

CABINET STATEMENT

on the Cabinet meeting of
Wednesday, 29 July 2026

ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Economic fortitude in action

Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) first quarter performance

- During the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year, Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) recorded a 4.4% performance improvement, year-on-year. TFR ended the quarter having completed 42 million tons compared to 40.2 million in the previous year. Notably, TFR achieved this performance despite the introduction of an additional 11-day scheduled maintenance shutdown on the iron ore line. Notwithstanding this, TFR moved a higher volume of tonnage, demonstrating significant improvement in operational efficiency and throughput.

Automotive sector investment

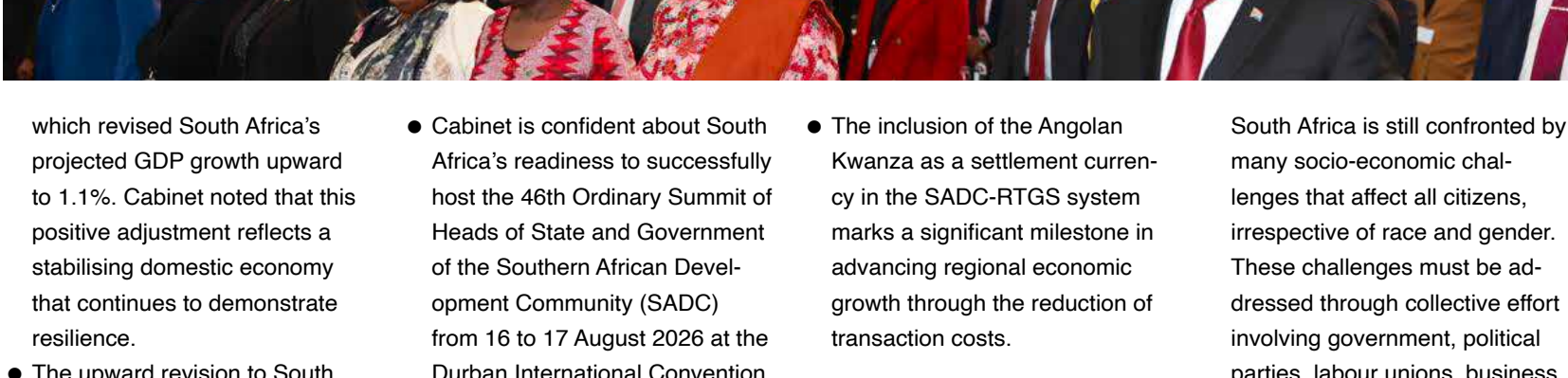
- Cabinet welcomed Toyota South Africa's R10.4 billion investment to produce the ninth-generation Hilux at its Prospecton plant in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The investment strengthens the automotive manufacturing sector, supporting about 27 000 jobs across the supplier network and sustains more than 4 300 direct assembly jobs – referring to the employees who work directly at Toyota's manufacturing plant.
- This is a major capital injection, alongside the Chery Group's recent acquisition and revitalisation of the former Nissan manufacturing facility in Rosslyn, Gauteng. Chery Group has announced that it will manufacture the Chery, Jacoo and Jetour brands at the newly acquired Rosslyn facility.
- Initial production is scheduled to commence in mid-2027, with operational capacity ramping up in 2028 to achieve an annual output of 15 000 units.
- The Chery Group's acquisition secures 690 manufacturing jobs and is projected to produce almost 3 000 direct and indirect opportunities across logistics, engineering, supply chains and support services.
- These long-term commitments also solidify South Africa's position as a robust manufacturing and regional export hub.

