

PublicSector MANAGER

THE MAGAZINE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION-MAKERS

MARCH 2022



Budget 2022

Prioritising
inclusive growth

Innovative ideas

Public Service
excellence celebrated

Human Rights Month

Social cohesion
top of the agenda





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Budget 2022:

Responsible public spending needed



Mondli Gungubele,
Minister in The Presidency.

As a developing country, the cost of South Africa's socio-economic needs is far greater than the amount in government's coffers. This reality reinforces the responsibility of the Public Service to ensure that every cent of public money is used wisely and responsibly.

We owe this to the working people who deserve to know that what they pay in taxes is indeed used to improve lives and build a sustainable future.

We owe it to the unemployed and vulnerable who need to know that their basic needs will be met and an environment will be created in which doors of opportunity open for them.

The responsibility that rests on us may sound overwhelming, but this need not be the case.

If our hearts are in the right place, if we have integrity and if we commit to upholding the values and principles of good governance articulated in Section 195 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, the Public Service will become more transparent, responsive, accountable and efficient in the use of resources.

More clean audits will be achieved, procurement will be done more responsibly, and there will be less underspending on capital expenditure. As a result, there will be more infrastructure build and more community facilities, more oversight of projects, less corruption and, ultimately, more public trust in government's ability to get things done.

To ensure continued excellence in executing

government's plans and projects, we must commit to continuous learning and the professionalisation of our sector.

The annual budget reflects the country's socio-economic policy priorities. It is carefully constructed, but if programmes that receive a slice of the available money flounder, government is failing the people – and losing respect.

The 2022 National Budget gives the Public Service much to work with. It lays the foundation for economic growth and fiscal sustainability.

A provisional allocation of R17.5 billion has been made over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for catalytic infrastructure projects, while critical structural reforms contained in the Economic Reconstruction and

Recovery Plan will be accelerated, particularly in electricity, rail, ports and telecommunications.

Economic development expenditure will increase at an average annual rate of 8.5% over the next few years, from R201 billion in 2021/22 to R256 billion in 2024/25.

In addition, it is expected that public-private partnerships will create additional funding for infrastructure projects.

This means that communities will benefit from better roads, schools, bridges, water and sewage systems, and from the resultant job creation.

With a budget geared towards economic growth, public servants have the opportunity to see the tangible results of their hard work, as lives are changed and futures made more promising.

DID YOU KNOW?



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Advancing human rights



Phumla Williams,
GCIS Director-General.

In recent months, President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law three pieces of legislation to strengthen efforts to end gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

These developments are a huge gain for fundamental human rights and a warning that the violation of people's rights will not be tolerated.

The implementation of these laws will help to ensure that cases are successfully prosecuted and survivors protected, and that there are more effective deterrents in place.

Other human rights advancements made in the past years are the introduction of the Cybercrimes Act of 2020, which enables people to talk about concerns on social media platforms, but criminalises the infringement of human

rights – including cyberbullying and revenge porn.

The Protection of Personal Information Act of 2013 gives effect to the constitutional right to privacy.

In addition, President Ramaphosa decided to make the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture Report public, giving South Africans insight into the corruption that has plagued our country and those who are responsible for it.

This is important, because corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, making it one of the biggest threats to basic human rights. The strides made by government to end corruption and punish wrongdoers, while keeping the public in the loop, is heartening indeed.

Progress is being made in our country. Each year,

projects are completed that give communities more basic rights, such as the completion of vital community infrastructure, including schools and clinics.

The Presidential Employment Stimulus programmes have created over 850 000 job opportunities since 2000 – and are ongoing, restoring the dignity of people previously unable to put bread on their tables.

The Social Relief of Distress Grant, which was recently extended to the end of March 2023, has provided support to more than 10 million unemployed people.

Work is also at an advanced stage to bring universal healthcare coverage to South Africa. Both of these programmes advance people's rights to healthcare, food and social security.

These and other human rights advancements honour the brave men and women who defended their freedom in Sharpeville 62 years ago – and in so doing, helped pave the way for a democratic country and a much-praised Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Human Rights Day 2022 calls on all public servants to take stock of our achievements and reflect on our shortcomings as a nation.

We have much to celebrate, including the provision of care for the sick and social support for the vulnerable, but with many people still living in poverty and having unequal access to opportunities, we still have a long road to walk.

It is the responsibility of us all to advance human rights and build a better, more inclusive society.

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32 MILLION
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VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS



Celebrating innovation in the public sector



Maggie Moonsamy and Jongizizwe Ngwenya, who received the Public Sector Innovator of the Year Award for the Gauteng Department of Health's Central Chronic Medication Dispensary and Distribution solution.

"Instead of being reduced to mere glitz and glamour as it is often sadly the case, the Public Sector Innovation Awards should be viewed as a critical platform to unearth, demonstrate, showcase and reward innovation in the public sector," she said.

Boosting service delivery

Run by the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI), which falls under the Department of Public Service and Administration, the awards showcase innovation, and provides an opportunity to replicate and mainstream practical solutions to common challenges.

This prevents government money from being wastefully spent on find-

Public servants' outstanding innovation projects and solutions, created to improve service delivery challenges encountered at the coalface, were honoured

recently at the 19th annual Public Sector Innovation Awards.

Speaking at the event at Birchwood Hotel in Ekurhuleni, the Deputy Minister of Public Service

and Administration, Dr Chana Pilane-Majake, lauded the innovative spirit of public servants who defied the norm in pursuit of solutions to service delivery challenges.

ing solutions that already exist, the Deputy Minister said.

Innovations replicated and mainstreamed included winning projects that contributed to enhanced revenue collection and significant savings in health, education and administrative services.

