

NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

ADVISORY ON NDP 2024-2029 PRIORITIES

14 August 2024



**national planning
commission**

Department:
The Presidency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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INTRODUCTION

The National Planning Commission (NPC) is an independent multidisciplinary advisory body, appointed by the President to provide advice on the implementation of the country's long-term development plan - the National Development Plan (NDP). This advisory seeks to strengthen the articulation of the NDP into the proposed 2024-2029 Medium-term Development Plan. This is done through a chapter-by-chapter analysis of the key objectives of each chapter of the NDP, a high-level assessment of how South Africa is faring against the objectives and the reasons therefore, and the identification of a small number of key strategic priority reforms necessary to rapidly advance the objectives of the NDP.

Underscoring the importance of driving delivery and attainment of these priorities, illustrative indicators to measure the progress of priority interventions are contained in the annexure to this advisory. Priorities must be linked to outcome indicators, with rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

The identification of proposed priorities is determined by three criteria:

1. Reforms that will accelerate the developmental objectives of the NDP.
2. Reforms that are capable of execution within the medium term.
3. 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.

While reforms have been identified under discrete chapters, overlaps are inevitable, and many relate to other chapters. Some key cross-cutting issues that emerge are:

- Coordination across departments and entities in the state is fundamental to delivery. For complex and 'wicked' problems, the centre of coordination should be in the Presidency, with delivery and monitoring driven through a joint outcome-based framework and the Cabinet system.

- While many departments and spheres of government have been calibrated around policymaking, there is an urgent need to modernise management systems, build adaptive and innovative capabilities, and bolster capacity for implementation.
- Operation Vulindlela should continue to coordinate and support departments to deliver on a small number of priority reforms so as not to dilute its focus. Accountability for implementation should remain with the accounting authorities, who should, where relevant, adopt the delivery unit approach used by Operation Vulindlela in implementing reforms.
- Partnerships and contributions to delivery by business, labour and civil society, as relevant, should be pursued particularly about high-impact interventions where programmatic skills are required. This will require enhanced capability to manage the governance, and accountability, and monitor the delivery requirements. In addition, a more regular, institutionalised and coordinated approach to consulting with business, labour and civil society is required for planning, monitoring and evaluation as well as for agile adaption to seize opportunities and risk mitigation.
- Fiscal constraints, as well as an ambitious developmental agenda in a country that has extreme levels of inequality, poverty, and unemployment requires innovative and inclusive financing and investment beyond what the state can secure on its own.
- Data and performance monitoring are the key to unlocking change for people. Rigorous and regular reviews of performance are required to measure, adapt, and perform. To the extent necessary, data systems and statistical reforms may be required to enhance the country's ability to stocktake and determine whether reforms are having the desired impact.
- Ostensibly neutral reforms often result in suboptimal outcomes for women even though they make up 51% of the population. In addition, youth are often disaffected and excluded from forward-looking

planning processes. Reforms are often inaccessible for persons with disabilities, whose share of the population increases to over 53% for people aged 85 and older. It is recommended that a baseline of each reform include a breakdown of its impact on gender disparities, youth, and persons with disabilities, where relevant, and that this be consistently monitored to ensure that reforms are reaching these targeted groups. Where it is not, adjustments in approach will need to be made. This requires an analysis of intersectional power, deprivation, inclusion and exclusion in terms of race, class, gender, ability, education and other social determinants. In some instances, we have made specific recommendations that serve to focus exclusively on certain groups of people.

While each chapter has identified important reforms, they are all premised on the assumption of a capable state. However, currently, the capacity of our state is mixed.

Although this document retains the structure of the NDP chapters, if we are to deliver these reforms as a country the priorities noted below should be understood in the context of the importance of a capable state as contained in Chapter 13.



ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT (NDP CHAPTER 3)

Economy and Employment - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

Significantly increase work opportunities targeting the youth

- By mid-2025, develop and implement a common outcomes-based framework across all spheres of government to coordinate and accelerate youth work 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.

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

- By mid-2026, develop and implement a common outcomes-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.

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. This should include the following actions:

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

Enable future-facing, job-rich sectors

- Refocus sector masterplans and their implementation on high-impact sectors such as digital and global business services, tourism, and agriculture and agri-processing. Develop masterplan-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.

Revitalise the process of economic policy development

- Regularly review economic policy in a collaborative process involving stakeholders to identify and support impactful interventions 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.

CHAPTER 3 OF THE NDP ON ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT AT A GLANCE

Chapter 3 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.

The following actions are identified:

- 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 the 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 others. 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.

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE (NDP CHAPTER 4)

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

infrastructure investments.

- National Treasury (NT) should finalise the revision of the PPP framework to enable the upscaling of blended finance solutions.
- Persuade the GEPI/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.

Prioritise 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

CHAPTER 4 OF THE NDP ON ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE AT A GLANCE

Chapter 4 identifies the need to invest in a strong network of economic infrastructure that is designed to support South Africa's medium- and long-term economic and social objectives. This economic infrastructure is a precondition for providing basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, telecommunications, and public transport, and it needs to be robust and extensive enough to meet industrial, commercial and household needs.

The following requirements are identified:

- An energy sector that promotes economic growth and development, social equity, and environmental sustainability.
- Effective management of water and the services derived from it so that it supports a strong economy and a healthy environment. All main urban and industrial centres will have a reliable water supply to meet their needs, while increasingly efficient agricultural water use will support productive rural communities.
- A transport sector that affordably allows South Africans to access previously inaccessible economic opportunities, social spaces and services, supports economic development by allowing the effective and affordable transport of goods and promotes a low-carbon economy.
- A digital communications system that underpins the development of a dynamic and connected information society and a knowledge economy that is more inclusive and prosperous. A seamless information infrastructure will be universally available and accessible and will meet the needs of citizens, businesses, and the public sector by providing access to the creation and consumption of a wide range of converged services required for effective economic and social participation.

The NIP 2050 approved by Cabinet in 2021 builds on the NDP and provides detailed plans for how they can be achieved.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 4 of the NDP

Reinforcing all other economic analyses of the weak performance of the economy, the Ten-Year Review of the NDP shows that infrastructure constraints have contributed significantly to South Africa's lacklustre economic performance since 2008.

Despite making significant progress, with access to electricity nearing 90%, progress is still below expectations. The target of increasing electricity capacity by at least 20,000 MW from renewable sources by 2030 is also unlikely to be met, with only 4,000 MW of renewable energy capacity awarded and operational. Furthermore, inadequate investment in energy infrastructure, slow progress in natural gas infrastructure development, and minimal progress in promoting energy efficiency and electric vehicles are concerns.

The water priority has also not been met, with water resources being degraded and a long-term financing framework for water infrastructure yet to be developed. Consistent under-investment in upstream water resources management (e.g. dams, bulk infrastructure) and sluggish governance by local governments of downstream water services has resulted in a looming water crisis that will undermine economic growth and leave South Africa vulnerable to climate change.

Progress has not been achieved in the transport sector, with data available for only four out of five indicators. The Ten-Year Review of the NDP noted the collapse of passenger transport services provided by PRASA and the significant declines in volumes transported by Transnet Freight Rail (TFR). The combination of these two processes has increased passenger reliance on the less affordable taxi industry. In addition

to the number of containers being handled at ports falling short of the target, South Africa's ageing road infrastructure is taking strain as freight moves from rail to road transportation.

The telecommunications priority has not been achieved, with broadband coverage expanding but data costs remaining high and access to low-cost, high-speed internet not yet a reality. Progress has been hampered by a fragmented and outdated regulatory framework, and investment in infrastructure has been inadequate, particularly in underserved and rural areas. This has been exacerbated by corruption and mismanagement of key institutions, and inequality and the skills gap preventing many South Africans from participating in the digital economy. Although the Ten-Year Review of the NDP highlights major challenges such as the delayed decisions regarding high-demand spectrum and deployment of broadband infrastructure, it notes that the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) was approved by Cabinet and Phase 1 of SA Connect was implemented.

According to the NT, by 2022, R1 trillion had been transferred to local government for infrastructure investments since 1994. On average, local governments spend R45 billion per annum on infrastructure. Despite this, local government infrastructures have gone into decline in qualitative and quantitative terms over the past decade.

By 2021, 89% of households had access to electricity, 84% to water, and 80% to sanitation services. However, according to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), in 2018, 50% of households experienced disruptions in water supply. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation, in 2017, 56% of the 1150 wastewater and 44% of the water treatment facilities were regarded as in a deficient or critical state and required immediate restoration. Similar challenges exist with respect to stormwater drainage, municipal roads, and electrical reticulation. The Auditor-General's reports regularly point to problems with maintaining

infrastructure, including late completion of projects, subpar workmanship, inadequate contractor oversight, excessively escalated budgets, noncompliance with supply chain procedures, and non-application of project management techniques.

National government has put in place numerous programmes to try to assist local government, including the IDIP/IDMS, asset management standards for local governments, guidelines for creating a project management division, standard contracts for infrastructure projects, performance strategies, conditional awards, grants for infrastructure skills development, the Siyenza Manje programme managed by DBSA, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, and GTAC.

Despite these challenges, there has been progress in South Africa's water, transport, energy, and digital infrastructure sectors. In the water sector, the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission and the Department of Water and Sanitation have made strides in implementing the NIP 2050, with a focus on reviewing water supply and demand management strategies and updating reconciliation strategies for the four major water systems. In transport, SANRAL has made substantial progress in its road projects, with nine construction projects valued at R18 billion in progress and eight major projects valued at R20 billion awarded in 2021.

