ensure that laws uphold the principles of justice, equality, and the rule of law through robust legislative oversight. It might take time to get through public participation but it must be done.

13.12 Parliament Must Serve as a Crucial Pillar That Guides our Developmental Strategy

- To achieve the goals of the National Development Plan 2030, it is imperative to ensure through collaborative efforts, that parliament serves as a crucial pillar that guides our developmental strategy. It is therefore imperative to promote fixed **capital investment, industrialization, job creation.** Therefore, in the next five years, government's strategic priorities are to create inclusive economic growth and job creation, while upholding and enhancing the social wage and constructing an ethical and progressive state.

13.13 Illuminated Focus on the Medium - Development Plan

- Government will unveil the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) as soon as approved by Cabinet. The MTDP which will set out a well-defined vision and strategy that outlines clear goals and includes specific, measurable objectives and a roadmap for achieving them over the next five years. The MTDP will be sued to continue to make strategic investments in individuals particularly through education, skill development, and adequate health care.

13.14 Implementation of the Spatial Development Plan, as outlined in Chapter 8 of the NDP

- Government will also strive to improve our communities' spatial perspectives by ensuring that the National Spatial Development Framework is implemented at all levels of government, as outlined in Chapter 8 of the National Development Plan.

13.15 The Seventh Parliament Must Effectively Oversee Government Departments and Other Organs of State

- The Seventh Parliament, must take the responsibility to oversee the performance of Government Departments and other state organs, as well as ensure accountability and transparency in government actions across all spheres.

13.16 Use the IGR Framework Act as the Basis to Facilitate Intergovernmental Relations

- The Deputy President also commended the NCOP for creating a strategic platform to address three-sphere planning disjuncture and anomalies. This platform presents a poignant opportunity to articulate the critical imperative of elevating the status and importance of joint planning.

- The Deputy President further called on the three spheres of government to ensure effective activation and functionality of all relevant IGR structures and forums across the three spheres of government, particularly as they relate to the operationalisation of the DDM. Given the current levels of poverty and inequality in South Africa, it is both urgent and imperative to do away with silos and individualistic ways of working, recognizing that It is only through a unified and integrated planning and budgeting implementation approach that South Africa's development challenges will be addressed.

- Through the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act of 2005, the responsibility to coordinate and facilitate intergovernmental relations at all levels must be prioritized, as well as to further develop mechanisms and procedures to facilitate integrated planning and address implementation disjuncture and duplications in planning and budgeting.

- The Deputy President also urged the NCOP to conduct oversight over all critical IGR structures towards the operationalisation of the DDM. To this end, the Deputy President urged all spheres of government to be ready to cooperate and work together for the realisation of a better life for all.

13.17 LOGB Will Ensure Accountability

- The Deputy President further committed to ensure that in his capacity as the Leader of Government Business (LOGB) in Parliament, that the Executive will always be accountable to Parliament, the NA and the NCOP, which houses people's representatives.

- The LOGB will strive to ensure the facilitation and deepening of executive accountability by ushering in a new culture of cooperation between the NCOP and the three spheres of government. This cooperation should be based on a shared commitment to better the material conditions of the people of South Africa, but it should also be rooted in a deep reverence and respect for the people who elected members into Parliament.

- Within this context, the Deputy President issued a clarion call to Members of the Executive across the three spheres of government, to heed the call for joint and integrated planning, budgeting, and implementation, as facilitated through the DDM.

- The Deputy President also informed members of the Executive across the three spheres of government to expect a continuation of structured engagements between the Executive and National Council of Provinces, in particular, on critical developmental issues affecting provinces.

- Part of the responsibility of the LOGB in Parliament is to introduce measures to improve the quality of legislation submitted by the Executive to Parliament, and to monitor the implementation of the Legislative Programme once introduced to Parliament.

- The Deputy President in his capacity as the LOGB, will continue to encourage Members of the Executive to avail themselves when called to appear before Parliamentary Committees and fulfil their constitutional obligations in Parliament. The LOGB will continue to monitor whether Members of the Executive respond to Parliamentary questions for written reply within the stipulated timeframes.

- The Deputy President further committed to working with the NCOP to facilitate social compacting between the National Council of Provinces and the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, which is critical for accelerating South Africa's transformation agenda. By working together through social compacting, the NCOP and the Leader of Government Business in Parliament can streamline the legislative process, enhance

oversight mechanisms, and foster cooperation on key issues affecting South Africa's transformation trajectory.

- In conclusion, the Deputy President emphasized the need to work together in unity across party lines and government levels to protect and uphold the principles outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

- The NCOP was urged to do its work without fear or favour, to enforce accountability.

14. Department of Public Works and Infrastructure *Hon. D Macpherson, MP, Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure*

14.1 Delineating Key Public Infrastructure Projects to Support Government's Inclusive Economic Growth Interventions:
Public Works and Infrastructure

- The Department focused on turning South Africa into a construction site through infrastructure development.
- The NCOP was an important pillar in South Africa's democracy, deepening our democratic dispensation, particularly through the lens of the 9 provinces.
- The Department was there to account and to unveil the GNU's programme of action to achieve economic inclusive growth by implementing the National Infrastructure Plan.
- Since the appointment of the new Minister, they committed to developing infrastructure to reignite and revitalise the economy and to create **jobs** throughout the country.
- They have been engaging with various public and private stakeholders, and within the various spheres of government and through entities of the state to drive a common vision on the pivotal role of **infrastructure** as a contributor to **GDP and job creation.**
- **Infrastructure** is a **catalyst** for faster and more inclusive economic growth.
- the **construction sector employs** around **1.2 million people** (around just over 7% of the population).
- Unemployment has reached historical levels and the Department was committed to bringing down the unemployment rate.
- The government had to be measured against the unemployment rate.

- Any idea or policy decision that was not evidence-based and that did not aid in bringing down the unemployment rate should be discarded immediately.
- The infrastructure sector had to be expanded to create jobs and improve the **lives of the people.**
- It has been proven worldwide that where infrastructure increases, it has a positive spillover effect on other industries.
- **Infrastructure-led growth** does and will lead to **lower unemployment**.
- The **Department has a mandate to coordinate** all infrastructure development in South Africa.
- The Department was the **custodian** of both the **National Infrastructure Act and Fund.**
- **The Department guides investment and monitors the implementation of the NIP to align with the NDP.**
- ISSA was at the heart of the Department's evolution drive, through packaging projects for investors and monitoring the implementation of the project pipeline.
- The GNU was committed to turning South Africa into a construction site with the implementation of infrastructure projects and encouraging investment.
- The Infrastructure Development Act empowers the government to Gazette strategic infrastructure projects (SIPS) – they receive special attention to ensure their timeous approval and execution.
- **The 50 Gazette SIPS (including infrastructure investments in critical networks, such as dams, ports, railways and roads).**
- They conducted various oversight visits and they wanted to see a lot more happening on the ground (infrastructure programmes across all sectors).

14.2 The value of all the SIPS currently sits at R340 billion.

- SIPS are note only aimed at improving infrastructure, but also at creating jobs, boosting the economy and improving the quality of life.
- The Department remained committed to accelerate the SIPS.
- The department focused intensively on increasing infrastructure spending by both the government and the private sector.
- Create and expand more capacity to execute the projects.

14.3 The weakness of South Africa's current landscape is the ageing infrastructure.

- ISSA and the Department were working together to address the issue and on making changes.
- National Property Asset Agency – manages all of the assets to ensure that they generate revenue to be able to use public assets for public good.

- **State-owned assets** had to become **income generating**, which in return can be used to maintain police stations, schools and hospitals, etc.

14.4 Addressing Multisectoral Challenges and Implementation Impediments imposed by the "Construction Mafia)

- The rise of the construction mafia has hampered trust in the construction sector, further complicating investor confidence to invest in investment projects.
- Have to address the issue head-on.
- They had to work with law enforcement to address the issue.
- A change in policy was necessary.
- Under the 30% rule criminal syndicates believe that they are entitled to it and without it the construction project cannot commence.
- **The 30% local procurement rule had to be addressed**.

- The Department, will not negotiate with criminals.
- committed to improving and fostering foreign investment.
- Every investment would assist to turn the county into a construction site.
- Public and private stakeholders were going to be allowed to join a platform (advisory committee) to enhance knowledge and expertise.
- 61% of local infrastructure projects experienced delays.
- The Auditor General's local government outcomes found that local municipalities do not just underspend infrastructure by R3.4 billion, but that 61% of local government infrastructure projects experience delays, 9% experience cost overruns, and 24% have poor construction work.
- All of the above-mentioned highlights the need to bring skills and expertise into the projects that ISSA has.
- As well as to give the private sector the comfort that infrastructural projects will be executed on time.
- ISSA launched the infrastructure book and there is a need to expand the book.
- As the GNU, they have only just begun to make changes.
- The GNU fundamentally believes that there is nothing wrong with South Africa with what cannot be fought with what is right with South Africa.

15. Department of Roads and Transport - *Hon Mr Hlengwa, MP, Deputy Minister of Transport*

15. 1 The current state of road infrastructure in South Africa

- The GNU was part of nation-building and taking the country forward.

- The medium-term plan, as set out by President Cyril Ramaphosa, at the Opening of Parliament Address, was clear on the three focus areas of the GNU, being: (1) inclusive economic growth and job creation; (2) maintain and optimise the social wage; and (3) a capable and ethical developmental state.

- The Department's national policy trajectory was anchored in the NDP – to invest in a strong network of economic infrastructure designed to support the country's medium and long-term objectives to achieve long-term and sustainable growth by 2030.

- Long distance transport alternatives are limited and they are aimed at resolving.

- South Africa's largest single public asset was the road network.

- Provincial and national roads were the prime means of connecting people and moving cargo.

- Preserving the road networks had to be a top priority.

15.2 Asset Management and Centralised Repository services

- Road Authorities are being supported to prioritise budgets, projects, type of interventions and the timing of interventions;

- The National Treasury and the Provincial Treasuries can be advised on the overall budget needs;

- Value for money can be realised with limited budgets

- Road lifespan can be extended.

By 20 Aug 2024, there were 62416 downloads of the National Pothole Public Reporting Apps 80981 potholes were reported as follows:

- Eastern Cape = 3531 , Free State = 14630, Gauteng = 33134 , KwaZulu Natal = 11155 , Limpopo = 4466, Mpumalanga = 7050, Northern Cape = 922, Northwest = 4445 and Western Cape = 1467

- According to the National System, most potholes complaints (44040) cannot be correctly and automatically allocated using the system

- The key reason is incomplete road network spatial data and the Roads Authority App not been utilized to track repairs of reported potholes.

15.3 Progress report on operation Vala Zonke which was announced by the former Minister in August 2022, to eradicate potholes across the country.

-Operation Vala Zonke - Road Maintenance, including Pothole Repairs

- Operation Vala Zonke requires for a joint effort by all provinces and all 278 municipalities, comprising 8 metropolitan, 44 district and 226 local municipalities.

- SANRAL was appointed as the coordinating agency to drive the campaign, which includes the harmonisation of all data and information on potholes and providing the technology and technical knowledge to ensure quality delivery on the campaign (as the coordinating agency, it does not mean SANRAL is responsible for repairing all the potholes).

- Since its launch, Operation Vala Zonke remains an unfunded mandate.

16. Department of Water and Sanitation Hon Mr Isaac Seitlholo, Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation

The **Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)** provided a comprehensive report at the **National Council of Provinces (NCOP)** session on the status of water and sanitation in South Africa. The presentation highlighted the challenges faced by municipalities, ongoing infrastructure projects, and key interventions aimed at ensuring the sustainable provision of water and sanitation services.

16.1 Legislative Framework for Water Management

South Africa's water management is governed by 4 pieces of key legislation:

- **The Constitution**: It guarantees the right to access sufficient water and mandates that the environment must be protected to ensure human health.
- **National Water Act**: Focuses on sustainable water resource management.
- **Water Services Act (WSA)**: Defines the roles of municipalities and Water Boards in providing water and sanitation services.
- **Municipal Structures Act**: Provides municipalities with executive authority over water services.

The Constitution requires national and provincial governments to support municipalities, especially where service delivery is failing. **Section 139** allows for intervention in municipalities that are not meeting their constitutional obligations, such as addressing sanitation crises. This is an important note to keep in mind given the role and intervention the NCOP can implement.

16.2 Current Status of Water Provision and Infrastructure

South Africa faces significant water challenges:

- It is one of the **30 most water-scarce countries** in the world, with an **average daily consumption** of 218 litres per capita—well above the global average of 173 litres.

- **75% of the country's surface water** has already been captured through dams, and the remaining resources are difficult access.

- There is a pressing need for infrastructure investment to avoid water shortages, driven by increasing demands from population growth and industrial development.

16.3 Key Strategic Priorities on Water Provision and Infrastructure

To ensure the continued availability of water, the government has prioritised three areas:

1. **Infrastructure Development**: Focus on building additional water resource infrastructure to capture the remaining 25% of surface water.
2. **Diversification of Water Supply**: Increased utilization of groundwater, water reuse, and seawater desalination to reduce reliance on surface water.
3. **Water Conservation and Demand Management**: Implement conservation programs to reduce per capita water consumption and ensure industries use water efficiently.

16.4 Water Infrastructure Projects Across Provinces

Several large-scale water projects are currently being implemented to address water shortages and ensure sustainable water supply:

- **Eastern Cape**: Projects such as **Foxwood Dam** and **Ntabelanga Dam** aim to increase water availability for irrigation and domestic use.

- **KwaZulu-Natal**: Infrastructure developments include the **Raising of the Hazelmere Dam Wall** to boost supply to eThekwini and surrounding areas.

- **Lesotho Highlands Water Project**: A critical project under construction to provide additional water to Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga, and other provinces.

Each province is actively involved in developing projects, some in partnership with the mining sector, to ensure water security and stimulate economic growth.

16.5 Decline in Municipal Water Services Quality

The 2023 **Blue Drop (drinking water)**, **Green Drop (wastewater)**, and **No Drop (water loss)** assessments reveal a concerning decline in water service delivery:

- **67 out of 144 Water Services Authorities (WSA)** scored critical or poorly across water and wastewater systems
- **Microbiological compliance** in water quality decreased from **5% in 2014 to 46% in 2023,** indicating a **sharp increase in unsafe drinking water**
- **66% of wastewater systems** are in poor or critically poor condition, with 90 WSAs discharging partially treated or untreated sewage into rivers, posing a significant public health risk.

16.6 Factors Contributing to Poor Municipal Performance

Key factors driving the poor performance of municipalities include:

- Non-adherence to standard operating procedures for drinking water treatment and wastewater management.

- Lack of investment in maintenance and repair of ageing infrastructure.

- **Understaffing**: Municipalities fail to hire qualified technical staff.

- **Weak revenue collection**: High levels of **non-revenue water (47%)** make it difficult for municipalities to fund operations and pay Water Boards for water services.

The DWS and its partners, including **COGTA** and **National Treasury**, have been providing technical, financial, and managerial support, but the decline continues. The presentation emphasised that without leadership accountability and better local management, these challenges will persist.

