

CABINET STATEMENT

On the Cabinet Meeting
of Wednesday, 11 JUNE 2025



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability



G20 SOUTH AFRICA 2025

ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMY

Economic growth

- Cabinet noted the gross domestic product figures released by Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) indicating that the economy grew by 0.1% in the first quarter (Q1) of 2025, following an increase of 0.4% in Q4.
- Among others, the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry increased by 15.8%; the transport, storage and communication industry increased by 2.4% and the trade, catering and accommodation industry increased by 0.5%.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

- Cabinet has noted media reports raising concerns about the employment figures from the informal sector in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS).
- QLFS collects data on the labour market activities of individuals aged 15 years and older on a quarterly basis. Furthermore, StatsSA produces a comprehensive report every four years, which includes a dedicated module for the Survey of Employers and the Self-Employed (SESE). This survey aims to provide in-depth insights into the characteristics and operations of the informal sector businesses within South Africa.

Cabinet has been discussing the option of either a quarterly or annual SESE; however, StatsSA would require access to a business register of informal businesses to draw a representative sample, which has currently not yet been established.

- We previously announced that Cabinet had approved the National Business Licensing Policy which will enable a standardised licensing of informal businesses among others, and over a period of the implementation of this policy, the Department of Small Business Development should be able to create a reliable register of informal businesses that will improve the QLFS and the possibility of an annual SESE.



Cabinet remains concerned about the decline in the manufacturing industry, more so when government has prioritised boosting local manufacturing and thus awaits the finalisation of the revised Industrial Policy.

Government understands the impact of the challenges within freight and logistics that continue to impact the growth of the mining industry, and we are maintaining a razor-sharp focus on the work of Operation Vulindlela Phase 2 and the Government Business Partnership in urgently resolve the country's logistics challenges.

As such, Cabinet welcomes the approval by the National Assembly of the 2025 Fiscal Framework, that will increase government spending on infrastructure investment (One trillion Rand over the three – year period).

JUSTICE AND CRIME PREVENTION

Safety and security

- Cabinet has noted the continuous debate around crime in South Africa and allegations that there is no concrete plan by government to deal with crime in South Africa, this is despite that on 23 May 2025, the Minister of Police, Mr Senzo Mchunu, released the 2024/25 Q4 (1 January – 31 March 2025) crime statistics.
- On gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), a roundtable led by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on GBVF will be held on Friday, 13 June 2025, at the Atteridgeville Community Hall in Pretoria and will focus on the National Strategic Plan on GBVF implementation and progress. It will also evaluate and reinforce the effectiveness and efficiency of services provided to GBVF victims.
- Cabinet has welcomed the guilty plea entered into by one of the hitmen responsible for the July 2017 killing of former African National Congress Youth League Secretary-General, Sindiso Magaga and a Councillor of Umzimkhulu. Cabinet takes

political killings more seriously because the victims are mostly those committed to the fight against corruption. We are hopeful that this breakthrough will shed further light on other role-players involved.

Repatriation of the remains of South Africans in exile

- Cabinet welcomes the launch of Phase 2 of the Exile Repatriation Project, which includes the re-burial of Khoi and San ancestral human remains. The tracing, exhumation and return of the remains of liberation fighters who died in exile remains the central focus. This initiative to bring home and the re-burial of the remains of Khoi and San from outside the country, is important accurate recording of the South Africa's ancestry. The process of re-burying the 58 ancestral remains that originate from the Northern Cape, is at an advanced stage and consultations with affected communities are underway.
- The initiative builds on the success of the repatriation of 49 former freedom fighters in 2024, and is a testament to government's commitment to addressing

historical injustices and fostering a sense of unity and healing within the nation.

A joint delegation will soon embark on a technical mission to Angola, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe to conduct research, cemetery record inspections and grave mapping.

Celebration of the establishment of the Constitutional Court

- The year 2025 marks 25 years since the first session of the Constitutional Court, an important institution in the protection of our constitutional democracy.
- It is in this spirit, that Cabinet welcomed the engagements hosted by President Cyril Ramaphosa between government and the Judiciary led by Chief Justice Mandisa Maya. The engagements focused on the implementation of outstanding administrative measures to give effect to the constitutional provisions of ensuring that the Judiciary, like Parliament, operates as an independent arm of the state. Both the Executive and the Judiciary reaffirmed the shared commitment to building a stronger, more effective justice system firmly anchored



During release of the statistics, the Minister outlined the 7th Administration's policing priorities as follows: (a) Reducing the murder rate, (b) Reducing illegal firearms and tightening controls over legal firearms, (c) fighting GBVF, (d) Dismantling organised crime, including drug trafficking syndicates, cash-in-transit heists, extortion and kidnappings, tackling gang violence and combating corruption – both within the South African Police Service (SAPS) and across the country.