The Transnet National Ports Authority has also been established to enhance freight transport services in rail and ports. In energy, the focus is shifting towards sustainability, with a plan to increase the share of renewable energy, particularly solar and wind, in the energy mix. In digital infrastructure, broadband coverage has expanded, with 93% of the population covered with 4G/LTE by 2019, and high-speed broadband is expected to be universally accessible by 2024/5. The government aims to ensure that all government buildings are digitally enabled by 2024/5, and the development of digital infrastructure remains a priority, with a focus on low-income communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (NDP CHAPTER 5)

Environmental Sustainability - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

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

- 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

- 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 industrialisation 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).



CHAPTER 5 OF THE NDP ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AT A GLANCE

Chapter 5 of the NDP deals with environmental sustainability and supports the vision of South Africa moving to an environmentally sustainable, climate change resilient, low-carbon economy and society. The proposals in the chapter are meant to achieve:

- Environmental sustainability and an equitable transition to a low-carbon economy.
- A major scale-up in the use of renewable energy sources, a reduction in carbon emissions, and the implementation of innovative and sustainable technological solutions to address climate change impacts.
- Overall climate change response actions and long-term planning that support meeting international obligations.

The following actions are identified:

- Coordinated planning and investment in infrastructure and services that take account of climate change and other environmental pressures.
- Implementation of adaptation strategies in conjunction with national development strategies that include disaster preparedness, investment in sustainable technologies, ecosystems, and biodiversity assets.
- Reduction in carbon emissions while maintaining competitiveness, including through carbon-pricing and private sector investment in the renewables value chain.
- Increased investment in renewable energy, including in localisation of the renewables value chain.
- Public investment in new agricultural technologies including the development of environmentally sustainable strategies and support services for small-scale farmers, protection of rural livelihoods, and the concurrent expansion of commercial agriculture.

- A commitment to a zero-waste society through inter alia, increased consumer awareness, green product design, recycling infrastructure, and waste-to-energy projects.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 5 of the NDP

The NPC's Ten-Year Review of the NDP notes that there are growing risks to people, infrastructure, and ecosystems from climate-related extreme weather events. Climate scientists consulted by the NPC are predicting a 'Day Zero' type event for Gauteng, more intense flooding along the east coast, the potential loss of the maize crop and longer, more intense heatwaves. These will have negative socio-economic impacts as, in combination, these trends directly affect energy, water, and food systems, which in turn impact those below the poverty line most heavily. South Africa's particular vulnerability was highlighted and the need for public investment in adaptation strategies was identified. The consultation work on climate change by the second NPC paved the way for the establishment of the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC).

South Africa's updated 2021 NDC lodged with the UNFCCC and the country's commitment to reduce carbon emissions to within the NDC target range by 2030 has been important. Domestic climate action, including the Carbon Tax (2019), the Climate Change Act, NT's Climate Budget Tagging pilot, the Green Taxonomy tax incentives, and regulatory reforms to support low-carbon research and development and investments have enabled an increased renewables roll-out. This is supported by the Just Energy Transition Partnership and the JET-IP's assessment that over R1.5 trillion would be needed in the electricity, new energy vehicle, and green hydrogen sectors to meet the Plan's requirements by 2027. The Ten-Year Review of the NDP references the World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report and its estimate that financing requirements will

be around 4.4% of GDP per year. (R8.5 trillion between 2022 and 2050). This is supported by the NPC's Call-to-Action, which identifies the role of a just energy transition implementation programme. This includes the EAP, the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (including its focus on the green minerals

value chain), the Low Emissions Development Strategy, Eskom Roadmap, and the Just Transition Framework, among others. The ending of loadshedding in the short-term, and the gradual transition to energy security for all and net zero carbon emissions will help restore hope in the future of South Africa.

AN INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE RURAL ECONOMY (NDP CHAPTER 6)

An Integrated and Inclusive Rural Economy - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

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.

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.

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.

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 agri-businesses.
- 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 fertiliser 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.

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 licences.
- 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.



CHAPTER 6 OF THE NDP ON AN INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE RURAL ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

Chapter 6 focuses on the integrated and inclusive rural economy, emphasising the potential of the agricultural sector to drive economic growth, create jobs, and enhance food and nutrition security in South Africa. The proposals are meant to ensure that South Africa's rural communities have greater opportunities to participate fully in the economic, social, and political life of the country.

The following actions are identified:

- The creation of jobs in rural areas, with a target of an additional one million jobs in the agriculture, agro-processing, and related sectors.
- Effective land administration and an efficient land tenure system, as well as the provision of basic services that enable people to develop the capabilities needed to take advantage of economic opportunities.
- The redistribution and restitution of approximately 20% of private commercial farmland by 2030.
- Investing and improving irrigation infrastructure where water is available, expanding the area under cultivation by 500,000 hectares through the better use of existing water resources and developing new water schemes.

- Expanding rain-fed production in dry-land areas, supporting smallholder farmers and rural communities to access high-value markets and developing agriculture and agro-processing linked to international markets.
- Address food security, noting that while South Africa is food secure at a national level, the high prevalence of household food insecurity should be reduced, and climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices should be adopted.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 6 of the NDP

There has been progress towards some of the goals of this chapter. According to the Ten-Year Review of the NDP, the agricultural sector has shown significant growth over the past decade, with the primary agricultural sector growing by an average of 5.9% per year since 2010, exceeding the country's annual average economic growth during the same period. The sector's contribution to GDP increased from 2.2% in 2010 to 2.4% in 2021. The impact of this has been an increase in primary jobs (844 000) in the sector in the first quarter of 2022, which is 6.6% higher than in 2021, with 52,000 more jobs year-on-year. However, the working and tenure conditions of farm workers remain a concern.

Despite these positive trends in output, the agriculture sector and food systems are plagued by various challenges that hinder job creation and threaten sustainability. Concerns also exist regarding rural infrastructure and services with targets, including eradicating infrastructure backlogs in rural schools and health facilities, providing ICT infrastructure, and improving access to water, sanitation, and energy, not being met. Although the AAMP has been in place for over a year, progress on implementation remains limited due to challenges such as persistent loadshedding, logistical constraints at ports, protectionism in export markets, and the spread of animal diseases.

Challenges include, (i) climate change which is increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts, heatwaves and severe flooding in some parts of the country, and causing shifts in season climatic conditions (ii) the frequency of crop and animal disease and pests have been increasing compromising biosecurity, (iii) the persistence of unequal allocation of water rights, (iv) infrastructure and logistics constraints have resulted in ports being overwhelmed causing delays in operations and financial losses, (v) access to finance and information, especially by smallholder farmers, is a challenge, and (vi) agriculture, which is characterised as monoculture, has not delivered towards positive nutrition and health outcomes. One out of five of the South African households were food insecure in 2017 and diseases and death associated with diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are on the rise. Geopolitics also have an influence: The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has sparked sharp increases in prices for most staple foods such as maize, wheat, and animal proteins, which resulted in annual consumer price inflation of 7.5%. The cost of food in South Africa increased by 5.10% in March 2024 over the same month in the previous year. The pace of the increase has exceeded that of the general consumer price index since 2015, exacerbating food insecurity for low-income households.

Progress has been made concerning land reform, with South Africa achieving 69% of the targeted land reform by August 2021. As of September 2022, 781,031 hectares (78.1%) of land were allocated against a target of 1 million hectares. Only 4,918 hectares (0.63%) were allocated to women and 7,677 hectares (0.9%) to the youth. The government acquired 901,518 hectares of land for Black South Africans by December 2017, falling short of the 2 million hectares target for 2019. Similarly, 106,794 hectares was transferred to farmworkers, short of the 200,000 hectares target for 2019. Turning to security of tenure, 481,503 hectares has been granted to smallholders, but data is not available for the indicator on tenure granted to communal farmers.

The implication is that the country's land and agrarian reform programme is taking too long to implement, and too many projects are failing. Challenges persist in the inclusion of African farmers, especially women, whose role in agrarian production is hampered by security of tenure, socio-cultural norms, and the increased risk of eviction and physical compromise in often remote areas. The implications for youth and persons with disabilities include issues like slow land reform delivery, limited access to finance, and administrative inefficiencies. The Ten-Year Review of the NDP recommended effective implementation of programmes and legislation, strengthening land administration systems, and supporting smallholders. In addition, if state land is unlocked, the expanse of land under production will increase.

Rural towns and agriculture development zones (parks and/hubs) are central to rural development. However, the lack of infrastructure in rural areas is hampering development, especially in former 'homelands. On land development, the hectares under irrigation increased by only 16,746 hectares or 1%, a marginal increase.

Although the rural unemployment rate declined from 49.4% in 2013 to 47.1% at the end of 2017, it remains unacceptably high. The government supports 212,207 subsistence and emerging farmers, but the target for this indicator is not specified.

Through the multiplier effect agriculture ultimately yields a relatively large number of job opportunities per additional unit of capital invested. Proposals made in the review include the need to unlock the potential of the agriculture sector by addressing several key challenges. These include financing challenges, addressing the needs of women farmers, land reform, logistical constraints, and the administration of irrigation rights, including long-term water uses and availability. Additionally, the review proposes implementing practical partnerships between the state and sector-focused private sector bodies to promote investment, exports, and job creation in future-facing sectors where South Africa retains strong opportunities. To this end, increased investment in research and development and acceleration of the implementation of the AAMP is key.



