Government

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

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. No other law or government action can supersede the provisions of the Constitution. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 was approved by the Constitutional Court on 4 December 1996 and took effect on 4 February 1997.

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.

National Assembly

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 seven clusters are:
- Infrastructure Development

The Presidency, May 2014
President: Jacob Zuma
Deputy President: Cyril Ramaphosa

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

Izimbizo

The National Imbizo Focus Week ran from 10 to 20 July 2014 under the theme "Together we move South Africa forward." The Focus Week saw Cabinet members engage in dialogues of empowerment with various communities across the country. The *Izimbizo* programme is a communication platform that enables the citizenry to have a meaningful and direct engagement with members of the national, provincial and local executive.

The Imbizo Focus Week coincided with the first International Mandela Day since the passing of former President Nelson Mandela.

On 18 July, a number of stakeholders participated in a clean-up campaign. Government hosted over 30 clean-up activities at schools, hospitals, community facilities and orphanage centres countrywide in honour of former President Mandela's legacy.

During the Imbizo Focus Week, government embarked on approximately 48 *izimbizo* events across the country.

Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMCs)

In July 2014, President Jacob Zuma appointed IMCs that would form part of the new government system of the fifth democratic administration. The IMCs are appointed by the President (and in certain instances by Cabinet) for specific purposes that require the attention and dedication of a team of certain ministers. The mandate of the IMCs is limited to the matter that they are established to execute. The IMCs include:

- IMC on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption;
- IMC on Information and Publicity;
- IMC on State funerals;

- IMC on the Revitalisation of Distressed Mining communities;
- IMC on Migration.

The Presidency

The Presidency is the executive manager of government. 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 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation. The National Development Plan (NDP) offers a long-term socio-economic development road map. The NDP: Vision for 2030 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 crime and 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

Premiers, as at October 2015	
Province	Premier
Eastern Cape	Phumulo Masualle
Free State	Sekgobelo Elias Magashule
Gauteng	David Makhura
KwaZulu-Natal	Edward Senzo Mchunu
Limpopo	Stanley Mathabatha
Mpumalanga	David Mabuza
Northern Cape	Sylvia Lucas
North West	Supra Mahumapelo
Western Cape	Helen Zille

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

The National House of Traditional Leaders was established in terms of the then National House of Traditional Leaders Act of 1997. Its objectives and functions are to promote the role of traditional leadership within a democratic constitutional dispensation, enhance unity and understanding among traditional communities and advise national government.

Provincial houses of traditional leaders were established in all six provinces that have traditional leaders, namely the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West.

The national and provincial houses of traditional leaders enhance the cooperative relationships within national and provincial government, while the establishment of local houses of traditional leaders deepens and cements the relationship between municipalities and traditional leaders on customary law and development initiatives.

Local government

In accordance with the Constitution and the Organised Local Government Act of 1997, which formally recognises 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 eThekwini (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.
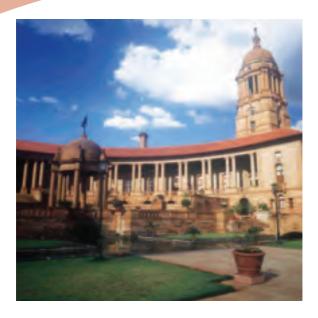
Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)

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

Community development workers (CDWs)

CDWs serve as a link between communities with many government services and programmes. Located within communities, CDWs assist citizens by helping them to access services such as health, welfare, housing, agriculture, economic activity, education and training, and employment opportunities.

Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, as at October 2015		
Portfolio	Minister	Deputy Minister
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Senzeni Zokwana	Bheki Cele
Arts and Culture	Nathi Mthethwa	Rejoice Mabudafhasi
Basic Education	Angie Motshekga	Enver Surty
Communications	Faith Muthambi	Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Pravin Gordhan	Obed Bapela Andries Nel
Defence and Military Veterans	Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula	Kebby Maphatsoe
Economic Development	Ebrahim Patel	Madala Masuku
Energy	Tina Joemat-Pettersson	Thembi Majola
Environmental Affairs	Edna Molewa	Barbara Thomson
Finance	Nhlanhla Nene	Mcebisi Jonas
Health	Aaron Motsoaledi	Joe Phaahla
Higher Education and Training	Blade Nzimande	Mduduzi Manana
Home Affairs	Malusi Gigaba	Fatima Chohan
Human Settlements	Lindiwe Sisulu	Zoliswa Kota-Fredericks

Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, as at October 2014		
Portfolio	**Minister**	**Deputy Minister**
International Relations and Cooperation	Maite Nkoana-Mashabane	Nomaindia Mfeketo Luwellyn Landers
Justice and Correctional Services	Michael Masutha	Thabang Makwetla John Jeffery
Labour	Mildred Oliphant	Patekile Holomisa
Mineral Resources	Mosebenzi Zwane	Godfrey Oliphant
Police	Nkosinathi Nhleko	Makhotso Sotyu
Public Enterprises	Lynne Brown	Gratitude Magwanishe
Public Service and Administration	Ngoako Ramatlhodi	Ayanda Dlodlo
Public Works	Thembelani Nxesi	Jeremy Cronin
Rural Development and Land Reform	Gugile Nkwinti	Candith Mashego-Dlamini Mcebisi Skwatsha
Science and Technology	Naledi Pandor	Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi
Small Business Development	Lindiwe Zulu	Elizabeth Thabethe
Social Development	Bathabile Dlamini	Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu
Sport and Recreation	Fikile Mbalula	Gert Oosthuizen
State Security	David Mahlobo	Ellen Molekane
Telecommunications and Postal Services	Siyabonga Cwele	Hlengiwe Mkhize
The Presidency: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Jeff Radebe	Buti Manamela
The Presidency: Women	Susan Shabangu	–
Tourism	Derek Hanekom	Thokozile Xasa
Trade and Industry	Rob Davies	Mzwandile Masina
Transport	Dipuo Peters	Sindisiwe Chikunga
Water and Sanitation	Nomvula Mokonyane	Pamela Tshwete

Public Service Commission (PSC)

The PSC is tasked and empowered to, amongst others, investigate, monitor, and evaluate the organisation and administration of the Public Service.

This mandate also entails the evaluation of achievements, or lack thereof of government programmes. The PSC also has an obligation to promote measures that would 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.

National School of Government (NSG)

The NSG is intended to educate, train, professionalise and develop a highly capable, skilled and committed public service cadre, with a sense of national duty and a common culture and ethos. It will nurture a culture of professionalism and innovative thinking and serve as a catalyst for reform and modernisation in pursuit of a performance-oriented public service.

Department of Public Works (DPW)

The DPW aims to promote the government's objectives of economic development, good governance and rising living standards and prosperity by providing and managing the accommodation, infrastructure needs of national departments, by leading the national Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and transformation of the construction and property industries.

Expanded Public Works Programme

The EPWP remains an effective part of government's response to the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Through the EPWP, projects such as building low-cost bridges over rivers, were making a real difference to people's lives. The projects carried out by the EPWP sought to improve the quality of life of poor communities in particular.

Department of Home Affairs (DHA)

The DHA is the custodian of the identity of all South African citizens, critical to which is issuing 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.

Government Printing Works (GPW)

The GPW, a division of the DHA, is a South African security printing specialist that deals with the printing of passports, visas, birth certificates, smart-card identification documents and examination materials, as well as government stationery and publications, such as tender bulletins and government gazettes.