

# Cabinet Statement

Statement on the Cabinet Meeting  
of Wednesday, 26 March 2025



G20 SOUTH AFRICA 2025



## ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

### ECONOMY Investment

- Cabinet expressed confidence in the resilience of the economy, as the country continues to forge partnerships to build key sectors and attract new investments.
- Cabinet also welcomed the launch of Google South Africa's R2.5-billion cloud region in Johannesburg, which integrates South Africa into Google Cloud's global network. This project is Google's first in Africa and marks a significant investment in South Africa's technology infrastructure.

Cabinet calls on all sectors to accelerate our country's path towards sustainable inclusive economic growth and job creation through increased investment and by reinforcing the many positives about our country.

### Private Sector Participation in Rail and Port Freight Logistics Projects

- Cabinet welcomed the launch of the Request for Information on Private Sector Participation in Rail and Port Freight Logistics Projects, as this is part of the critical reforms to improve South Africa's logistics sector and thus improving economic growth through improved exports.
- The Roadmap for Freight Logistics System in South Africa promotes the greater competition in rail and port terminal operations, which will attract private investment but strategic infrastructure such as rail lines and ports remain in public ownership.

### Energy

- Cabinet welcomed the addition of 800 megawatts of new generation capacity to the national grid after Eskom successfully brought Kusile Power Station's final generation unit online. This will help stabilise the grid and strengthen our nation's future energy security.

### Quarterly Employment Statistics

- Cabinet welcomed the increase in employment by 12 000 jobs to 10.64 million in the formal

non-agricultural sector during the fourth quarter of 2024. The Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) Quarterly Employment Statistics reflected employment gains in the trade, business services, transport and electricity sectors.

- Despite the modest improvement, full-time employment remains lower than it was a year ago.

Cabinet has committed to drive structural reforms and implement economic growth focused programmes to create a conducive environment for job creation.

### Proclamation of the Climate Change Act of 2024

- Cabinet welcomed the proclamation of the Climate Change Act, 2024 (Act 22 of 2024) by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday, 17 March 2025, which enables the development of effective climate change policies and the long-term plan for a transition to a low-carbon economy and society.
- Cabinet also welcomed the International Partners Group (IPG), a coalition of countries comprising the United Kingdom, Germany, France and the European Union (EU), to fill the funding gap left by the United States (US) after its withdrawal from the Just Energy Transition Partnership.
- The total international pledges to South Africa now amount to US\$12.8 billion, which include more than US\$9 billion from the IPG along with contributions from Spain, Switzerland and Canada.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS South Africa – Japan Relations

- Cabinet welcomed the firmer ties between South Africa and Japan following Deputy President Paul Mashatile's working visit to Japan from 17 to 19 March 2025 aimed at strengthening the existing cooperation between South Africa and Japan in areas of mutual interest.
- Engagements were also held with the Japan International Cooperation Agency to explore areas of economic collaboration, the Association for African

Economic Development in Japan to discuss trade and investment opportunities and the Japan Organisation for Metals and Energy Security to highlight investment opportunities in the mining sector.

### HEALTH Hemp and Cannabis Food Product Regulations withdrawal

- Cabinet welcomed the withdrawal by the Department of Health of regulations banning the sale of hemp and cannabis food products.
- Whilst acknowledging the negative impact of the unregulated sale of hemp and cannabis food products on possible consumption by children, such regulations must be fully consulted, must not be in contempt of the Constitutional Court Judgement and must not contravene the Cannabis for Private Purposes Act (CfPPA), 2024 (Act 7 of 2024).
- The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is coordinating interdepartmental draft regulations for the implementation of the CfPPA of 2024.

### Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

- Cabinet was updated on the extension of the KwaZulu-Natal's Disease Management Area (DMA) boundaries to curb further outbreaks of FMD.
- The DMA has been expanded to include the following municipalities: Big Five Hlabisa; Mtubatuba; Nongoma; Ulundi; Umhlabyalingana; Jozini; Pongola; Abaqulusi; Mfolozi; uMhlathuze; Mthonjaneni; Nqutu; Nkandla; uMlalazi and Mandeni.
- No cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, sheep and goats), their products or genetic material may be moved from or within the DMA unless authorised by a state veterinary permit.

### JUSTICE, CRIME PREVENTION AND SECURITY Crime Prevention

- Cabinet welcomed the arrest of 12 892 suspects between 17 and 23 March 2025 by the South African Police Service (SAPS) as part of Operation Shanela.

- These include 1 753 wanted suspects for serious and violent crimes such as murder, attempted murder, rape, business and house robberies. Additionally, 1 794 suspects were arrested for assault with Grievous Bodily Harm and 203 drug dealers were arrested. A further 1 507 suspects were arrested for possession of drugs and 115 suspects for the possession of illegal firearms.

