



OFFICIAL GUIDE TO
South Africa
2018/19
**The
Presidency**

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

The mandate of The Presidency is to ensure that the President is able to execute constitutional responsibilities in leading and galvanising the whole of government and society to implement the electoral mandate.

Chapter 1 of the National Development Plan (NDP) sets out a vision for increased government integration towards developing policy in a complex domestic and international environment.

This is given expression by Outcome 11 (create a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world) and Outcome 12 (an efficient, effective and development-oriented public service) of government's 2014-2019 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), with which the work of The Presidency is closely aligned.

Following the reconfiguration of government departments in June 2019, the Minister in The Presidency is now responsible for the following organisations:

- Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA);
- Government Communication and Information System (GCIS);
- Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA); and
- Brand South Africa (Brand SA).

The Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is responsible for the:

- Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD); and
- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

Promoting nation-building and social cohesion

The Presidency continues to provide support to initiatives that promote nation-building and social cohesion.

The Deputy President continues to lead the Moral Regeneration Movement, a civil-society organisation mandated to facilitate and coordinate processes and initiatives aimed at promoting collective activism on issues of moral renewal.

As part of delegated responsibilities, the Deputy President also leads the government's efforts to fast-track land reform.

The President leads initiatives on national days, national orders and special events, and use them as platforms to promote nation-building and social cohesion.

Advancing South Africa's interests

The fundamental role of The Presidency in the international arena is to assist the President and Deputy President in advancing South Africa's interests in the global community.

It provides strategic and administrative support to unilateral, bilateral and multilateral meetings and summits, and state visits; and assists in fulfilling South Africa's obligations to the United Nations, the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa group of countries, Group of 20, African Union, Southern African Development Community, and regional and continental peacekeeping processes.

Promoting an integrated approach to governance

The Presidency endeavours to improve coordination among all government departments to ensure that policies are implemented in line with national priorities, that executive authorities and departments are better prepared to engage and understand the Cabinet system, and that Cabinet members take collective decisions and responsibilities.

This requires the department to provide training or briefing sessions on Cabinet decision-making processes for relevant officials in ministerial offices and offices of directors-general.

Executive orientation sessions are also provided to Cabinet members and their staff, as and when required.

Operationalising the e-Cabinet system

The e-Cabinet system is a tool used to streamline Cabinet's decision-making processes, ensuring that an integrated approach to governance is adopted.

The system enables members of the Executive, heads of department and executive support staff to share, manage and store information securely, and provides a platform for collaboration among relevant support staff.

The system, which has been designed, developed, installed, piloted and made available to all Cabinet members, as well as certain ministerial and Cabinet secretariat personnel via

an online portal, was expected to be operationalised after receiving security certification in 2018/19.

Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The DPME is mandated to:

- facilitate the implementation of the NDP through the development of sectorspecific and outcome-specific medium-term plans and delivery agreements, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of these plans;
- ensure the alignment of departmental strategic and annual plans and budget allocations with the MTSF;
- facilitate socioeconomic impact assessments of legislation and regulations;
- monitor the performance of individual national and provincial government departments and municipalities, and related improvement plans, and facilitate targeted intervention programmes;
- monitor frontline service delivery and manage the presidential hotline;
- develop and implement the annual national evaluations plan and support the national evaluations system; promote good planning, monitoring and evaluation practices in government;

Chapter 13 of the NDP sets out a vision towards building a capable and developmental state. This vision is supported by Outcome 12 (an efficient, effective and development-oriented public service) of government's 2014-2019 MTSF, with which the work of the DPME is directly aligned.

The department provides support for the implementation of the NDP and government's 2019-2024 MTSF by monitoring and improving the capacity of state institutions.

This will be achieved through the development and use of appropriate tools, such as the Management Performance Assessment Tool and the Local Government Management Improvement Model, that generate monitoring reports regarding the state of compliance with management practices in the three spheres of government.

Statistics South Africa

Stats SA is responsible for the production and coordination of official and other statistics on changing dynamics in the economy, society and the environment as the country moves

towards the realisation of the NDPs's vision of a state that plays a developmental and transformative role in the lives of its people.

