



# Cabinet Statement

**DID YOU KNOW?**

## Cabinet Meeting of 13 March 2019

Cabinet met on Wednesday, 13 March 2019 at Tuynhuys in Cape Town



### 1. ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

**Good Green Deeds**

- Cabinet thanks all South Africans who joined President Cyril Ramaphosa in the launch of the national Good Green Deeds campaign. The campaign presents an opportunity for the various sectors of society to play their part and become more environmentally conscious. South Africa is one of the signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate change, which guides the international efforts to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



the provisions of the Natives Land Act of 1913. The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR) has spent over R203 million in settling and finalising the claims.

**International Labour Organisation Commission on the Future of Work and Edcon Agreement**

- Cabinet welcomes the global commission's report which made 10 recommendations grouped into three pillars: investing in the capabilities of people, investing in the institutions of the world of work; and investing in decent, sustainable work. The recommendation directly speaks to the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment.

make sacrifices and to work closely together.

**At the heart of efforts to ensure that Edcon stays afloat is the impact on employment. More than 40 000 direct jobs and many more thousands of direct and indirect jobs would have been lost if Edcon had not been recapitalized. Cabinet calls on South Africans to support the call made at the Jobs Summit to buy Proudly South African products and support local industry.**

continuing on the successful launch of our MeerKAT telescope and South Africa's critical contribution to the SKA Telescope design. The SKAO will be the first international organisation dedicated to science, in which Africa will exercise a strong leadership role in the science, engineering and policy domains.

**KwaZulu-Natal flooding**

- Cabinet extends its appreciation for the support from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which have also joined forces with government in dispatching aid during the recent floods experienced in some parts of the country.
- In minimising the impact of the recent flash floods in KwaZulu-Natal, government continues to provide aid and support to affected families. Disaster teams and officials are assessing the damage.

**Cabinet urges the public to exercise extreme caution during storms and heavy weather, and not attempt to cross flooded roads, bridges and rivers.**

**Malawi and Mozambique floods**

- South Africa, through President Ramaphosa, received humanitarian and search-and-rescue requests from the President of Malawi, Prof Arthur Peter Mulharika and President of Mozambique, Mr Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, respectively.
- A light aircraft has been dispatched with a team of specialists to Malawi to establish the exact humanitarian assistance required. South Africa remains committed to offering whatever assistance within its capacity to Southern African Development Community member states.

**Square Kilometer Array (SKA)**

- A new era for global science governance was realised when the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, on behalf of the South African Government, signed the international treaty (called the Rome Convention) in Italy, on Tuesday, 12 March 2019.
- This establishes the SKA Observatory (SKAO) as an intergovernmental organisation tasked with building and operating the world's most powerful radio astronomy telescope. South Africa is the partner nation on this historic milestone and reaffirms South Africa's commitment to the SKA project.

Cabinet also, welcomes the joint efforts of government, the Unemployment Insurance Fund (which includes trade unions); and the private sector (banks and shopping mass landlords) to recapitalize Edcon, South Africa's largest clothing retailer. In order to conclude an agreement to save Edcon, all parties had to



It is the duty and responsibility of all people in South Africa to ensure a clean and healthy environment now and for the future generations. A well-managed environment will contribute to reducing the GHG emissions, contribute towards food security, water, energy and general livelihoods.

Cabinet calls on everyone to make the Good Green Deeds campaign a way of living so that our neighbourhoods, communities and the country can become a global example of being clean, green and habitable.

**Land claims**

Cabinet is pleased with the continued roll-out programme of land reforms that seek to correct the wrongs of the past and build a more equitable society that will benefit all South Africans.

In advancing the equitable distribution of land, President Ramaphosa led the handover of the settled and finalised 142 hectares of prime land claims to the community of Moretele in North West, who indicated that they would use the land for development. These communities lost their rights to land when they were abruptly removed from their properties following the implementation of

### 2. CABINET DECISIONS

**2019 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**

- Science and innovation often heralds a different way of doing things and allows us to deal with the long-standing challenges in a decisive and cost-effective manner. To tap into these benefits, Cabinet approved the 2019 White

Paper on STI, which sets the long-term policy direction for a growing role for STI. With the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, STI will position us to take advantage of rapid technological advancements.

