

CABINET STATEMENT

on the Cabinet meeting of Wednesday, 1 July 2026

ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Comprehensive approach to managing migration in South Africa

Cabinet extended its appreciation to South Africans who participated in peaceful protests against unregulated migration and commended the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Structures (NatJOINTS) for ensuring that protests remained peaceful on 30 June 2026.

Cabinet also commended the work of the Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, for the sterling work in the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach to Managing Migration as announced by President Ramaphosa on 7 June 2026.

Cabinet received an update on the implementation of the five pillars of the Comprehensive Approach. Progress under the law

enforcement pillar includes:

- Increased labour inspections at companies suspected of employing undocumented foreign nationals, under the guidance of the Deputy Ministers responsible for Employment and Labour (Mr. Jomo Sibiya), Home Affairs (Mr. Njabulo Nzuza) and Police (Dr. Polly Boshielo).
- Ensuring orderly and lawful deportations with the re-establishment of the Immigration Specialised Court in Durban (which processed deportations facilitated at Sherwood, in Durban), the Immigration Court at OR Tambo International Airport, and the reactivation of a court at the Lindela Repatriation Centre in Krugersdorp.
- Swift response to support the repatriation initiatives of home countries to ensure coordinated and dignified repatriations. The IMC swiftly set up a temporary repatriation centre in Musina for efficient facilitation under dignified and humane conditions. In this regard, Cabinet extended its appreciation to non-profit



organisations such as the Gift of the Givers, Ashrafat Aid and Mahlasela Foundation.

- Since 7 June 2026, the Border Management Authority has intercepted more migrants attempting to enter the country unlawfully, comprising undocumented migrants, undesirable persons

and people refused entry due to non-compliant travel documents.

- NATJOINTS provided details on criminal cases involving public disorder and incitement, including cases that have been registered, suspects that have been arrested, cases before the courts, and those under active investigation.

On Thursday, 2 July 2026, some members of the IMC conducted an inspection in loco on the Limpopo-Zimbabwe border to assess the scope of work for the IMC workstream on border infrastructure improvements.

Bafana Bafana's stellar performance at the 2026 FIFA World Cup

- Cabinet joined the nation in congratulating Bafana Bafana on their stellar performance at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which saw the team progress to the Round of 32 for the first time since South Africa's 1998 World Cup debut.
- Bafana Bafana also played impressive football against Canada in the Round of 32 where they heartbreakingly lost to a stoppage-time goal. Our nation is proud of our Boys who showed that they could go toe-to-toe with the best on the global stage.
- Thank you, South Africa, for your warm welcome to our Boys (Bafana Bafana).

ECONOMY



South Africa records significant improvement in global competitiveness rankings

Cabinet welcomed South Africa's significant improvement in global competitiveness as reflected in the 2026 World Competitiveness Yearbook, which ranks South Africa 54th, up from 64th in 2025.

The report, released in June 2026 by the Institute for Management Development in partnership with Productivity SA, saw South Africa improve by 10 places from the previous year's ranking.

The improved ranking reflects progress in government efficiency, growing business confidence and enhanced infrastructure management, underscoring the impact of ongoing reforms to strengthen economic performance and governance.

South Africa Infrastructure Summit reinforces the country's public investment drive

Cabinet commended the successful hosting of the South Africa Infrastructure Summit and Expo from 9 to 11 June 2026 at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Johannesburg, which provided a platform to advance partnerships, mobilise investment and accelerate the implementation of strategic infrastructure projects.

Discussions focused on expanding public-private partnerships, improving logistics networks and strengthening transport, water, and digital infrastructure to support economic growth and development. These infrastructure initiatives give effect to the commitments announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in the 2026 State of the Nation Address, which outlined an ambitious programme of infrastructure-led growth, with more than R1 trillion allocated to public infrastructure over the medium term.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



SACU Summit: deepening regional integration

Cabinet commended the successes of the 9th Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Summit for Heads of State and Government on 26 June 2026.

A major outcome of the Summit, in line with the Re-Imagined SACU approach, was that member states reaffirmed their commitment to SACU as an engine to drive regional economic integration, industrial and economic diversification, expanded intra-regional trade and investment, policy harmonisation and sustainable economic development. Industrialisation remains at the centre of SACU's developmental agenda.

Maintaining strategic relations with China

Deputy President Paul Mashatile concluded a successful working visit to China from 20 to 26 June 2026, to further strengthen economic relations and expand opportunities for investment and industrial cooperation. During the visit, he also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mr Han Zheng, Vice President of the People's Republic of China, to discuss matters of mutual interest and further strengthen bilateral economic ties.

