

# PublicSector MANAGER

THE MAGAZINE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION-MAKERS

JULY 2022

PSM

## Border management

South Africa looks at  
ways of controlling its  
borders

## Black Industrialists

Transforming the  
economy



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**WELCOME TO  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**VAN ROOYENSHEK  
BORDER CONTROL**

**Public Sector Manager**  
THE MAGAZINE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR  
DECISION-MAKERS

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**FIGHTING CORRUPTION  
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# Building a better society

**W**e live in a world undergoing tumultuous times, more so than ever in the last few years. We not only have had to deal with the harsh reality of a global pandemic and react quickly to the most unforeseen change in the way we live, but had to also embrace the best within ourselves to stand together and get through these challenges.

More than ever, we have learnt the value of social cohesion – that we are not alone, that we need each other and that we are stronger together.

The most famous South African of all, former President Nelson Mandela, was iconic in his efforts to create and build not only social cohesion among the rainbow nation, but live as an example of what we can achieve if we work it together.

On 18 July, the world celebrates Nelson Mandela International Day. We have extended this celebration to a whole month; during which we strive extra hard to build a better society by doing what we can, be it big or small, to leave our

society and the world at large a better place than we found it.

But what forms society? What makes a nation a nation? Is it our people, our beautiful country, our iconic landmarks? Or is it our steadfast belief that we are one, that we get up when we stumble, that we stand together in the face of adversity?

These intangible things are often the glue that holds a nation together, in good and bad times. In addition to celebrating July as Mandela Month, we also celebrate the month as Moral Regeneration Month, where we seek to strengthen the nation's social cohesion and foster greater nation-building.

In line with the service to others encouraged by Mandela Month, during Moral Regeneration Month, we are encouraged to recommit our efforts to build stronger communities and a more caring society. Former President Mandela is considered as the leader of the Moral Regeneration Movement and, as such, we can also follow his example by doing our part in the fight against moral decay.



**Mondli Gungubele**  
Minister in The Presidency

We are encouraged to look deep within ourselves, communities and society. We need to see what we can do in the face of challenges to our moral values. These challenges include those elements of society who organise and partake in violent protests and riots, as seen a year ago, destroying property and damaging the economy – affecting the lives and livelihoods of our fellow South Africans. Another challenge faced by our nation is alcohol and drug abuse, which is often fostered from a young age, as seen in the recent tragedy where 21 young people, mostly teenagers, lost their lives in a tavern that allowed underaged drinking. Economic pressures have also led to a resurgence

of young women falling prey to so-called “blessers”. We must also do more to tackle the levels of corruption and criminal activities that affect the quality of life of all South Africans as resources intended to improve their lives are sometimes used for personal gain. We can overcome the moral degeneration by fostering social cohesion and working together as one.

During this Moral Regeneration Month, let us take a deep look at ourselves and play our part to tackle this decay – our combined actions can help bring about change.

Let us take the good deeds beyond the Mandela Month and Moral Regeneration Month, and make our nation great.

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	1st dose	Interval	2nd dose	Interval	Booster 1	Interval	Booster 2
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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT COVID-19





**Phumla Williams,**  
GCIS Director-General.

# An unstoppable force in making South Africa better

**P**resident Cyril Ramaphosa will host the Presidential Social Sector Summit from 4 to 5 August 2022. This comes after the Department of Social Development held Presidential social sector dialogues with community-based, faith-based and non-profit organisations in the various provinces over the past few years; the latest being an imbizo held in Gauteng recently.

In his maiden State of the Nation Address, in 2018, President Ramaphosa emphasised the importance of convening social sector summits to improve the interface between the State and civil society, and strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding.

The importance of cooperation and collaboration between gov-

ernment and civil society when addressing developmental challenges confronting South Africa cannot be overemphasised. Each sector has unique strengths and capabilities that, when combined and complementing each other, can be an unstoppable force in making our country function better, be more productive, proactive, and a greater place to live.

The Presidential Social Sector Summit will emphasise the critical role played by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) in tackling inequality, poverty, unemployment, gender-based violence, economic imbalance, and substance and alcohol abuse. A safer environment for our nation to grow calls for all sectors of society to

work together to get rid of these scourges.

The importance of NGOs and CBOs can be found in the Non-Profit Organisations Amendment Act, 2000 (Act 17 of 2000), which provides an administrative and regulatory framework within which these organisations can conduct their affairs and contribute to the advancement of South Africa's development agenda.

The National Development Plan: Vision 2030 calls for an active citizenry, a critical step towards building a South Africa we want. The importance of civil participation and proactive involvement in endeavours to improve the interrelationships of the Government of South Africa and its people can, therefore, not be understated.

The engagements between government and civil society organisations form part of President Ramaphosa's call for all key sectors of our society to work together to renew and grow South Africa.

The Presidential Social Sector Summit is expected to establish an ongoing dialogue between NGOs, CBOs and government. This will determine ways in which greater cooperation and collaboration can be fostered to encourage the public and private sector to combine their efforts and resources in the fight against the challenges facing our social cohesion and finding ways to build a stronger, more resilient society that promotes equality and prosperity for all South Africans.

# WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY?



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# 'We must tackle youth unemployment, GBVF and mental health'

**T**he Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane says the high rates of youth unemployment in the country can no longer be ignored.

She was responding to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) released by Statistics South Africa for

the first quarter of 2022.

According to the survey, the unemployment rate for the first quarter was 63.9% for those aged 15 to 24, and 42.1% for those aged 25 to 34 years, while the current official national rate stands at 34.5%.

"Despite the slight decline in unemployed youth demonstrated by Stats SA, young people still remain on the margins of the

labour market," says the Minister.

She attributes the unacceptably high youth unemployment in South Africa to an economy that has not been growing, structural challenges to growth, and the high rate of dropout at basic education and higher education.

She adds that the shift from a labour-intensive economy to a service-

based economy and the impact of automation as well as the COVID-19 pandemic on jobs also contributed to youth unemployment.

The Minister also calls for the harnessing of youth's potential to grow the country. "This includes the political will by government and captains of industry to ensure an integration of youth across all strategic

sectors of our society, especially the economy. Our growing youth population is our greatest source of potential to advance social and economic development in South Africa," she says.

The department has a mandate to advocate, monitor, evaluate and regulate for the rights and empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the Constitution.

"I believe in young people's abilities to move South Africa forward to become a global competitor in social and economic development," says the Minister.

She also urges young people to be central in shaping a sustainable, inclusive and resilient South Africa for all. She believes that youth must pioneer a new generation of thought leaders who will develop solutions to the challenges of the nation, continent and world.

## **Addressing GBVF, mental health**

In recent years, South Africa has experienced many challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic,

widespread unrest, raging fires in the Western Cape, the flooding in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape, and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

"Youth continue to bear the brunt of structural inequalities that manifest in violent ways. We must recognise the gendered experiences of young people in our country," says the Minister.

The Minister says young women and adolescent girls are at higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

While women played a crucial role in the drafting and development of our country's world-renowned Constitution, women continue to suffer GBVF perpetrated by men as well as economic exclusion, the Minister says.

As the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Minister says the committee continues to coordinate the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Regrettably, the Minister says, only R5 million is allocated for

the coordination of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF.

She adds that the interruption of basic sexual and reproductive healthcare services during the pandemic has made young girls vulnerable to teenage pregnancies and exposure to HIV infections.

Equally, the Minister says, the experiences of young men and boys cannot be ignored, particularly the mental health issues they face. "It is also this group that is most vulnerable to alcohol and substance abuse and exposure to criminal behaviour," the Minister says.

The Minister calls on all to make use of existing frameworks, including the National Youth Policy 2030 and the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, to facilitate youth investment and development.

## **Inclusive education**

The Minister calls on government and society to continue to advocate and leverage off the productivity of South Africa's youthful

population. This includes increasing access to education for all, particularly girls.

She says education must encourage inclusion to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities to access education and work opportunities.

She welcomes Cabinet's approval of the National Strategic Framework on Disability Rights Awareness-Raising Campaigns for Persons with Disabilities.

"The framework seeks to guide both private and public sectors in ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected," the Minister says.

Later this year, the Minister says, the department will convene the Economic Empowerment Summit for Persons with Disabilities to plan and design a strategy that will accelerate an inclusive process of persons with disabilities in the mainstream economy of the country.

# New border agency set to secure SA



Government departments involved in the country's border management environment are Home Affairs (DHA); Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment; Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; Health, as well as the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), South African Police Service and the South African Revenue Service (SARS).

In March, Treasury disbursed R67 million to capacitate the entity, which is currently incubated at the DHA. The authority has completed the recruitment of 200 border guards: five chief border guards, 13 senior border guards and 182 ground forces.

"When we advertised we wanted people who were already trained in terms of either military or police protocols, people trained in the use of firearms," says Masiapato.

## Deployment

The guards, some of whom hail from various metro police

**W**ork to establish the Border Management Authority's (BMA) footprint at the country's many ports of entry continues to take shape.

In 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the Border Management Authority Bill into law, with the new legislation coming into effect in July of the same year.

The legislation addresses a need for an integrated and well-coordinated border management service to

secure travel and legitimate trade in accordance with the Constitution, and international and domestic law. South Africa has 72 ports of entry, of which 53 are land borders, 10 airports and nine sea ports. The country's borderline is 4 773km long, sometimes making it difficult to safeguard.

Dr Nakampe Masiapato is the authority's first Commissioner and has his work cut out for him. He and his team are tasked with getting the authority off the ground and

ensuring that it functions effectively. Masiapato was appointed in November 2021, while Deputy Commissioner Major-General David Chilemba and Deputy Commissioner for Corporate Services Jane Thupana joined the team in December.

Masiapato's two main priorities are to capacitate the authority by bringing in new staff as well as the integration of staff from other government departments involved in border management.



departments around the country, are currently being orientated on their new duties and will start their duties after the authority's launch in July.

The guards will be deployed along vulnerable segments of the country's borderline. "The border guards will go to the vulnerable segments of the borderline, which are those parts of the borderline where people have destroyed the border fence and cross in and out with goods," he explains.