One of these is the Sunward Park e-Learning Solution, which was a winner at the 2016 awards. The solution was replicated in Katlehong and Reiger Park high schools, through support from the CPSI.

According to the Deputy Minister, the solution is unique as it integrates all e-learning tools and content through an interactive and intelligent timetable which acts as the main or landing screen where users can access all other tools.

It is also an integration platform for the distribution of e-books, digital and handwritten lessons and assessments.

"The value of this solution cannot be underestimated in ensuring that learning continued in these schools during the Coronavirus Disease

(COVID-19) pandemic," said Deputy Minister Pilane-Majake.

She added that innovations from the Public Service not only point to the depth of innovation

"The time to impact citizens' lives in areas which matter most is long overdue and only through innovation can we find ways of expediting our service delivery capacity..."

and creativity amongst public servants, but also demonstrate the potential of innovation to transform government.

Innovation helps government become a more flexible and agile machinery that can adapt its service-delivery approach in line with any unexpected eventuality, such as COVID-19.

"They also highlight the

catalytic value of innovation in accelerating the delivery of services to improve the lives of citizens in line with Batho Pele."

She said in government's endeavour to build a capable, developmental state, the transformative power of innovation needs to be continually harnessed to find cost-effective ways of adding value to the existing systems and practices.

This will improve service delivery capacity, she said.

Deputy Minister Pilane-Majake explained that innovation is integral to supporting government's service-delivery models, such as the District Development Model (DDM).

Introduced in 2019, the DDM is intended to promote partnerships between the three spheres of government, the private sector and civil society.

The aim is to build the economy and ensure inclusive growth and development, particularly among communities at local government level.

"The time to impact citizens' lives in areas which matter most is long overdue and only through in-

novation can we find ways of expediting our service delivery capacity to deal with the triple challenges [of poverty, inequality and unemployment]."

Collaborating with youth

The Deputy Minister added that through the influence of the CPSI, there has been increased collaboration among government institutions and the youth, to fully leverage innovation as one of the main building blocks for a capable state.

She stressed that while collaboration is not easy, it goes hand-in-hand with innovation, and efforts to expand collaboration with citizens and youth should be a priority.

Engaging with youth as the next generation of public servants and as the beneficiaries of public services is important, said Deputy Minister Pilane-Majake.

"Their voices and their futures should be at the top of our minds when drafting policy and innovating. We therefore need to seriously invest in creating an innovative culture in the public sector."

"This will help attract young innovators like those here, retain the best innovators in the Public Service and empower officials who are enthusiastic about fulfilling government's commitment to the people of South Africa," she said.

The winners

The much-coveted 2021 Public Sector Innovator of the Year Award was scooped by the Gauteng Department of Health for its Central Chronic Medication Dispensary and Distribution (CCMDD) solution.

The CCMDD is a web-based platform that digitises a patient's prescription at the public health facility and identifies duplicate prescriptions or contraindicated medicines.

It also distributes the digital prescription and any clinical notes to private courier pharmacies, which dispense and distribute the patient's prescription to their chosen pick up pharmacy.

The Replication and Adaptation of Innovative Solutions category, which rewards initiatives

involving the adaptation, replication and scaling of projects for wider impact, was won by Resource Efficiency (Western Cape).

The winning initiative identified, designed and implemented water and energy efficiency interventions to ensure access to a sufficient and safe water supply.

The Citizen-Focused Innovation Harnessing non-ICT Innovative Solutions category, which celebrates those who find new solutions that improve citizen experiences and the quality of service delivery, was won by the Tembisa Hospital Wound Clinic (Gauteng Health).

The award was for hospital's innovative use of new technology – a diagnostic device for peripheral artery disease and an intermittent negative pressure therapy machine – to improve patient care.

The Innovation Harnessing Technology (ICT and Other Frontier Technologies) category, was also won by the CCMDD. This category celebrates new ways of leveraging technology, especially Fourth Industrial Revolution-related technology to im-

prove the Public Service and service delivery.

The Government Employees Medical Scheme Health Award also went to the CCMDD.

Special Ministerial Awards

Special Ministerial Awards recognise institutions and/or individuals that contribute to improving service delivery, but do not fall within the stringent criteria of the awards' programme. These awards went to:

- Early Childhood Learning and Development, Gauteng.
- Empowering Parents of Children with Autism, Gauteng.
- ICT Integration in Grade 12 Classrooms, Mpumalanga.
- GEEKULCHA, for the contribution to youth digital skills.

Public Sector Innovation Trailblazers were also recognised. These public officials developed in-house systems and solutions or use ICTs to improve internal efficiency or service delivery.

The 2021 Trailblazers are:

- Nomusa Keninda, Mpumalanga Department of Education.
- Johan Pretorius, Free State Department of Correctional Services.
- Etienne Van Wyk, Free State Department of Correctional Services.
- Audrey Sebeeelo, Gauteng eGovernment.
- Lucy Mbhele, Gauteng eGovernment.
- Keletso Rafedile, Gauteng eGovernment.
- Wilhelm Fouche, Gauteng Department of Health.

The Hackathon Award was won by Hack-A-Ton, an all-women team of students from the University of Johannesburg.

This award recognises youth teams who participated in the PSIHACK22 hackathon to find solutions to improve service delivery in key areas such as health, education, job creation and agriculture. The winning team developed Agr-Ecco to match farmers to potential sectors, markets and resources.

WHAT WILL THE NEIGHBOURS SAY?



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Finance
Minister Enoch
Godongwana
delivers 2022
Budget Speech.

Budget 2022: Saving lives and livelihoods

The 2022 Budget Speech was a delicate balance of saving lives and livelihoods, while also promoting inclusive growth.

