



Cabinet Statement

DID YOU KNOW? Cabinet Meeting of 5 December 2018



Cabinet met on Wednesday, 5 December 2018 at Tuynhuys in Cape Town.

1. ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

FINAL REGISTRATION WEEKEND
26 - 27 JANUARY 2019
8AM - 5PM
2019 National & Provincial ELECTIONS

ICGSouthAfrica | elections.org.za

Economic growth

- Cabinet welcomes the 2.2% growth in the South African economy during the third quarter, which is helping move the country out of a technical recession. The growth figures were driven by increases in the:
 - agricultural sector (6.5%);
 - financial sector (2.3%);
 - manufacturing sector (7.5%); and
 - wholesale and retail trade sales (3.2%).
- The growth figures signal a rebound in the economy and together with initiatives from the Jobs Summit and South Africa Investment Conference, will continue to improve.

Cabinet also joins South Africans in welcoming this month's drop in the fuel price which comes as a relief, especially as we move into a holiday period. All sectors of society are urged to build on the positive momentum during the third quarter to help place the South African economy on a new growth trajectory.

National Minimum Wage (NMW)

- Cabinet also welcomes the signing of the NMW Bill into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa.
- The Bill sets a historic precedent in the protection of low-earning workers and reduction of inequality in society.
- The first NMW will raise the earnings of an estimated six million South African low-earning workers. There will be a phase-in period for:
 - farm workers;
 - forestry workers; and
 - domestic workers.

Whilst this NMW will not end income inequality, Cabinet believes it will go a long way to breaking the back of rising inequality and persistent poverty.

Toyota Wessels Institute for Manufacturing Studies (TWIMS)

- Cabinet welcomes the launch of the newly established R56-million TWIMS. The institute will:

as responsible citizens by ensuring they have a green bar-coded ID book, smart ID card or temporary identity certificate and are registered to vote in their districts.

The Independent Electoral Commission will hold a voter-registration weekend on 26 and 27 January 2019 and South Africans are encouraged to use the opportunity to register to vote or verify their registration status.

Cabinet appeals to those who have applied for Smart IDs to collect their documents at their respective Department of Home Affairs (DHA) branches.

National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP)

- Cabinet applauds President Ramaphosa's appointment of Advocate Shamila Batohi as the new NDPP. This follows the President's consideration of five nominees shortlisted by an advisory panel.
- The appointment brings stability to the leadership of the National Prosecuting Authority and emboldens the country's fight against crime and corruption. Cabinet also extends its appreciation to Energy Minister Jeff Radebe and the panel for their contribution to this historic process of appointment.

Limpopo health professionals

- Cabinet strongly condemns attacks on doctors in hospitals around Limpopo. Health professionals and health facilities serve and protect communities and the vulnerable. Attacking those who are meant to save lives is a criminal offence and will not be tolerated.
- The Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, is leading a multidisciplinary task team – comprising police intelligence agents, detective services, public order policing, private security authorities and DHA officials – to review the security systems at public healthcare

White Paper on Home Affairs

- Cabinet approved the publication of the White Paper for public comment. The White Paper argues that for South Africa to fully realise the potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the DHA must play a critical enabling role in citizen empowerment, efficient government, inclusive government and national security.
- It is also based on the DHA having sole mandate for the management of official identity and status, international migration, and asylum seekers and refugees. The White Paper proposes measures to reduce the fraudulent bank transactions and realise savings due to increased inefficiencies.

Safer holidays

- Cabinet appeals to all South Africans to keep safe during the December holidays.
- Road users are urged to adhere to the traffic rules, and not to drive recklessly and negligently, especially under the influence. Pedestrians are also urged to remain cautious on the road.

The Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster has intensified anti-crime and safety operations nationwide. The DHA has increased its capacity in ports of entry to ensure it is able to respond to the expected increase of travellers over the festive period. It also plans to extend operating hours at busy ports of entry, covering pre-festive season movements, the festive season period and the reopening of schools.

Fifth anniversary of the passing of Madiba

- Cabinet joins South Africans in commemorating the fifth anniversary of the passing of our first democratically elected President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who passed on 5 December 2013. President Ramaphosa declared 2018 as the year marking Madiba's centenary.
- His legacy has been celebrated throughout the year by South Africans in their various formations, the most recent being the Global Citizen Festival: Mandela 100 held over the past weekend.
- Cabinet calls on all to stay true to Madiba's ideals, including his unwavering commitment to justice, equality and non-racism.