The department supports Outcome 4 (decent employment through inclusive growth) and Outcome 8 (sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life) of government's 2014-2019 MTSF by contributing to enhanced planning, policy responsiveness and effectiveness, and promoting evidence-based decision-making.

Stats SA publishes more than 200 statistical releases each year, and compiles statistical research that measures development against the NDP and government's 2014-2019 MTSF, in conjunction with global and continental agendas for sustainable development.

The coordination of statistics between organs of state is crucial in achieving consistency and efficiency in the production of official statistics.

In recognising this need, the department began the process of revising statistical legislation by holding stakeholder consultations between 2015/16 and 2018/19, with the aim of driving statistical reform.

Particular attention was given to coordination and institutional arrangements between organs of state, statistical geography, the data revolution, and a state-wide statistical service. Based on the outcomes of stakeholder consultations, a draft Statistics Amendment Bill was expected to be tabled in Parliament in 2019/20.

In addition, the department has compiled an integrated statistical indicator framework to guide and coordinate the production of official and other statistical data in the national statistics system, which is set to be rolled out over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period.

To maintain an adequate supply of statistical information over the MTEF period, the department will continue to focus on planning for South Africa's next census, which is scheduled for 2021.

As part of the planning process, the design of statistical tools and instruments, as well as the development of a georeferenced spatial information frame, was scheduled for 2019/20.

Also intended for adoption in Census 2021, and as part of the department's broader focus on modernisation, is the use of digital data collection methods such as computer-assisted telephone and personal interviews, and online interviews.

Activities associated with Census 2021 include a trial run and spatial planning in 2019/20, piloting in 2020/21 and data collection in 2021/22.

With effect from June 2019, Stats SA changed from using the drum logo to using the Coat of Arms as its logo.

Government Communication and Information System

The mandate of the GCIS is derived from Section 195(g) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, which stipulates that the public should be provided with information that is timely, accurate and accessible.

This is in support of the constitutional principles of freedom of expression, transparency and openness of government. The department is responsible for providing strategic leadership and coordinating government communication to ensure that the public is informed and have access to government programmes and policies that benefit them.

The NDP emphasises the need to unite all South Africans around a common goal, ensure citizens are active in their own development, and build a capable and developmental state.

This is given expression by Outcome 12 (an efficient, effective and development-oriented public service) and Outcome 14 (nation-building and social cohesion) of government's 2014-2019 MTSF, with which the work of the GCIS is directly aligned.

To support the realisation of these outcomes, the department will continue to focus on providing and facilitating strategic government communication and facilitating active citizen participation.

The department provides information about government policies, plans, programmes and activities to the public. Among other things, the GCIS is responsible for maintaining government's website (www.gov.za), which provides general information about government.

Among other products, the GCIS publishes the *South Africa Yearbook*, *Official Guide to South Africa* (formerly *Pocket Guide to South Africa*), *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper, *Public Sector Manager* magazine and *My District Today* newsletter. It is also responsible for the South African Government News Agency, SAnews.gov.za.

The Thusong Service Centre Programme enables communities to access government information and services.

Thusong Service Centres are one-stop centres providing integrated services and information from government and other civil society groups, to communities close to where they live as part of a comprehensive strategy to better their lives.

They also enable communities to access opportunities offered by other civil-society groups such as businesses, non-governmental organisations and parastatals.

The GCIS also gathers public opinion, research and analysis of media coverage to understand the communications environment and to inform government messages.

The department provides media bulk-buying services, which are designed to reduce the cost to government on advertising; facilitate a rapid response mechanism to hasten government's response to issues arising in the media; and provide media production services to support other government departments.

Media Development and Diversity Agency

The MDDA promotes media development and diversity to ensure that all citizens can access information in a language of their choice, and to transform media access, ownership and control patterns in South Africa.

It is a statutory development agency for promoting and ensuring media development and diversity, and a partnership between the South African Government and major print and broadcasting companies to assist in, amongst others, developing community and small commercial media in South Africa.

Its main target audiences are historically disadvantaged communities, historically diminished language and cultural groups; and inadequately served communities.

The mandate of the MDDA is enshrined in law in the MDDA Act of 2002 and aims to:

- create an enabling environment for media development and diversity which reflects the needs and aspirations of all South Africans.
- redress exclusion and marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and persons from access to the media and the media industry.
- promote media development and diversity by providing support, primarily to community and small commercial media projects.

