



State of the Nation Address 2011

President Jacob Zuma



Sunday Times

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Programme of Action

Government's economic sectors and employment

Government has declared 2011 a year of job creation. Every government department will align its programmes to achieve this.

- Government will also:
 - implement the New Growth Path that will guide its work to achieve job creation.
 - align the programmes of state-owned enterprises and development finance institutions to the job-creation agenda.
 - establish a jobs fund of R9-billion over the next three years for new job-creation initiatives.
 - allocate R10 billion through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) over the next five years for investment in activities with a high jobs potential.
 - create 4.5 million work opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme.
 - put in place R20 billion in tax allowances or tax breaks to promote investments, expansions and upgrades in factories.
 - plan to merge the three agencies Khula, the South African Micro-Finance Apex Fund and the IDC's small business funding into a single unit to better service small, medium, and micro enterprises, small-scale agriculture and cooperatives.
 - undertake legislative reforms to make it easier to register businesses, strengthen the Competition Act and open up the market to new participants.
- Tourism**
 - Government will look into flexible visa requirements, improved landing slots at foreign airports as well as improved tourism infrastructure.
- Agricultural sector**
 - Infrastructure will be developed to boost the country's agricultural sector.
- Public enterprises**
 - President Jacob Zuma called on state-owned enterprises to play a key role in skills development.
- Rural development**
 - Government will continue to

implement the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme to revive land-reform projects and irrigation schemes.

- Government has developed the National Rural Youth Service Corps programme to assist youth in rural areas.
- Infrastructure**
 - Government has endorsed the African Exploration, Mining and Finance Corporation as the State-owned mining company that will undertake the mining of minerals of strategic significance.
 - Plans are in place to finalise and adopt the beneficiation strategy.
 - Eskom is investing more than R75 billion, mainly on the new stations Medupi, Kusile and Ingula to secure electricity supply.
 - Government will start procuring power from renewable energy producers.
 - There are 1.2 million households living in 2 700 informal settlements. By 2014, government aims for 400 000 of these households to have security of tenure and access to basic services.

Social protection and community development

- Government will spend R2,6 billion on water services this year in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.
- Water reservoirs, windmills and irrigation schemes will be rehabilitated.
- The National Youth Development Agency is discussing with state organs and the private sector the inclusion of youth development in public sector programmes and the promotion of youth enterprises and cooperatives.
- The Child Support Grant will be phased in to cover eligible children under the age of 18 from this financial year.
- Governance and administration**
 - Government has instituted a turnaround strategy for local government, focusing on the strengthening of basic administration, financial management and customer care.
 - The Multi-Agency Working Group on procurement, led by



National Treasury, the South African Revenue Service and the Financial Intelligence Centre, is reviewing the State procurement system.

Human development

- The focus in basic education this year is "Triple T": Teachers, Textbooks and Time. The President reiterated the call that teachers must be at school, in class, on time, teaching for at least seven hours a day.
- The annual national assessments in literacy and numeracy that are internationally benchmarked, for grades 3, 6 and 9, has begun.
- The focus in higher education will be to expand access to tertiary institutions, especially for children of the poor. This includes the conversion of loans into bursaries for qualifying final-year students.
- Health**
 - Government will undertake:
 - the appointment of appropriate and qualified heads of

- department, chief financial officers, hospital chief executive officers, district health officers and clinic managers.
- revitalising 105 nursing colleges countrywide, to train more nurses.
- opening a medical faculty at the Limpopo Academic Hospital to train more doctors.
- renovations and refurbishments of hospitals and clinics.
- broadening the scope of reproductive health rights and providing services related to contraception, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy and sanitary towels for the indigent.
- programmes around preventative measures, including medical male circumcision, prevention of mother-to-child transmission and the promotion of HIV testing.
- development of the National Health Insurance policy and implementation plan.

Justice, crime prevention and security

- The capacity and effectiveness of the police will continue to be improved.
- International relations**
 - South Africa recently joined the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa forum, which is an important bloc of emerging economies.
 - South Africa also occupies a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.
 - The country will host the fifth India-Brazil-South Africa Summit this year and continues to argue for a more equitable world economic order at the G20 Forum.
 - We will continue to participate in the revitalisation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development with specific focus on the implementation of its infrastructure programme.
 - SA will also chair the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security from August 2011.

Honouring a global icon

“ We have entered the 17th year of freedom, ready to continue the drive to make South Africa a successful and prosperous country, building on the foundation that was laid by President Nelson Mandela.

As we mark this milestone, we extend the nation's good wishes to Tata Madiba and his family, and wish him a speedy recovery.

We need to accept the reality that President Mandela, who is loved by all of us, young and old, men and women, black and white, is not young anymore.

He will, from time to time, visit medical facilities for check-ups, which is normal for a person of his age.

We should allow him to do so with dignity, and give the family and the medical team the space to look after him, on our behalf, in privacy.

We owe him that much, given his love of this country and its people and the contribution he has made to South Africa, Africa and the world.