The guards will complement the work of the SANDF which already patrols the borderline.

"The guards are going to be deployed statically. Currently, the SANDF is doing high mobility deployment so they move around patrolling the borderline," says Masiapato, who has served on several border-related forums such as the Border Control Operational Co-ordinating Committee and the Inter-Agency Clearing Forum.

Among some of the vulnerable border segments where guards

will be deployed to is between South Africa and Zimbabwe on the east and west of Beitbridge.

"We will also be sending them to Lebombo, the border between Mozambique and South Africa. We will send another group down to northern KwaZulu-Natal."

The Free State-Lesotho and Eastern Cape-Lesotho areas have also been identified as vulnerable segments.

"Because of our history in Southern Africa, we have situations where communities are cut in half by a border fence. We refer to these areas as informal crossing points since people crisscross the border without being regulated. We will deploy guards in those areas to make sure criminals do not take advantage of the situation."

The BMA guards will have the power to make arrests.

The new entity, which is due to exit incubation at the DHA on 31 March 2023, will augment the number of border guards in the new financial year. The authority

will also have to fill some posts prior to exiting incubation.

From 1 April 2023, the BMA will be declared a standalone Schedule 3(A) public entity reporting to the Minister of Home Affairs. The accountability matrix of the BMA will be linked to a team of 10 ministers under the banner of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMCC) on Border Management.

## National Targeting Centre

Work is also under way to create a National Targeting Centre, which will support the work of the border guards. Individuals working at various departmental border desks will be seconded to the centre, which will operate as an intelligence structure.


"We will have some people within BMA on intelligence issues. At the same time, we are going to get intelligence people from the other existing structures. The centre will function through a multi-agency concept."

## Integration

Six work streams have been established to guide the process of integration. The border guards will be integrated with officials from departments involved in border management, excluding the SANDF and SARS.

"When it comes to BMA's operation, mother departments will retain their policy as well as their legislative responsibility. The BMA is merely the implementing arm of laws and policies from the mother departments.

"The BMA reflects South Africa's move away from a multi-agency approach to border management into an integrated approach with a single command and control structure. Each port will have one port commander who will be responsible for immigration issues, agricultural-related issues, environment issues, health-related issues and access control at the border," he explains.



# We can and will do more to end load shedding

**O**ver the past few weeks, severe load shedding has disrupted our economy and caused extreme

hardship for all South Africans. Stage 6 load shedding was triggered by the loss of more than 18 000 megawatts (MW)

of generation capacity due to unit breakdowns and an unprotected strike by Eskom workers.

After more than a decade of electricity shortages, South Africans are right to feel frustrated and angry. At times like this, it can feel like there is no end in sight.

Yet, while load shedding appears to worsen, the reality is that we have already taken several important actions to address the shortfall in electricity supply.

Our immediate priority is to stabilise the electricity system.

As the system recovers and generation capacity is restored, Eskom will be able to reduce load shedding to lower stages.

The agreement reached between Eskom and labour unions will enable critical repairs and return additional units to operation. The transmission line from Cahora Bassa in Mozambique has been restored, adding 600 MW to the grid, and Medupi Unit 6 returned to service recently, adding another 720 MW. Additional units are expected to come back online, further easing the current shortfall.

At the same time, law enforcement agencies are working hard to tackle sabotage, theft and fraud at Eskom to address the threat that these criminal actions pose to the electricity system.

In the end, the bottom line is that we need to add more capacity to the grid. This will create space for Eskom to undertake critical maintenance and increase the reliability of its fleet. It will also create a buffer so that even if several units experience breakdowns at once, other sources can be used.

One of the first steps I took in 2018 was to revive the renewable energy procurement programme. In addi-



tion to the procurement of new generation capacity through this programme, the increase of the licensing threshold for new generation projects to 100 MW means that private investors do not require a license to build generation facilities up to this size. This simple reform has unlocked a massive potential pipeline of investment.

Eskom has made land available next to existing power stations for private investment in renewable energy projects. Design modifications have been completed to improve the performance of

Medupi units 1, 2 and 3 and are underway in units 5 and 6.

While these actions are significant and will bear fruit over the coming months, they are clearly not enough to address the crisis that we face.

What the past few weeks have demonstrated is that we need to do more and do so with the utmost urgency.

There is no reason why a country like ours – with the skills, capabilities and resources we have at our disposal – should have to endure a shortage of electricity.

Over the past few weeks, we

have been working with the relevant Ministers and senior officials on a range of additional measures to accelerate all efforts to increase our electricity supply. The message is clear: this is no time for business as usual. We need to act boldly to make load shedding a thing of the past.

While the measures we have already taken will secure the supply of reliable and affordable electricity into the future, we have been looking at what additional measures we can take now to bring that goal closer.

We will soon be completing the

detailed work and consultations needed to finalise these further measures. We will then, soon, be able to announce a comprehensive set of actions to achieve much faster progress in tackling load shedding.

There are no easy solutions to our electricity crisis. But we are committed and determined to explore every avenue and use every opportunity to ensure that we generate enough electricity to meet the country's needs.



