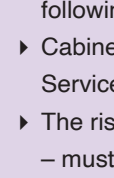


CABINET STATEMENT

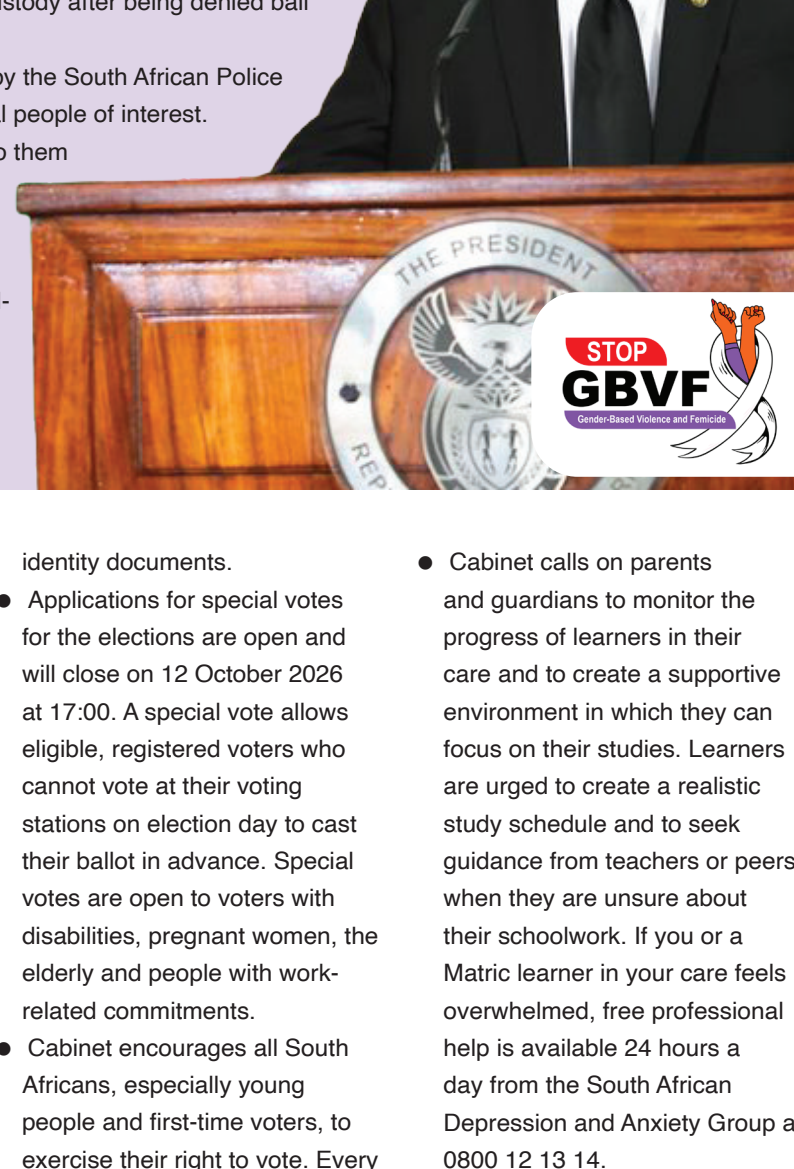
on the Cabinet meeting of
Wednesday, 23 September 2026



ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

■ Cabinet condemns rise in incidents of gender-based violence and femicide

- ▶ Cabinet joins the nation in condemning gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and mourns the lives of nine women brutally murdered in various parts of Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality, Gauteng. The number has since increased to 13.
- ▶ Cabinet welcomes the arrest of four suspects in connection with three of the murders. The suspects remain in custody after being denied bail following their court appearances.
- ▶ Cabinet supports the directive by President Ramaphosa to establish a Multi-Disciplinary Investigation Team led by the South African Police Service (SAPS) to speedily arrest and prosecute the culprits behind these murders. The team is pursuing several people of interest.
- ▶ The rise in GBVF incidents – particularly femicide, which is the intentional killing of a woman by a person close to them – must galvanise a societal response to protect women by men, families, communities and society in general.
- ▶ Similarly, law enforcement must ensure that those responsible for killing women are found and face the full might of the law; as those laws were amended to ensure GBVF crimes are dealt with harshly.
- ▶ Government will continue doing everything in its power to promote the security and well-being of women and children in our communities. Let us all, men and women, take a stand against violence and play our part in ending the scourge of GBVF.
- ▶ Cabinet further calls on anyone with information about a crime to report it to the SAPS, call the toll-free Crime Stop number on **086 00 10111** or the **24-hour GBV Command Centre Hotline on 0800 428 428**.