We thank the family, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the medical team for the sterling work that they are doing, in caring for a global icon, that we are so proud to call our own.

We want to assure the nation that Madiba is receiving very good medical care and is comfortable.

– President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address



FREE: Nelson Mandela moments after his release from prison on 11 February 1990 after serving 27 years in jail. Picture: REUTERS

2011 ADDRESS IN NUMBERS

- **21 years** – since former President Nelson Mandela walked to freedom after 27 years as a political prisoner.
- **17 years** – since South Africa's transition to a non-racial, non-sexist, equal, democratic and free society.
- **400 000** – the number of additional people served with basic water supply last year.
- **81%** – the proportion of the country electrified, compared to 63% in the year 2000.
- **8,6%** – the decline in the murder rate in the past year.
- **15 million** – the number of South Africans currently receiving social grants.
- **R9 billion** – the Government's fund to support job creation over the next three years.
- **R10 billion** – funds set aside by the Industrial Development Corporation for investment over the next five years in economic activities with high-jobs potential.
- **R20 billion** – tax allowances or tax breaks to be put in place to promote investments, expansions and upgrades in the manufacturing sector.
- **R550 million** – for upgrades and expansions.
- **95** – the number of meetings and conferences South Africa has secured between 2010 and 2016.
- **R2 billion** – contribution of the cultural industries sector to the Gross Domestic Product.
- **R475 million** – from the Cape Town International Jazz Festival to the Western Cape economy.
- **2 000** – the number of jobs created during the Cape Town International Jazz Festival in 2010.
- **R75 billion** – Eskom investment in new stations Medupi, Kusile and Ingula, and the return to service and transmission of other projects.
- **400 000** – the number of households that should have security of tenure by 2014.
- **R2,6 billion** – the amount the Government will spend on water services this year.
- **4,5 million** – work opportunities the Expanded Public Works Programme aims to create.
- **800** – the number of construction jobs created by the bid for the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope.
- **6 000** – the number of students supported by Denel, Eskom, SAA and Transnet in technical- and engineering-related critical skills.
- **105** – the number of nursing colleges that will be revitalised countrywide.
- **700 000** – the number of first-time identity documents issued following the National Population Registration Campaign.
- **R800 million** – the funds allocated for immediate relief to assist communities affected by recent floods.
- **2 000** – the military personnel deployed by the South African National Defence Force in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sudan and the Central African Republic.
- **2,5 trillion** – the value of South Africa's mining assets in US dollars.



UPBEAT: 7,3 million – the number of tourists that arrived in South Africa last year



WHEEL TURNS: 30% – the mining industry's contribution to total export revenue

What the nation can expect

Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS)

At the end of 2010, South Africa was invited to become the fifth member of the BRICS group of developing economies, which includes Brazil, Russia and India. As full member, South Africa will attend the annual BRICS Summit in Beijing, China, in April. South Africa expects to gain substantial trade and investment benefits as a BRICS member.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

On 1 January this year, South Africa began its second term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in New York for 2011 and 2012. Currently, South Africa is serving a two-year term on the African Union Peace and Security Council and will be chairing the Southern African Development Community Organ on Politics, Defence and Security from August.

At present, our country is in a unique position to obtain greater alignment between these security bodies to ensure conflict resolution on our continent.

The Government has declared 2011 the year of job creation. Research has indicated that jobs can be created in six priority areas. These are infrastructure development, agriculture, mining and beneficiation, manufacturing, the green economy, and tourism.

India-Brazil-SA (IBSA) Summit

South Africa will be hosting the fifth IBSA Summit this year. IBSA is a trilateral, developmental initiative between India, Brazil and South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session

The 123rd edition of the biannual IOC Session will take place in Durban from July 1 to 9 during which the 2018 Winter Olympic Games host city will be announced.

Municipal elections

Before the end of May, eligible voters will observe their demo-

cratic right by voting in the 2011 municipal elections to elect the members of the district, metropolitan and local municipal councils, who, in turn, will appoint the mayors of the municipalities.

Service delivery

The Local Government Turn-around Strategy's implementation will be intensified to turn the tide in local government by dealing with backlogs. The strategy focuses, among others, on the strengthening of basic administrative systems, financial management and customer care.

Energy

This year, the Government will

start procuring power from renewable power producers, which will demonstrate its commitment to renewable energy.

Census 2011

South Africa is gearing up for its biggest-ever census, to be conducted from 9 to 10 October. More than 120 000 enumerators from local communities will be deployed to reach every household. The results of the Census 2011 will be instrumental in guiding the Government in the allocation of resources and improve access to basic services.

National icons

The National Icons Programme will be launched to identify in-

dividuals who have made an enormous contribution in the liberation of our country. Preservation of our history will go a long way in educating generations to come about where we come from and where we are going as a nation.

New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad)

This year sees the 10-year anniversary of Nepad, which was spearheaded by African leaders to pursue new priorities and approaches to the political and socio-economic transformation of Africa.