16.7 Government Interventions and Support to Municipalities

The government has implemented various interventions:

- **Corrective Action Plans (CAPs)**: Municipalities must submit plans to address non-compliance identified in water assessments.
- **Infrastructure grants**: Over **R20 billion** per year is allocated to municipalities to fund critical water and sanitation projects.
- **Capacity building**: Technical and engineering assistance, along with financial management support, is offered to improve service delivery.

Despite these efforts, many municipalities fail to maintain or operate their systems adequately, resulting in rapid deterioration of repaired infrastructure.

16.8 Legislative Reforms for Water Services

The presentation proposed several legislative amendments to strengthen water regulation:

- **Water Services Amendment Bill** and **National Water Amendment Bill**: These amendments will aim to:

    - Enhance the DWS's regulatory powers over municipal water services.
    - Enforce compliance with minimum standards through non-compliance notices and directives.

- Allow the Minister of Water and Sanitation to intervene when municipalities fail to manage their water systems.

The reforms also clarify the roles between **Water Services Authorities (WSA)** and **Water Services Providers (WSP)**, ensuring proper management and accountability within municipalities.

16.9 Priority Projects for Water and Sanitation

The presentation outlined around **50 key water and sanitation projects** across all provinces. These projects focus on:

- **Water security**: Addressing water scarcity and improving water distribution systems, particularly in areas like **Nelson Mandela Bay** and **Gauteng**.
- **Sanitation interventions**: Mitigating sewer spillages and restoring functionality to wastewater treatment systems. Major projects include the **Maluti-A-Phofung** and **Vaal River Systems** interventions.

These projects, funded through national and provincial grants, are critical to restoring water and sanitation services in communities facing severe shortages and health risks.

16.10 Challenges to Implementation

The presentation identified several challenges:

- **Municipal leadership**: A lack of response to directives and unwillingness to accept support are significant barriers to improvement.
- **Maintenance funding**: Routine maintenance must be funded by municipal revenue, but inadequate collection systems prevent many municipalities from maintaining infrastructure.
- **Vandalism**: The increasing theft of infrastructure materials, such as metal, exacerbates system failures.

The presentation concluded by stressing the urgency of addressing water and sanitation challenges in South Africa. With water scarcity increasing, infrastructure aging, and municipal management failing, the DWS is focused on legislative reforms, stronger regulatory oversight,

and continued investment in critical water infrastructure projects to ensure sustainable water provision across the country.

17. Department of Electricity and Energy - *Hon , Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy*

17.1 Detailed Report on Progress Made Towards Implementing all aspects of the Energy Action Plan

Priority 1 : Fix Eskom and improve availability of existing supply

Improve the performance and reliability of existing power stations

- Eskom has implemented the Generation Recovery Plan to improve plant performance. Planned maintenance increased to more than 8 000 MW over summer 2023/24 to enable improved performance going forward. EAF reached over 70%, while UCLF has been reduced to below 12 000 MW.

17.2 Remaining units at Kusile and Medupi brought online

- Kusile Units 1 to 3 have been returned to service. Unit 5 was synchronised to the grid in December 2023, with commercial operation in June 2024. Medupi Unit 4 and Kusile Unit 6 are expected to return by September 2024.

17.3 Implement measures to reduce demand on the grid

- The Distribution Demand Management Programme was launched on 13 April 2023, with a budget approved for three years. The programme follows a performance contracting approach, with an incentive of R3 million/ MW provided for achieved demand reduction during specified periods with just over 500 MWs are in the pipeline.

17.4 Finalise Eskom debt relief package to enable investment in necessary maintenance and transmission network

- The Eskom Debt Relief Act was passed in June 2023. The package includes debt relief measures covering R254 billion of Eskom debt (including R168 billion in capital and R86 billion in interest) over the next three years, with strict conditions to safeguard public funds.

17.5 Priority 2: Enable and accelerate private investment in generation capacity

Remove the licensing threshold for embedded generation projects

- The licensing threshold was removed in December 2022. The pipeline of private sector projects has since grown to over 130 projects with more than 22 500 MW of capacity, which will begin to connect to the grid in 2024. A growing number of these projects is over 100 MW in size, supporting the decision to remove the threshold in 2022.

17.6 Establish a one-stop shop for energy projects to accelerate new capacity

- The Energy One-stop Shop was established in June 2023 and is actively facilitating energy projects, including fast-tracking approvals from various departments. Work is now underway to implement an electronic “single window” approach.

17.7 Reduce timeframes for grid connection

- Progress has been made in clearing the backlog of cost estimate letters and budget quotes.

17.8 Unlock grid capacity

- Eskom has published the updated Generation Connection Capacity Assessment (GCCA) 2025. This indicates that there is 19.94 GW of available grid capacity across Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and the Free State. An additional 3.4 GW of grid capacity has been unlocked in the Cape region through curtailment. NTCSA has identified 25 Additional transformer projects which will unlock 13 GW and 22 Expedited projects unlocking 24GW of grid connection capacity between by 2033.

17.9 Develop a national wheeling framework

- The National Wheeling Framework has been finalised and was submitted to NERSA in December 2023. The framework sets out principles for non discriminatory rights of access to wheel electricity and the charges to be raised, and it will enable a standardised approach to wheeling across the country once approved by the regulator.

17.10 Priority 3: Accelerate procurement of new capacity from renewables, gas and battery storage

1. Issue a standard offer for additional energy available from existing private generators
    - The Eskom Standard Offer Programme has been implemented with a total of 1 136.5 MW approved to date, exceeding the target of 1 000 MW.

2. **Import additional power from countries in the region**
    - Eskom released a request for proposal (RFP) for the Cross-border Standard Offer Programme (CBSOP) in October 2023, which will procure a maximum of 1 000 MW in additional power from neighbouring countries such as Mozambique for a period of three years.

3. **Complete Eskom battery storage programme (BESS Phase 1 and 2)**
    - The first project from Eskom's Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) programme has been connected to the grid and will provide 100 MWh of storage capacity. Seven other projects are in construction as part of Phase 1 of the programme, which will together provide a total of 833 MWh of capacity.
4. **Ensure commercial close of remaining projects from previous bid windows**
    - Seven preferred bidders for the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP) have completed construction or reached legal close to date. Eleven preferred bidders for Bid Window 5 have reached commercial close and entered construction, while two of the six preferred bidders from Bid Window 6 have reached commercial close.
5. **Accelerate release of further bid windows for battery storage, wind, solar and gas**
    - RFPs have been issued for Bid Window 7, Battery Energy Storage Independent Power Procurement Programme (BESIPPPP) 2 and 3 and the Gas Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (IPPPP), for a combined 8 231 MW of new capacity

17.11 Priority 4: Unleash business & households to invest in rooftop solar

1. Accelerate uptake of rooftop solar
    - Installed rooftop solar capacity in South Africa has grown exponentially, to over 5 000 MW, through expanded tax incentives introduced from March 2023 and the Bounce-back Loan Guarantee Scheme, as well as net-billing systems implemented by Eskom and some municipalities.
2. Develop a Net-Billing Framework
    - The Net-Billing Framework was developed by NECOM and submitted to NERSA in March 2023. Once approved, it will ensure that all municipalities have net-billing systems in place to enable surplus power to be fed into the

grid from rooftop solar. Municipalities are responding to NECOM's request that they implement the draft framework in the interim.

- **Priority 5: Fundamentally transform the electricity sector to achieve long-term energy security**

1. Establish the National Transmission Company of South Africa as an independent transmission system operator
    - An independent board has been appointed for the NTCSA, and NERSA has approved the licenses needed for the company to operate. The NTCSA commenced trading in July 2024.
2. Establish a competitive market for electricity
    - The Electricity Regulation Act was signed into law by the President, marking a significant milestone in reform of the electricity sector. The Bill will establish a competitive electricity market for the first time. It outlines the powers and functions of the Transmission System Operator. Eskom has begun to develop a market code that will be submitted to the regulator for approval once the Bill is enacted.
3. Detailed plans towards Rebuilding and Maintaining South Africa's Electricity Infrastructure
4. Plans in place to achieve the objects of the Integrated Resource Plan
5. Interventions in Place to ensure Sustained Access to Electricity towards Achieving

18. Department of Basic Education Hon Ms. N. Gwarube, MP Minister of Basic Education

By 2030, South Africans should have access to education and training of the highest quality, leading to significantly improved learning outcomes. The performance of South African learners in international standardised tests should be comparable to the performance of learners from countries at a similar level of development and with similar levels of access.

18.1 Combating Criminality and Safety in Schools (Teachers and Learners)

The NDP on School Safety: Urgently address School Safety; for both learners and staff to provide a conducive environment for learning and teaching.

There are various persistent challenges in schools:

- **Crime and violence** in schools

- **Teacher robberies in schools**- Nelson Mandela Bay District , Umlazi and Pinetown Districts
- Bullying, Gangsterism, Drugs and Substance Abuse
- **Theft and Burglary** in schools
- School related **Gender-based Violence** (SRGBV)
- **Corporal Punishment** in the classroom remains the most stubborn form of violence in schools.

18.2 Highlights from the National School Safety Framework:

- Guiding strategy to curb violence in schools.
- Empowers schools to conduct school safety audits, complete diagnostic tools & develop safety plans
- School Safety committees are responsible for coordinating school safety and security
- Digital Training on NSSF is SACE accredited - 15 professional development points. To date, 327 297 officials have completed the digital training course.
- PEDs continue to capacitate schools on the NSSF
- PEDs also employ security guards/assistants in schools but its not enough to protect schools from crime
- The DBE monitors and supports 25 districts annually on the NSSF and other school safety programmes

18.3 Partnership Protocol Between Basic Education and The South African Police Service:

- Collaborating to implement the Integrated Crime & Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS)
- Linking of schools to local police stations
- Conducting searches and seizures in line with the South African School's Act, 1996 (SASA) upon reasonable suspicion of the carrying of/or trading in illegal substances &/or weapons
- Combatting alcohol and drug use among learners in schools
- Addressing gangsterism in schools and communities
- Controlling the number of liquor outlets and taverns in the vicinity of schools
- SAPS conducts crime prevention programmes in schools.

a. There are various protocols to deal with violence in schools, such as:

The Protocol to deal with Incidents of Corporal Punishment in Schools –

- Provides schools, districts and provinces are trained on standard operating procedures for the reporting of corporal punishment incidents

- Protocol for the Management and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools – Provides schools, districts and provinces are trained on standard operating procedures for the management and reporting of sexual abuse and harassment, and to specifically detail how schools must respond to reports of sexual abuse and harassment perpetrated against learners and school staff.

18.4 There is an Inter-Departmental campaign on violence prevention

- Raises awareness of all social ills and mobilizes communities to fight the scourge of violence.

- Mobilizes communities through Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) Structures to prevent and combat bullying, corporal punishment, SRGBV, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, etc.

- Campaign has been rolled-out: in six provinces: Gauteng (Gauteng West District), Limpopo (Sekhukhune East District), Mpumalanga (Nkangala District), North-West (Dr Kenneth Kaunda District), Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela), and Kwa Zulu-Natal (Pinetown District)

- The campaign is planning to go to NC, FS and WC.

- The Department is currently rolling out the Online Safety Curriculum Guidelines: Reinforcing the idea and practices of online safety and digital well-being among learners for use in the classroom. Partnering with the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Department of Social Development, the Films and Publication Board, Google and UNICEF.

18.5 Plans for Implementation over the Medium Term to Eradicate Mud – Schools

- The Department of Basic Education is responsible for the planning and implementation of the following infrastructure programmes:
- ASIDI : Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (The purpose is to eradicate specific backlogs).

- SAFE : Sanitation Appropriate For Education (The purpose is to eradicate basic pit toilets).

- Both of these programmes are funded from the School Infrastructure Backlog Grant (SIBG).

- Provincial Infrastructure Programme implemented through Provincial Education. Infrastructure line functions are funded through: (1) Education Infrastructure Grant and (2) Equitable share.

- The Department of Education compiled the School Register of Needs (SRN-1996). This was the first database that included every school in the country, including their geographical location, the condition of buildings and the facilities available.

- The Department of Education updated the survey and released the School Register of Needs (SRN-2000).

- The Department of Education developed the National Education Infrastructure Management System (NEIMS-2007). The last update of NEIMS was in 2012 and 12 115 schools were updated. There has not been another national update of the data.

- The Department of Basic Education had various meetings with the National Treasury to secure funding for a national update of NEIMS. This has not been successful.

- The Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) have been requested to conduct condition assessments to establish a more reliable status of education infrastructure in order to quantify the investment requirements.

- Considering the statistics on mud schools and other inappropriate structures: it is estimated that in 1996 there were about 1,000 schools made entirely of inappropriate materials. In 2011, there were initially 510 schools on the ASIDI programme (This number decreased to 338) (of the 338 schools made entirely of inappropriate materials,

331 have been replaced. The remaining 7 replacement schools are scheduled for completion in 2024/25.

- There are also still a number of schools without toilets. The SRN 2006 recorded 3 265 schools with no toilets. In 2011, there were initially 701 schools on the ASIDI programme (This number increased to 1 088). All of the 1088 sanitation projects have been replaced.

- The SRN 2006 recorded 9,600 schools dependent on basic pit toilets. In 2018, there were initially 3 898 schools on the SAFE programme (This number decreased to 3 375) (of the 3 375 sanitation projects, 3 107 have been completed). The remaining 268 sanitation projects are scheduled for completion in 2024/25.

12.6 Plans for Implementation over the Medium Term to Eradicate Pit-Latrines

An update on the progress and plans for 'mud' schools and pit latrines

- Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI-2011) replaced 331 schools made entirely of inappropriate materials.

- The remaining 7 schools aimed at providing additional classrooms to address overcrowding are scheduled for completion in 2024/25.

- Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE-2018) initiative completed 3107 sanitation projects.

- The remaining 268 sanitation projects are scheduled for completion in 2024/25.

18.7 Plans for New and Replacement schools and Sanitation

- Provincial plans for 2024/25 financial year are to provide 281 New and Replacement schools and 1 470 Replacement sanitation facilities.

- Provincial plans for 2025/26 financial year are to provide 49 New and Replacement schools and 468 Replacement sanitation facilities.

- Provincial plans for 2026/27 financial year are to provide 48 New and Replacement schools and 369 Replacement sanitation facilities.

It is recommended that the NCOP

- Notes progress in Combating Criminality and Safety in Schools (Teachers and Learners)
- Notes progress update and plans to eradicate Mud schools and pit latrines over the Medium-Term.

19. Department of Health

19.1 National Health Insurance (NHI) Relevant matters to the NHI

- NHI is to be implemented in 2 phases (phase 2 to happen 2026-2028).

- 5 Provisions with specified actions.

- The department is continuing with the implementation of the health system strengthening initiatives, and these included the alignment of human resources.

- There are two major focus areas in the department and with the provincial departments at the moment: (1) infrastructure development in the public health sector; and (2) further strengthening of the primary healthcare system

- There is a whole range of other national health insurance legislation developments and there will need to be amendments of other legislation in due course.

