

Cabinet Statement

DID YOU KNOW?

Cabinet Meeting of 27 September 2017

Cabinet met on Wednesday, 27 September 2017, at the Union Buildings, Pretoria.

1. ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT



tourism economic sectors. These include rural, medical, agro and cultural tourism.

Antiretroviral pricing agreement

- Cabinet welcomes the ground-breaking pricing agreement reached by the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi.



in collaboration with a number of international organisations, to accelerate the availability of the first affordable single-pill HIV-treatment regimen.

- It is estimated that the price reduction will result in savings of up to R11.7 billion over the next six years. This will enable South Africa to enrol more patients on treatment.
- The pricing agreement makes the medicine Dolutedgravir, which is recommended by the World Health Organization, more affordable for governments in low and middle-income countries.
- In light of the pricing agreement, the Department of Health plans to introduce in April 2018 the new fixed-dose combination of three drugs:
 - Tenofovir;
 - Lamivudine; and
 - Dolutegravir.

World Tourism Day

- South Africa, under the leadership of the Minister of Tourism, Ms Tokozile Xasa, participated in World Tourism Day (27 September 2017) and Tourism Month, under the theme "Sustainable Tourism – A Tool for Development".
- This provides a platform to support changes in policy, business practices and tourism consumer behaviour towards a more sustainable tourism sector, which can contribute aggressively towards the attainment of the SDGs.
- During World Tourism Day, different countries and cultures celebrate a multiplicity of region-based activities such as:
 - the promotion of special tariffs and/or broadening access to facilities;
 - mass-based free access to parks and gardens; and
 - various engagements with stakeholders.
- South Africa has been successful in promoting tourism through its various attractive facilities such as our parks, blue flag beaches, and the world accredited heritage sites.
- Tourism's labour absorption capacity remains a great weapon against unemployment.
- As a tourist destination, South Africa faces the prospects of growing its transversal tourism sectors to enable massive economic potential through the so-called traditional dominant

Health

- Cabinet welcomes the unveiling of the new wing of the Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in Mdantsane, East London.
- It is a milestone towards the implementation of the National Health Insurance that will result in the provision of quality healthcare, particularly to poor communities.
- This world-class tertiary hospital is an investment to realise the National Development Plan's (NDP) vision and the UN's SDGs of universal healthcare.
- The 526-bed hospital is supported by an integrated system that will optimise delivery of quality healthcare.
- It applies technological innovation to reduce patient waiting times, improve diagnosis and enables a quicker health intervention in patients.
- This R1 billion investment in infrastructure will support local economic development in the townships.
- As we revitalise public health infrastructure, we are also expanding opportunities for local communities to improve their lives through job creation and local enterprise development.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

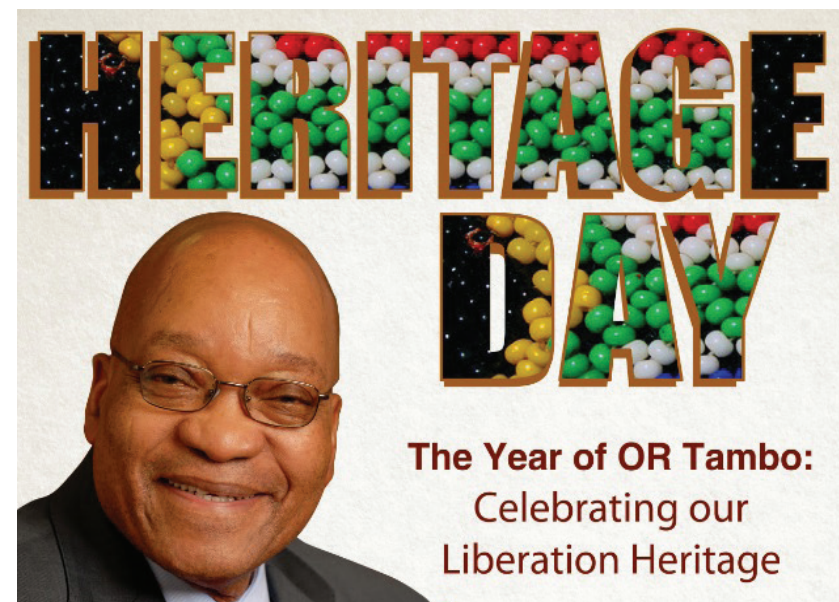
- Cabinet welcomed President Jacob Zuma's address to the 72nd Regular Session of the UNGA in New York, USA on 12 September 2017, under the theme "Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for All on a Sustainable Planet".
- Deliberations focused, amongst others, on:
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
 - climate change;
 - peace and security issues; and
 - UN reforms, especially UN Security Council reform.
- President Zuma also signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which reflects South Africa's continued commitment towards the achievement of a world free from the threat posed by nuclear weapons and ensuring that nuclear technology is used for peaceful purposes only.
- President Zuma hosted a centenary celebratory dinner in honour of the late former President of the African National Congress, Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo.

