



Cabinet Statement

DID YOU KNOW?

Cabinet Meeting of 27 February 2019

Cabinet met on Wednesday, 27 February 2019 at Tuynhuys in Cape Town



1. ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

2019 Budget Speech (SoNA)

- Cabinet welcomes the 2019 Budget Speech delivered by Finance Minister Tito Mboweni in Parliament, Cape Town on Wednesday, 20 February 2019, as a framework that has set South Africa on a path where together we are enabled to renew and rebuild our economy into an inclusive and thriving one.
- The Budget Speech brings into effect the commitments outlined by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation Address in Parliament, Cape Town on 7 February 2019.
- Cabinet supports various initiatives, including cutting the public sector wage bill, in order to generate additional savings to strengthen government's finances.
- Imposing strict conditions of financial support to Eskom to help the utility restructure into a viable organisation is also welcomed.
- We all have a part to play in growing the economy and creating jobs for our people. Overcoming the toughest challenges stemming from the legacy of apartheid means working together with government to implement its programmes, grow the economy and attract more foreign investment.

interactions to better understand the roadmap and the implications of separating Eskom's business divisions into three separate operating entities.

- The coal-mining industry was convened under the auspices of the Minerals Council of South Africa (MINCOSA), and the meeting raised problems related to:
 - coal supply;
 - costs and pricing; and
 - the quality of coal provided to Eskom.
- Further engagements were convened with the engineering fraternity under the auspices of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). All engineering specialist disciplines were represented by their respective voluntary associations, including the National Association of Black Engineers.
- The ECSA gave its analysis of the problems facing Eskom and provided a set of recommendations about how to involve the broader South African academic and technical professional fraternity in the urgent interventions required to stabilise electricity supply.
- MINCOSA and ECSA will assist government to establish a Technical Operations and Maintenance Review Team for Eskom that will be announced shortly.

applications, innovation, codes and standards issues that are required for the expansion of renewable energy.

- Renewable energy and energy storage technologies enable us to convert electrical power into an energy form and store it for later use when needed.
- Energy storage systems reduce the need for back-up capacity from coal or gas-fired electrical generation plants, thereby reducing power sector emissions and help us mitigate against climate change.

Gauteng.

- Cabinet makes a special appeal to school governing bodies to assess the existing infrastructure of their schools to ensure that school buildings are safe, regularly maintained and conducive to learning.
- We call on people to show their support at #HandsOfCaster. Let us show the world that we are a nation which values fairness, equality and respect for human dignity.

Semenya. Her case, which is being heard before the Court of Arbitration for Sport, is more than just a sporting matter. It is about fundamental human rights and the inherent dignity of all people.

- Unacceptable practices by some religious leaders
 - Cabinet noted with concern recent media reports about certain unacceptable practices by some religious leaders. The recent purported resurrection of a deceased person is a case in point. More of such incidences have happened in the recent past, ranging from spraying of poisonous insecticides to encouraging them to consume vehicle fuel, rats and grass, among others.
 - People approach religious institutions to gain spiritual fulfilment and psychological strength, especially when they are at their lowest and most vulnerable state.
 - Cabinet calls on all people to work together to stop these practices which abuse people's vulnerability and endanger their lives.
 - The law-enforcement agencies should intervene where acts of criminality have been committed under the guise of religion.
 - Cabinet has also noted that the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities is investigating these practices, which will provide a more comprehensive intervention that will stop them.

attention. We commend efforts by the United Nations (UN) to provide humanitarian support to locals and call on the international community to support the people of Venezuela during this difficult time.

- Cabinet further supports calls for the people of Venezuela to be afforded the opportunity to decide their own future. Drawing from our own experience in South Africa, we believe that a permanent solution can only be achieved from internal and inclusive political dialogue involving all affected parties in that country.

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ESKOM

- Cabinet received a report from Deputy President David Mabuza on the work of the Joint Special Cabinet Committee on Eskom that was established in response to recent electricity supply disruptions and the negative impact on the economy. Government's coordinated efforts to bring financial, operational and structural sustainability to Eskom are proceeding in earnest.
- The Special Cabinet Committee is convened by Deputy President Mabuza and includes the Ministers of Public Enterprises, Energy, Transport, Finance, Police and State Security. It will be required to monitor energy supply daily.
- In line with President Ramaphosa's commitment that government's response to the electricity crisis must be inclusive and consultative, the Minister of Public Enterprises and the Eskom Board Chairperson had their first preliminary engagement with the leadership of the three labour unions recognised by Eskom, the coal-mining industry and the engineering fraternity.
- The meeting with labour reported on the problems with Eskom's operations and generation system as well as maintenance and unplanned outages.
- The meeting sought to establish a basis for formal future consultations.
- The restructuring of Eskom was also discussed, and all parties agreed that there would be more

interactions to better understand the roadmap and the implications of separating Eskom's business divisions into three separate operating entities.