POSITIONING SOUTH AFRICA IN THE WORLD (NDP CHAPTER 7)

Positioning South Africa in the World - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

Translate diplomacy into economic development

- Increase South African exports and participation in the AfCFTA through targeted economic diplomacy to promote business deals in areas already subject to lowered tariffs.
- Further elevate economic diplomacy backed up by sound political diplomacy for increased trade, investment, technological cooperation, and cultural relations 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.

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

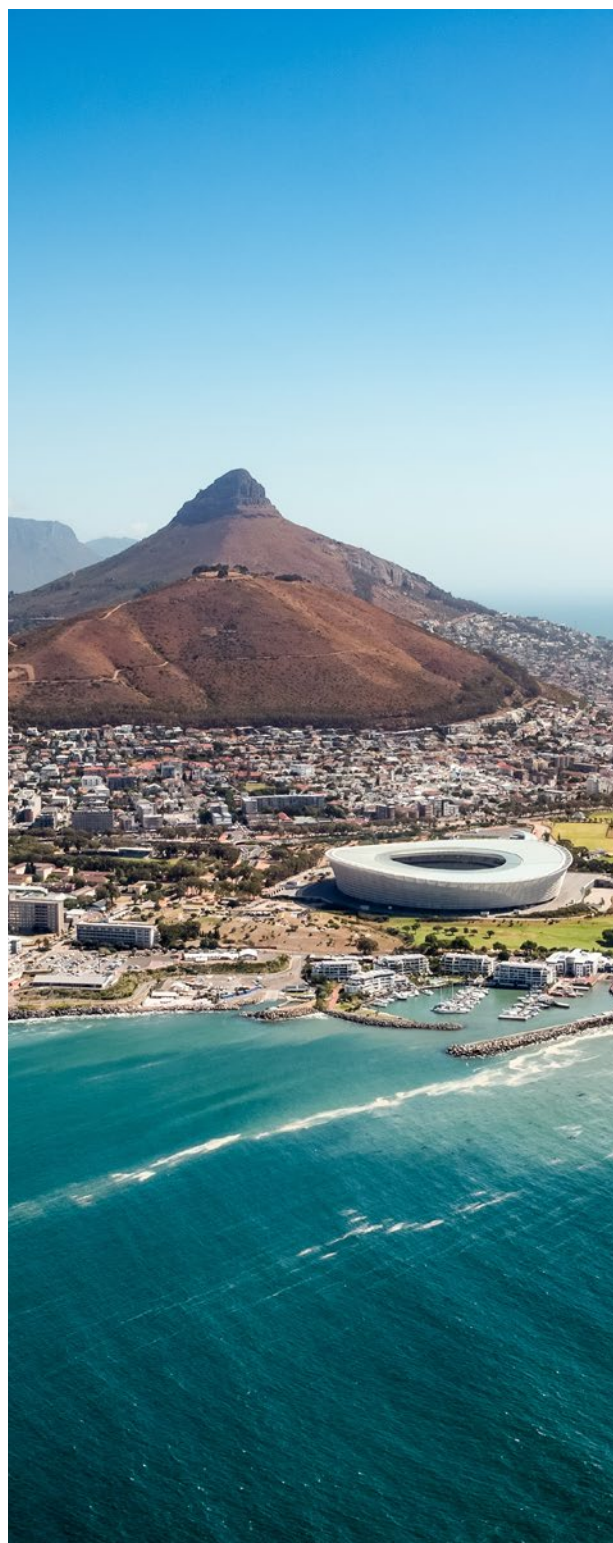
- Strengthen the state's capacity to conduct strategy development, research, and analysis that enhance economic diplomacy outcomes. Government must invest in a stronger capacity to interpret developments and strategies to harness global and regional actor dynamics with changing interests for positive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

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.

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.



CHAPTER 7 OF THE NDP ON POSITIONING SOUTH AFRICA IN THE WORLD AT A GLANCE

Chapter 7 of the NDP focuses on positioning South Africa in the world to transform it into a globally-competitive country guided by its national interests. The NDP requires South Africa to become an influential and leading member of the international community, contributing to the achievement and expansion of sustainable development, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, peace and security as well as a safe, peaceful and prosperous Southern African region and Africa in a fair and just world.

The NDP's 2030 objectives for achieving this goal include increasing intra-regional trade from 7% to 25% of total trade, enhancing trade with regional neighbours from 15% to 30% of total trade, increasing incoming FDI, expanding the tourism sector in terms of the total number of tourists entering the country and the amount they spend, and enhancing the country's contribution to peace initiatives in Africa to create conditions for prosperity.

The specific actions to achieve the objectives are:

- Focus on trade penetration and diplomatic presence in fast-growing markets (Asia, Latin America and Africa).
- Actively pursue the implementation of a regional integration strategy with a focus on road, rail, and port infrastructure.
- Reduce red tape, corruption, and delays at border posts that affect trade, investment, and economic cooperation.
- Facilitate partnerships for South African financial institutions and businesses wanting to expand on the continent.
- Strengthen regional cooperation in food and energy markets and water management.

- Identify and promote practical opportunities for cooperation based on complementary national endowments.
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of South Africa's diplomatic presence in the world to explore a more efficient use of scarce state resources.
- Explore ways of strengthening the research and analysis capacity within the state in relation to international relations and cooperation to sharpen the country's strategic posture internationally.
- Based on research, consultation, and public discussions, clarify what the national interest of South Africa entails and how it finds expression in international relations.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 7 of the NDP

The Ten-Year Review of the NDP confirmed the link between South Africa's development and what happens on the African continent and globally. It accepted that the country needs to contribute to creating the conditions in the region and the world that will help it prosper.

The review noted how unexpected changes in the international environment had a negative impact on the achievement of NDP's Chapter 7 goals. Key among these was the slow recovery of the global economy following the 2008-9 global financial crisis, the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath on the international and national economy and development outcomes, worsened geopolitical tensions that increase risks to economic recovery, and harmful climate-related disasters in South Africa and the African region.

Trade with Africa has been on the decline, despite South Africa remaining a dominant player in the African market. The country's trade is heavily skewed towards Southern and

East Africa. Yet, intra-southern African trade increased to 23% by 2021. Informal trade within southern Africa, however shored up to about 50% from below 40% in 2013.

Trade and investment relations with major global trade partners like China (\$23.4B), the United States (\$10.9B), Germany (\$9.96B), India (\$9.14B), and Japan (\$8.85B) continued to register slow growth. Although South Africa's global export trade has grown significantly from R816 billion in 2012 to R2 trillion by September 2022, the country's share of world trade has been declining for decades.

South Africa actively pursued sound political relations with these leading global trade partners and the EU. It pushed for political cooperation with BRICS countries, countries of the global south, and Africa, without demonstrating the ability to translate political cooperation into stronger economic cooperation. The lack of a social compact with business limits government-business coordination on international economic opportunities.

South Africa's economy is heavily reliant on commodity exports, and efforts to pursue exports of processed goods remain constrained causing South Africa's export competitiveness to decline.

The Review recommended among other measures:

- Using the newly adopted National Interest Framework to guide a healthier link between political and economic cooperation.
- Aligning current policies and programs to harness AfCFTA benefits.
- Urgently completing the review of foreign policy and diplomatic representation to ensure a cost-benefit balance.
- Harmonising border policies and implementing the SADC protocol on free movement of persons.

- Improving research cooperation on challenges and opportunities in South Africa's international cooperation including about cross-border issues.
- Expediting procedures for international protocol compliance.
- Strengthening the role of diplomatic missions in economic diplomacy.

In its 2023 Call-to-Action, the NPC urged the government to utilise NIP 2050 to accelerate investments and stimulate economic growth especially the regional infrastructure mentioned in Chapter 7. It also calls for robust monitoring and evaluation of masterplans and advocates for a national capability-building program to enhance performance and accountability in state institutions.

One of the key challenges of international migration in South Africa is the strain it places on public services and resources. The influx of migrants, both documented and undocumented, puts pressure on healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and social services, often leading to overcrowding and resource shortages. This, in turn, can create tensions between migrant communities and local residents, exacerbating social divides and contributing to xenophobia and discrimination. The NPC's Migration Conference identified how inward-looking approaches and siloed implementation have inhibited the country's response to this pressing issue.



HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (NDP CHAPTER 8)

Human Settlements - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

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.

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, north-western and coastal areas.

This will require consolidating development in fully-fledged and transformed national urban regions and nodes, creating strong connections between different nodes, 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.

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 focussed 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 eco-tourism.

- 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.

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 small-scale builders that allow for, and support, the construction of safe, climate-responsive and cost-effective structures.

CHAPTER 8 OF THE NDP ON TRANSFORMING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE NATIONAL SPACE ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

Chapter 8 emphasises the need for comprehensive spatial transformation in South Africa to address the country's past. The following improvements are identified:

- Reforming the national spatial and 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.

The chapter advocates for infrastructure investment to lower living costs for low-income households and reduce business costs. In rural areas, the chapter recommends 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. There must be a focus on improving the delivery of basic services and infrastructure through that

adequate financing, improved governance, and greater maintenance of infrastructure.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 8 of the NDP

The implementation of Chapter 8 and progress towards its goals has been mixed. The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act clarified government roles and principles for spatial transformation, but many of the Act's requirements have not been implemented. Although the NSDF guides national spatial planning, there is still a lack of coherence both horizontally and vertically. The NSDF's guidance has yet to be integrated into sectoral, provincial and municipal spatial planning strategies.

The DDM, which was aimed at improving coordination between sectors and spheres of government has provided new impetus to addressing the problem of intergovernmental alignment and coordination, but in many districts, participation by roleplayers has been lacking, and the results have been weak.