- The specific activities we are busy with at the moment is: the drafting of the regulations pertinent to sections of the act (that will be the 1st to be promulgated).

- We expect within the next month to have the first draft regulations for comment.

- The necessary amendments need to be made. There are nine pieces of legislation with minor amendments or more than others which will need to be made at the appropriate time when those parts of the NHI Act are brought into effect.

- Several institutions need to be established for it to be fully functional: the National Tertiary Health Services Committee (there is already a fledgling committee that is in place); The National Body on Training and Development (there have already been activities, it just needed to be formalised and strengthened); Ministerial Advisory Committee on Healthcare Benefits; Ministerial Advisory Committee on Health Technology Assessment.

- The Act provides a migration of central hospitals (strengthening their capabilities).

- The Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) – an existing body and it is still growing. They inspect private and public healthcare facilities.

- Packages: Maternity and childcare services, and care to people with disabilities.

- We had many specialised doctors in the private sector, they had to be a part of multidisciplinary teams in the public sector as well.

- The NHI had to have governance and administration it needed to be formally recognised as a fund.

- All regulations by the Act had to be published for 3 months for comments and the Department and the Minister would thereafter call for public comments

- On the budgeting and the funding of the rollout of the HHI was a specific question asked to the Minister. As of yet, there was no fund and no money in a fund for national

health insurance. There were a lot of preparative functions and activities that are being managed within a branch of the National Department of Health.

- The Provincial Department continue to manage the provision and the funding of the public health services and the private sector continues to provide services through the private establishments.

- The National Department of Health receives an allocation in the Branch but there are some additional grants that Parliament grants to enable the Department to support health development services.

- There were different conditional grants for different infrastructure projects.

- In the budget some grants get paid directly and other get paid indirectly and are managed by the National Department of Health.

- Starting from the financial year 2025/2026, as the capacity transitions from the branch in the department to the functions of the Schedule Three entity, healthcare functions can be relocated as outlined in section 32 of the Act. Funding will also begin to align with these function shifts. It is important to emphasize that this will be a phased process to ensure that the fund can adequately cover healthcare benefits.
- Funding for medical scheme tax credits will be allocated, shifting from benefits granted to medical scheme beneficiaries to the national health insurance fund. Once the fund starts covering the care for these individuals, they will receive tax rebates from it. The changes also include contributions to payroll taxes from both employers and employees, along with a surcharge on personal income tax.

- Healthcare services operate independently and involve agencies along with provincial equitable shares and conditional grant funds that are currently allocated for personal healthcare services. However, the Act states that any new taxes, which do not currently exist, will need to be introduced through a money bill at the appropriate time by the Minister of Finance. These funds should then be earmarked for use by the designated members.

- While we must embrace the opportunity to address the significant inequities within our healthcare system, we need to recognize that reforms of this scale must be managed with care. It is critical for the adoption of the budget to proceed through the NHI and for the impact of the changes on healthcare outcomes to be monitored closely as we adjust the health system.

20. Department of Small Business Development

21.1 Business Infrastructure and Cluster Support Programme (BICSP)

The department of Small Business Development and its agencies plan to roll out the Business Infrastructure and Cluster Support Programme (BICSP) over the next Medium Term Expenditure Framework Cycle of 2024 to2029.

The Business Infrastructure and Cluster Support Programme is an instrument responding to the ecosystem Infrastructural and clustering needs through establishing industrial clusters, products, markets, containers, MSME industrial hub.

The Business Infrastructure and Cluster Support Programme aims to build quality infrastructure and applying the cluster methodology to support MSME's and Co-operatives to improve their competitiveness and sustainability.
The Business Infrastructure and Clustering will be implemented through encouraging and leveraging on public and private sector partnership and investment for use by businesses mostly in townships, rural areas and in the inner city.

The business Infrastructure and clustering support model will be based on forming partnership with stakeholders in various provinces like economic development, public works, local economic development units and others where premises will be sourced from the stakeholders, made fit for purpose via revamp/ refurbishments which will be paid for by the Business Infrastructure and Clustering Support Programme.

21.2 Township and Rural Economy Revitalization Policy

The department of Small Business Development is leading the development of the township and rural economy revitalization policy, which is another intervention to promote and proactively revitalize township and rural economies.

21.3 The Township and Rural Economy Revitalization policy objectives are to:

- Create jobs in township
- Facilitate an enabling regulatory environment
- Create economic opportunities for existing township entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate suitable infrastructure to create more inclusive economic opportunities.
- Facilitate sufficient and innovative business support
- Increase the existing manufacturing capacity in the township economy
- Increase the income returns from economic activity
- Increase asset creation and grow South Africa's tax base.

21.4 The South African Township and Rural Economy revitalization Policy Proposes three intervention Strategies

- Aggregation- the department is committed to establishing supply chain linkages by integrating township enterprises with production networks in the mainstream economy through industrial parks and hubs ***(Outline existing Industrial Parks Across Provinces)***
- Segmentation- the department is committed towards enterprise formalization, sustainability and growth. **(*List the number of functional and growing enterprises supported by the department across provinces, metros, districts and localities)***
- Sectoral – the approach to be implemented by the department seeks to target 11 key sectors due to their significant development impact on the township economy. ***(List the 11 key Sectors and their growth potential across provinces, metros, districts and localities. Proceed with a mapping exercise to link sector specific business opportunities available, linking these with finding available)***

Another programme which the department has put in place is the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme under the auspices of Sefa, which is an implementing agency of the department of Small Business Development. The programme seeks to provide support to townships and rural entrepreneurs through rebuilding and restructuring the economy in townships and rural areas and improve the quality and competitiveness of small enterprises. The programme provides up to R1 million for working capital, cost of equipment and other capital expenditure. The programme is a bladed financing programme comprising of loans and grants. Since the inception of the programme, the Small Enterprise Finance Agency has funded 6268 enterprises and disbursed R777.6 million.

21.5 Interventions the department is embarking upon to promote SMME's include the following

- **Co-operative Development Support Programme-** the programme aims at providing grand support funding for both new and existing co-operatives. The grant enables co-operatives to purchase equipment, stock, vehicles and infrastructure.

- **Asset Assist Programme-** the programme is aimed at supporting SMME's with equipment that will enable them to start their businesses or to increase the production capacity.

- **General Dealer Support Programme-** This programme is aimed at resuscitating the general dealers that are operating in townships and rural areas. This will be done through refurbishing existing shops, partitioning and branding them into modern General dealers.

- **National Skill Fund-**this 3-years partnership will benefit 6500 young beneficiaries. The aim of the project is to recruit unemployment graduates with accounting and Business Management qualifications to be trained on new venture creation, coaching and mentorship support to 12500 micro enterprises. The project has just recently commenced and is scheduled to end on 30 July 2026.

- **Wholesale and retail seta spaza shop project-** Seda and wholesale and retail seta signed an agreement to support five thousand tuck-shops and general dealers over a two-year period. Two thousand five hundred and seventy-five spazas have been recruited and six hundred and eighty-three trained.

21.6 Localization Interventions across Provinces, Metros and Districts

Localization is a key strategy for economic growth in South Africa, aimed at promoting the production and consumption of locally produced good and services. This approach supports SMME's by creating a demand for local products, which is crucial for job creation and economic development.
During the 2022/23 Financial Year the department of Small Business Development conducted provincial road shows in all nine provinces to promote the clustering methodology, which is a tool used to develop industries and promote localization.
Out of these engagements, eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality was the first Municipality to approach the Department of Small Business Development with intentions of soliciting inputs in developing a localization policy.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the department concluded an agreement with the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism to explore the feasibility of establishing a metal cluster in the province. A feasibility study is underway during the 2023/24 financial year to determine viable industries.

Leveraging local corporations, public sector and state-owned entities procurement for localization. Since inception the market linkage programme has successfully linked small enterprises from all nine provinces to the domestic market. To date a total of 935 products from 178 SMME's have been linked to domestic private sector markets.
Procurement policies play a crucial role in supporting localization efforts by ensuring that local businesses particularly SMME's are prioritized in supply chain.

Challenges

- With the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme (TREP), in comparison to its targets the programme has underperformed largely due to the programme design not being fit for purpose.

- The township and rural entrepreneurship programme have been unable to make the desired impact in relation to increase in terms of the development impact numbers (numbers of micro, small and medium enterprises funded, job facilitated (created and maintained) women, owned businesses funded, Youth -owned businesses funded, Youth -owned businesses funded, and businesses owned by people living with

disabilities. This has been attributed to various internal and external structural and functional challenges, which have seen the programmes performance plummet.

- Access to affordable finance remains one of the most significant challenges facing SMME's in South Africa, particularly those in townships and rural areas.

- Effective resource allocation is a major challenge. Provincial and Local government must ensure that funds are directed towards high-impact projects that support small businesses.

Key Issues

- The Regulatory Impediment Implementation Plan has been approved by the Accounting Officer. This will be canvased across the three spheres of government for adoption in the 2024/25 Financial year.
- The department is currently conducting consultation with stakeholders on the draft Inter-governmental framework which will introduce a monitoring tool that will allow the department to continuously collect information on status of the implementation of the Regulatory Impediments Implementation Plan. The department aims to have the framework approved for adoption in the sector by the end of the 2024/ 25 Financial Year.

- The department is working on strengthening the approach to the support for Informal Business Association and Forums. Currently reviewing the Chamber Support Strategy to develop an informal and Micro Business Association Support Strategy.

To promote balanced economic growth across the country, it is essential to address geographic disparities and ensure that all SMME's have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. Continued focus on infrastructure development, capacity building and market access will be critical for achieving this goal.
Mapping emerging small businesses across provinces, metros and district provides valuable data that can confirm policy decisions.

22. Department of Police- Deputy Minister of Police, Hon Mr Cassel Mathale

As part of the various strategies and interventions to fight crime, especially in high crime areas. SAPS initiated multiple operations, each targeting specific threats.

The civilian secretariat for Police Service embarked on a process to review the 1996 National Crime Prevention Strategy and the 1998 White Paper on Safety and Security with inclusion of the 2012 National Development Plan. The Review process identified 2 distinct policy interventions.

The first intervention was the 2016 White Paper on Policing focusing solely on the policing environment given the absence of a comprehensive policing policy and the 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security focusing on an integrated and developmental approach to address the root causes of crime and violence.

The White Paper on Safety and Security and the Integrated Urban Development Framework acknowledges the impact of urban crime on development and endorses the motivation for municipalities to take an integrated approach to development.
SAPS is actively engaged in the District Development Model to strengthen its role in crime prevention and reduction with participation monitored quarterly during the 2024/25 Financial Year.

Key priorities for SAPS include effective monitoring of the District Development Model Implementation, building capacity at district level and providing training for effective participation.

Implementation is assessed through data-driven quarterly reports, with SAPS cooperating closely with the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and participating in interdepartmental district development model engagements.

SAPS continues to address gang-related crime through the implementation of the National Anti-Gangsterism strategy which focuses on four pillars: Human development, social partnerships, spatial design and criminal justice process. Implementation requires coordinated action across government departments and civil society, supported by joints at national and provincial levels, and operational commands centers for coordination.

SAPS is actively implementing its 2021 GBV Action Plan to support the NSP. SAPS aims to improve coherence and coordination at the national level by developing service level agreements and memorandums of agreement with key stakeholders, including optimizing CPFs and participating in various interdepartmental and inter-sectoral forums.

At the provincial level SAPS is focused on implementing Provincial GBVF Action Plan, enhancing local GBVF desk, and promoting victim-friendly services. Key priorities include monitoring implementation of related legislation and reporting on GBVF progress through various forums and committees.

SAPS acknowledges that addressing GBVF requires a collaborative approach involving multiple stakeholders, including communities' civil society organizations and government departments.

22.1 Key Issues for Oversight/Collaboration

- The Independent Police Investigation Directorate is continuing with the establishment of district offices in various Provinces in line with the District Development Model. The approach will improve accessibility of the IPID services to the citizenry.
- The department is trying to improve turnaround times in the finalization of cases and the implementation of the backlog reduction strategy.
- There are systems in place to establish a forensic capacity to deal with complex cases.
- All relevant departments and municipalities must institutionalize the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy in their Annual Performance Plans and Integrated Development Plans and develop clear action plans to implement the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy and leverage on the District Development Model

The Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy provides a proactive preventative approach to addressing the root causes of crime and violence which seeks to lessen the burden on the criminal Justice System.
The launch of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy is planned for October 2024 and stakeholder engagement in provinces will commence in October 2024.

22.2 Identification of key issues for Oversight and Collaboration

- Building safer communities is a shared responsibility between the police, the community, and all sectors of society.
- A public-private partnership is established linked to water supply.
- The DP indicated that we need interventions to go to areas to identify problems and to find solutions for the identified problems. The success of the DDM lies in the speed of its implementation in all spheres of government. We need to entrench discipline at all levels the discipline of getting things done. Calling all in the executive to work collaboratively and to contribute to the success of the DDM.
- Once Bills are introduced in Parliament, such need to have gone through all the required processes causing Bills processed by Parliament to go through litigation. The Leader of Government Business must introduce measures to ensure the quality of the legislation is proper before being introduced in Parliament.
- The Medium-Term Development Plan will be revealed as soon as the cabinet approves such. It contains clear goals, measurable objectives, and a road map to achieve such.
- We need to do everything in our power to eradicate duplications.
- To facilitate and deepen executive accountability out of respect for all those who voted and therefore allow the executive to serve.
- It was mentioned that a program is to be taken forward to ensure cleaner cities to attract investment. Leaders are urged in towns and cities to conduct competitions to promote the cleanliness of citizens. Awards are to be presented in this regard to cities.
- We will continue to invest in building safer communities which is not only a police responsibility, but a shared responsibility between the police themselves and all sectors of our communities or our society. Citizens are urged to work with law enforcement agencies to combat crime in our communities.
- We are also aware of the persistent issues of high levels of extortion, especially in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. We will through the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster bring together resources to put an end to extortions so that communities may conduct their businesses without fear and intimidation.
- We aim to align planning and budgeting as part of implementing the District Development Model (DDM) which is premised on “one plan, one vision” to achieve maximum results in building a better life for people.
- Together with local government, we need to prioritize overcoming local Capex funding gaps for infrastructure. For example, we are introducing a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in water supply with the National Treasury and the

Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure that we resolve the potential water crisis and act before there is a crisis as has been experienced with electricity challenged that lead to load shedding.

- In some areas or communities where they have water problems, we need to act fast to deal with those problems through the DDM, for investment in water. The successful implementation of the District Development Model lies in the speed of execution as a modus operandi which should be adopted across all spheres of government.
- Today many South African women are subjected to poverty, unemployment, gender-based violence, and femicide (GBVF). During this 7th dispensation of our Parliament, we must deepen the struggle against gender-based violence and femicide and ensure gender parity in government, business, and all sectors of society.
- We must not only acknowledge the plight of women, but we need to implement concrete action plans and programs to empower women, the youth, and people with disabilities.
- The 7th Parliament holds the responsibility of guiding our nation toward prosperity, inclusivity, and lasting and sustainable development.
- The Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) will be unveiled as soon as the Cabinet approves it.

