

PublicSector

M A N A G E R



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on tackling corruption and restoring public trust

Festive road safety

Join the drive to keep roads safe this holiday season

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Keeping roads safe during the festive season

We recently launched the 2025/26 festive season campaign un-

der the theme, "It Starts with Me". The theme highlights the point that each and every one of us, has an important role to play in reducing road accidents and road deaths in our country.

The campaign is aimed at ensuring that all of us can go home for a family reunion, enjoy a well-deserved break, or participate in a celebration and return safely in January.

South Africa supports the United Nation's Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021 – 2030, which calls on the world to have halved fatalities by 2030. We have made consistent progress in achieving this objective. For the first time in five consecutive years, we have

managed to reduce the road accident death toll.

So far, this year, there have been 700 fewer deaths compared to the same period last year. However, with over 9 400 road fatalities this year to date, the accident rate is still high.

This year's campaign builds on all we have learned about road safety during the course of the year:

- ⦿ Human error is responsible for almost nine out of every 10 crashes.
- ⦿ Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape and Limpopo account for seven out of every 10 accidents.
- ⦿ The majority of fatal accidents occur on weekends, especially after dark.
- ⦿ Pedestrians account for over half of all road deaths and injuries.

The campaign will include a massive public education and awareness campaign; partnerships with all levels of govern-

ment and all aspects of civil society; enhanced law enforcement operations, focusing on driver and pedestrian behaviour and 24-hour patrols, particularly in high risk areas.

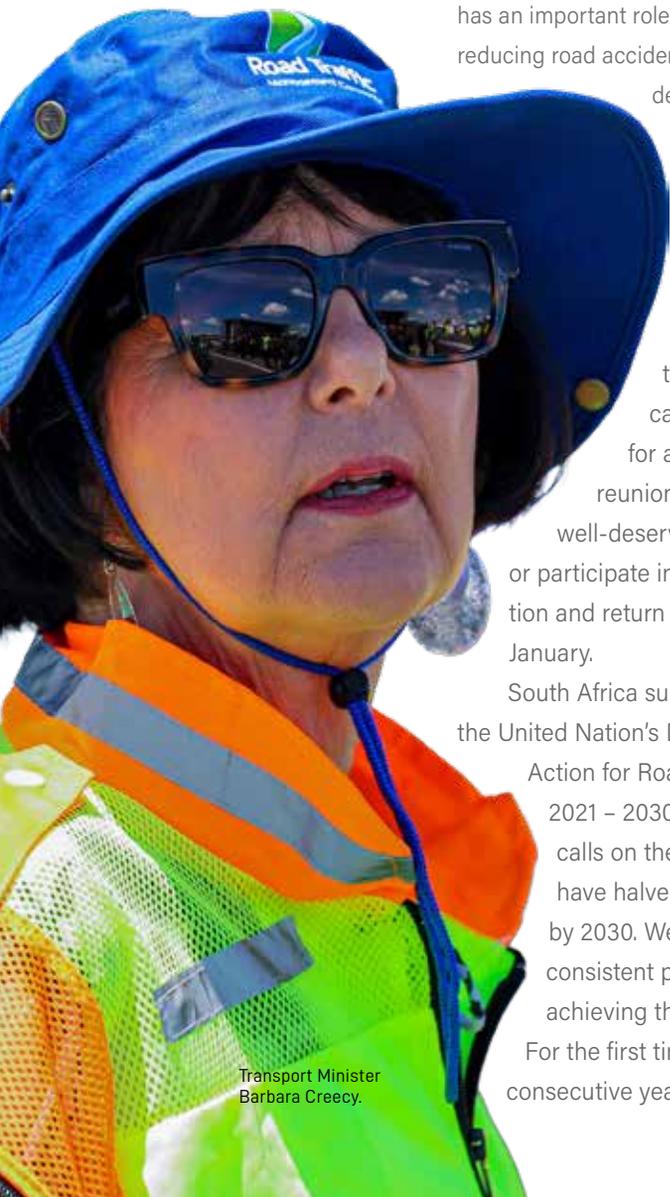
We will increase roadblocks, checks for vehicle roadworthiness, driver licenses, seatbelt and child-restraint use as well as clamp down on speeding and drunken driving.

The campaign will also focus on public-passenger transport, minibus taxis, cross-border traffic and long-distance travel, all of which historically contribute to major crashes. We will also conduct public transport inspections at depots to stop overloaded and unroadworthy vehicles from entering the main freeways.

We will monitor results and data continuously, and adjust operations in-season, shifting resources to hotspots where needed.

Critical routes

We have identified critical



Transport Minister
Barbara Creecy.



Transport Minister
Barbara Creecy.

routes that will receive priority attention from our law enforcement officers as these carry high vehicle numbers and are prone to fatal crashes. These include the N1 from Naboomspruit in Limpopo, past Gauteng and the Free State, right up to Laingsburg in the Western Cape; the N2 from Pongola in northern KwaZulu-Natal down to Libode, Idutywa, Mthatha to Maxesibeni in the Eastern Cape.

High risk routes also include the N3 from Gauteng, through the Free State to KwaZulu-Natal; the N4 from Tshwane in Gauteng, through eMalahleni, Mbombela to Komatipoort in Mpumalanga; the R573 between Gauteng and through KwaMhlanga and Siyabuswa in Mpumalanga; the N12 between Gauteng and Klerksdorp in the North West province; the R71 in between Polokwane and Mankweng in Limpopo; the

R37 between Mucklenburg and Tubatse in Limpopo as well as the R61 between uMthatha and Ngqeleni in the Eastern Cape.

Collaboration

There will be joint planning of operations through the deployment of traffic officers across borders where traffic volumes peak, high-risk corridors and crash hotspots. A total of 800 law enforcement officers from the National Traffic will be deployed to Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, to amplify the existing provincial capacity.

Further collaboration with the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency and the Border Management Agency will focus on public transport points of origin like bus depots, intermodal centres and cross-border transport depots.

Government will step up

public awareness campaigns through multiple media and community channels to ensure that road safety messages reach all communities and various road users at train stations, bus and taxi ranks, exhibitions at malls and shopping centres, community halls, churches, toll gates and rest stops, sports events and border posts.

Choose safety

We urge passengers to choose safe public transport options, wear seatbelts and ask their drivers to stop when sensing fatigue. To every driver using the road network, we say, always remember that the most vulnerable user of our roads are pedestrians.

Pedestrians must walk in well-lit areas, wear visible clothing at night, use designated crossings and avoid walking after drinking alcohol.

Government cannot achieve progress alone. We rely on civil society, religious and faith-based organisations, traditional authorities, public transport operators, taxi associations, the private sector, emergency services and every road user.

Several engagements have been conducted with civil society organisations through-out the year to build partnerships and collaborative efforts aimed at reducing road carnage.

The visibility of these organisations in national, provincial and local campaigns is highly commended and has no doubt contributed to the decrease in road fatalities.

We also plead with leaders of the faith and traditional leaders to continue championing road safety education and providing comfort to affected families.

I wish to thank and give courage to the many men and women who will work tirelessly over the coming weeks – our traffic-law enforcement officers, emergency services personnel, road-safety educators, civil-society partners and private sector stakeholders. Your dedication matters. ❖

Closing 2025 with gratitude and renewed commitment to service

As we come to the end of 2025, I extend my sincere appreciation to all public sector leaders and officials for your unwavering dedication to serving our nation. Your resilience and commitment have been instrumental in advancing the South African Government's mandate during a year marked by progress

as we also going to refocus to resolve remaining challenges.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities, challenges, and collaborations that have shaped our journey. Every experience has been a reminder of the power of purpose and the impact of collective effort.

One of the most notable achievements was South Africa's successful G20 Presidency.

Through the G20 Public Participation Programme, led by the Government Communication and Information System, we executed bold steps to make President Cyril Ramaphosa's vision of a truly People's G20 a reality. This was not just about informing communities – it was about engaging them, listening to their voices and ensuring their aspirations shape the global agenda.

Hosting the G20

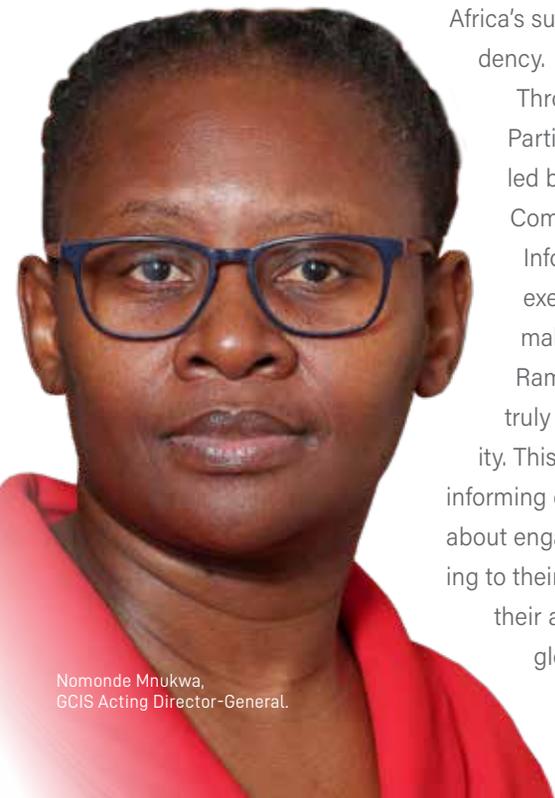
Leaders' Summit was no small feat; it required months of preparation, coordination across multiple working groups and tireless effort from officials. Your professionalism ensured that South Africa delivered a world-class summit and helped shape global discussions. This highlights the calibre of leadership and dedication within the Public Service.

This year also marked a historic moment when gender-based violence and femicide has been classified as a national disaster. This bold step underscores the urgency consolidating the whole of society's efforts, enhance collaboration and integration in addressing one of the most pervasive human rights violations in our society. As public servants, we have a moral and constitutional duty to ensure that this declaration translates into tangible action.

As we reflect on this year, we celebrate the progress we have

made together and acknowledge that challenges that remain need our collective efforts to resolve them. Some moments have reminded us of the importance of integrity and the trust placed in us by the public. These experiences, while difficult, have strengthened our resolve to lead with transparency, accountability and unwavering ethical standards.

International Anti-Corruption Day, observed yearly on 9 December, is a powerful reminder of the values that define us. It calls on all of us to remain vigilant and committed to ethical leadership. Our government's zero-tolerance stance on corruption, reinforced by President Cyril Ramaphosa's words in his inaugural 2018 State of the Nation Address – "we are determined to build a society defined by decency and integrity that does not tolerate the plunder of public resources". Ensuring an ethical, capable and develop-



Nomonde MnuKwa,
GCIS Acting Director-General.



ment state remains a key priority of our government.

December is also a month where we remind ourselves that reconciliation in our nation is pivotal, it is a time to reflect on our shared history and renew our commitment to building a united and inclusive society. This is a responsibility we carry in our daily work. Let us lead by example, fostering dialogue and promoting social cohesion wherever we serve.

We also observe World AIDS Day, a reminder of the ongoing

fight against HIV, AIDS and TB. Public servants play a vital role in ensuring that prevention, treatment and awareness reach every community. Your efforts save lives and they matter deeply.

The new year brings another critical responsibility: the 2026/27 Local Government Elections. These elections are foundational to our democracy. As public servants, we have a duty to ensure that citizens are informed, empowered and confident in exercising their right

to vote. Government communicators, in particular, will play a pivotal role in ensuring that accurate, accessible and timely information reaches every community.

One of the most pressing challenges is youth apathy towards democratic participation. Too many young people feel disconnected. This is a call to action for all of us: to engage, to listen, and to communicate in ways that resonate with youth, who are our future leaders. Elections are critical in strengthening

our democracy and, therefore, to ensure a continued democratic South Africa, we need a youth that understands how this democracy was attained, why democracy is important, that elections are part of the platforms that exist to strengthen our democracy and why their voices through the ballot matter.

