

MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER – Learning from Madiba and Ma Sisulu

Insession



The official Magazine of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

SPECIAL SONA EDITION 2019



#SONA2019:

Let's embrace and build our collective future





PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mace of National Assembly

Vision

An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society.

Mission

Parliament aims to provide a service to the people of South Africa by providing the following:

- A vibrant people's Assembly that intervenes and transforms society and addresses the development challenges of our people;
- Effective oversight over the Executive by strengthening its scrutiny of actions against the needs of South Africans;
- Participation of South Africans in the decision-making processes that affect their lives;
- A healthy relationship between the three arms of the State, that promotes efficient co-operative governance between the spheres of government, and ensures appropriate links with our region and the world; and
- An innovative, transformative, effective and efficient parliamentary service and administration that enables Members of Parliament to fulfil their constitutional responsibilities.

Strategic Objectives

1. **Strengthening oversight and accountability**
2. **Enhancing public involvement**
3. **Deepening engagement in international fora**
4. **Strengthening co-operative government**
5. **Strengthening legislative capacity**



Black Rod of National Council of Provinces

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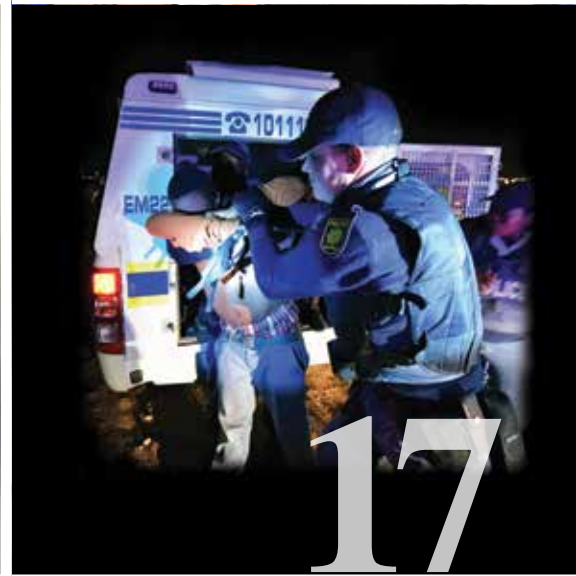
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Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Printer

Formeset Digital Printers

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INSESSION is a monthly publication, which is published by the Information and Content Development Unit of the Parliamentary Communication Services of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. All material published is copyrighted and cannot be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher.

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Vision

An activist and responsive people's Parliament that improves the quality of life of South Africans and ensures enduring equality in our society.

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Strengthening oversight and accountability; enhancing public involvement; deepening engagement in international fora; strengthening cooperative government; strengthening legislative capacity.

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ISSN 2227-1325 (Print)

ISSN 2227-3778 (Online)

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SONA 2019: The State must deliver on its developmental agenda

In his second State of the Nation Address (Sona) and in the 25th year of our democracy, President Cyril Ramaphosa reiterated unequivocally the need for economic growth and political renewal. This is essential if South Africa is to move away from the period of uncertainty and mistrust in the state's capacity to deliver on its developmental agenda, reports **Abel Mputing**.



President Ramaphosa reemphasised the significance of a new social compact aimed at bringing about inclusive growth, economic transformation and investment. “We have focused our efforts on reigniting growth and creating jobs. We have worked together – as government, labour, business, civil society and communities – to remove the constraints to inclusive growth and to pursue far greater levels of investment.”

“Our people have embraced the renewal that our country is going through and their hope is not baseless; it is grounded on the progress that is

being made. Over the last year, we have begun to rebuild a durable social compact for fundamental social and economic transformation with key stakeholders, as we have promised.”

The President maintained that the government's wooing of local and foreign direct investment at the South African Investment Conference last year had exceeded expectations. “[It] provided great impetus to our drive to mobilise R1.2 trillion in investments over five years. The investment conference attracted around R300 billion in investment pledges from

South African and international companies,” he explained.

