



Government
**GOVERNMENT
SYSTEM**
system

Pocket Guide to South Africa 2012/13

GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

South Africa is a constitutional democracy with a three-tier system of government and an independent judiciary. The national, provincial and local levels of government all have legislative and executive authority in their own spheres, and are defined in the Constitution as “distinctive, interdependent and interrelated.”

The Constitution

South Africa’s Constitution is one of the most progressive in the world and enjoys high acclaim internationally. Human rights are given clear prominence in the Constitution.

Government

Government consists of national, provincial and local spheres. The powers of the legislature, executive and courts are separate.

Parliament

Parliament consists of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). Parliamentary sittings are open to the public. Several measures have been implemented to make Parliament more accessible and accountable. The National Assembly consists of no fewer than 350 and no more than 400 members, elected through a system of proportional representation for a five-year term. It elects the President and scrutinises the executive.

National Council of Provinces

The NCOP consists of 54 permanent members and 36 special delegates. The purpose of the NCOP is to represent the interests of the provinces in the national sphere of government.

Government clusters

Clusters were established to foster an integrated approach to governance that is aimed at improving government planning, decision making and service delivery. The main objective is to ensure proper coordination of all government programmes at national and provincial levels.

The Presidency, March 2013

President: Jacob Zuma

Deputy President: Kgalema Motlanthe

The seven clusters are:

- Infrastructure Development
- Economic Sectors and Employment
- Governance and Administration
- Human Development
- Social Protection and Community Development
- International Cooperation, Trade and Security
- Justice, Crime Prevention and Security.

Monitoring and evaluation

As part of assessing government's efforts to create a better life for all, Cabinet has approved proposals for a 20-year review that will evaluate progress towards a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa, socio-economic development, and a review of government programmes.

Management Performance Assessment

Cabinet gave the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation and the offices of the premiers the mandate in 2011 to implement annual management performance assessments for all national and provincial departments.

The Presidency

As the executive manager of government, The Presidency is at the apex of South Africa's government system. It is situated in the Union Buildings, Pretoria, and has a subsidiary office in Tuynhuys, Cape Town.

There are two ministers in The Presidency, one responsible for the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the other for Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Administration.

The NPC is responsible for strategic planning for the country to ensure one national plan to which all spheres of

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government would adhere.

The National Development Plan: Vision for 2030 was released in October 2011. It focuses on the following strategic areas of development:

- creating jobs
- expanding infrastructure
- sustainable use of resources
- transforming urban and rural spaces
- improving education and training
- providing quality healthcare
- building a capable state
- fighting corruption
- uniting the nation.

The Deputy President

The President appoints the Deputy President from among the members of the National Assembly.

Cabinet

Cabinet consists of the President, as head of the Cabinet, the Deputy President and ministers. The President appoints the Deputy President and ministers, assigns their powers and functions and may dismiss them.

No more than two ministers may be appointed from outside the National Assembly.

Provincial government

Each of the nine provinces has its own legislature of 30 to 80 members. They elect the premiers who head the executive councils.

Traditional leadership

Chapter 11 of the Constitution states that the institution, status and roles of traditional leadership, according to customary law, are recognised, subject to the Constitution.

In August 2012, the fourth National House of Traditional Leaders was officially opened by President Jacob Zuma in Parliament.

Premiers, as at May 2013

Province	Premier
Eastern Cape	Noxolo Kiviet
Free State	Sekgobelo Elias Magashule
Gauteng	Nomvula Paula Mokonyane
KwaZulu-Natal	Zweli Mkhize
Limpopo	Stanley Mathabatha
Mpumalanga	David Mabuza
Northern Cape	Sylvia Lucas (Acting)
North West	Thandi Modise
Western Cape	Helen Zille

Local government

In accordance with the Constitution and the Organised Local Government Act, 1997, which formally recognise organised local-government associations, organised local government may designate up to 10 part-time representatives to represent municipalities and participate in proceedings of the NCOP.

Municipalities

There are 278 municipalities in South Africa, comprising eight metropolitan, 44 district and 226 local municipalities. Municipalities govern on a four-year term basis and run local affairs subject to national and provincial legislation. They are focused on growing local economies and providing infrastructure and services.

South Africa has eight metropolitan municipalities:

- Buffalo City (East London)
- City of Cape Town
- Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (East Rand)
- City of eThekweni (Durban)
- City of Johannesburg
- Mangaung Municipality (Bloemfontein)
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality (Port Elizabeth)
- City of Tshwane (Pretoria).

Local Government Turnaround Strategy (LGTAS)

The LGTAS was introduced as a government programme of action and a blueprint for better service delivery aimed at responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government. Five focus areas, aimed at fast-tracking implementation of the strategy were identified. These are:

- service delivery
- governance
- financial management
- infrastructure development
- fighting corruption.

As part of the contribution to government's overall Infrastructure Development Plan, R47 billion has been budgeted over the next three years towards the development of infrastructure in the 12 major cities to ensure that people enjoy a better life.

In May 2012, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency was proclaimed as a government agency as part of the LGTAS. Its purpose is to accelerate support to municipalities in providing service-delivery infrastructure.

Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)

The Department of Cooperative Governance is responsible for managing and transferring the MIG. The grant is intended for eradicating municipal infrastructure backlogs in poor communities to ensure the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, roads and community lighting.

In 2012/13, R9,2 billion was allocated towards MIG. The spending on MIG has resulted in the provision of water to 98 394 households, sanitation to 217 349 households, and building of 1 184 km of municipal roads. In addition, 23 sports facilities were completed.