Delivering his maiden Budget Speech in Parliament, Cape Town recently, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced increased support for the country's most vulnerable citizens,

funding for businesses affected by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and infrastructure investments, among others.

"In this budget, we are taking steps to support education, health, the fight against crime and corruption, and to improve capital investment, amongst others.

"Over the next three years, we allocate R3.33

trillion to the social wage to support vulnerable and low-income households. This is approximately 60% of non-interest spending," he said.

The Minister announced an additional R32.6 billion for financial support to current bursary holders and first-year students under the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

Provincial health departments have been allocated an additional R15.6 billion to support their response to COVID-19, and to bridge shortfalls in essential goods and services.

The police also received a major boost, with R8.7 billion added to its budget.

"We are also strengthening the resourcing of the justice system and our courts. In this regard, the budget of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is increased by R1.1 billion, while the Office of the Chief Justice receives an additional R39.9 million," added the Minister.



Social grants

The Department of Social Development was allocated R58.6 billion over the medium-term to initiate a new extended child support grant for double orphans. This is to encourage the care of orphans within families rather than foster care.

In addition, for 2022/23 financial year, the old age, war veterans, disability and care dependency grants will increase by R90 in April and a further R10 in October.

The foster care and child support grants will increase by a once-off R20 in April.

The Minister announced an allocation of R44 billion for a 12-month extension of the R350 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant.

He noted that the SRD Grant was introduced in 2020/21 as a temporary

relief measure to assist those who lost economic opportunities and were adversely affected during COVID-19.

"This emergency grant added to the country's already extensive social safety net. South Africa now pays grants to more than 46% of the population."

Business support

Government will launch a new business bounce-back scheme soon to support businesses in distress because of COVID-19.

Minister Godongwana explained that two mechanisms will be introduced sequentially.

"Firstly, small business loan guarantees of R15 billion will be facilitated through participating banks and development finance institutions. This

allows access for qualifying non-bank small and medium loan providers," he said.

Government will partner with loan providers by underwriting the first 20% of losses for banks and other eligible small and medium loan providers.

The eligibility criteria, including the requirement for collateral, has been loosened. This mechanism is expected to be launched and operational in March 2022.

"Secondly, by April this year, we intend to introduce a business equity-linked loan guarantee support mechanism.

"We intend to bring the total support package through the bounce-back scheme to R20 billion," the Minister added.

The equity support mechanism of this scheme will be facilitated through development finance institutions. It will also be available to qualifying non-bank small and medium finance providers.

Government will also step up efforts to create jobs.

"Over the medium-term, R76 billion is allocated for

job creation programmes. In this Budget, an additional R18.4 billion is made available for the Presidential Employment Initiative," said the Minister.

He highlighted the need for sustained economic growth to create enough jobs to reduce poverty and inequality.

"The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) remains essential to growth.

"We are accelerating the implementation of critical structural reforms contained in the ERRP in particular, in electricity, rail, ports and telecommunications."

Infrastructure

Minister Godongwana said that there will be an acceleration in infrastructure investment, which is the backbone of a thriving economy.

"The National Treasury will be implementing the results of a recently completed review of the Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) framework.

"We aim to create a centre-of-excellence for PPPs and other blended finance projects. This

"As we upgrade roads, bridges, water and sewer, transport, school infrastructure, and hospitals and clinics, the aim is to unlock higher levels of employment for those involved in the projects."

centre of excellence will be established with direct [National] Treasury oversight."

He added that it will be a direct interface with private financial institutions for investments in critical government infrastructure programmes.

In October, the Minister will table amendments, through the 2022 Division of Revenue Amendment Bill, to enable provinces to pledge their infrastructure grants to leverage more financing to fast-track the roll-out of infrastructure.

"As we upgrade roads, bridges, water and sewer, transport, school infrastructure, and hospitals and clinics, the aim is to unlock higher levels of employment for those involved in the projects."

A provisional allocation of R17.5 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework was set aside for infrastructure catalytic projects.

State-owned companies

The Minister said the Presidential State-Owned Enterprises Council is considering the future of state-owned companies.

"Their future will be informed by the value they create and whether they can be run as sustainable entities without bailouts from the fiscus. Some state-owned companies will be retained, while others will rationalised or consolidated."

He added that efforts to reduce state-owned companies' demands on the country's limited public resources will continue.

"... National Treasury will outline the criteria for government funding of state-owned companies, during the upcoming financial year. This ... is what we mean by tough love!"

The Minister acknowl-

edged that Eskom's debt situation remains a concern for its creditors and investors alike.

"Government continues to support Eskom to remain financially sustainable during its transition. To date, Eskom has been provided with R136 billion to pay off its debt with a further R88 billion until 2025/26."

National Treasury is working on a sustainable solution to deal with Eskom's debt in a manner that is equitable and fair to all stakeholders.

"Any solution will be contingent on continued progress to reform South Africa's electricity sector and Eskom's own progress on its turnaround plan and its restructuring.

"We expect Eskom to take further steps towards cost containment, conclude the sale of assets and implement operational improvements to enhance the reliability

of electricity supply," said the Minister.

Corruption

Addressing the issue of corruption, Minister Godongwana said accounting officers need to ensure that their procurement processes have integrity, provide value for money, and are free from interference from politically connected persons and bidders.

The Public Procurement Bill is expected to be tabled before Parliament in 2022/23.

"In light of the recent Constitutional Court judgement on the preferential procurement regulations, and the first Zondo Commission report highlighting abuses in state procurement, we are revising the Bill to take account of these developments.

"We will also be responding formally to the Zondo Commission report," he added.