BRICS Summit

- Cabinet welcomed the successful 18th BRICS Summit held in New Delhi, India from 12 to 13 September 2026, under the theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Security". The summit reaffirmed the grouping's commitment to a more inclusive and representative international system and advanced cooperation in trade and investment; local currency transactions and cross-border payments; infrastructure financing through the New Development Bank; digital cooperation; sustainable development; climate resilience and food security.
- For South Africa, the summit outcomes are significant as they support the country's objectives

of accelerating industrialisation, expanding market access, attracting investment and promoting value addition to critical minerals. These priorities can strengthen local production, create opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs, support job creation and ensure that greater value is derived from the country's natural resources.

Economy

■ South African cherry producers crack the Chinese market

- Cabinet is pleased that South African cherry producers have secured access to the Chinese market for the first time following the signing of a market-access protocol between South Africa and China on 8 September 2026. The protocol was signed

by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Willie Aucamp and a representative from China's General Administration of Customs during the 9th Sanitary and Phytosanitary Ministerial Meeting in Beijing.

- The agreement opens opportunities for South African producers to access one of the world's largest cherry markets. China imported approximately 586 900 tonnes of cherries valued at US\$3.3 billion (about R52.8 billion) in 2025. The opening of the market is expected to stimulate investment in cherry production and create approximately 600 new jobs.
- The development forms part of broader efforts to expand South Africa's agricultural exports and diversify international markets. It also coincides with the implementation of China's zero-tariff scheme for qualifying South African products, which came into effect on 1 May 2026.

■ Countdown to the 2026 Local Government Elections

- Cabinet urges all eligible voters whose identity documents have been lost or damaged to replace them as soon as possible before the Local Government Elections (LGEs) on 4 November 2026. Citizens can visit a Home Affairs office or any of more than 450 participating banks to apply for

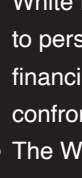
- Applications for special votes for the elections are open and will close on 12 October 2026 at 17:00. A special vote allows eligible, registered voters who cannot vote at their voting stations on election day to cast their ballot in advance. Special votes are open to voters with disabilities, pregnant women, the elderly and people with work-related commitments.
- Cabinet encourages all South Africans, especially young people and first-time voters, to exercise their right to vote. Every vote matters and helps to keep our democracy strong.
- Cabinet appeals to political parties and independent candidates participating in the forthcoming elections to always uphold the Electoral Code of Conduct and exercise political tolerance.

■ Final preparations for the 2026 National Senior Certificate examinations

- Cabinet wishes all learners well as they prepare for the 2026 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, which commence on 13 October 2026. In this final stretch, schools are focused on conducting structured revision and providing additional academic support to ensure that learners are adequately prepared.

■ Severe weather preparedness and response

- Government continues to monitor severe weather conditions across the country. Climate change is contributing to increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events. Provincial and municipal authorities are to remain on high alert, strengthen preparedness and ensure that emergency response plans are activated where necessary.
- Communities are encouraged to monitor warnings issued by the South African Weather Service and follow the guidance of disaster management authorities – particularly in areas at risk of flooding, strong winds, hail and other hazardous conditions.



CABINET DECISIONS

■ Final Revised White Paper on Local Government, 2026

- Cabinet approved the Revised White Paper on Local Government, 2026 to guide transformation and renewal of the local government system. The review of the White Paper was undertaken in response to persistent governance, institutional, financial and service delivery challenges confronting municipalities.
- The White Paper responds by strengthening implementation, accountability, institutional coherence and financial sustainability.
- Cabinet further endorsed the establishment of a time-bound Transition Management Body and a coordinated, phased whole-of-government implementation programme, jointly led by the Department of Cooperative Governance, The Presidency and National Treasury to drive implementation of the reforms.

