




## State of the Nation Address (SoNA) 2014: What does the public say?


Government Communications officials asked South African citizens who watched the State of the Nation Address by President Jacob Zuma on 13 February 2014 at public viewing sites for their opinion.


NAME: Sifiso Sokhele OCCUPATION: Self employed PROVINCE: KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) VENUE: Mandeni Sibusisiwe Hall		
What did you think about the speech?	"Very convincing; highly appreciated, gave people of South Africa hope."	
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes expected and appreciated the report on jobs; and socio-economic wellbeing of South Africans"	
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Prosecution of people involved in corruption - need to know what exactly happens to them as some of them get away."	
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Establish more crime-fighting programmes and all government departments involved in crime fighting must be brought closer to the people, especially from Local Government. More must be done to eliminate protests."	
General remark	"Cabinet Morale so high."	

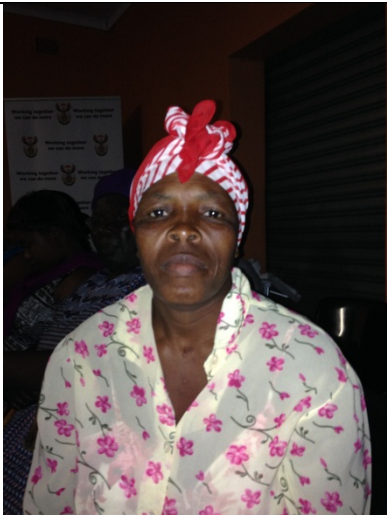
NAME: Silindile Ngcobo OCCUPATION: Student- Umfolozi College PROVINCE: KZN VENUE: Mandeni Sibusisiwe Hall	
What did you think about the speech?	"It was interesting."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes the provision of school nutrition for learners and free education."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Free Education and how to access the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Better education and access to NSFAS. I applied to NSFAS but was not successful."


NAME: Vincent Molao OCCUPATION: offender PROVINCE: North West VENUE: Rustenburg Correctional Youth Centre	
What did you think about the speech?	"Good and generous."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Education and poverty eradication programmes."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Enrolment for offenders with vocational skills and educational programmes to enable us to live a better life after prison in building our communities"

NAME: Lungisa Ngqolovu OCCUPATION: Grade learner PROVINCE: Eastern Cape VENUE: Efata school for the blind	
What did you think about the speech?	"The programmes that are meant for the disability sector, disability grant."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"We need to be supported as people with disability and we need people to nurture our talent. There are lot of talented fellow learners in our school but we are unable to go out and compete."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"I noted the fighting against crime, and the statistics that the President gave that it is decreasing. I noted the progress on infrastructure development in particular in rural areas, even in my village many things have improved."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"I would love that people should be encouraged to heed the call by government to do things for them in order to contribute to the development of the country."
General remarks	"The fight against HIV/AIDS and the care by government of people living with HIV and AIDS. I am also encouraged by other socio economic related programmes that government is engaged in, in trying to improve people's lives."

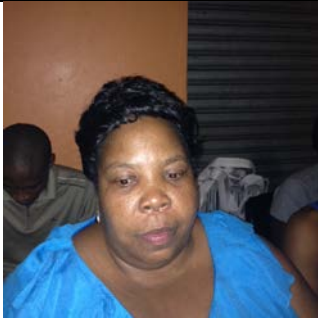
NAME: Avela Mkizwana OCCUPATION: Learner PROVINCE: Eastern Cape VENUE: Efata school for the blind	
What did you think about the speech?	"I was very much interested in President's speech as we need support."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"I expected the President would touch safety of learners in hostels but he did not mention it."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Government should support us more."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Government should invest in education especially in the Eastern Cape."
General remarks	"Government should support special schools."

NAME: Silulami Dabada OCCUPATION: Chairperson of the School Governing Board PROVINCE: Eastern Cape VENUE: Efata School for the Blind	
What did you think about the speech?	"The mention of sign language that will be learnt in all schools is encouraging."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"There is one thing left out, [that] is the plight of civil servants that need help, they need to be supported with their debts, they need to be helped out from their pension funds."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"He said South Africa is telling a good story, but there is more that needs to be done, especially on employment, to support the further education and training (FET) colleges where learners or students with disabilities can be integrated with other students that don't have disabilities."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"To develop Efata School as a training centre for teachers on sign language."
General remarks	"It was a wonderful decision to have the SoNA at night when everybody is at home."


NAME: Thembi Mngadi OCCUPATION: Community member- unemployed PROVINCE: KZN VENUE: Mtwalume High School, Kwaqoloqolo Umzumbe Local Municipality.	
What did you think about the speech?	"It was a good speech because it touched education which is very important."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes all of them."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Electricity and infrastructure in Local Municipalities especially in rural areas."


NAME: Nelisiwe Dladla OCCUPATION: Learner at Mtwalume High school PROVINCE: KZN VENUE: Mtwalume High School, Kwaqoloqolo Umzumbe Local Municipality.	
What did you think about the speech?	"The President made it clear about the growth of excellence in matric results and mentioned a lot about development."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	Yes it did
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Yes, The new telescope that has been invented for the scientist and those doing science."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"The President said it all. All we are waiting for is all the good things and promises."
General remarks	"The speech from the President was well said, as a student I am looking forward to learning and making a change in the future where needed and be a good leader like our President."