Work underway to stabilise public sector wage bill

Government departments are working together to ensure that the public sector wage bill remains affordable.

In its Budget Review document, National Treasury states it “is working with the Department of Public Service and Administration to keep the compensation baseline within affordable limits.”

It adds that should collective bargaining result in salary adjustments that exceed compensation ceilings, reductions in headcount will be required.

In his recent Budget Speech, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana said a Public Sector Labour Summit was scheduled to take place from 28 to 31 March 2022.

“This summit is an important opportunity for

stakeholders to engage on building a sustainable public service and remuneration guidelines,” he added.

The Minister stressed that government is committed to controlling those parts of the budget that are permanent in nature, including by arresting historically rapid increases in the public sector wage bill.

“Compensation spending will increase marginally, from R665.1 billion in 2021/22 to R702 billion in 2024/25, at an average annual rate of 1.8%.

“As indicated in the 2021 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, we have allocated additional funding of R20.5 billion in 2022/23, to meet the cost implications of the 2021 public service wage agreement,” he said.

According to National

Treasury, the 2021 wage agreement awarded employees a non pensionable cash gratuity.

“In the absence of a new agreement, the same gratuity will be paid in 2022/23, and provision for this is made in the 2022 Budget.”

Baseline adjustments in previous budgets did not fully accommodate the gratuity costs and the impact of the pandemic, placing pressure on provincial health and education compensation budgets.

“To alleviate this short-term pressure, a portion of the revenue improvement is allocated to provinces,” adds National Treasury.

Compensation spending for national and provincial government grew by 7.3% on average for the period 2014/15 to 2019/20, compared with

6.8 % average growth in non-interest expenditure.

This trend crowded out other spending items like goods and services, with a concomitant impact on service delivery.

“The decision to not implement the final leg of the 2018 wage agreement and other measures to reduce average wage costs have improved the wage trajectory.

“... Medium-term wage bill growth is projected to be much lower than the original trend. This will contribute to closing the gap between revenue and expenditure, and improving the composition of expenditure,” adds National Treasury.

Photo by Mathieu Stern on Unsplash





Resolution of conflict in Ukraine must be durable and lasting

In a world where far too many disputes between and within countries are settled through the barrel of a gun, the view that differences are best resolved through negotiation, dialogue and compromise may seem out of touch, and even fanciful.

And yet, as a country that attained democracy through a negotiated settlement, we remain steadfast in our conviction that achieving world peace through negotiation, and not force of arms, is indeed attainable.

This is a principle on which we have been consistent since the advent of our democracy, and which remains an important part of our foreign policy orientation.

South Africa abstained from voting in the recent United Nations (UN) resolution on the escalating conflict between Russia and its neighbour Ukraine because the resolution did not foreground the call for meaningful engagement.

Even prior to the resolution being passed at the UN recently, talks between Russian and

Ukrainian officials had already started.

South Africa expected that the UN resolution would foremost welcome the commencement of dialogue between the parties and seek to create the conditions for these talks to succeed.

Instead, the call for peaceful resolution through political dialogue is relegated to a single sentence close to the conclusion of the final text. This does not provide the encouragement and international backing that the parties need to continue with

their efforts.

Calling for peaceful negotiation is aligned with values upon which the UN was founded.

We are particularly concerned that the UN Security Council was unable to discharge its responsibility to maintain peace and security.

This gives impetus to the long-standing calls for the Security Council's reform to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The UN Charter enjoins member states to settle their disputes by peaceful means in the first

instance, stating explicitly that parties to any dispute should first seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and similar mechanisms.

Since the outbreak of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, South Africa's position has been to affirm this call.

There have been some who have said that in abstaining from the vote condemning Russia's military operation in Ukraine, South Africa has placed itself on the wrong side of history. Yet, South Africa is firmly on the side of peace at a time when another war is something the world does not need, nor can it afford.

The results of these hostilities will be felt globally and for many years to come.

A cessation of hostilities may indeed be achieved through force of arms or economic pressure, but it would be unlikely to lead to a sustainable and lasting peace.

The historical tensions between Russia

and Ukraine make it all the more important that whatever agreements are brokered are sustainable in the long run and address the concerns

“ It is our hope that negotiations between Russia and Ukraine yield positive outcomes that pave the way for an end to the conflict. ”

of both parties to the conflict.

Our own experience with ending apartheid, and our country's role in mediating conflict elsewhere on the continent, have yielded a number of insights.

The first is that even the most seemingly intractable differences can be resolved at the negotiating table.

The second is that even as talks may collapse, they can and do resume, as was the case in our own negotiating process. And that even when it seems the parties cannot see eye to eye, break-

throughs can and do happen.

That we continue to support the call for negotiation and dialogue does not render our commit-

ment to human rights any less.

Since the outbreak of the conflict we have expressed our concern at the impact of the conflict on civilians believing that war is not the solution to conflict and that it leads to human suffering.

Our country is committed to advancing the human rights and fundamental freedoms not only of our own people, but for the peoples of Palestine, Western Sahara, Afghanistan, Syria and across Africa and the world.

It is our hope that negotiations between

Russia and Ukraine yield positive outcomes that pave the way for an end to the conflict.

Even though the pace of negotiations may proceed slowly, there is progress nonetheless. Every effort of the international community should be oriented towards supporting these talks, and to bringing the two sides together.

South Africa is greatly encouraged by the words of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres who recently said he would do everything in his power to contribute to an immediate cessation of hostilities and urgent negotiations for peace.

We all call upon Russia and Ukraine to subject this conflict to mediation and do everything in their power to reach an agreement that will lead to the cessation of hostilities.

The peoples of Russia and Ukraine – two neighbours whose histories, peoples and fortunes are inextricably bound together – deserve a peace that is durable, sustainable and lasting.