The budgets of different spheres of government are increasingly being spatialised, providing a mechanism to assess the spatial alignment of initiatives, but the use of this data to assess spatial (and temporal) alignment has been weak. There have been several spatial data initiatives, including, for example, the provision of spatially disaggregated company tax data by SARS, which have improved spatial economic understanding and improved access to data to aid planning.

Spatial transformation efforts have been slow, and, in most areas, the vision of mixed-income, mixed land-use environments, and densification have not been successful. This worked for metropolitan municipalities, but others have lagged. In addition to a shortage of planners across all spheres of government, government spatial capabilities are weak.

While living conditions across the country have improved, many residents in the growing informal settlements do not have consistent access to adequate basic services. Inadequate maintenance places communities at risk as shown by the recent cholera outbreak in Gauteng.

The implementation of the IUDF has been weak and although the Housing White Paper is being updated, accommodation demand outstrips its supply.

Basic service delivery remains unacceptably poor, especially in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, with maintenance, budget inefficiencies, and technical skill shortages hampering progress. Municipal infrastructure is often unreliable and subject to outages, particularly in water and sanitation, with significant frequent service interruptions leading to widespread service delivery protests.

IMPROVING EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND TRAINING (NDP CHAPTER 9)

Improving Education, Innovation and Training - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

Improve the coordination of ECD

- 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 modernise management systems and reduce red tape for the mass registration of ECD facilities, targeting registration of 35 000 programmes in the mid-term and 40 000 by 2029.

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 be 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.

- Plans for affordable access to broadband infrastructure for teaching and learning should be fast-tracked.

Revise goals and targets for Post-school Education and Training (PSET)

- 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.
- All components in this sector must be stabilised before further expansion to provide quality distance/blended/online education, student success initiatives, student support services, strengthening the qualifications of lecturers, and the Programme-Qualification-Mix (particularly in TVET). Quality improvement would provide the basis for sustained and more efficient growth when increased funding is available
- While the goals outlined in the National Plan for Post-School Education and Training must be pursued within existing resources to maximise efficiency and effectiveness, consideration should be given to partnerships with the private sector and developing an ecosystem of funding for the PSET system through interventions that create mutually beneficial relationships between education and training institutions and the world of work.
- 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.

CHAPTER 9 OF THE NDP ON IMPROVING EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND TRAINING AT A GLANCE

Chapter 9 focuses on the education, training and innovation system. The sub-sectors that are identified are: early childhood development, basic education, post-school education and training, the skills system, and the national research and innovation system and the interconnections between them. The NDP notes that these must build an inclusive society, provide equal opportunities, and help all South Africans, particularly those previously disadvantaged by apartheid to realise their full potential. The NDP identifies the following actions:

- The education, training and innovation system should cater for different needs, and graduates of universities and colleges should have the skills and knowledge to meet the needs of the economy and society.
- Strengthening coordination between departments, and the private and the non-profit sectors for the provision of early childhood services and expanding the definition of ECD to include all the development needs of a child as the basis for strategies including designing and implementing a nutrition programme for pregnant women and young children.
- The components of the system should interlink schools, FET (now TVET) colleges, universities of technology, universities, other providers of education and training, and the world of work.
- Two years of compulsory schooling for all 4- and 5-five-year-olds by 2030.
- The NDP does not set any specific outcomes for inclusion of learners with special educational needs but references to inclusion as a broad goal by 'accelerating efforts in integrating issues of disability into all facets of society and ensure equitable service provision for persons with disabilities.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 9 of the NDP

The weak functioning of the sub-systems has impacted on the efficiencies and quality of each other and slowed progress.

ECD:

The 2022 shift of ECD to the Department of Basic Education is an important step forward, but a risk remains of weak coordination across the key departments, which contribute to children thriving from conception and a neglect of planning for ECD from birth. Systemic weaknesses identified in planning for ECD include weak linkages between planning, budgeting and ECD outcomes and a lack of integrated, holistic planning and budgeting for child development across key departments and interventions resulting in inadequate funding levels and disparate funding flows, particularly for areas that span multiple departments. A particular challenge is access to registration and subsidies, and formalising of informal ECD facilities, where regulatory standards and fees are often prohibitive.

For clarity on medium- to long-term planning, the NPC supports the current extension of compulsory education for ten years from the time a child turns five but recommends that 4-year-olds be accommodated in registered early childhood education centres. This aims at universal access but not extending compulsory education to 4-year-olds in the foreseeable future due to fiscal constraints.

Basic education:

Of the five NDP goals for basic education for 2030, only one is likely to be achieved, two have no indicators, and two are not likely to be met. There are significant inequalities in educational inputs and, consequently, in performance between provinces, and within provinces by socio-economic status, and by fee and non-fee-paying schools. The public schooling system remains bimodal in its outputs and unequal resourcing.

South Africa continues to have a weak foundational learning system. Literacy and numeracy must be the key priority. The NDP indicator is that '90% of learners in grades 3, 6 and 9 must achieve 50% or more in the Annual National Assessments in these subjects'. However, no instrument is available yet to report performance and no baseline exists. The DBE will report a 2022 baseline in 2024. Monitoring of quality (and equity within aggregate measures) must inform interventions aimed at improving learner performance in literacy and mathematics. The NDP goal of improving performance in international comparative studies appears to be within reach on the two prescribed indicators.

There is no data on learner retention to the end of the Further Education and Training phase for which the NDP target is a 'completion rate of between 80–90%', including learners in TVET colleges. Inadequate data interoperability across DHET and DBE means that this cannot yet be calculated. Stats SA data can be used as

a proxy: the 20-year-old cohort with grade 12 in 2013 was 40% and was closer to 60% in 2021. About 51% of youth aged between 25-34 years did not have an NSC in 2021.

The NDP set a goal of increasing the number of students eligible to study maths and science at university. The DBE does not currently provide data on the number of learners with a bachelors pass who pass both subjects although it does provide data on three related indicators: learners eligible for a bachelor's programme, learners passing the NSC with mathematics, and learners passing the NSC with science. The NDP sets numeric indicators for each of these, but none are likely to be reached by 2030.

The NDP did not set a target for internet connectivity but suggested that schools should have access to functional internet connectivity for teaching and learning. The 2019-24 MTSF set a target of 90% to be connected for teaching and learning. Some form of connectivity has been extended to over 80% of schools, but only 10% is suitable for teaching and learning because of limited bandwidth. Without rapid progress in the provision of accessible and affordable bandwidth, the target is not likely to be achieved by 2030. Upgrading broadband technology on a significant scale must be prioritised.

Stats SA data shows an increasing trend in the proportion of persons with disabilities between the ages of 5 – 24 not attending educational institutions, and its 2023 report indicated that '11 500 children with disabilities have been placed on waiting lists because of a lack of spaces in public schools.'

Post-school Education and Training:

Enrolment in Higher Education is the only one of 12 NDP goals, indicators, and medium-term outcomes for PSET that is within reach before 2030. Quality targets are not on track. While progress with access to higher education

institutions is commendable, this distorts the 'size and shape' of, and resource distribution in, the PSET system, which is failing to expand critical access to opportunities for young people to gain the skills and credentials needed to participate in the economy. If investment is not made in strengthening the quality and reach of colleges, the negative public perception will persist and fuel the continued pressure for access to higher education. Achieving this single goal within an interconnected set of alternative high-quality opportunities highlights the hard choices that must be made. It is of concern that the PSET targets cannot be achieved within the fiscal programme. DHET has acknowledged that 'implementation of this plan will require both increased funding and much better use of available funding. Considering the 2030 goals and targets of the White Paper, all PSET sectors are underfunded, and funding will need to be significantly reprioritised and improved if increased access is to be accompanied by enhanced success.'

The skills planning institutional terrain is complex with multiple players and locations in which policies are made, targets are set, and different sets of 'rules and tools' that players are obliged to use. There is over-regulation where the market is supposed to lead, and over-dependence on complex regulatory tools where the state is supposed to steer. This complexity diverts SETAs from strategic engagement with sectors and high-level players and from their crucial role of sectoral skills anticipation. Compliance processes are flawed by single-sector analyses that do not necessarily indicate potential shortages across the economy, where lower-level, low-quality data is often reproduced at an aggregate level, and where planning does not consider unpredictability in the labour market and the changing nature of the economy.

Better focused and more meaningful mechanisms, processes, and approaches for coordination, cooperation, and dialogue

are needed to anticipate skills needs and to support its training, with disaggregation of short-, medium and long-term needs. Education and training players should be embedded in economic planning processes rather than addressing projected skills requirements as an 'add on'. Industrial development strategies should incorporate a consideration of the changing nature of work and technologies in crucial decisions about skills. Providers and employers must develop reciprocal insight into needs and capacities by working together on provision and delivery of specific programmes and ensure that formal programmes and on-the-job training are complementary.

While the DHET does publish data about the enrolment of learners with disability, it does not set targets or indicate participation rates.

Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET):

Data from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey and the General Household Survey (GHS) shows a NEET rate consistently above 30% for the past decade affecting over 3 million young people. NEET youth are not disinterested or unwilling to work - more than 2 million express a wish to do so. A significant portion of the NEET are new entrants to the labour market who have been searching for employment for between 1 - 5 years. About 2.4m (68.5%) of NEETs reside in indigent households. There is no data on the proportion of young people who are disabled within this group.

The National Research and Innovation System:

South Africa's share of intellectual property receipts has declined from 3,3% in 2016 to 0,8% in 2021. Domestic patents granted to South African residents have increased but are lower than a decade ago.

PROMOTING HEALTH (NDP CHAPTER 10)

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

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, cascading 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 non-government actors, such as the one used to combat HIV and TB.

