Pocket Guide to South Africa 2016/17

Government Systems

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

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

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

Izimbizo

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. It promotes unmediated face-to-face communication with the public. It provides an opportunity to political principals to share government plans to improve service delivery and to listen to issues facing communities.

Government embarked on the 6th National Imbizo Focus Week of the current administration from 17 to 23 April 2017. President Jacob Zuma had declared 2017 as the Year of Oliver Reginald Tambo. The year marked the centenary of the late President and national Chairperson of the ANC, an international icon and hero of the South African liberation struggle.

In celebrating his legacy, the National Imbizo Focus Week focused on the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) vision 2030, which underpins the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019.

Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMCs)

President Jacob Zuma (and in certain instances the Cabinet) appoints IMCs 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. They included:

- 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;
- IMC on Investment Promotion;
- IMC on Local Government Elections.

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 Women and the other for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. The 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.

Premiers, as at October 2017	
Province	**Premier**
Eastern Cape	Phumulo Masualle
Free State	Ace Magashule
Gauteng	David Makhura
KwaZulu-Natal	Willies Mchunu
Limpopo	Stanley Mathabatha
Mpumalanga	David Mabuza
Northern Cape	Sylvia Lucas
North West	Supra Mahumapelo
Western Cape	Helen Zille

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

Local government is the sphere of government closest to the people. 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

Recent developments include the redemarcation of municipal boundaries in South Africa after the 2016 Local Government Elections. This reduced the number of municipalities from 278 to 257, comprising eight metropolitan, 44 district and 205 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).

Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)

The Department of CoGTA is mandated to: develop and monitor the implementation of national policy and legislation aimed at transforming and strengthening key institutions and mechanisms of governance in national, provincial and local government to fulfil their developmental role; develop, promote and monitor mechanisms, systems and structures to enable integrated service delivery and implementation within government; and promote sustainable development by providing support to and exercising oversight of provincial and local government.

Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as at October 2017		
Portfolio	**Minister**	**Deputy Minister**
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Senzeni Zokwana	Bheki Cele
Arts and Culture	Nathi Mthethwa	Makhotso Sotyu
Basic Education	Angie Motshekga	Enver Surty
Communications	Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane	Tandi Mahambehlala
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	David van Rooyen	Obed Bapela Andries Nel
Defence and Military Veterans	Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula	Kebby Maphatsoe
Economic Development	Ebrahim Patel	Madala Masuku
Energy	David Mahlobo	Thembi Majola
Environmental Affairs	Edna Molewa	Barbara Thomson
Finance	Malusi Gigaba	Sfiso Buthelezi
Health	Aaron Motsoaledi	Joe Phaahla
Higher Education and Training	Hlengiwe Mkhize	Buti Manamela
Home Affairs	Ayanda Dlodlo	Fatima Chohan

Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as at October 2017		
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	Mosebenzi Zwane	Godfrey Oliphant
Police	Fikile Mbalula	Michael Mkongi
Public Enterprises	Lynne Brown	Ben Martins
Public Service and Administration	Faith Muthambi	Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba
Public Works	Nathi Nhleko	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	Nomathemba November
Social Development	Bathabile Dlamini	Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu
Sport and Recreation	Thulas Nxesi	Gert Oosthuizen
State Security	Bongani Bongo	Ellen Molekane
Telecommunications and Postal Services	Siyabonga Cwele	Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams
The Presidency: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Jeff Radebe	–
The Presidency: Women	Susan Shabangu	–
Tourism	Tokozile Xasa	Elizabeth Thabethe
Trade and Industry	Rob Davies	Gratitude Magwanishe
Transport	Joe Maswanganyi	Sindisiwe Chikunga
Water and Sanitation	Nomvula Mokonyane	Pamela Tshwete

The department's Back to Basics strategy, which was launched in 2014, aims to improve the quality of basic services, foster good governance and build institutional capacity in local government, encourage public participation, and create work opportunities.

The five pillars of the strategy are:

• **Batho Pele (Putting People First):** Put people and their concerns first and ensure constant contact with communities through effective public participation platforms.
• **Deliver Reliable Services:** Create decent living conditions by consistently delivering the right quality and standard of municipal services. This entails planning and budgeting, delivering infrastructure, amenities and maintenance and ensuring that there are no service failures. Should failures occur, restore services with urgency.
• **Sound Financial Management:** Demonstrate good governance and administration, which include waste reduction, prudent public funds expenditure, recruitment of competent staff and transparency and accountability.
• **Good Governance:** Ensure sound financial management and accounting and manage resources effectively to sustain service delivery and community development.
• **Build Capable Institutions:** Build and maintain sound institutional and administrative capabilities that are administered and managed at all levels by dedicated and skilled personnel.

The Department of CoGTA is also responsible for managing and transferring the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), which provides specific capital finance for basic municipal infrastructure backlogs for poor households, micro-enterprises and social institutions servicing poor communities.

The MIG enables the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, roads and community lighting in poor communities.

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 nurtures 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 and infrastructure needs of national departments, by leading the national Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and transforming the construction and property industries.

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.

Community development workers (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.

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 mandated to provide security printing and ancillary services to all organs of state in all spheres of government.

It 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. The GPW also provides printing services to some Southern African Development Community states.