There was also a significant increase in foreign direct investment last year amounting to R17 billion. These investments were unprecedented for “the official data shows that just in the first three quarters of 2018, there was an inflow of R70 billion. This is a phenomenal achievement compared to the low levels of investments in the previous years”.

These investments prove that this initiative was worthwhile. “To prove

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2010
STATE OF THE NATION
ADDRESS



▷ that our investment conference was not just a talk shop where empty promises were made, projects to the value of R187 billion are being implemented, and projects worth another R26 billion are in pre-implementation phase.”

Part of the strategy to improve South Africa’s investment profile is to be among the top 50 global performers within the next three years and to improve the competitiveness of our exports. To bring this into effect “government will complete the studies that have begun on reducing the costs of electricity, trade, communications, transport and other costs”. The government will also identify special economic zones dedicated to

producing specific types of products, such as clothing and textiles.

Part of the President’s economic growth trajectory includes the resuscitation of industrial parks in various provinces, which are lying idle. They will now be made productive once again and it is hoped that they will be a source of job creation.

Tied to this initiative, President Ramaphosa pointed out, is the need for provinces to identify growth sectors and develop their own long-term investment books for domestic and foreign investors. These initiatives are part of the Invest South Africa initiative.

Underpinning these projects is an urgent need to reignite the domestic market through the Buy South Africa Programme, which is aimed at decreasing imports and

increasing South African exports.

President Ramaphosa also identified tourism as another growth market, which could contribute positively to economic growth and employment. He praised government’s “concerted efforts to market South Africa as a prime destination” which resulted in more than 10 million tourists visiting the country during the past year. According to the President, this industry can generate an additional two million jobs in the “food and agriculture, construction, transport, retail, and the creative and cultural industries by 2030”.

Operation Phakisa is another initiative with potential to bring about economic growth. “Since the inception of Operation Phakisa in the oceans economy in 2014, we have secured investments of nearly R30 billion and created more than 7 000 direct jobs. Expected investment in the



oceans economy over the next five years is estimated at R3.8 billion by government and R65 billion by the private sector," President Ramaphosa announced.

The discovery of new oil reserves in the Outeniqua Basin was welcomed by the President as a positive impetus to the current initiatives that seek to stimulate growth and create much-needed employment.

Much of President Ramaphosa's address focused on economic growth and the need to create 275 000 direct jobs to curb rising youth unemployment. "The presidential jobs summit last year resulted in concrete agreements between organised labour, business, the community and government. These agreements, which are now being implemented by our social partners,

aim to create 275 000 additional direct jobs every year through initiatives like the Employment Tax Incentive."

A key part of the government's growth initiative is the Infrastructure Development Fund, amounting to R1 trillion. "These infrastructure investments also helped grow our economy and create many new jobs. Infrastructure development has been the flywheel of the engine of our economy and has yielded tremendous benefits for the country."

However, South Africa's faltering state-owned enterprises are an obstacle to the government's growth ambitions. The president singled out the South African Revenue Service and Eskom as needing urgent attention.

President Ramaphosa also alluded to the

unbundling of Eskom to make it a more efficient. He said privatisation is not an option, but some non-core assets may be made available for private investment in the future.

"In line with this plan, Eskom will need to take urgent steps to significantly reduce its costs. It will need more revenue through an affordable tariff increase. We need to take steps to reduce municipal non-payment and confront the culture of non-payment that exists in some communities. It is imperative that all those who use electricity – over and above the free basic electricity provided – should pay for it.