# BLACK

## INDUSTRIALISTS AND EXPORTERS

### CONFERENCE



# Progress made in transforming the South African economy

**P**resident Cyril Ramaphosa says it is undeniable that South Africa has made gains in transforming a skewed and racialised economy. He said this at the opening of the inaugural Black Industrialist and Exporters' Conference held at the Sandton International Convention Centre in Johannesburg on 20 July 2022.

"Today, there are well over 300 000 black entrepreneurs who own over half of all small businesses in the formal

sector," said the President. In addition to the progress made in management, shareholding and ownership of businesses by black and female South Africans, there has also been substantial progress made in employment equity.

The President added that while the country reflects on progress made so far, it is important to also critically examine areas where transformation has been slow and implementation has been weak. He

noted that as the conference recognises and celebrates the successes of the Black Industrialists Programme, it needs to also set out what the responsibilities are – individually and collectively – to advance inclusive entrepreneurship.

He said the country's black industrialists strategy is underpinned by two core commitments – securing greater diversity in ownership and controlling the economy and social solidarity as well as a com-

mitment to promote emerging enterprises to drive inclusive industrialisation.

"Our strategy aims to ensure that we secure greater representation across the economy, all the while generating greater prosperity and employment. Over the past six years, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the National Empowerment Fund and other agencies have supported approximately

900 black industrialists.

"Estimates by the IDC suggest that the socio-economic returns of this programme have been more far-reaching. This includes supporting and creating some 55 000 jobs and adding over R160 billion to our country's gross domestic product," said President Ramaphosa.

Championed by the President since its inception in 2015, the conference highlighted progress made by government in promoting access and transformation to black industrialists in the economy and the opportunities that the Africa Free Continental Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers. It also highlighted how broad-based black economic empowerment (BEE) enables growth and job creation, specifically on the value it adds to the economy.

The Black Industrialists Programme has, to date, empowered over 800 businesses, including new entrants, women and youth. Small businesses continue to benefit from preferential procurement and receive support to grow and expand from the State.

"These successes are testament to a shared commitment to transformation, and to a deep collaboration between the State, the private sector and other actors in the economy. And yet as much as we are working to achieve the vision of the Freedom Char-

ter that all shall share in the country's wealth, we have not yet overcome the structural defects of our economy," added the President.

## Barriers

President Ramaphosa emphasised the importance of self-employment and entrepreneurship as the engines of growth and job creation in any economy.

"They support innovation, boost competitiveness and bring new products and services into an economy. To a large extent, this entrepreneurial deficit is the legacy of the policies of the past. But 28 years into democracy, there are still barriers preventing black entrepreneurs from meaningful and equitable participation in the economy," he said.

The President added that these barriers are particularly challenging for women, youth and persons with disabilities, and entrepreneurs in townships and rural areas because they have difficulty accessing finance, markets, technology and infrastructure. He also spoke of red tape and other bureaucratic obstacles.

"On a wider scale, there is also the concentrated nature of the economy and ownership patterns, and exclusion from major value chains.

"For this reason, even as we celebrate black entrepreneurial success, our eyes must look

towards the horizon. While we are here to deliberate on learnings from the Black Industrialists Programme and other initiatives, this conference is also about shifting the transformation agenda into higher gear."

## Getting black businesses talking to one another

Trade, Industry and Competition Minister Ebrahim Patel has described the conference as a platform for black businesses to showcase their experiences.

"As government, we are getting black businesses talking to one another and networking," said the Minister.

## Load shedding

The President reiterated that government needs to find ways to end load shedding as it is having a negative impact on the economy and society, including the black industrialists, whose businesses cannot grow without a reliable supply of energy.

Much has been done over the last four years to transform the country's energy landscape and bring new generation capacity online.

"But that is not enough. And we need to move faster. That is why I have brought together all relevant departments and entities to work on an integrated set of measures to add additional power to the grid in

the shortest possible time.

"We are currently engaged in consultations with social partners on these measures, and will soon be able to announce a package of measures that provides an effective response to our energy crisis," he said.

## Panel discussions

The conference held high-level panel discussions on assessing the impact of the BEE, strengthening and facilitating transformation, the role of supplier development and procurement, challenges and opportunities with financing black industrialists, promoting exports and the AfCFTA, as well as master plans to promote economic inclusion and quantifying the impact of the BEE. Panelists included Ministers, business leaders, civil society and prominent black industrialists.

The conference created an opportunity for delegates to meet with potential funders, customers and suppliers.

The President, accompanied by some Cabinet Ministers and business representatives, conducted a walk-about at the stalls erected by the various companies showcasing their products and services.

President Ramaphosa also recognised outstanding black industrialists at the Presidential Awards for Excellence Dinner.

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# Changes to the 2022 tax filing season

**W**ith the 2022 tax filing season underway, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) has made significant improvements to the process.

The filing season, which opened during the first week of July, includes all categories of individual, provisional and non-provisional taxpayers, as well as trusts.

"This year, over three million individual non-provisional taxpayers have been auto-assessed by the SARS and will not have to file a tax return if they are satisfied with the outcome," said the revenue

service in a statement.