- The acceleration and funding processes must prioritise the following strategic objectives:

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

Improve Primary Health Care Infrastructure

- 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.

- The government must accelerate the hiring of qualified staff to address the shortage of human resources in the health sector, particularly at the primary healthcare level by:
- Reconsidering the NT austerity measures currently in place, and
- Encouraging the South African Nursing Council to accredit an additional 50 000 nurses for training by 2029.

CHAPTER 10 OF THE NDP ON PROMOTING HEALTH AT A GLANCE

Chapter 10 of the NDP highlights the goal of reducing the disease burden to manageable levels, strengthening and improving the national health system, and eliminating infrastructure backlogs. Human capacity is identified as having a critical role. The information below highlights NDP indicators for tracking progress in health to date. The actions described in the chapter focused on:

- Improving life expectancy to 70 years by 2030.
- Reducing the under-5 child mortality rate.
- Reducing the infant mortality rate.
- Reducing maternal mortality from 500 to less than 100 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- Improving the quality of primary healthcare at clinics.
- Progressively improving TB prevention and treatment.
- Significantly reducing the prevalence of chronic non-communicable diseases.
- Reducing injuries, accidents, and violence by 50% from 2010 levels.

- Supporting universal health care coverage.
- Filling posts with skilled, committed and competent individuals.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 10 of the NDP

Health status indicators have improved considerably, as follows:

- The infant mortality rate declined from 40 per 1000 live births in 2009 to 24.3 deaths in 2022. The NDP target of fewer than 20 infant deaths per 1000 live births seems achievable by 2030.
- The under-5 mortality rate decreased from 56 per 1000 live births in 2009 to 30.7 per 1000 live births in 2022. Similarly, the NDP target of fewer than 30 under-5 deaths per 1000 live births also seems achievable by 2030.
- The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) improved from 302 per 100 000 live births in 2009 to a low of 134 per 100 000 live births in 2016. According to the 2019 - 2020 Rapid Mortality Surveillance Report, the MMR is estimated at 109, which highlights progress in the health sector.

- The average life expectancy improved from 54 years in 2005 to 62.8 years in 2022 including a key increase from 61.7 years in 2021 during the peak of Covid-19. The information on average life expectancy shows a net gain of 8.8 years, despite a drop of 3,5 years between 2019 and 2021. It is worth noting that although average life expectancy declined from 65.4 in 2020 to 61.7 years in 2021 and other health status indicators mentioned above show a likelihood of achieving the 2030 NDP respective targets.

The Ideal Clinic initiative (now the Ideal Clinic Realisation and Maintenance [ICRM] programme) was established by the DoH to improve the health infrastructure, enhance the health system, and increase access to and delivery of better services. Although some progress was made with the target of 1507 ideal clinics (43.3% of the 3478 facilities), the 2023/2024 annual ideal clinics report, shows that 78% of primary health facilities acquired ideal clinic status, while the set target of 100% in 2024 was not achieved. The 2022/2023 ICRM programme report shows that only 50.6% of the allocated budget of R19 312 million was used.

Despite the progress highlighted above, elements of the health sector have regressed and face challenges in other areas such as decreasing the burden of disease and deaths related to NCDs. In 2012, the NDP committed the country to significantly reduce the prevalence of chronic NCDs without proposing a related target. However, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set a target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs+ by one-third through prevention, treatment, and promoting mental health and well-being by 2030. NCD-related deaths increased from 45.6% in 2009 to 57.8% in 2019 before dropping to 55.7% in 2020. The trend led to a shift in the main causes of death and disease, from communicable diseases to NCDs. The marginal decline from 57.8% in 2019 to 55.7% in 2020 is potentially a step in the right direction since 2008.

The improvement of the quality of primary healthcare at clinics is measured through transforming current primary health care (PHC) facilities and increasing the number of such facilities to achieve Ideal Clinic status. For instance, the 2019 – 2024 MTSF target was to transform 3,467 (100%) PHC clinics in the 52 districts to qualify as ideal clinics by 2021. However, in 2023/2024 the Operation Phakisa Scaling Up the Ideal Clinic Progress Report noted that 2706 (78%) PHCs attained or retained their ideal clinic status.

Although there was a marginal decline in NCD-related deaths as highlighted above, South Africa still needs to reverse the current NCD trajectory, accelerate the slow primary health infrastructure improvement programme of Ideal Clinics, and address other related health sector challenges.



SOCIAL PROTECTION (NDP CHAPTER 11)

Social Protection - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

Strengthen financial support for targeted groups in line with cost-of-living increases

- 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.

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.

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 Injuries and Diseases systems so that benefits can be claimed.

Strengthen social wage delivery

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

CHAPTER 11 OF THE NDP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AT A GLANCE

The proposals contained in Chapter 11 focus on a social protection system that addresses socio-economic vulnerabilities and responds to the needs, realities, conditions, and livelihoods of those who are most at risk. It seeks to enhance social protection, as a constitutional right (Section 27), through social security provisions. In this respect, the NDP references:

- The provision of a social protection floor through a multi-pronged strategy that should ensure no household lives below this floor.
- Improved social grant coverage which includes:
 - Improved take-up rate to reach 100% coverage for the Old Age Pension (OAP) by 2030.
 - Ensuring access to the CSG immediately after birth.
 - Incrementally enhancing the SRD to assist with improving household nutrition.
- Provision of an adequate social wage, which reduces the cost of living through access to basic services.
- The creation of a developmental social contract through:
 - A comprehensive review of all social development services to improve access.
 - Provision of social services in all districts, schools, and community offices by 2030.
 - Provision of adequate infrastructure and financial resources to social workers, and child and youth care workers to assist those in need of support.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 11 of the NDP

Although South Africa's social protection system is the most comprehensive in Africa in terms of reach and coverage, it remains parsimonious and has several challenges.

In absolute terms, the number of grant beneficiaries has grown from 16,1 million in 2012/13 to 18,6 million in 2022/23. These numbers exclude the temporary SRD grant, which increases grant beneficiaries by 10 million to 29 million by the end of December 2023. The grant for older persons currently covers 70% of the over-60-year-old eligible population indicating the likelihood that the NDP target of 100% will be reached by 2030.

However, the system is fragmented, affected by administrative bottlenecks and implementation inefficiencies and does not result in the expected benefits. GHS data indicates that 12,9% of the population was vulnerable to hunger in 2022, so "household food and nutrition" remains inadequate. Child poverty indicators are higher than those of countries with similar systems and levels of economic development. Under-5 stunting, an indicator of acute malnutrition, stands at one in four children, and has not decreased since 1993 and appears to have increased in recent years.

There are several reasons for the partial achievement of the NDP goals of Chapter 11. Adequate funding is of central importance. The targeted increase of 1.9% per annum in the budget for five years has been met but did not address the deficit in social services. A 2.5% increase per annum, at least, in the budget would be necessary to achieve this mark.

The means-tested social grants also translate to parsimonious benefits such as the CSG (R530 per month), and the Social Relief of Distress grant (R370 per month), which are the only social assistance to caregivers with low income. Due to annual increases of less than the food inflation rate, the CSG is now 30% below the (FPL) of R760 and 45% below the average cost to feed a child a nutritious diet. In addition, some 10.6 people aged between 18 and 59 years are unemployed or are discouraged work-seekers. As this group have no access to any form of social protection, with only a few eligible for unemployment benefits, most are vulnerable to being food insecure.

Social security is largely contribution-based and biased towards formal sector workers, with limited coverage of those working in the informal sector. This means it aligned to the dynamics of the labour market. A 2021 Department of Social Development report recommends work activation programmes linked to social grant recipients of working age and an improved Expanded Public Works Programme.

Although 878 social welfare offices exist across the nine provinces, it is unclear if they cover all districts, schools, and community offices as required for the indicator. The target of 55 000 social service professionals by 2030 will not be met as there were only 18 318 in 2015.

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES (NDP CHAPTER 12)

Building Safer Communities - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

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.

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, an accompanying budget, and a monitoring and reporting mechanism to implement the Plan should be developed.

Demilitarisation of the South African Police Service (SAPS)

- The SAPS should develop and implement a specific demilitarisation 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 organisation that works with crime-affected communities to solve crime-related problems collaboratively.

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.

CHAPTER 12 OF THE NDP ON BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES AT A GLANCE

Chapter 12 deals with building safer communities. The NDP envisages people living in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime by 2030.

- People feel safe at home, school and work, and enjoy an active community life free of fear.
- Women can walk freely and have full autonomy of their movements, their times of travel, leisure, and work.
- Children can play safely, inside and outside.
- The police service is a well-resourced, professional institution staffed by highly-skilled officers who value their work, serve the community, safeguard lives and property without discrimination, protect the peaceful against violence, and respect the rights of all to equality and justice.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 12 of the NDP

While the South African government has developed various measures to combat crime, including an increased police presence, community policing initiatives, and investment in technology for surveillance and evidence collection, crime remains high. Despite the reliability challenges with many categories of violent crime between 2011 to 2020, significant increases in the annual recorded cases of other types of violent crime were recorded.

The implementation of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy should lead to increased feelings of safety, reductions in levels of violent crime, increased satisfaction and trust in the criminal justice system, and improved community participation in crime prevention efforts.

The implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide should lead to increased feelings of safety by women and increased quality of life, choice and physical movement. This extends to taking action to safeguard the physical integrity of other groups that have been made vulnerable,

including those exposed by distance and limited access to transport, financial resources, and legal services. This objective is intended to lead to the reduction in incidents of GBV and femicide, and improvement in, as well as access to, victim support services.