### Continuing Misinformation and Disinformation Campaigns

- Cabinet noted with concern continuing misinformation campaigns by Solidaritet and AfriForum and their allies, and law-enforcement agencies are investigating the violations of South African laws.

To prevent further misinformation, the SAPS met with AfriForum to clarify the allegations of white genocide with reference to farm murders.

- At the meeting AfriForum conceded that the crime statistics released by the Minister of Police are accurate, including on farm murders.

It is common knowledge that some of the farm murders are committed by people known to the farmers, including family members.

- Cabinet is also aware of the false claim that there are approximately 72 000 white farmers who have signed up to relocate to the USA in response to the invitation by the US President.
- According to data, both from AgriSA and the Department of Agriculture, and Stats SA, South Africa only has 41 000 commercial farmers.

### Fight Against Corruption

- Cabinet welcomed the Border Management and Immigration Anti-Corruption Forum launched on 25 March 2025, as part of efforts to clamp down on corruption in border management and immigration.

## UPDATES TO CABINET

### Group of Twenty (G20) Summit Preparatory Meetings

- South Africa continues to host a series of high-level G20 meetings in the build-up to the G20 Summit in November 2025. Recent meetings were held as follows:
  - ✓ The First G20 Trade and Investment Working Group meeting took place virtually from 18 to 20 March 2025 and it discussed building inclusive economies, the successes and failures of the multilateral trade system over the last 30 years. It also discussed trade and inclusive growth, a responsive trade agenda, green industrialisation and the reform of the World Trade Organisation.
  - ✓ A National Dialogue towards the Agricultural Working Group engagement and the G20's Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists held on 18 March 2025 (virtually) and discussed agricultural sustainability, innovation and resilience.
  - ✓ The G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group met in Pretoria on 18 March to deliberate on Africa's debt crisis.
  - ✓ South Africa hosted the preparatory meeting on 20 March 2025 for the African Union-Africa Water Investment Programme Water Investment Summit 2025 scheduled for August 2025.
  - ✓ The G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group convened on 25 March 2025, and focused key environmental and climate change priorities.

- ✓ The second G20 Health Working Group Meeting is currently underway until 28 March 2025. The meeting is deliberating on strengthening and promoting equitable access to health services.
- ✓ The G20 Digital Economy Working Group Task Force on Artificial Intelligence will take place in Gqeberha from 7 to 11 April 2025 to focus on digital transformation, and inclusive social and economic growth.
- Cabinet also received an assessment report on the status and preservation of South Africa's World Heritage sites in line with the G20 Minimum Standards for preparation and hosting of G20. Cabinet noted that seven out of 12 South Africa's World Heritage sites are ready to host G20 guests, but some refurbishment is required for an enhanced visitor experience.

### 8th South Africa – EU Summit

- Cabinet welcomed the strengthening of the Strategic Partnership between South Africa and the EU at the 8th South Africa – EU Summit held on 13 March 2025 in South Africa.
- The EU reiterated its support for South Africa's G20 Presidency and the importance of the G20 as a global forum for international economic cooperation.
- The EU also announced a R93.5-billion Global Gateway Investment Package to support strategic investment projects in clean and just

energy transition, digital and physical connectivity infrastructure, and the local pharmaceutical industry.

### Progress report on the registration of spaza shops and other food-handling outlets and interventions to curb foodborne illnesses

- Cabinet received a progress report on the registration of spaza shops and other food-handling outlets as well as an update on the work that is being done to curb foodborne illnesses.
- The registration process is completed unless for a person wishing to open a new spaza shop.

### Migration of South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) grant beneficiaries to the new Postbank card

- Cabinet received an update on the migration of SASSA grant beneficiaries to the new and secure Postbank Black Card.
- The deadline for SASSA beneficiaries to swap their SASSA Gold Card for the Postbank Black Card has been extended to 30 April 2025 to allow SASSA and the Department of Social Development to complete the migration of the outstanding beneficiaries.

## CABINET DECISIONS

### Phase 2 of Operation Vulindlela (OV)

- Cabinet approved the focus areas of OV, a joint initiative of The Presidency and National Treasury to drive structural reforms.
- The focus areas include the completion of outstanding work on Phase 1 in the areas of energy, water, visa, and logistics reforms, and new focus areas of local government, spatial inequality and digital transformation.
- Cabinet directed OV in consultation with relevant line departments to consider additional reforms focus areas in re-industrialisation and localisation, to unlock infrastructure build, and the oil and gas sector, and exploration.
- Cabinet noted that South Africa remains the eighth country with the largest reserves of gas and the impending gas cliff requires the country to build self-provisioning capacity in gas.
- Cabinet will also hold special meeting to focus on an Economic Growth Plan within the next four weeks.