■ Separation of the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) and broader transport and logistics reform

- Cabinet received an update on the implementation of transport and logistics reforms aimed at improving the operational performance, infrastructure reliability and competitiveness of South Africa's freight and logistics system.
- Cabinet supported the separation of the

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) to operate as a stand-alone company owned directly by the state.

- Cabinet approved that the TNPA investigate the feasibility of a minority equity partner from one of the country's development finance institutions (DFIs).
- The principles on which separation will be effected include fair compensation for Transnet on an independently assessed valuation of TNPA; long-term financial sustainability, equitable allocation of liabilities to both the Transnet Group and the TNPA; protection of employees and customers; preservation of strategic state ownership and control of national ports infrastructure; and improved investment capability and infrastructure development.
- Ratification of the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft
- Cabinet approved the submission of the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft to Parliament for ratification.
- The convention strengthens the international legal framework for combating emerging threats to civil aviation and

enhances global aviation security.

- The convention also criminalises, among other acts, the use of civil aircraft to cause death, serious bodily injury or significant damage; the use of aircraft as weapons; the release of biological, chemical or nuclear substances from or against aircraft; and cyberattacks against air navigation facilities.

■ National Policy Framework for Heritage Memorialisation

- Cabinet approved the National Policy Framework for Heritage Memorialisation to provide a coordinated framework for the planning, management and implementation of heritage memorialisation projects across all spheres of government.
- The policy promotes sustainable and cost-effective approaches to memorialisation while strengthening social cohesion, nation-building, reconciliation and a shared national identity.
- It will also improve coordination, accountability and the long-term sustainability of heritage legacy projects.

■ South Africa's chairship of the India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum from 2026 to 2027

- Cabinet approved the priorities and deliverables for South Africa's chairship of the India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue

Forum from 2026 to 2027 under the theme: "Peace, Prosperity and Development".

- South Africa's chairship will focus on strengthening South-South cooperation, enhancing trade, investment and industrial cooperation while advancing sustainable development including in the areas of energy, innovation and technology, while strengthening people-to-people relations through sport and culture.

■ State Party Report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

- Cabinet approved the submission of South Africa's State Party Report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).
- South Africa presented its second periodic report in May 2023 and the current report is due by the end of September 2026. The report outlines the legislative, institutional and policy measures undertaken to protect and advance children's rights and remedies implemented to address the concluding observations made by the committee in the 2023 report.

CABINET UPDATES

■ Analysis Report on the Integrated Development Plans and District Development Model One Plan from a Gender, Youth and Disability perspective

- Cabinet received an analysis report on the Integrated Development Plans and District Development Model (DDM) One Plan from a Gender, Youth and Disability perspective.
- The analysis of the DDM One Plans reveals that infrastructure planning across the districts does not adequately address the priorities of women, youth and persons with disabilities in particular when evaluated from an impact perspective.
- The analysis also reveals that interventions addressing GBVF and sexual harassment remain inadequate and uneven across municipalities.
- Cabinet supported implementation of the approved recommendations through the relevant national and provincial departments with continuous progress monitoring by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

■ Impact of El Niño on water security

- Cabinet received a report on the potential impact of the anticipated 2026/27 El Niño on water security and the measures being implemented to mitigate associated risks.
- Cabinet considered that the anticipated El Niño conditions will not only pose a heightened risk to water resource availability but will also negatively affect the agricultural sector and food security including other economic sectors that are water intensive, with implications for the already high cost of living and the health of South Africans.
- Government is strengthening drought preparedness and other resilient responses to cushion the nation from the negative impact. The interdepartmental technical team of experts is already working on an integrated coordinated response.
- Cabinet urged all South Africans to use water responsibly and support water conservation efforts to reduce pressure on water supply systems during the summer season.

■ South African Space Industry Regulatory Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved the publication of the Space Industry Regulatory Bill, 2026 for public comment. The Bill seeks to repeal the outdated Space Affairs Act of 1993 and establish a modern regulatory framework to govern South Africa's space industry. The Bill will align South Africa's space regulatory framework with evolving international standards and obligations. It will also support South Africa's independence from other states and their operators through acquiring most needed space data in making swift policy decisions for government interventions, while strengthening the country's credibility as a responsible user of outer space. It also addresses gaps in the incorporation of international space treaty obligations into domestic legislation.