"Government will support Eskom's balance sheet, and the Minister of Finance will provide further details on this in the Budget Speech. This we will do without burdening the fiscus with unmanageable debt." 🇿🇦



President highlights progress in restoring policy certainty in mining sector

On *the mining sector, President Ramaphosa highlighted government progress in restoring policy certainty on mining regulation as one of the measures that will ignite economic activity, restore investor confidence and support employment, writes Justice Molafo.*

In his 2018 State of the Nation Address (Sona), the President had said that mining should be seen as a sunrise industry in South Africa. To this end, he promised that the government would intensify engagements on the Mining Charter with all stakeholders, to ensure that it aids in transforming the mining industry. In 2018, President Ramaphosa also called upon all role players in the industry to work together to ensure that mine accidents are dramatically reduced. President Ramaphosa also emphasised that mining has massive unrealised potential for growth and job creation.

This year's statements on mining followed on from these statements and others that President Ramaphosa made on 21 September 2018 at the Investing in Africa Mining Indaba that was held in Cape Town. In his 2019 address, President Ramaphosa announced that the government will request Parliament, in terms of its rules, to put a hold on the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) Amendment Bill, saying that it has contributed to uncertainty in the sector.

He also mentioned that the Department of Mineral Resources has completed the process of drafting a consultative Mining Charter, which was promulgated in the Government Gazette, number 41934, volume 639, on 27 September 2018 by Minister Gwede Mantashe.

"To this end, we moved to speed up the finalisation of the Mining Charter and to provide greater clarity on the MPRDA Bill. Several companies at the inaugural South African Investment Conference announced investment of \$20 billion (R280 billion), three of which came from the mining sector," said President Ramaphosa at the Mining Indaba.

President Ramaphosa also announced that government will soon embark on a process of converting some public schools into technical schools, which will offer mining science as one of their subjects. 🌟

More land will be made available for agriculture, industrial development and human settlements

Talking *about the role of the agricultural sector in the economy, President Cyril Ramaphosa said during his State of the Nation (Sona) speech that the government needs to do more to support the approximately 250 000 new farmers to develop their businesses. “We will continue to prioritise targeted skills development and capacity building programmes for smallholder and emerging black farmers,” reports Mava Lukani.*

President Ramaphosa said South Africa has large areas of underutilised or unproductive land. “Agricultural exports are an important source of revenue for our economy, and developing the agricultural sector is key to enhancing our food security and for attracting investments,” said President Ramaphosa.

South Africa is fortunate to have an agricultural sector that is well-developed, resilient and diversified. “We intend to use it as a solid foundation to help develop agriculture in our country for the benefit of all,” he emphasised.

The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry invited the Department of Agriculture to appear before it to present its plans to support

the 25000 new farmers which President Ramaphosa said the government is going to support. Also, the department presented its achievements on what President Ramaphosa committed the department to do in the previous address.

The department told the committee that the department supported 3817 smallholder producers in response to what President Ramaphosa said the department was going to do in his 2018 address. IN that address President Ramaphosa said the department was going to support food security initiatives by fighting poverty through the support smallholder and households.

Talking about the land reform programme, President Ramaphosa said the government will work towards

expanding agricultural output and promoting economic inclusion. This will ensure that more land is available for agriculture, industrial development and human settlements. “In the coming year, we will continue to focus on high-value agricultural products with export potential such as our fruit, wine and vegetable industries, as well as poultry and red meat.”

In his address, President Ramaphosa commended the many South Africans who participated in the work of the Constitutional Review Committee and also praised the committee members. Government will support the work of the committee to review section 25 of the Constitution. In this regard, he said the Deputy President, Mr David Mabuza, will lead the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform to fast-track land reform.

In his 2018 address, President Ramaphosa told the nation that the government is determined that expropriation without compensation should be implemented in a way that increases agricultural production, improves food security and ensures that land is returned to those from whom it was taken under colonialism and apartheid. 🌱



Early Childhood Development: Investing in the future of our children and our country

The South African government has undertaken to drastically improve the education system, starting at the foundation phase, writes **Sibongile Maputi**. In his address, President Cyril Ramaphosa said the country's history demands that we "improve the education system and develop the skills" needed to take our country into the future.