NAME: Zakhona Ngcobo OCCUPATION: Educator PROVINCE: KZN VENUE: Mtwalume High School, Kwaqoloqolo Umzumbe Local Municipality.	
What did you think about the speech?	"Good Speech."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes it did."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"The increasing of FET and bringing back colleges of education."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"When will Port Shepstone be catered for? Salaries and incentives for educator in rural areas."
General remarks	"I appreciate the effort of Government in improving the country as a whole."

NAME: Sthabiso OCCUPATION: Educator PROVINCE: KZN VENUE: Mtwalume High School, Kwaqoloqolo Umzumbe Local Municipality.	
What did you think about the speech?	"It was fascinating. It shows that the Government is earnest about taking South Africa to the next level."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes I expected innovation and they were there in the speech."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Yes, Increasing of job opportunities and the reduction of inequality."
General remarks	"Frankly, I enjoyed the speech because it increased the capacity of my knowledge."


NAME: Nhlanzeko Ncwane OCCUPATION: Learner PROVINCE: KZN VENUE: Mtwalume High school, Kwaqoloqolo Umzumbe Local Municipality.	
What did you think about the speech?	"I think it was great, I learnt a lot from it."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"It did meet my expectation which made me satisfied."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Infrastructure on sanitation, water and electricity."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Some of the areas that we live in are a little behind on infrastructure."

NAME: Heavy T Mbedzi OCCUPATION: Makerting manager Univen Radio PROVINCE: Limpopo VENUE: University of Venda	
What did you think about the speech?	"The speech was very convincing and talks more on the challenges faced by government."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"I would say so"
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Mining issue and job creation need more clarity."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Eradication of poverty, inequality, service delivery."
General remarks	"The speech was well delivered and tried to respond to some of challenges faced by government. I was interested on the issues of resolving mining issues and improving working conditions."


NAME: Knowledge Mthethwa OCCUPATION: Student PROVINCE: Limpopo VENUE: University of Venda	
What did you think about the speech?	"The speech was very relevant to the needs of our country."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes , the speech met my expectation"
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Centralization of tenders was something I was interested on. I will check with the President on how this centralization of tenders would be able to fight corruption and poor services."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Following the direct focus of the government, it would be good for the government to make sure there would be more funds to assist student in the tertiary institutions."
General remarks	"The speech was good; President highlighted his passion for youth development."


NAME: Tshifhango A.R OCCUPATION: Ward Counsellor PROVINCE: Limpopo VENUE: University of Venda	
What did you think about the speech?	"The speech was very relevant to the needs of our country."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"The President shows his passion on security matters of the country."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"The means of allocating NSFAS."
General remarks	"The speech was good it has logic on what the government has done so far."


NAME: Gudani Neluonde OCCUPATION: Student PROVINCE: Limpopo VENUE: University of Venda	
What did you think about the speech?	"The speech was focused to the development of our country."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"The President shows his passion on economic growth by focusing on early childhood development, compulsory schooling and increase enrolment at higher education. He also showed his passion by pronouncing the building of so many FETs all."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"The means of allocating NSFAS."
General remarks	"The speech was well delivered and tried to respond on how the of the challenges faced by South Africans. The subject or the issue public transport like rail was also highlighted in speech. I was also interested in the issue of resolving the mining industry and better wages for miners and also improve the working conditions."


NAME: Manyetsa Treasure Lerato OCCUPATION: Student PROVINCE: North West VENUE: Lehurutshe FET Campus	
What did you think about the speech?	"The speech was good."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes it did."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"15 million people given jobs and last year 350 000 jobs created."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"In FET we still facing the challenges of living in unhealthy environment and marks that are pending (Lehurutshe FET College)."
General remarks	"Above all I appreciate everything. The State did very well and we still hoping for the best."



NAME: Gosego Patience Nchupetsang OCCUPATION: Student PROVINCE: North West VENUE: Lehurutshe FET Campus	
What did you think about the speech?	"The speech was interesting because it seems like there will more developments."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes , because The President mentioned the FET bursary and how they will help the youth to further their studies."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Job creation."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"The President should inform us how they will improve department of Health."
General remarks	"President concentrated only in things we know."

NAME: Mbuso Mpungoose PROVINCE: Gauteng VENUE: Tsakane, Feb 14 2014	
What did you think about the speech?	"More backward looking and less on future plans. Good report, however, more needs to be done on job creation."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"To tell more on how government plan to reduce high unemployment amongst the youth."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Progress done in regards to the fight against HIV&AIDS and improvement in education."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"More to be done to ensure meaningful participation of black people in the economy of the country."
General remarks:	Good progress but felt short on future plans

NAME: Zuko Mndayi OCCUPATION: Unemployed youth PROVINCE: Western Cape VENUE: Zolani Thusong Service Centre	
What did you think about the speech?	"In as much as it is the president's address I think he should reflect on the work of his party over the year."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	Not at all, particularly on education. I expected him to reflect on the results on the ANA and capacity of the Department of Higher Education (DHE) in absorbing the learners.
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"The transformation of the judiciary, and the re-establishment of teacher colleges."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Funding for better education courses should be more accessible to improve education."
General remarks	"SoNA big screen is one of very important element to communicate with the communities. Well done GCIS"

NAME: Zihle Mgigimi OCCUPATION: Learner PROVINCE: Gauteng VENUE: Filadelfia Secondary School (School for the Disabled).	
What did you think about the speech?	"The President outlined government success for the past twenty years."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes, when he spoke about budget for the disabled to be made available."
Anything interesting that you picked-up during the speech that you would like more information on?	"Creation of more jobs for the youth."
Anything you would like to share with the President upon listening to the speech?	"Create more jobs for the disabled."
General remarks	"The fight against corruption must be intensified."