The introduction of auto-assessments, among other enhancements, is in line with the authority's journey of building a smart, modern revenue service with unquestionable integrity, while trusted and admired by all.

"Technology, the use of data, artificial intelligence and algorithms have enabled the SARS to make it easy and seamless for most individual taxpayers to comply with their legal obligations. All these innovations support our strategic objective of providing clarity and certainty

to help foster a culture of voluntary compliance," read the statement.

At the same time, the use of technology and data has enabled the SARS to significantly sharpen its capability to detect non-compliance and make it hard and costly.

"The SARS will impose understatement penalties to taxpayers who deliberately attempt to claim impermissible expenses or understate their income, as well as administrative non-compliance penalties to those who do not adhere to the applicable

deadlines of this filing season.

"Taxpayers should be aware that the SARS has access to various sources of data, which enables us to track economic activities and verify the completeness and accuracy of tax declarations."

An understatement penalty is charged up to 200% in cases where the SARS or the fiscus suffers prejudice as a result of failure to submit a return; an omission from a return; an incorrect statement in a return; if no return is required, the failure to pay the correct amount of tax or an impermissible avoidance arrangement.

Meanwhile, an administrative non-compliance penalty is charged up to R16 000 per month for every month that a tax return remains outstanding.

## Auto-assessments for easy compliance

In line with the strategic

objective to make it easy for taxpayers to comply, the SARS has conceptualised the auto-assessment process. The authority has identified a large segment of non-provisional taxpayers in formal employ who receive salaried income and have deductions like retirement annuity and medical aid contributions.

By using third-party data received from employers, pension fund administrators and medical aid schemes, the SARS is able to complete the tax declaration on behalf of this segment of taxpayers and issue them with an auto-assessment.

The auto-assessment process works as follows:

- From 1 July, the SARS started notifying relevant taxpayers of their auto-assessments via SMS or email.
- If there is a refund due to a taxpayer, it will be paid directly to their bank account within 72 business hours. If there is money owing to the SARS, it must be paid to the authority's bank account and through eFiling or the MobiApp by the stipulated date.
- Taxpayers can access their auto-assessments via any of the revenue authority's channels,

including the MobiApp and eFiling, to review and verify the completeness and accuracy of the information used to assess them.

- There is no further action required if the taxpayer is satisfied with the auto-assessment.
- If the taxpayer finds that there is missing and/or inaccurate information pertaining to either income or expenses, which may have affected the outcome, they must declare this to the SARS within 40 business days – by submitting a tax return.

### Risk screening

For all auto-assessments issued, the SARS will perform the necessary risk screening and unless a taxpayer submits a return, no verification, audit or recall process will be initiated. In exceptional cases, banks may flag risks to the SARS, which will be communicated to the taxpayer.

For all returns submitted by taxpayers, the normal SARS risk-screening process will apply. This may initiate a verification, upon which the SARS will request taxpayers to submit supporting documents to substantiate the information declared on the tax return.

### Objections and appeals

Where taxpayers submit a return, thus indicating that they are not in agreement with the SARS's auto-assessment, the authority will process the return and issue a revised assessment, which may result in a different financial obligation, for example, reduced refund, increased refund or payment due to SARS. If not in agreement with the revised assessment, a taxpayer can initiate an objection.

Non-provisional taxpayers who are required to file a return can do so until 24 October 2022. Provisional taxpayers and trust submissions can file returns until 23 January 2023.

### Innovation

"Auto-assessment is a key innovation designed to improve our offering to taxpayers. It follows the principle that the best service is no service and will allow us to explore the possibility of eventually having no filing season as we have come to know it," said SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter.

He added that they will spare no effort in collecting revenue due to the State.

"This will enable the government to provide basic services to vulnerable individuals and households, including the payment of grants, as well as the provision of education and healthcare services," he said.

The SARS is working hard to enhance its service by adding more digital offerings to ensure minimal visits to branches. Its offerings currently include eFiling, MobiApp, SMS, the website and the contact centre.

Those who still prefer to visit SARS branches should book an appointment to ensure an efficient experience. This can be done by either sending an SMS to 47277 with the word "Booking" (Space) ID/passport/asylum seeker number, or visiting the SARS website ([www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za)) and clicking on the "Book an Appointment" icon. Taxpayers can also use the SMS number, 47277, to request a tax reference number, find out if they need to submit a return and get a statement of account.

The revenue service is urging tax practitioners to strictly use their channel when booking an appointment.

**- SAnews.gov.za**



# SA continues to be competitive

**S**outh Africa continues to be a competitive and attractive destination for tourists, businessmen and investors.

These are the findings of the Global Reputation Study, released in June. The study was conducted by the country's official marketing agency, Brand SA, in collaboration with Bloom Consulting, an international specialist in nation and place branding.

Bloom Consulting measured South Africa's international reputation and perception in the areas of tourism, talent, prominence and trade and

investment, against two yardsticks:

- Its performance in comparison to countries in key international markets, including the United Kingdom (UK), United States, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Its performance in comparison to its emerging market competitors, including Nigeria, Thailand, UAE, Turkey and Brazil, among others.