He told the nation that it was essential that we equipped our children "to succeed in education, in work and in life – and it is possibly the single most important factor in overcoming poverty, unemployment and inequality. At the centre of all our efforts to achieve higher and more equitable growth, to draw young people into employment and to prepare our country for the digital age,

must be the prioritisation of education and the development of skills".

To this end, President Ramaphosa said South Africa had "established a firm foundation for a comprehensive early childhood development (ECD) programme that is an integral part of the education system." Currently more than 700,000 children access ECD education.

He added that ECD centres have been migrated from the Social Development Portfolio to Basic Education, and that government will be introducing a two-year of compulsory ECD programme for all children before they enter Grade 1.

According to the President, another critical priority is to substantially improve reading comprehension in the first years of school. "The department's early grade reading studies have demonstrated the impact that a dedicated package of reading resources, expert reading coaches and lesson plans can have on reading outcomes. We will be substantially expanding the availability of these early reading resources across the foundation phase of schooling."

Education remains among government's apex priorities and President Ramaphosa affirmed this position when he listed education as among the five "most urgent tasks at this moment in our history". South Africa's history demands that the country should improve the education system and develop the skills that it needs now and in the future.

"At the centre of all our efforts to achieve higher and more equitable growth, to draw young people into employment and to prepare our country for the Digital Age, must be the prioritisation of education," President Ramaphosa said.

The President outlined advances in making education technical and digital, and said in the next six years every school child would be provided with digital workbooks and textbooks on a tablet device. "We will start with those schools that have been historically most disadvantaged and are located in the poorest communities, including multigrade, multiphase, farm and rural schools. To expand participation in the technical streams, several ordinary public schools will be transformed into technical high schools.

"In line with our Framework for Skills for a Changing World, we are expanding the training of both educators and learners to respond to emerging technologies, including the internet, robotics and artificial intelligence. Several new technology subjects and specialisations will be introduced, including technical mathematics and technical sciences, maritime sciences, aviation studies, mining sciences and aquaponics," he said.

President Ramaphosa also highlighted the safety of learners, improving sanitation facilities and the shift to digitisation of the classroom as important issues requiring immediate attention. "We are determined to eradicate unsafe and inappropriate sanitation facilities within the next three years," he said. He also mentioned the Safe Initiative, through which resources have been mobilised with the intention to replace all unsafe toilets in public schools.



"Since we launched the initiative, 699 schools have been provided with safe and appropriate sanitation facilities, and projects in a further 1 150 schools are either in planning, design or construction stages."

The President committed to furthering support to poor students at institutions of higher learning. He said government will look into the challenges brought about by the current funding model and lack of accommodation. 🙏



President addresses the state of the nation's health care



In his State of the Nation Address (Sona), President Cyril Ramaphosa promised South Africans that public health care is set to improve, as the government will take a significant step towards universal access to quality health care for all South Africans. After extensive consultations, the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill will soon be ready for submission to Parliament, writes **Mava Lukani**.

The NHI will enable South Africans to receive free services at the point of care in public and private quality-accredited health facilities. "By applying the principle of social solidarity and cross-subsidisation, we aim to reduce inequality in access to health care," Mr Ramaphosa announced. In facing the magnitude of the challenges in health

care, the government has established an NHI and quality improvement war room in the Presidency. This consists of various key departments to address the crisis in the public health system while preparing for the implementation of the NHI. To ensure the NHI becomes a reality, Mr Ramaphosa said: "We have a funded national quality health improvement plan to improve every clinic and hospital that will be contracted by the NHI."

By introducing the NHI together with a multipronged quality improvement programme for public health facilities, the government is working towards a massive change in health care. "I want to personally allay fears of any disruption to the efficient delivery of this critical service, and will take action to ensure no person in government is undermining implementation deadlines," Mr Ramaphosa emphasised. Mr Ramaphosa announced that the

government would take steps to eliminate HIV, while scaling up a testing and treating campaign and adding an additional two million people to antiretroviral treatment by December 2020.