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2. CABINET DECISIONS

- National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**
 - Since 1994, successive administrations have worked to unite all our people, foster national unity and ensure greater social cohesion. Healing the divisions of the past is a continuous process that must go hand in hand with ensuring greater economic opportunities for more people. Cabinet has therefore approved the NAP to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance for tabling at the UN.

Racism held in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal in 2001.

- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**
 - Cabinet approved submission of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to Parliament for ratification in terms of Section 231(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.
 - Ratification promotes constitutionalism and human rights, and is in accordance with South Africa's international obligations. The Constitution provides for the prevention of the rights of persons held in places of detention through state sanction or court order.

coin series: Africa's Big Five; 2019-2021 platinum coin series: Africa's Big Five; 2020 Natfura coin series: the Supercontinent Gondwana; 2020 Natfura coin series: R25 fine-silver coin: Cradle of Humankind - Hominids; 2020 21/2c tickey and R2 crown series: South African Inventions - Retinal Cryoprobe; 2020 R10 and R5 colour coin series: Birds and Flowers of the Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve; and 2021 Natfura coin series: R25 fine-silver coin: the Supercontinent Gondwana.

3. BILLS

- Tourism Amendment Bill**
 - The Bill is a sector that holds the promise of incredible opportunities and must be nurtured to grow and further develop. The NDP recognises that tourism has the potential to become one of the main drivers in the economy.
 - In further pursuing the country's tourism potential as a significant generator of jobs and revenue, Cabinet approved the publication of the Tourism Amendment Bill for public comment, which amends the Tourism Act, 2014 (Act 3 of 2014).
 - The amendments improve the governance of South African Tourism as an entity under the authority of a board. They also empower the Minister of Tourism to determine the

Service Bill of 2019 in the *Government Gazette*, for public comment.

- The Bill provides for the establishment of a public entity that will streamline applications into digital education and training programmes, reduce the cost of application, provide applicants with information on academic programmes and enable the Department of Higher Education and Training and institutions of higher learning to monitor equity and demographics.

the publication of South African Public Library and Information Services Bill of 2019 for public comment. The Bill seeks to address the transformational issues in providing public libraries with the communities, particularly those previously disadvantaged communities.

- Cognisant of the fact that the provision of public libraries in terms of the Constitution is a competence of the municipalities, this Bill, amongst others, provides the norms and standards of the ideal public library. It also promotes cooperative governance and coordination across the three spheres of government regarding public library and information services.
- Once approved, the Bill will address the historical inequalities in respect of public libraries and provide for sufficient resources for impaired persons, young, elderly and non-English speakers in urban and rural areas.
- Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa will hold a media briefing to unpack the Bill.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Declaration of gender-based violence (GBV)**
 - When:** Date to be announced.
 - The fight against the threat of GBV will be strengthened when President Ramaphosa, together with various non-governmental organisations, signs a declaration to combat GBV. The signing ceremony follows the inaugural Presidential GBV and Femicide Summit held in November last year.
- 63rd Session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women**
 - When:** Wednesday, 13 March 2019.
 - Where:** New York, USA.
 - The Minister of Women, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, will be leading a delegation to present the country report for the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.
 - The commission will consider "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls" as a priority theme.
 - The report will highlight
- Inaugural Maritime Transport Sector Dialogue**
 - When:** From 28 February to 1 March 2019.
 - Where:** Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

South Africa's commitment to addressing gender inequality and inequity in the country, and continue to introduce programmes and actions to address these.

- The dialogue signifies the commitment made by the Department of Transport in 2019 to accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy (CMTP) approved by Cabinet in 2017.
- The event will consider actions that must be undertaken to deepen transformation, attract investment into strategic maritime infrastructure projects considered as critical in the positioning South Africa as an International Maritime Centre. It is also a build-up to the future establishment of the Maritime Transport Sector Development Council as envisaged by the CMTP.

The responsibility to ensure a clean and safe environment rests with all South Africans.

- Keeping our communities clean starts with us, and it is important that homes and businesses implement sustainable waste management practices.
- The President will also launch the Operation Phakisa: Chemical and Waste Economy, which aims to support the South African economy while reducing its environmental footprint.

5. MESSAGES

- Congratulations**
 - Cabinet congratulates:
 - underwater photographer Allen Walker** of Warner Beach for winning the shark photography category at the World ShootOut 2018 awards held in Germany.
 - Chef Kobus van der Merwe** of Wollgat restaurant in Paternoster in the Western Cape, which won the Restaurant of the Year Award at the Inaugural World Restaurant Awards in Paris.
 - the people of Nigeria and Senegal** – and also echoes the sentiment of the African Union Commission – for holding successful elections. We look forward to the deepening of bilateral political, economic and trade relations between South Africa and both countries.

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- Condolences**
 - Cabinet joins President Ramaphosa in expressing condolences on the passing of jazz performer and recipient of the National Order of Ikhamanga, **Mama Dorothy Masuka**, at the age of 83. Mama Masuka will be remembered for her

immense contribution to the cultural heritage of South Africa and the continent.

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