Before we step into these responsibilities, I encourage you to take a well-deserved break. Spend time with your loved ones, recharge and return ready to lead with purpose. Our jobs demand our best: our integrity, our leadership and our shared commitment to service. Together, let us continue to serve with excellence and purpose.

Looking ahead to 2026, we embrace the opportunity to rebuild trust and deepen our impact. Every challenge is a chance to grow, and every success is a foundation for greater service. Together, we will continue to innovate, collaborate and uphold the values that define a truly responsive and ethical public service. To the Christian community, I wish you a Merry Christmas. I wish everyone of you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to our nation. ❖

Fighting corruption to protect our democracy



Photo: GCIS

Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development
Andries Nel.

As South Africa marks over three decades of democracy, the fight against corruption remains central to strengthening governance and restoring public trust. Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Andries Nel, has reiterated government's commitment to supporting institutions that uphold integrity and accountability, especially the Office of the Public Protector.

"The Public Protector has done many public interest cases – the Sarafina case, the Arms Deal, State of Capture which led to the Zondo Commission – but the real power

of the Public Protector lies in the cases that never receive any publicity," he said. "It is the poor woman who is wanting her social grant and there is an arrogant and corrupt official who is demanding a kickback to pay out a social pension. Or someone who is sitting with their hands in their hair because a municipality is coming up with an absurd water and electricity bill."

These everyday cases reflect what government's anti-corruption efforts aim to achieve: accountability, fairness and justice."

Nel described the Office of the Public Protector as "one of those

institutions which is absolutely foundational to our constitutional democracy". Its establishment was envisioned during South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy.

Protecting democracy

The Constitution's architects anticipated that corruption would test the young democracy. "Those who were responsible for negotiating and drafting the Constitution foresaw that the day will come when, notwithstanding the promise and commitment of our Constitution, wrong things will happen in our society," he said.

"Today, when we are witnessing day-by-day what is unfolding in the Madlanga Com-

mission and others, it pains us very deeply to see those things because they go against the letter and the spirit of our Constitution. But at the same time, we are not surprised, because we knew that this day would come — and that is the reason we established and built those institutions; to protect ourselves against ourselves."

Fighting corruption

Since its establishment on 1 October 1995, the Office of the Public Protector has played a critical role in investigating, exposing, and preventing corruption. From Sarafina II (1996) — which investigated the Department of Health's use of a R14.3 million EU donation — to the multi-agency Arms Deal

probe and the State of Capture investigation that gave rise to the Zondo Commission, the institution has demonstrated its courage and independence.

Through systemic investigations, the Office identifies structural challenges and recommends reforms to improve public service delivery.

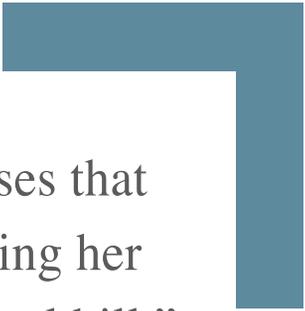
Nel said the fight against corruption is deeply connected to the protection of human dignity. "There are certain goals and visions contained in our Constitution — of building a better quality of life, freeing the potential of each person, of building a government that is founded on the will of the people, on openness, on transparency, on ensuring that every citizen has equal protection of

the law," he said.

"Those values are central to human dignity and they are absolutely incompatible with corruption and maladministration and abuse of power," he added.

The effects of corruption

Corruption undermines the state's ability to deliver basic services and denies people their dignity. "You can't advance human dignity where people, through their corruption, are preventing others from having access to the most basic of services — access to water, roads, electricity, health-care. Those are all indispensable to human dignity, and those are the things that are attacked



“The real power of the Public Protector lies in the cases that never receive any publicity — the poor woman wanting her social grant, or someone sitting with an absurd municipal bill.”

The Office of the Public Protector is foundational to South Africa's constitutional democracy.

Photo: GCIS

Photo: Office of the Public Protector/Facebook



and undermined by corruption.”

Despite financial constraints, Nel reaffirmed government's continued investment in anti-corruption institutions. "We support and respect the Public Protector's work," he said.

"That is evidenced at a time of serious fiscal constraints when many departments are having their budgets slashed."

He noted that "the National Treasury, in the current fiscal year, increased the budget of the Public Protector South Africa. Furthermore, we have provided money out of the Criminal Asset Recovery Account to the tune of R48 million

over the next three years to help build the capacity of the Public Protector because we recognise the indispensable role it plays."



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Serving the people

In 2024/25, the Office of the Public Protector managed more than 10 000 cases, finalised two systemic inves-

tigations, and conducted 147 stakeholder engagements across the country. The Office has also improved the quality of its work, with litigation against investigation reports dropping dramatically — from 39 judicial reviews between 2019 and 2022 to just one in 2023/24.

Government has allocated additional R20 million for the 2025/26 financial year to further strengthen the Office's capacity.

For Nel, the fight against corruption is ultimately about rebuilding trust between citizens and the State. ❖

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Photo: Supplied

NHBRC Acting CEO Tamlyn Bouwer.

New law strengthens home-building oversight

The National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) is entering a new era of regulation and transformation, following the signing of the Housing Consumer Protection Act of 2024 by President Cyril Ramaphosa in January this year.

The new legislation significantly expands the NHBRC's mandate, strengthening oversight, consumer protection, and transformation within South Africa's home-building industry.

"This new legislative framework will contribute towards

the transformation of the industry by ensuring comprehensive regulation of the home building industry, improved building standards and wider protection of housing consumers," says acting Chief Executive Officer Tamlyn Bouwer.

Expanded regulatory powers

Among the most notable provisions, the new Act grants the NHBRC authority to regulate all home builders, regardless of registration status. "Registration is no longer a prerequisite for NHBRC jurisdiction. The NHBRC may impose administrative penalties and refer non-compliant individuals or entities to the Compliance and

Enforcement Committee (CEC) if they fail to comply with an administrative penalty notice."

Critically, the definition of a home builder now includes owner-builders. "Owner-builders are no longer exempt and are required to register and enrol their homes in accordance with the Act."

Comprehensive protection

The Act also provides comprehensive protection to housing consumers. "The Act applies to a permanent residential structure which is suitable to be occupied fully or partially for residential purposes by a housing consumer or leased out by any person," explains Bouwer in an interview with *Public Sector Manager* magazine.

The new regulatory framework no longer provides exclusions for certain mixed-use buildings and now includes boarding houses and hostels to ensure that all housing consumers are protected.

The Act also broadens the definition of "build" to include additions, alterations, renovations, and repairs. Anyone undertaking such construction work must register as a home builder.

"These amendments strengthen the NHBRC's regulatory framework and ensure compre-

"Registration is no longer a prerequisite for NHBRC jurisdiction. We can now regulate all home builders, regardless of registration status."



The NHBRC's Women's Built training in Lephalale.

Photo: NHBRC/Facebook

hensive protection for housing consumers across all types of building activities. They aim to provide warranty protection against structural defects and promote ethical standards in the sector," she says. "We are also rolling out stakeholder engagement workshops across the provinces... allowing for a better understanding of our mandate."

Skills recognition and transformation

The NHBRC is also implementing key initiatives to promote transformation, sustainability, and skills development. "We are focusing on skills recognition, transformation, and green technologies in response to climate change," says Bouwer.

"A central focus of our current

work is formalising the skills and expertise of experienced but informally trained artisans. For example, bricklayers whose craftsmanship exceeds formal standards — the NHBRC is developing mechanisms to recognise prior learning and validate indigenous construction skills. We think this approach will support both the artisans



Photo: NHBRC/Facebook

The Housing Consumer Protection Act will strengthen consumer protection in the home-building industry.

and the broader industry by integrating local knowledge into formal training curricula.”

Accountability and enforcement

The Act introduces new mechanisms to ensure accountability across the industry. It provides for a home builder grading system, which evaluates key performance information relating to home builders’ obligations.

The Act classifies transgressions into administrative non-compliance and substantive non-compliance. A home builder who commits an act of

administrative non-compliance may be issued with an Administrative Penalty Notice, failing which the NHBRC may cancel or suspend the registration of a home builder, amend the home builder’s grading or refuse to process any application for registration.

For substantive non-compliance, the NHBRC investigates and issues a compliance notice directing the person to cease, correct or reverse the transgression. “If the person fails to comply with the Compliance Notice and does not object, the NHBRC can take the matter to

the Compliance and Enforcement Committee to requesting it to impose an administrative fine.”

The Act also provides stronger consumer protection by “affording early cover, easy access to the builder during construction, as opposed to after occupation, and the extension of the roof leak cover to 24 months”.

Penalties are significantly stricter than before, with fines for contravening the Act now reaching up to 10% of the project value, 100% of the remedial costs incurred, or a maximum

of R1 million – compared to the previous cap of R25 000.

Consumer education and innovation

Consumer confidence remains central to the NHBRC’s mandate. Each quarter, the council conducts consumer education programmes across all provinces, focusing on informing housing consumers about their rights, responsibilities and the recourse mechanisms available to them. These engagements take place through community outreach initiatives, mall activations, City of Johannesburg’s Thuso-House and municipal information centres, and rural builder registration drives.

The NHBRC will, next year, host the Innovative Building Technology (IBT) Summit to review progress made in promoting IBTs, address existing challenges such as funding and policy gaps, and set clear goals to support the Minister of Human Settlements in delivering sustainable, climate-resilient housing over the next five years.

“We are committed to validating and monitoring the performance of these technologies to ensure they meet quality standards, are energy-efficient, and respond effectively to South Africa’s climatic conditions,” Boucher says. ❖



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**Renewed Efforts and Sustainable
Commitments to End AIDS**



Trailblazer for Peace:

SAPS Officer Kutloano Moloji represents South Africa in global mediation programme



When Constable Kutloano Moloji walks into a room, she brings with her the lived experience of Orlando West, Soweto – a community shaped by struggle, unity and an enduring spirit of solidarity. It is this foundation that has carried the 27-year-old Public Order Policing (POP) Officer from Johannesburg to the global stage, where she has become the first South African law enforcement officer selected

for the inaugural South Africa–Finland Youth Peace Mediators Mentoring Programme.

Launched in June 2025, as part of Youth Month, the programme aims to build a network of young peace mediators equipped with the skills to contribute to conflict

resolution, mediation and post-conflict reconstruction. From thousands of applicants, Moloji was one of only 15 young leaders around the world chosen by Department of International Relations and Cooperation's Diplomatic Academy and Finland's Centre for Peace Mediation.

Fertile background

For Moloji, the journey began at home.

"I grew up in Orlando West, Soweto – a place with a powerful history of struggle, unity and community spirit," she said. "Life in Soweto taught me early that people survive not just through strength, but through solidarity and kindness... These experiences have shaped my belief that peacebuilding begins at home, in how we treat one another and in how we choose to show up for our communities"

Career journey

Moloji joined the South African Police Service (SAPS) in 2023, through Project 10 000, beginning her career at the POP Unit shortly after completing the Basic Police Development Learning Programme. With a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioural Sciences (Psychology and Sociology) and now pursuing an Honours Degree in Psychology, she entered policing with a clear intention.

"I chose a career where I could physically show up for my country – not only in words, but in action," she explained. "I chose the SAPS because policing is more than just enforcing the law; it is about building trust, listening to communities and preventing problems before they turn into crises"

She believes young officers have a critical role to play in



Constable Kutloano Moloi at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

reshaping policing: “If young people were represented within the SAPS and in our communities, we could help change how policing is experienced... I wanted to be part of that change.”

Moloi applied for the South Africa–Finland Youth Peace Mediators Mentoring Programme with a deep conviction that peace is built, not wished for.

“I applied because I believe that peace is not something we wait for but something that we build,” she said. “As a young officer, I wanted to grow beyond traditional policing and understand new ways of preventing conflict, especially among the youth.”