President Ramaphosa emphasised that the government is committed to implementing universal health coverage through the NHI. The NHI is a health financing system that pools funds to provide access to quality health services for all South Africans based on their health needs, irrespective of their social and class status.

Last year after the 2018 State of the Nation Address, the Portfolio Committee on Health embarked on oversight visits to assess the implementation of the NHI pilot sites, including sites in KwaZulu-Natal. The oversight visit provided the committee with an opportunity to

better understand how the NHI is being implemented at the pilot sites. In that week-long visit, the committee visited clinics and hospitals, but subsequently expressed its unhappiness about the state of health infrastructure in the province.

Mr Amos Mahlalela, who acted as the Chairperson of the committee during the oversight visit, remarked that she had the perception that KwaZulu-Natal was doing well on infrastructure development, "but what I have seen during the oversight visit is worrying".

Also last year, the portfolio committee invited the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) to provide its own analysis of the state of health services in the country. The OHSC presented the findings of its 2016/17 Annual Inspection Report of public health sector establishments to the committee. The report showed that there is some improvement in certain





areas and stagnation and decline in other areas.

The committee welcomed the OHSC report, but was also of the view that the OHSC failed to provide solutions to the challenges identified at the health establishments. The committee noted that challenges were mainly at a provincial level, as they deal with human resources, and financial and supply chain management.

The committee also expressed dissatisfaction with the OHSC's recommendations, noting that these recommendations should be directed to the provinces, not the national department. The committee said once a problem has been identified by OHSC during an inspection, remedial action should be provided to each hospital or clinic.

The OHSC has been created by the National Health Amendment Act of 2013 and, in terms of section 78 of the Act, the objects of the Office are to protect and promote the health and safety of users of health services by, monitoring and enforcing compliance by health establishments with norms and standards prescribed by the Minister of Health in relation to the national health system, ensuring consideration, investigation and disposal of complaints relating to non-compliance with prescribed norms and standards for health establishments in a procedurally fair, economical and expeditious manner.

The functions of the OHSC are set out in section 29 of the Act which states that

the Office must, among other things, advise the Minister of Health on determining norms and standards that are to be prescribed for the national health system and on the review of such norms and standards, inspect and certify health establishments as compliant or non-compliant with prescribed norms and standards or, where appropriate, withdraw such certification and recommend to the Minister quality assurance and management systems for the national health system. 🌟



Crime and corruption threatens South Africa's development, says President



Delivering *the last State of the Nation Address (Sona) of the fifth Parliament, President Cyril Ramaphosa identified corruption as the greatest deterrent to South Africa's efforts to end poverty, unemployment and inequality. Meanwhile, state capture and its manifestations in all areas of society need to be urgently tackled, he said, in order for the country to successfully deal with the challenges facing citizens. **Sakhile Mokoena** reports.*



President Ramaphosa reaffirmed his government's commitment to fight crime and corruption. He announced a wide range of measures to enhance South Africa's law enforcement agencies, including the establishment of a new directorate in the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to deal with serious cases of corruption and state capture in the country.

The new directorate will be located in the office of the newly appointed National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), Adv Shamila Batohi, and will deal with corruption and associated offences in accordance with section 7 of the NPA Act. "I will soon be promulgating a proclamation that will set out the specific terms of reference of the directorate. In broad terms, the directorate will focus on the evidence that has emerged from

the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, other commissions and disciplinary inquiries," the President said.

The new directorate will identify priority cases to investigate and prosecute, and will recover assets identified to be the proceeds of corruption. The directorate will bring together a range of investigatory and prosecutorial capacity from within government and the private sector under an investigating director reporting to the NDPP.

"The revelations emerging from the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into state capture and other commissions are deeply disturbing, for they reveal a breadth and depth of criminal wrongdoing that challenges the very foundation of our democratic state. The

action we take now to end corruption and hold those responsible to account will determine the pace and trajectory of the radical social and economic transformation we seek," President Ramaphosa explained.