Bloom surveyed and rated the perceptions of 10 000 participants, comprising

investors and travellers from 13 countries.

Brand SA says trade and tourism proved to be South Africa's strongest attributes, with up to 70% of the respondents indicating their willingness to visit or do business with the country.

Many respondents rated South Africa among the Top 5 places they were willing to visit, invest in, do business with or relocate to.

Despite some respondents raising concerns about crime and safety, the overall perception of the country improved in 2021. Up to 45%

of the respondents said that their perception of the country had improved, compared to 3% who said it had worsened.

According to Brand SA's acting chief marketing officer, Thoko Modise, the findings confirm South Africa's status as a low-risk, attractive investment destination that is a location of choice for multinationals looking to expand across Africa.

"South Africa is not only blessed with mineral wealth, but it also possesses world-class infrastructure, an experienced and entrepreneurial management

pool and a skilled workforce that gives companies that set up shop on our shores a competitive edge...," explains Modise.

Many of the respondents rated South Africa among the Top 5 countries in which to do business. Some respondents, including businesspeople and investors who are familiar with South Africa, rated their experience in the country as among the best, comparing it to what

they experienced in the UK, UAE and Turkey.

The study showed that expatriates enjoy their time in South Africa. They rated South Africa as the second preferred destination for international workers, along with the UAE and ahead of Thailand and Brazil.

Brand SA says it is important to have insights into the nation's brand reputation internationally because it contributes

meaningfully to its strategic positioning and competitiveness.

"In a competitive and unpredictable global environment, it is necessary to understand how stakeholders perceive a country and how that impacts its investment, trade profile and policy environments, reputation standing and favourability," says Brand SA's acting general manager for

Research, Shamiso Hlatshwayo.

Modise expects South Africa's competitiveness to continue showing improvement as the country implements the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and Operation Vulindlela – a programme led by The Presidency and National Treasury to fast-track implementation of structural reforms in key sectors, such as energy and logistics.



Photo by Amy Harrison on Unsplash

# NSG strengthens ties with African training institutions



**T**he National School of Government (NSG), a premier South African institution responsible for

education, training and development in the three spheres of government, as well as state-owned entities and organs of state, is

expanding its cooperation within the African continent.

The NSG, which reports to the South African

Minister for Public Service and Administration, provides compulsory and demand-led education and training for public

servants as well as public representatives in a hybrid fashion: face-to-face classroom learning, online learning, eLearning and virtual training.

The NSG aims to contribute to the building of a more efficient African public sector as envisaged in the Agenda 2063, the African Union's development blueprint to achieve inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development on the continent. As a result, the institution collaborates with several sister training institutions on joint projects to exchange information and best practices on capacity building in the Public Service. Some of these partnerships are with the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, the Seychelles Agency for National Human Resource Development and the Democratic Republic of Congo National School of Administration. Agreements are being negotiated for inception or renewal.

Importantly, the NSG is a member of the African Management Develop-

ment Institutes' Network, a network of management development institutes from African Union member states that work to strengthen the Public Service across the continent.

The NSG programmes include the following:

- **Economic Governance for Members of the Executive**

The NSG has launched the Executive Education Portfolio, which includes the Economic Governance School for Members of the Executive. The third iteration of this programme was a residential winter school between 27 June and 1 July 2022. The enrolled cohort included ministers from Côte d'Ivoire, South Sudan and South Africa, as well as directors-general from Lesotho, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Ghana.

The Economic Governance School for Members of the Executive is aimed at ministers, deputy ministers and political office bearers to sharpen

their understanding of the global and domestic economic challenges and to inspire innovative thinking about reigniting the economy and rethinking institutions meant to manage long-term social and economic change.

- **Project Khaedu**

Project Khaedu has been designed to prepare managers for site visits at the coalface of service delivery. The project comprises a theoretical part and a visit to service delivery points. Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria participated in the Training of Trainers workshop, which was held in South Africa in November 2018. In 2019, the NSG provided training of the Khaedu programme to the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria and in September last year, the training was offered to officials from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. This year, the training took place in Lesotho and Cote D'Ivoire.

- **The African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Administration**

The African Charter on African Values Programme curriculum defines the principles and general rules governing the transformation of African public administration. It provides a sound framework for ethical government and encourages the modernisation of public and civil services.

- **Governance in Africa Programme**

The Governance in Africa Programme is being developed as a postgraduate diploma. Currently, the NSG is seeking accreditation of the programme with one of the higher education institutions in South Africa and plans to offer this qualification jointly with one or more African institutions.

The NSG looks forward to stronger partnerships in building a more effective African public sector.

# Winter Warmers

**A**n extra chill is in the winter air. Just because it's cold it doesn't mean you don't have to look good when you head out to the office. The best thing is to layer up and keep cosy in all that you wear this season. Here are some winter warmers that will make you look great and warm.