The 2024/25 Q4 statistics showed progress (general decline) compared to the same period in 2023/24. For example, out of 30 high crime police stations in terms of reporting, 13 recorded lower counts and two recorded no change.

On farmer murders, the crime statistics indicate attacks based on commercial farms, whereas in principle, government does not categorise people in terms of race. In light of recent misinformation, of the farm owners killed, two were African, two African farmworkers were victims and one of the five farm managers killed was African.

On illegal firearms, Operation Shanela continues to deliver results demonstrated by the recent seizure of 128 illegal firearms and 82 arrests.

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation is also continuing with its work, which resulted in 656 suspects appearing in court, including 364 linked to serious organised crimes, 220 from serious commercial crime and 72 from serious corruption.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Extreme weather
Cabinet extends its condolences to the families of those who lost their lives during the floods across various areas of the Eastern Cape (EC). To date, a total of 90 people have lost their lives. Several families have also been displaced and infrastructure has been damaged in both the EC and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). Government is coordinating rescue and support operations through the National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres as coordinated by the IMC on Disaster Management. Emergency teams have also been deployed from Qqberha, East London and the Chris Hani District to the affected areas to support local responders.

Cabinet cautions everyone to be vigilant over the next few days due to the expected extreme weather conditions in most parts of the country. This could include drops in temperature, snowfall, strong winds and heavy rain.

Citizens are advised to monitor local weather advisories on radio, television and social media; and avoid travel in unsafe conditions. Travellers are also encouraged to reschedule or postpone their journeys when facing adverse weather conditions.

HEALTH

New COVID-19 variant in certain regions in Asia

- Cabinet assures South Africans that the country is, through the Department of Health, closely monitoring the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant known as Nimbus or NB.1.8.1, associated with a rise in cases in certain regions of Asia.

- Cabinet calls on all citizens to ensure good hygiene practices including avoiding unnecessary handshaking, washing hands with soap, covering the mouth when coughing, using a mask when one has flu and staying home when feeling unwell. Through these simple measures, we can reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses.

Foot-and-mouth disease

- Cabinet welcomes the swift response by the Department of Agriculture (DoA) following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The provinces most impacted are KZN, Mpumalanga and Gauteng. The department has ordered over 900 000 doses of vaccines, with the first batch expected to arrive soon.
- In areas where there are active outbreaks, all infected properties are placed under quarantine; no movement is allowed into, out of, or through these areas or farms. Large areas, where individuals

cannot be served with quarantine notices, are declared Disease Management Areas and the same restrictions apply.

- In addition, plans are underway to establish a Biosecurity Council that will bring together the SAPS, veterinarians, scientists, the Border Management Authority and captains of industry to better respond to future outbreaks and manage the related risks.

Initiation season

- The 2025 winter initiation season is upon us, and government remains committed to ensuring the safety of initiates, while preserving the cultural sanctity of the practice.
- Several measures are being implemented for the 2025 initiation season, including mandatory registration and verification of initiation schools, along with thorough medical screening of all initiates. Any school that contravenes the SAPS, veterinarians, scientists, the Border Management Authority and captains of industry to better respond to future outbreaks and manage the related risks.
- Cabinet calls on parents and guardians to play their part in ensuring the safety of their sons by only using authorised initiation schools. Parents can report illegal initiation schools to law enforcement agencies or to their nearest police station.

JUNE 16 COMMEMORATION 1976 - 2025
16 JUNE 2025 • 08:00am
NWU Rec Farm Stadium, Potchefstroom
JB Marks Local Municipality, North West Province
"Gear Up For Greatness"

#49thCommemoration #YouthDay2025 #GearUp4Greatness
GovernmentZA GovernmentZA GovernmentZA

GOVERNANCE

National Dialogue

- Cabinet welcomed the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa of the date of the National Convention, which is 15 August 2025. This convention is an opportunity for South Africans from all walks of life to discuss the challenges facing our country and propose solutions that must be considered by government for possible implementation.
- President Ramaphosa has appointed an IMC which will be led by the Deputy President, Paul Mashatile to prepare, coordinate and facilitate both the National Convention and the National Dialogue.

- President Ramaphosa has further appointed a group of Eminent Persons to provide guidance to government towards both events.

Local government audit outcomes

- Cabinet noted the outcomes of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA)'s 2023/24 General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes, which shows some improvements in areas of financial statements and performance reports.
- The report highlights that 41 municipalities obtained clean audits in the 2023/24 financial year. It also shows that 59 municipalities improved their audit outcomes

since 2020/21, while only 40 regressed.