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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS



Social cohesion

tops Human Rights Month agenda

This year's Human Rights Month commemorations will contribute to social cohesion and nation-building through a series of dialogues and other events.

Sport, Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa said activities will include government conducting public engagements with local residents and foreign nationals in efforts to foster mutual understanding and peace.

While last year marked the 25th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, government has also extended the commemoration into 2022, with a series of activations planned.

Human Rights Month is being commemorated under the theme,



Sport, Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa speaking at the launch of Human Rights Month.

'The Year of Unity and Renewal: Protecting and Preserving our Human Rights Gains'

The commemorations

will be used to assess the progress of the nation's constitutional democratic project.

It also brings to the fore

the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment, and the extent to which this negates the goal of building a human rights culture.

While South Africans have made great strides in the management of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, government will also use this month to foreground issues on public health, which are at the centre of the human rights agenda, given the lived reality of the pandemic.

Minister Mthethwa said there are concerns that the country is still a long way from achieving herd immunity, as a result of lower than expected uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines.

"Thus, it is not inconceivable that while there would be some further

relaxation of regulations, the country may not as yet get back to pre-COVID-19 levels of normality.

"This will further have implications in terms of how commemorations such as Human Rights Day are appropriately marked and commemorated," the Minister said.

Human Rights Day can be traced back to the tumultuous events in Sharpeville on 21 March 1960.

On that day, 69 people died and 180 were wounded when police fired on a peaceful crowd that had gathered in protest against the pass laws.

Outlining the gains made in engendering a human rights culture since the advent of democracy, Minister Mthethwa said the Department of Justice

and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) has played a crucial role in ensuring that such an evaluation is premised on empirical evidence and reliable data through its long-standing partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights.

"Women constitute the majority in the population, yet in many respects, remain marginalised and more often, fall victim to discrimination and abuse, with some in the process paying with their lives.

"In terms of practical interventions, it is important to note that since the National Summit against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide that the President convened in 2018, there has been a 365-day commitment in this fight across all government departments

and State agencies."

He added that since then, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities developed a National Strategic Plan on GBVF, in which all commitments on practical interventions are codified, monitored and reported about periodically as a way to gauge progress.

"On the legislative front, there has also been progress, given the latest enactment into law of the three anti-GBVF Bills," the Minister said.

These legislative reforms will, among others, allow victims to make online protection order applications without being present in court.

Moreover, protection order applications will be on a 24-hour basis on the online application platform.

"As a deterrent

measure for likely perpetrators, one of the Bills has provision in it that makes it possible for certain particulars of persons convicted of sexual offenses to be made publicly available.

"These Bills include the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill, Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bill and Domestic Violence Amendment Bill," he added.

The DoJ&CD is also hard at work in consultations with stakeholders that will ensure that going forward, sex work is decriminalised.

"This would be an important development, since it is recognised that the criminalisation of sex work disproportionately affects women," he said.

SA gears up for investment conference



President Cyril Ramaphosa at the launch of the Toyota Corolla Cross vehicle, in Prospecton, KwaZulu-Natal.

Trade, Industry and Competition Minister Ebrahim Patel has hailed the South Africa Investment Conference (SAIC) as a boost to the country's target of netting R1.2 trillion in investment.

South Africa will host its fourth SAIC in Johannesburg on 24 March 2022. The three previous conferences have resulted in significant progress towards the country's

investment targets.

"President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2018 committed to raising over R1.2 trillion worth of investments over a five-year period, and hosted three annual investment conferences, at which he set out the policy context and reforms, and the private sector provided feedback and made pledges to invest.

"Pledges received in

the first three investment conferences amounted to roughly 64% of the five-year Investment Mobilisation Drive target of R1.2 trillion," said the Minister.

He added that at the third SAIC, pledges of about R774 billion were made.

Of the 152 investment announcements made previously, 45 projects have already been completed (meaning that the

construction of the facility has been completed, or where it involves new machinery or equipment, these have been procured and installed; or that production has started).

A further 57 projects are currently under construction.

Fifteen projects are either progressing slowly or have been put on hold due to the impact of the pandemic or economic

factors, the Minister said.

"As of February 2022, those firms that have completed their reporting have advised that R314 billion (40.6%) of the committed investment pledges have been expended."

Companies back investment drive

Takalani Netshitenzhe, the Chief Officer: External Affairs at Vodacom, said four years ago at the first SAIC, the company pledged to invest R50 billion on fibre and mobile networks over five years.

"We are living up to our pledge," she said.

Naspers Director of Cooperate Affairs Helen Ndlovu said the company is committed to this year's SAIC as a means of continuing to help promote South Africa as an attractive investment destination, re-establishing confidence in the economy, and driving sustainable

and inclusive growth as a proudly South African company.

Ndlovu said that as a proudly South African business that has grown into a global consumer internet group, Naspers recognises the value of investment in unlocking the potential of South African companies and the role of these companies in creating jobs, stimulating growth and encouraging investor confidence.

"As Naspers, we have seen first-hand what the right investment, business support and partnerships can do in growing tech start-ups and also what the requisite digital skills training, opportunities and experience can do for young graduates entering the workplace.

"We have seen great progress but also recognise that there is a lot more work to be done by all stakeholders. It is for these reasons that Naspers is again a proud

sponsor of the SAIC."

She said Naspers believes that as the economy reopens, there will be growing recognition of South Africa as a world-class investment destination, one with solid infrastructure, a young, hard-working and talented population, and an investment destination that has the potential to be a leader in driving technological innovation across Africa and beyond.

