President Jacob Zuma delivered his State of the Nation Address (SoNA) in Parliament, Cape Town, on Thursday, 12 February 2015.

“The year 2015 is the Year of the freedom charter and Unity in Action to advance economic freedom. It is the year of giving the extra mile in building a united, democratic, non-racial, non-violent and prosperous South Africa. It is also the year of reinvigorating ourselves to reduce reality and all related indicators in the country in line with the vision of the Freedom Charter, by educating our children and the youth about the rich heritage of the country.”

President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address, 12 February 2015

The President outlined a six-point plan to ignite economic growth and create jobs, namely:

1. Resolving the energy challenge.
2. Promoting agriculture and the agro-processing value chain.
3. Advancing beneficiation and adding value to the mineral wealth.
5. Encouraging private sector investment.

The short and medium-term plan involves:

- Resolving the energy challenge.
- Increasing capacity of the nation’s power stations — Chief Mbalula and Ben Ngubane — will add 10 000 megawatts (MW) of capacity to the national grid.
- Resolving the load shedding challenge.
- Resolving the energy price challenge.

The SoNA highlighted that the President has started the process to ensure that the power stations are on line to generate energy for the utility’s generators.

The short and medium-term plan involves:

- Investment in 2 500 MW of new coal-fired capacity.
- Increasing capacity of the nation’s power stations.
- Resolving the energy price challenge.
- Resolving the load shedding challenge.

The energy mix involving the long-term energy roster plan will involve power gas, petrochemicals, nuclear power and other sources.

The automatic investment scheme has unlocked private sector investment of R25 billion and generated exports of automotive and components of R90 billion in 2013.

MANUFACTURING

The implementation of a number of programmes under the framework approved for a sustainable manufacturing sector has led to the creation of many jobs and industries.

Mining

The mining sector is also contributing to the country’s economic growth by attracting more investors and creating jobs.

The implementation of the Year of the freedom charter and Unity in Action to advance economic freedom is the year of giving the extra mile in building a united, democratic, non-racial, non-violent and prosperous South Africa. It is also the year of reinvigorating ourselves to reduce reality and all related indicators in the country in line with the vision of the Freedom Charter.

Together we move South Africa forward
Government will spend over R6 billion on transport projects in 13 cities. This includes planning, building and operating integrated public transport systems in 12 cities, with the exception of Port Elizabeth. Over R1.5 billion will be spent on the Provincial Roads Maintenance Programme. The Department of Transport will spend about R9 billion on the Provincial Roads Maintenance Programme. The Department of Transport will spend about R9 billion on the Provincial Roads Maintenance Programme. The Department of Transport will spend about R9 billion on the Provincial Roads Maintenance Programme. The Department of Transport will spend about R9 billion on the Provincial Roads Maintenance Programme.

Promotion of youth-owned businesses
Government will continue to promote opportunities for the youth. This includes youth-focused employment initiatives and the development of youth-owned businesses.

Housing the nation
Government continues to deliver houses to the people. By 30 September 2014, more than 88,000 houses were delivered in the social and affordable housing segments. Government will also provide 3,688 housing units by military veterans. It will also work to finance the building of 90,000 homes.

Operation Phakisa
Government launched the “Operation Phakisa” to promote good governance and effective administration by creating new, strategic partners in the oil and gas sector.

Water conservation
Government has designated Telkom as the lead agency to assist with broadband roll-out.

Broadband roll-out
The year 2015 marks the beginning of the first phase of broadband roll-out. Government will connect all 83 districts in 83 municipalities.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The National Infrastructure Development Programme continues to be a key job-driver and catalyst for economic growth.

Water is a critical resource for economic growth and a better life. Several projects aimed at providing water for industrial and household use are under implementation or planning phases.

Major projects include the Umzimvubu Project in the Eastern Cape, the joint and integrated infrastructure development projects in Limpopo, and the Khama Phalane Water Augmentation Project in Limpopo.

Progress is being made to improve the water supply to areas that had been affected by shortages, such as Mohale’s Hoek District in Lesotho.

The Department of Transport will spend about R9 billion on the Provincial Roads Maintenance Programme.