- The AGSA has noted an increase in irregular expenditure. This expenditure violates or is not in accordance with the requirements of the MFMA/PFMA and other applicable legislation, which once identified by the AGSA, means that the entity has failed to condone in accordance with relevant provisions of applicable Acts.
- Cabinet is encouraged by the AGSA's commitment to eradicate fruitless and wasteful expenditure before the end of her tenure. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is defined as expenditure that is made in vain, did not yield any benefit and

value for the entity.

- Through the implementation of local government reforms introduced under Operation Vulindlela Phase 2, government will work to support this important commitment by the Auditor-General, and working with entities to follow prescribed process to regularise the irregular expenditure. This work will also be complemented by the review of the Local Government White Paper to eliminate those areas of irregular expenditure which are caused by legislative gaps.

Clean Cities and Towns campaign

- Cabinet welcomed the launch by Deputy

President, Paul Mashatile, of the Clean

Cities and Towns campaign to encourage

communities to keep their cities and towns clean.

- Though launched in the City of Johannesburg, the campaign will be expanded to cities and towns in other provinces in the coming weeks.

Cabinet calls on citizens to take responsibility of keeping our public spaces clean and beautiful, as well as take ownership of our environment. This nationwide initiative is aimed at creating cleaner, greener and more inclusive urban spaces.



INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

G7 Summit

- President Cyril Ramaphosa will attend the Group of Seven (G7) Leader's Summit in Kananaskis, Canada from 15 to 17 June 2025.
- The G7 Summit aims to address pressing global challenges including fostering inclusive economic growth, combating climate change and navigating the complexities of rapidly evolving technologies.
- Discussions are expected to focus on international security concerns, particularly the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and strengthening global economic stability.

South Africa-Russia relations

- Deputy President, Paul Mashatile, will undertake a working visit to the Russian Federation (RF) between 16 and 21 June 2025, to strengthen the long-standing diplomatic and economic ties between South Africa and the RF.
- The visit presents an opportunity to further solidify economic partnerships, explore new avenues for collaboration and advance peace in the region. South Africa advocates for a peaceful resolution of the Russia/Ukraine conflict and continues to play a role as a neutral arbiter.

UPDATES TO CABINET

Implementation of the Water and Sanitation Indaba outcomes

- Cabinet was updated about plans to implement the outcomes of the Water and Sanitation Indaba, which was convened to find solutions to the water and sanitation challenges faced by South Africa.

- The outcomes reaffirm government's commitment to overcoming sector challenges and building a sustainable water and sanitation sector, which contributes to upholding the dignity and well-being of all South Africans.

- Cabinet welcomes the commitment by stakeholders to improve service delivery in the sector through interventions over the short, medium and long term with the key resolutions focused on the following:

- All government departments to pay correct invoices from municipalities within three months and municipalities to apply stringent credit control measures on government departments that do not pay.

- All Water Services Authorities (WSAs) to

pay their current invoices in full to the water boards timeously; and all water boards must immediately pay their current

invoices in full to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The DWS and water boards to implement the approved debt write-off mechanism with qualifying municipalities, starting immediately and DWS to implement the revised Raw Water Pricing Strategy by 1 April 2026.

- National Treasury to finalise the review of the funding model for local government and DWS to establish an independent economic water regulator to regulate water prices across the water value chain, within three years.

- All WSAs/Water Service Providers (WSPs) which do not yet have non-revenue water programmes, to have these in place by May 2026. All WSAs which have not yet ring-fenced revenues from the sale of water to take resolutions to their Councils in this regard within six months and all WSAs to review their indigent registers

and ensure the provision of free basic water to indigents within two years. All other water users to be billed and revenue to be collected.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE G20 SUMMIT

- Cabinet received an update about work underway as the country prepares to host the G20 Leaders Summit, as a number of meetings continue to take place.

- The G20 IMC has reported on some of the planned G20 Legacy Projects and side events under the banner of South Africa's G20 Presidency. These include the tourism legacy project under the leadership of the Department of Tourism, and events such as the Tourism Investment Summit, Tourism Hackathon and Tourism Sustainability Village.

- These are intended to use the G20 platform to elevate and reposition South Africa as a destination of choice for both tourism and tourism investment.

- The following G20 meetings were held in South Africa in preparation for the G20 Summit:

- The third Digital Economy Working Group meeting held on 9 to 11 June 2025 in Limpopo, focused on advancing a set of shared priorities designed to make the digital economy more inclusive, more accountable and more enabling of sustainable development.

- The third International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting held from 9 to 10 June 2025 in Limpopo, discussed the monitoring and reporting framework of the G20 Roadmap towards better, bigger and more effective Multilateral Development Banks.

- The G20 Provincial Education Indaba held in KZN on 10 June 2025 explored opportunities that will enable member countries to deliver quality early childhood care and education as well as produce capable learners for the future.