"During the first SAIC in 2018, we pledged R4.6 billion in investing in new technology start-ups and in growing our existing South African businesses."

Pledges so far

Minister Patel highlighted pledges from other companies as follows:

- **Aspen:** The company made a pledge of R3.4 billion at the 2018 SAIC that has now been fully executed and has provided
- **Mercedes Benz:** The company pledged R10 billion during the 2018 SAIC. An additional R3 billion was added to this amount when the scope of the investment project was widened. This investment resulted in the local production of the new C-Class sedan from June 2021.
- **VM Automotive:** In 2019, VM Automotive announced an investment of R426 million in a component plant

Africa with much of its first vaccine manufacturing capability (for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine), with an estimated 160 million doses that have been produced in South Africa. The company has also built Africa's first anaesthetic production facility, producing propofol under the brand name Diprivan, for the domestic market and exports.

"As of February 2022, those firms that have completed their reporting have advised that R314 billion (40.6%) of the committed investment pledges have been expended."

in East London. VM Automotive is a 100% black-owned company that will form part of the suppliers to the C-Class Mercedes.

- **Toyota:** At the 2019 SAIC, Toyota South Africa announced a R2.43 billion investment (subsequently increased) to produce a new generation model that will also have a hybrid vehicle variant. The Corolla Cross is the first generation of commercial-scale hybrid electric vehicle to come off the South African Assembly line on 26 October 2021. The Corolla Cross will be exported to more than 40 countries across Africa.
- **P&G:** In 2018, P&G made an announcement of R300 million to expand its facility in Kempton Park to introduce two additional plant lines. The new facility has been in production since late 2019 and created 90 jobs. The products are exported to the

neighbouring South African Development Community countries. P&G made a further investment pledge of R250 million at the 2020 SAIC to expand its manufacturing facility and warehouse.

- **In2Foods:** In 2018, In2Foods announced an investment of R241 million. Located at the OR Tambo Special Economic Zone, In2Foods has built a state-of-the-art 22 700m² fresh-food facility, which has been described as the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and the second largest CO₂ refrigeration facility in the world. This has resulted in the creation of 600 jobs. The new facility will produce 2 000 litres of soup and 10 000 pancakes per hour.
- **Dr Oetker:** In 2020, the German company announced a R200-million investment in a new food manufacturing plant in Selby, Johannesburg. The new plant has been

completed, creating 80 new jobs and expanding capacity for frozen pizzas and ready-made meals supplying to major retail chains.

- **Bidvest:** In 2018, Bidvest announced a R1-billion investment in a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage facility in Richards Bay. The 22 600 ton LPG storage facility has been commissioned and is the region's largest import terminal.

Close to completion

A number of additional investments are ready to be officially launched in the coming months.

These include:

- **Sappi:** Expansion of Sappi Saiccor Mill was announced in 2018 at an amount of R7.7 billion. Capacity for dissolved pulp will be expanded by 110 000 tons to 890 000 tons per year.
- **Corobrik:** In 2019, the company announced an investment of

R800 million to build a state-of-the-art brick manufacturing facility. Capacity will be expanded to 100 million bricks a year (currently producing 50 million bricks at the Carltonville, Driefontein plant).

- **Isuzu:** The company launched a R1.2-billion plant for the D-Max bakkie in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape.
- **Renergen:** The company has completed phase 1 of the R700-million investment announced in 2019. Commercial operations in Virginia, Free State, will start in April 2022 to produce liquid helium and liquefied natural gas.
- **Sandvik Mining:** In 2020, the company announced a R287 million expansion of its remanufacturing and warehouse facility in Kempton Park, Gauteng.
- **Dimension Data:** A R875 million data centre in Johannesburg was announced in 2020.

WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY?



Police: 10111
Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150
Childline: 0800 055 555

There is no excuse for abuse.
People can only help if they know.
TELL SOMEONE.

Violence and abuse are poison to society. Let's make it stop.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Decisive leadership needed in local govt

Councillors and local government officials have been urged to urgently address service-delivery shortcomings to ensure that local government is more responsive to the needs of citizens.

Addressing the sixth national conference of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) recently, President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "Local government is where you can make the biggest difference in the lives of our people. Local government is the most important enabler of economic growth and development."

He called those responsible for the delivery of services to turn adversity into opportunity and local government around.

The conference was one of the biggest gatherings of all three spheres of government, civil society,



business and other stakeholders in the country, and brought together officials from 257 municipalities across the country.

The President said that although "commendable progress" has been made through the provision of water, sanitation and other basic services to communities, further improvement requires a concerted effort from each municipality and its leadership.

"The task before us now is to consolidate these gains, to deepen them

and ensure that we realise the aspirations of the South African people.

"Municipalities are the first point of contact between government and the people. When there are local government failures, the effects are felt immediately and they are far-reaching," he added.

Municipal challenges

The President painted a picture of the challenges

facing municipalities as they attempt to provide services to the communities they serve.

He said a government report shows that only 5% of the country's municipalities are financially stable, while other municipalities are in financial distress, with insufficient revenue to meet their expenses.

In addition, 64 municipalities are considered to be dysfunctional and at

least 31 municipalities are currently under administration.

"This dysfunction is rooted in poor governance, weak institutional capacity, poor financial management, corruption and political instability. Many residents have lost faith in the ability of local government to meet their needs. So too have many investors," the President added.

He cautioned that the challenges in municipalities do not only affect the lives of communities.

"They damage both local economies and the South African economy. This need not be the case. We have the means to correct this problem."

President Ramaphosa called on government leaders to correct failures and guide municipalities towards sustainability, efficiency and clean governance.

"By providing reliable water supply, sanitation, energy and refuse services, and through road and infrastructure maintenance, local government enables our economy to

grow and create employment.