A shining star

Within months of joining the programme, she had represented South Africa at international workshops, youth dialogues and training sessions

– but one moment stands above the rest.

Her visit to the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa was, she said, “a humbling moment.”

“Walking through those auditoriums reminded me that every policy, every discussion, represents millions of lives across the continent,” she reflected. “Meeting young leaders from different countries reminded me that even though our challenges differ, our hopes are similar. We all want a peaceful, united globe.”

The experience sharpened her mediation instincts. “It deepened my understanding of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the conflict mechanisms they use across Africa. It also built my practical skills in mediation, negotiation and dialogue facilitation – and how I can apply this to my job.”

Dedication and commitment

Between demanding shifts as a POP operator, academic deadlines and international peace training, Moloi’s schedule is relentless – but she calls it purposeful.

“It is definitely challenging because I am also studying, but purpose keeps me grounded,” she said. “What I learn in the programme helps me in the field, especially with de-escalation techniques and understanding people’s emotions in tense situations. And what I experience on duty gives me real-life insight into why peacebuilding training is needed.”

At the heart of Moloi’s mission is a belief that youth-centred peacebuilding can help reduce violence by addressing its root causes.

Youth-led solutions

“My dream is to help create youth-led dialogue platforms, school outreach programmes

and community mediation initiatives that prevent conflict before it escalates,” she said. “Violence often starts where hope ends – so we need to restore hope within our communities.”

For her, policing must evolve: “I want to see policing become something young people can trust and participate in... By combining peacebuilding skills with policing practice, I believe we can build safer communities, reduce youth violence and create real partnerships between the SAPS and the people we serve. I want to be part of a generation that redefines what it means to protect and serve.”

In a world where young people are often portrayed as perpetrators or passive recipients of peace efforts, Moloi represents a different narrative: one where youth lead, innovate and build bridges. ❖

AGSA takes public audits to another level

In a rapidly changing public sector landscape, the Office of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) is redefining its role — not merely as an oversight body, but as a proactive enabler of transparency and accountability. Deputy Auditor-General Vonani Chauke, who assumed the role in July 2021 after a distinguished career at Deloitte South Africa and SizweNtsalubaGobodo, believes the time has come for the AGSA to evolve.

“We exist to promote democracy,” Chauke explains. “And by democracy, I mean people should believe in the system of government.” That belief, he says, hinges on accountability — and on citizens trusting that public institutions are acting in their best interests.

Chauke says the AGSA’s work is guided by a new organisational strategy called Culture Shift 2030, which aims to transform the way government operates. “We asked ourselves what can we do to remain relevant? We cannot keep issuing findings where people see headlines and nothing happens. We developed a new strategy called Culture Shift 2030, and the whole point is to change the culture of government. If we change the culture, people will do things differently.”



Photo: Supplied

Deputy Auditor-General
Vonani Chauke.



AGSA at the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) annual conference presenting technological innovations.

AI-powered auditing

Central to this transformation is artificial intelligence. The AGSA's enhanced digital capabilities mean auditors no longer rely solely on samples. "I recently sat with some people in an informal conversation," he recalls. "They were saying they try to delay giving us annual financials for as long as possible so we do not have enough time to audit. Just know

this: we now have direct access to your financial systems, to the very last transaction."

Before auditees submit their financials, AGSA auditors are already analysing transactions and identifying potential problems. "Our auditors do not go blindly and collect a sample; they select items they believe are problematic. Using AI, we can see which transactions might need further digging."

Chauke is clear that the AGSA's strategy is not to "catch

out" auditees, but to support them. "We believe there are many areas where people want to do the right things, but they do not have the right information."

The AGSA's use of AI is already changing how audits are conducted. "If as AGSA we are able to build this capability that connects the entire government and see that a certain transaction is not proper, we tell them they are at risk," Chauke explains. "If the culture changes,

we will have the data and information to make the right decisions."

The implications go far beyond compliance. "What that will do is increase transparency on how we are doing our transactions," he says. "If the culture is one where we want to do the right things, we will have information and data to make the right decisions. Instead of the population not going to vote year in and year out, people will know that if we hold our leaders accountable — because we have the right data — and if they do the wrong things, there will be consequence management."

Real-time intervention

Chauke envisions a future where auditing is continuous and collaborative. "We do not want to come six months after year-end. We do real-time audits," he says. "Once we see problematic transactions — and in collaboration with other assurance providers such as internal audit and the audit committee — we share the information. If need be, we do not wait until we issue a report, but we refer matters to the Public Protector or the SIU (Special Investigating Unit). We believe that the ability



Photo: AGSA/Facebook

Chauke delivers a presentation on the 'Public Sector use of AI and Technology in the Audit Process.'

to connect the dots on behalf of government will go a long way."

Digital transformation and institutional memory

Beyond accountability, Chauke emphasises the importance of digital transformation in preserving institutional knowledge. "When people leave institutions, they leave with institutional memory," he says. Digital systems ensure continuity and make information retrieval far easier. "Because it makes our lives so much easier, digital transformation is the way to go," he adds. "And that is why AI becomes powerful. It uses digital information to self-learn and build comprehensive profiles."

Responsible use of AI

However, Chauke warns that AI must be used responsibly. "At some stage, it makes mistakes," he notes. "Sometimes we think it makes accurate decisions without us applying our minds. It is important that we remember that as human beings, we have to use our judgment before we take as gospel the things that AI does."

He points out that AI is already being used in critical decisions, such as shortlisting job applicants and approving home loans. "We need to ask if it is using the correct algorithm. Is there any bias in how it is applying the algorithm and deciding which candidate must be put forward?" he says. "It is

still important for us to ask, how do we use AI?"

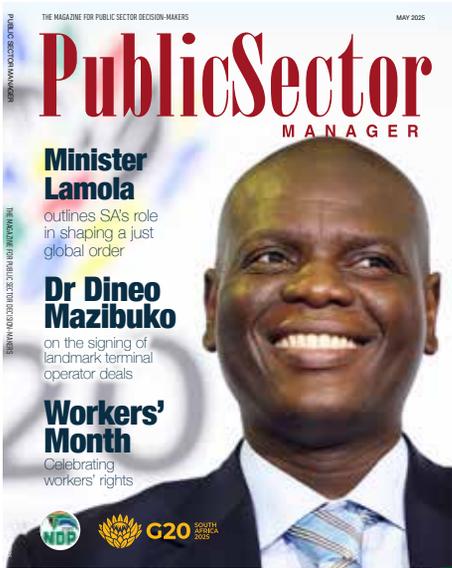
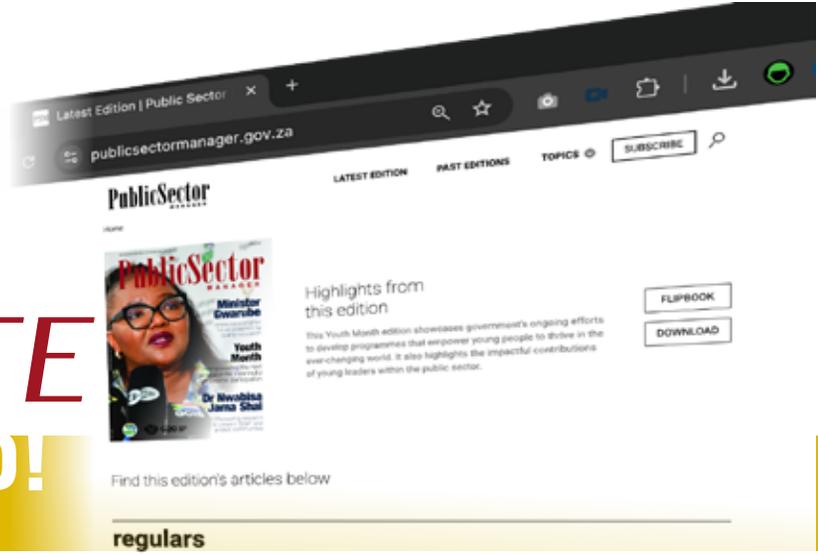
While AI improves efficiency, Chauke stresses that it cannot replace human judgment. "There is a concern in some quarters that because AI can do tasks much quicker and more accurately, it will replace human beings. It will never replace humans because the judgment they bring to the party still needs to be in play."

The AGSA's access to digital government data comes with both opportunities and risks. "As AGSA, we are in a situation where we have full access to various government data which is digital," Chauke says. "Using AI, we can join the dots on behalf of government in many aspects. But most importantly,

we need to appreciate the risk and realise that with this data we have to secure it. We cannot just create a single honeypot where hackers can come and get into the AGSA systems and have access to our government data."

Despite these challenges, Chauke remains optimistic about the benefits of the AGSA's technological transformation. Through Culture Shift 2030 and the integration of AI, Chauke and his team are steering the organisation toward a more transparent, data-driven, and accountable future - one where citizens can truly believe in their democracy because it works as it should. ❖

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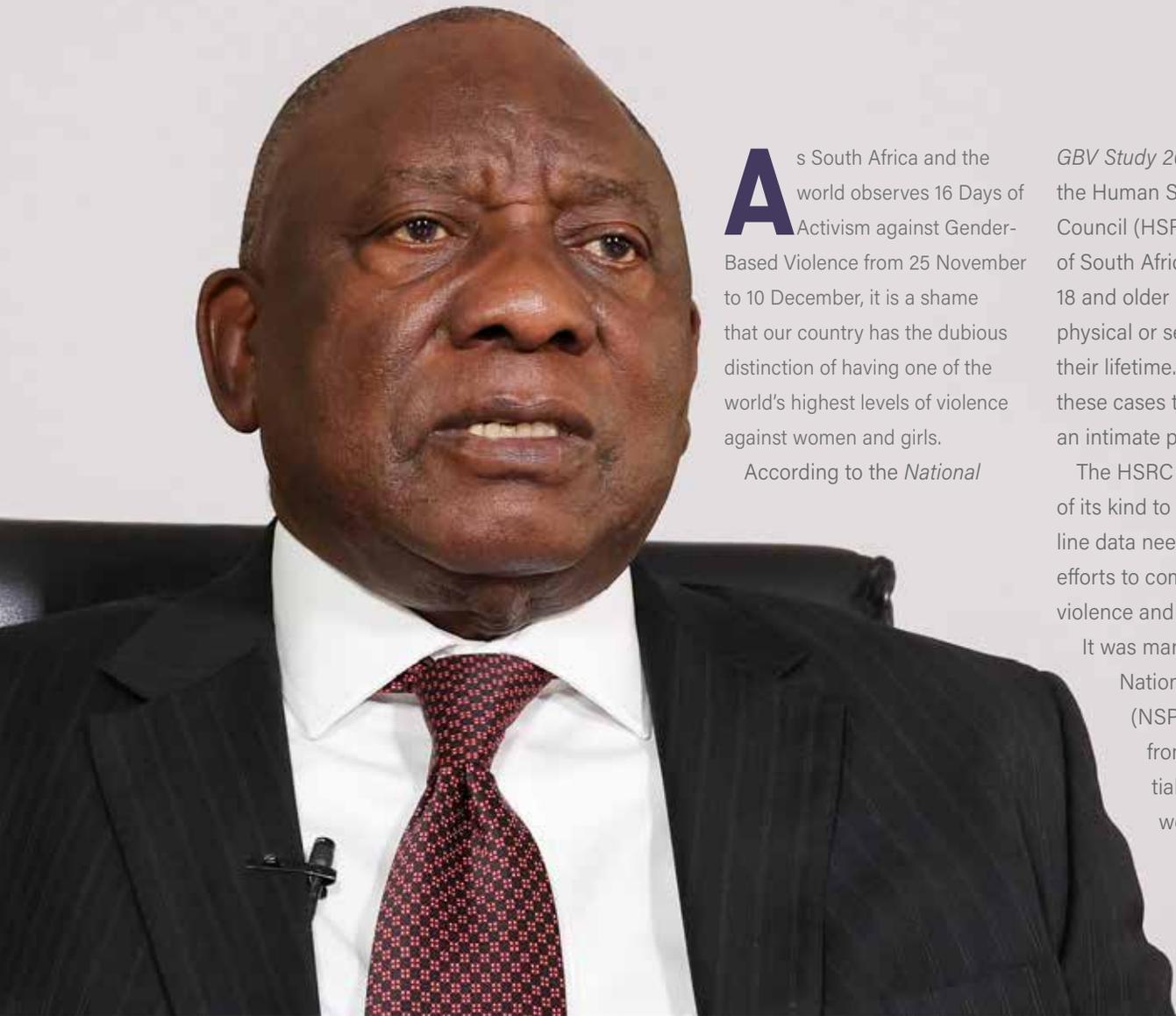
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Violence against women is a national disaster that demands national action



As South Africa and the world observes 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December, it is a shame that our country has the dubious distinction of having one of the world's highest levels of violence against women and girls.