IMF revises South Africa's growth upwards

- Cabinet welcomed the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s updated macroeconomic forecast,

South Africa-Namibia Bi-National Commission

- Cabinet welcomed the successful conclusion of the 4th South Africa-Namibia Bi-National Commission (BNC) that took place in Pretoria on 17 July 2026, co-chaired by the President of the Republic of Namibia, Her Excellency Dr Ntombi Nandi-Ndaitwah and President Cyril Ramaphosa.
- This BNC reaffirmed the strategic nature of South Africa-Namibia relations and advanced cooperation between the two countries in priority sectors. Of particular significance is the commitment of closer collaboration in the exploration and utilisation of natural resources to support economic development and growth in both countries.
- The two Presidents signed seven bilateral agreements and instruments of cooperation between them.



which revised South Africa's projected GDP growth upward to 1.1%. Cabinet noted that this positive adjustment reflects a stabilising domestic economy that continues to demonstrate resilience.

- The upward revision to South Africa's economic growth forecast remains modest, it reflects growing confidence in the country's economic recovery efforts despite weaker global growth and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Implementation of Phase II of the Digitalised Trusted Employer Scheme (TES)

- Cabinet welcomes the official launch of Phase II of the Trusted Employer Scheme (TES) to fast-track visa processing for verified employers without compromising national security or immigration controls. Qualifying employers are required to demonstrate significant domestic investment, prioritise the employment of South African citizens and permanent residents, and invest in local skills development and align with priority economic sectors.
- The dedicated online application portal for TES Phase II – "Home Affairs @ home" is part of government's broader Digital Transformation Strategy. At some point, this digital portal will transition into the country's full Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) ecosystem.
- Qualifying employers are invited to submit Expressions of Interest between 20 July and 4 September 2026.

Building stronger regional economies

South Africa ready to host the SADC Summit

- Cabinet is confident about South Africa's readiness to successfully host the 46th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from 16 to 17 August 2026 at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC).

- As part of SADC Summit build-up activities, South Africa is hosting the 2026 SADC Industrialisation Week from 27 to 31 July 2026, to bring together policymakers, business leaders, investors, academics, researchers and development financial institutions from across the region and beyond to advance industrial development.

- The SADC Industrialisation Week supports the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015 – 2063), which is anchored on three pillars: industrialisation, competitiveness and regional integration.

- This year's focus includes the development of regional value chains in agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods and critical minerals beneficiation; as well as infrastructure development in energy, transport, logistics, water and ICT.

Reducing transaction costs within SADC

- Cabinet congratulated the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) on the expansion of the SADC Real-Time Gross Settlement (SADC-RTGS) system with the inclusion of the Angolan Kwanzas as the second settlement currency after the South African Rand.
- The SADC-RTGS system aims to reduce transaction costs for cross-border trade within the region by facilitating the use of local currencies; and is operated by the SARB on behalf of participating SADC central banks.

- The inclusion of the Angolan Kwanzas as a settlement currency in the SADC-RTGS system marks a significant milestone in advancing regional economic growth through the reduction of transaction costs.

\$13 million emergency grant to curb the spread of Ebola in Africa

- Cabinet welcomed the approval of \$13 million in emergency grants by the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) to strengthen efforts to contain the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the DRC, Uganda and South Sudan by reinforcing national emergency responses; curbing the spread of the virus; and reducing deaths and illness in the most affected and vulnerable communities.

- This funding follows calls by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his capacity as the AU Champion for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR), for greater African solidarity, urgent humanitarian assistance and increased investment in African-led health innovation.

Returning South Africans will always be welcomed back into the country

- Cabinet has noted allegations that White South Africans who chose to resettle in the USA under the falsehood of a White genocide have been denied visas in that country.
- Cabinet has reiterated that South Africans, irrespective of their political views, will always have a home in South Africa without fear of political persecution and suppression in accordance with the country's laws.
- Cabinet acknowledged that

South Africa is still confronted by many socio-economic challenges that affect all citizens, irrespective of race and gender. These challenges must be addressed through collective effort involving government, political parties, labour unions, business, civil society and individual South Africans. The collective efforts must acknowledge the continued impact of the legacy left by apartheid and the need for redress.