Delivering the last Sona of the fifth Parliament before the next general elections scheduled to take place on 8 May, President Ramaphosa also spoke about the need to improve the capabilities of public servants. To address this, the National School of Government will introduce compulsory courses, covering areas like ethics and anti-corruption, senior management and supply chain management, and deployment of managers in public administration to strengthen service delivery.

He also announced that government





will process the operationalisation of section 8 of the Public Administration and Management Act, which strengthens the outlawing of public servants doing business with the state and enables government to deal more effectively with corrupt activities. This provision will see the imposition of harsher penalties, including fines and prison sentences for officials that transgress.

In response to the dire situation at several state-owned enterprises, President Ramaphosa said that the government has taken decisive measures to improve governance, strengthen leadership and restore stability in strategic entities. "We have also had to deal with the effects of state capture on vital public institutions, including our law enforcement agencies, whose integrity and ability to fulfil their mandate had been eroded in recent years.

"In the longer term, we will work with the NPA and other agencies of law enforcement to develop a more enduring solution that will strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system to deal with corruption."

An ethics, integrity and disciplinary technical assistance unit will be established to strengthen the management of ethics and anti-corruption, to ensure consequence management for breaches of government processes. "We have therefore acted to stabilise and restore the credibility of institutions like the National Prosecuting Authority, the South African Revenue Service (Sars), the State Security Agency and the South African Police Service. The appointment of the new NDPP, Adv Batoji, is aimed at reviving the NPA and to strengthen our fight against

crime and corruption."

President Ramaphosa said government was implementing the recommendations of the report of the Nugent Commission of Inquiry into Sars and is in the process of appointing a new Commissioner to head this essential institution. The president also spoke strongly against the abuse of women and children, as well as the prevalence of gangsterism.

"During the course of the past year, as the Presidency, we have paid particular attention to the violence and abuse perpetrated against women and children in our society. We responded to national concerns and calls by many South Africans by convening a Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide that has provided a firm basis for a coordinated national response to this crisis", he said.

Although South Africa has made progress since 1994 in addressing certain categories of serious crime, President

Ramaphosa said, communities are still plagued by gangsterism and violence. As part of concerted efforts to make the country safer and

more secure, the Community Policing Strategy was launched in October last year. This strategy focuses on building partnerships between communities and the police; making more resources available for policing; and devising ways for better communication between the police and communities about crime prevention strategies.

In addition, the government is strengthening the functioning of various specialised units, such as the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit, and improving administrative and record keeping capacity at all levels. Furthermore, the South African Police Service has embarked on a restructuring process to shift more policing resources to the local level. 🌍



Members of Parliament respond to President's State of the Nation Address



Mr Jackson Mthembu (ANC)



Mr Mmusi Maimane (DA)



Mr Julius Malema (EFF)



Mr Bantu Holomisa (UDM)

The recent State of the Nation Address (Sona) provided a platform for President Cyril Ramaphosa to reflect on government performance over the previous year and outline new plans and programmes for the year ahead. The two-day debate on Sona that follows is an opportunity for political parties to respond. **Abel Mputing** and **Sakhile Mokoena** summarise what was said.

The leader of the majority party in Parliament the African National Congress (ANC), Mr Jackson Mthembu, commended President Ramaphosa on his concerted effort to stimulate investment and economic growth to address unemployment, inequality and poverty in South Africa.

Mr Mthembu also expressed, however, his deep concern about the impact of Eskom's challenges, which have led to load shedding and which are having a negative effect on the country's economy. He is hopeful that government will "act swiftly to arrest this situation, especially the current episodes of load shedding".

Mr Mthembu commended the President's fight against corruption, particularly to the setting up of various commissions of inquiry. "Most important among these are the Zondo, Nugent and Mokgoro commissions, as well as the Commission of the Public Investment Corporation. We must respect the work of these commissions and not have running commentary that second guess what they are doing."