Global Citizen Festival: Mandela 100

- Cabinet thanks all participants of the Global Citizen Festival: Mandela 100 held

in Johannesburg on Sunday, 2 December 2018. The festival formed part of the national commemorative events to celebrate the centenary of Tata Nelson Mandela and was transmitted in over 180 countries. It brought together thousands of global citizens, activists, world leaders, musicians and influencers to advance the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (UN) in honour of Mandela's memory.

Cabinet extends its sympathy to all those who were violated by criminal elements that preyed on them whilst leaving the stadium. It strongly condemns these criminal acts and calls on law-enforcement agencies to bring offenders to book.

World AIDS Day

- South Africa marked World AIDS Day on 1 December under the theme: "Cheka Impilo. Know Your Status."
- Cabinet appreciates government's multidimensional HIV and AIDS programme that has taken brave end to the epidemic.
- The programme has realised an additional uptake of two million people to the antiretroviral treatment programme.
- South Africa has more than 4.2 million people on treatment, making it one of the world's biggest treatment programmes.
- The HIV and AIDS campaign continues to make inroads towards changing behaviour, medical treatment and social de-stigmatisation.

UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- South Africa joined the global community in observing the annual UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Monday, 3 December.
- Government remains committed to the inclusion and protection of persons with disabilities through dedicated programmes and interventions to ensure access to equal opportunities, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.

implementation. This provides guidance towards the speedy establishment of OSBPs between South Africa and its neighbouring countries.

The OSBP will enhance trade facilitation without compromising national security or revenue collection through the efficient movement of goods, persons and services between South Africa and the adjoining states of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

It will also result in the region realising a faster border clearance and limited duplication of border agency interventions, which in turn improves trade competitiveness and movement of persons by cutting down on cost and time.

National Risk Assessment and Upcoming Mutual Evaluation Process

- Cabinet approved that National Treasury and the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) will coordinate South Africa's preparation for the national risk assessment and upcoming mutual evaluation process which commences in mid-April 2019.
- The mutual evaluation is a peer-review process conducted

by international experts from other member countries of the inter-governmental body, the Financial Action Task Force, to assess the effectiveness of the anti-money laundering (AML) and combating of terrorist financing (CFT) system in South Africa.

Impact evaluation of the Early Grade Reading Study

- Cabinet approved the recommendations presented to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME).
- The recommendations flow from the Impact Evaluation of the Early Grade Reading Study

after two years of interventions.

- The DBE initiated the Early Grade Reading Study in collaboration with various universities. This is a large-scale educational impact evaluation which aims to build evidence about what works to improve the teaching and learning of early grade reading in African languages in the country.
- The report will be posted on the DPME website: www.dpme.gov.za.

Policy Framework on National Museums

- Cabinet approved the policy framework which aims to transform the management and operations of museums in terms of access, redress, equity, nation-building and social cohesion. The policy proposes the clustering of museums into new management structures to achieve economies of scale by reducing the number of councils.

GH progress report by the Inter-Ministerial Task Team on North West

- Cabinet approved the progress report and is pleased that visible

It also provides for the grading of all the museums according to qualities, scope and significance to enable equitable funding allocations.

National Guide for the Appointment of Persons to Boards and Chief Executive Officers of State-owned and State-controlled Institutions

- Cabinet approved the National Guide which provides national guidance on principles and good-practice guidelines to promote uniformity in the appointment of persons. It responds to the Presidential Review Committee on State-owned Entities to promote transparency, accountability and good governance practices in all organs of state.

GH progress report by the Inter-Ministerial Task Team on North West

- Cabinet approved the progress report and is pleased that visible

progress has been made in stabilising the provincial departments in North West and the provision of basic services has been prioritised.

- The intervention has cleared over 90% of the accruals to suppliers enabling the improved supply of medicine and equipment.
- Four of the five operating theatres at Matieling Hospital have been returned to functionality.
- A number of the funded vacant posts in the respective departments have been filled.
- A process to address the backlog infrastructure maintenance has been put in place and the law-enforcement agencies continue to make progress in bringing them to account.
- Working with the North West leadership, the appointed administrators continue to make progress in setting in place good governance processes.
- The National Council of Provinces visited North West in October and have lauded their report endorsing the national government intervention in the province.