## For Her

1. Daniel Hechter Burgundy Coat R1 699 available at Truworthis
2. Foschini Soft Touch Polo Neck Column Dress R350 available at Foschini
3. TRS Grey Cardigan R599 available at Truworthis
4. Woolworths Faux Fur Hat R199 available at Woolworths
5. Foschini Pleather Quilted Gloves R199 available at Foschini
6. Mango Edu Heeled Boot Black R1 499 available at Superbalist

*\* Prices correct at the time of publishing.*



### For Him

- 7. Uzzi Camel Melton Coat R1 350 available at Uzzi
- 8. MKM Slim Cross Hatch Suit Jacket Natural R1 400 available at Markham
- 9. MKM Slim Cross Hatch Suit Trousers Natural R599 available at Markham
- 10. Identity Black Smart Polo Neck R340 available at Identity
- 11. Polo Dylan Leather Distressed Lace Up Boot Brown R1 649 available at Superbalist
- 12. The North Face Etip Recycled Gloves Black R419 available at Superbalist

\* Prices correct at the time of publishing.



# A Step into Venda

**Nelson at Lake Fundudzi:**  
The drought-affected Lake Fundudzi.

**W**e parked our car and, the moment the air conditioner stopped, we were assaulted by the blazing midday heat of Limpopo. Getting out of the car was only marginally worse than staying in it.

So, sunblock and hats on, we climbed out into the sweltering heat. Walking over the hard-baked earth, the ground-hugging vegetation made it clear that this area was usually under water. As we walked, our guide, Nelson

Maphaha, commented mournfully about the recent drought, comparing what we saw with what was usually the view.

Nevertheless, we trudged on and he began to relate the history and mysticism of the area.

The sound of drums that echo out of stones and ricochet around the rocky valley, and ancient human sacrifices. Finally reaching the water's edge, he told us to each select a stone, get ready to spit on it and toss it backwards through our legs into the water to make the traditional greeting of the lake.

So, where were we?

In a land most famous for its Big Five wildlife and fossil-rich caves, we had come in search of a cultural adventure. Venda's Vhatatsindi people inhabit the lush mountainous regions of northern Limpopo in the region of Thohoyandou. Under the



care of Nelson, we were touring some of their sacred sites.

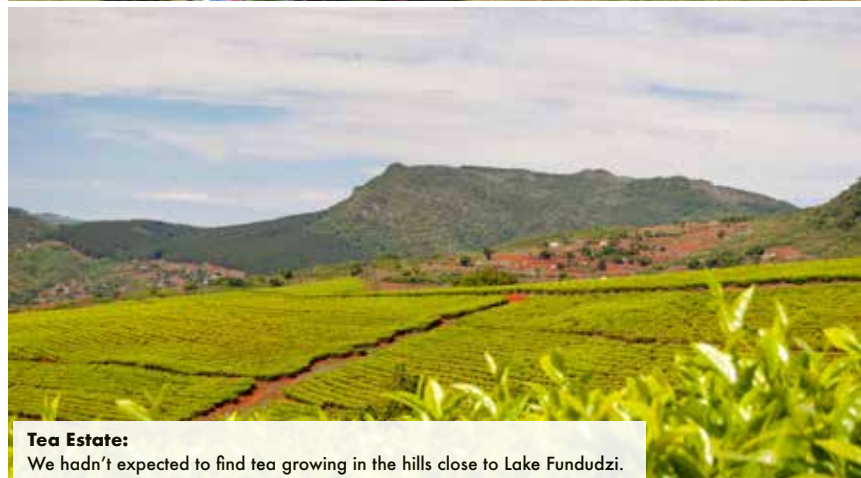
Three sacred sites are situated close enough to make them possible to visit in one day, considering the approach is usually over bumpy forestry roads of varying condition! First on the list was the Phiphidi Falls, a beautiful plunging waterfall on the Mutshindudi River. Phiphidi Falls is sacred to Venda's Ramunangi clan and home to their ancestral water spirits. This site is used to communicate with the elders. We didn't stay long here; soon we were off to the most intriguing of the three sites - Lake Fundudzi.

On the approaching drive to the lake, through steep mountain passes and

muddy tracks high in the Soutpansberg Mountains, Nelson spun a web of intrigue about the lake.

According to locals, villagers at a local kraal refused to offer food to a passing leper. There was a landslide and the kraal was submerged by the rising waters of the newly-formed lake. The villagers drowned – punishment for their hard hearts.

They say, the hills echo with the rhythmical beating of drums. A Python god lives in these hills and he uses the lake's waters to bathe. As he emerges from the water he beats large stones near the shoreline. Locals judge his mood by the changing colour of the water. The Vhatatsindi people celebrate him every year with the Domba, or



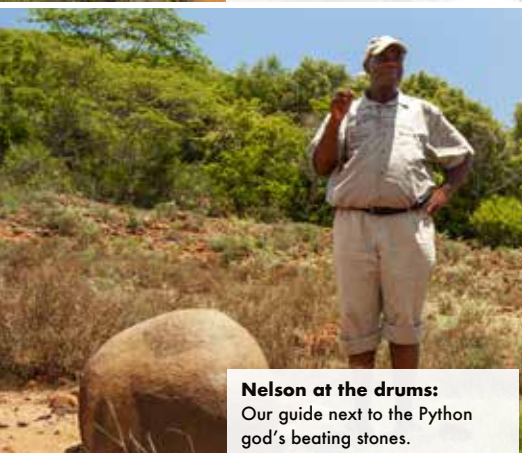
**Tea Estate:**  
We hadn't expected to find tea growing in the hills close to Lake Fundudzi.