2026 winter initiation season

- Cabinet expressed deep concern over the continued deaths and other disturbing incidents recorded during the 2026 winter initiation season.
- Cabinet conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the families of the 47 initiates who lost their lives and has wished those injured or still receiving medical treatment a speedy recovery.
- Cabinet further welcomed the swift response by law enforcement agencies to ensure that those who contravene customary initiation laws are held accountable. To date, approximately 161 criminal cases have been opened; resulting in the arrest of 41 people. Additionally, 42 illegal initiation schools were closed, 181 initiates rescued and 93 others hospitalised.

CABINET DECISIONS

Extension of driving licence validity period from five to 10 years

- Cabinet approved the extension of the validity period of driving licences for light motor vehicles (Codes A, A1, B and EB) from five to 10 years. Heavy commercial and public transport vehicles will remain subject to the existing two or five-year renewal cycles, while professional driving permits will remain on the two-year renewal cycle.
- The change aligns with international best practice, enhances administrative efficiency, reduces the frequency of renewals for motorists and eases service-demand pressures within the licensing system.
- The implementation of the extended validity period requires legislative amendments. Motorists must therefore continue to renew expired driving licence cards until the new law takes effect.

Revised Electricity Pricing Policy

- Cabinet approved publication of the Revised Electricity Pricing Policy for public comments. The policy updates the 2008 version to reflect developments in the electricity supply industry, including ongoing market reforms arising from the unbundling of Eskom and the implementation of

the Electricity Regulation Amendment Act of 2024.

- The policy strengthens the regulatory framework governing electricity prices, tariffs and charges – providing transparency through the unbundling of tariffs across generation, transmission, distribution and retail activities – thus consolidating regulatory arrangements for electricity pricing across the various pricing interfaces between generators, traders, the National Transmission Company of South Africa and distributors. It also establishes a framework through which these interfaces will be enabled and regulated by NERSA.
- The policy supports the introduction of cost-reflective tariffs while protecting vulnerable users and strategic economic sectors.

Draft Electricity Sector Market Transformation Position Paper

- Cabinet approved the publication of the draft Electricity Sector Market Transformation Position Paper for public comments. The position paper provides a framework to guide South Africa's transition from a predominantly state-controlled electricity system to a more competitive electricity market in line with the Electricity Regu-

lation Amendment Act of 2024 and the Energy Action Plan.

- The proposed reforms seek to improve energy security and reliability by reducing reliance on a single electricity supplier and enable greater participation in electricity generation and trading. The reforms are also aimed at attracting investment in electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure, supporting job creation and economic growth and reducing electricity costs over the long term.

Revised National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) 2026 – 2030

- Cabinet approved the revised NRSS 2026 – 2030. The revised strategy builds on the NRSS 2016 – 2030, which was adopted to reduce road fatalities and aligned with the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety and the NDP.
- The review was facilitated by persistent challenges including weak traffic law enforcement, corruption vulnerabilities and fragmented implementation across all spheres of government.
- The revised NRSS advances a system-wide reform agenda anchored in intelligence-led traffic law enforcement, zero-tolerance approach to corruption, dig-

itally-enabled systems and strengthened governance and coordination. It supports global road safety targets, including the 7th Administration's target to reduce road fatalities by 45% by 2029.

Draft Strategic Framework for Water and Sanitation Services

- Cabinet approved publication of the draft Strategic Framework for Water and Sanitation Services for public comments for a period of 60 days.
- The reviewed framework sets sector targets; responds to emerging challenges and developments; and aligns the sector with national priorities and global best practice. It emphasises climate resilience, environmental integration, financial sustainability, urban-rural vulnerability gaps, digital transformation and improved sector planning and delivery.
- The strategy is intended to strengthen sector governance, improve planning and delivery while also supporting the provision of sustainable, reliable and equitable water and sanitation services for all South Africans.

BILLS

Municipal Structures Amendment Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved the submission of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Amendment Bill to Parliament. The Bill, commonly referred to as the "Coalition Bill", seeks to provide a clear legislative framework for the formation of coalition governments and establish mechanisms to minimise coalition-related challenges in local government.
- Cabinet initially approved publication of the Bill for public comment in early 2024. Following extensive consultations and further legislative refinement, the Bill is now being submitted to Parliament for consideration. The proposed amendments seek to promote stable and accountable coalition governance, reduce political instability and support uninterrupted delivery of services to communities.