CABINET APPROVED THE HOSTING OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- Fourth Annual Meetings of the New Development Bank (NDB)
- When: During the first week of 2019.
- The NDB is a permanent institution established by the
- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) bloc to mobilise resources to fund infrastructure and sustainable development projects
- in BRICS countries, and other emerging markets and developing countries
- Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)
- When: June/July 2019
- AMCEN is a permanent inter-African Ministers of the
- Environment deliberate and decide on environmental issues of relevance to the Continent of South Africa and its shareship from 2019 to 2021.

3. BILLS

Revised Expropriation Bill

- Cabinet approved publication of the Revised Bill for public comment, which adds a section that provides explicit circumstances under which land expropriation for the public interest may be without compensation.
- The section strengthens the earlier Expropriation Bill that was withdrawn from the parliamentary process. The Bill will assist in accelerating

the land-reform programme whilst within the framework of the constitutional principles.

Conduct of Financial Institutions Bill of 2018

- Cabinet approved for the publication of the Bill for public comment. This forms part of government's reform of the financial sector regulation towards a Twin Peaks model and follows the enactment

regulatory coverage and supervision.

- This will allow the newly established Financial Sector Conduct Authority to better meet its mandate of protecting financial customers by ensuring fair treatment. The Bill, which will apply to all financial institutions, also supports transformation of the financial sector through implementation of the Financial Sector Code issued under the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003 (Act 53 of 2003) by requiring that policies be introduced to comply with the code and also supervising implementation of those policies.

Financial Matters Amendment Bill of 2018

- Cabinet approved for the introduction of the Bill in Parliament. The amendments relate to:
 - Insolvency Act of 1996, (Act 24 of 1996) to strengthen the regulation of over-the-counter derivative market, in-line with G20 commitments;
 - Military Pensions Act of 1976, (Act 84 of 1976) to address discriminatory provisions;
 - Banks Act of 1990, (Act 94 of 1990) to allow for qualifying state-owned companies to apply for banking licences;
 - Government Employment Pension Law of 1996, to change the clean break principle in the case of divorce, ensuring that members' pension payouts to former spouses on divorce are not converted to a debt obligation; and
 - Auditing Profession Act of 2005, (Act 26 of 2005) to address challenges and limitations that the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors faces in discharging its regulatory and oversight responsibilities.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

National Minimum Wage (NMW) announcement (Announced)

- Where: An event to be held at Kiplitown, Soweto.
- When: Friday, 7 December 2018.
- The NMW will immediately benefit more than six million workers and help address the level of inequality and poverty in South Africa. This landmark proclamation will extend our social net to the most vulnerable people.

International Anti-Corruption Day

- When: Sunday, 9 December 2018.
- In commemoration of the UN's International Anti-Corruption Day, Cabinet reaffirms the country's fight against corruption in both the private and public sectors. The JCPS Cluster has prioritised

the fight against this scourge in line with government's zero-tolerance stance towards corruption.

International Human Rights Day

- When: Monday, 10 December 2018.
- South Africa will join the international community in observing

International Human Rights Day. The day marks the anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Government continues to ensure that all South Africans enjoy all human rights such as the rights to life, equality and human dignity.

- Every citizen has a responsibility to ensure that human rights and dignity in our nation is protected.

5. MESSAGES

Condolences

- Cabinet joins President Ramaphosa in expressing sadness at the passing of Struggle stalwart and former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Mr Mendi Msimang on Monday, 3 December 2018, following a long illness. Cabinet extends condolences

to the family, friends, comrades and associates of Mr Msimang. He has been accorded a Special Official Funeral: Category 1, which entails elements of military ceremonial honour in line with the Policy on State and Provincial Official Funerals.

Congratulations

- Cabinet congratulates Banyana Banyana on reaching the final of the 2018 Africa Women's Cup of Nations. By doing so they have automatically qualified for next year's FIFA Women's World Cup in France.
- Cabinet commends Dr Lindwe Sidali who made history by becoming the first African female cardiologist surgeon in the country.

Enquiries:
Ms Phumla Williams
Acting Cabinet Spokesperson
Mobile: 083 501 0139
www.gcis.gov.za
www.gov.za

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