22.3 Overall discussion on presentations/comments/question sessions by members

- Members were concerned about the abnormal levels of crime in the country.
- Members were concerned that the NHI remains unfunded and wanted to know how the implementation will go ahead without funding.
- Members were concerned about the high levels of illegal mining in Gauteng and wanted to know why is it difficult for the police to act on such people.
- Members were suggested that IPID should join hands with the police in fighting crime.
- Members were concerned that various sectors of government have been working in silos for the past 30 years and that has to come to an end if the government wants to achieve shared objectives. Members were supportive of the district development model.

- Members were concerned over the gross underfunding of local government in the country and called for a review of the funding model for local government.
- Members called for special funding for inclusive economic growth.
- Members were concerned over the issue of demilitarization of police as communities are calling for the government to deploy SANDF to their areas over the frustration of crime. So is the demilitarization of police not perhaps disempowering them from fulfilling their duties?
- Members were concerned that the Department of Basic Education did not address the issue of sanitary towels for young girls.
- Members called for the education system in South Africa to implement education that is in line with the economic needs of the country. Members indicated that there's a need for schools of specialization that will prepare them for skills needed in their areas of residence.
- The members called for the regulation of DDM to enable ease of oversight.
- members were concerned that the municipalities in poor areas were unable to attract skilled professionals including engineering and management skills.
- Members were concerned over the support for rural and township economy that is often spoken about, but not visible on the ground.
- Members were concerned over widespread private investments in metropolitan areas, but lack of investment in rural areas.
- Members were concerned over the lack of action against the construction mafia and called for a dedicated policy aimed at dealing with crimes of extortion.
- Members raised concerns over an increase in illegal mining within the towns of Mpumalanga without consequence management for the culprits.
- Members called for the building of a new nuclear power station in South Africa to replace aging energy infrastructure.
- Members were concerned over the absence of a service delivery master plans and wanted to know why the master plan was not a priority when the Department of Planning, monitoring, and Evaluation was established.
- Members were concerned over the lack of deliberations on human settlements which is currently in crisis in the country.
- Members wanted to know how the plans of the deputy president would result in radical economic empowerment.
- Members requested a list of schools where infrastructure projects have been taking place for them to be visited during the provincial week.

- Members were concerned over dilapidated schools that often led to community protests.
- Members were concerned over the killing of farm workers by farmers and called for a strategy to oversee the conditions of workers on farms.
- Members called for consideration in terms of resource allocation when planning for urban versus rural municipalities in the work of councilors, as the dynamics of their work are different. For instance, in the Northern Cape, a councilor will travel a long time to their different wards when compared to a City of Tshwane councilor.
- Members called for the full implementation of DDM which will allow synergy between the different spheres of government.
- Members suggested that provinces primarily prioritize rural development in their programmes.

23. Interactive Session

23.1 Clarity Seeking Questions from Participants

- Participants wanted to know about the budget of the NHI.
- Participants were concerned that police were focused on certain provinces and not others. An example was given of the zama zamas and the focus of SAPS on this matter in KZN when there were similar problems in Gauteng. Further, IPID should be invited to be part of fighting crime with police.
- Participants were of the view that the District Development Model is important, however it is equally important to establish one oversight plan. As three spheres of government, we are required to work together.
- Participants indicated that Local Government is under-funded, yet it is the sphere closest to the people. A call was made to review the funding model of Local Government and to take local government seriously to change the lives of people for the better.
- National Planning Commission review referred to demilitarization of police. If you look at crime reports, in some areas, there is a call for additional policing. If we talk about demilitarization of police, we must not put them under siege.
- Participants raised concerns in relation to the provision of sanitary towels for girl children.

- On the issue of professionalism, participants wanted to know how far we are in respect of obtaining skills audits and if we have a framework for skills audits. Professionalism goes hand in hand with a skills audit.
- Participants felt that the content of our education system ought to change. Children do not have to learn about Jan Van Riebeeck. We need to agree on how we educate the new generation of children. An example was made that children should be taught skills that will advance their progression to universities.
- Participants were of the view that there was an urgent need for regulations on the District Development Model.
- In respect of DTI and small business, the local state must be agile in terms of investors coming in and we need to understand the levels of consultation that has occurred with SALGA.
- In respect to POPIA legislation, recently there was a raid at Sun City Prison and 60 cell phones were confiscated by the police, who as a result of POPIA were unable to download the information. The legislation should be amended to ensure that SAPS is able to access information from cell phones of those incarcerated to be able to track if any criminal activity occurred.
- STATSA presentation showed poverty-stricken areas and we should be asking ourselves how we are allocating resources to these areas.
- The Constitution states that local government must generate their own revenue. What are we doing to change the funding model?
- Participants wanted further information pertaining to the resetting of electricity meters with the cutoff date for mid-November. A concern was raised that participants were not informed about who may be without electricity by that time.
- LED units in municipalities are perhaps managed by one person, what is being done to capacitate municipalities so that they are known by DTI to generate income.
- What is being done to offer support to rural and township economies.
- Has there been progress in the collaboration between the Department of Education and DTI. In 2021 the government decided to mobilise R1trillion in funds, how much has been mobilized.
- Derisking infrastructure: what measures has government put in place and have these measures seen any change.
- Acceleration of blended finance- are we looking at dual approach and private capital flowing to metros and to rural communities.
- What is being done to address the phenomenon of construction mafia in provinces.

- When will the Minister of Public Works finalise the audit of buildings that belong to government.
- In the longer term, what is being done to address energy constraints to avoid loadshedding. Why are we not building another power station.
- If we want clean towns, we need to address the issue of littering within communities and towns.
- Department of Electricity: why is there no masterplan and what framework or plan has been guiding the work of the department.
- The Statistician General has provided data that shapes policy, but we need answers on what should be done to address poverty and what actions should be taken.
- What steps should be taken to address housing and human settlements as this is an important issue in need of urgent redress.
- Participants were concerned that the presenter indicated that gas would no longer be sourced from Mozambique and wanted to understand the reasons for this.
- In respect of Education, there was a need to obtain a list of outstanding schools to trace and observe achievements.
- Concerns were raised about farm workers being killed by farmers in Limpopo and participants wanted to know what is being done to address this.
- Participants agreed that the DDM is important and that it should be regulated but that there should be alignment between the DDM and IDPs of municipalities. There should be co-operation of departments and local municipalities and therefore IGR becomes very important.
- The SC on Land and Minerals was in the Kuruman district in the 6th administration, and the participant requested follow up in the area. Small businesses need support to manufacture bricks and support local municipalities so that they are not reliant on grants.
- Participants were of the view that if the DORA was not addressed in rural districts, then inequality persists. There is a need to capacitate local municipalities to achieve the three-sphere planning vision.
- There is a need to review the PFMA and MFMA with timeframes. A review of the legislative framework will allow local government to function optimally and appreciate the work of SALGA.
- Spaza shops: the concern was raised in respect to foreigners opening shops in communities, whilst our own people had to adhere to laws to open shops.
- In the Western Cape, educator posts will be reduced from 2025 and school intake is expected to increase, what is being done to address this.

- There is a need to go back and look at laws to check whether the laws are fit for purpose.
- The Planning Commission said good things, but there is no implementation.
- The Rustenburg community is being terrorized by illegal miners. Zama zamas are killing people in the province. This needs to be addressed.
- We need to know in which districts the DDM is a huge success so that we can conduct oversight.
- The NHI Bill: at which stage will private medical schemes become obsolete.
- The PFMA is open to abuse and should be revisited to close the gaps that lead to corruption. The power lies in the hands of municipal councils, and this must be centralized. There is a housing development in George, where there is a standoff between 2 municipalities which needs urgent redress.
- We talk about cutting red tape however in the Western Cape, black and coloured people are not afforded opportunities to open small businesses.
- There is talk about creating construction sites, however Pacaltsdorp high school is dilapidated for many years and nothing is being done. Requesting urgent intervention.
- Transport is the heartbeat of the economy. Studies have shown that the majority of working class and poor people rely on transport. When will the passenger rails be in working order.
- In provinces where there are many natural resources that are transported by trucks which cause damage to roads, when will the road to rail programme be implemented.

23.2 Departmental Responses

Department of Trade and Industry: Local government is unsustainable because the funding model is badly structured and other spheres of government are not paying. The Department agreed to look into the issue of the content of education for children so that children will learn about broader issues which also fall within the SEZ project. Industrial policy has implications for various departments and the Department will have a discussion with all of them and they will present their realigned APPs in October.

In respect of Informal settlements: labour migration produces informal settlements because of the economic situations, people migrate and the Department will address this in its revised APPs.

In respect of the 2021 investments, this matter is at the project stage and will be reported on in due time. Public sector investment is falling and if we do not improve on this, government expenditure on capital investment will not move forward.

The Department of Small Business: Support to rural SMMEs: In conjunction with the Departments of Home Affairs and Police, the Department has funded 2775 spaza shops so far. The presentation contains more detail on this aspect and other businesses that the Department funds in each Province. In respect of the issue of red tape, Western Cape is the only province that reduced red tape and are attracting the most investment with the lowest unemployment rate. The advantage of the GNU is that policies that may have been rejected in the past, are now being implemented. The Department requested that the Department be given time to implement the necessary programmes, considering the recent formation of the GNU and with time, members will see the details contained in reports highlighting implementation, which will be tabled in parliament.

The Department of Transport: In response to issues around Kimberley, there are long-distance lines between Gauteng and Eastern Cape and they have taken delivery of new locomotives. They were faced with covid induced realities where security and vandalism had taken place. Rails, intercity and busses will all be reinstated, and the central line is key in this deliverable. Prasa is turning the corner. In relation to the road to rail, a national logistics committee is in place to address this for economic growth, and they are looking at revamping the policy development area. Part of the review is the easing of traffic and congestion to ensure that roads are functioning. They are also sorting out problems at the Durban Port. The President signed a proclamation to bring Transnet to the Department. There is a situation with a power station built on a coal mine and trucks are coming onto that coal mine and they are looking at ways to extract coal from where mines are built. There is a need to conduct a review of the National Road Strategy because accidents on roads are causing a loss of 90 billion rand to the economy.

Department of Electricity: Smart electricity meters: those installed through Eskom will expire in November and that is why it is necessary to recode meters. Currently 6.6milion are complete. Users will be given a 20-digit code which will be used to recode the meters. During this process, they will be able to identify ghost vendors and illegal meters.

Power Stations: Nuclear power is still important and Koeberg power station is being refurbished, Unit 1 is being extended for another 20 years. Nuclear new energies are being promoted across the world and we need to address the fear of nuclear. The legal challenge on the nuclear build proposal was withdrawn and it will be revisited at a later stage. Nuclear is not off the table, just held in abeyance so that it is transparent and open.

Gas agreement with Mozambique: the problem is that the gas field is running out of gas and it will be depleted by 2026. There is another area in Mozambique that produces gas but due to the fighting in Mozambique, this has not been investigated further. The Department is investigating finding another sustainable gas source.

The Department of Police: On Friday, SAPS will launch a Programme which is a collaborative agreement to combine resources to fight crime in the Western Cape Province. No preference or extra resources are being given to the Province, they are going to consolidate what the Province and City has to collaborate to address crime in the Province. SAPS has also been to Eastern Cape, Or Thambo district, Mthata in the Eastern Cape and Ghaberqa as well as Nelson Mandela Metro to discuss crime in the townships.

In respect of the protection of farm workers from being killed by farmers: the rural safety strategy also speaks to farming communities and is being rolled out to address these crimes. SAPS will implement the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) and normalise all communities to fight crime. They are not fearful to address crime in any province. Each operation requires proper planning before addressing crime in a particular community or province.

Environmental design affects SAPS' approach to fighting crime. All new police officials are trained to fight crime and given the necessary tools of trade, including guns, upon completion of training.

The Department of Monitoring and Evaluation: The Department is working with COGTA on The National Spatial Development Framework to address spatial disparities.
The Commission is an advisory body that is not responsible for implementation, merely advisory services, hence they are not implementors.

The Department of Health: The NHI budget doesn't exist and therefore cannot be given. There will be a process by which the administrative portion of the budget will be moved to establish the fund. The actual budget of the fund will be sequenced into budgetary cycles. R 272 billion will have to be moved and it will start with primary health care. Once the fund is fully implemented, then the medical aids will only offer complementary services.

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Day TWO: 28 AUGUST 2024

THREE-SPHERE PLANNING SESSION



TOWARDS AN OVERSIGHT AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT:

Delineating key Policy and Oversight Priorities for the Seventh Parliament

24. Day Two

24.1 Opening and Welcome Remarks Hon Mr. P. Govender, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces

The Deputy Chairperson encouraged participants to continue with the introspective, analytical and high-level inputs made during the first day of the Session, as this will assist the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to crystalise policy and oversight priorities for the 7th Parliament.

Provincial and local sphere perspectives were introduced as the focus of the second day of the Session, as the implementation of key priorities find expression at the provincial and local sphere of government. The need for integrated planning across the three spheres, whilst remaining cognisant of the need to accelerate implementation and being responsive to the needs of people, were highlighted as crucial for addressing South Africa's developmental challenges. Participants were cautioned to remain cognizant that each province has its own unique developmental challenges, which must be taken into consideration within the context of three sphere planning, to ensure well aligned plans, responsive budgeting frameworks and implementation timelines.

The Deputy Chairperson reiterated that the NCOP will strengthen its oversight, tracking, monitoring and impact assessment role, by developing and implementing a comprehensive Three Sphere Planning system and Intergovernmental Relations and Cooperative Governance Oversight Framework, to facilitate inter - governmental relations across the three spheres of government. One of the apex priorities of the session was hence articulated as being centred in the resolve, to function in an integrated and interrelated manner, to effectively execute collective functions, for the improved implementation of national objectives.

24. Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Priorities - Hon Mr V. Hlabisa, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

The Minister apprised the National Council of Provinces on challenges and progress made in the implementation of the Municipal Support and Implementation Plans (MSIPs) in the nine Provinces. The presentation focused on constitutional mandates, political and administrative governance, financial management, service delivery, section 139[1] and Section 154[2] interventions and the status of dysfunctional municipalities. The Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG) in consultation with provincial departments responsible for cooperative

[1] Section 139 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
[2] Section 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996

governance categorised municipalities according to their performance, resulting in the development of the 2022 State of Local Government (SoLG) Report which was approval by Cabinet.

24. 1 Financial Recovery Plans (FRPs) are Imposed on a Municipalities

The Minister indicated that the Constitution, including Section 154, requires provincial government to monitor and support municipalities in building their capacity to executive its municipal mandate. Financial Recovery Plans (FRPs) are imposed on a municipality either by the courts or national and provincial government due to the perpetual failure of a municipality to meet its financial obligations and which impacts negatively on service delivery. Where an in intervention has taken place in terms of either Section 139(1) or 139(5) of the Constitution, monitoring takes place against the Financial Recovery Plan development for the Municipality.