According to the *National*

GBV Study 2022 conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), more than 35% of South African women aged 18 and older have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. In the majority of these cases the perpetrator was an intimate partner.

The HSRC study was the first of its kind to provide the baseline data needed to support our efforts to combat gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

It was mandated by the National Strategic Plan (NSP) that emanated from the first Presidential Summit on GBVF we convened in 2018.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I charac-

terised violence against women as a second pandemic. But its impacts are arguably even more corrosive. GBV destroys families, has an economic cost, causes instability and fear for women and girls, and reproduces inter-generational trauma.

Last month, the government classified GBVF as a national disaster, recognising that dealing with this scourge demands exceptional measures.

This classification strengthens the mandates of the respective government departments, such as Social Development, Justice, Health, Police and Basic Education, to tackle GBVF.

The classification will allow for expanded access to shelters, safe spaces, psycho-social counselling and community-based prevention programmes. It will enable faster emergency resource allocation for survivor services, enhanced monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and strengthen oversight.

All affected organs of state will be required to submit progress reports to the National Disaster Management Centre on the actions they are taking.

Earlier this year, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development briefed the Multiparty Women's Caucus in Parliament on the ac-

tions being taken to address the GBV crisis.

They noted that the SAPS have stepped up actions against perpetrators and case management is improving. More victim-friendly facilities and services, including specialised GBV desks, have been rolled out at SAPS stations across the country. A GBVF Information Centre has been set up at the SAPS Academy in Pretoria to track incidents.

The SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority continue their joint work to improve the speed and quality of evidence analysis. A 24-hour service for obtaining protection orders has been introduced.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development provided a progress report on the operationalisation of the anti-GBV laws I signed into law in 2022. These included amendments to laws around domestic violence, strengthening the sexual offences register, establishing more sexual offences courts, and improving support services for vulnerable persons.

Even as we have made progress on the NSP, implementation remains uneven. By classifying GBVF a national disaster, we will be able to speed up resource allocation and funding flows to support survivors



and improve access to justice. We will be able to support law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to expedite the management and processing of GBVF-related cases.

Prevention is an integral part of the national anti-GBVF effort and far greater effort must be made to include men.

As I said at last week's Men's Indaba in the Free State, unless we directly engage men in prevention efforts, we will continue to have marches, hold protests and conduct social media campaigns, but the statistics will not change. Even as men are the main perpetrators of GBVF, they are also part of the solution. This is not a fight to be waged by women alone.

Under the national disaster classification, we will be accelerating prevention programmes targeting men and boys. I have called for a concerted, sustained nationwide programme of dialogues with men and boys

to engage openly on what is driving this pandemic, and what must be done to arrest it.

We must engage honestly about the toxic masculinity, cultural norms, peer pressure, social dynamics and socialisation that is turning men and boys into abusers of women and children. A national disaster demands national responsibility.

Whether as communities, civil society, government, faith leaders, business, unions or citizens, we must all play our part in bringing this scourge to an end.

We must be part of dismantling the attitudes that sustain violence against women and children by our own actions. We must report such crimes instead of looking away or regarding it as not our business.

The safety and security of women and children is everybody's business. Let us continue to work together as all of society to realise a society free from GBVF. ❖

Strengthening public confidence in HIV, AIDS and TB interventions amidst shifting health priorities

On 1 December, South Africa joined the rest of the world in marking World AIDS Day, observed under the theme, "Renewed Efforts and Sustainable Commitments to End AIDS". The commemoration called for a renewed push to close gaps in prevention, treatment and education, while emphasising the need for sustained investment and stronger community involvement as global priorities evolve.

Government remains committed to the fight against HIV and AIDS, and TB. It continues to enhance tracking and tracing systems designed to curb these epidemics and improve public health outcomes. The latest *Health Indicators Research Findings* report, compiled by

the Directorate: Research Services at the Government Communication and Information System, provides valuable insight into public perceptions, government interventions and the path forward in addressing these intertwined health challenges.

Confidence in HIV and AIDS, and TB response

Despite the evolving challenges in the public health sector, the report shows that more than 60% of South Africans remain confident in government's efforts to combat HIV and AIDS, and TB. This is a testament to government's commitment, particularly through two major national campaigns launched

in 2025 aimed at expanding access to treatment and reducing mortality rates.

Provincial data reveals encouraging trends. Limpopo (75%), Gauteng (73%) and the Free State (72%) lead in public confidence regarding HIV and AIDS interventions. Similarly, TB treatment efforts are viewed positively in Limpopo (74%), the Free State (70%) and Gauteng (70%). These figures underscore the impact of targeted health campaigns and the importance of provincial leadership in driving health outcomes.

The youth at the epicentre

A sobering reality emerges from the data: young women aged 15 – 24, remain the most vulnerable

group, recording the highest weekly rates of new HIV and TB infections. This demographic, often caught at the intersection of socio-economic challenges and limited access to healthcare, demands urgent and sustained attention.

In response, the Department of Health has initiated groundbreaking interventions, including the trial of Lenacapavir, a long-acting HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis injection at the Maria Rantho Clinic. This breakthrough provides new hope for a future where HIV prevention is more accessible, particularly for those at highest risk. In addition, the department has rolled out two major campaigns to address the broader health crisis: the "Close the Gap" campaign,

GOVERNMENTS INTERVENTION FOR TACKLING HIV AND TB INFECTIONS



Women aged between **15–24 years old** are identified as the group with the highest **weekly numbers of new HIV and TB infections**. South Africa carries the highest HIV and TB numbers, with prevalence among people aged 15 and 49

In closing the gap and reducing HIV and TB infections, there is...



Groundbreaking HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis injection (Lenacapavir) is in trials at Maria Rantho clinic. The injection is for individuals who are HIV negative to prevent contracting HIV.



TB campaign aims to test **5 million** by March 2026.

The campaign aims to have **1.1 million** people added to treatment

SA's shocking childbirth stats: More than 2,000 pre-teen mothers in one year

DM: Delate Marie
8 November 2023 | 10:18
According to Statistics South Africa, over 123,000 births were recorded among mothers aged 19 and under between January 2024 and February 2025.

Source: <https://www.eem.co.za/2025/09/09/women-aged-15-24-have-highest-weekly-hiv-tb-infections-in-sa>. The Department of Health

Government Communications (GCIS)

Government intervention for tackling HIV and TB infections.

which aims to ensure that 1.1 million people living with HIV who are not currently receiving treatment begin their treatment by December 2025, and the "End TB Campaign," which targets the testing of 5 million people by March 2026.

Primary healthcare

While progress has been made in combating HIV and AIDS, and TB, the report reveals a concerning decline in public confidence in the broader primary healthcare system. Only 40% of respondents believe that public clinics are performing well, and just 35% express satisfaction with public hospitals. These figures reflect a widespread dissatisfaction,

particularly outside of Limpopo and Mpumalanga, where confidence remains relatively higher.

This contrast – strong confidence in disease-specific interventions but weak trust in general healthcare services – points to a critical need for systemic reform. Strengthening the primary healthcare is essential not only for managing chronic diseases but also for ensuring equitable access to quality care for all.

Reaching the right people, the right way

The report also examines media consumption patterns

across five key population segments: Rooted Realists, City Seekers, Safely Suburban, Metro Mobiles and Cosmopolitan Capital. Traditional media, particularly radio and television, remain a powerful tool for reaching the majority, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.

However, the digital divide persists. While segments like Cosmopolitan Capital and Metro Mobiles are highly active online, Rooted Realists – who make up nearly half of the population – lag behind in internet usage. This underscores the importance of multi-platform communication strategies that blend digital

innovation with community radio, print materials and face-to-face outreach.

Towards 2030

As South Africa marches towards the National Development Plan Vision 2030 goals, the findings of this report serve as both a mirror and a map. They reflect the progress made in key areas like HIV and AIDS, and TB, while also illuminating the gaps that persist in primary healthcare delivery.

The path forward demands collaboration across government departments, civil society, and communities. It calls for youth-focused interventions, gender-sensitive programming, and inclusive communication that leaves no one behind. ❖



SA marks World AIDS Day with focus on closing HIV treatment gaps



Nelson Dlamini,
 Executive Manager:
 Strategic Initiatives &
 Communications, SANAC.

On 1 December 2025, South Africa joined the global community in commemorating World AIDS Day, a powerful reminder that the HIV pandemic is far from over, with nearly 8 million people living with HIV in South Africa. It is also an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the persistent stigma that drives discrimination and creates barriers to

testing and treatment.

The commemoration helps educate the younger generation, who may view HIV as a mere manageable chronic condition rather than the devastating crisis it once was. This reminder is crucial in emphasising the need to prevent new infections in order to eliminate the virus as a public health threat.

This year, South Africa will commemorate World AIDS Day under the theme; “Renewed Efforts and Sustainable Commitments to End AIDS”. The theme urges the reinvigoration of strategies to close gaps in prevention and treatment and emphasises the need for long-term domestic investment in the face of

funding cuts and shifting global priorities. Recommendations in the theme rationale include increased domestic investment, large-scale decanting and the urgent filling of vacancies to stabilise the public health system.

UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets

In an effort to accelerate progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets for Agenda 2030, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) introduced the 90-90-90 targets in 2013, with a deadline of December 2020. The aim was to ensure that 90% of all people living with HIV know their status, 90%



WORLD AIDS DAY

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Renewed Efforts and Sustainable Commitments to End AIDS



of those diagnosed receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 90% of those on treatment achieve viral suppression. After the December 2020 deadline, countries moved towards the 95-95-95 targets over the next five years, making 2025 the deadline year for these targets.

South Africa currently stands at 96-79-96, meaning the country is struggling with initiating and retaining people diagnosed with HIV on treatment. The challenge with the second 95 is not unique to South Africa; global progress stands at 95-85-92. Numerous factors affect treatment initiation and retention, ranging from structural issues (long queues and waiting times), economic barriers (transport costs and lost income from missed work), psychosocial challenges (stigma and discrimination), to gender and age-specific issues (men's and adolescents' negative perceptions of health facilities).

In response, the National Department of Health (NDoH) launched the Close the Gap campaign with the aim of finding 1.1 million peo-

ple who are HIV-positive but not on treatment. The 1.1 million figure has been broken down by province, district and even facility – everyone is working hard to close their portion of the gap.

Equal to the task

South Africa may be the global epicentre of HIV and TB but it is not taking the challenge lying down. Firstly, government funds the majority of HIV and TB programmes, particularly the procurement of medicines. South Africa buys 90% of its own ARVs, with only 10% supported by the Global Fund. This financial autonomy enabled the NDoH to introduce the Six-Multi-Month Dispensing (6MMD) strategy despite the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief funding cuts. Under the 6MMD, stable patients receive a six-month supply of ARVs in a single visit instead of going to the clinic every month. This improves treatment access and adherence by reducing clinic visits, travel time and costs for patients while easing pressure on healthcare facilities.