Electoral Laws Amendment Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved the introduction of the Electoral Laws

Amendment Bill, 2026 to Parliament. The Bill amends the Electoral Commission Act of 1996; the Electoral Act of 1998; and the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act of 2000, in preparation for the 2026 Local Government Elections. The amendments are intended to ensure alignment and strengthen the electoral legislative framework, enhance administration and management of free, fair and credible elections.

Conspiracy, Instigation and Incitement to Commit Offence Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved the introduction of the Conspiracy, Instigation and Incitement to Commit Offence Bill, 2026 to Parliament. The Bill repeals the outdated Riotous Assemblies Act of 1956 and reforms the legal framework for penalising persons who conspire, instigate or incite the commission of criminal offences. It replaces unconstitutional provisions and aligns the law with the current constitutional

order, while strengthening the State's ability to address conduct that encourages or facilitates the commission of criminal offences.

General (Mining) Laws Amendment Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved the publication of the General (Mining) Laws Amendment Bill, 2026 for public comments. The Bill seeks to strengthen the legislative framework to combat illicit mining and related activities that continue to pose risks to public safety, economic development and the sustainable management of the country's mineral resources. It proposes amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977; the Diamonds Act of 1986; the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act of 2002; and the Precious Metals Act of 2005. The amendments include measures to criminalise illicit mining and related offences.

Regulation of Trusts Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved the publication

of the Regulation of Trusts Bill, 2026 for public comments. The Bill seeks to modernise the legal framework for trusts by replacing the outdated Trust Property Control Act of 1988. It aims to strengthen accountability and compliance, enhance the oversight role of the Master of the High Court and provide greater protection for beneficiaries.

Legal Practice Amendment Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved publication of the Legal Practice Amendment Bill, 2026 for public comments. The Bill seeks to streamline administrative structures of the legal sector while advancing transformation. It also introduces structural changes to the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Fund to strengthen financial sustainability and enhance public protection. The Bill further proposes amendments to various provisions of the Legal Practice Act of 2014 to support the development and enhancement of skills of legal practitioners; improve access

to the legal profession; promote access to justice; and address practical challenges that have arisen during implementation of the Act.

General Financial Laws Amendment Bill, 2026

- Cabinet approved the introduction of the General Financial Laws Amendment Bill, 2026 in Parliament. The Bill proposes amendments to the Financial Sector Regulation Act of 2017 and the Public Procurement Act of 2024.
- The Bill proposes the insertion of a new chapter in the Financial Sector Regulation Act to support domestic reforms aimed at strengthening governance and regulation of official financial benchmarks. It also proposes amendments to section 68 of the Public Procurement Act of 2024 to support ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening South Africa's financial and procurement regulatory frameworks, enhancing oversight and promoting greater regulatory certainty.

CABINET UPDATES

Government intervenes to ensure reliable supply of quality water for all South Africans

- Cabinet welcomed the release of the National Water Action Plan, which sets out strategic interventions to ensure reliable supply of quality water to all South Africans, while addressing the root causes of challenges. The plan was developed by the National Water Crisis Committee chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa, in consultation with the three spheres of government, including the South African Local Government Association.
- Cabinet commended the launch of the National Water Access Acceleration Programme (NWAAP), launched on International Nelson Mandela Day, along with the rollout of 67 decentralised water supply schemes comprising boreholes and package plants to expand access to safe drinking water in underserved rural communities of Gauteng, KZN and the Eastern Cape. The 67 ground-water interventions are expected to benefit an estimated 125 986 people across the three provinces, with further implementation phases planned for October 2026 and April 2027.
- These projects represent the first phase of the Department of Water and Sanitation's NWAAP, which is being implemented

through water boards under the Water Services Act of 1997. More than R200 million has been allocated to Phase One of the programme, which combines borehole drilling, groundwater development, spring protection, rainwater harvesting and rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure to expand access to safe drinking water.