Mining

To take advantage of South Africa's rich mineral resources, the Government has endorsed the African Exploration, Mining and Finance Corporation as the State-owned mining company that will undertake the mining of minerals of strategic significance.

One of government's priorities this year is also to finalise and adopt a beneficiation strategy as the official policy of government, so that we can start reaping the full benefits of our commodities.

A year of job creation

Dumelang, good evening, goeienaand, molweni, thobela. Thank you Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly and the Honourable Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), for this opportunity to share with fellow South Africans and international guests our review and Programme of Action for this year.

I called this Joint Sitting in the evening again so that all, including students and workers, can have an opportunity at first-hand to listen to their government speak on issues affecting their lives.

We thank the presiding officers for allowing us this opportunity.

Let me also, on behalf of government, welcome the Members of Parliament back to this beautiful mother city of Cape Town.

We would like to thank all South Africans who contributed to this State of the Nation Address through mainstream media, social media such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*, as well as direct contact.

The inputs have been very helpful.

Tomorrow will be 21 years since the release of our beloved President Nelson Mandela from prison.

It was a historic and very special moment for our country, which demonstrated the victory of our people over tyranny and apartheid oppression.

The events of that day prepared the ground for the implementation of our vision of a free, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, united and prosperous South Africa.

We have entered the 17th year of freedom, ready to continue the drive to make South Africa a successful and prosperous country, building on the foundation that was laid by President Mandela.

As we mark this milestone, we extend the nation's good wishes to Tata Madiba and his family, and wish him a speedy recovery.

Compatriots, we need to accept the reality that President Mandela, who is loved by all of us, young and old, men and women, black and white, is not young anymore.

He will, from time to time, visit medical facilities for check-ups, which is normal for a person of his age.

We should allow him to do so with dignity, and give the family and the medical team the space to look after him, on our behalf, in privacy.

We owe him that much given his love of this country and its people, and the contribution he has made to South Africa, Africa and the world.

We thank the family, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the medical team for the sterling work that they are doing, in caring for a global icon, that we are so proud to call our own.

We want to assure the nation that Madiba is receiving very good medical care, and is comfortable.

Compatriots, we continue to make steady progress as we work towards a more prosperous society. The political foundation is solid.

We have built a vibrant, fully functional Constitutional democracy.

We have well-established institutions that support democracy and protect the rights of our citizens, such as the Office of the Public Protector, the South African Human Rights



SETTING THE PACE: President Jacob Zuma delivers his vision for the country

Commission, the Office of the Auditor-General, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities and the Gender Commission.

Without fail, national general elections are held every five years to enable South Africans to choose a government of their choice, run by our efficient Independent Electoral Commission.

We have a Parliament that is vibrant and holds the Executive accountable.

We have an independent Judiciary, which is a trusted final arbiter in all disputes in our society. We have a media whose freedom is enshrined in the Constitution.

On basic services, we are also making progress. More than 400 000 additional people were served with basic water supply last year. About 81% of the country is electrified as compared to 63% in the year 2000.

The crime statistics show a decrease in most crimes, particularly armed robberies, housebreakings and business robberies as well as contact crimes, for example, the murder rate declined by 8,6% in the past

“ While many South Africans celebrate the delivery of houses, electricity or water, there are yet many others who are still waiting. ”

year. We are making a difference in education, as evidenced by the significant increase in the matric pass rate last year, and the interest displayed by the youth in education around the country.

Honourable members, close to

15 million South Africans obtain social grants from the State. We will phase in the extension of the Child-Support Grant to cover eligible children under the age of 18 years.

Since we are building a developmental and not a welfare state, the social grants will be linked to economic activity and community development, to enable short-term beneficiaries to become self-supporting in the long run.

Honourable members, we are pleased with the performance of our financial sector.

It has proven to be remarkably resilient in the face of the recent financial crisis and the global economic meltdown.

The Budget deficit is set to decline from the current 6,7% to between 3% and 4% by 2013.

Concerns about the exchange rate have been taken to heart.

Exchange-control reforms that were announced in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement last year are being implemented. Further information will be provided by the Minister of Finance in the Budget Speech.

The 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup was undoubtedly the most exciting project in 2010.

On the international front, we are greatly honoured to join the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (Brics) forum. It is an important bloc of emerging economies. We look forward to the inaugural meeting of Brics in April in China.

We have taken up our non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, which we will use to promote the African Agenda as well as peace and security in Africa and the world.

We have come a long way. We have achieved a lot, but challenges still remain.

Working together we will achieve much more.

Compatriots, while many South Africans celebrate the delivery of houses, electricity or water, there are yet many others who are still waiting.

The legacy of decades of apartheid underdevelopment and colonial oppression cannot be undone in only 17 years.

But we are forging ahead, determined to achieve our mission of building a better life for all.

And we are doing so with the help of our people. We appreciate the feedback they continue to give us.