**Lake Fundudzi:**  
The drought-affected Lake Fundudzi.





**Phiphidi Falls:**  
The Phiphidi Falls were sadly affected by the drought too.



**Nelson at the drums:**  
Our guide next to the Python god's beating stones.



**Fundudzi parking lot:**  
Leaving our car for the long trek to the water's edge at Lake Fundudzi.

Python Dance, performed by young girls from the surrounding villages.

Needless to say, our curiosity was piqued.

After our long walk from the car to the water's edge we felt a little parched but before we could find somewhere to sit and rest, we had to greet the lake in the traditional way, the ukodola. Following Nelson's instructions, we bent over and, looking backwards at the lake through our legs, repeated a Venda phrase, and each one spat on a stone and tossed it through the legs into the water.

With the Limpopo summer sun beating down on us, we watched as a group of local boys ran past us and entered the water, laughing and splashing. Nelson told us that the lake was infested with crocodiles, but that it

was safe for fishing.

After the exposed heat and dry, cracked ground of Lake Fundudzi's shoreline, the cool and quiet of the last Venda sacred site, the Tshidzivhe people's Thathe Vondo forest, enfolded us like a balm. The forest is the burial site of Venda royalty and often used for performing sacred rituals.

To us, this was the most beautiful Afromontane forest we'd ever seen. The swirling mist and echoing birdcalls held promise of so much more hiding in the verdant green of its giant Yellowwood trees and lush

undergrowth. Its peace and tranquillity soothed and stayed with us long after we'd emerged, blinking, back into the dying heat of the summer afternoon.

### Know before you go

A guide is essential if you wish to visit these sacred sites. The African Ivory Route has expert guides as well as comfortable accommodation in their Fundudzi Camp. [www.africanivoryroute.co.za](http://www.africanivoryroute.co.za)



**Village scene:**  
Rural Venda life close to Thohoyandou, Limpopo.

# Howto

# Report Crime Tip-Offs

1

Download MySAPS or  
Dial \*134\*10111#  
and follow prompts

2

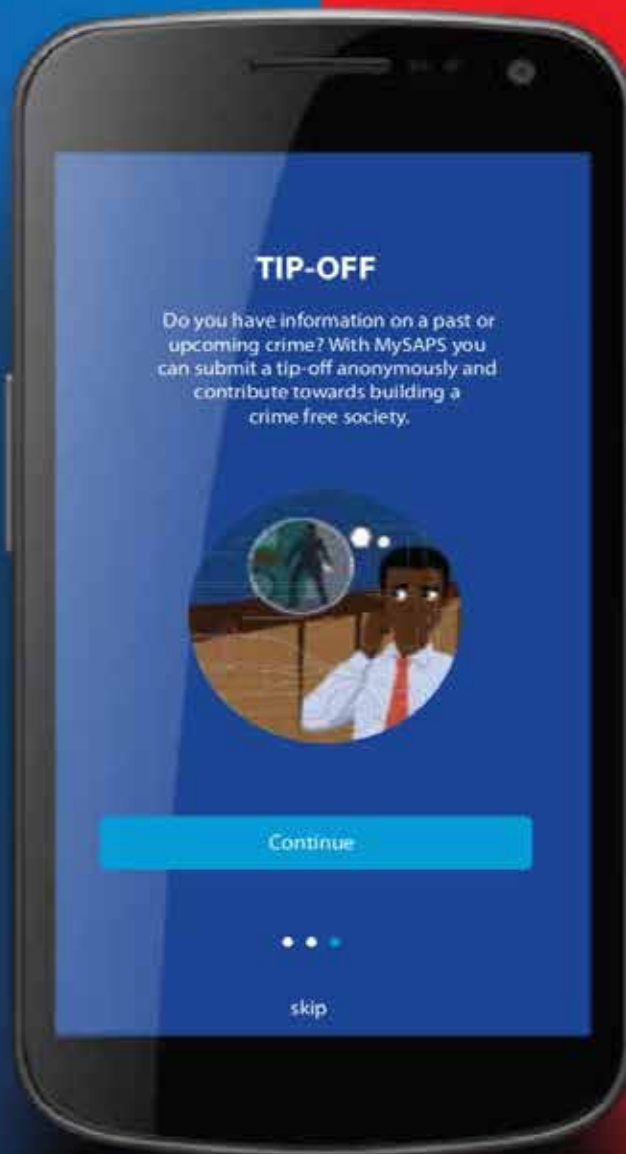
Select the Submit Tip-Off icon

3

Select the type of incident  
you're reporting

4

SAPS will contact you ASAP  
with further details



**MySAPS App**  
Enabled by Vodacom

Available on the  
**App Store**

GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

\*134\*10111#

USSD

T's & C's apply.



The future is exciting.  
Ready?



**vodacom**  
business