A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE (NDP CHAPTER 13)

Building a Capable and Developmental State - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

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 political-administrative 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.

Institutionalisation 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 macro-organisation 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.
- Reposition the Presidency as the centre of coordination.

- 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.

Digital transformation and modernised 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.

CHAPTER 13 OF THE NDP ON BUILDING A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE AT A GLANCE

Chapter 13 addresses the importance of building a capable and developmental state to drive the country's development. Key actions identified in the NDP to realise this are:

- 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.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 13 of the NDP

A merit-based public service system immersed in the development agenda but insulated from undue political interference as a function of the professionalisation of public administration is imperative for building a capable and developmental state.

While implementing the targeted actions has been slow, with mixed outcomes, the adoption by Cabinet of the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector is a crucial milestone towards building a capable and developmental state. This included tabling legislation that gives effect to some of its proposals through amendments to the

Public Service Act, Public Administration Management Act, and Public Service Commission Act. This will address some of the perennial challenges of managing public affairs, such as coordination challenges across spheres of government, insufficient institutionalisation of planning, governance challenges in the SOEs, and inadequate use of 4IR technologies to optimise the efficiency of the state.

To address the lack of fundamental capacities in the local sphere of government, building capacity and good governance need to be dedicated with focused attention on developing skills and competencies, especially at the senior management level.

While an appropriate macro-organisation of the state and stated professionalisation of the public service are necessary preconditions for building a capable state, there should also be a focus on the capabilities of policymakers and managers. Establishing institutions, systems and processes must simultaneously ensure that they work for the good of society through what is referred to as 'statecraft'. The NPC defines this as the capabilities required to make things happen in highly complex environments where there is usually a low level of trust and a fear of not complying with requirements set by oversight bodies such as the Auditor-General. In such an environment, there is a strong incentive to act safely within narrowly defined KPIs where risk is minimised, and innovation is not incentivised. For statecraft to take place, this needs to change so that there is an approach to building trust-based relational ways of working that make it possible to act boldly and innovatively to implement policies and strategies.

The NPC has recommended a strategic-relational approach to managing public affairs, political settlement-making, building state capability, and institutional agility so that it embraces and supports agents of change. A strategic-relational approach acknowledges the complex and multifaceted nature of the state, emphasising collaborative strategic

planning for transformative change over time in contrast with sole reliance on the hierarchical structure for effective coordination. Examples political settlement-making include the recent initiative by the President to include the private sector in governance solutions (NECCOM), where political leaders, bureaucrats and business leaders reach specific mission-oriented agreements to mandate specific pockets of expertise (e.g. Operation Vulindlela) to implement change. In complex ever-changing environments where designations remain opaque, building capability within the state can only take place when officials learn to collaboratively solve specific problems in ways that build system-wide capabilities over time. Institutional agility that embraces and supports agents of change is crucial to building state capabilities.

While there are pockets of excellence, and despite the proposals in the 1997 Batho Pele White Paper on public service delivery and the recent Report of the Presidential Commission on 4IR, government has struggled to coordinate the planning and implementation of digital transformation programmes and initiatives resulting in fragmentation, duplication, and inefficiencies. Departments, provinces, local municipalities, and state companies and agencies tend to deploy technology and digital services and functions independently, where data is largely siloed, systems are difficult to integrate, and there is no common digital identity and payment standard or system, and the where the appetite for digital adoption is muted. Variation in the quality and reliability of these technologies contributes to inefficiencies in the design and delivery of government services making it difficult for South Africans to access public services. This misses opportunities to strengthen inclusivity and overcome the digital divide and puts the reputation of the public service at risk.



ACCOUNTABILITY AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION (NDP CHAPTER 14)

Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

Finalise the anti-corruption system structure:

- Implement the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council's (NACAC) recommendations about institutionalising an effective anti-corruption system by enhancing the existing ones and adequately resourcing it rather than creating new institutions.
- The strengthening of the anti-corruption system must proceed with other critical public sector reforms, as referred to in Chapter 13. 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.

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.

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 regulation, create national oversight over procurement awards above a certain quantum, applications for an extended time, 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 anti-corruption charter to be signed by all bidders on state contracts, as envisaged by the Zondo Commission.

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.

CHAPTER 14 OF THE NDP ON PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION AT A GLANCE

In Chapter 14, the NDP observed 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. 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.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 14 of the NDP

NACAC has recommended that the President establish a new anti-corruption agency, an Office of Public Integrity (OPI) while retaining the multi-institutional system. The Special Investigating Agency and the Special Tribunal should be combined into the OPI, which should be established as an agency to support Chapter 9 institutions. As part of its focus on preventing corruption, its principal mandate will be to investigate and remedy systemic corruption, where it is so pervasive in a public agency as to suggest managerial and governance shortcomings that enable it. Recommendations to correct the managerial and governance shortcomings identified by these systemic investigations will be binding on the agency concerned. Evidence of suspected criminal conduct unearthed during a systemic inquiry will be referred to the Investigating Directorate (ID) of the NPA, which shall appoint a prosecutor that will lead further investigation by the OPI investigating team aimed at preparing a criminal docket. The NPA will retain its prosecutorial authority. In addition, the OPI will be responsible for policy advice to government, for anti-corruption public education and advocacy, and for gathering and analysing data relevant to the fight against corruption. While NACAC has recommended establishing a public whistle-blower support agency, it has not yet determined whether this capability should be established within the OPI.

NACAC is developing recommendations to strengthen other elements of the anti-corruption institutional architecture. It is particularly concerned that the independence of the NPA is constrained by its budget being part of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's appropriation, whose Director-

General is the accounting office of the NPA. This work will continue during the remaining tenure of the NACAC. In this period, NACAC will develop recommendations to strengthen other key anti-corruption institutions, including the SAPS, the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), and the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC). It will also consider recommendations to effectively coordinate the various anti-corruption institutions' work.

Since 2018, efforts have been made to restore the NPA's independence and rebuild its capacity to pursue complex corruption cases, including through an amendment to the NPA Act signed into law by the President on 24 May 2024. This amendment provides for the establishment of an Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC) within the NPA. It creates a permanent prosecution-led agency with investigative power in the NPA and goes some way to realising aspects of Vision 2030.

During the period of state capture, it was the power of the President and Cabinet Ministers to appoint key personnel in departments or in crucial state institutions, including the boards of SOEs, that made mass corruption possible. The problem resides in section 3 of the Public Service Act (1994), which gives politicians powers in respect of appointments and operations. The amendment to the Public Service Act aims to rebalance power relations between politicians and officials in favour of the latter. It will reduce politicians' discretion in public administration and strengthen the public service's autonomy. This is an important step towards accountability, where officials can be held to account for their performance relative to departmental mandates. As indicated in Chapter 13, this is important for the professionalisation of the administration of the state. NACAC will develop further recommendations to strengthen the mechanism for the appointment of senior public officials and members of the boards of SOEs.

The Public Procurement Act 2024, which is expected to encourage the procurement of local goods, has been criticized for not adequately addressing the fundamental challenges. Instead of clarifying the legal and regulatory environment, the Act brings new legal terms into play, whose meaning is unclear. Moreover, the Act provides for the set-asides in preferential procurement that reproduce features of the current system where abuse and corruption have been acute. It does not go far enough to create a unified and coherent regulatory regime for public procurement with centralised oversight. NACAC argues that the more complex

a regulatory system is and the greater the discretionary elements are, the more vulnerable it is to corruption. The Public Procurement Act vests excessive discretion in the Minister and public officials, which the NACAC fears will be conducive to corruption. NACAC has advised that officials in the public sector responsible for procurement should have appropriate qualifications and belong to a proper professional association. It has also recommended the establishment of an independent public procurement regulatory authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the regulations governing public procurement.



TRANSFORMING SOCIETY AND UNITING THE COUNTRY (NDP CHAPTER 15)

Transforming Society and Uniting the Country - NDP-based Priorities (2024-2029)

Implement the National Strategy for Social Cohesion crafted by DSAC and adopted by Cabinet.

- Introduce a comprehensive programme of socio-economic redress as part of nation-building.

Involve Chapter 9 institutions and leaders in business, labour, and civil society in the Social Cohesion Framework proposed by the NPC

- The NPC's objective is to complement efforts with DSAC and the Office of the Deputy President and play an advisory role.

Advance reforms that advance social cohesion in communities

- Scale up the National Youth Service, which provides young people with work experience in the community and civil society organisations, by providing resources and funding to increase the numbers from 20 000 to 100 000 per annum and the duration to one year. Ringfence a portion of the placements for those not in education, employment or training.
- Develop local capacity and guidance to support the design of urban areas, pedestrian areas, public open spaces and other relevant spaces to facilitate improved social cohesion as contained in the proposals of the Integrated IUDF.

Develop and implement a civics education curriculum

- Teach modules on tools for democracy, voter education, and local and national government participatory processes.
- Use existing teaching frameworks such as Parliament's "Know Your Parliament" series and build partnerships with civic actors to share material and teaching methods.