The Leader of the official opposition in Parliament, the Democratic Alliance (DA), Mr Mmusi Maimane, referred to the address as the State of No Action. Sona is nothing more than "a long list of things that sound good and sound busy, with very little meaningful action", he claimed.

The government makes big promises, but it is a "government of commissions, task teams and road shows for every possible problem. But when it comes to actually doing things, we are a State of No Action," Mr Maimane claimed.

The scale of corruption uncovered in the course of these commissions of enquiry show that "across towns, cities and provinces, our state is being looted by your party [the ANC]", Mr Maimane claimed.

Many South Africans would like to believe the President's account presented at Sona, but Mr Maimane said, "I know that you are not in charge

and, because of this, you can only offer revision, while our country desperately needs a new vision for change".

The Leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), Mr Julius Malema, opposed the President's announcement that Eskom will become three separate entities. This is the wrong solution to the problem, he said. "Wrong diagnosis is extremely dangerous and not different from fake doctors who give wrong medication to patients and endanger their lives. Your approach to Eskom is going to destroy the power utility and as people who will be here and still active in the next 30 to 40 years, we are not going to allow you to destroy Eskom for quick personal gains," emphasised Mr Malema.

Furthermore, the unbundling of Eskom is synonymous with privatisation for the EFF. "An attempt to privatise it will never be accepted and you must rest assured, Mr President, that if you are not going to give an assurance that you will relook into this Eskom matter, we will waste no time and we will go to the picket lines and defend this strategic asset of our people."



Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi (IFP)

The leader of Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, expressed reservations about the President's intent to attract investors. "It seems we have pinned our hopes on unprecedented levels of investment. But will investors come? We aim to become a top global performer in terms of countries to do business with, but when we are so high up on the corruption index, how confident will investors be?"

Prince Buthelezi was at pains to explain that South Africa's technical recession was self-inflicted. "Our economy was not confronted with a technical recession: disastrous leadership, corruption and state capture created it." Also participating in the debate, the



Mr Seiso Mohai (NCOP: Chief Whip)

Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Seiso Mohai, commended the industrial policy for economic growth outlined by the President in his Sona speech. The success



of the policy will depend on strong collaboration between all three spheres of government, the private sector and labour. It should also enhance provincial investment. "We should look at effective ways of integrating high impact provincial industrial projects from rural provinces within the Industrial Policy Action Plan. These can be part of the provincial investment book that provinces can submit to be part of the country's investment drive."

The leader of the United Democratic Movement (UDM), Mr Bantu Holomisa, said South Africa needs key interventions in order to eradicate poverty and place more citizens in jobs, in particular young people, whilst closing the gap between the haves and the have-nots. "We need massive investment in the maintenance and development of a well-coordinated and integrated socio-economic infrastructure that is driven by government."

The current challenges facing the higher education sector are due to the governing party's lack of proper planning for the roll-out of fee-free education, Mr Holomisa claimed. This crisis-management style of leadership has to become a thing of the past.



Prof Nhlanhlayise Khubisa (NFP)

The Member of Parliament for the National Freedom Party (NFP), Prof Nhlanhlayise Khubisa, applauded President Ramaphosa for the announcement of the reinstatement of the fraud and corruption unit at the

National Prosecuting Authority. He also commented on the situation at Eskom. "The outages have already started to affect us all. Businesses are severely affected. There has always been trouble with our national power utility and yet there has been no consequence management for those who fail to do their jobs properly."



Mr Themba Godi (APC)

Mr Themba Godi of the African People's Convention (APC) said the fight against corruption must be consistent and decisive. "However, our reality is that when corruption involves big business, especially the banks, anti-corruption drums become muted. A serious crime like the manipulation of the rand by the banks over many years, to which the Standard Chartered Bank has pleaded guilty, has not drawn national outrage or action by government ... What has been the economic impact for the country of this criminality? We expect government to take firm and decisive action."