In addition to running the

largest publicly funded treatment programme in the world, the ARV regimens available at public facilities are among the best and most up-to-date on the market. Following the World Health Organization guidelines around 2019, the country swiftly transitioned from the three-in-one combination containing efavirenz – a drug with debilitating side effects and inferior efficacy – to a dolutegravir-based regimen, which has fewer side effects, achieves faster and more durable viral suppression, and is cheaper.

What sets South Africa apart from many other countries on the continent and beyond is its recognition of key and priority populations – including LGBTQI+ communities, sex workers and people who use drugs – who all require tailored interventions to ensure no one is left behind, making the national response truly inclusive and comprehensive.

Young women most at risk

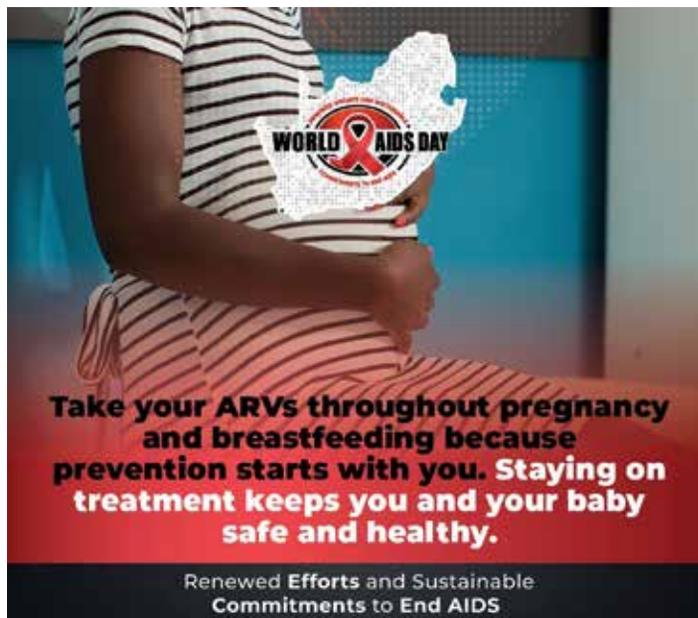
The greatest focus, however, must remain on men, children, adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 15 – 24. Men and children have the largest treatment coverage gaps, while AGYW are the hardest hit by new infections

– the country records around 1 100 new infections per week in this group. Apart from biological vulnerability, primary drivers include age-disparate relationships with older men, who have higher HIV prevalence, poorer treatment adherence and multiple partners.

Poverty and lack of employment often push girls into transactional sexual partnerships that expose them to HIV. Early sexual debut and gender-based violence also play significant roles.

Several interventions have been implemented, including

“What sets South Africa apart from many other countries on the continent and beyond is its recognition of key and priority populations – including LGBTQI+ communities, sex workers and people who use drugs”.



the She Conquers Campaign, the #ZikhalaKanjani Youth HIV Prevention campaign, and Youth Zones –dedicated youth-friendly service spaces in public health facilities. Although infections have gradually declined, much more needs to be done, particularly in improving access to prevention tools such as pre-exposure prophylaxis and the Dapivirine vaginal ring among others.

We end 2025 with high hopes, following the registration by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority of lenacapavir, the long-acting injectable HIV prevention drug administered once every six months. It promises to be a real game-changer in HIV prevention, with public rollout anticipated in the first quarter of 2026. ❖

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South Africa leads global efforts to strengthen global health security



The Global Fund's Eighth Replenishment Summit, held on the sidelines of the G20, took place just 10 days before the World Aids Day commemoration.

The summit marked a pivotal moment to accelerate the fight to end AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria. These diseases have become our modern

day triple evil that stands as a threats to humanity's progress, especially in Africa. The gathering sought to strengthen resilient and sustainable health systems, and build a healthier, safer future for all.

Co-hosted by South Africa and the United Kingdom, the summit provided a platform to champion the values of solidar-

ity, sustainability, innovation, equity and reform – principles that are at the heart of the Global Fund's partnership model.

The Summit brought together distinguished Heads of State and Government, led by President Cyril Ramaphosa and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, alongside civil society, community representatives, multilateral

and bilateral partners, and the private sector. Pre-recorded solidarity messages – including one from Microsoft founder Bill Gates – reinforced support for securing the investments needed to expand lifesaving global health programmes.

The triple threats posed by Aids, TB and malaria remain a predicament to 23 million lives

and stands as a hindrance to the global community ascending to a world free from the deadliest infectious diseases. The Global Fund Partners used the summit to demonstrate unity and resolve to sustain progress needed to help strengthen global health security.

Renewed solidarity

A defining moment of the summit came when it was announced that a total of US\$11.34 billion had been pledged, despite the ongoing global challenges of geopolitical tensions and economic stagnation. This achievement not only marks renewed solidarity but also sets the stage for a more resilient, transformed global health system. True to the South African ethos of Ubuntu, "I am because you are," partners from around the world committed these billions to sustain the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria, save millions of lives, and strengthen health systems for the future.

Country-driven approach

Another key milestone of the summit was the renewed commitment to adopt a more country-driven approach, fostering partnerships that are better aligned with the evolving global health landscape. This approach aims to mobilise new

donors, accelerate domestic resource mobilisation for health and enhance responsiveness to the shifting global health challenges.

With most domestic governments facing an increasing pressure on tightening their fiscals as seen with budget cuts, regional conflicts such as the turmoil in Sudan, and broader geopolitical challenges, these outcomes represent a powerful demonstration of unity in the face of adversity and the untamed human resolve in addressing global challenges.

Of utmost significance is the fact that several donors have yet to confirm their pledges, meaning the final outcome could surpass the current threshold.

Advocating for healthy populations

It is clear is that the triple threats of AIDS, malaria and TB not only challenge the current generation but also pose a grave risk to future ones. The cost of losing this battle would be even more dire for generations to come. In this context, President Cyril Ramaphosa did not mince his words, emphasising Africa's growing leadership in global health and the continent's pivotal role in shaping the future of global health initiatives.

"Without a healthy population, nations cannot prosper," he



Sydwel Mabasa, Deputy Director, Communication and Media Liaison, The Presidency

said. "Today we celebrate the collective effort to end HIV, TB and Malaria across the globe. It is up to us to demonstrate that solidarity and collective action can prevail over division," said the President.

He also announced that South African Government together with its private sector, pledged a total of US\$36.6 million toward the replenishment effort.

The summit was attended by five Heads of State and Government, as well as representatives from more than 30 countries, alongside multilateral partners, philanthropies, businesses, civil society and community networks. This gathering served as a powerful display of unity in a world where protectionist

border control policies threaten to reverse the gains of globalisation, including the free movement of people.

Several other African countries, alongside South Africa – each of which are implementers of Global Fund grants – made solidarity pledges totalling approximately US\$51.59 million. What stands out about these African pledges is the powerful message they send: Africa is not a passive recipient, but rather a driving force in shaping its own health outcomes. This challenges the often one-dimensional portrayal of Africa in Western media, which frequently frames the continent as dependent or in need of charity.

The Gates Foundation, the Global Fund's largest private donor, pledged US\$912 million, while the Children's Investment Fund Foundation committed an additional US\$135 million, bringing their total pledge to US\$200 million since the Seventh Replenishment. This marks a significant increase from their previous contributions.

President Ramaphosa concluded his remarks by stressing that continued partnership, guided by solidarity, sustainability, innovation and equality, will be crucial for the world to honour its commitments and maintain progress in the fight against global health challenges. ❖

Reaffirming reconciliation for future generations

Every December, South Africans unite to commemorate Reconciliation Month, culminating in the National Day of Reconciliation on 16 December. Established in 1995, after the dawn of democracy, this month serves as a national platform to foster unity, healing and nation-building.

Reconciliation is not a once-off event; it is a continuous journey of confronting our past, healing historical wounds and building bridges for a shared future. This year's theme, "Reaffirming Reconciliation for Future Generations," calls on all South Africans to strengthen the foundations laid over three decades of democracy and advance national unity.

Building on progress

South Africa has made significant strides in transforming from an apartheid state into a democratic one rooted in the values of human dignity, non-racialism, non-sexism and the rule of law. Yet,

challenges such as poverty, inequality and unemployment persist. Reconciliation must, therefore, extend beyond symbolic gestures to include social justice, inclusion and economic transformation.

The ongoing National Dialogue process, endorsed at the first National Convention in August 2025, provides a participatory platform for communities to reflect on

31 years of freedom and democracy. These dialogues will shape the next phase of the National Development Plan (Vision 2030) and ensure that South Africa works for everyone.

Unity in diversity

Our diversity – cultures, languages and traditions – is a source of strength and resilience. The Government

of National Unity embodies this spirit by bringing together diverse voices for a common purpose. Cultural and heritage programmes, inter-generational dialogues and community initiatives such as tree planting and prayer gatherings keep reconciliation alive beyond commemorative events.

A call to action

Reconciliation thrives where citizens are engaged, informed and committed to nation-building. Let us:

- ⦿ Celebrate how far we have come in building a cohesive society.
- ⦿ Work together to create economic bridges where divides once existed.
- ⦿ Embrace diversity as a strength and inclusion as a source of renewal.

As we mark Reconciliation Month 2025, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa for future generations. ❖



2025 REAFFIRMING RECONCILIATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



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**Renewed Efforts and Sustainable
Commitments to End AIDS**



Unlocking infrastructure delivery for South Africa: A turning point for the construction sector

“We are poised for great growth. We have the money, we have the leadership, we have the opportunity – just go and construct South Africa.” These were the compelling closing words of President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 2025 National Construction Summit held in Gauteng from 14 to 15 November. His message set the tone for what has become one of the most decisive gatherings aimed at reshaping the country's infrastructure future.

Hosted by the Construction Industry Development Board (cidb), in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), the Summit addressed the critical need to unlock infrastructure delivery in South Africa. Despite the country's extensive infrastructure budgets and strong po-



President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Dean Macpherson at the summit.

litical will, persistent challenges continue to slow progress – from construction-related criminality, and underperforming contractors and professionals to chronic underspending of infrastructure budgets and procurement bottlenecks.

Tackling challenges

The theme for the summit; “Unlocking Infrastructure Delivery for South Africa – Raising Construction Industry Performance,” reflected a national commitment to tackle these obstacles head-on. It emphasised accountability, performance improvement and restoring stability to a sector essential for economic growth, job creation and community development.

Transformative power of infrastructure

The President reminded delegates of the transformative power of infrastructure: roads that connect people to opportunities, schools and hospitals that restore dignity, water and sanitation systems that enable healthy communities and energy networks that support economic activity. He stressed that infrastructure is the backbone of development, one that boosts productivity, reduces inequality

and attracts investment.

He pointed to encouraging signs of recovery and meaningful job creation in the construction sector. According to Statistics South Africa, the country saw an increase of around 130 000 jobs in the construction industry in the third quarter of 2025, driving the workforce towards approximately 1.39 million people. These statistics highlight the sector’s ability to scale employment quickly when supported by a reinvigorated infrastructure pipeline, streamlined regulatory processes and improved sector confidence.

Delivery and impact

With over R1 trillion committed to infrastructure investment over the medium term, alongside reforms designed to unlock greater private-sector participation, government is signalling a decisive shift towards delivery and impact. “We will not let anyone derail these efforts,” the President emphasised. “We will not negotiate with construction mafias”

Speaking at the same event, Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson reinforced the stance with a clear update on progress: “Since the signing of the Durban Declara-



cidb CEO Bongani Dladla delivering an address at the summit.

tion in 2024, we have made decisive progress in restoring the rule of law across construction sites. To date, more than 770 cases of construction-related extortion and intimidation have been reported, resulting in 241 arrests and 176 convictions. In KwaZulu-Natal alone, monthly site disruptions have dropped from more than 60 a month last year to fewer than ten today”

However, both President Ramaphosa and Minister Macpherson noted that en-

forcement alone is not enough.