CHAPTER 15 OF THE NDP TRANSFORMING SOCIETY AND UNITING THE COUNTRY AT A GLANCE

Chapter 15 addresses social cohesion and nation-building. The target is to achieve a society where opportunity is not determined by race or birthright and where citizens accept that they have both rights and responsibilities. Most critically, it seeks a united, prosperous, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. The NDP envisions a society in 2030 that would embrace its diversity rather than reinforce observable human differences along the contours of race, class, gender, religion, culture, and other social constructs. The NDP does not directly address social cohesion, but it does define several elements as critical in the nation-building effort:

- Knowledge of the Constitution and fostering constitutional values.
- Equalising opportunities. Ensure inclusion and prosperity for all.
- Promoting inclusion and redress.
- Promoting social cohesion across society through increased interaction across race and class in shared common space and services.
- Promoting active citizenry and broad-based leadership and achieving a social compact that will lay the basis for equity. Redress spatial, economic, and cultural inequality by building individual and communal agency. Awaken the populace to speak when things go wrong and to be active in their own development.
- Bring about behavioural change.

Progress made to date in delivering Chapter 15 of the NDP

Little progress has been made since 2012 and social cohesion appears to have fallen off the government priority list and is articulated superficially. The persistent social inequality and lack of leadership to coordinate the promotion of social cohesion results in the alienation of government from citizens and communities, thus reducing the prospects of an active citizenry envisaged in the NDP.

The NPC's Social Cohesion Strategy recognises both the multi-faceted nature of the problem as well as the range of government policies and programmes. The strategy can be roughly categorised into three groups – the first containing high-level national responses (such as the NDP and the MTDP), the second focusing on addressing the root causes of inequalities, unequal access to resources and conflict (such as the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Intolerances, the National Strategic Plan), and a third that, while not explicitly concerned with social cohesion, through their actions contribute to a socially cohesive society by addressing unequal social, political and economic outcomes, and by ensuring good governance.

A comprehensive all-of-society, coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to social cohesion and nation-building is essential for the achievement of the NDP goals. Such an approach must advocate for social justice and include partnerships between civil society, the private sector, government, and academia with a bias in favour of those who are the most marginalised.

ANNEXURE A

ILLUSTRATIVE INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE PROGRESS OF PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS PER CHAPTER

CHAPTER 3

Work opportunities and job creation:

- Share of total jobs in formal and informal SMMEs (quarterly, QLFS, Stats SA)
- Progress towards the target of 800 000 youth work opportunities per year. (annually, LFS, Stats SA)
- Number of full-time equivalent public work opportunities (annually, from records of implementing agencies).

SMMEs and formalising business:

- Number of formal and informal SMMEs (quarterly, Stats SA).
- Rate of SMME formalisation (quarterly, Stats SA, DSBD, CIPC, SARS).
- SMME survival rate (periodic, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, DSBD)
- Achievement of public procurement from women of 40%, youth, PWD SMMEs (annually, DSBD, Commission for Gender Equality, BBBEE Commission). The advancement of women's economic citizenship is a central pillar of the public procurement process.

This paper recognises the conceptual limitations and analytical paucity of clustering youth, people with disabilities and women.

- Improved ranking on World Bank Ease of Doing Business (annually, World Bank, DSBD)
- SMME Access to finance index such as that used by the European Investment Fund (annually, National Treasury, NCR, Banks).

Future facing sectors:

- Growth in the number and size of priority sector enterprises (annually, Stats SA).
- Growth in the number of people working in priority sectors (quarterly, Stats SA).

CHAPTER 4

- Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP), private sector investment (% of GDP), public sector investment (% of GDP), (annually, Stats SA, South African Reserve Bank)
- 5 GW of new renewable energy per annum, an Energy Availability Factor of over 60%, gradual phasing out of 80% of coal-fired power by 2050, and the construction of 14000 kms of powerlines over ten years (averaging 1500 kms per annum). Total investment required by 2050: R4,5 trillion, 50% from private sector sources. (annually, Eskom and national department).
- Percentage of goods transported by road and rail and proportion of the population using public transport (annually, Stats SA).
- Percentage of population with access to clean drinking water (annually, Stats SA, municipalities).
- Detailed long-term approved plans and institutional capacity in place to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water to all businesses, farms and households, including measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change on water resources. (annually, administrative data from municipalities).
- National 4IR strategy approved with annual milestones to be systematically implemented coupled with ongoing communications that update the nation on progress (annually, national department).

CHAPTER 5

Carbon Emission Reduction Measures

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the 2030 target set out in the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (between 420 and 350 Megaton carbon equivalent).
- Renewable energy build: capacity installed, in planning and under construction.
- Carbon reductions measured against NDC trajectory (GHG inventory).
- Carbon emissions reduced across sectors (GHG inventory carbon budgets, sector emission targets).

Governance and Coordination

- National departments and provinces with plans consistent with the Climate Act's requirements/number of plans and activities that are funded. (measured annually by DFFE)
- Municipalities with plans consistent with Climate legislation requirements/ number of plans and activities that are funded (COGTA).
- Budget allocations to climate mitigation and adaptation interventions (NT).
- Climate and extreme weather event early warning systems developed across all spheres of government.

Implementation Progress

- Infrastructure investments with climate-proofing plans. (NIP processes).
- JET IP finance mobilised against targets set (JET IP register and reporting).
- JET IP finance deployed (JET IP register and reporting).
- Number of Just Transition projects implemented by communities and workers. (PCC M+E system)
- Achievement of EV White Paper targets. (DTIC)
- Achievement of green hydrogen commercialisation strategy targets. (finances mobilised and projects initiated). (DTIC)
- SAREM approval and implementation plan monitored. (DMRE)

CHAPTER 6

Implement a review of the food regulation architecture:

- Multi-sectoral Food Council is established.
- Food safety authority is established.
- Agriculture and Agro-processing Masterplan is accepted and implemented.

Improve training in agriculture and agro-processing:

- Number of agricultural students and trainees completing training, practical experience, and job placement strategy implemented with women's economic citizenship and advancement centred. In addition, youth development must be prioritised and invested in, as a generational dividend.
- Coordination platform for demand-led skilling and agri-placements.
- Farmer business development programmes.

Improve and diversify access to agricultural information and innovation:

- ICT tools and smart technology baseline assessment.
- Number of extension officers per province, district and municipality, and commodity group.
- Ratio of extension officers to households and people involved in agriculture.
- Share of households and people involved in agriculture using digital ecosystem and/or ICT tools to enhance their access to information and knowledge.

Develop an Agricultural and Agro-processing Commercialisation Strategy

- AAMP is endorsed by all parties and implemented.
- Number and value of new agricultural and agro-processing enterprises trading within local and international markets.
- Revenue and employment contribution of agricultural and agro-processing enterprises.
- Public and private sector investment in the sector.

Rapid and coordinated plans to accelerate land-water reforms

- Land ownership or secure tenure system (especially by women whose tenure is constantly under attack even though women account for over 60% of food production. Youth farmers represent the opportunity to build land.
- Allocation of water rights.
- A feasibility study conducted on establishing a Land and Agrarian Reform Agency.

All indicators should be measured annually. Data sources: DALRRD, NAMC, ARC, AGRISETA, SABS, SALGA, academia i.e. University of South Africa's Centre for Agriculture and Environmental Studies, Agriculture accreditation bodies i.e. Intertek

CHAPTER 7

Diplomacy translated into economic development

- Share of South Africa's intra-regional trade in Southern Africa (target 50%). (annually, Stats SA)
- Growth in the volume and diversity of South Africa's trade with neighbours. (annually, Stats SA)
- Volume and scale of investment of FDI into South Africa in each area of diplomacy presence (annually, Stats SA).

Capacity to facilitate trade

- Distribution of South Africa's diplomatic presence in the world based on a cost-benefit analysis to enhance economic diplomacy.
- Decisions made about what diplomatic forum and events to join, chair or host based on a cost-benefit assessment with a clear delineation of economic and developmental outcomes to be derived
- Number of reportable international agreements, protocols and treaties that are aligned with national interests and economic diplomacy ensuring the burden to report is commensurate with the developmental benefits derived.

- Number of peace missions that result in improved economic and developmental cooperation with South Africa (annual, DIRCO).

Trade and investment infrastructure and services

- Foreign tourist arrivals (annually, Stats SA).
- Visa backlog eliminated by mid-2025 (annually, national department).

CHAPTER 8

Prioritise and strengthen integrated planning and infrastructure development

- Establishment and operation of the DDM data dashboard which reports on measurements for participation and input from all spheres and sectors of government. (quarterly, COGTA)

Spatial Planning

- Number of lower-income households living in proximity to employment opportunities and/or subsidised public transport. (annual, Stats SA).

Rural and urban infrastructure

- Access to basic services (water, sanitation, waste, energy) (annual, Stats SA).
- Capital spend on infrastructure (water, sanitation, waste and energy) (quarterly, NT).
- Percentage of capital spend on infrastructure maintenance and refurbishment (quarterly from NT).
- Measures of the quality-of-service provision. (annual, municipal reports)

Human Settlements

- Increase in the number and diversity of residential units, measured by:
 - Number of new residential units facilitated by the state (annual, DHS).
 - Number (or %) of these that are rental or social housing options (annual, DHS).
- Improved tenure, not limited to ownership, (annual, Stats SA).

CHAPTER 9

Given the high levels of inequality, all indicators and targets should be disaggregated by province and school quintile and gender. This would show progress towards national and provincial planning targets, allow monitoring, and timeous responses.

ECD

- Percentage of learners whose physical growth and developmental domains for early learning are age-appropriate at 5 years, Baseline: Thrive by Five 2022 Study, to be repeated every three years.
- Develop and implement the Early Childhood Administration and Reporting System (eCares).
- Monitor increase in the number of ECD programmes registered.

