

# Cabinet Statement

Statement on the Cabinet Meeting of  
Wednesday, 26 April 2023



## ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

### ■ South Africa Investment Conference (SAIC) 2023

- Cabinet acknowledged the attainment of the R1.2 trillion investment mobilisation goal that was set by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2018. Investment commitments made at the 5th SAIC enabled government to exceed the set target by R300 billion.



three-day event focused on strategic economic sectors such as automotive, pharmaceutical, agriculture and agro-processing, leather and footwear, transport and logistics infrastructure, and the digital economy, including digital trade.

- Boosting Africa's productive capacity in all sectors of the economy was widely recognised as a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the AfCFTA. The private sector was called upon to identify opportunities to increase investment in regional value chains and development of local manufacturing capacities to increase intra-Africa trade of products and services made in Africa.

### ■ Electricity Demand Management Campaign

- One of the easiest ways we can all help to keep the lights on is by lowering electricity usage, especially during periods of high energy consumption, typically from 5pm to 9pm, as part of Demand Side Management initiatives. By lowering our consumption we can create a win-win situation that both reduces pressure on the power grid and saves households money without affecting business productivity or quality of life.

**Cabinet calls on everyone to assist in saving electricity by using it sparingly while Eskom works with Independent Power Producers to bring new capacity online.**

**Demand Side Management measures are a global phenomenon and have proved effective in reducing peak demand and promoting energy conservation.**

- We have demonstrated this during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. The aim is that collectively we must save electricity by switching off non-essential appliances, using gas to cook, installing energy efficient light bulbs, and switching off appliances like geysers when not in use.
- The target is to save about

1 000 MW of power, which is equivalent to one stage of load-shedding.

- Cabinet notes that a number of large customers are already participating in the Eskom's Demand Side initiatives, and calls on all stakeholders from business, industry and residential customers to heed the call and join the Demand Side Management campaign.

### ■ Access to water

- Cabinet welcomed the opening of the completed Spring Grove Water Treatment Plant in Rosetta and the Bruntville Reservoir as part of the Greater Mpofana Bulk Water Supply Scheme in Mooi River, uMgungundlovu District of KwaZulu-Natal.
- This project brings reliable water supply and dignity to 130 000 residents in the district, along with the social and economic benefits that flow from the supply of water.
- Cabinet also noted that progress is being made on the Giyani Water Project, with 24 out of 55 villages identified to benefit from the project will soon have water.

### ■ Electoral Amendment Act

- Cabinet acknowledged the signing into law of the Electoral Amendment Bill of 2022 by President Ramaphosa. The updated legislation provides the legal certainty required to prepare the country for the 2024 General Election. The amended Electoral Act provides for the inclusion of independent candidates as contesters to elections in the National Assembly and provincial legislatures.
- The Electoral Amendment Bill expands electoral participation and leadership choices for the citizens of South Africa beyond political parties in the National Assembly and provincial legislatures.

### ■ Freedom Day

- The various Freedom Day celebrations held across the country yesterday, 27 April 2023 reminded us that our common national identity, is built on respect for each other and our passion for and pride in our country.
- The national Freedom Day commemoration, which took

place at Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in North West, was convened under the theme: "Consolidating and Safeguarding Democratic Gains".

- Freedom Day 2023 coincides with the 27th anniversary of the enactment of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 and marks 29 Years of Freedom.

### ■ International relations

- President Ramaphosa hosted President Hage Geingob of Namibia during a State Visit aimed at further strengthening the deep historical ties shared by our two nations.
- Discussions between the two Heads of State and Ministerial delegations centred on bilateral relations, collaboration between our two countries on global issues and cooperation in trade and investment. This partnership will be further cemented by the hosting of a business forum between companies from the two countries in Namibia later this year.
- President Ramaphosa hosted Finnish President Sauli Niinistö on 25 April for a State Visit. Relations between South Africa and Finland are deep rooted and born out of Finland's strong support for South Africa's liberation movements. Relations between the two countries have grown steadily since 1994, with Finland investing more than R2 billion in South Africa in the last three years.

### ■ Evacuation of South Africans and other nations from Sudan

- Cabinet welcomed a report setting out the complex but successful evacuation of South Africans from Sudan where conflict is impacting on citizens and nationals from other countries.
- The Department of International Relations and Cooperation, and the South African Air Force, worked together to bring South Africans to safety.
- The South African evacuation mission also assisted nationals from Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Brazil.
- Cabinet expressed its appreciation to the government of Egypt for supporting our evacuation mission and the United Arab Emirates for evacuating one South African who is now being assisted by our mission in Jeddah to return home
- There are five South Africans who are still in Sudan because at the time of the evacuation they had not made contact with our embassy. Cabinet is appealing to South Africans to always notify our Missions of their presence when travelling abroad, including for holiday purposes.
- Cabinet reiterated the call for

an end to hostilities in Sudan, and calls for peace and calm among the parties involved in the conflict, in keeping with the African Union objective of silencing the guns on the continent.