- As part of a broader public infrastructure investment programme, government earlier this year allocated R156 billion to water and sanitation infrastructure over the next three years. The investment will support the expansion and maintenance of water infrastructure, improve the reliability of supply and address water and sanitation challenges affecting communities.

Progress update on implementation of the comprehensive approach for managing migration in South Africa

- Cabinet received an update on the implementation of the comprehensive approach for ensuring regular migration in South Africa as per the 5-point plan announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa.
- As at 23 July 2026, 205 incidents related to violation of immigration and related legislation were reported and registered as crim-

inal cases – this is up from 103 reported in the first week of July 2026.

- A total of 354 people were arrested, with the Free State registering the highest number of arrests at 174. From these arrests, 107 cases are already on the court roll.
- From April 2026 to the end of June 2026, courts have finalised 28 736 immigration related cases mainly for deportations.
- Between 14 June and 24 July 2026, 68 327 undocumented foreign nationals were repatriated through coordinated law enforcement operations. Of the 68 327, 81% are Malaysians; 16% are Zimbabweans and 3% are Mozambicans.
- Rollout of the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) and the upgraded Enhanced Movement Control System are underway at OR Tambo, Lanseria, King Shaka and Cape Town International Airports.
- The Musina Temporary Repatriation Centre will be downscaled from a 20 000 holding capacity to 1 500.

26th Commission for Employment Equity (CEE) Annual Report

- Cabinet received and noted the 2025/26 Commission for Employment Equity (CEE) Annual Report. The report tracks

workplace transformation and compliance with the Employment Equity Act of 1998.

- The 26th CEE Annual Report highlights persistent hierarchical inequalities in the workforce, with racial and gender disparities continuing at senior levels in the private sector.
- White and Indian population groups remain over-represented at top management level, representing 57.1% and 12.2% respectively. At senior management level, White employees constitute 44.1% and Indian employees 12.5%. African and Coloured employees remain concentrated in lower and unskilled occupational levels, while the representation of employees disabilities remains low at 1.3% of the total workforce.
- The report also notes an increase in the representation of African employees at professionally qualified, middle management, skilled, technical and junior management levels, at 52.0% and also noted the 3.1% representation by foreign nationals at all levels and is concerned with such representation at semi-skilled and unskilled level jobs which might be in contravention of the Employment Services Act; which prescribes that the employers must satisfy themselves that there are no other persons in the Republic with suitable

skills to fill a vacancy before recruiting a foreign national.

- Government will continue to use the findings to monitor transformation, promote equitable representation and guide corrective measures across the labour market.

Impact of spectrum licensing on digital infrastructure

- Cabinet noted the report on the impact of radio frequency spectrum licensing on digital infrastructure and connectivity in South Africa. The licensing of high-demand spectrum has advanced broadband access, improved network performance and supported investment in digital infrastructure.
- Cabinet expressed concern that telecommunications operators had not met their social obligations related to the spectrum allocation. Government had set a target to connect 21 878 public institutions by 2023, comprising 16 139 schools, 4 232 health facilities, 570 libraries and 937 traditional authorities. As of April 2026, telecommunications operators had only connected 5 295 public institutions of their social obligations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Africa Aerospace and Defence Exhibition and Air Show 2026

- Cabinet approved the hosting of the 13th Africa Aerospace and Defence Exhibition and Air Show 2026 under the theme: "Africa's Gateway to Defence and Aerospace Collaboration", which will be held at Air Force Base Waterkloof, Tshwane from 16 to 20 September 2026.
- The exhibition is expected to attract more than 300 exhibitors from around the world, official delegations from more than 50 countries and more than 50 000 trade visitors. The event will also showcase advancements in the aerospace and defence sectors while promoting international co-operation, trade and investment.

Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa 2026

- Cabinet noted that South Africa will host the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa (SIDSSA) 2026 from 23 to 25 August 2026. The event is expected to attract approximately 700 delegates.
- The symposium will bring together investors, financial institutions,

policymakers, thought leaders and other strategic partners to advance South Africa's infrastructure investment agenda and showcase progress in implementing the Cabinet-approved National Infrastructure Plan 2050.

