

# Cabinet Statement

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Cabinet meeting of 21 June 2017**

Cabinet met on Wednesday, 21 June 2017, at Tuynhuys, Cape Town.

## ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

### Announcements by the three major ratings agencies

- Cabinet expressed confidence in its systematic interventions to address the country's economic challenges as well as work undertaken to strengthen the performance of state-owned companies.
  - Government remains on track in maintaining its fiscal framework, ensuring policy certainty and working to ensure inclusive growth and economic transformation.
  - Cabinet reiterates that the foundation for a higher growth path and socio-economic development has already been laid.
  - ✓ It focuses on improving investor and consumer confidence by fast-tracking the implementation of the structural reforms for economic growth.
  - President Jacob Zuma convened the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) Advisory Council workshop on Tuesday, 20 June 2017.
- The workshop, amongst other things:
- ✓ proposed recommendations to realise government's objectives on radical socio-economic transformation.
  - ✓ addressed the systematic and structural implementation challenges of the Broad-Based BEE Act, 2003 (Act 53 of 2003).
  - **The partnership between government, business, labour and civil society is critical to boost confidence levels, so that working together we can reclaim and maintain investment-grade ratings.**

that were hosted by departments, government entities and the private sector is encouraging.

- This year marks the 41st anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Student Uprising and the commemoration serves as a reminder that young people in the country were at the forefront of our Struggle.
- **Cabinet calls on youth to use all the support and resources that government has made available to improve their prospects and advance their participation in the economy.**

### Local Government Youth Development Forum

- The forum:
  - ✓ is a progressive voice of youth in the implementation of various youth development initiatives within local government.
  - ✓ held its first inaugural conference from 20 to 21 June 2017 in Muldersdrift, west of Johannesburg.

### Violence and intimidation of commuters

- Cabinet condemns the recent violence and intimidation during the protests by taxi owners.
- Such actions are out of place in a democratic society.
- Peaceful interventions on any matter will always be beneficial to all parties involved.
- The agreement between the South African National Taxi Association and SA Taxi Finance Holdings confirms that peaceful dialogue can resolve issues without impacting on innocent people and disrupting the economy.
- Cabinet welcomes this decision, which is in the best interest of commuters and the taxi industry.
- ✓ The dialogue currently taking place between the Department of Transport and the



**This ruling will go a long way in strengthening our justice system's capacity to act against those perpetrating violence against women and children.**

### Internet for All community session

- **Where:** Kliptown, Soweto.
- **Led by:** Telecommunications and Postal Services Minister Siyabonga Cwele, in partnership with the World Economic Forum, private sector and civil society.
- **Outcome:** Resulted in the training of about 500 young people in basic information and communications technology (ICT) skills.
- The Declaration on Internet for All adopted the leadership structure and also identified targets for implementation within the next six months.

Disaster Management teams.

- Cabinet thanks all non-governmental organisations, the private sector, volunteers and communities who are supporting affected communities.

### Disasters in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape

- Cabinet conveys its deepest sympathy to all who lost loved ones during the recent disasters in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape respectively.
- A number of residents also suffered displacement and loss of property.
- Cabinet commends the prompt integrated approach and response from government, business and ordinary South Africans in assisting the affected families.
- Cabinet pays tribute to the heroic volunteer firefighter, Bradley Richards, who paid with his life saving his community.
- Cabinet further extends a special appreciation to the Working on Fire team that bravely fought the raging fires. They are our pride!
- Cabinet wishes a speedy recovery to the two injured firefighters.
- President Zuma visited the communities of Wit Lokasia and Knysna Heights that were adversely affected by the fires.
- The President dispatched humanitarian relief support to all the affected areas. This was coordinated through the National Joint Operations Centre Disaster Management structure, working with the Western Cape Provincial Government and Provincial

### Trade in birds and chicken products from Zimbabwe

- Communities in Limpopo bordering Zimbabwe must be vigilant and exercise caution with their chicken stock.
- This follows a report of an outbreak of a bird and chicken flu virus called H5N8.
- The trade in birds and chicken products from Zimbabwe has been suspended.
- The H5N8 virus is highly pathogenic and extremely contagious, and leads to a high level of mortality.
- **Commercial farmers are also encouraged to increase their biosecurity measures on farms.**

### High Court ruling on Section 18 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Ad 51 of 1977)

- Cabinet welcomed the High Court ruling that declared Section 18 of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977 unconstitutional.
- This lifts the 20-year limit to lay criminal charges against those accused of sexual abuse.