- The U20 Sherpa Summit and African

Mayors' Assembly that is being held from 12 to 14 June 2025 in the City of Tshwane, brought together mayors from different countries to deliberate on priorities such as economic opportunities, climate action, social equity and digital transformation.

- The fourth Health Working Group meeting took place from 10 to 13 June 2025 in Gauteng, and deliberated on opportunities for technology transfer, sustainable financing and regulatory alignment to ensure timely and equitable access to life-saving tools during health emergencies.

- The third Task Force meeting on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development which took place in Limpopo from 12 to 13 June 2025, provides an opportunity for G20 member countries to shape the future of AI development and use for global public interest.

CABINET DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE IMC ON FOODBORNE ILLNESSES

- Cabinet received a report of the IMC on Food-borne illnesses with a special focus on organophosphate pesticides.
- The IMC was advised by the Ministerial Advisory Council (MAC) on food-borne illnesses as appointed by the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. The MAC comprises experts from various health disciplines to provide guidance on the prevention of future outbreaks.

- The MAC conducted work on the availability and use of Terbufos, (commonly known as Galephirim), a highly hazardous product that caused the death of six children in Naledi, Soweto. While specifics to determine the exposure by the children remain uncertain, the possibility that the children consumed food contaminated with Terbufos purchased from a local spaza shop remains the most viable explanation. Cabinet has approved the ban and importation of Terbufos to South Africa, a chemical compound classified as an organophosphate, commonly used as an insecticide and pesticide. The DoA will lead the consultation process on the ban in line with its 2010 plan to eradicate poisonous insecticides and pesticides over a period of time and also work on identifying safer alternatives to Terbufos.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Africa Green Hydrogen Summit

- Cabinet noted that South Africa is hosting the Africa Green Hydrogen Summit in Cape Town on 12 and 13 June 2025. The summit brings together African Energy Ministers, policymakers and investors to explore opportunities in green hydrogen production, infrastructure development and export potential.

- The country's hydrogen sector is rapidly emerging as a cornerstone of the nation's strategy for transitioning to a low-carbon economy, creating sustainable jobs and positioning itself as a global leader in green energy.

YOUTH MONTH (2025 NATIONAL YOUTH DAY)

- Cabinet calls on all South Africans, especially young people to join in commemorating National Youth Day on 16 June under the theme "Skills for the changing world, empowering youth for meaningful economic participation". This year's

main event will be held at the Reckfarm Stadium in Tlokwe, JB Marks Local Municipality in the North West and will focus on promoting education and skills development for the youth, which are linked to economic opportunities.

- National Youth Day marks an important historic event when African learners fought the apartheid regime against the imposition of Afrikaans as a language of instruction.
- The Basic Education Laws Amendment Act of 2024 insists on the introduction of indigenous language instruction including across the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and other core subjects. This work started in the 6th Administration with the introduction of indigenous language teaching (isiXhosa) in the EC, which drastically improved the matric results. This work is being expanded to other provinces. Indigenous languages include Afrikaans, which is the language of the Africans who apartheid classified as Coloureds.

MESSAGES

CONDOLENCES

Cabinet expressed condolences to the friends and family of:

- Cabinet expressed its condolences to the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the nation, following the passing away of former President, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu of Zambia;

- Renowned photographer, cultural activist and jazz organizer, Rashid Lombard, an esteemed member of the National Order of Ikhamanga (Silver), which he received in 2014 for his contribution to arts and culture and his dedication to promoting jazz music in the country; and

- Former Judge President of the Eastern Cape Division

of the High Court, Justice Clement Temba Sangoni, a jurist of towering intellect and a firm upholder of unwavering principle of justice, who was also a senior traditional leader of the Qokoleni-Zimbabwe Traditional Council in Mthatha.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cabinet extends its congratulations and well wishes to:

- Tete Djiana for winning the 2025 Comrades Marathon for the third time, having previously won in 2022 and 2023;

- Gerda Steyn for defending her Comrades Marathon title by winning the Women's title and becoming the first South African runner to win the ultimate human

race four times. She previously won it in 2019, 2023 and 2024.

- South Africa's Paralympic wheelchair superstar, Yui Kamiji, for winning their second French Open Women's Wheelchair Doubles title;

- South African sprinter, Dzakhtle Nene, for winning gold in the Men's 400m at the Kip Keino Classic in Nairobi and setting a new world lead of 43.76 seconds;

- South African landscape designer, Leon Kluge and his team for winning gold at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London;

- The board and management of Telkom led by Chairman, Mr Geoff Ghena and Group Chief Executive Of-

ficer, Mr Serame Taukobong, on their financial results and for the first time in four years, paying a dividend of R500m to government.

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