### ■ Investment in higher education facilities

- On 24 April 2023, Higher Education, Science and Innovation Minister Blade Nzimande unveiled two buildings at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) funded through the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) Infrastructure and Efficiency Grant (IEG), and Sibusiso Bengu Development Programme (SB-DP):
- New Education Faculty Building (known as the South Campus Education Precinct Project) – R268.659 million funded through both the IEG and SB-DP was used to upgrade an existing building that previously housed the Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Sciences and Statistics Faculty.
- Unibell Residence – R670 million funded through the IEG and Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) loan for the construction of a 2 720 bed student housing project consisting of four floors per block, with six blocks constructed on a site in Belhar, adjoining the main Bellville campus.
- The Unibell Residence project was made possible through collective effort with the DHET's IEG contribution of R235 million (35%) and UWC's own funds (30%) augmented by debt financing from the DBSA (35%).
- On 21 April 2023, Minister Nzimande unveiled two buildings and an IT Hub at the Walter Sisulu University in Mthatha funded through the IEG and SB-DP. These buildings are located on the Nelson Mandela Drive and Zamukulungisa delivery sites.
- East Teaching Mall – R25.971 million funded through the IEG was used to complete the refurbishment of 19 lecture halls and 13 tutorial rooms for teaching and learning at the Nelson Mandela Drive delivery site.
- Student Residence – R52.799 million funded through the IEG was used to complete the refurbishment of KTC and KGB student residences with a total of 314 student beds at the Nelson Mandela Drive delivery site.
- IT Hub – R14.135 million funded through the SB-DP and used to complete the construction of new IT hub which will serve as the multifunctional space for students and lecturers at the Zamukulungisa delivery sites.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ■ Africa Month

- South Africa will mark Africa Month and Africa Day in May 2023, along with the rest of the continent. On 25 May 2023, Africa will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity.

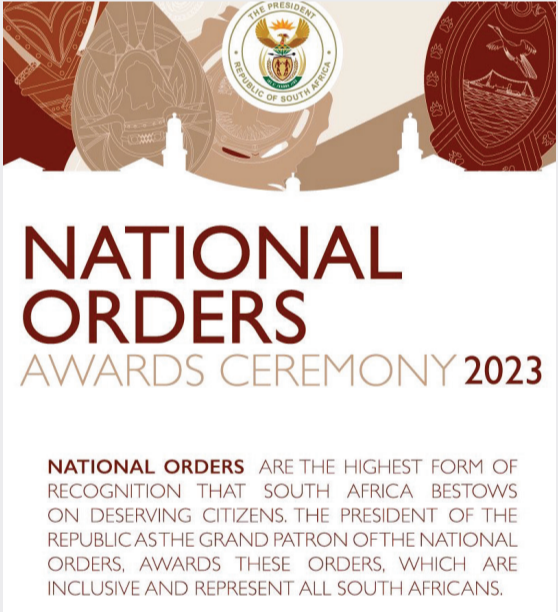
**The month is an opportunity to promote African unity, deeper regional integration and recommit Africa to a common destiny. Cabinet calls on all South Africans to work together and strive to build a better, more united and prosperous continent.**

### ■ National Orders

- President Ramaphosa will bestow National Orders on South Africans and eminent foreign nationals on 28 April 2023. National Orders are the highest awards that our country bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals who have contributed towards the advancement of democracy and have made a significant impact on improving the lives of South Africans.
- The National Orders also recognise the contributions made by individuals towards building a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa as envisaged in our Constitution.

### ■ Budget Votes

- In May, government departments will present their Budget Votes to Parliament.
- Budget Votes combine a review of a department's performance during the past



financial year as well as its plans for implementing the commitments set out by the President in the State of the Nation Address.

**Cabinet calls on citizens to closely follow the Budget Votes to see how respective departments will prioritise service delivery in the period ahead.**

- On 4 May 2023, the Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, will lead an Imbizo and Service Fair in Soweto as part of the build-up to their Budget Vote on 10 May 2023.
- This event will address challenges in the Human Settlements portfolio local residents are experiencing as well as promote sector programmes which benefit communities from this portfolio.

### ■ Workers' Day

- Workers' Day will be

commemorated on Monday, 1 May 2023, in recognition of the pivotal role that workers play in building the economy and society envisaged in the National Development Plan.