### Mortuaries in Gauteng

- Cabinet is concerned by reports of services being disrupted at mortuaries in Gauteng due to ongoing labour disputes.
- Grieving families are unable to claim their relatives' bodies.
- Death in any family brings an element of vulnerability and pain to family members. As society no amount of dispute is worth such insensitivity.
- **Cabinet appeals to all parties involved to find an amicable solution to their disputes without affecting the families of the deceased.**

## BILLS

### Customary Initiation Bill

- Cabinet approved the Bill for public comment.
- The Bill seeks to protect, promote and regulate the customary initiation practices.
- Once approved, the Bill will:
  - ✓ provide acceptable norms and standards in conducting these customary practices.
  - ✓ deal with the abuse of the

initiation practice, which has seen a number of young boys dying in initiation schools.

- Government and traditional leadership institutions have adopted a zero-tolerance stance towards the death of initiates as a result of initiation practices.



functioning, application and administration of the Sectional Titles Act, 1986 (Act 95 of 1986).

- The current Sectional Titles Act of 1986 bestows certain rights on owners of sections in the sectional titles scheme.
- The proposed amendment Bill proposes regulations of these rights in a meaningful manner.



### National Research Foundation (NRF) Amendment Bill of 2017

- Cabinet approved the Bill for submission to Parliament.
- The Bill:
  - ✓ has gone through its full public consultations.
  - ✓ clarifies the authority of the Minister of Science and Technology over the foundation and

makes explicit the NRF's responsibilities in respect of science engagement.

- ✓ will enhance the authority of the Minister to guide the NRF to improve efficiencies.
- ✓ will improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of research, development and innovation provision to the quality of life

### Sectional Titles Amendment Bill of 2017

- Cabinet approved publication of the Bill for public comment.
- The Bill seeks to protect owners of communal land, particularly the vulnerable in rural communities.

### Communal Land Tenure Bill of 2017

- Cabinet approved publication of the Bill for public comment.
- The Bill seeks to protect owners of communal land, particularly the vulnerable in rural communities.

### Civil Aviation Amendment Bill of 2017

- Cabinet approved the Bill for submission to Parliament.
- The Bill:
  - ✓ strengthens aviation safety, security and environmental protection regulatory framework to ensure sustainability and stability of the civil-aviation industry.
  - ✓ includes, amongst others, a provision for the operational independence of the aircraft accident and incident investigation as well as provision for the establishment of the Aviation Safety Investigation Board.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### 5th Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Summit

- **Who:** President Zuma will attend.
- **Where:** Swaziland.
- **When:** Friday, 23 June 2017.
- The one-day summit will be attended by Heads of State and Government of

the SACU member states, which include South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

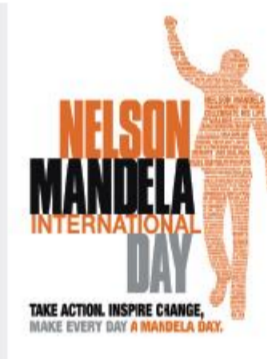
- The summit will discuss various issues related to regional trade and industrialisation.
- It is through SACU that increased markets for goods and services from the region can be secured through the various ongoing trade negotiations that are aimed at advancing greater regional and continental integration.

### Siyahola Presidential Monitoring Programme

- **Who:** President Zuma.
- **When:** Saturday, 24 June 2017.
- **Where:** Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape.
- Part of continuing the crime-fighting Imbizo.