Basic Education

- Proportion of Grade 3, 6, and 9 learners achieving the required levels in reading and mathematics in the 2028 systemic evaluation disaggregated by province/quintile/gender. (annually)
- Comprehensive plans to improve reading and maths and all necessary inputs/conditions fully costed, with appropriate indicators and systems to monitor progress in place nationally and in all provinces and districts. (Quarterly, national department records).
- Inclusion of all learners with disability by province and district by Q1 2026, with time-bound targets for full inclusion by Q1 2030.

PSET and NEET

- New sectoral goals and targets from 2025 are aligned with the fiscal and implementation programme.
- Review of the funding system across PSET which identifies opportunities to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
- Review of TVET and Community Colleges identifying actions needed to strengthen quality and capacity.
- Stabilisation and deepening of quality in all components of the sector before any further significant expansion

- Improved processes of skills planning and delivery that are more flexible and responsive to the diverse needs of the economy across contexts and provide meaningful pathways to young people.

CHAPTER 10

Improve Life expectancy and reduce Mortality rates

- Life expectancy as a % of target (70 years by 2030). (Stats SA - Census every 10 years or when it is undertaken, DHA - register of births and deaths)
- Reduced age-specific mortality rates: Stats SA - Census every 10 years or when it is undertaken, DHA - register of births and deaths).
- Under-5 mortality rate as a % of target (30 deaths per 1000 live births by 2030) (SAMRC, annually).
- Infant mortality rate as % of target (20 deaths per 1000 live births by 2030) (SAMRC, annually)
- Maternal mortality rate as % of target (100 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2029) (SAMRC, annually)

Reduce NCDs

- NCDs per 1000 people as % of target (one-third of 2015 levels). (annually, MRC; Stats SA).

Improved primary health infrastructure

- Increased to 100% of all primary health care facilities to achieve and maintain ideal clinic status by 2029 (annually, Operation Phakisa Scaling up the Ideal Clinic)
- Increase accreditation of nurses to 10 000 per annum over 2024-2029. (annually, DoH records).

CHAPTER 11

Strengthen financial, human resources and infrastructure for social development

- Gap between CSG grant and the FPL. (biannual, SASSA and Stats SA)

- % children living below FPL (annual, Stats SA, GHS, estimates from the Children's Institute).

Achieving universal access

- Increased OAP coverage to reach 100% from current coverage in 2029. (annual, SASSA and Stats SA)
- Increase the take-up rate of the CSG for 0-1year olds from 67.4% in 2020 to 90% in 2029 in the context of current means test. (annual, SASSA and Stats SA)
- Monitor the number of disability applications versus number of approvals. (SASSA, Socpen).

Strengthening developmental social services infrastructure

- Number of social service professionals as % of target (national department).

Strengthen social wage delivery

- Number of households with access to piped water (GHS, annual, Stats SA).
- Number of households with access to flush and chemical toilets (GHS, annual, Stats SA).

CHAPTER 12

Implementation of the ICVPS

- Increase to 80% of households' satisfaction with the way courts generally deal with perpetrators of crime (Stats SA annual Victims of Crime Survey [VOCS]).
- Feelings of safety in terms of walking around one's neighbourhood during the day increase to 90% of the population (Stats SA annual VOCS).
- Feelings of safety in terms of walking around one's neighbourhood at night increase to 60% of the population (Stats SA annual VOCS).
- Increase of 50% of the population who often or always participate in forums that discuss or deal with community-related issues (Stats SA annual VOCS).
- Decrease in the experience of street robberies to 1.5% of the population (Stats SA annual VOCS).

- Decrease in the murder rate to 30 per 100,000 (SAPS annual crime reports).

Implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide

- 50% decrease in cases of femicide (SAPS annual crime reports).
- 50% decrease in attempted murder cases where the victim is female (SAPS annual crime reports).

Demilitarisation of the SAPS

- Levels of public trust in the SAPS increase to 60% of the population (Stats SA annual VOCS).
- 50% decrease in both deaths due to police action and assaults perpetrated by SAPS members according to IPID annual reports.

Reducing the diversion of firearms into the illegal sector

- Decrease in the loss and theft of civilian licensed firearms to 3000 per annum and a decrease in the loss and theft of SAPS firearms to 50 per annum (SAPS annual reports).
- 25% reduction in the illegal possession of firearms/ammunition (SAPS annual crime reports).
- 30% reduction in the number of murders committed with firearms (SAPS annual crime reports).

CHAPTER 13

Professionalisation of the public sector

- Full implementation of the Framework Towards Professionalisation of the Public Sector Framework by 2029
- Improved management of the political-administrative interface through the head of the public service.
- Separation of political and administrative decision-making in respect of departmental management
- Security of tenure of DGs and senior management.
- Performance management system that encourages innovation and is linked to impact rather than simply outputs

- Regulatory framework finalised and implemented.
- Improved planning capacity built in the public sector.
- Signing into law of the Public Service Amendment Bill, Public Administration Amendment Bill, and the Public Service Commission Amendment Bill and their implementation to institutionalise the professionalisation of the public sector as envisaged in the Framework
- Formulation of the regulatory framework by the Department of Public Service and Administration's (DPSA) and guidelines by the Public Service Commission (PSC).
- Auditor-General's audit outcomes on the professionalisation of the public sector.
- Public Service Commission's State of the Public Service Reports particularly on various aspects of the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector, including the management of the political administrative interface, separation of political and administrative decision-making in respect of departmental management, and managing the state's human capital and related practices to optimise its capability.
- Reduction of the number of vacancies and acting arrangements through security of tenure of the DGs and senior management.
- Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Reports about the state of integrated planning within the state and compliance with the National Development Planning Framework.
- Merit-driven appointments to senior management positions in the municipalities.
- Reducing the turnover of senior managers in the local sphere of government.
- Continuous professional development and capacity development interventions for all senior municipal officials to meet government's prescribed minimum competency levels, including for various specialised occupations especially as they relate to the positions of CFO [which must be filled by qualified accountants or candidates with finance degrees], including those that are in the technical fields[they too must be filled by those with relevant qualifications and technical skills registered with relevant professional bodies.
- Filling of vacant positions at the senior management level with appropriately qualified and competent candidates immediately when they become vacant – all meeting government's prescribed minimum competency levels. The audit outcomes of the National Treasury about the state of local government finances and financial management can be used to measure progress related to bringing down acting arrangements to zero and merit-driven appointments to senior municipal positions in the municipalities.
- Introduction and rolling out of continuous professional development programmes or capacity development interventions focusing on minimum competency requirements as defined by NT. South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) and the National School of Government (NSG) must facilitate this. Their reports can be used to measure progress, along with that of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs about the state of local government. The findings of independent evaluative research studies can also be used.

Local government indicators:

Local government must be highlighted as needing urgent attention and dedicated focus, hence the indicators about building capacity in this sphere are presented separately as follows:

- Zero acting arrangements in the positions of municipal managers and Section 57 managers, including that of the chief financial officer.

Improved coordination of delivery within the state

- Joint outcomes framework to frame activities performed by diverse ministries, public administration and public agencies in providing common solutions to particular problems.
- Coordination and integration of development plans and budgets.
- Institutionalisation of the Presidency as the centre of coordination.
- Improved interdepartmental coordination and relations between national, provincial, and local spheres of government, including civil society.

Relational governance as an approach to state reconstruction

- Improved public trust and confidence in public institutions (annually, GHS, Stats SA).
- Capacity to mobilise the strategic sectors of society in the pursuit of the public good – labour, business and communities.
- Gauging public trust and confidence in public institutions through the analysis of citizens' satisfaction surveys and opinion polls.

Digital transformation within the state

- Adoption of digital transformation joint outcomes framework and roadmap and reporting against it.
- A common digital identity, payment systems and interoperability across at least 4 government departments.
- Automation of government services to improve quality, lower costs and enhance the speed of delivery
- Increasing digital skills in the public sector and use of the technologies of the fourth industrial revolution to deliver public services.
- Investing in technology infrastructure for service delivery.
- Consolidating data capabilities within the state.

Improve governance of SOEs

- Clear action plan of action by the Department of Public Enterprises based on the work of the Presidential State-Owned Council and the recommendation of the Zondo Commission to overhaul this sector. This needs to be part of the effort to reform SOEs that started in the 6th administration, which must also be concluded.
- Signing into law of the National Enterprise Bill for immediate implementation and to pave the way for the professionalisation of SOE boards and increased transparency in their appointments based on merit and a transparent recruitment system.
- Adoption of the action plan to overhaul the SOE sector based on the work of the Presidential State-Owned Council and the recommendations of the Zondo Commission.
- Stable leadership of the SOEs through functioning independent boards with the right skills.

CHAPTER 14

Finalise the anti-corruption system structure:

- A framework document for an anticorruption system is published and open for public comment.
- Legislative reform to establish the Office of Public Integrity and Investigating Directorate Against Corruption.

Restore anti-corruption ethics in the public service:

- National legislation to instantiate the constitution's values and principles in respect of public administration should be passed before the end of 2024.
- A General Laws Amendment Bill in respect of the powers of the Public Service Commission should be published for public discussion.

Strengthen public procurement processes:

- Publication of procurement data across all spheres of government in alignment with OCDS or OECD standards.
- Institutional mechanism established and funded to protect whistleblowers.

Establish the investigating directorate against corruption:

- Implementation plan including a timetable for the setting up of the investigating directorate against corruption by the NPA.

Implement the State Capture Commission's recommendations

- Institutional, systemic and structural reforms needed to combat corruption and state capture

CHAPTER 15

Implementation of the National Social Cohesion Strategy by the whole of society

- 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.

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).

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).

Civics education

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

National Youth Service

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





NATIONAL PLANNING
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ADVISORY ON NDP 2024-2029 PRIORITIES

14 August 2024