

# CABINET STATEMENT

On the Cabinet meeting of Friday,  
5 December 2025

## ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

### ECONOMY

- **Eskom turnaround gains momentum**
- Cabinet welcomed Eskom's continuing improvement in financial and operational performance for the first six months ending September 2025. The entity recorded a profit of R24.3 billion after tax, which is 37% higher than the same period in 2024. Electricity supply reliability improved from 96% in 2024/25 to 98% year-to-date; recording only four days of load-shedding during the same period. This solid performance reflects the efficacy of the Operation Vulindlela Structural Reform Programme, competence of Eskom's Management and Board and focused leadership of the Minister of Electricity and Energy.
- **SA's economy maintains positive growth**
- GDP grew by 0.5% in the third quarter of 2025, marking the fourth consecutive quarter of expansion. The growth was driven by mining, agriculture, finance, government services and manufacturing. Employment increased by 248 000 jobs, while unemployment decreased by 360 000 people

(Quarterly Labour Force Survey). The Youth Employment Service reached a 200 000 jobs milestone and placed over 202 558 young South Africans in 12-month quality work experiences, supported by more than 1 900 corporate partners. The International Monetary Fund has lifted the country's growth forecast to 1.3% in 2025 and 1.4% in 2026 (previously 1.1% and 1.2%).

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **SA leverages G20 Presidency**
- Cabinet joined President Cyril Ramaphosa in extending its appreciation to all South Africans for their role in ensuring our successful G20 Presidency which culminated in the recently hosted G20 Leaders' Summit. South Africa placed Africa's development agenda at the centre of G20 discussions, mobilising consensus on actions to address challenges facing Africa and the global South.
- Cabinet noted the USA's position to exclude South Africa from the 2026 G20 meetings.
- While regrettable, South Africa re-

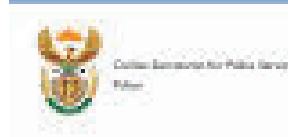
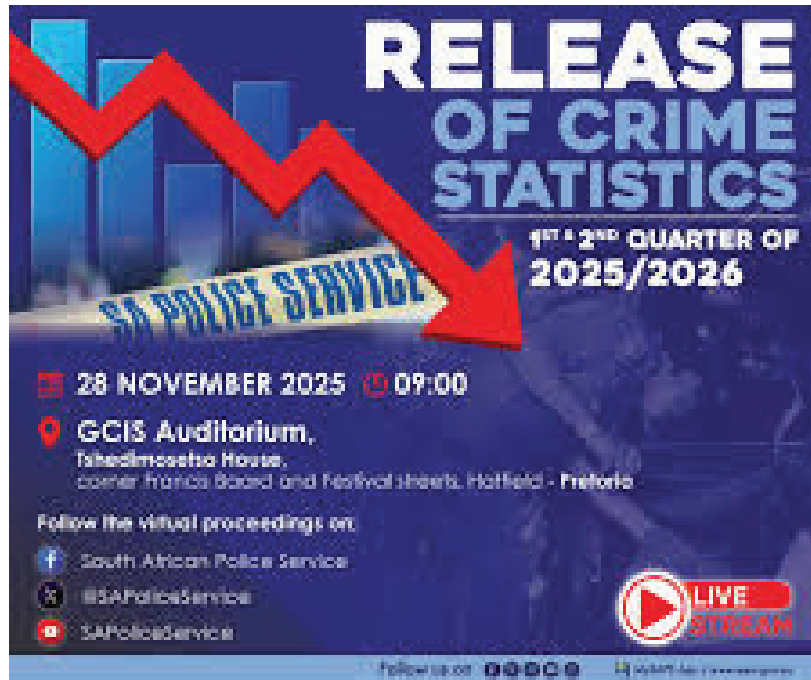
mains committed to G20 principles and multilateral cooperation.

### ■ IBSA leaders champion the Global South

- Cabinet welcomed the successful hosting of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Meeting on the margins of the G20 Leaders' Summit. South Africa called for revitalising South-South cooperation to drive inclusive growth, advance sustainable development and accelerate reform of global governance institutions. IBSA priorities include scaling up climate finance, enhancing food and health security, supporting foundational learning and mobilising investment for disaster risk reduction.