During the visit, Deputy President Mashatile participated in the Fourth China International Supply Chain Expo, where he reinforced South Africa's position as a gateway to Sub-Saharan Africa for trade, investment and industrial cooperation. The partnership is expected to attract increased investment, expand opportunities for local businesses and support inclusive economic growth that creates jobs.

CABINET DECISIONS

Draft Strategic Petroleum Stocks Policy

Cabinet approved the publication of the draft Strategic Petroleum Stocks Policy for public comment.

The policy aims to strengthen South Africa's energy security and minimise the economic impact of supply shocks. It follows a comprehensive study commissioned by government in 2024 on the country's strategic petroleum stocks, which identified areas requiring attention, including the need to strengthen stockholding arrangements and increase domestic refining capacity.

The policy proposes a mixed stockholding model under which the South African National Petroleum Company (SANPC) will maintain strategic reserves equal to 60 days of net

imports for both crude oil and refined petroleum products, with a phased increase to 90 days over the long term. The policy will safeguard national energy security, improve resilience against global supply shocks and support sustainable economic growth.

Integrated Social Facilitation Framework

Cabinet approved the Integrated Social Facilitation Framework (ISFF) as a binding national policy instrument to standardise and institutionalise community delivery in infrastructure engagement across all spheres of government, state-owned entities and infrastructure development stakeholders.

- The ISFF introduces a professionalised and

The framework is intended to address community protests, project disruptions, vandalism, delays and security risks by promoting structured community participation throughout the project lifecycle, thereby strengthening public trust, social cohesion and protection of infrastructure investments

coordinated approach to social facilitation, including accreditation of social facilitators, clearer governance arrangements, stronger monitoring and evaluation, and a risk-based approach to managing community-related risks.

Ministerial Working Group on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Funding Report

Cabinet approved the release of the Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Report for public comment.

- The report emphasises the need for South Africa

to avoid over-reliance on foreign funding and to build local funding capacity and mitigate threats posed to the country's research programmes to safeguard South Africa's scientific sovereignty.

Ratification of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Industry

Cabinet approved the submission of the SADC Protocol on Industry to Parliament for ratification. The Protocol is a legally binding regional agreement aimed at developing a diversified,

Ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Cabinet approved the submission of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of

Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) to Parliament for ratification. Also known as the High Seas Treaty, the Agreement is a legally binding United Nations instrument designed to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in international waters.

- South Africa played an active role in negotiating the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The BBNJ Agreement is expected to strengthen international cooperation in the protection and sustainable management of marine resources in international waters.

BILLS

National Environmental Management Laws Amendment (NEMLA) Bill, 2026

Cabinet approved the publication of the NEMLA Bill, 2026 for public comment. The Bill seeks to amend the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998), to strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement by empowering

environmental inspectors to issue compliance notices and enabling municipalities to issue directives for environmental violations.

Electronic Deeds Registration and Recordal Systems Amendment Bill

Cabinet approved the submission of the Electronic Deeds Registration and Recordal Systems

Amendment Bill to Parliament. The Bill seeks to amend the Electronic Deeds Registration Act (Act 19 of 2019), the Deeds Registries Act (Act 47 of 1937) and the Sectional Titles Act (Act 95 of 1986) to modernise the legislative framework governing deeds registration and recordal systems.

Project on Access to Education Support and Services for Children and Young People with Disabilities in South Africa

Cabinet noted two reports developed by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, assessing the gap between South Africa's inclusive education policies and the lived realities of children and young people with disabilities. The project, conducted between October 2022 and March 2024, comprised a scoping report and a research report that evaluated existing education support services and identified practical interventions to improve learning and teaching outcomes. Cabinet reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to building a single inclusive education system that caters for the needs of children and young people with disabilities.

enhanced security of land tenure. The proposed amendments are largely technical in nature and are intended to strengthen the security of title and improve the administration of land and property rights for the benefit of landowners and rights holders.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations

Cabinet received and considered Parliament's approved annual update on the implementation of the TRC recommendations. In June 2023, Parliament approved the granting of reparations to TRC-identified victims. These included a final one-off reparation payment of R30 000, medical benefits and other forms of social assistance, symbols and monuments, and community rehabilitation as part of healing the wounds of the past.