Bongokuhle Miya wrote on The Presidency *Facebook* page that his hometown Umzimkhulu is in an appalling condition, with burst sewerage pipes everywhere, no drainage system and domestic animals that are roaming around town.

He writes: “If the Government, which is doing very well, could just pay much more attention, with a bit of urgency to such areas.”

Indeed, we agree service delivery should move faster.

Our interactive government also obtains information from direct contact with our people.

In the past year, we have visited many villages, townships and suburbs. Their message is consistent.

They appreciate progress made, request faster delivery and state their commitment to work with government to achieve more.

Given the work that must still be done, we decided in 2009 to focus on five priorities. These are education, health, rural development and agrarian reform, taking forward the fight against crime, and creating decent work.

We have done well on these priorities.

However, we are concerned that unemployment and poverty persist despite the economic growth experienced in the past 10 years.

To address these concerns, we have declared 2011 a year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth.

We have introduced a New Growth Path that will guide our work in achieving these goals, working within the premise that the creation of decent work is at the centre of our economic policies.

We urge every sector and every business entity, regardless of size, to focus on job creation. Every contribution counts in this national effort.

I will provide just a broad outline of our Programme of Action in this address.

Ministers will announce their jobs targets and more specific details per sector, in their forthcoming Budget Vote speeches.

All government departments will align their programmes with the job-creation imperative. The provincial and local government spheres have also been requested to do the same.

The programmes of state-owned enterprises and development finance institutions should also be more strongly aligned to the job-creation agenda.

Honourable members, research has indicated that we can create jobs in six priority areas. These are infrastructure development, agriculture, mining and beneficiation, manufacturing, the green economy, and tourism.

We cannot create these jobs alone. We have to work with business, labour and the community constituencies.

Experience shows that we succeed when we work together.

One key example is the work done by the Presidential Framework Response to the International Economic Crisis team, comprising government, business, labour and community sectors.

Among the key achievements of the team, South Africa introduced its first-ever training lay-off scheme to provide alternatives to retrenchments.

Another intervention included financial support for firms in distress, which saved about 7 000 jobs. We thank the team for their sterling work, and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

While looking to the private sector in particular to help us create most of the jobs, government will certainly play its part.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a jobs fund of R9 billion over the next three years to finance new job-creation initiatives.

In addition, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has set aside R10 billion over the next five years for investment in such economic activities with a high-jobs potential.

It is also my pleasure honourable members, to announce R20 billion in tax allowances or tax breaks to promote investments, expansions and upgrades in the manufacturing sector.

For a project to qualify, the minimum investment must be R200 million for new projects, and R30 million for expansion and upgrades.

The programme will provide an allowance of up to R900 million in tax deductible allowances for new investors and R550 million for upgrades and expansions.

Compatriots, the small business sector is a critical component of the job-creation drive.

We will continue to provide financial and non-financial support to small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs), small-scale agriculture as well as cooperatives.

We need to cut administrative costs, avoid duplication and direct more resources to small business.

We are therefore considering merging the three agencies Khula, the South African Micro-Finance Apex Fund and the IDC's small business funding into a single unit.

The campaign to pay SMMEs on time, within 30 days, is proceeding well.

The Department of Trade and Industry payment hotline received about 20 000 calls in the last financial year, and the value of payments facilitated was R210 million.

Other departments have launched their own initiatives, for example the Re Ya Patala (We Pay) initiative of the Department of Public Works.

We are continuing with legislative reforms to make it



RED LETTER DAY: President Jacob Zuma takes the National Salute before entering the National Assembly

easier to register businesses and also to strengthen the Competition Act to open the market to new participants.

Honourable members, the mineral wealth of our country is a national asset and a common heritage that belongs to all South Africans, with the State as the custodian.

South Africa has significant mining assets, currently valued at 2.5 trillion US dollars.

By 2009, the mining industry contributed more than 30% to the country's total export revenue, and employed 2.9% of the country's economically active population.

Estimates suggest that our mineral resources are expected to be exploitable for over a century to come.

To take advantage of that potential, government has endorsed the African Exploration, Mining and Finance Corporation as the State-owned mining company that will undertake the mining of minerals of strategic significance.

One of government's priorities this year is also to finalise and adopt the beneficiation strategy as the official policy of government, so that we can start reaping the full benefits of our commodities.

Compatriots, in communications, we have committed to convert our television and radio signals from the analogue platform to the more advanced digital signal, which will enable quality pictures and sound.

Jobs will be created in manufacturing, packaging, distribution and installation during this period.

Honourable Speaker and National Chairperson,

We are pleased with the success of our tourism sector, especially given that 16 tourists create one job in our country.

More than 7.3 million tourists arrived in South Africa last year, as compared to about 6.3 million in 2009. For further growth, we will strengthen existing markets while exploring the emerging economies.

Our country also continues to be a popular destination for international gatherings.

In July, we will host a high-level sports gathering in Durban, the 123rd International Olympic Committee (IOC) General Assembly Session.

We thank the IOC for the opportunity to host this important congress.

