



# 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
- Economic Sectors and Employment
- Governance and Administration

## The Presidency, May 2014

President: Jacob Zuma

Deputy President: Cyril Ramaphosa

- 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 17 June 2013 and saw ministers and deputy ministers, premiers, MECs, mayors and councillors meeting with communities to discuss the struggle against substance abuse. The intention was to scale up the national action plan against substance abuse. The izimbizo form part of the interventions aimed at entrenching South Africa's democratic, developmental state through participatory democracy.

The second National Imbizo Focus Week took place from 7 to 13 October 2013. It provided a platform for national, provincial and local government executives and the public to interact face-to-face.

## Monitoring and evaluation

According to the Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT) released in September 2013, 80% of government departments do not comply with service delivery requirements.

The report, which measured the state of management practices in the public service over the 2012/13 financial year, included an assessment of all 156 national and provincial government departments.

The MPAT measures departments against 29 management standards, awarding level one (red), level two (orange), level three (yellow), or level four (green) scores.

## 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.

In June 2013, the Department of Home Affairs reconfirmed its intention to ensure that applications for asylum in South Africa are adjudicated more efficiently while providing effective and humane administrative assistance to genuine refugees.

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 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.

Premiers, as at May 2014	
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

To encourage parents to register their babies within 30 days of delivery, 344 hospitals, clinics and healthcare facilities were connected to the Department of Home Affairs in 2013. Officials visited 88 hospitals and other healthcare centres for collection of registration forms.

## **Traditional leadership**

In September 2013, Cabinet approved the publication of the Traditional Affairs Bill that will pave the way for the Khoi-San people to be recognised. The Bill makes statutory provisions for the recognition of the Khoisan and also addresses limitations of existing legislation relating to traditional leadership and governance.

The Bill will contribute to the NDP's key target relating to broadening social cohesion and unity while addressing the inequalities of the past.

## **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 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.

## **Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)**

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs 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.

## **Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (Misa)**

At the end of March 2013, Misa deployed 68 technical consultants and 24 service providers that support 100 priority municipalities. During 2012/13, Misa technical consultants accelerated 862 infrastructure projects amounting to R12,7 billion. A total of 36 005 jobs were created through Misa.

## **Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)**

The Chief Executive Officer of the GCIS is also the official spokesperson for Cabinet. The GCIS is responsible for informing all South Africans about government's work and how they can participate in governance and consolidating the country's democracy.

The GCIS is responsible for maintaining government's website ([www.gov.za](http://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.

In 2013, the department expanded citizens' access to information and services, including the use of integrated mobile units where key service departments sign up people for services and provide information. The partnership with the Phelophepa health train of Transnet alone visited 24 train stations in four provinces and served around 380 000 beneficiaries. The GCIS continues to support the financial viability of a diverse community media sector, by placing over

R37 million in advertising in the community press, radio and television.

The GCIS publishes the *South Africa Yearbook*, the *Pocket Guide to South Africa*, *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper and *Public Sector Manager* magazine. It is also responsible for the South African Government News Agency, *SAnews.gov.za*.

## The Public Service

The Public Service Charter was launched in August 2013. It is a commitment between the State as the employer and labour, which seeks to professionalise and encourage excellence in the Public Service and improve service delivery.

The anti-corruption bureau to fast-track disciplinary cases in the public sector would form part of amendments to the Public Service Act of 1999. The amendments also include banning all public servants from doing business with government.

### Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, as at May 2014

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 Thompson
Finance	Nhlanhla Nene	Mcebisi Jonas
Health	Aaron Motsoaledi	Joe Phaahla
Higher Education and Training	Blade Nzimande	Mduduzi Manana
Home Affairs	Malusi Gigaba	Fatima Chohan

## Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, as at May 2014

Portfolio	Minister	Deputy Minister
Human Settlements	Lindiwe Sisulu	Zoliswa Kota-Fredericks
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	Ngoako Ramatlhodi	Godfrey Oliphant
Police	Nkosinathi Nhleko	Makhotso Sotyú
Public Enterprises	Lynne Brown	Gratitude Magwanishe
Public Service and Administration	Collins Chabane	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: Performance 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



Cabinet and provinces have adopted a manual on procedures in recruiting, retaining and dealing with those officials that resign. By 2014, an agreement was already in place with the National Prosecuting Authority to ensure that whistle-blowers are protected.

## **Community development workers (CDWs)**

During 2013, CDWs were able to link early childhood development centres with programmes of the Department of Social Development. In the area of HIV and AIDS, CDWs disseminated user-friendly information on these conditions and mobilised communities to actively participate in HIV and AIDS-related awareness programmes, including World AIDS Day.

## **Public Service Commission**

The Government Leadership Summit held in Pretoria, in April 2013 resolved that a productive civil service would help to tackle the socio-economic challenges facing the country. An effective public service had to develop a deeper understanding of the constitutional imperatives and government mandate of providing a better life for the country's citizens. This would make it easier for government to develop the necessary skills in its human capital to deal with the challenges faced by South Africans across the board.

## **National School of Government (NSG)**

By October 2013, the Department of Public Service and Administration transformed the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy into the 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)**

By May 2013, South Africa was well on track with the creation of an Assets Register intended to accurately reflect for the first time the State's assets.

To establish an Immoveable Assets Register, the records of 180 000 land parcels, which ascribed custodianship to a responsible department or level of government, were investigated. A physical verification process started in July 2013 and

an Immovable Assets Register was expected to be completed by 31 March 2015.

Still waiting to be completed was the allocation of custodianship of 4 500 land parcels, while about 24 000 land parcels also had to be vested. This process would be rounded off by March 2016.

## **Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)**

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.

The initial target in the second phase of the EPWP from 2009 to 2014 was to create 4,5 million work opportunities. This target had been increased to nearly five million new work opportunities, with a special emphasis on unemployed youth and women. Some 8 000 youth were recruited for artisan training to be employed by the national and provincial branches of the DPW.

## **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.