- Cabinet noted progress in the implementation of these measures, including the promulgation of regulations by the President governing one-off individual reparations; exhumation, reburial and symbolic burial of victims; basic education assistance; higher education and training assistance; and housing assistance. The outstanding draft regulations relating to health and community rehabilitation are at various stages of finalisation.
- In addition, 174 of the 21 676 TRC-identified victims who applied for one-off individual reparations have received their R30 000 reparation payment. The total amount paid for final one-off individual reparations is nearly R500 million. To ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive the support due to them, on 9 June 2026, a general notice was published in the Government Gazette calling on TRC-identified victims or their next of kin who have not yet applied for reparations to come forward and claim their one-off reparation payment of R30 000.

CABINET UPDATES

2025/26 National Intelligence Estimates (NIE), National Intelligence Priorities (NIPs) and NIE implementation plan

Cabinet was briefed on the National Security Council-approved 2025/26 National Intelligence Estimates, National Intelligence Priorities and considered the National Intelligence Estimates implementation plan.

Cabinet noted that the national intelligence structures are continuing to make inroads in the implementation of National Intelligence Estimates.

On priorities that are beyond the mandates of the national intelligence structures, Cabinet considered the NIE implementation plan which emphasises, among others:

- Strengthened labour inspections to ensure compliance with South Africa's labour laws;
- Strict regulation of local economies to ensure participation and ownership in favour of citizens in line with Section 22 of the Constitution, with emphasis on the regulation of the spaza shop, other small and informal businesses to ensure meaningful ownership and participation by citizens;
- Energy self-sufficiency and food security in light of South Africa's resource endowments; and
- Climate change resilience, including measures to address the Super El Niño.

In due course, and on the advice of the National Intelligence structures, the Minister in The Presidency will release the 2025/26 National Intelligence Estimates and Priorities.

consult more broadly on all mechanisms to support Members of Parliament in preparing for study groups.

State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) reforms

Cabinet received a progress report on the implementation of reforms aimed at strengthening SOEs to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

On going progress in implementing the SOE reform programme, includes key initiatives focused on strengthening governance, enhancing sustainability and increasing accountability across SOEs. A key initiative is the National State Enterprise Bill, which provides for the establishment of a centralised entity to coordinate SOE reforms, standardise governance practices and remuneration guidelines, and support improved performance across the SOE portfolio.

- Through the SOE Performance Monitoring Framework, performance of 72 Schedule

2, Schedule 3A and Schedule 3B entities was assessed during the 2025/26 financial year. The assessment identified several governance challenges requiring targeted interventions.

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- Key recommendations include reforming education legislation or promulgating regulations in accordance with the South African Schools Act to enforce the right to equal, equitable and high-quality education for children and young people with disabilities. The reports also recommend that higher education institutions introduce compulso-

ry inclusive and special-needs education courses for students training to become teachers. The two reports are available on the Department's website at www.dwydp.gov.za.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mandela Month

In July, South Africa will commemorate Mandela Month under the theme 'It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality'. Cabinet called on all South Africans to dedicate their time and effort during Mandela

Month and on Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2026, to help build a South Africa that works for South Africans.

National Science Month

July marks National Science

Month, which will be launched on 4 July 2026 at the Vaal University of Technology's Southern Gauteng Science and Technology Park in Sebokeng under the theme 'Science, Technology and Innovation are for everyone'.

The month-long science celebration aims to build a science-literate society that can form opinions on science, technology and innovation. It seeks to promote a community with confidence in science, scientists, and scientific institutions.

MESSAGES

Condolences

Cabinet expressed condolences to the friends and family of:

- South African jazz icon Abdullah Ibrahim, who was one of the most influential figures in global jazz and had a remarkable career spanning more than seven decades. He will be remembered as one of the country's most celebrated musicians and cultural ambassadors.
- Two Mozambican nationals and one Malawian national who lost their lives in the early days of the protests against irregular migration.

standing season during the Indian Premier League 2026, which saw him emerge as top bowler and win the coveted Purple Cap.

Congratulations

Cabinet extended its congratulations and well-wishes to:

- Employment and Labour Minister, Nomakhosazana Meth, for her election as the Vice Chairperson of the Employers Group and the Labour Groups of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on 12 June 2026.
- Kagiso Rabada, for an out-

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New Bill set to strengthen production

National Science Month Celebrating South Africa's science excellence

A call to honour heroes who inspire young South Africans

Issued on behalf of Cabinet by:

Minister in The Presidency, Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni

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