

Cabinet Statement

DID YOU KNOW?

Cabinet meeting of 16 August 2017

Cabinet met at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Wednesday, 16 August 2017.

1. ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

1.1. WOMEN'S MONTH

- **Theme:** "The Year of OR Tambo: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward".
- As we celebrate Women's Month Cabinet wishes:
- **Ms Getrude Shope** well on her 92th birthday.
- **MmaShope**, as she is affectionately known, is a doyen of the struggle for liberation and for women emancipation in particular.
- She is a recipient of Isithwalandwe/Seaparakwe, the highest honour awarded by the African National Congress to those who made an outstanding contribution and sacrifice to the liberation struggle.

- **Ms Zondeni Veronica Sobukwe** on her 90th birthday.
- South Africa is a better country through the sacrifices played by women of her ilk.
- Cabinet joins all South Africans in honouring the brave women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 to protest the pass laws.
- In the spirit of OR Tambo's 'Flowers of the Revolution', we commemorate the role of women as pioneers of the women's movement in this country, recognising that when you empower a woman, you empower the nation.

- On this day (17 August 1982) - woman anti-apartheid activist, Ruth First, was brutally killed by a letter bomb sent to her in Mozambique. She paid the ultimate sacrifice in her relentless pursuit of freedom for the people of South Africa.
- South Africans across the board have worked very well to participate in this commemoration.

- ✓ Government's progressive policies continue to prioritise the empowerment of women, particularly those living in rural areas, who often bear the harsh realities of poverty.
- As a country we have achieved much in the field of women empowerment.

- ✓ Prior to 1994 Parliament had a mere 2.7% representation of women, and following the first democratic elections, women representation in the National Assembly stood at 27.7%.
- ✓ In 1999 that figure increased to 30% and then to 32.7% in 2004. After the 2009 national elections women representation reached 42%.
- ✓ Women Ministries now comprise 43% of the Cabinet.
- ✓ We have many women in leadership positions and government structures are in place to improve the status of women. We now have the Ministry of Women in The Presidency.

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- **Where:** Pretoria.
- **When:** 18 August 2017.
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- **Launched by:** President Zuma.
- **When:** 17 August 2017.
- **Where:** Michelangelo Hotel, Sandton.
- The launch of the African Regional Centre will showcase the NDB's service offering, highlighting the bank's potential role in the area of infrastructure and sustainable development in emerging and developing countries.
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challenges we still face of the abuse of women.

The harms and dangers of patriarchy which result in the violence against women and children should be fought by all of us as a society. The law-enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system must deal decisively against the perpetrators.

1.3. 37TH ORDINARY SADC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

- **Theme:** "Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains".
- **When:** 9 to 20 August 2017.
- **Hosted by:** South Africa, as incoming chair of the SADC.
- South Africa will use its position to strategically advance the country's national interests as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP), drive regional and continental industrialisation and integration to boost the implementation of Africa Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU).

- ✓ Agenda 2063 is the strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years.
- ✓ It builds on and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.
- Three potential growth paths have been identified:
- ✓ agro-processing,
- ✓ mineral beneficiation and
- ✓ downstream processing value chains.

- The summit will also pay tribute to the outgoing President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, who will be stepping down after 37 years as President and leading his country out of a protracted civil war.

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- ✓ speed up discussions and finalisation of other bilateral instruments on agriculture, tourism, health, energy water and sanitation, amongst others.
- Cabinet encourages more private sector companies to invest in Liberia.

- the:
- ✓ Development of new industrial infrastructure,
- ✓ Technology development and innovation, and
- ✓ Small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Communication Ministers from the BRICS group also participated in a round-table, with the group publishing a **Ministerial Declaration on Information Technology**.
- ✓ BRICS nations will step up cooperation on information security, as digital communication technology plays an increasingly important role in driving economic growth.
- Cabinet thanks the former Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, Mr Tito Mboweni, for his professionalism and dedication during the two-year period that he served as a non-executive director of the BRICS NDB.
- National Treasury Director-General, Mr Dondo Mogajane, will take over.

1.5. ELECTIONS IN AFRICA

- Cabinet congratulates the people of **Rwanda** on the holding of a peaceful election.
- President Paul Kagame was re-elected.
- The conclusion of yet another successful poll in Africa is a clear indication that democratic advances continue across the continent.
- Cabinet also joined the AU in congratulating **Kenya** for conducting successful elections.
- It is now incumbent on all citizens in Kenya to accept the results of the elections and to work towards national unity in the country.

1.6. BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA (BRICS)

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losses in the country particularly in the retail and mining sectors.

- ✓ However, it welcomed the efforts made by the mining sector to engage in dialogues that seek to save jobs.
- The recent approval of Lonmin's application to acquire Anglo Platinum's 42.5% stake in Pandora, a joint venture between Lonmin and Anglo Platinum is welcomed.
- This joint venture has in turn saved more than 3000 jobs and is a relief especially in the current global economic climate.

Government remains committed to creating an environment that is conducive to economic growth and job creation.

1.9. CONSTITUTIONAL COURT DECISION

- Cabinet welcomed the court decision that reaffirmed the prerogative of the government to make policy decisions and directives by dismissing, with costs, an application by the Metal Recyclers Association of South Africa.
- The Court dismissed an application by local exporters of scrap metal for leave to appeal the judgement of the High Court of South Africa and the Supreme Court of Appeal.
- The Constitutional Court has upheld the State's scrap metal export provisions, known as



price-preference for domestic foundries, mini-mills and secondary smelters scrap metal.