- Workers' Day allows us to reflect on the gains workers have secured during 29 years of freedom and to identify the challenges workers face in a constrained economy.
- It is also a day for us to recommit ourselves to doing all we can to create opportunities for the millions of South African workers who are unemployed and are unable to exercise their skills or to provide for themselves and those around them.
- Government's commitment to improving workplace conditions and equity in the labour market is reflected in significant amendments to the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act and

Employment Equity Act, which were recently signed into law by President Ramaphosa.

### ■ World Press Freedom Day

- South Africa will join the rest of the world in commemorating World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2023. This day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and assess the state of media freedom in our society as well as the challenges faced by media and the role played by rapidly evolving media in our society.

**A free and independent media is an integral part of any democracy, and we will continue to ensure that the media are free to report accurately, fairly and independently.**

### ■ Netball World Cup

- With less than 100 days to the start of the first Netball World Cup to be held on African soil from 28 July to 6 August, Cabinet calls on the nation to roll out the red carpet once again as host nation for an international event.
- With the Netball World Cup taking place in Cape Town, South Africa will build on its proven track record in successful mega-events, including the recent Formula E Cape Town ePrix.
- Lessons learned from hosting these events have been integrated into our planning to ensure that sporting fans and visitors to our shores have an enjoyable and safe stay.

**Cabinet calls on everyone to support the Netball Fridays' campaign which encourages everyone to dress up in their supporter's outfits every Friday to show their support for the South African National Netball Team who are known as the Spar Proteas.**

### ■ 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the Basel Convention

- South Africa will participate at COP 16 to the Basel Convention to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 1 to 2 May 2023.
- The Basel Convention was put in place to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects that may result from the movement of hazardous wastes. South Africa acceded to this convention on 5 May 1994.
- Cabinet has approved South Africa's negotiating mandate for the COP 16 to the Basel Convention.
- COP 16 to will be held back to back with the 11th meeting of the COP to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in Internal Trade.
- This treaty promotes shared responsibility and cooperation among parties in the international trade of hazardous chemicals. South Africa ratified these treaties because they have positive implications for the environment and human health.

## MESSAGES

### ■ Congratulations

*Cabinet extended its congratulations and well-wishes to:*

- the family and friends of jazz legend Hugh Masekela.** Bra Hugh was posthumously inducted into the Portgum Hall of Fame in New York. The late South African musician joins inductees such as Louis Armstrong, Nat "King" Cole and Miles Davis.
- Cabinet also acknowledged **HOT 102.7 FM** for being honoured as a finalist in four categories at the 2023 New York Festival's Radio Awards in the United States, which celebrates industry players from over 30 countries.

### ■ Condolences

*Cabinet expressed condolences to the family and friends of:*

- Mr Harry Belafonte**, the internationally acclaimed American singer, actor and activist. He was an erudite campaigner for civil rights of African Americans and he brought global attention to the anti-apartheid struggle. He played a crucial role in launching the international careers of South African musicians Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela, which exposed the world to South African melodies, harmonies and rhythms which communicated all dimensions of life in South Africa, and centrally, our struggle for freedom.
- Mr Tiego Moseneke**, a prominent lawyer, businessman and former student activist.
- Mr Mbuleni Musi**, a former uMkhonto We Sizwe operative

and Commissar, part of the June 16 1976 activists, a highly regarded and accomplished public servant, and veteran communicator who served government with distinction.

- Former Free State Premier Beatrice Marshoff**, who selflessly served the people of South Africa in many roles throughout her long and distinguished career.
- Mr Loyiso Nkholi**, a community activist who dedicated his life to improve the lives of under-served communities of the Western Cape townships. He was killed while conducting community facilitation for the relocation of people residing along the railway line in preparation of the restoration of the Central Line train service.

Cabinet directed law-enforcement agencies to bring to book those responsible for the murder of Mr Nkholi. Cabinet extends well wishes for the speedy recovery of those who were injured during the incident.

- friends Nqobile Zulu**, 5, and **Tshiamo Ramanye**, 6, whose bodies were found mutilated in Soweto on Thursday, 20 April 2023. Cabinet condemns the gruesome murders in the strongest possible terms and calls on the public to assist the police in finding the perpetrators. If anyone has any information they are urged to contact the Crime Stop hotline at 08600 10111.
- eight members of the Memele family** from the Imbali

Township in Pietermaritzburg who were shot dead as visitors to two women who were well as in their home on Friday, 21 April 2023.

- Cabinet commends the police for speedily tracking down the alleged suspects and for recovering three firearms. One suspect was shot dead in an exchange of fire with police on Friday, 21 April 2023. A second suspect was wounded and taken into custody and one fled.

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**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**