24.2 Municipal Support and Intervention Plans (MSIPS)

Municipal Support and Intervention Plans (MSIPS) on the other hand are support instruments focussing on the six (6) pillars performance areas of sustainability namely, political, governance, institutional/ administrative capability, financial management, service delivery and local economic development. The primary purpose of the MSIPs is to identify actions to be undertaken by stakeholders across all spheres that will be targeted and impactful, to effectively address prevailing challenges in the various performance areas of a municipalities. The Minister raised serious concerns about the periods for which some municipalities have been under administration (some as long as 10 years) and what seems to be the negligible impact of interventions in some municipalities.

24.3 Distressed Municipalities

PROVINCE	DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES
EASTERN CAPE	• MSIPs were developed in Chris Hani DM and Sakhisizwe and Ingquza Hill LMs. • Nelson Mandela Bay Metro is in the process of finalising the development of the FRP. • Four municipalities namely OR Tambo and Walter Sisulu DM, Amathole, Makana and Enoch Mgijima LMs are implementing mandatory FRPs.

	• Amahlathi and Raymond Mhlaba LMs, are implementing discretionary FRPs.
FREE STATE	• MSIPs have been developed for all the municipalities in the Free State Province including two dysfunctional municipalities namely of Emfuleni and Merafong LMs respectively. • Emfuleni LM is under Section 139(5)(a) intervention read with Section 63 of the Water Services Act, 108 of 1997.
KWAZULU - NATAL	The Province has put place measures to ensure that support is provided to all municipalities in the Province including the 12 distressed municipalities namely: Mpofana, Msunduzi, Inkosi Langalibalele, Newcastle, Nquthu, Emadlangeni and Inkosi uMtubatuba LMs and UThukela, Ugu, uMkhanyakude, uMzinyathi, and Amajuba DMs.
GAUTENG	• MSIPs have been developed for all the municipalities in the province including the two dysfunctional municipalities namely Emfuleni and Merafong City LMs respectively.
LIMPOPO	• Three municipalities, namely, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena and Modimolle-Mookgophong LMs were classified as distressed and the support is provided through implementation of MSIPs. • The latter three LMs are politically stable, however Lepelle-Nkumpi LM remains stagnant resulting in unstable management.
MPUMALANGA	• MSIPs have been developed for all 20 municipalities in the Province including six (6) distressed Local Municipalities namely: Dipaleseng, Dr JS Moroka, Govan Mbeki, Lekwa, Msukaligwa and Thaba Chweu.
NORTH WEST	• Ten municipalities in the Province were identified as distressed being Kgetleng Rivier, Madibeng, Matlosana, JB Marks, Ditsobotla, Mahikeng, Ramotshere Moiloa, Ratlou, and Tswaing LMs and Dr Ruth Mompati DM. • The Provincial Executive Committee in November 2021 resolved to place six (6) of the distressed municipalities under mandatory intervention in line with Section 139(5) (a) and (c) of the Constitution read together with Section 139(5) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 (MFMA), namely, Madibeng, Kgetleng Rivier, Tswaing, Ditsobotla, Ramotshere Moiloa LMs and Dr Ruth Mompati DM. • In Ditsobotla, the municipal council is stable however cohesion between the council and PER team remains strained.

	• MSIPS have been developed for the rest of the municipalities across the province including the four distressed municipalities namely, Matlosana, JB Marks, Mahikeng and Ratlou LMs.
NORTHERN CAPE	MSIPS have been developed for the nine municipalities in the Province identified as distressed/dysfunctional namely Gamagara, Renosterberg, Joe Morolong, Sol Plaatjie, Phokwane, Siyancuma, Kai Garib, Tsantsabane and Ubuntu LMs.
WESTERN CAPE	• Two municipalities in the Province have been categorised as distressed being Kannaland and Beaufort West LMs. • The FRP for Kannaland is still in process of being developed since the Municipality disagrees with the Provincial Government on the s139 intervention and the review of the existing Section 154 Support Plan in Kannaland is underway.

24.4 Deliberations and Engagement

Each province has adopted its own monitoring mechanisms in the form of regional monitoring mechanisms (Gauteng) or monitoring and reporting frameworks (Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, North West and KwaZulu Natal). The Free State and Northern Cape provinces are however struggling to institutionalise monitoring and reporting of municipal performance.

Several participants emphasised that Section 139 Interventions should be the last resort and should be considered only after Section 154 support has been exhausted. FRP's, MISP and interventions in Muncipalities must be supported by municipal staff with the necessary competencies, capacity and professional skills.

The Minister highlighted that where waivers of the Total Annual Remuneration Packages of Senior Managers are necessary to attract suitable Senior Management, these will be given due consideration by his Office. Senior Manager Remuneration waivers and applications to increase the categorisation of Municipalities will however not be approved where a municipality adopts an unfunded budget.

There was a sense that District Municipalities must be further empowered, which could include the allocation of a conditional grant aligned to its legislated functions. District municipalities should be in position to step in to address challenges, such as under expenditure on conditional grant allocations by local municipalities.

The Constitution assigns municipalities the function of electricity distribution to households however the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) also supplies to Eskom, which in turn supplies to households. Municipalities are then not able to effect its credit control measures for the payment of municipal services. At the same time challenges in the electricity distribution by municipalities should be addressed.

A member relayed reports where households in the City of Cape Town purchase pre-paid electricity monies gets deducted when they are in arrears with their municipal accounts however the deductions are not reflected on their municipal accounts.

A proposal was made that COGTA should conduct an assessment to determine the viability and financial sustainability of municipalities. An example was made of Kopanong Municipal in the Free State Province, where there is no economic activity and the revenue base for municipal services is very low. Where the assessment point to the demarcation of the municipality as being the root cause, such municipalities will have to be disestablished, and political and personal interests should not stand in the way of progress.

The fact that no recognition of Khoisan Traditional Leaders in the Western Cape Province has taken place was raised. Inputs made by the Eastern Cape Province, which were echoed by other participants, expressed the view that :

- Traditional Leaders do not receive the necessary support and budgets comparable to other heads of state.
- The structures of Traditional Leaderships varies and the participation of headman, representatives of the King and King Councils are not provided for in the current legal framework.
- The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, 3 of 2019 has reduced the representation of Traditional Leaders in municipal councils by amending the Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998 which had made provision for a maximum of 20% representation of Traditional Leaders.

The Deputy Minister for COGTA Hon. Mr. Z Burns-Ncamashe responded that the Khoisan Commission has been established and that it is anticipated that the first recognition of Traditional Leaders in the Western Cape will be brought before the Minister of COGTA within the 2024/25 financial year.

Further, the Deputy Minister reported that the Minister has undertaken to submit correspondence to the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers, outlining the constitutional obligations to Traditional Leaders to the Commission.

24.5 Key Priorities for Oversight and Collaboration

- The NCOP should receive frequent reports from the COGTA Task Teams established to intervene in municipalities.
- The NCOP should also strengthen its monitoring of Section 139 interventions and the impact thereof.
- Section 154 support plans should be accompanied by financial support, so as to ensure that ailing municipalities do not pay from their own coffers for these often exorbitant financial commitments
- A framework should be developed for the involvement of Traditional Leaders in local government service delivery.
- There is no Disaster Management Centre (DMC) functioning in the Fezile Dabi DM and the Municipality is currently undertaking profiling. The Provincial and National departments of Co-Operative Government must support the Municipality in ensuring the establishment of a fully functioning DMC in the District.
- The findings of the DDM pilots in OR Tambo DM, Waterberg DM and Ethekweni Metro that was initiated in 2020 should inform the further institutionalisation of the DDM.
- The Minister reported that COGTA will engage National treasury, Cabinet and parliament to ensure that Departments settle municipal accounts, including raising the possibility of National Treasury withholding budget allocations from Departments for this purpose.

25. SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SALGA) PERSPECTIVES - CLLR B STOFILE, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The President of SALGA stated that they are of the view that this Three-Sphere Planning Session came at an appropriate time when the need to refocus energies and reconsider the notion of cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations in line with Section 41 of the Constitution of the Republic was needed. The SALGA President explained that the 1998

25.1 Characteristics of developmental local government as outlined by the White Paper on Local Government

White Paper on Local Government identifies four interrelated characteristics of developmental local government, which includes:

- Maximising social development and economic growth;
- Integrating and coordinating;
- Democratising development, empowering and redistributing; and
- Leading and learning.

The President of SALGA reflected on the NCOP focus areas of maximising social development and economic growth on the one hand and Integration and coordination on the other hand.

In respect of maximising social development and economic growth, SALGA's assessment is that excellent strides have been made in meeting the basic needs of the poor, yet still more work needs to be done in this regard. To achieve greater improvements, certain policy changes are required, which includes:

- A review of the equitable share formula allocation, to address the attendant constraints that impede the ability of local government to discharge its obligations and mandate;
- Clarification of the Constitutional authority of municipalities with regard to the reticulation of electricity
- Strengthening the role of local government in renewable energy;
- The introduction of pooled financing mechanisms and innovative funding instruments for infrastructure funding.
- SALGA is also keen to further investigate, together with government, other instruments such as social impact bonds and the effective implementation of public private partnerships.

In respect of Integration and co-ordination, SALGA submitted that through the implementation of the Spatial Planning and Land Use legislative framework and the Integrated Urban Development Framework, local government will be able to address apartheid spatial patterns and ensure integrated planning in municipal spaces.

It was added that the National Development Plan requires a strong and efficient spatial planning system, well integrated across all three spheres of government.

25.2 Deliberations and Engagement

With the promulgation of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 13 of 2005 regulations promulgated by April 2021, the DDM is now legally required to be institutionalised. National and Provincial projects must be implemented in consultation with Local Government, emphasising the need for the joint implementation protocols as outlined in the DDM.

The President highlighted that critical issues that require deliberation is the ballooning municipal service debt of Departments and unaffordable tariff structures.

The Electricity Regulation Amendment Act 38 of 2024 introduces a definition for the reticulation of electricity which would limit the future scope of municipalities to provide electricity. *It was questioned whether the NCOP appreciated the impact of this provision when the Bill was deliberated in the NCOP.*

25.3 Identification of key Priorities for Oversight and Collaboration

There was consensus that the funding model for local government should be revised. The Financial and Fiscal Commission has made similar recommendations to National Treasury. As part of this process, unfunded mandates should be isolated so that a conditional grant can be created for such services, or the mandate ought to be removed from local government. The 9.1% allocation to Local government through the Division of Revenue needs to be reviewed urgently.

26. PROVINCIAL LEGACY PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT CATALYTIC PROJECTS

26.1 Eastern Cape Province - Hon. Ms T Capa, MEC for Health in the Eastern Cape Province

Overview

The MEC for Health updated the NCOP on key strategic projects aimed at catalysing and stimulating the provincial economy, provincial performance on education infrastructure grants, interventions in terms of the DDM as well as interventions to reduce crime, poverty and unemployment. Amongst the top provincial focus areas include inclusion of DDM in the MECS' Delivery Agreements and inclusion of the institutionalisation of the DDM as a performance area in its 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan.

The Eastern Cape is implementing projects at a cost of R22 billion in different DMs, including the poorest districts such as Alfred Ndzo and OR Tambo. The Mzimvubu catchment is situated in one of the poorest and least developed regions of the Country. The Umzimvubu Water Project will contribute to the development of the area to accelerate the social and economic upliftment of the people. It will be implemented over the following four stages, the first of which is the access road and associated works which is progressing well (86% complete) and the socio – economic benefits of this stage include that 6 black-owned local enterprises, of which 3 are black women-owned, are participating in the project.

The Eastern Cape Department of Transport (EC DoT) and National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the construction of 19 Bailey Bridges in Chris Hani, Amathole, Joe Gqabi and OR Tambo Districts through the Welisizwe Bridge Programme in collaboration with the South African National Defence Force (Funding:

R307, 887 Million; Timeline: commencement in 2024/25). Two SANRAL projects in the Alfred Ndzo District include the road from Matatiele to Cedarville Road and the road in Kwabhaca and Ngcweleni River, with project costs of R1.2 billion each. In Buffalo City Metro the Province is implementing roads projects worth 2,3 billion, including Belstone-Breidbatch Interchange, that is almost complete in Bisho-N6, Mooiplaas – Qumrha junction. In Amathole DM, the Province is implementing a R4.3 Billion project which includes the major interchange in Ndabakazi. The province is also implementing another project in Sarah Baartman District worth 2.3 billion in phase 1 and 2. In Chris Hani DM roads projects worth R2.7 billion include the Black Kei River to Komani road.

Completed road infrastructure projects include Breidbach-Belstone Interchange (Project Value: R502m) and the Green River - Buffalo River Bridge N2 improvement (Section 14 and 15 from Green River (60 km) to Buffalo River bridge) (Project Value: R588m. 374) through which jobs were created and 57 SMMEs benefited.

Other key strategic projects include the Wind Wolf Wind Farm, Coleskop Wind Farm and Mqanduli Office Park. The Wind Wolf Wind Farm is located within Sarah Baartman District Municipality (Timeline: 2023-2025). Local SMMEs opportunities includes plant hire, security, commuting employees via Taxi Association (30 taxis on site) toilets and concrete works. The

Coleskop Wind Farm project is scheduled for completion in December 2024 with 13 SMMEs benefiting from the project and 377 jobs being created.

Major government office accommodation infrastructure projects in the Province include Bhisho Office Precinct which is at a planning stage and EmaXesibeni Office Park which is at implementation phase. The Phase 1 project value is R48 Million with a project timeline of 2022 – 2024. The Phase 2 project value is R94 Million with a project timeline of 2024 – 2027.

As a result of the oversight by the recently established Premier's Infrastructure Coordinating Council, the Province spent 99.67% (R1 697 billion) of its Education Infrastructure Grant by end of 2023/24 and this good performance trend continues in 2024/25. Three hundred and fifty schools still require intervention on sanitation. Seventeen (17) of these schools are already included in the provincial 60 Sanitation Programme for the 2024/25 financial year. The remaining three hundred and thirty-three schools have been scheduled for the eradication of pit latrines over the outer two years of the MTEF period, with 166 schools targeted for 2025/26 and 167 schools planned for 2026/27.

The Province continues to implement its Provincial Government Local Economic Development Procurement Framework (LEDPF), which is aimed at ensuring that at least 60% of Provincial procurement is spent on goods and services which are manufactured and supplied by Eastern Cape based suppliers. Planned localisation improvements include providing support to the aftermarket industry to access markets in a RT46 Government Fleet Contract of +-R250million spent per annum (SMME development through government procurement) and establishing automotive aftermarket support in the province (particular focus on youth entrepreneurs).

The Province will be focusing on stabilising the top 30 high crime police stations through continuous implementation of the Musa Ukuthula Kusonakala Campaign, the SAPS Operation Sikhona and deployment of specialised units in the form of Tactical Response Teams, National Intervention Unit and Public Order Policing. This approach is geared towards increase police visibility through deployment of mounted units, freeway patrols and K9 units. The Provincial

Task Team for Economic Crimes will be equipped with experienced detectives to address the emerging economic crimes.