Heritage Month

- Cabinet thanks all South Africans for celebrating Heritage Month in September and reiterates President Zuma's Heritage Day message for all in the country to aspire for greater unity in diversity.

As the country concludes Heritage Month under the theme "The Year of Oliver Reginald Tambo: Celebrating our Liberation Heritage", South Africans are encouraged to build on the values espoused in the Constitution and strengthen efforts to build a nation free from poverty, hunger, homelessness and inequality.

- In fostering a spirit of heritage, Cabinet



Social Development Month

- When:** October 2017.
- Launch:** President Zuma will officially launch the commemoration of Social Development Month on Friday, 29 September 2017.
- Cabinet calls on South Africans to continue to uplift those less fortunate than themselves ahead of Social Development Month in October.
- Social Development Month is held annually to commemorate the many strides the country has made in providing social assistance to the poor and the most vulnerable in South Africa.
- Cabinet warmly wishes all senior citizens and older persons a happy Older Persons Day, which will be commemorated on Sunday, 1 October 2017.
- South Africans are encouraged to use October month to recognise the role and prime sacrifice older persons made in attaining freedom in our country. It is the duty of all fellow citizens, not only government, to give extra care to our older persons and vulnerable groups.
- The South African Government's social-assistance programme is built on a firm belief that social-security assistance is a basic human right and is key to restoring the dignity to its citizens.
- Social grants bring financial relief to millions of households and uplift the living conditions of the vulnerable.

Annual Thusong Service Centre Week

- Government successfully concluded this year's Annual Thusong Service Centre Week, which took place from 18 to 22 September 2017 under the theme: "The Year of OR Tambo – Advancing Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises at Thusong Service Centres".
- This formed part of Public Service Month and promoted the Thusong Programme by showcasing the integrated mobile outreach programme



Examination preparations

- Cabinet wishes all learners well, especially those in Grade 12, as they prepare for their final end-of-year examinations.
- The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is on schedule for the matric exams starting on 16 October 2017 that will be written by more than 798 000 registered learners.

and its effectiveness in responding to the needs of the citizens.

- Thusong Services Centres bring a basket of government services and information closer to the people.
- The programme reaches approximately six million beneficiaries every year through the:
 - Integrated Mobile Outreach Programme;
 - Annual Thusong Service Centre Week; and
 - other Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) platforms.
- Through this programme, government continues to redress the imbalances of the past by bringing quality public services closer to communities previously marginalised from the mainstream of socio-economic development.
- Thusong Service Centres also empower communities with the necessary skills and training to better their lives, through existing partnerships with government, parastatals and the private sector.

Cabinet reiterates the call to communities to continue using Thusong Service Centres to access basic services such as Home Affairs, Labour, Justice, South African Social Security Agency and the Road Accident Fund.

Myanmar

- Cabinet is concerned about the plight of Rohingya civilians who have fled their homes in Myanmar.
- South Africa supports the statement by UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres,



who emphasised the responsibility of the Government of Myanmar to provide security to all affected communities, and further request for humanitarian agencies to be granted access to

- The DBE is providing additional support to matriculants with onsite learning after school hours, and during weekends and school holidays.

Cabinet calls on parents and guardians to avail the necessary support to learners as they prepare for exams.

communities in need of assistance and protection.

Cabinet urges all parties to end the violence to avoid further human suffering and appeals that the situation in the Rakhine State be resolved within the ambit of the law.

Angola

- Cabinet joins President Zuma in congratulating the Republic of Angola on conducting successful National Legislative Elections.
- President Zuma attended

2. CABINET DECISIONS

Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol

- Cabinet approved the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development, by Parliament.
- The objective of the protocol is to promote sustainable use and transboundary management of the environment, which is of interest to SADC member states.
- South Africa, as Chair of the SADC from August 2017 to August 2018, is committed to strengthening regional efforts to conserve transboundary natural resources and promote sustainable development within the SADC region.