SIDSSA 2026 will announce the top eight infrastructure priority projects selected under Bid Window 2 for project preparation and technical support, release the third edition of the Construction Book, provide an update on Strategic Integrated Projects, showcase key policy and regulatory developments and highlight strategic infrastructure partnerships aimed at positioning South Africa as a leading infrastructure development and financing hub on the African continent.

70th Anniversary of the 1956 Women's March

- On 9 August 2026, South Africa will mark the 70th anniversary of the historic 1956 Women's March, during which more than 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings to protest the extension of the Pass Laws and the Urban Areas Act. The milestone commemoration will

be observed under the national theme: "Empowered Women Empower the Nation".

- Cabinet reiterated that the brave actions of the 1956 generation directly advanced the structural inclusion of women across Parliament, government, private sector and civil society; firmly establishing equal citizenship and constitutional rights in a democratic South Africa. While saluting the resilience of the nation's women, Cabinet reaffirmed government's unwavering commitment to protecting, promoting and advancing the rights of women and intensifying work on eradicating GBVF, dismantling economic exclusion and ensuring equal access to productive resources.
- Cabinet emphasised that this anniversary formed a core pillar of the broader Milestones of Freedom campaign driven by the overarching theme: "Honouring the past, delivering the future". Throughout Women's Month, government will lead nationwide platforms to honour the sacrifices of women in the liberation struggle while affirming the pivotal role of women today.

HOSTED CONFERENCES

26th Africa Rail Conference and Exhibition

- South Africa hosted the 26th Africa Rail Conference and Exhibition on 7 and 8 July 2026 in Johannesburg.
- This conference noted the progress made in restoring the country's passenger rail services; with annual commuter journeys exceeding 100 million by the end of March 2026; and 35 of the country's 40 priority rail corridors returned to service. Government remains committed to restoring safe, reliable and affordable commuter rail services, with a target of reaching 600 million passenger journeys annually by 2030.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration of qualifying customary marriages

- Cabinet reminds all members of the public that 31 August 2026 is the deadline to register qualifying customary marriages under the special registration period declared by the Minister of Home Affairs.
- The special registration period was introduced to enable parties to customary marriages that were not registered within the prescribed period to regularise their status. This includes customary marriages concluded before the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act that came into effect in November 2000, as well as marriages concluded thereafter that were not registered within the prescribed timeframe.
- Cabinet calls on members of the public who require further information on the registration process or supporting documents to visit their nearest Home Affairs office.

Final voter registration weekend

- Cabinet calls on all eligible voters to use the final voter registration weekend of 1 and 2 August 2026, to register to vote ahead of the 2026 elections. Eligible voters are encouraged to seize this final opportunity to register or update their registration details. Voting stations nationwide will be open from 08:00 to 17:00. Alternatively, voters may also register or update their details through the official IEC online voter registration portal available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at <https://register-to-vote.elections.org.za>.
- Cabinet calls on all South Africans, especially young people and first-time voters, to exercise their democratic right to vote. Our democracy is based on the will of the people and each vote is central to the success of a well-functioning democracy. By exercising the right to vote and ensuring a better future for all, we pay tribute to years of sacrifice and struggle for our hard-earned freedom.



MESSAGES

Condolences

Cabinet expresses condolences to the friends and family of:

- Bafana Bafana and Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder, **Jayden Adams (Groffelman)**, who brought joy to the nation with his outstanding performances including at the recent 2026 FIFA World Cup;

- former South African Rugby Under-18 prop, **Luqobo Makwedini**, an outstanding young sportsman who brought joy to many with his hard work and dedication on the field of play;

- veteran actor, **Seputla Sebogodi**, who leaves behind a remarkable legacy as one of South Africa's most talented and respected actors with a career spanning several decades across television and theatre;

- literature struggle stalwart, **Shantavothie "Shantie" Naidoo Tweddie**, whose lifelong sacrifice and commitment helped shape South Africa's journey to freedom. As an anti-apartheid activist, she faced various periods of detention including solitary confinement under the Terrorism Act, as well as banning orders. She also lived in exile in the United Kingdom from 1972 to 1991.