We have already secured 95 meetings and conferences between 2010 and 2016. To further boost our tourism potential, we will, among

other measures, look into flexible visa requirements, improved landing slots at foreign airports as well as improved tourism infrastructure.

Linked to tourism, we will continue to develop the cultural industries sector, which contributes about R2 billion to the gross domestic product.

We have also seen the value of events such as the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, which

energy power producers, which will demonstrate our commitment to renewable energy.

Honourable members, the construction industry is a known driver for work opportunities. There are 1.2 million households living in the country's 2 700 informal settlements.

By the year 2014, 400 000 of the said households should have security of tenure and access to basic services.

We will also improve the delivery of rental accommodation as some people coming to urban areas do not intend to settle permanently.

This should be welcome news to citizens such as Portia Buisiwe Mrwetyana who wrote on our Facebook page about inequalities in Bekkersdal, where an informal settlement, which has no services, lies alongside a suburb across the road with all amenities.

She asks: "What I wanna know is why treat us differently, but we give you the same vote, WHY?"

Government will spend R2.6 billion on water services this year. Among the priority areas are the provinces of Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape where there are still high numbers of people without safe drinking water, while not neglecting other areas.

We noted the requests from many contributors to this address, for government to fix potholes.

Our Expanded Public Works Programme aims to create 4.5 million work opportunities, and more than a million opportunities have been created already since the beginning of Phase 2. Part of the programme focuses on repairing our road networks.

Abantu abaningi bakithi bathola ukusizakala kakhulu ngaloluhele lwamotoho emisebenzi kahulumeni.

Kutholakala amatoho okulungisa imigwaqo, ezemidlalo, ukufundisa abadala ukufunda nokubhala, ukugcina imigwaqo ihlanzekile.

Uhlelo lokulungisa imigwaqo, olubizwa nge-Zibambele, seluzosatsshaliswa izwe lonke kulonyaka luvule amathuba emisebenzi. We will develop infrastructure that will boost our agricultural sector, while also helping to create jobs.

Water reservoirs, windmills and irrigation schemes will be rehabilitated. Crops, livestock as well as grazing will be protected with the installation of fences.

This year, we will start procuring power from renewable

“ We continue to make steady progress as we work towards a more prosperous society. The political foundation is solid. ”

contributed more than R475 million to the economy of Cape Town and created 2 000 jobs in 2010.

We also wish to extend a special mention to the popular Cape Minstrels Carnival, which brightens up this city every year on 2 January, celebrating the freeing of slaves.

Honourable members, our infrastructure development programme enables us to expand access to basic services and to improve the quality of life.

This includes projects for the provision of water, electricity and housing. Energy security is critical for economic development and job creation. To ensure the security of electricity supply for the country, Eskom has invested more than R75 billion, mainly on the new stations Medupi, Kusile and Ingula, as well as the return to service and transmission of other projects.

We must all save energy so that we do not have to resort to load shedding again as a saving measure.

These projects will enhance food security and create work opportunities for many, especially women in rural areas.

To enhance our innovation in science and technology and create jobs, we are bidding to host the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope.

The bid has already provided 800 construction job opportunities in the Northern Cape and will create a further 100 jobs this year.

Our job-creation drive should also enhance youth development.

The National Youth Development Agency is in discussion with state organs and the private sector to mainstream youth development in public sector programmes and to promote youth enterprises and cooperatives.

Compatriots, we believe that the interventions we have mentioned briefly will take us forward in placing job creation high on the agenda of all decision-makers in the country.

Seven ministers met with our social partners on Tuesday to discuss this partnership and we remain optimistic that we are poised for success.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Chairperson, parallel to the job-creation incentives, we will also undertake policy reforms related to improving the lives of our workers.

Government, with its social partners, is reviewing legislation on labour brokers and the policy framework for the provision of public employment services.

This will enable government to maintain a database of job seekers and job opportunities.

The *Government Position Paper on Social Security Reform* is expected to be released this year for discussion.

Issues to be dealt with include the funding and nature of the National Social Security Fund, how the private sector occupational and retirement funds will fit into the entire system, and the possible regulatory structure.

Government must fill all funded vacant posts. The Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Department will provide a report within six months.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Chairperson, indeed, we have come a long way since 1994. We have achieved a lot, but much more still needs to be done, and working together as South Africans, we will achieve much more!

Please allow me to now tackle the other four priorities as well as other programmes.

The focus in basic education this year is Triple T: Teachers, Textbooks and Time. We reiterate our call that teachers must be at school, in class, on time, teaching for at least seven hours a day.

The Administration must ensure that every child has a textbook on time, and that we assist our teachers to create the right working environment for quality teaching to take place.

To track progress, this year, we began the annual national assessments in literacy and numeracy that are internationally benchmarked, for grades 3, 6 and 9.

We will continue investing in teacher training, especially in Mathematics and Science.

We will pay special attention to the training of principals, particularly those in underperforming schools.

The focus of higher education will be to expand access, especially for children of the poor.