- It provides for a price discount by 20% to international prices before qualifying for an export permit.
- This policy will help to re-industrialise the country's economy and create jobs.

1.10. BORDER MANAGEMENT

- Cabinet welcomed the commitment by the Canadian Government to cooperate with South Africa in border management.
- This follows the Minister of Home Affairs, Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize, meeting with her Canadian counterpart Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Mr Ahmed Hussen, this week.
- This exchange will further strengthen the existing relationship between the two countries.

1.8. EMPLOYMENT

- Cabinet raised its concern about the state of job



2. CABINET DECISIONS



2.1. MANDATE PAPER FOR THE 2018 BUDGET

- Cabinet approved the Mandate Paper for the 2018 Budget to:
- ✓ strengthen the alignment of the budget to the Medium Term Strategic Framework, and
- ✓ establish a systematic basis for making choices among competing priorities within the limited resources.
- The Minister in The Presidency, Mr Jeff Radebe,



will hold a media briefing at a later stage.

2.2. COASTAL AND MARINE TOURISM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Cabinet approved the Implementation Plan which was developed under the auspices of the Operation Phakisa Oceans Economy. The plan will:
- ✓ uplift tourism in the ocean economy, and
- ✓ grow a world-class and sustainable coastal and marine tourism destination that leverages South Africa's competitive advantages in nature, culture and heritage.
- The Minister of Tourism, Ms Tokozile Xasa, will hold a

separate media briefing to unpack this plan.

2.3. SECOND INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN EXPEDITION FOR 2017 - 2020

- Cabinet approved South Africa's participation in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition for 2017 - 2020.
- Participation will support South Africa's Chairpersonship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association in 2017/18.
- South Africa will use its research vessel SA Agulhas II to conduct marine research while training and building scientific capacity for South Africa and East Africa.



- The gathering of basic long-term environmental data and information will place the developing countries of the Indian Ocean Rim in a better position to conserve the integrity of its ocean and to find ways to unlock their respective potential ocean economies to improve the lives of their citizens.

2.4. CHEMICALS AND WASTE ECONOMY PHAKISA LABS

- Cabinet was apprised on the

Provinces of South Africa



- initiative which is scheduled to commence in August 2017.
- This forms part of the country's intervention to manage the threats to the environment and human health caused by chemicals and waste.
- It will provide a further opportunity for the South African chemical industry to identify manufacturing niches that are associated with Green Chemistry (the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the generation of hazardous substances).

Local Municipality and Matatiele Local Municipality.

- Reasons cited by communities for these requests:
- ✓ Geographic location, and
- ✓ Access to services.
- The requests were received by the Municipality Demarcation Board and Department of Corporate Governance.

Provincial boundaries are provided for in the Constitution. Any consideration of such requests, should be done within the constitutional framework.

- ✓ Cabinet agreed that a process to redetermine the boundaries, which include Matatiele, be instituted. This parliamentary process will also include public participation as required by the Constitution and the law.

2.5. PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES

- Cabinet was briefed on requests to redetermine the provincial boundaries from communities in various provinces.
- Amongst the areas affected are the Elias Msooledi Local Municipality, Ephraim Mogale

3. UPCOMING EVENTS

3.1. NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 NATIONAL ORDERS

- Cabinet reiterates The Presidency's call, reminding members of the public to nominate persons from all walks of life that deserve to receive the country's highest honours, the National Orders, in April next year.



- The ceremony honours South Africans and eminent foreign nationals who have excelled in various fields.
- Nominations forms are available on The Presidency's website (www.thepresidency.gov.za), Thusing Service Centres, municipal offices and constituency offices. A short motivation of the person nominated should be attached.

The 2018 National Orders nominations will close on 31 August 2017.

3.2 FIFTH NATIONAL HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS (NHTL)

- Cabinet joined President Zuma in thanking Kgosi PP Maubane (Chairperson), Ikosi SE Mahlangu (Deputy

- Chairperson) and the entire membership of the House, whose terms comes to an end.
- Cabinet extends a warm welcome to the incoming members of the Sixth NHTL and those of the seven

4. MESSAGES

4.1. CABINET CONGRATULATES

- **Ms Senamile Masango**

who became the first African woman to conduct the first African-led experiment at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research laboratory in Switzerland.

- ✓ She was part of a group of student researchers from the University of the Western Cape studying the isotope selenium-70 to better understand how its nuclei shape relates to its energy levels.
- **People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)**, who have developed an App that helps survivors of gender-based violence, in distress or imminent danger, to have access to integrated and coordinated services.
- With a link to the Department of Social Development's

Command Centre, the App can link to other services like the police and social workers, who can be able to identify the location where the message originates.

- Through a press of a panic button on the mobile, a victim will be linked to the Command Centre. This collaboration between government and non-governmental organisations will go a long way towards fighting the scourge of abuse.
- **Team South Africa** for their outstanding achievements on the track and field at the **International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships** in London.
- ✓ **Caster Semenya** won gold in the 800m and bronze in the women's 1500m; Semenya has done the country proud and amidst the negativity, she