### Integrated Water Quality Management Policy

- Cabinet approved the implementation of the Integrated Water Quality Management Policy. The policy seeks to address water quality challenges as outlined in the 1997 *White Paper on a National Water Policy for South Africa* and the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).
- The policy outlines a set of principles that form the basis for water quality management. It provides an alignment to all the relevant water-related legislation, and the country's global commitments to the provision and conservation of water as a scarce resource.

### South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM)

- Cabinet approved the SAREM) for implementation. It seeks to leverage the rising demand for renewable energy and storage technologies to promote industrialisation and localisation.
- The SAREM focuses on solar and wind energy, lithium-ion, battery and vanadium-based battery storage technologies and is designed to be a living document.
- Cabinet directed that additional work be done on the Masterplan to:
  - ✓ incentivise investors to fund renewable energy supplier development; and
  - ✓ include the development of green hydrogen fuel to meet the international obligation of 5% blended fuel in aviation and maritime sectors by 2030.

### Digital Transformation of Government Roadmap

- Cabinet approved the Digital Transformation of Government Roadmap that aims to leverage technology to enhance public service delivery and government efficiency. Issues which are being addressed include: interdepartmental coordination, outdated systems, overlapping mandates and limited skills or capacity.
- It is designed to deliver a people-centred digital government that better understands the needs of the people, particularly vulnerable groups, by ensuring efficient and effective service delivery.

## BILL

### Draft South African National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency (NWRIA) Amendment Bill

- Cabinet approved the submission of the draft NWRIA Amendment Bill to Parliament. The amendments relate to the listing of the NWRIA as a Schedule 2 state-owned company.

## MESSAGES

### Congratulations

Cabinet extends its congratulations and well-wishes to:

#### Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

on her inauguration as President of Namibia. She is also the first female President of her country, who appointed the first-ever female Vice President, Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi and a female-dominated Cabinet.

#### Teams South Africa

for their outstanding performance at the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Italy and the World Athletics Indoor Championship in China.

- Naledi Hlalele** won gold in Figure Skating;
- Bianca Basson** and **Kenneth Mokoba** won silver in Figure Skating;
- Shane Bentley** won silver in Short Track Speed Skating;
- Tyrell Sykes** won bronze in Figure Skating; and

- Shirnel Swarts** won bronze in Short Track Speed Skating.
- Team SA** at the World Athletics Indoor Championship in China, won as follows:

- Prudence Sekgodiso** delivered a historic win by being the first South African woman to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Indoor Championships in the 800m.
- Akani Simbine** for winning the bronze medal in the 60m final at the World Athletics Indoor Championships.
- Magnificent efforts were also achieved by **Cheswill Johnson** in the men's long jump and **Chris van Niekerk** in the shot put.
- Youth sprinting sensation **Bayanda Walaza**, who broke through the sub-10 barrier, clocking the fifth worlds-fastest junior 100 meter and South Africa's Under-20 record at 9.99 seconds to win Gold at the Athletics Gauteng North Championships.
- Rassie Erasmus** for being named Coach of the Year for 2024 at the SA Rugby Awards.

- Springbok **Cheslin Kolbe** for becoming the first backline player since 2013 to win the 2024 SA Rugby Men's Player of the Year.

- Nadine Roos** for being honoured as SA Rugby Women's Player of the Year for 2024, the second time in three years.
- Bafana Bafana** for topping Group C in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers with a 2-0 triumph over Lesotho at the full-to-capacity Peter Mokaba Stadium.
- South African singer **Tyla Laura Seethal**, popularly known as **Tyla**, named World Artist of the Year at the iHeartRadio Music Awards.

### Condolences

Cabinet expressed condolences to the friends and family of:

- Ms Yolanda Nyembezi**, popularly known as Yallunder, was a multifaceted musician who captivated audiences with her rich voice and passionate artistry.
- Mr Ashwin Trikamjee**, President of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha and Chairperson of the National Religious

Leaders Forum. A human rights lawyer. He was also instrumental in the development of football (soccer) in South Africa. As an anti-apartheid activist, he led the Durban Central component of the Natal Indian Congress.

- The six community patrollers** who were killed and sends well-wishes for speedy recovery to the other six who were injured at the Marry Me informal settlement in Soshanguve. The deceased are Mpho Johannes Koko, Phelomon Seshoka, Katlego Motloutsi, Andries Moreteleli Thabane, Siliky Ngoeng, and one person whose identity is still unknown. Two people linked to the crime have been arrested and appeared in court on Wednesday, 26 March 2025.
- Mr James O'Connell**, the pilot who was killed when his Impala Mark 1 aeroplane crashed while performing at the West Coast Air Show at the Saldanha Airfield in the Western Cape.

Enquiries:  
**Ms Nomonde Mnu kwa**  
Acting Government  
Spokesperson  
**Mobile:** 083 653 7485  
**www.gcis.gov.za**  
**www.gov.za**

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