This includes the conversion of loans into bursaries for qualifying final-year students.

Students in further education and training colleges who qualify for financial aid will be exempted

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from paying fees.

We urge state-owned enterprises to play a key role in skills development and help us provide the technical skills needed by the economy.

Denel, Eskom, SAA and Transnet have supported the training of more than 6 000 learners in technical- and engineering-related scarce and critical skills.

Fellow South Africans, we are continuing to improve the capacity and effectiveness of the police, in particular the detective services, forensic analysts and crime intelligence.

We have increased visible policing and patrols in identified hotspots. We are making visible progress in reducing the proliferation of illegal and legal firearms.

Our courts continue to function better, and the backlog reduction programmes at district and regional levels are proceeding well.

We will continue to prioritise crimes against women and children, and to provide support through the Thuthuzela care centres.

We will work with communities and other key stakeholders to deal with drug peddling and drug abuse, which are tearing some communities apart.

My visit to a drug rehabilitation centre in Mitchells Plain on Tuesday convinced me that we need more energy in the fight against drug abuse and drug peddling in our communities.

I have directed our police force to deal decisively with people who sell drugs to children in Cape Town and other areas. We will also not tolerate tavern owners who sell alcohol to children.

The fight against corruption also continues.

A Special Anti-Corruption Unit has been established in the Department of Public Service and Administration to handle corruption-related disciplinary cases involving public servants.

Progress is being made in many ongoing investigations.

About R44 million has been recovered from public servants who are illegally benefiting from housing subsidies, while the cleaning of the social grants system of fraud is also continuing.

We have directed the Special Investigating Unit to probe alleged maladministration or corruption in various government departments, municipalities and institutions.

While not pre-judging the investigations, they prove our resolve to combat corruption at all levels of government and the Public Service.

The Multi-Agency Working Group on Procurement led by National Treasury, Sars and the Financial Intelligence Centre is reviewing the entire state procurement system to ensure better value for money from state spending.

In the health sector, this year, we will emphasise the appointment of appropriate and qualified personnel to the right positions.

We need qualified heads of departments, chief financial officers, hospital chief executive officers, district health officers and clinic managers.

We plan to revitalise 105 nursing colleges countrywide to train more nurses. We are also planning to open a medical faculty at the Limpopo Academic Hospital to train more doctors.

The renovations and refurbishments of hospitals and clinics will continue. Given our emphasis on

women's health, we will broaden the scope of reproductive health rights and provide services related to, among other things, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancies and sanitary towels for the indigent.

On the fight against HIV and AIDS, we have revitalised our programmes and promote various prevention measures, including medical male circumcision, prevention of mother-to-child transmission and the promotion of HIV testing.

The testing has been popularly taken up around the country. Just over five million HIV tests have been done since the launch of the testing campaign in April last year.

Over the past year, work has continued to develop the National Health Insurance policy and implementation plan. Government will soon be releasing the policy document for public engagement.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Chairperson of the NCOP, we will continue with the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme directed at reviving land reform projects and irrigation schemes in the former homelands as well as distressed farms owned by individuals.

Government has developed the National Rural Youth Service Corps programme to assist youth in rural areas. To date, more than 7 000 young people have been employed in the programme.

Somlomo nosihlalo abahloniphekileyo, uhlumeni ushaye umthetho ovuselela ibhange lasePosini, phecelezi IPostBank, elizosiza abasemakhaya ukonga imali, kanye nokuboleka imali yokwakha amabhizinisi amancane.

Siyabakhuthaza ukuthi balisebenzise kutholakale intuthuko.

Honourable members, the country will hold the fourth local government elections before the end of May. There have been lots of complaints over the past few months about local government.

The frustrations in some areas resulted in protests, which indicated the problems that existed in this sphere.

We have to make people's experience of local government a pleasant one, as it touches their homes and their lives directly, every day.

Some municipalities are functioning very well, and some councillors are also performing their duties as well as they should.

We have instituted a turnaround strategy for local government, focusing on, among other things, the strengthening of basic administrative systems, financial management and customer care.

The preparations for local government elections are on course. The registration that took place last weekend went well, and we congratulate those who have registered. We urge those without identity documents to apply without delay, so as not to miss the next registration period next month.

Following the launch of the National Population Registration Campaign in Libode, in the Eastern Cape last year, more than 700 000 first-time identity documents were issued, indicating great enthusiasm by our people to have this crucial document.

As we prepare for elections, we also note that our country has been struck by devastating floods in recent weeks, and many families have been affected.

We extend heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. Our hearts also go out to those who were injured and who lost all their belongings.

Fellow South Africans, let me use this opportunity to announce

that government has set aside R800 million for immediate relief to assist communities.

We will also be earmarking funding to deal with post-disaster recovery and reconstruction in the years ahead.

We thank relief agencies, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, religious organisations and communities for assisting those in need.

The African Agenda remains our key policy focus.

South Africa is serving a two-year term on the African Union Peace and Security Council.

The country will chair the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security from August.