Construction action plan

The summit identified system weaknesses that make project sites vulnerable to criminality and inefficiency. To address these challenges, government has introduced the South African Construction Action Plan (SACAP), a coordinated national strategy focused on strengthening procurement, improving contractor performance, ring-



Attendees of the 2025 National Construction Summit.

fencing budgets, standardising processes and accelerating approvals. The SACAP includes the establishment of procurement war rooms in all provinces, the development of a national contractor blacklist, digitised real-time project tracking dashboards, and measures to professionalise the built environment across all levels of government.

Infrastructure South Africa's enhanced role in project preparation, packaging and municipal support through the Presidential Adopt-a-Municipality Programme was identified as a critical enabler of fewer stalled projects and more bankable proposals.

Shared accountability

Cidb Chief Executive Officer Bongani Dladla, highlighted the transformative power of bringing all stakeholders together to design solutions collabora-

tively, rather than relying on a handful of decision-makers in a boardroom. He emphasised a zero-tolerance approach to projects that are not completed on time and within budget, and affirmed that the summit signals a shift towards shared accountability and delivery-focused action.

Mr Khulile Nzo, Chairperson of the cidb, underscored the need to focus on the "D" (Development) in the cidb. He noted that challenges are encountered by both constructors. He also highlighted persistent issues of fraud, the importance of contractor authenticity and legitimacy and the critical need to ensure that contractors possess the capacity and technical knowledge to meet project requirements.

Key solutions

Commissions allowed stakeholders to co-design solutions around four key areas – indus-

try performance; sustainability, infrastructure resilience and innovation; skills Development and inclusivity; and governance and regulatory Compliance.

The solutions included introducing:

- ⦿ a dedicated procurement framework separating infrastructure from procurement of goods and services;
- ⦿ penalties for cancelled projects;
- ⦿ unified industry performance frameworks;
- ⦿ a grading system for consultants;
- ⦿ a subcontractor rating system to promote fair treatment;
- ⦿ a national green infrastructure framework led by the cidb;
- ⦿ appointing contractors on competence, not price alone;
- ⦿ targeted financial support;

- ⦿ stronger private sector accountability; and
- ⦿ procurement targets for women, youth and persons with disabilities for equitable sector growth.

A nation under construction

South Africa's construction sector is entering a defining period. With a renewed political will to strengthen governance mechanisms, industry collaboration and clear action plans, the sector is positioned to regain its role as a powerful engine of economic growth and employment.

The 2025 National Construction Summit marked a turning point, a collective commitment to move from plans to projects, from ideas to implementation and from challenges to solutions. South Africa is, once again, becoming a nation under construction. ❖

RECONCILIATION DAY



2025 REAFFIRMING RECONCILIATION
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Translation takes centre stage in promoting equal access to information



Photo: DoJ&CD

Justice and Constitutional Development Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi and Deputy Chief Justice Dunston Mlambo with court interpreters who participated in the launch of the Robing Programme.

languages undermines citizens' constitutional rights and contributes to unemployment among language graduates.

Justice through language

Representing the Western Cape Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Rodney Isaacs spotlighted the critical role of certified translators and interpreters in legal settings.

In October 2025, government launched the Court Interpreters' Robing Programme – a first of its kind in the world. The initiative is aimed at professionalising the role of court interpreters and affirming their status as critical enablers of justice.

Speaking at the launch, Justice and Constitutional Development Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi said universal access to justice can only be attained when every citizen in the country can

The 2025 International Translation Day (ITD) Conference brought language professionals, government officials, academics and civil society together at the Civic Centre Chambers in Cape Town, spotlighting the power of indigenous languages in shaping a more inclusive, multilingual future.

Held under the theme, "Indigenous Language Translation: Shaping a Future You can Trust," the event aligned with South Africa's constitutional mandate to

promote linguistic diversity, while reinforcing the urgency for government institutions to comply with the Use of Official Languages Act of 2012.

Honouring language as a human right

In his welcome message, Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis underscored the city's support for language access and inclusion. Delivering the keynote address on behalf of Western Cape Cultural Affairs and Sport MEC Ricardo Mackenzie, the

Chief Director of Cultural Affairs highlighted translation's vital role in social cohesion and democracy.

PanSALB CEO Lance Schultz further emphasised that language rights are not optional. "Government departments must comply with the Use of Official Languages act (UOLA) of 2012," he stated, warning that the language board will take legal steps against entities that continue to ignore the law. Schultz stressed that failure to provide services in all official

access justice and participate in court processes in the language of their choice.

“Properly utilised, language during court interpreting can transform our language diversity from being a barrier to an instrument for empowerment, social cohesion and a creation of a more just society.

“As part of the justice system, court interpreting must also be practiced in a manner that demonstrates a shift from language interpretation under the unjust system of apartheid to language interpretation in a democracy that embraces human rights and diversity,” she said.

As part of the launch, court interpreters will adopt a new professional standard that includes the wearing of official gowns and a black-and-white dress code.

Breaking barriers, building bridges

The conference, jointly hosted

by PanSALB, the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the City of Cape Town and several academic institutions, including the University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch University, provided a dynamic platform for robust discussion and strategic planning.

Government Communication and Information System Language Services, invited by the National Language Services, participated as a key stakeholder, reinforcing its ongoing commitment to multilingual government communication.

Speakers agreed that translation is more than a linguistic exercise but a human right and a tool for empowerment. The event also paid tribute to the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022 – 2032), a United Nations initiative that aims to preserve, promote and

revitalise languages at risk of extinction.

Technology and the translator’s touch

While artificial intelligence and translation software like OmegaT are becoming integral to the language landscape, delegates were unanimous that machine translation cannot replace human expertise, especially in African languages.

There was consensus that professional translators and interpreters remain essential for accurate, context-sensitive communication, particularly in multilingual, multicultural societies like South Africa.

SASL in the spotlight

With the recognition of South African Sign Language (SASL) as the 12th official language, several sessions focused on the urgent need to professionalise and expand SASL interpreting services. Delegates called on government departments to



Nomngqibelo Motha and other delegates at the 2025 ITD Conference.

Photo: Nomngqibelo Motha

ensure that SASL interpreters are present at all public events and to create permanent posts for at least two rotating SASL interpreters per institution.

The conference closed with a shared commitment to strengthen the language fraternity, enforce compliance with UOLA of the 2012 and break communication barriers that continue to divide society. ❖

Key takeaways:

- Translation involves cultural and semantic accuracy, not just word-for-word conversion.
- Professional language practitioners remain vital in the age of AI.
- The Central Supplier Database is not an effective tool to source language professionals – targeted recruitment is needed.
- Government must create sustainable jobs for graduate language practitioner and professionals.
- All language stakeholders must protect and promote the art and integrity of translation, interpreting and SASL interpreting.

Living in the age of permacrisis



Photo:Freepik

The aviation industry is at the mercy of forces beyond its control

There was a time, not so long ago, when risk managers and business leaders could afford to think in terms of cycles, upturns and downturns, crises and recoveries. The world, for all its unpredictability, still seemed to offer the promise of “normal” just around the corner. But as we

look back over the past five years, that promise has faded into myth. We now inhabit a world where disruption is not the exception, but the rule. Welcome to the age of permacrisis.

The story of this transformation is not just a tale of global headlines, but one that is written

into the daily lives of ordinary people, the operations of companies and the very fabric of our societies. It is a story that begins with the COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis that swept across borders with breathtaking speed, exposing the vulnerabilities of our interconnected world. Airports

fell silent, fleets were grounded and the aviation industry, once a symbol of boundless possibility, became a case study in fragility.

The essence of polycrisis

But the pandemic was not an isolated event. It was the spark that lit a tinderbox of existing stresses, political instability, economic inequality and environmental degradation. As the world reeled from the health emergency, new crises emerged, and old ones deepened. The recent wars sent shockwaves through global food and energy markets, driving up prices and making the simple act of putting food on the table a daily struggle for millions. In South Africa, as in many places, families found themselves borrowing just to eat, while the cost of electricity and basic goods soared beyond reach. The numbers – 40% of adults borrowing for food, two in five unable to afford electricity – are not just statistics, but a mirror of the anxiety and hardship etched into countless households.

Meanwhile, the climate crisis, once spoken of as a distant threat, has become a relentless presence. Hurricanes bat-

Photo:GCIS



Floods in Deelpan, Tswaing, in 2022.

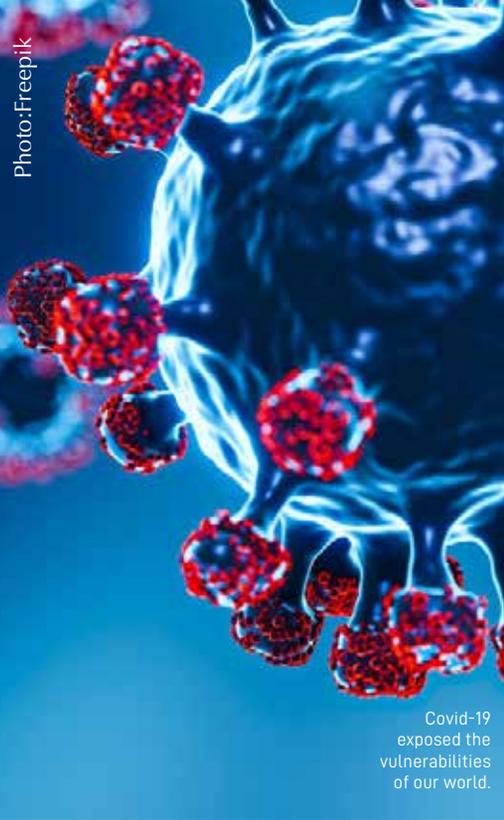


Photo:Freepik

Covid-19 exposed the vulnerabilities of our world.

tered Miami, floods drowned Bangladesh and the burning of fossil fuels continues to push the world closer to irreversible change. For those of us in aviation, each storm, every turbulence experienced, is a reminder that our runways and routes are at the mercy of forces far beyond our control.

This is the essence of polycrisis: not just the collision of multiple risks, but their entanglement, their ability to amplify and prolong each other until crisis becomes a permanent state. It is a reality that challenges the very foundations of how we manage risk. The old playbooks built for isolated shocks are simply not enough. We are now called to lead and plan in an environment where uncertainty is constant, and the stakes are existential.

Support for employees

At Airports Company South Africa, we have learned that resilience cannot be left to chance. The well-being of our employees is not a side issue, but a central pillar of our ability to weather the storm. Our Employee Value Proposition is designed not just to support staff during a crisis, but to help them build the financial, mental and personal resources to endure and adapt. Financial awareness programmes, mental health support, and practical training are no longer perks, rather, they are lifelines.

Yet the lesson of permacrisis is not just about internal policies. It is about a mindset, a willingness to accept that the world will not return to the way it was,

and that leadership now means embracing complexity, fostering seriously agile adaptability, and building community networks of support both within and beyond the organisation. This means working with all airport communities in fostering partnership rather than competition. It means understanding that the fractures we see between nations, within economies, across communities are not abstract problems, but living realities that shape every decision we make.

Advice for risk managers

For risk managers, the challenge is to move from a defensive crouch to a posture of proactive, creative engagement. We must become students of the system, constantly scanning the horizon

for emerging threats, but also for unexpected opportunities that may emerge from these threats. We must build partnerships across sectors, share information, and invest in the long-term resilience of our people and infrastructure, even when the immediate pressures tempt us to cut corners.

Most of all, we must lead with empathy and clarity. In a world where crisis fatigue is real and trust is fragile, transparency and moral courage are as important as technical expertise. We owe it to our employees, our customers, and our communities to be honest about the risks we face, and to invite them into the conversation about how we respond.