The MDDA will not fund the following, amongst others:

- Media projects owned and/or controlled by the government

or other funders of MDDA (Caxton, e-tv, Independent Newspapers, Johnnic Communications, Kagiso Media, Media 24, M-Net, Primedia, SABC);

- Special events licensees or once-off publications (except in exceptional circumstances);
- Media projects owned or controlled by any political party;
- Any advocacy except if it promotes media development and diversity;
- Conferences/seminars and attendance at any of these;
- Media earmarked for foreign audiences; and
- Media aimed at reinforcing/boosting/promoting any particular entity/organisation that suits only the ends of that entity/organisation.

Brand South Africa

Brand SA develops and implements a proactive and coordinated international marketing and communications strategy for South Africa to contribute to job creation and poverty reduction, and to attract inward investment, trade and tourism.

The mission of Brand SA is to:

- develop and articulate a South African Nation Brand identity that will advance South Africa's long-term positive reputation and global competitiveness.
- seek the involvement and cooperation of various stakeholders in building awareness and the image of the Nation Brand domestically and internationally.
- seek to build individual alignment to the Nation Brand in South Africa, and pride and patriotism amongst South Africans.

Its strategic objective is to inspire and unify civil society, business, government and the media to build the reputation of South Africa, and contribute to its global competitiveness.

Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

The new DWYPD is uniquely poised at the centre of government to coordinate and provide oversight in ensuring that government implements inclusive programmes geared towards closing gaps in the representation of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Its focus is on intersectionality because women, youth and persons with disabilities are often disadvantaged by multiple

sources of oppression – race, class, gender, sexual identity and other identity markers, and these markers intersect to create complicated layers of oppression.

Among other things, the department plans to develop a database of unemployed graduates and in partnership with the Department of Employment and Labour, the NYDA, private sector and the sector education and training sectors, to ensure the employment of professionals.

It aims to galvanise the private sector to create opportunities for the youth and persons with disabilities.

National Youth Development Agency

The NYDA aims to initiate, implement, facilitate and monitor youth development interventions aimed at reducing youth unemployment and promoting social cohesion.

It plays a leading role in ensuring that all major stakeholders such as the government, private sector and civil society, prioritise youth development and contribute towards identifying and implementing long-lasting solutions that address youth development challenges.

The NYDA has shifted its primary core business away from Enterprise Finance towards Education and Skills Development.

The fundamental change in this area of development is the change from loan provision to grant provision for young entrepreneurs.

The NYDA no longer offers loan finance to young entrepreneurs; the agency provides financial support in the form of micro-finance grants to young entrepreneurs and youth cooperatives.

The objective of the NYDA Grant Funding is to provide young entrepreneurs with an opportunity to access both the financial and non-financial business development support to establish their survivalist businesses.

The programme focuses on youth entrepreneurs who are just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential but are not yet fully developed.

The Grant Funding starts from R1 000 to a maximum of R200 000 for any individual or youth cooperative. For agriculture and technology-related projects, the maximum threshold is R250 000.

The NYDA continues with efforts directed at economic participation offering a range of products, programmes

and services to young entrepreneurs in need, albeit as a secondary focus.

The new plan of the NYDA focuses on tailor-made interventions for job preparedness and placement, a focus on scholarship provision for youth who excel in schools, the scaling up of the YouthBuild Programme for out-of-school youth, the increase of second chance opportunities for matriculants and the intensification of a highly successful career guidance programme.

Furthermore, the NYDA designs and implements programmes that are aimed at improving the lives of young people, as well as avail opportunities to youth.

These programmes could be clustered as follows:

- **Individual (Micro) level:** The NYDA provides direct services to youth in the form of information provision, career guidance services, mentorship, skills development and training, entrepreneurial development and support, health awareness programmes and involvement in sport.
- **Community (Meso) level:** The NYDA encourages young people to be catalysts for change in their communities through involvement in community development activities, social-cohesion initiatives, National Youth Service programmes and social dialogues.
- **Provincial and National (Macro) level:** Through its policy development, partnerships and research programmes, the NYDA facilitates the participation of youth in developing key policy inputs, which shape the socio-economic landscape of South Africa.