"As leaders across government, we have to work with all stakeholders in municipalities to deliver a better life to our communities. This calls for decisive leadership and accountability."

He said corruption has no place in municipalities and called for accountability and transparency in municipal finances, while remembering that it's not our money, we are managing the money on behalf of others.

"Our people abhor corruption. They hate it because they know they do not benefit from corruption and only a few people benefit. It is important that we remove the notion of corruption by acting in the most transparent manner, right to the last cent."

President Ramaphosa added that people are no longer willing to accept poor performance.

"We live in a different era... They've become wiser and more perceptive. So, they want everything laid out correctly and truthfully, so our code

then begins to speak to the level of performance that is required."

District Development Model

The President reiterated government's commitment to implementing the District Development Model (DDM), which is aimed at improving coordination between the three spheres of government and its social partners.

The DDM is helping to grow local economies, create jobs and deliver services better and faster, he said.

"Through this model, we aim to energise our entire system of cooperative governance, and bring coherence to planning and implementation.

"Once it is fully operational, we will know at all times what is needed, where it is needed, how it will be done, by whom and exactly how much it will cost."

The President explained that as part of the DDM, the Department of Cooperative Governance

is drawing profiles for each district and metro, which highlight the "challenges and opportunities" in those communities.

These profiles will provide the basis for the 'One Plan' of the metro or district, which is an inter-governmental plan.

"Through these One Plans, we are forging innovative partnerships with communities, businesses and other stakeholders to improve and accelerate implementation of key development projects.

"We are looking to the DDM to help put South Africa on a new path of socio-economic and spatial transformation."

He reflected on the 2021 Local Government Elections, saying people made it clear that they expected more from local government.

"I do firmly believe that if nothing else, the 2021 elections gave all of us a wake-up call that says: 'Wake up and smell the coffee, but provide good services to us as the people,'" President Ramaphosa said.

Digitally connecting South Africa

Improved connectivity in underserved areas will enable better health, education and internet services to communities that need them the most.

Government's SA Connect project aims to achieve 80% broadband access in communities and government facilities over the next three years, with a minimum speed

capacity of 10 Megabits (Mbps) per second and 100 Mbps per second for high-demand facilities.

In January, Cabinet approved the roll-out of SA Connect phase two, which forms part of government's commitment to bridge the digital divide, especially in rural communities, and to advance the digital economy.

In his State of the National Address in February, President Cyril Ramaphosa said various government reforms aim to revolutionise the country's technological development, making faster broadband accessible to more people and reducing the costs of digital communications.

"We will facilitate the

rapid deployment of broadband infrastructure across all municipalities, by establishing a standard model for the granting of municipal permissions," he said.

SA Connect gives effect to the country's Broadband Policy that was adopted by Cabinet in 2013, and aims to meet the National Development

Plan's technology goals to create an inclusive information society.

A two-phased plan

According to the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, due to the magnitude of SA Connect, the project plan was divided into two phases.

Phase one initially aimed to connect 6 135 government facilities, including schools, health facilities, post offices, police stations and government offices, in the eight rural district municipalities, to 10 Mbps broadband services.

Phase one's scope was subsequently reduced due to the economic impact of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

"It served as a pilot phase to provide 10 Mbps broadband services to about 970 critical government facilities," Cabinet said.

These facilities included 597 schools, 115 health

facilities and 258 government department facilities in eight district municipalities, namely Dr Kenneth Kaunda (North West), Thabo Mofutsanyane (Free State), OR Tambo (Eastern Cape), Vhembe (Limpopo), Gert Sibande (Mpumalanga), Pixley ka Seme (Northern Cape), uMgungundlovu and uMzinyathi (KwaZulu-Natal).

According to the department, phase two aims to connect in excess of 42 000 government facilities countrywide.

In October 2021, Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, said the project's implementation approach was reviewed after phase one to determine the most cost-effective and efficient ways to implement phase two, following a feasibility study by National Treasury and the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

The study included a comprehensive options analysis of broadband

roll-out models that considered other public/private information communication technology networks and service providers in the country; and an institutional framework, including governance arrangements, to execute the roll-out.

According to Cabinet, SA Connect phase two will be rolled out using three state-owned entities – the State Information Technology Agency, Broadband Infraco and Sentech – and industry, over the next 36 months.

"The project will connect the remaining government facilities, communities and households," Cabinet said.

Digital divide

In November last year, Minister Ntshavheni said the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the extent of the digital divide in South Africa and the rest of the developing world, particularly on the African continent.

"The divide has been evident during this period,

between those with access to connectivity and those without; as basic services such as access to education, health, work and the ability to continue to operate one's business in the event of small businesses or small, medium and micro enterprises moved to virtual platforms."

She noted that in South Africa children from schools and families with access to the internet were able to continue with their learning with minimal interruption.

"Whereas the majority who did not enjoy similar access have suffered huge losses in school days thus impacting on their access to quality education.

"Therefore for us, access to the internet or connectivity, or bridging the digital divide, has become a first and foremost priority for our country," she added.

SA Connect phase two will go a long way in bridging that divide.

Make fitness fashionable

If you are on a mission to get fit, you might as well look good while you are working towards your goals. There is no doubt that when we look good, we feel good, and this extends to the clothing choices for any fitness activity. You can be both comfortable and stylish with these items.



1. The Slipstream Lo Beauty Trainers from PUMA are a re-release of the classic 1987 basketball sneakers. They combine a classic look, with rose detailing on the upper, evoking the fairy tale character of Beauty, available from PUMA, **R2 400**.



2. Carry all your essentials in this stylish, yet lightweight duffel bag that is made of durable fabrics with at least 65% recycled material, Nike, **R549**.