The age of permacrisis is not a passing phase. It is the new reality. But within it lies the possibility of renewal if we are willing to rethink what it means to manage risk, to lead, and to care for one another. The skies may be turbulent, but with courage, creativity, and compassion, we can chart a course through the storm. ❖

Beyond skills:

Why the future of the Public Service depends on psychological capital



Public servants with high psychological capital can help shape change in organisations.

South Africa's public service stands at crossroads. As we talk of digital transformation, professionalisation, and a "capable state," we must also ask: what keeps public servants employable, motivated, and mentally strong in a world of constant change?

A recent study among government employees in the Eastern Cape reveals that employability today goes far beyond qualifications or years of service. It depends increasingly on psychological capital – the personal resources of hope, optimism, resilience and self-efficacy that help employees thrive under pressure.

The psychology behind performance

Public servants face growing complexity, from resource constraints to shifting policy demands. Those who remain hopeful, resilient and confident in their abilities are better able to adapt and perform. These attributes far from being "soft skills" are critical capacities for sustainable service delivery.

In our study of 260 government employees, we found that individuals with higher levels of psychological capital reported stronger perceptions of employability. They saw themselves

as adaptable and future ready. Two traits, hope and optimism proved especially influential.

Yet there was a twist. Public Service employees who were too emotionally attached to their organisations (a high level of affective commitment) saw their hope and optimism decline as predictors of employability. Loyalty, while valuable, can sometimes limit career self-renewal if it leads to dependence on organisational stability.

From job security to psychological security

This finding invites us to rethink what "job security" means in the 21st-century public service. True employability no longer resides in tenure or qualifications alone. It lies in one's ability to learn, adapt and stay mentally agile. Public servants with high psychological capital do not merely survive change, they help shape it. They recover quickly from policy disruptions, stay motivated despite uncertainty and find meaning in public work.

Building a psychologically fit public service

A forward-looking public service must cultivate both skill

and psyche. Departments and training academies should:

Invest in psychological fitness programmes:

Mental and emotional resilience training should be institutionalised alongside technical skills.

Encourage reflective learning:

Coaching, mentoring and feedback systems can build confidence and self-efficacy.

Balance loyalty with mobility:

Opportunities for rotation, secondment and study leave help employees stay engaged without feeling trapped.

Measure what matters:

Include indicators of resilience, hope and optimism in employee well-being and performance frameworks.

The human side of service delivery

Ultimately, productivity in

the public sector is not just structural, it is psychological. A disengaged or demoralised employee cannot deliver quality services, no matter how strong the systems. But one who feels capable, hopeful and supported can drive innovation and excellence.

If South Africa's vision of a professional, ethical and developmental state is to succeed, investing in psychological capital must become a national priority. It is the quiet engine that turns human resources into human potential and bureaucracy into public value. ❖

Scan the QR code to download the full report.



**Prof Willie Chinyamurindi is Head of the Department of Applied Management, Administration and Ethical Leadership at the University of Fort Hare. Dr Clifford Hlatshwayo is based at the University of Namibia. The two scholars share their research that focuses on employability, psychological well-being, and transformation within the South African public sector. This research was published in the Journal of Public Administration.*

Working together to develop a reading nation

Nelson Mandela, one of the world's most profound leaders, reminded us of the transformative power of education, particularly through reading. He believed that reading empowers citizens, sparks change and lays the foundation for societies built on knowledge and justice.

Reading expands our knowledge and understanding of the world as it unlocks stories of ancient history, diverse cultures and untold mysteries. It nurtures imagination, fuels curiosity, inspires critical thinking and ignites creativity. Reading expands our understanding of the world, opening windows

to history, diverse cultures and untold stories.

More than just a skill, reading stirs adventure, drives innovation and gives every child the power to dream beyond their circumstances. It is a vital lifeline that equips people to navigate schools, workplaces and society at large.

Fundamental human right

Reading is a fundamental human right and the cornerstone of sustainable, thriving societies. Despite progress in expanding access to education, South Africa continues to face disturb-

ingly high levels of illiteracy.

Higher Education Minister Buti Manamela called this a "crisis of dignity" during the International Literacy Day event in Johannesburg. The scale of the challenge is concerning with the *2030 Reading Panel Report* showing that eight out of ten Grade 3 learners in South Africa cannot read for meaning in any language, including their mother tongue. Similarly, *the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (2021)* reveals that 81% of Grade 4 learners in South Africa faces a similar struggle.

This is deeply concerning since Grade 4 marks a crucial

phase in a child's education, whereby they move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn". Without this skill they are locked out of the world of knowledge, opportunity and self-improvement.

Collective action

Addressing this challenge demands urgent and collective action. Government has committed to ensuring that every child can read for meaning by the age of 10, a key target in both the National Development Plan Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is not merely an educational

target but is a crucial developmental imperative to enable a child to read and understand, which remains a key driver of success in education and life. In this regard, government has established action plans to prioritise teaching children to read for meaning by the age of 10.

The National Literacy Strategy and Plan set out concrete measures to achieve this goal. The strategy includes investment in books, teaching resources, funding for local libraries, community outreach programmes and training in African languages. Children learn best in their home language, and culturally relevant Learning and Teaching Support Materials are essential tools to help unlock the potential of every South African child.

Early Grade Reading Programme

Another critical intervention is the Early Grade Reading Programme (EGRP). The programme – now in its second phase in the Northern Cape – has proven to be a game-changer for both teachers and learners, through structured pedagogy, teacher training and learning materials that have already yielded successful results.

Government is working towards upscaling these efforts nationally as well as partnering

with organisations that share the country's developmental vision. The Department of Basic Education is currently partnering with non-profit organisations, that aim to foster a culture of reading among children, as part of the Literacy Promotion Collective which includes partners such as Nal'ibali.

Nal'ibali inspires children below the age of 12 to cultivate a love for reading, through their compelling stories to read, watch and listen to as well as entertaining activities, that facilitate reading aloud, and a host of training resources.

Parents and community organisations are encouraged to foster a culture of reading, in order to create a country of successful leaders. Parents play a vital role in shaping a child's love for reading. By setting aside time each day to read with their children they not only build literacy skills but also create moments of connection and joy.

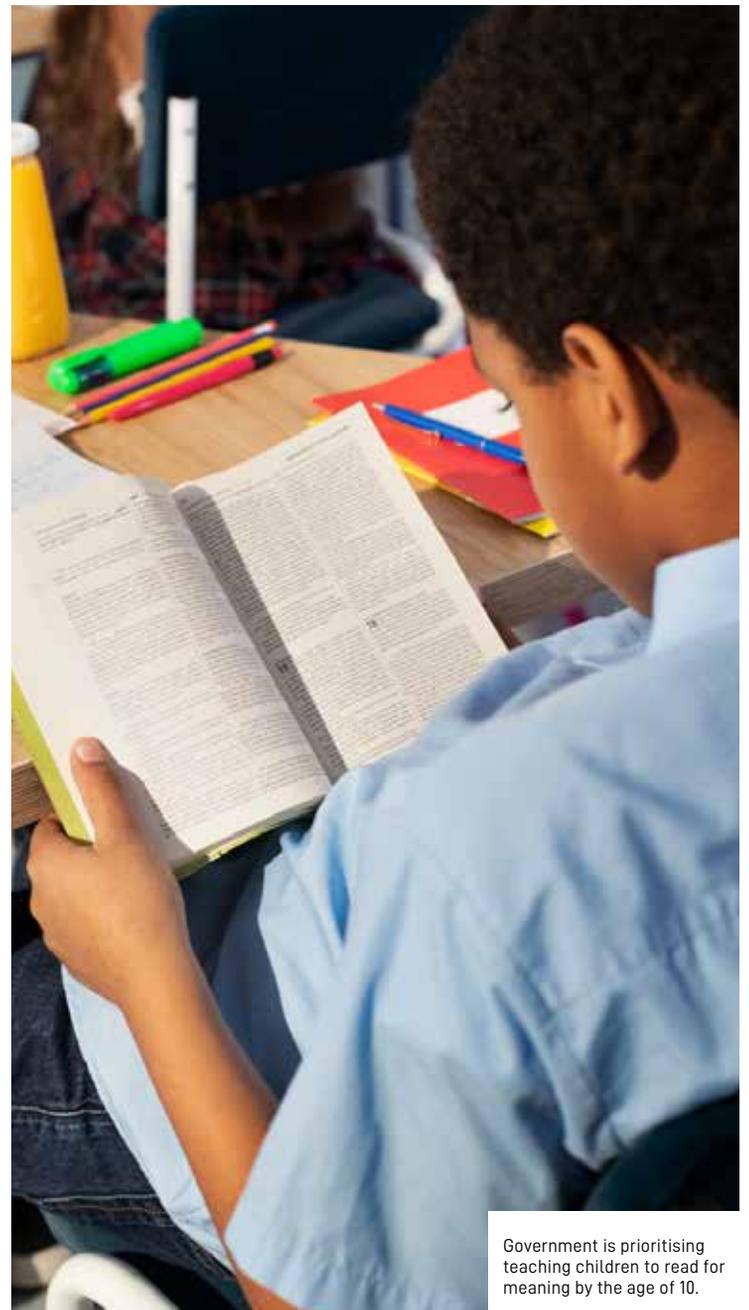
When children see their parents value reading, they are more likely to develop the same habit. Parents can also leverage the advanced capabilities of the digital age, which provides audio and digital books that facilitate exciting ways of storytelling.

All citizens can play their part in building a nation that reads, by accessing their local libraries

or participating in book clubs for instance, which also builds communities whilst sharpening mindsets.

Let us embrace reading and be equipped for life-long learning and recommit to giving

every child the chance to read, imagine and thrive. A reading nation is a leading nation – and together, we can give every child the gift of literacy so we can build a nation that works for all. ❖

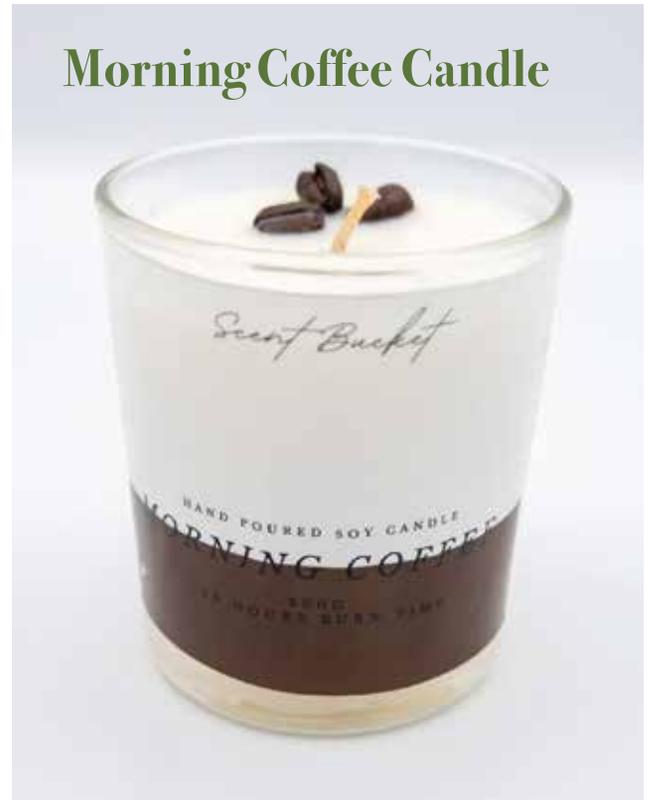


Government is prioritising teaching children to read for meaning by the age of 10.

Zettuu's Christmas Gift Guide

This festive season, explore Zettuu's ultimate festive gift guide. Every Zettuu piece is crafted with pride, honouring African heritage and craftsmanship. Give your loved ones gifts that tell a story of culture, creativity and timeless beauty. The gifts include hand-poured soy candles in a variety of fragrances, artisanal clay earrings, genuine leather bags and luxurious scarves.