Towards commercialisation of agriculture as a lever to reduce hunger and poverty and number of key interventions will be implemented, amongst other, the establishment of key agricultural infrastructure including commercial feedlots, seedling nurseries, milk processing plants, pack sheds, wool sorting facilities, and grain storage facilities that are technically and financially feasible.

27. 2 Free State Province - Hon M.K. Makume, MEC for Finance, Tourism and Economic Development

Introduction

The MEC provided an overview of the Free State 2050 Growth and Development Trajectory and Medium – Term Development Plan priorities. The Province has identified six integrated planning priority pillars namely:

- Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Job Creation;
- Education, Innovation and Skills Development;
- Improved Quality of Life;
- Sustainable Rural Development;
- Building Social Cohesion and
- Good Governance.

The latter pillar will also include a focus on an ethical and capable state. The MEC highlighted that the 2025 Vision identifies seven Development Corridors, spread across the Districts in the Province.

The Mangaung Development Corridor (Urban Growth and Infrastructural Development) focuses on the connection between Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo and Bloemfontein and on the region's relationship with Lesotho. This corridor is the largest trade partnership and requires significant infrastructure development to improve trade, logistics, public transportation, skills development, and the knowledge economy. Catalytic projects and interventions in this corridor include, amongst other:

- N8 corridor development, a rail link project connecting Lesotho, Bloemfontein and Kimberly.
- Botshabelo Industrial Park, an industrial development aimed at boosting local economic growth
- The Mangaung Airport Development, a mixed-use area encompassing residential, retail, light industrial and cargo elements.

Maluti Development Corridor (Tourism and agriculture) shares borders with Lesotho, which requires enhanced service delivery and infrastructure to manage the influx and strain on local resources. This corridor also has high tourism potential due to its ecological sensitivity, heritage monuments, and adventure tourism. Catalytic projects and intervention in this corridor include:

- Maluti-a-Phofung Special Economic Zone aimed at boosting local economic activity and development.
- Smart School: Establishing a Smart School to support skills development essential for logistics and other developments within the Maluti-a-Phofung Special Economic Zones.

The Gateway Development Corridor (Trade and logistics expansion) encompasses Maluti-a-Phofung, Phumelela, Mafube, and parts of Dihlabeng and Nketoana Local Municipalities. As a gateway to the Free State from KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, this corridor plays a crucial role in national logistics, with key trade routes passing through. It also features environmental assets, including nature reserves and protected areas, contributing to its tourism potential. Catalytic projects and intervention in this corridor include:

- Expansion of Protected Areas and Nature Reserves
- Capitalization on Freight Flow from the JHB-Harrismith-Durban Link

The Innovation Development Corridor (Technology and research-driven industries) encompasses Metsimaholo and part of Ngwathe Local Municipalities. The region shares border with Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and Nort West Many residents commute to Gauteng for work, and tourism facilities rely heavily on visitors from Gauteng. The area also shares natural resources such as the Vaal River and Dam, with neighbouring provinces. Catalytic projects and intervention in this corridor include:

- Green Hydrogen Production in Sasolburg
- Development of Latent Tourism Potential in the Vredefort Dome and Vaal Dam

The Minerals Development Corridor (Mining and resource extraction) includes Matjhabeng and part of Masilonyana. This region is dominated by the mining sector however it faces high unemployment due to a decline in mining. Catalytic projects and intervention in this corridor include:

- Establishment of Supporting Service Industries Linked to the Natural Gas Industry in the Welkom Settlement
- Independent Power Producer (IPP) Project and Renewable Energy Development Zones

The Energy Development Corridor (Renewable and traditional energy resources) includes areas along the Vaal River, including part of Phumelela, Mafube, Ngwathe, Moqhaka, Nala, Tswelopele and Tokologo local municipalities. Catalytic projects and intervention in this corridor include:

- Upgrading and Transfer of the R30 and R59 roads to SANRAL.
- Integration of Environmentally Conscious Farming Techniques in Agri/Eco Trade-off Zones.

The MEC also provide an overview of the Provinces Project Pipeline, including the project status and Capital Expenditure per project. These projects include the Boshoff Solar Park (R1 Billion), Kruisvallei Hydro (R0.76 Billion) and Letsatsi Power Company (R1.30 Billion) projects which are currently operational. The Laksman Energy Facility (RF)(Pty) is currently at implementation preparation stage, with a projected project budget of R3 Billion. The Mangaung Metro Metropolitan Airport Development Project (N8) has a projected budget of R10.3 Billion and a project feasibility study has been completed.

Recent investment developments in the province include the Springbok Solar Park, which will generate 150 MW using photovoltaic technology, creating 400 jobs in the Matjhabent LM. Similar projects are underway in Theunissen and Virginia, with a combined value of R6.3 Billion.

Deliberations and Engagement

The combined budget of municipalities in the province is between R2 Billion and R3 Billion, most of which are received in the form of conditional grants. Municipalities however only spend half of conditional grants transferred and this low grant expenditure and the consequent applications for roll – over allocations to future financial years needs to be addressed.

Grade 12 pass rates have increased in the province over the past decade from 75.5% to 88.5% with bachelor's passes increasing rapidly from 26% to 43%. However, these successes do not necessarily translate into improved economic development or improved access to economic opportunities. It is therefore necessary for education and training institutions to produce the skills that are in demand for the Provincial economy, such as the agricultural sector.

The extension of Bram Fischer International Airport, including the establishment of a dedicated cargo terminal, is a critical multi – stakeholder project which is supported by the Airports Company South Africa.

28. GAUTENG PROVINCE - Hon Mr. J Mamabolo, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport the Gauteng Province

Overview

The Gauteng Government of Provincial Unity (GPU) reported that it has embraced the founding statement of intent of the government of national unity (GNU) aligned to the national priorities of:

- Inclusive economic growth and job creation;
- Improved living conditions
- Enhanced Health and Wellbeing
- And a capable, ethical and developmental state.

The Province elevated the following priority areas including:

- Fighting crime;

- Building a capable state;
- Economic repositioning and development;
- Township, Informal Settlement and Hostel (TISH) and Central Business District (CBD0 development towards job creation.

The Province is operationalising the DDM with, for example, weekly engagements at the Energy Response Council (ERC) for areas affecting basic services and meetings with Rand Water to address issues of debt management, infrastructure management and reliable supply of water to the residents of Gauteng. To address the current water crisis, stakeholders are consolidating strategic water resource protection interventions.

Through quarterly Member of Executive (MEC) or Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) engagements on the application of section 154 of the Constitution, the Province oversees and monitor local municipalities. These engagements seek to explore all the available avenues within the local government legislative framework to resolve administrative challenges in municipalities with a view of averting Section 139 intervention.

In the 7th administration the provincial government will be focusing on large scale social and economic infrastructure in order to achieve inclusive economic growth and job creation. SEZs are a key economic development model with a good example being the Tshwane Automotive Economic Zone which can be replicated countrywide. Another example is Citibank that has committed to investing Mitochondria Energy to the tune of R750 million in the Vaal Special Economic Zone. The following other SEZs the Gauteng City Region are firmly in the economic development plans for the provincial seventh administration of the province:

- Development of Tshwane Automotive SEZ
- Development of the Science and High-Tech SEZ In Ekandustria
- Accelerated implementation of OR Tambo SEZ
- SEZ in Emfuleni, Sedibeng Region (Vaal Industrial areas)
- Development of West Rand Agri-industrial Park and Logistics Hub
- Tambo Springs Logistics Gateway
- Nigel Locomotive Hub

- Revitalization of the Babelegi Industrial Park
- Revitalization of Garankuwa Industrial Park
- Establishment of the Township Enterprise

In respect of provincial infrastructure linkages, the planned Transnet pipelines will see construction of the PL6 Pipeline extending from Jameson Park in Heidelberg to OR Tambo International Airport. This project will address the anticipated Jet Fuel shortages by 2028 and avert supply shortages from Sasolburg (Project Cost: More than R800 million; Timeline: Completion in May 2028). The manufacturing sector revitalisation through railway production based in Nigel will produce approximately 203 trains, creating 1200 full time jobs at the plant itself and an additional 1 631 jobs during the construction phase. Gibela consortium has spent R161 million in direct procurement from local suppliers in the immediate vicinity of Nigel, Duduza, Springs, KwaThema and Tsakani, among others. The Ukuvuselela Project is a high-capacity freight rail project between Tshwane and Port Elizabeth and is due to be launched under the 7th administration. Gauteng government will invest R120 billion in the expansion of Gautrain to the following areas: Soweto via Fourways; Mamelodi; Atteridgeville; Lanseria; and Springs. These projects are expected to create more than 125 000 jobs during construction over a five-year period.

Tshwane Economic Development Agency (TEDA) is an enabling intervention for inclusive economic growth in the Tshwane region. The partnership with CNS Beverage and Food Supply (Pty) Ltd has seen the establishment of a food and beverage factory in Midrand through which R300 million will be invested over a period of 3 years.

The province plans to build four hospitals to service residents in Daveyton, Olievenhoutbosch, Diepsloot and Orange Farm. In respect of Daveyton hospital. The National Department of Health has approved the business case, and the project has been handed over to the Gauteng Infrastructure Financing Agency (GIFA) for commencement.

The Provincial Government appointed City Power to fix broken transformers throughout the province by bringing one hundred megawatts of energy into the grid of the province. Government continues to invest in high energy supply in Gauteng.

In attending to economic infrastructure deficiencies government entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with municipalities on road rehabilitation and infrastructure for targeted roads, with a focus on enhancing skills training for young people. Such initiatives will improve road infrastructure in townships and support will be sought from the Construction Sector Education and Training Agency (SETA).

In terms of housing, the Department of Human Settlements is coordinating the Lanseria Smart City project. The provincial government welcomes the report that Heineken is pledging a major capital investment in the Midvaal municipal area including the construction of a new brewery and a malting plant. Similarly, Vodacom has pledged a R3 billion investment in the ICT network infrastructure in Gauteng.

Among the provincial prioritises are Townships, Informal Settlements and Hostels including the revitalisation of the Central Business Districts (CBDs). An Intergovernmental Relations committee meeting is planned for September 2024 to discuss a collaborative approach with municipalities and to revitalise CBDs starting with the City of Johannesburg. The Office of the Premier will collaborate with the Members of Executive Council (MECs) in coordinating the IGR sector players and ensure such plans come to fruition.

The provincial education department has allocated R2.2 billion in the form of an education infrastructure grant for the 2024/25 financial year for maintenance and provision of school facilities to support the implementation of the curriculum and to comply with minimum uniform norms and standards for public school infrastructure. In order to achieve the service delivery improvements, the following are targeted for 2024/25 financial year:

- 350 classrooms to be refurbished into ICT classrooms.
- 295 schools to receive planned or scheduled maintenance.
- 175 classrooms to be provided in existing schools.
- 15 grade R classrooms to be delivered.
- 3 new and replacement schools to be delivered.

28.1 Key Priorities for Oversight and Collaboration

In respect of interprovincial relations and catalytic projects, the province plans to connect Gauteng and Limpopo which will also create 18 000 employment opportunities in the

construction industry. Plans are underway to meet with the leadership of Limpopo and discuss the extension of Gautrain to their province. The speed train will route between Tshwane and Limpopo. The two provinces will jointly work together to see this project through. The 7th administration should prioritise this project to develop an inter-provincial transport, as well as accessible transportation around the airport in Wonderboom. The project is currently at feasibility study phase.

Water demand has surged significantly, causing the treated water supplied by Rand Water to occasionally fall short of meeting the growing needs. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) that commenced in October 2023 is expected to increase water supply and decrease the ongoing water disruptions. Rand Water has a R35 billion capital programme aimed at ensuring that substantial additional treatment and storage capacity becoming available when LHWP Phase 2 comes online. In Ekurhuleni the Vlakfontein Reservoir was built and Mapleton pumping station was upgraded for additional pumping. Because the water is usually gravity-fed from municipal reservoirs to households, high-lying areas are worst affected by disruptions in supply. In Ekurhuleni high lying areas include Etwatwa, Daveyton, Benoni and Tsakani and Duduza In addition to LHWP, other measures must be taken to improve supply, including improving the maintenance and performance of municipal distribution infrastructure (such as by building additional reservoirs and pumping stations. Provincial government is supporting wastewater treatment entity - Ekurhuleni Water Care Company (ERWAT) through planning for the upgrading of five (5) wastewater treatment plants with an expected planning completion date of June 2025.

29. KwaZulu Natal Province - Hon Mr. T. Ntuli, Premier of the Kwazulu – Natal Province

Introduction

The Premier reported on the planned Medium – Term projects for the Province. Implementation of the DDM Plan takes place in the Province at the level of the Provincial Action Work Group. An estimated R7.9 billion investment is to be attracted into various sectors in the province by 31 March 2025.

During the 2024/25 financial year, construction will commence on the KwaMgai and Surrounds Water Supply Scheme (Umzumbe LM Ward 8). The Amajuba District Hilltop Reservoir Settlements Water Supply Scheme (Dannhauser Ward 3,7 & 12) project valued at R83 366 375 will be completed in October 2024. The Msikaba and Surrounds Water Supply Scheme (Ray Nkonyeni LM Wards 20, 23 & 24). Upgrading of the Nkanyezini Water Supply Scheme

(Mkhambathini LM Wards 3 & 5) will reach practical completion by the end of the 2024/25 whilst the Newcastle Upgrade of Madadeni Wastewater Treatment Works has been under operation since June 2024.

Utilising the Education Infrastructure Grant the Province will undertake the Construction of the Maritime School of Excellence in Umlazi. The state-of-the-art educational facility is due to be handed over in November 2024. Upgrades and additions to the Mbuso Kubheka ICT, Engineering & Technology School of Excellence in Newcastle will be completed in November 2024. Construction of the Meadowsweet Intermediate School in uThukela DM is planned for Official Opening once completed in November 2024. Construction of the Solomon Mahlangu Primary School in Cornubia, Durban will be completed in October 2024.

The Province is undertaking the eradication of Pit Latrines at 1377 schools and the eradication of asbestos (Phase : 493 Schools and Phase 2: 749 Schools). Phase 1 of the asbestos project has commenced and 60 of the 493 schools having been completed, 59 of 433 Schools are on construction stage and 90 of 343 Schools are on design documentation stage (tender stage). Completion will be guided by the continued allocation from the Education Infrastructure Grant.

Construction on the Virginia Airport Redevelopment is expected to take place over the 2025 – 2030 period. Infrastructure upgrade are also intended for the Mkhuze, Pietermaritzburg, Newcastle, Margate and Prince Mangosuthu airports.

While Vopak & TPL Consortium Venture (Richards Bay) has been selected to design, develop, construct, finance, operate and maintain the Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) terminal for a period of 25 years. This will involve the provision of gas infrastructure to Richards Bay Industrial Zone (RBIDZ) tenants. The business case is expected to be completed by 2025/26.