- The proposals in this White Paper seek to address:

- policy coherence;
  - development of human capabilities;
  - knowledge expansion;
  - innovation;
  - performance; and
  - increased investment.
- These policy proposals will form the basis of the development of the decadal plans involving all the relevant stakeholders.



### 3. UPCOMING EVENTS

**Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

- When: Thursday 28 March 2019.
- President Ramaphosa will open the Booysens Magistrate's Court in Gauteng.
- Together with various NGOs, he will sign a declaration which begins to implement the decisions of the inaugural Presidential Summit on GBV and Femicide held in November 2018.
- He will also launch the Plettenberg Bay Magistrate's Court in the Western Cape, which will provide services for Family Court, civil cases (including Small Claims Court matters), Sexual Offences Court, regional courts and district courts.
- Government has introduced a number of interventions to support victims of abuse.
- A total of 54 Thuthuzela Care Centres across the country serve as one-stop facilities to reduce secondary victimization and the time of finalizing sexual abuse cases.

Cabinet strongly condemns any form of abuse, including verbal abuse, against women and children. Government remains committed to being at the forefront of the fight to end GBV.

**South Africans are encouraged to report all suspected cases of rape, sexual assault or any form of violence to the police on the toll-free number: 0800 428 428. Incidents of child abuse can be reported to Childline South Africa's toll-free number: 0800 055 555.**

finalised land claims in Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal.

- The Ubizo Community Land Claim consists of 2548 - 7861 Hectares of land is made up of 149 historically disposed households
- has 894 land restitution beneficiaries (30% of which are women), who are direct descendants of this community that will benefit from this handover. The total value of the assets is R136 million.

South Africa will commemorate Human Rights Month focusing on the importance of indigenous languages.

- Cabinet encourages South Africans to give effect to the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
- of 1996 and the Bill of Rights, by preserving and promoting indigenous languages.
- Anti-Racism Week**
- Date:** 14 to 21 March 2019.
- Will be used to further highlight the detrimental effects of racism on society.

**Land restitution**

- When: Saturday, 16 March 2019.
- Through the CRLR, Deputy President David Mabuza, as the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform, together with the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Ms Maite Nkomo-Mashabane, will officiate at the Presidential Handover ceremony for settled and

**Human Rights Month**

- Theme:** "The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening a Human Rights Culture".
- Date of national event:** Thursday, 21 March 2019.
- Where:** Sharpeville, Gauteng.
- 59 years ago residents peacefully protested against the unjust pass laws and were subsequently gunned down by the apartheid police.



### 5. MESSAGES

**Congratulations**

- Cabinet congratulates:
  - All stakeholders who partnered with government in securing that **South Africa hosts the 2023 Netball World Cup**, which will be the first on African soil. Cabinet appreciates the confidence expressed by the International Netball Federation. The country looks forward to giving a warm Ubuntu welcome to the 16 nations who will play 60 matches during the 10-day tournament in the International Convention Centre in Cape Town.
  - Ms Nomzamo Mbatha** who was crowned as the winner of the Goddess Beauty Award at the International Women of Power Awards in Los Angeles, USA. Ms Mbatha is being recognised for her talents on TV as a media personality and an actress, as well as on

her work with the United Nations.

- Mr Vincent Cosa** for the bravery he displayed in rescuing a child during a flash flood in Johannesburg.
- Ms Nosipho Mkhupheka** for winning the Forbes Woman Africa Public Sector Award on Friday, 8 March 2019. Ms Mkhupheka won her award for her commitment to serving people with dignity and beyond office hours, and has been recognised for serving the people of Scottsburg in KwaZulu-Natal diligently.
- Prof Mashudu Tshifularo and his team from the University of Pretoria** who pioneered in the world's first surgical procedure using 3D-printed middle ear bones, for conductive hearing loss rehabilitation. This was done at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital in



Pretoria, on 13 March 2019.

**Condolences**

Cabinet sends condolences to the family and friends of the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Zwi Mkhize, who sadly lost his older brother, **Mr Jabulani**

Matlwele. He was also a founding member of the Independent Theatre Makers Movement, which aims to establish a generation of self-reliant artists by encouraging them to take ownership of their work and acknowledge their potential.

- the victims of the tragic **Ethiopian Airlines plane** which crashed while en route to Nairobi in Kenya from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, killing all passengers and crew members.
- All those who lost their lives in the recent floods in some parts of South Africa as well as in **Malawi and Mozambique**

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