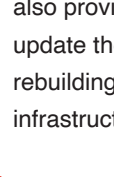
- The proposed legislation will regulate emerging commercial space activities; strengthen oversight of the space sector; provide for liability and insurance requirements; and ensure compliance with South Africa's international obligations. It will also create a conducive environment for investment, innovation, research and skills development; while supporting the growth of local space capabilities and commercial opportunities.

■ Compensation for Occupational Diseases in Controlled Mines and Controlled Works Bill, 2025

- Cabinet approved the publication of the Compensation for Occupational Diseases in Controlled Mines and Controlled Works Bill, 2025 for public comment.
- The Bill seeks to repeal the outdated Occupational Dis-

eases in Mines and Works Act of 1973 and establish a modern, efficient and accessible system for the management of occupational disease compensation in the mining sector.

- The proposed legislation will strengthen the identification, tracking, medical assessment and compensation of current and former mineworkers diagnosed with compensable occupational diseases, while improving access to benefits and related services for affected workers and their dependents.
- The Bill further provides for the establishment of the state-owned Mines and Works Compensation Authority, which will be responsible for administering claims, compensation payments and related support services, thereby enhancing accountability and service delivery within the compensation system.



EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

■ Transport Month

- South Africa will observe Transport Month throughout October. The month aims to advance road safety initiatives and highlight the economic and social benefits of a well-functioning transport system. It also provides an opportunity to update the public on progress in rebuilding the country's transport infrastructure.

■ Cybersecurity Month

- South Africa will observe Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October to raise awareness and promote digital safety and resilience. Members of the public are urged to remain vigilant, practise responsible online behaviour and strengthen their digital literacy to protect themselves, their personal information and their devices from cyber threats.

■ 136th Open Geospatial Consortium Member Meeting

- South Africa will host the 136th Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Member Meeting in Cape Town from 12 to 15 October 2026, marking the first time that this premier global geospatial

event will be held in Africa.

- The OGC brings together government leaders, mapping agencies, researchers, technology companies, standards experts, developers and innovators from across Africa and around the world to collaborate on the future of geospatial technology and interoperability.
- Hosting the event will strengthen South Africa's position as a leader in geospatial information management, promote the adoption of international standards and enhance collaboration across Africa and the global geospatial community.

■ 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Congress on Crime)

- South Africa is participating in the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which is being held in the United Arab Emirates from 26 September to 1 October 2026.
- The congress will examine global responses to evolving crime challenges, including those arising from technological advancements, while promoting international cooperation and the

strengthening of criminal justice systems.

- The congress provides an important platform for South Africa to contribute to and benefit from the development of international law and policy, share national experiences and best practices and advance the rule of law and sustainable development.

■ African Green Hydrogen Summit 2026

- Cabinet welcomed the Green Hydrogen Summit 2026 held in Cape Town from 15 to 16 September 2026 under the theme: "Moving Africa's Green Hydrogen Sector from PowerPoint to Gigawatts". The gathering discussed progress on implementation of projects, funding, infrastructure and industrial development in South Africa and across the continent. In South Africa, these developments form part of the Integrated Resource Plan which is the primary investment roadmap for electricity supply – aiming for a balanced, low-carbon mix. The gathering also provided an update on the first wave of green hydrogen projects.

These include Phelan Green Group's Electro-Sustainable Aviation Fuel Project in Saldanha Bay. Phelan has committed US\$100 million and construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2027. Other projects in the first wave include the Coega Green Ammonia Project in the Eastern Cape, which has completed early preparatory work; the Saldanha Hydrogen Direct Reduced Iron Project on the West Coast, which is at pre-feasibility stage; Prieska Power Reserve in the Northern Cape, a green ammonia project currently at the development stage; Green e-Fuels Producers Green Methanol Corridor, which targets European demand and is at the pre-feasibility stage; and the Green Hydrogen Solutions Project, which is primarily targeted at the South African market and has completed its front-end engineering design.