Currently, 162 tower foundations are under construction in Umzumbe and Umuziwabantu construction to secure the stability of electricity supply in the KZN Province. The project will be completed by December 2025.

Projects scheduled for completion in 2027 include the Darvill Sewer Outfall (MsunduziLM Ward 35) and the uMzinyathi – The Kwapharafini/Ngcengeni Regional Bulk Supply Scheme with the intention to build a 2million Lire Reservoir, the Installation of about 80km of pipelines and 87 Communal Standpipes.

In respect of economic infrastructure, the provincial project pipeline includes new and rehabilitated agricultural infrastructure as part of the Green Jobs through the Land Care Programme.

Human Settlements projects in the Provincial pipeline includes the Cornubia project comprising approximately 25 000 housing opportunities and the Greater Amaoti housing project in eThekwini Metro where field geotechnical investigations, the engineering report and Sewer Impact Assessment have been completed. Further projects are the Empangeni Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) for bulk infrastructure services and internal services, the N11 Community Residential Unit (CRU) project in Newcastle and the Hospital Street Social Housing Project. The planned development of Kings Estate, a mixed-use commercial, industrial and residential estate in the north near King Shaka International Airport.

The Ariadne Eros 400KV174km Transmission Line is to erect 197 transmission lines including 174km pylons/towers across 5 municipalities of Richmond, Mkhambathini, uMdoni, Umzumbe and Muziwabantu.

29.1 Deliberations and Engagements

The Premier highlighted that the province has an urgent task to mobilise the most available resources towards creating jobs and fighting poverty. Resources were noted to be directed to the following areas:

- Youth Development Centres;
- Care and Support Services to the Older Persons;
- Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs);
- Women Development Flagship Projects;
- Sheltering services and White Door Centres;
- Comprehensive Farmer Support;
- the Cannabis/Hemp Programme, Land Care Programme, the Agricultural Skills Development Programme, the Land Care Programme, Agri hub initiative,
- the Black Industrialist Programme;
- Oceans economy interventions via Operation Phakisa;
- infrastructure upgrades, attracting private sector investment, community and stakeholder engagements focusing on fighting crime;
- the DDM Plan;
- Housing opportunities, housing projects;
- Bulk infrastructure services,
- Mega-Projects,
- Eradication of asbestos in schools and the eradication of unsafe pit latrines.

30. Limpopo Province - Hon Mr. R. B. Makamu, MEC for Co-Operative Governance in the Limpopo Province

Introduction

In its presentation the Limpopo Provincial Government reflected on its vision from the 2024 Limpopo Spatial Development Framework, which conceptualizes a provincial structure where the natural environment and valuable agriculture are preserved for future generations. The framework underpins a robust and diverse economy offering high-quality environments and employment opportunities for all residents in which the notion of “spatial targeting” is paramount. The Province further reported that it takes its cue from the findings of the 30-Year NDP Review, Census 2022 Report and Limpopo Development Plan 2020-2025 which outlined the following fault lines:

- Slow economic growth to support job creation
- Poverty increased from 52% in 2019 to 56% in 2022

- Unemployment rate averaging 30% for the period
- Regression in water provision
- Limited investment in infrastructure to support and attract investment.

To counter the above-mentioned challenges, the Provincial has identified several Provincial Strategic Enablers, including: integrated data management and geospatial decision support system; enhanced bulk water and sanitation infrastructure; safe, functional road and freight network; advanced digital infrastructure and fourth industrial revolution technologies; and secured energy supplies with a focus on renewable options. In line with these enablers, the Provincial Government outlined several catalytic infrastructure projects that align to the provincial strategic priorities. The projects include among others the construction of the Limpopo Central and Academic Hospital, with phase one already underway and expected to complete by March 2028 and the development of sport and recreational facilities, including a Provincial State Theatre, by March 2026.

Launch programs to support smallholder and emerging farmers by March 2025, and implement an agro-processing strategy for the fiscal year 2025/26

(i) High-speed train service between Gauteng and Limpopo and the upgrading of strategic roads by March 2025

(ii) Completing projects like the Nandoni Water Treatment Works by December 2026 and other regional water interventions signal progress toward universal water access

(iii) All schools are equipped with adequate water and sanitation infrastructure, eradicating pit latrines to create safe learning environments

(iv) On food security, to expand access from 4,550 to 7,200 vulnerable households

Identification of key issues for oversight/collaboration

A proposal was made that powers that enables it to fully perform constitutional mandated functions should be devolved to District Municipalities.

31. Mpumalanga Province - Hon Mr M. Ndlovu, Premier of the Mpumalanga Province.

Introduction

The Premier began his address by echoing the words of the Deputy President on the importance of integrated planning amongst the three spheres of Government and that heading this call and planning together will lead to the eradication of poverty, unemployment and

inequality. The provinces has a strong agricultural sector, which it is committed to grow and countries loke Niger and Rwanda where agriculture contribute more than 30% of their GDP.

With regard to economic infrastructure, the Premier highlighted the International Fresh Produce market through which 150 000 subsistence and small-scale farmers will have access to trade their products – create a minimum of 156 jobs during the operationalisation. An invitation was extended to the Limpopo province who had expressed the need for small farmers to be organised. At full operation, the markets is anticipated to create on farms an additional 105 000. Four SME's per ward will be supported in their business, to trade their produce at the market.

In respect of catalytic projects, the Province is exploring the development of a cable car at Blyde River Canyon, Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain-WHS, Mariepskop (Mohololholo) mountain, which has similar features as Table Mountain in the Western Cape. R1.2 billion is to be invested to resuscitate a gamefarm at Loskop Dam Nature Reserve which is very small but has all the feature of Kruger National Park. A Public Private Partnership will be used to as a vehicle for the development of a Sky-walk projects at God's Window (Blyde River Canyon) – third biggest in the world.

The necessary processes has been undertaken to secure the license for the Nkomazi Special Development Zone which comes with a R8.4 Billion investment. The appointment of the board and recruitment of capable Chief Executive Officer is currently being finalised.

31.1 Deliberations and Engagement

Six municipalities in the Province have been identified as dysfunctional and the Provincial Government is paying special attention and intervening to assist. Also hung municipalities riddled with problems, which causes instability. The Province is preparing a model to deal with hung municipalities.

Eskom debt remains high.

Construction Mafia must be dealt with – will not allow people to stand between the Province and those who want to deliver services.

Six municipalities in the Province have been identified as dysfunctional and the Provincial Government is assisting with support interventions. Further, municipal debt to Eskom remains high.

The localisation requirements of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act is used by local business fora to demand participation in government projects and resort to intimidation and criminal behaviour when contracts are not awarded in their favour.

31.2 Identification of key issues for oversight/collaboration

Municipalities in which there is not an outright majority ("hung municipalities") has experienced political instability, which in turn creates administrative instability. The Province is preparing a model to deal with hung municipalities. This model could have broader application through the Country.

32. North-West Province - Hon Mr. L. Mokgosi, Premier of the North West Province.

Overview

The Premier of the North West Province presented the North West Provincial Government's key catalytic projects aligned to the draft 2025-2030 MTDP priorities. The draft MTDP Strategic Priorities as adopted by Cabinet of the GNU are:

- Inclusive economic growth and job creation;
- Maintain and optimize the social wage and
- A capable, ethical and developmental state.

To give effect to these priorities, the North West Province is implementing a number of provincial focus areas. Key interventions of the province aligned to the District Development Model Framework include the following:

32.1 Inclusive Economic Growth

In respect of industrialization and localization, long term key projects in *Dr R.S. Mompati District Municipality* include the Food Extrusion Project (R200 million project value); Lekwa

Teemane Beef Beneficiation (R200 million project value); Potato Farm and agro-processing facilities (R200 million project value) and the Taung Dam Development (R200 million project value).

The Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality projects are primarily long term and aimed at infrastructure investment. This includes the rehabilitation of Road D933 and D2095 in Ditshobotla LM (R515 million project value); Upgrade of road D433 and N18 on Mahikeng LM (R387 million project value); Upgrade of D414 to Mabule Z466 in Ratlou LM amounting to R561 million and the rehabilitation of Road D408 in Ditshobotla LM (R633 million project value).

The Bojanala District Municipality focus is on key priority sectors including energy, water sectors, telecommunications, transport, ports and freight. This includes key interventions by Magalies Water of the Vaalkop Wastewater Treatment Works upgrade from 270 megalitres to 360 megalitres per day with a budget of R3.035 million; the rehabilitation of the Hartebeesfontein to Magalies P31/1 road in Madibeng amounting to R620 million and the upgrade of the D1325 road from Buffelsport to Tlapa of R478 million. Industrialisation and localization projects include the Lithium Power Systems Battery Storage (R860 million project value) and the Mureza Auto Assembly (R5.23 billion project value) in Moses Kotana LM. Collectively the jobs anticipated to be created under these initiatives amount to 2229.
Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality Localisation and industrialization initiatives include the long-term meat processing plant amounting to R1.5 billion in budget allocation and infrastructure investment in the establishment of libraries in Maquassi- Hills over the medium term amounting to R14 million.

32.2 Maintain and Optimize Social Wage

Dr R.M. Mompati DM initiatives include electrical supply in the Huhudi LM over the medium term amounting to R59.5 million and the Naledi Renewable Solar Energy Plant in the Naledi Local Municipality amounting to R400 million. Bojanala DM Initiatives include improving water access in the Moretele LM with budget of R40 million and the provision of safe portable water with a combined budget of R28 million.

32.3 Capable, ethical and developmental state

Within the Bojanala DM, key interventions include improving public safety in the Moretele LM over the short term with the budget of R15.4 million. The programmes and projects that are planned for implementation will be funded through public and private sector funding within broad categories of water and sanitation Infrastructure; smart cities; electricity Upgrade and Related Infrastructure (including alternative source of energy generation); roads Infrastructure projects and localization and industrialization projects.

It is estimated that over R70 billion will be spend over the MTDP period with approximately 90 000 jobs created. The implementation of key interventions such as water and sanitation and facilitating access to electricity will contribute towards broadening access of basic services to the poor and vulnerable groups and thus impact poverty and inequality challenges. The Seventh Administration will leverage on the SEZ projects to promote industrialization in a manner that promotes inclusive economic growth.

33. Northern Cape Province - Hon Dr Z. Saul

Overview

The Northen Cape Province presented the Provincial Development Catalytic Projects in line with the priorities outlined by HE President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, and aligned to the Provincial Growth and development Plan Vision 2040 towards a Modern, Growing and Successful Province.

Catalytic projects in the Province span various sectors with the goal of creating a sustainable and prosperous future for the province's residents. The catalytic projects include the Northern Cape Industrial Corridor and projects across agriculture, infrastructure, youth and skills development, sports, arts and culture, crime and corruption, governance.

33.1 Northern Cape Industrial Corridor

The Province has conceptualized a number of high impact/catalytic projects linked to the N14, and commonly refer to as the Northern Cape’s industrial development corridor. This economic development corridor consists of (i) Industrial parks, special economic zones, (ii) Logistics hub, (iii) Irrigation schemes, and (iv) Development of a port for future exports and green hydrogen production facilities.The Northern Cape’s Industrial Development corridor is underpinned by several industrial development initiatives that are in different project lifecycles.

(a) The Namakwa SEZ (NamSEZ) was designated on 21 May 2024. The NamSEZ is located in Aggeneys adjucent to the Vedanta Zinc International. The NamSEZ focussed on mineral beneficiation, agro processing, manufacturing and transport and logistics. The confirmed anchor investment is R16 billion. The Bulk and top infrastructure would require R3.5 billion.

(b) Boegoebaai GH2 Development Programme has moved in terms of the pre-feasibility study by Anchor, i.e SASOL being concluded. Initiation of the partnership process is key which is being facilitated and moving toward conclusion in November-December 2024.

(c) The Upington Industrial Park Phase1 development has been implemented. Project preparation for the submission of Phase 2 (critical infrastructure programme) enablement of 320 000m2 rental/lease.

(d) Funding work for the Kathu Industrial Park is earmarked for submission during 2024/25. The Kathu Housing Development project remains a priority initiative aimed at addressing housing needs.

In the agricultural sector, the Province is implementing (i) Vaalharts/Taung Revitalisation Scheme (R2 billion budget); (ii) Namakwa Irrigation Development (R2 billion Budget); (iii) BLOCUSO Trust Vineyard – expansion of existing vineyards (R21 million); (iv) Eksteenskul Agricultural Cooperation – vineyards (R21 million); and (v) Farmer Production Support Units (Plessis Vlakte FPSU: R14.3 million, to be completed on 30 October 2024), (Pella FPSU: R13.7 million, to be completed on 30 May 2025), and (Onsepkaans: R25.8 million, completed on 22 May 2024).

In respect of other infrastructure projects, the Province is implementing road, water, electricity and education infrastructure projects. Upgrading of Laxey – Heuningviel (Phase 1) with a budget of R301 million is to be completed in June 2026; and rehabilitation of MR938 Mamathwane with a budget of R343 million, is targeted for completion by May 2026. Water Infrastructure projects in the Province include Vaal Gamagara Water Supply Scheme (phase 2) with a budget of R10 billion and which is to be completed in 2035; and the Campbell Bucket Eradication Project with a budget of R153 million and which is to be completed in 2025. With respect to the electricity infrastructure project pipeline, this includes 22 projects with a combined budget of R107 million; 3317 connections budgeted for R15.3 million and 4 Bulk infrastructure projects budgeted at R91.7 million.

With respect to education infrastructure projects, Provincial plans to build 14 schools and replace 11 schools requires a budget of R1.9 billion. In 2024/25. The Province received a R716 million Education Infrastructure Grant and a R43 million School Infrastructure Backlogs Grant.

Regarding health infrastructure, the province pipeline includes a number of projects include the Frances Baard Forensic Mortuary (R135 million project value and scheduled for completion by 2026) construction of new Nursing College (R569 million project value and scheduled for completion by 2026) construction of new Schmidtsdrift Clinic (R48.9 million project value and scheduled for completion by 2026; Tshwaragano Gateway Clinic and Walkways (R45.9 million project value and scheduled for completion in 2025); upgrading and refurbishment of Keimoes Hospital (R40.3 million project value and scheduled for completion in 2025); and Fraserberg and Sutherland CHC's High Mast Solar Lights and erecting of new fence (R25.4 million project value and scheduled for completion in 2024).

With respect to housing infrastructure projects, the Province reported that it was implementing Lerato Park Integrated Housing Project (R80 million); Tsantsabane Mixed Development Project (R24.6 million) and Kuruman Integrated Human Settlemnt Development Project (R74.2 million). U

33.2 Deliberations and Engagement

On governance, the Province aligns it work with a mission oriented, collaborative and integrated governance approach. The mission is guided by the UN SDGs, the African Unions' Agenda 2063, the National Development Plan (NDP) and government's priorities, as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP 2024-2029). There is a need to strengthen state institutions, professionalise the state, address the trust deficit and create an investor friendly environment in the NC. An evidence-based approach was adopted to construct a new Governance Architecture and Model which will be activated within the 7th Administration. The institutionalisation of the Provincial @Governance, Coordination and Service Delivery Model will serve as a mechanism for joint planning, joint budgeting and social compacting to ensure

the successful implementation of catalytic projects. The Northern Cape Province ensured the NCOP that all these projects would be coordinated and implemented through MTDP 2025 – 2029 and District Development Model.