4. BILLS

Land Survey Amendment Bill

- Cabinet approved the publication of the Land Survey Amendment Bill for public comment. The Bill amends the Land Survey Act, 1997 (Act 8 of 1997).
- The amendments enhance lines of accountability and governance, and provide for the appointment of certain members of the Survey Regulations Board, so as to enhance the regulation of the survey of land in South Africa.
- The Bill also seeks to regulate the survey of land in South Africa by empowering the Chief Surveyor-General to exercise national oversight and management over the geodetic, topographic and cadastral surveys,



5. MESSAGES

Birthday – Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela

- Cabinet joins the rest of the country in wishing Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, affectionately known as the Mother of the Nation, a happy birthday as she turned 81 on Tuesday, 26 September 2017.
- Mama Madikizela-Mandela is one of South Africa's most celebrated liberation icons. Cabinet thanks her for her service to the Struggle for our hard-

the Inauguration Ceremony of President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço in Luanda on Tuesday, 26 September 2017.

- South Africa and the Republic of Angola share a common history of the struggle against colonialism and apartheid.
- Since 1994, the two countries have continued to grow and expand strong bilateral ties.
- Angola is one of South Africa's largest trading partners on the African continent and continues to grow its bilateral relations.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

Transport Month

- When:** October 2017.
- Theme:** "Together we move South Africa Forward".
- Launch:** Sinaba Stadium, Daveyton, City of Ekurhuleni, on Friday, 29 September 2017.
- Cabinet calls on all to work together to ensure the country's transport infrastructure benefits all and encourages road users to take responsibility and apply road safety as part of their daily lives. By working together we can reduce carnages on our roads.
- During Transport Month, government – led by the Department of Transport and its entities – will highlight the economic benefits of the sector by showcasing transport infrastructure services in aviation, maritime, public transport, roads and rail.
- Investments in the transport sector are stimulating development and creating jobs as part of South Africa's Nine-Point Plan, which aims to grow the economy and create



Banyana Banyana

- Cabinet congratulates Banyana Banyana on winning the 2017 COSAFA Women's Championship after they triumphed 2-1 in the final against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo.
- Banyana Banyana carries the South African flag with pride and their performances continue to inspire other young and talented South Africans to excel.

Earthquake, tsunami and hurricane in Mexico

- Cabinet joins President Zuma in extending

Attack on tourists from the Netherlands

- Cabinet condemns the recent robbery of tourists from the Netherlands who were followed from OR Tambo International Airport.
- All South Africans should condemn such crimes which threaten our ever growing tourism sector.
- Cabinet further called on the South African Police Service to do whatever it can to apprehend the perpetrators of this crime.
- Cabinet appeals to the public to come forward with any information

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

Umgeni Water Board

- Cabinet was appraised on the situation at the Umgeni

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

Transport Month

- brings together expertise from five UN agencies, namely:
 - UN Environment Programme;
 - International Labour Organisation;
 - UN Development Programme;
 - UN Industrial Development Organisation; and
 - UN Institute for Training and Research.
- Hosting the Ministerial Conference will advance the agenda, domestically and on the African continent, of inclusive growth in adopting a low carbon and climate resilient economic pathway.

South Africa to host the 2nd Session of the South Africa-Zimbabwe Binational Commission (BNC)

- Hosted by:** President Zuma will host his Zimbabwean counterpart, His Excellency President Robert Mugabe, in South Africa.
- When:** Tuesday, 3 October 2017.
- The agreement establishing the BNC was signed in April 2015 and

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that may assist law-enforcement authorities and calls for the full might of the law to be applied to those found guilty.

Launch of the Bakoena Ba Mopeli customary law book

- Cabinet applauds the launch of the book, *Bakoena Ba Mopeli Customary Law of Succession and Genealogy*, as a milestone achievement for traditional leadership in South Africa.
- The Minister of Cooperative Governance



Water Board, which is the second largest water board in the country with an annual turnover of more than R2.4 billion and its five-year Capital Expenditure budget of more than R7 billion.

- Cabinet was also briefed on the discussions the Department of Water and Sanitation was having with its investors.
- In order to stabilise the governance issues of the board, Cabinet endorsed the appointment of the Interim Board while the Minister is in the process of expediting the appointment of the fully fledged Umgeni Water Board. Cabinet was satisfied with the work done by the Minister in stabilising the Umgeni Water Board.



much-needed jobs. These investments will ensure the building of an integrated public transport network across the country.

- inaugurated in October 2016 in Harare, Zimbabwe.
- South Africa and Zimbabwe have good bilateral political, economic and social relations underpinned by strong historical ties dating back many years. The two countries do not only share strong historical relations but also economic cooperation.
- Zimbabwe is one of South Africa's top-five trading partners on the continent, with trade statistics showing annual growth. In 2016, South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe amounted to approximately R29.3 billion.