In this role, we will continue to engage the parties in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe and the development of a roadmap to elections.



We will also promote the resolution of the Malagasy conflict. We will monitor and assist where possible to ensure that the political and security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is conducive to elections.

We are also honoured to participate in finding solutions to the situation in Cote d'Ivoire, as a member of the African Union High-Level Panel, chosen to help resolve the challenges in that country.

We applaud the work of the South African National Defence Force, which has on average deployed over 2 000 military personnel in peacekeeping operations in the DRC, the Sudan and the Central African Republic.

We will continue to participate

in the revitalisation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development with specific focus on the implementation of its infrastructure programme, of which we champion the North-South infrastructure development corridor.

South Africa has taken note of the unfolding developments in Egypt as well as the earlier events in Tunisia.

We continue to monitor the situation closely, including its implications for the Middle East and North Africa.

We firmly believe that the course and the content of the transition as well as the destiny that these sister countries choose, should be authored by them.

In this regard, South Africa lends its support to efforts aimed at introducing and implementing political reforms that will ensure a smooth and peaceful transition in

On the broader international front, we look forward to hosting the fifth India-Brazil-South Africa Summit this year.

At the G20 Forum, we will continue to argue for a more equitable world economic order.

Compatriots, the experience of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup taught us the need to appreciate all that is good about our country.

The South African flag became the most important item for every household.

Government will build on this by ensuring the placing of flags in schools and public institutions to promote our national symbols and identity.

We urge all our people to learn the national anthem and sing it properly, with pride.

We will launch a programme celebrating national icons and promote a National Heritage Route, to honour individuals who have made an enormous contribution to the liberation of our country.

Honourable members, we have seen the power of sport as a unifying and nation-building tool in our country.

All of us must support the Proteas who will soon be playing in the 2011 ICC World Cup, and the Springboks who will travel to New Zealand to defend our 2007 Rugby World Cup Title.

We also wish the national netball team well when they compete in the Netball World Cup in July. We will be fully behind them. Let me take this opportunity to salute one of our finest cricketers, Makhaya Ntini, who is our special guest this evening. He has made an enormous contribution to local and international cricket.

South Africa will have its third post-apartheid census in October this year. We thank Mr Makhaya Ntini for agreeing to become an ambassador of this important campaign.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Chairperson, We remain committed to building a performance-orientated state. Our Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Department will coordinate and monitor the work of government departments closely, as they mainstream job creation.

We welcome the undertaking by Parliament to also monitor the adherence to the call to prioritise job creation by government.

Compatriots, our goal is clear. We want to have a country where millions more South Africans have decent employment opportunities, which has a modern infrastructure and a vibrant economy and where the quality of life is high.

We all have a responsibility to work hard to make this a reality.

Everyone must think of how they can contribute to the jobs campaign through creating opportunities for themselves and others.

In doing so, we should draw inspiration from our beloved President Mandela in his inauguration address in 1994, reminding us of the need to work together.

He said:
We understand it still, that there is no easy road to freedom.

We know it well, that none of us acting alone can achieve success.

We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation, for nation-building, for the birth of a new world.

Let there be justice for all.

Let there be peace for all.

Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all.

Let each know that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfil themselves.

I thank you.

Heralding a new political year

THE State of the Nation Address is an important occasion when the President addresses the nation in his capacity as Head of State at the opening of Parliament.

During the address, the President takes stock of South Africa's domestic and foreign situation – and unites the nation around a common understanding of the direction in which the country should be moving.

It is one of the rare occasions where the three arms of state come together in one place. The arms are the Executive (represented by the President, Deputy President and ministers), the Judiciary (represented by the country's chief justices and judge presidents) and the Legislature (represented by the presiding officers and MPs).

The State of the Nation Address procession:

- Members of the Judiciary, speakers of provincial legislatures, premiers and diplomats arrive at the Company Gardens entrance to the National Council of Provinces building.

- Guests and members of the Executive (Cabinet) start to arrive.

- Junior and civil guards of honour and eminent persons take up positions on both sides of the red carpet along Parliament Street from the entrance to the Parliamentary precinct.

- An imbongi (praise poet) takes up position at the Slave Lodge to welcome the President. The imbongi later does the same at the entrance to the National Assembly Chamber when the President enters the chamber.

- Former presidents, former deputy presidents and the former Chief Justice arrive at the entrance to the New Wing.

- The procession consists of premiers, speakers of provincial legislatures, the Judiciary, Parliament's presiding officers, the Deputy President and President.

- The President takes the national salute on a podium outside the New Wing.

- The President's address in the National Assembly Chamber.

- Parliament's presiding officers adjourn the joint sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.

- The President, Deputy President and Parliament's presiding officers leave the National Assembly Chamber.

- Guests and MPs leave the National Assembly Chamber.

Presidential procession to the National Assembly Chamber

The ceremony, which starts at the Slave Lodge, just outside the entrance to the Parliamentary precinct, is a combination of public participation and a formal state rite.