- Bettina Wyngaard**, a South African lawyer-turned-author and activist, renowned for her Afrikaans novels and her advocacy for women's rights.

Congratulations

Cabinet extends its congratulations and well wishes to:

- Team South Africa for flying the flag high and making the country proud at the Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow. South Africa has won six gold, eight silver and eight bronze medals, totalling 22 medals so far.

Gold medals

- Pieter Coetzee – men's 200m backstroke
- Pieter Coetzee – men's 50m backstroke
- Pieter Coetzee – men's 100m backstroke
- Nathan Hendrick – men's S13 100m freestyle
- Lara van Niekerk – women's 50m breaststroke
- Christian Sadie – men's 50m freestyle S7.

Silver medals

- Erin Gallagher – women's 50m butterfly
- Aimee Canny – women's 100m breaststroke
- Michael Houlie – men's 50m breaststroke
- Nathan Hendricks – men's 50m freestyle S13
- Danika Vyncke – women's 50m freestyle S13
- Aimee Canny – women's 200m individual medley
- Pieter Coetzee, Michael Houlie, Erin Gallagher, Aimee Canny mixed 4x100m medley relay
- Kaylene Corbett – women's

200m breaststroke.

Bronze medals

- Erin Gallagher – women's 100m butterfly
- Ruard van Renen – men's 50m backstroke
- Ruard van Renen – men's 100m backstroke
- Olivia Nel – women's 100m backstroke
- Aimee Canny, Rebecca Meder, Erin Gallagher, Olivia Nel – women's 4x100m freestyle relay
- Pieter Coetzee, Guy Brooks, Ruard van Renen, Chad le Clos – men's 4x100m freestyle relay
- Pieter Coetzee, Michael Houlie, Chad le Clos, Ruard van Renen – men's 4x100m medley relay
- Chad le Clos became the most decorated male athlete in Commonwealth Games history with a record of 21 medals, after securing bronze in the men's 4x100m medley relay
- Olivia Nel, Aimee Canny, Erin Gallagher, Rebecca Meder – women's 4x100m medley relay.
- Springboks** for winning all three of their Nations Championship matches and topping the log with maximum points.
- Junior Springboks** for winning the World Rugby U20 Championship in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Dricus Du Plessis** for defeating Kamaru Usman in the main event on the UFC Oklahoma City fight card.
- Bayanda Walaza** for his

outstanding performance at the TIPOS P-T-S Meeting in Slovakia, winning the men's 100m with a personal best of 9.89 seconds and becoming the fourth South African to run under 9.90 seconds.

- Banyana Banyana** as they compete at the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco. We wish them well in their second game against Ivory Coast on Friday, 31 July 2026.

University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) for being ranked the top university in Africa according to the 2026 Centre for World University Rankings. This puts Wits in the top 1% of higher education institutions globally, ranking 200th out of more than 21 000 institutions assessed worldwide

- University of Cape Town (UCT)** for being ranked 102 globally in the 2026 Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings and for achieving nine top 100 positions across the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- 12-year-old Lubanzi Dube**, on becoming the first black South African to win the prestigious 2026 World Startup Forum Championship in Switzerland. Competing against 400 innovators from around the world, Lubanzi won with his groundbreaking innovation, SolEase, which is designed to address foot health challenges. His achievement has not only

placed South Africa in the global spotlight but has also inspired young Africans to pursue science, technology and entrepreneurship.

- Team South Africa** for securing fourth place at the World Spelling Bee Championship in Shanghai, China. Aged 7 learner, Mbulelo Tolom, achieved an impressive sixth place overall while competing against learners from higher grades.

Issued on behalf of Cabinet by: Minister in The Presidency, Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni

Enquiries: Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)

Contact: Ms Nomonde Mnuwka, Acting Director-General

Mobile: 083 6537485
www.gcis.gov.za
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