34. Western Cape Province - Hon Mr. T. Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure in the Province.

Introduction

The Minister outlined the Key Priority Focus areas for the Western Cape government which are Growth for Jobs, Dignity and Wellbeing, Safer Communities and Good Governance Culture and Innovation.

The economic policy of the Provincial Government is driven by the Growth for Jobs Strategy built on the principles of data lead decision making, responsiveness to impactful opportunities, an open market economy, horizontal enablement, equal opportunities for citizens, redress through economic participation, partnership, cooperation with spheres and public sector, innovation, agility and flexibility and sustainability.

A Provincial Energy Council has been established because energy security is a necessity for the economy to grow. Through the Energy Resilience Programme catalytic municipalities were identified for the purpose of reducing reliance on Eskom. These include the Hessequa LM in the Garden Route District.

The Province has development a Infrastructure Framework, 2025 which is a 15 year sectoral plan. Each sector has a minimum of two catalytic projects which are implementation ready within the 7th term. These are across social, energy, economic (roads), technology and ecological sectors. Focus areas to play the role of provincial government in support of local government.

Through the Provincial Department of Education rapid school build programme, the Province is able to build up to 500 scholars within 70 days of construction commencing.

The Province will soon announce a private sector partnership to provide affordable housing and its social housing pipeline aims to provide 8000 social housing opportunities by 2028.

The Province is embarking on a the development and finalisation of a new finance model to finance projects across sectors. A key part of this will be to tap into the Corporate Social Investment (estimated to be a R multi-billion portfolio in the Country) of the private sector. The finance model will also seek to enhance support to local governments.

The provincial government was at the time of the Session undertaking an assessment flood and highlighted the need for the development of climate change preventive and resilient implementation plans.

35. BUDGET EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF THE 6TH DISPENSATION[3] - Mr D Jantjies, Director of the Parliamentary Budget Office

The Director addressed the Session on how the divergence between the planning and the budget framework led to poor socioeconomic and macroeconomic developmental outcomes. There is little disagreement that South Africa's socioeconomic and macroeconomic performance since the end of apartheid have not fully met the expectations. While there have been notable and massive achievements in dealing with societal and economic issues, significant challenges remain, particularly in addressing inequality, poverty, and unemployment. One the main reasons for limited progress in addressing these challenges is what can be categorised as a divergence between planning (service delivery and economic planning) on one hand, and declining or limited budget framework on the other hand.

The budget framework often seems to dictate the limits of what can be achieved, rather than aligning with a broader economic and social developmental plan. In essence the strategic developmental framework has been expected to fit into the budget framework rather than the other way around. The evidence has shown that the South Africa' budget framework limits

have been far lower than those the OECD or G20 countries. In particular, the government expenditure framework has on average equivalent to just 27% of the GDP, compared to OECD spending which is equivalent to more than 40% of the GDP over the more than 30-year period. Our 27% is made up of 24% of revenue to GDP and about 3% of GDP of the borrowing requirements compared to OECD generating revenue equivalent to more than 40% of GDP. Therefore, by this comparison, our budget framework is constrained, which hampers the ability to meet developmental goals set out in the Constitution and other development frameworks like NDP. In recent years the focus or objective of the budget has been on debt repayments, which diverts attention from long-term investing in socioeconomic development.

There remain structural problems in our economy, such as inequality, concentration and growth of unproductive sectors, and have not been adequately addressed by macroeconomic policies over the years. Efforts to reform and stimulate the economy often end up reinforcing existing concentration rather than transforming the economic structure. The analysis of the PDO over the 6th Parliament reflects the following Challenges:

a) Macroeconomic Framework Misalignment:

We noted that the National Development Plan (NDP) lacks a clear macroeconomic framework consideration to support realisation of its targets. The PBO's analysis is that with the current macroeconomic and budget framework it will likely take way longer to realize the social and economic developmental aspirations set out in the Constitution.

b) Short-Term fiscal Objectives

The government's focus on short-term fiscal consolidation often neglects the long – term investment required to address poverty, unemployment and inequality. This short-termism approach prevents the effective use of the budget as a tool for sustainable development. Analysis by the PBO shows that the budget framework fails to adequately consider the continued impact of long-term fiscal consolidation on fiscal space and debt repayments itself. An important consequence is that the government is deprived of the ability to take a longer-term perspective on the budget as a tool for addressing economic development and UPI on

poorest communities. Addressing socio-economic rights has been constrained by short-term fiscal objectives. And in this way the budget treats poor household as a cost to the budget and a burden to the economy.

Analysis by the PBO has shown that the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality are structural and are directly related to the dynamics operating in the economy and the level of concentration of wealth and control over markets and access. There must be realisation that the market on its own will not be able to address these structural factors. Government structural reforms are insufficient and will largely retain the current economic status quo and improve the business environment for the existing corporations that dominate the economic sectors and extract wealth from the economy.

c) Debt and Development

The Budget and MTBPS does raise socio-economic concerns linked to unemployment, poverty and inequality however it quickly move on to raise issues linked to the size of the government's debt and debt repayments. Basically, the budget framework main objectives or focuses on debt repayments as a percentage of the total budget. The government argues that the debt is not sustainable because the debt repayments will continue to grow as a share of the budget or crowed out other expenditures. In our analysis we note that there must be acknowledgement that debt increase in the main because of lack of economic growth and failure to deal with inequality in access to services like health care and many others and unemployment and poverty. Over more than 13-years of fiscal consolidation provide proof or evidence that reducing government spending will not lead to decline in debt or debt repayment. Because debt -to- GDP is now worse off since the introduction of the fiscal consolidation. The worst outcome is that we now seen slow progress or even regress in other instances in fighting poverty, inequality and unemployment during the same period of fiscal consolidation.

Improvements needed in the oversight mechanism in the 7th Parliament and Key Considerations for the Session

Improvements needed in the oversight mechanism in the 7th Parliament include enhanced tracking and measurement. There is a need for tools that can comprehensively track and measure the impact of macroeconomic and fiscal policies on poverty, unemployment, and

inequality. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is one such tool that measures pervert beyond income, provide insights into various deprivations affecting different communities, thinking of cost of living, education, health and so on. Effective planning and oversight require the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including government, business, civil society, citizens (including poor households). This helps ensure that macroeconomic and fiscal policies are more accurately aligned with the needs of various groups and can be better monitored and evaluated. A further necessary improvement is the use of analytical and oversight tools that can produce forward-looking insights into how budgets can impact poverty reduction and economic development. This includes assessing the potential effects of increased expenditure on social services and infrastructure on the economic and social development and on public finances performance and position. The ability to decompose the impact of budgets at provincial and local levels is a further crucial necessary improvement.

Key considerations for this Session is sessions is therefore that there is a need for a better convergence between service deliver and economic planning on one hand and budget frameworks. This really emphasizes the need to quantify or contextualised the level of social and economic development we want and agree on the level of budget framework required to realise those. The Unemployment, Poverty and Inequality crisis has led to social instability which must be addressed and limited domestic demand over the years. The rising inequality that has accompanied globalisation and democracy in post-apartheid South Africa over the last few decades points to the fact that wealth does not trickle down. Effective economic and social development requires a balance between social security, access to basic services, and industrialization. While fixing immediate issues like energy security (loadshedding) and freight system problems is important, dealing with the unravelling social fabric through addressing the daily suffering of households and "the quiet violence" associated with poverty and hunger is equally critical.

Short-term development plans should consider strategies to build resilience against climate change, future pandemics, and other global disruptions including new rounds
of supply chain problems that could cause global shortages and temporary price increases and regional and global geopolitical strife. Economic policy should focus on creating an inclusive economy with opportunities for all, particularly leveraging the potential of South Africa’s young population. Government must promote investment in productive enterprises that supply goods and services that ease the burden of unemployment, poverty and inequality and can meet rising aggregate demand, particularly of low-income households. Industrialization should drive economic growth and development rather than relying solely or heavily on export-oriented strategies. Diversifying the economy and transforming the services

sector (finance and related sectors) to support productive economic activities is essential. Macroeconomic framework and policy should align with the National Development Plan or Medium- Term Development Plan goals of reducing UPI. This means broadening the definition of fiscal stability and sustainability to include goals like poverty reduction and economic inclusion, employment creation, reduce inequality. This mean not only focusing on keeping deficits and debts low because these variables are part of the government's toolbox to achieve its actual macroeconomic goals of reducing UPI.

Addressing capital flight, illicit financial flows, and tax avoidance is crucial for improving revenue collection in our country. Effective tax policies and anti-corruption measures can help ensure that the budget is more effectively used for economic and social developmental purposes.

36. Key issues emerging from the session and oversight prioritisation - Hon Mr. D. Ryder, House Chairperson for the Committees

The House Chairperson addressed the Session on key issues emerging from the planning sessions in relation to oversight planning, key oversight priorities and oversight perspectives. A key theme across the presentation was the need for the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to be more relevant to South Africans.

The role of the NCOP in relation to its coordinating role to ensure cooperative governance across the three spheres of government was emphasized. Furthermore, the NCOP has the power to make and change laws as part of the legislative sphere of government. Reference was made to comments from delegates and speakers from local and provincial governments, which pointed to laws and regulations sometimes being designed by people in offices, removed from the realities as a grassroots level, which are then not effective in having the positive intended impact on the lived experience of South Africans.

It was therefore of paramount importance that the NCOP and its committees were aware of, and understood the concerns and challenges at local and provincial governments in order to address these and respond appropriately to have a positive impact on the lives of all South Africans. The NCOP therefore needs to listen to its intergovernmental partners to understand and address procedural and administrative challenges and shortcomings.

There is therefore a need for a bottom-up approach to adopting the themes and agendas for oversight in parliament, and real issues on the ground should be drawn from through engagements with role-players in the local and provincial spheres of government, including mayors, members of the executive committees, councillors, either individually or collectively through the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

Concern was also expressed over the large number of municipalities not receiving unqualified audits, as well as challenges in relation to disaster management interventions.
Key areas for oversight or collaboration

Key areas identified for further focus in Select Committees in the NCOP include:

- Challenges around mining need to be understood and engaged on by the Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Agriculture, Mineral Resources and Energy.
- An issue raised by several delegates from local and provincial governments, as well as SALGA relates to the equitable share funding model. The committee responsible for appropriations needs to focus strongly on this matter, going forward.
- The poor performance of local municipalities and issues around disaster management interventions needs further attention from the Select Committee on Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs, Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation. The presenter acknowledged that the committee is one of the busiest committees in the NCOP and that it would need to find a space to accommodate these matters to make a difference to people in greatest need.
- Premiers raised the issue of economic development, and it is a topic which requires the attention of the Select Committee on Economic Development and Trade.

37. ARTICULATION OF STRATEGIC APPROACH TO FORMULATE NCOP'S OVERSIGHT AGENDA INTO A TARGETED OVERSIGHT APPROACH - HON MR. P. GOVENDER, DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A number of recommendations were articulated by the Deputy House Chairperson.

37.1 Recommendations: Articulation of strategic approach to formulate NCOP's oversight agenda into a targeted oversight approach

- The three spheres of government must be adequately resourced and capacitated to track implementation of priorities.

- The policy priorities outlined by the President and those emanating from the NCOP two-day three sphere planning workshop must inform the NCOP oversight in the current term of Parliament.
- There is a need for development and implementation of tracking, monitoring and evaluation tools that would enable NCOP oversight and accountability over the Executive.
- There is a need for reprioritisation and more effective use of funding oversight framework mechanisms.
- A more crystallised oversight approach is needed going forward.
- The Medium-Term Development Plan and the priorities outlined by the Deputy President, Ministers, MECs and other representatives in this planning workshop must inform the five-year strategic plans of NCOP Committees.

Recommendations: Interactive discussion on provincial and district level perspectives: issues to be integrated into the institutional oversight agenda over the medium term

- There is a need for a special grant for bulk infrastructure at District level to enable the municipalities to fulfil their constitutional obligations.
- District municipalities must be strengthened as envisioned centres of excellence and effective implementing agencies, that can spend all funding allocated, and in line with the District Development Model. The Minister of COGTA resolved to attend to the Free State on this matter.
- There is a need to review the Municipal Systems Act, which reduced the already inadequate participation of traditional leaders in the province.
- In addressing dysfunctional municipalities, the NCOP must first start with enforcing Section 154 before section 139 can be implemented.
- Considering climate change, there is a need for effective provincial disaster management centres.
- There is a need for National Treasury to review the equitable sharing funding model, as it is regressive and not adequately addressing the developmental needs of the provinces and municipalities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. REPORT OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER OF DEPLOYMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE IN SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE, DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2024.

1. INTRODUCTION

In terms of Joint Rule 156(1) of Parliament's Joint Rules (7th Edition), the Joint Standing Committee shall report to both Houses on the employment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) by the President of the Republic in fulfilment of an international obligation, in defence of the Republic or in cooperation with the South African Police Service (SAPS).

2. LETTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Letters from the President, dated 6 November 2024, were submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces regarding and was tabled in Parliament on 7 November 2024. The letters comply with the requirements of Section 201(3) of the Constitution (Act 109 of 1996) as well as Section 18(2)(e) of the Defence Act (No 42 of 2002) by informing Parliament of the following:

a. The deployment of the SANDF is in support of the SAPS.
b. The deployment comprises 1 100 members of the SANDF.
c. The deployment is aimed at preventing and combatting illegal mining activities in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, the North West, Free State and Northern Cape.
d. The duration of the deployment is from 1 November 2024 to 31 March 2025.
e. The expected expenditure of the deployment is R140.452 million.

3. CONSIDERATION OF DEPLOYMENT LETTERS

Parliament's JSCD considered the relevant letters during its meeting of 15 November 2024 and received a briefing from the SANDF on the details of the deployment. During engagements, the Committee made the following comments regarding the deployment:

- The Committee noted an increased reliance on SANDF to support the SAPS in terms of internal security operations.
- The Committee agreed that the deployment aligns with the prescripts of the Constitution.
- The Committee noted that the current deployment remains unfunded and that there is a need for it to be funded, as it detracts from the capacity of the SANDF to address the critical equipment and rejuvenation shortfalls currently faced.
- The Committee noted that the deployment in support of the SAPS may detract from other priority deployment areas, specifically the SANDF's deployment on South Africa's borders.
- The Committee noted that a special Code of Conduct is in place for the deployment and that this is important to ensure compliance with human rights.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

In compliance with Joint Rule 156(1) and after having considered the details of the SANDF deployment according to the Presidential Letter dated 6 November 2024, no objections were recorded from the JSCD.

Report to be noted.