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)

The GCIS' prime responsibility is to provide strategic leadership and coordinate a government communication system that ensures that citizens are informed and have

Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, as at May 2013

Portfolio	Minister	Deputy Minister
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Tina Joemat-Pettersson	Pieter Mulder
Arts and Culture	Paul Mashatile	Joe Phaahla
Basic Education	Angie Motshekga	Enver Surty
Communications	Yunus Carrim	Stella Ndabeni
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Lechesa Tsenoli	
Correctional Services	Sibusiso Ndebele	Hlengiwe Mkhize
Defence and Military Veterans	Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula	Thabang Makwetla
Economic Development	Ebrahim Patel	Enoch Godongwana
Energy	Benedict Martins	Barbara Thompson
Finance	Pravin Gordhan	Nhlanhla Nene
Health	Aaron Motsoaledi	Gwen Ramokgopa
Higher Education and Training	Blade Nzimande	Mduduzi Manana
Home Affairs	Naledi Pandor	Fatima Chohan
Human Settlements	Connie September	Zoliswa Kota-Fredericks
International Relations and Cooperation	Maite Nkoana-Mashabane	Marius Fransman Ebrahim Ebrahim
Justice and Constitutional Development	Jeff Radebe	Andries Nel
Labour	Mildred Oliphant	-
Mineral Resources	Susan Shabangu	Godfrey Oliphant
Police	Nathi Mthethwa	Makhotso Sotyu
Public Enterprises	Malusi Gigaba	Gratitude Manwanishe
Public Service and Administration	Lindiwe Sisulu	Ayanda Dlodlo

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Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, as at May 2013		
Portfolio	Minister	Deputy Minister
Public Works	Thembelani Nxesi	Jeremy Cronin
Rural Development and Land Reform	Gugile Nkwinti	
Science and Technology	Derek Hanekom	
Social Development	Bathabile Dlamini	Maria Ntuli
Sport and Recreation	Fikile Mbalula	Gert Oosthuizen
State Security	Siyabonga Cwele	-
The Presidency: National Planning Commission	Trevor Manuel	-
The Presidency: Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Administration	Collins Chabane	Obed Bapela
Tourism	Marthinus van Schalkwyk	Thokozile Xasa
Trade and Industry	Rob Davies	Elizabeth Thabethe Thandi Tobias-Pokolo
Transport	Dipuo Peters	Sindisiwe Chikunga
Water and Environmental Affairs	Edna Molewa	Rejoice Mabudafhasi
Women, Children and People with Disabilities	Lulu Xingwana	Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu

access to government programmes and policies that benefit them.

The Chief Executive Officer of the GCIS is also the official spokesperson for Cabinet.

The GCIS is responsible for maintaining government's website (www.gov.za), which includes both an information portal for general information about government and a services portal that is a source of information about all the services offered by national government.



Two agencies were established under the executive authority of the GCIS, namely the Media Development and Diversity Agency and Brand South Africa. The latter was moved to The Presidency in April 2012. Activities for 2012/13 included:

- the launch of a project focusing on 20 years of democracy, mobilising government and the nation at large in the build-up to the marking two decades of democracy in 2014.
- the implementation of about 3 000 communication projects through various platforms, such as community media, seminars, workshops, public participation programmes, door-to-door visits and Thusong-driven campaigns.

The GCIS publishes, among other things, the *South African Yearbook*, the *Pocket Guide to South Africa*, *Vuk'uzenzele* and *Public Sector Manager* magazine.

It is also responsible for the South African Government News Agency.

The Public Service

The Department of Public Service and Administration is at the centre of government.

Batho Pele remains government's leading campaign to achieve the desired crucial transformation of the hearts and minds of public servants. This is a public-service culture reorientation programme that is aimed at aligning the behaviour and attitudes of public servants towards the practice of Batho Pele ethos.

There are approximately 3 100 community development workers employed in the Public Service, working in over 2 000 municipal wards throughout South Africa.

The Public Service Commission has an obligation to promote measures that will ensure effective and efficient performance within the Public Service and to promote values and principles of public administration as set out in the Constitution, throughout the Public Service.

The Centre for Public Service Innovation was established to identify, support and nurture innovation in the public sector to improve service delivery.

In the first half of 2012, the Department of Home Affairs issued 100 pilot smart card identity documents (IDs) to test the functionality and durability of the smart ID. The smart card ID system will replace the current civic and immigration identity systems. The new system will enable government to digitally capture biometric and biographical details of all South Africans or foreign nationals, which will be stored in one integrated system.

The State Information Technology Agency consolidates and coordinates the state's IT resources to save costs through scale, to increase delivery capabilities and improve interoperability.

The Government Information Technology Officers' Council advises government on the application of information technology to improve service delivery.

The Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy is government's training department, offering training and development opportunities to public servants at national, provincial and local spheres of government.

The Batho Pele Campaign, aimed at improving service delivery to the public, was first implemented in October 1997, but was revitalised during the 2012 annual Public Service Month, held in September. Batho Pele is a Sesotho phrase meaning "people first".

Department of Home Affairs

The Department of Home Affairs is the custodian of the identity of all South African citizens, critical to which is the issuance of birth, marriage and death certificates; identity documents and passports; as well as citizenship; naturalisation and permanent residency certificates.

The department is also responsible for the effective, secure and humane management of immigration.

Statutory bodies falling under the department are the:

- Immigration Advisory Board
- Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs
- Refugee Appeal Board.