The APC is opposed to the unbundling of Eskom. "The proposed unbundling has no rational justification. The burdening of Eskom with IPPs (Independent Power Producers) is damaging and must be reversed."



Mr Jomo Nyambi (NCOP: House Chairperson)

The House Chairperson for Committees and Oversight in the NCOP, Mr Jomo Nyambi, said the unresolved land question remains a major contributor to economic challenges. "We must, however, welcome the fact that as the ruling party we have introduced the Land Expropriation Bill to allow for the state to expropriate land without compensation."

He said this will go a long way in redressing inequalities and further open economic opportunities for the majority of black people. "Our project of nation-building will never be complete without returning the land to its rightful owners," he emphasised.



President Ramaphosa provides further clarity on issues raised in his Sona speech

Following *two days of harsh criticism of his Sona speech from opposition MPs (Members of Parliament), and an endorsement from members of the ruling party, the President had a chance to reply to the debate and provide further clarity on some of the issues raised in the speech.*

During his reply to the debate, the President reiterated government's commitment to tackle corruption in the public sector, and the plans to restructure Eskom.

The announcement to unbundle the electricity company into three entities – generation, transmission and distribution – had created fears about possible retrenchments, especially from labour unions.

He reassured parliamentarians and the country that government had no intentions of privatising the company and no jobs would be lost during the restructuring

The restructuring will not solve the immediate crisis at Eskom – enable the company to stabilise in the future.

“The restructuring does not mean retrenchments, and it is not a path to privatisation, we are saying in its current form Eskom is too big and too difficult to lead and we have to look at a business model which will best work – it is not a path to privatisation,” said the President, adding that the restructuring will align Eskom with international electricity trends.

Also, he corrected the narrative that the announcement to establish a new investigative unit in the National Prosecuting Agency (NPA) was the revival

of the Scorpions, which was disbanded through an Act of Parliament. “The Scorpions are not back – we are setting up a new unit – which was allowed by the NPA Act to deal with specific investigations,” he said.

“The breakdown of six units which resulted in Stage 4 load shedding by Eskom has had an overarching impact on the economy and the lives of our people. We accept that we have not brought on board some of our important stakeholders, especially labour, and we are going to correct that,” he said.

A special Cabinet committee to be chaired by the Deputy President has been established to look into the crisis at Eskom – and will provide daily reports to the President. The government was doing everything possible to secure reliable energy supply for the country and make sure that the power supply crisis doesn't do damage to the economy. The role of Imbongi in the State of the Nation Address. 🌟

The role of Imbongi in the State of the Nation Address

Imbongi is the curtain-raiser of a significant moment of the nation, thus setting the mood by capturing its collective sentiments in with poetic fervour. He utilises this skill to master the immense amount of knowledge and oration, in this case about the country and the President. Imbongi's duty is to instil within the President

a great sense of pride, by narrating his personal history, his clan and his family lineage in song, dance and narration. Imbongi does this with great accuracy that often fills the President with delight and surprise. This is often the task that illustrates the great intellectual capability needed for one to assume the enviable role of Imbongi. 🌟



Mr Boikanyo Ramagoelelo



OUR SOUTH AFRICA – THE SUN

The sun heals the divisions of the past, improves the quality of life of all South Africans, frees the potential of each person and builds a united and democratic South Africa, taking its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.



OUR PEOPLE – THE PROTEA LEAVES

Our people, building on the foundation of a democratic and open society, freely elect representatives, acting as a voice of the people and providing a national forum for public consideration of issues.



OUR PARLIAMENT – THE DRUM

The drum calls the people's Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to consider national and provincial issues, ensuring government by the people under the Constitution.



OUR CONSTITUTION – THE BOOK

Our Constitution lays the foundation for a democratic and open society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. It is the supreme law of our country, and ensures government by the people.