### Mandela Day

- **When:** 18 July 2017.
- **Theme:** The theme for Mandela Day is #ActionAgainstPoverty.
- Calls on all of us, every day to make the world a better place.
- Making every day a Mandela Day celebrates Madiba's life and legacy in a sustainable way that will bring about enduring



### Knysna Oyster Festival and Knysna Marathon

- Cabinet encourages South Africans to support these upcoming events.
- This is one of the most popular festivals with huge appeal to sports lovers and families.
- All stakeholders are working together to ensure Knysna is fully operational and open for business.



## CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

### Cabinet Joins President Zuma in extending condolences:

- ✓ to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, and his family on the passing of his mother, **Mrs Nozipho Nzimande**.
- ✓ on the passing on of **Lord Joel Joffe**. Lord Joffe, who died at the age of 85, was a defence attorney in the Rivonia and Little Rivonia trials.
- ✓ to the people of Namibia on the passing on of **Mr Toivo ya Toivo**, a revolutionary in the struggle for freedom in Namibia and an anti-apartheid activist. Communications Minister Ayanda Dlodlo will officially represent the government of South Africa at the funeral that will take place on Saturday, 24 June 2017.



## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

- Cabinet congratulates geologist Tshiamo Legcale who made history by being the first South African to be crowned the FameLab International Champion for a project that researched a method of using wheat to harvest gold from mine dumps.
- Legcale is a beneficiary of one of government's bursary programmes and she recently won the award at the Cheltenham Science Festival held in the United Kingdom.
- Cabinet wishes Team SA at the best for the upcoming 2017 Commonwealth Youth Games in Nassau, Bahamas from 19 to 23 July 2017.
- The Games, which are held every four years, saw Team SA take second place on the medal table, with a total of 35 medals, in the 2015 Games in Apia, Samoa.
- The Commonwealth Youth Games remains an integral event for our future stars. Team SA is an inspiration to youth to get involved in sport as a means to change their lives for the better.
- Cabinet congratulates the Springboks who put in an impressive performance on both attack and defense to win their three test matches with France.
- Cabinet congratulates Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor for being awarded an honorary Doctorate by the University of Nova, Portugal.
- Cabinet conveys good wishes to Muslims in our country and the world over on the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr at the conclusion of Ramadan, Ramadan and the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr afford Muslims a unique opportunity to strengthen bonds of friendship and family ties amongst themselves and with their fellow South Africans.

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## CABINET DECISIONS

### White Paper on the National Health Insurance (NHI)

- Cabinet approved the NHI to be gazetted as a policy document.
- The NHI takes the country closer to ensuring all South Africans have access to healthcare, irrespective of their socio-economic status.
- The NHI is:
  - ✓ a health financing system that allocates funds to provide access to healthcare.
  - ✓ consistent with the National Development Plan's (NDP) objective that seeks to

ensure everyone has access to healthcare, regardless of their income.

- **The Department of Health will hold a briefing on 29 June 2017 to fully unpack the elements of this White Paper.**

### Revised Human Resource Development Strategy towards 2030

- Cabinet approved the strategy, which:
  - ✓ addresses the weaknesses identified in the last five years in some parts of the education and training system, and identified

the lack of coordination between different parts of the system.



- ✓ is now aligned to the NDP and the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019.
- ✓ focuses all the relevant stakeholders (government, labour, civil organisations and private sectors) on the needs of the economy,

and the importance of supporting an industrial strategy to achieve inclusive growth and development.

### 2015/16 survey on government funding for Scientific and Technological Activities

- Cabinet approved publication of the key findings.
- The results of the findings of 30 national departments indicate the following:
  - ✓ An estimated R23, 4 billion was spent from the

national fiscus in 2015/16.

- ✓ Nominal increase of 6.6% increase when compared with the previous year given the current fiscal constraints.
- ✓ This total investment represents 1.7% of the total national budget for the year.
- ✓ Most of these funds were used in scientific services that support service delivery in core areas of government competency such as education, health, minerals, energy, agriculture and environment.