From the entrance to the Parliamentary precinct, members of the public line the red carpet.

There is a junior guard of honour from the entrance of the Parliamentary precinct to the end of the National Council of Provinces building.

A civil guard of honour and nine eminent persons line the route after this until the end of the Old Assembly Wing.

Entertainers also perform on a stage along the public participation section of the route.

From here onwards, the procession becomes part of a formal, state ceremony.

A ceremonial military guard of honour take up positions in front of the New Wing, in which the National Assembly Chamber is



PRAISE POET: An imbongi salutes President Jacob Zuma while soldiers march to usher him into the chamber before the State of the Nation Address



located, and a military band plays the national anthem. A 21-gun salute and an air force fly-past take place while the President takes the National Salute from a special dais.

Parliamentary traditions: The red carpet

Rolling out a red carpet was originally reserved for kings and queens, and signified a welcome of great hospitality and ceremony. This changed over the years and the red carpet is also used to welcome heads of state.

The 21-gun salute

The tradition of rendering a salute by firing cannons originated in the 14th century when cannons and firearms came into use. Originally, warships fired seven-gun salutes. In 1842, the 21-gun salute became the international norm for the highest honour a nation rendered and it is fired in honour of the Head of State, the national flag, a visit from the Head of State of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family and a former head of state.

The mace

The mace is a symbol of authority of the Speaker of the National Assembly. When the sergeant-at-arms carries the mace into the debating chamber, and places it before the Speaker of Parliament, it means that the National Assembly is formally in session and that its proceedings are official. The mace was designed to reflect the history, traditions and diverse cultures and languages of South Africa. The design also celebrates the

country's natural beauty, its plant and animal life and its rich mineral resources. The shape of the parliamentary mace recalls the knobkierie, an African symbol of defence, as well as authority and leadership. Gold is one of the core ingredients in the mace. Gold symbolises not only our country's natural wealth, but also the indigenous knowledge of Africa and the ancient African gold-mining traditions of Mapungubwe. At the Opening of Parliament this year, the mace was carried by a woman for the first time.

Public participation

Members of the public take part in the Opening of Parliament in the following ways:

Junior Guard of Honour: This is made up of pupils from schools in all of South Africa's provinces. Schools are invited and chosen depending on whether they have represented South Africa or their province at international, national, provincial or local level competitions in various areas.

Civil Guard of Honour: civil-society organisations active in women, youth and children, people with disabilities and economic development are invited to send representatives to form the civil guard of honour.

Eminent persons: people who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in a particular field or have been recognised for their contribution to society. They are nominated by provincial speakers from all nine provinces – one per province.

All eyes on the President

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma's delivery of the State of the Nation Address at 7pm made it possible for South Africans from all walks of life to follow his speech at venues ranging from correctional facilities and hospitals to academic campuses and farms.

At least 68 public events were held across the nine provinces on Thursday evening as President Zuma spelt out the Government's vision for a year dedicated to increasing employment.

In the Northern Cape, people displaced by recent floods followed the address on a big screen at the Oranjezicht Hostel in Keimoes.

Similar screenings were held at two farms in the Gravelotte

and the Wesfalia area in Limpopo to ensure that workers who do not have ready access to public information were able to learn what 2011 held in store for them. Rural development and agrarian reform are among the key government priorities for the year.

In a number of areas, viewings of the speech were linked to service delivery drives by the Department of Home Affairs (ID campaign), the South African Social Services Agency (grant registrations) and the Independent Electoral Commission (voter registration).

These events were designed to ensure that ordinary South Africans could be part of the most important day on the country's political calendar.



SHHHH, THE PRESIDENT IS ON: Public viewing areas were created to allow more people to watch the State of the Nation Address



CHEERFUL: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe with Deputy Chair of the National Council of Provinces Thandi Memela, left, and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Nomaindia Mfeketo



FLAGGING THE REGIONS: Schoolchildren welcome the Premiers of the nine provinces

A vibrant celebration

Ordinary citizens, the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary meet



EXACTING CEREMONY: The precise choreography of the opening of Parliament is assisted in large measure by the impressive, clockwork performance of the National Ceremonial Guard



STELY POSTURE: From left, Deputy Speaker Nomaindia Mfeketo, Speaker Max Sisulu, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, President Jacob Zuma, First Lady Makhumalo, NCOP Chair Mzinwa Mahlangu, Deputy NCOP Chair Thandi Memela and Parliamentary Secretary Zingile Dingane



SHOWCASE: South Africa's cultural diversity provided a colourful setting for the Opening of Parliament



TOWERING VISION: The imposing entrance to the National Assembly



MBEKI MOMENT: Former President Thabo Mbeki and Mrs Zanele Mbeki with Speaker Max Sisulu, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Mzinwa Mahlangu and (in the background) Zingile Dingane, Secretary of Parliament



RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT: President Zuma greets eminent South Africans during the procession



BENCHMARK OF DEMOCRACY: The Judiciary proceed to Parliament