Morning Coffee Candle



The Morning Coffee Candle is a beautiful and sweet aroma of fresh, roasted coffee.

R 166.98



Face Print Earrings

The sassy earrings are handmade with clay. Suitable for any outfit and perfect for any outing.

R 210.88



Amoregrande Laptop Nguni Black and white

Make a statement with this stylish genuine leather laptop bag with double handles and two large compartments with a middle compartment to hold a 15" laptop. Please note no Nguni is the same. The intensity of colour and pattern differs from skin to skin.

R 3 683.95

Animal Recycled Plastic Scarf, Save the Children

This scarf is not only created from plastic bottles, but it can also be recycled again. The scarf carries the Save the Children branding as every sale of this exclusive scarf contributes to the Save the Children charity.

R 1 081.08



About Zettuu

Zettuu is an online store that was established in 2018 by Mbali Ndandani and Portia Nondo. It aims to build an ecosystem of support for African entrepreneurs, including empowering them to become drivers in manufacturing. For more information, visit www.zettuu.com or email: info@zettuu.com. You can also follow them on social media: Instagram and Facebook @zettuuofficial. and Facebook @ Zettuuofficial.

**Prices correct at the time of publishing.*

Classic Christmas Roasted Turkey



Elevate your holiday feast with a classic Christmas roasted turkey recipe by Le_Chef_Phill. With expert tips on marinating, the under-the-skin technique, and the perfect

basting method, this dish will be the star of your festive table.

Ingredients

For the marinade (Wet Rub):

- ½ cup lemon juice.

- ½ cup orange juice.
- 3 tablespoon honey.
- 3 – 4 tablespoons Cajun spice.
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme, chopped.

- 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary, chopped.
- 8 cloves garlic, minced.
- 2 tablespoons fresh ginger, grated.
- 1 tablespoon turmeric (just a touch for colour + warmth).
- ½ cup vegetable oil (or olive oil).
- ¼ cup BBQ sauce.
- 1 tablespoon salt.
- 1 teaspoon black pepper.

For roasting:

- 1 whole turkey (4 – 6 kg).
- Extra rosemary and thyme sprigs for the cavity.
- 1 onion, quartered.
- 1 lemon, cut in half.
- 1 orange, cut in half.
- 2 carrots and 2 celery sticks (for roasting base, optional).

Step-by-step directions

Prepare the Marinade
 In a large bowl, whisk together:

- lemon juice, orange juice and honey.
- Cajun spice, thyme and rosemary.
- garlic, ginger and turmeric.
- oil and BBQ sauce.

Mix until smooth and well combined.

Prepare the turkey

- Pat the turkey dry with paper towels.

- Gently loosen the skin over the breast and thighs using your fingers — be careful not to tear it.
- Spoon or brush a generous amount of marinade under the skin, spreading it evenly over the breast and thigh meat.
- Rub the remaining marinade all over the outside of the bird.
- Place herbs, onion, lemon, and orange into the cavity for fragrance.
- **Marinate (Very Important).**
- Cover the turkey with cling wrap or place in a sealed container.
- Let it marinate in the refrigerator for 24 hours for maximum flavour and tenderness.

Roast the turkey (Christmas style)

- Preheat oven to 170°C (low and slow).



- Place carrots, celery, and onions at the bottom of the roasting tray.
- Put the turkey on top, breast side up.
- Cover loosely with foil for the first 2½–3 hours.
- Remove the foil and increase



the heat to 190°C for the last 45–60 minutes to colour the skin.

• Baste while cooking

- Mix a little of the leftover marinade with melted butter.
- Every 30 – 40 minutes, baste the turkey with this mixture for a glossy, rich finish.

**The BBQ + honey caramelises beautifully.*

Check readiness

- Turkey is ready when internal temperature reaches 75°C at the thickest part of the thigh.
- If you do not have a thermometer, pierce the thigh:

juices should run clear.

Rest before carving:

- Allow the turkey to rest 20–30 minutes before carving.
- This keeps it juicy and flavourful. ❖

**Serve with cranberry sauce, roasted vegetables, gravy made from the turkey drippings, roasted potatoes or savoury rice or classic Christmas stuffing.*



About the Chef

With over 25 years of culinary experience, Le_Chef_Phill has honed his craft in renowned establishments such as the Pestana Group, Legacy Hotels, Sun International, Primi Piatti and Amakhala Game Reserve. His career includes catering for world leaders and celebrated personalities, a testament to his skill and professionalism. Driven by deep passion and unwavering resilience, he has transformed his journey into a thriving venture – The Unorthodox Chef Catering, a brand celebrated for its creativity, authenticity and excellence. Today, the business continues to grow and proudly exports traditional African meals to clients in the United Arab Emirate. You can connect with him on his social media handle #the_unorthodox_chef or contact him on +27 81 269 7515.

Mountain Zebra National Park



Mountain Zebra National Park in the Eastern Cape offers a personal African experience.

With its wide-open spaces, serene atmosphere, and spectacular sunsets, Mountain Zebra National Park in Cradock in the Eastern Cape is the perfect destination for those seeking a true Karoo wilderness experience – whether for solitude, photography or simply reconnecting with nature.

Invigorating crystal-clear air, beautiful scenery, tranquil ambience and an abundance of wildlife offer you a special and personal African wilderness experience.

The craggy heights of the Bankberg mountain range, embrace rolling plains and deep valleys, have become an en-

trancing preserve for the Cape Mountain zebra. The proclamation of the park in 1937 saved these animals from extinction, and currently their population stands at over 300.

Other mammals found here include the cheetah, Cape buffalo, black rhino, eland, black wildebeest, red hartebeest

and gemsbok, while mountain reedbuck and grey rhebok frequent the higher areas. Caracal occupies the niche of primary predator.

A historic backdrop

From prehistoric sites with concentrations of stone artifacts situated along the riverbanks and



Thanks to conservation efforts, the park is now home to the endangered Cape mountain zebra.

rock art panels on the mountain slopes, to historic farmsteads and cemeteries, Mountain Zebra National Park has acted as a backdrop for thousands of years of human history.

From 14 000 to 10 000 years ago, Later Stone Age inhabitants lived in the area now proclaimed as national park. Evidence of their settlements is found along the banks of the Wilger River. There are some 30 sites with pottery and stone artifacts that have been identified through research done by the University of Stellenbosch.

Rock painting

The San people left evidence of their lives about 300 years ago in at least three rock shelters containing rock art in the park. The paintings show an antelope, baboons, a large cat – possibly a

leopard or cheetah – and human figures.

Visitors can view rock paintings in one of the shelters by hiring a park guide to show them the way. Although a fence protects the painting site, it is quite exciting to be able to stand less than a metre away from ancient artwork.

During the 1800s, British soldiers created a chessboard on the top of Saltpeterskop, a 1 514 m-high koppie in the park. While hiding out during the Anglo-Boer War, they played chess with their fellow soldiers in the old fort in Cradock, transmitting moves by means of a mirror, which had the official purpose of communicating warning signals.

The chessboard and the names of the soldiers are etched onto a flat slab of rock at the top of Saltpeterskop. Names record-

ed include the 5th Lancashire Fusiliers, the Coldstream Guards and some privates, corporals and a captain. The chessboard is still visible today but not accessible to visitors.

The legacy of settlers who moved into the area and set up farms during the Great Trek of 1836 still stands today. In 1838, one of the first permanent farmhouses in the area was constructed on the farm De Doornkloof, then owned by Hendrik Jacobus van Heerden. The house known as Doornhoek, declared a national monument in 1986, was restored and is still used as a guesthouse in the park. It is popular with those who want a tranquil family getaway overlooking a lake, with spectacular star-gazing vistas at night.

An archaeological survey of the Mountain Zebra National

Parks was undertaken in 1973 at the request of the then National Parks Board of Trustees. Thirty archaeological sites were located during the survey. These include three small rock shelters which include San rock art and 27 open sites.

Conservation efforts

In 1937, 1 712 hectares of land was proclaimed as the Mountain Zebra National Park. Thanks to the conservation efforts of farmers in the area, small herds of the endangered Cape Mountain zebra still survived in the area and these provided a founder population for the park. The park's Cape mountain zebra herd now numbers over 350 animals.

The park expanded slowly over the years, but received a

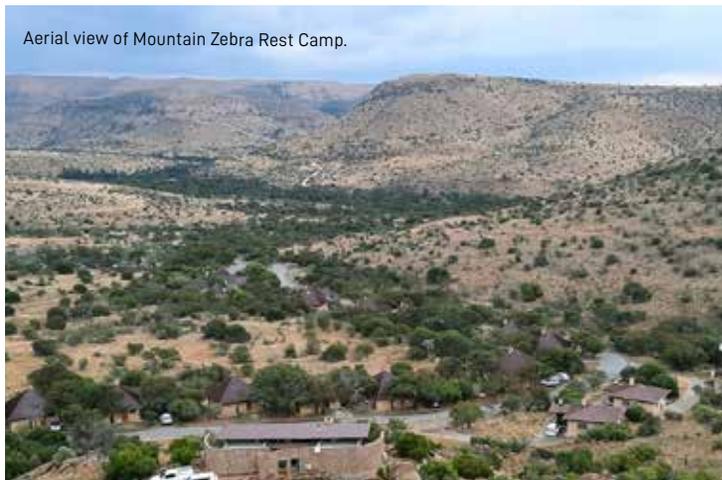
Doornhoek Guest House, declared a national monument, is a secluded historical farmstead.



boost with a joint public-private conservation initiative. Artist David Shepherd kick-started the initiative by donating prints of his works, "Mountain Zebra: A Vision in Black and White" in 1996 and "Cheetahs" in 1998 so that money could be raised to buy surrounding farms and expand the size of the park.

SABC's 50/50 environmental TV programme shared the story with viewers to encourage them to buy prints and raise funds. The response was fantastic and caused private individuals and businesses to make donations, including The Barbara Delano Foundation, WildAid, Sasol and Vesta Medicines. The South African National Parks Trust matched all of the funds that were raised.

Nine surrounding farms were



Aerial view of Mountain Zebra Rest Camp.

purchased through this process, enabling the park to expand from 6 536 hectares to 28 412 hectares in size. Following this, black rhinos, buffalo and finally cheetahs could be introduced to the park.

On offer

The park offers routes for hiking, guided walks and 4x4

trails, game drives, wild cheetah tracking, bird viewing and picnic and braai sites.

Visitors can explore the park at their own leisure in their own vehicle on almost 70 km of tourist roads. There are 4x4 trails to be explored, with the Juriesdam and Sonnerust trails being relatively easy drives and the Umgeni trail being more

challenging. Explore hiking trails ranging from 1 km to 25 km to get close to nature in the park or take a guided walk with a qualified, knowledgeable guide.

The park also provides the unique opportunity of tracking wild cheetahs with the chance to observe these cats in their natural habitat. Drive out with your guide to search for the elusive cheetahs. When a signal from a collared cheetah is found, you will have the opportunity to get closer on foot.

Other attractions

Mountain Zebra Park is situated 2 km from the town of Cradock and offers an excellent day visitor destination for those staying in town. Visitors staying in the park can explore nearby tourist and historical attractions in Cradock, such as Schreiner House Museum, die Tuishuise and Victoria Manor on Market Street, and Lingelighle township. Highlights of the township tour include the Vusubuntu Cultural Village and the Cradock Four Garden of Remembrance. Lingelihle is famous for its struggle icons, amongst others, the Cradock Four (Matthew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sparrow Mkhonto and Siklo Mhlauli) and Canon JA Calata, the longest serving Secretary General of the African National Congress. ❖

For more information, send an email to mountainzebra@sanparks.org or call +27 (0)48 801 5700/01.



NATIONAL ONLINE GAMBLING TAX

National Treasury has published a draft discussion paper on national online gambling tax for public comment. Written comments should be sent to gamblingtax@treasury.gov.za by close of business on **30 January 2026**.

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