■ Shooting incidents which took place after the Cabinet meeting

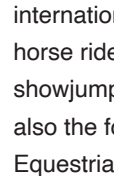
- The Wedela shootings, Carletonville West Rand, Gauteng
- Government sends its condolences to the families and

friends of the 18 victims who were killed in a tavern in Wedela, Carletonville in the West Rand where eight unidentified gunmen opened fire on patrons.

- Seventeen people were killed on the scene and one other person died later from their wounds. Another 18 people were injured and taken to hospital. Five are in a critical condition.
- Only four of the deceased have been identified and government is urging people to check on their relatives who reside in the area and report missing persons to the police.
- Two vehicles were set alight and cellphones stolen. Police are pursuing eight suspects linked to these shootings.

■ Lwandle shootings, Cape Town

- Government sends its condolences to the families and friends of 10 victims who were killed in Lwandle, Cape Town on Saturday evening, where five victims died instantly and others died en route to hospital.
- Multi-disciplinary investigation teams are in place to bring the perpetrators of the heinous crimes to book.



MESSAGES

■ Condolences

Cabinet expresses condolences to the friends and family of:

- **Mr Enos Mafokate**, an internationally acclaimed horse rider and the first black showjumping champion. He was also the founder of the Soweto Equestrian Centre, a horse-riding school and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the South African Sports Awards.
- **The families** of those who died in the N1 road crash which claimed 21 lives in the Western Cape; and the collision on the N17 toll road in Mpumalanga that claimed the lives of eight people.
- **Mr Owen Ndlovu**, a former SABC Sports presenter and music activist who was passionate about the creative industry, media, sport and championed the rights of artists.
- **Race driver, Mr Robert Wolk**, one of South Africa's most accomplished motorsport competitors, with a career spanning nearly three decades. He was the SA Formula Volkswagen Champion in 2013, Formula 1600 champion in 2015,

back-to-back SA GTCC champion in 2021 and 2022 and SA Touring Cars Champion in 2024.

■ Congratulations

Cabinet extends its congratulations and well wishes to:

- **The Springbok team** for winning Rugby's Greatest Rivalry Series against the All Blacks and Siya Kolisi for becoming the most successful Springbok captain with 56 test victories.
- **Mamelodi Sundowns** for winning the FIFA Africa – Asian Pacific Cup after securing a 2-1 win over Asian champions, Al-Ahly.
- **Mr Bayanda Walaza** for winning the men's 100 m at the Rovereto International Meeting, where he set a meet record of 9.91 seconds. He also emerged victorious in the 100 m at the Serbia Athletics Meeting in Smederevo, Serbia.
- **Mr Sinesipho Dambile** for finishing second in the men's 200 m final at the Diamond League finals in Brussels.
- **Mr Xola Magwaza** for becoming the first South African to win a

natural universe open title at the International Natural Bodybuilding Association/Professional Natural Bodybuilding Association Natural Universe in Singapore.

- **Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit** for being chosen to host the prestigious Michelin 24H Series from 8 to 10 January 2027, marking a historic milestone as the championship makes its debut on African soil. The event will feature a gruelling 24-hour endurance race on the country's iconic racetrack in Midrand.
- **The South African women's netball team**, the SPAR Proteas, for finishing as runners-up at the 2026 Africa Netball Cup held in Kenya.
- **The South African men's netball team**, the Protea Warriors, for retaining their continental crown at the 2026 Africa Netball Cup held in Kenya.
- **The Proteas** for defeating Australia in the second one-day international at the DP World Wanderers Stadium and clinching the three-match series by taking a 2-0 lead.
- South African boxer, **Mr Ricardo**

Malajika, for winning the WBC Super Flyweight World Championship in Tokyo, Japan.

- South Africa for winning a silver medal in Aircraft Maintenance at the World Skills Competition 2026 in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. The country was represented by 29 students competing across 27 skills, joining approximately 1 400 competitors from more than 90 countries.

● **South Africa's Under-20** national football team, Amajita for winning the COSAFA U20 Championship and at the same time qualifying for the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Under-20 Africa Cup of Nations.

- **Bafana Bafana**, the national football team for their 2-1 victory over Guinea.

Issued on behalf of Cabinet by:

Minister in The Presidency, Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni

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