3. Under Armour has designed these face masks that are perfect for when you are working out at gym. They offer up the required air flow needed, whether you're running or training, Under Armour, **R499**.



4



6



5



7

4. The Beast to Beauty, these matching PUMA Slipstream Lo Beast Trainers pair up with the Slipstream Lo Beauty sneakers. The classic style will ensure you stand out from the crowd, PUMA, **R2 400**.

5. Beyoncé's Ivy Heart is a capsule range from her Ivy Park collection with Adidas. The range features bold colour and design choices, like this unisex velour tracksuit. Top: **R2 699** and bottoms: **R2 199**.

6. The new Nike Apple Series 7 watch comes with great new features that include a built-in Nike Run Club app where you can track your workouts and listen to guided runs or music from your playlist, iStore, from **R8 799**.

7. Another great unisex find are these Under Armour HOVR Summit Fat Tire sneakers which have a zero gravity feel. These are cushioned for minimum impact and offer excellent grip on all terrains, Under Armour, **R2 199**.

** Prices correct at the time of publishing.*

The country's finest: SA's award-winning wines

South Africa has made a name for itself as one of the finest wine-producing countries in the world, with an industry that dates back to 1659. Spoil yourself with something truly exceptional with this list of award-winning wines, each of them handpicked for their homegrown perfection.

Red blend: Ernie Els Wines Signature 2015

In the world of reds, the Ernie Els Signature 2015 is royalty. This sumptuous wine is one of the five-star winners in the category of Red Blends:



Cape Bordeaux in the Platter's by Dinners Club Wine Guide – South Africa's best-selling wine guide.

With its five-star rating, this wine is ranked a "Superlative South African classic".

Expect to be met with

nuances of fig jam, cigar box and meat spice. On the palate, you will experience ultra-fine, layered tannins surrounded by a halo of mixed red berry fruits. A salty, mineral tail provides the perfect finish. Pairing idea: garlic and rosemary grilled lamb chops.

Chardonnay: Cap Maritime Chardonnay 2020 (Boekenhoutskloof)

As one of the top-rated chardonnays in the country, this white wine holds its own against some of the world's biggest hitters.

The grape for this variant is cultivated on the slopes of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. This particular region, situated just outside the seaside town of Hermanus, is lauded for being one of the best

wine-producing regions in the country.



The Cape Maritime Chardonnay is overtly mineral and stony, melting into a melody of yellow citrus, grape jelly and green melon preserve. Its texture has been described as "harmonious, from start to finish." Pairing idea: baked salmon with garlic and Dijon.

Sparkling wine: Lords 2012 MCC Brut

For lovers of all things

that sparkle, clink your glasses to the delight that is the Lords 2012 MCC Brut. This wine won double gold in the prestigious 2021 South African Sparkling Wine Championships.



The judging panel for these celebrated awards featured the likes of Praisny Dlamini, an accomplished winemaker from KwaZulu-Natal and a pioneer in her field. Expect a full-bodied experience punctuated by hints

of yeast and an aroma of fresh green apple. Pairing idea: fruit-based desserts such as crepes, pavlova and tarts.

Shiraz: Kunjani

Shiraz 2015

Taking place in April every year, the Shiraz SA Challenge sees winemakers from all over the country submitting their variants to a stringent and thorough judging process.

In 2020, the Kunjani Shiraz 2015 made a lasting first impression and was declared one of the clear winners of this rigorous contest. It has scooped up a bevy of other awards, including Michelangelo and Gilbert & Gaillard gold medals.

An inviting aroma of white pepper invites you



to try this wine, followed by a soft palate entrance of spicy fruit. The depth of the palate is enhanced by sweet liquorice root with a touch of lime. Pairing idea: braised lamb with radishes and mint.

Sauvignon Blanc: KWV

2019 Cathedral Cellar

Cultivated in Darling in the Western Cape, the KWV 2019 Cathedral Cellar Sauvignon Blanc showcases distinctive aromas of gooseberries, asparagus, as well



as granadilla and guava, with grapefruit on the palate. The KWV cellar is renowned for its consistency for producing wines of the highest calibre, using a winemaking process that has stood the test of time. This dazzling white

was the winner of the coveted platinum award in the 18th Decanter World Wine Awards, the world's largest wine competition. In 2021, 18 094 wines were entered from 56 countries. Pairing idea: creamy seafood pasta.

Pinot Noir: Iona

Vineyards Kloof 2018

As far as Pinot Noirs go, this wine is a champion.



Produced in the Elgin Valley and known for a taste profile that represents the uniqueness of South African wines, the Iona Vineyards Kloof 2018 has been described as having good intensity and texture with significant ageing potential.

It was awarded five stars in the Platter's by

Diners Club South African Wine Guide. This wine opens the stage to a fruity ensemble of raspberries, strawberries and cherries. On the palate, you can expect fine, powdery chalky tannins and a healthy dose of acidity which provides for the perfect balance. Pairing idea: pork loin glazed with raspberry and orange.

Wine tasting in six steps

Step 1: See

In a good red, look for colours from deep purple to brick red. In whites, look for shades of lemon gold to golden amber.

Step 2: Swirl

Also referred to as the "opening up" of the wine, the purpose of swirling wine is to oxygenate it, releasing its aromas.

Step 3: Smell

Older wines usually have subtler aromas than younger ones. Look for fruitiness, spiciness and earthiness.

Step 4: Sip

Fill your mouth only about halfway.

Step 5: Swish

Subtly swish the wine around, allowing it to coat the inside of your mouth.

Step 6: Savour

Allow the aftertaste of the wine to linger as part of the experience.