### ■ 4th Bi-National Commission (BNC) with Mozambique

- President Ramaphosa led SA's delegation to the 4th SA-Mozambique BNC meeting in Maputo. Ninety-nine decisions with implementation timeframes across economic cooperation, diplomacy, security and social development were reached and progress will be reported at 5th BNC meeting to be held in South Africa. of Sasol Hydrocarbons Processing



Integrated Infrastructure was officially launched in Inhassoro Town, Inhamitanga Province on 3 December 2025.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

#### Decline in crime statistics

- Cabinet welcomed the reported decline in crime across most crime categories according to statistics

released by the South African Police Service (SAPS) for the first and second quarters of the 2025 financial year. The crime statistics between April and September 2025 indicate significant reduction in serious and violent crimes. Murder rates decreased by 6.5% in Q1 and 11.5% in Q2. Cabinet commended law enforcement agencies and urged society to join the fight against crime.

## CABINET DECISIONS

### 1. Implementation plan to drive growth and inclusion

- Cabinet approved the Implementation plan aligned with the priorities of the 7th Administration's 2024 - 2029 Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP). The MTDP aims to ensure coordinated and focused implementation of prioritised economic development interventions designed under multiple initiatives. Core pillars of the plan include economic reforms to fix the fundamentals, Public Service reforms to build a capable state, industrial policy reforms to pursue new areas of growth. The plan will be implemented with the same impetus as the Operation Vulindlela Structural Reforms Programme.

### 2. Implementation Plan of the Critical Minerals Strategy (CMS)

- Cabinet approved the Critical Minerals Strategy Implementation Plan, which provides a roadmap to leverage mineral wealth opportunities arising from increased demand for critical minerals in sectors such as digital technology, defence, healthcare, consumer electronics and electric vehicles.
- Six pillars of the plan:**
  - Geoscience mapping and exploration;
  - Value addition and localisation;
  - Research, development and innovation;
  - Infrastructure and energy security;
  - Financial instruments; and
  - Regulatory harmonisation.The CMS will significantly contribute to economic growth and job creation.

### 3. Draft Revised White Paper on Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection (CIRP)

- Cabinet approved the Draft Revised White Paper on CIRP for public consultation. This revision builds on the final White Paper approved in 2024, updating policy propositions and adding detailed guidance on proposals contained in the original version. Key enhancements include integration of recommendations from Operation Vulindlela's Visa Policy Reforms Report and additional clarity and detail to strengthen implementation of immigration and citizenship policies. The revised White Paper aims to ensure a coherent, modernised approach to citizenship, immi-

gration and refugee protection that supports national development and security objectives, including the First Safe Country principle.

### B. MTDP Bi-Annual Progress Reports

- Cabinet considered bi-annual progress reports on the implementation of the MTDP for April to September 2025. The reports highlighted performance successes and areas where delivery is lagging or facing obstacles. Cabinet emphasised the need for continued focus on implementation. Further in-depth briefings will be provided by the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and co-chairpersons of Cabinet Clusters.

### C. National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children (NSAAC)

- Cabinet approved the NSAAC which aims to accelerate action for the welfare and development of children and adolescents across South Africa.

#### Focus areas include:

- Closing the food gap;
- Stimulating language and learning in every young child;
- Protecting children and teenagers through reduction of substance abuse;
- Timeous screening and referral for hearing and visual disabilities; and
- Building identity and agency for children.
- The strategy emphasises collaboration and shared responsibility to ensure every child has an opportunity to thrive. Public access: <http://www.dsd.gov.za>.

### D. The 5th National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) 2025 - 2030

- Cabinet approved the 5th NPAC, which ensures implementation of the NSAAC and aligns with international frameworks such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and national legislation including the Constitution and the Children's Act of 2005.
- Building on progress since 1996, the NPAC provides a comprehensive roadmap to protect and promote children's rights.

#### Key focus areas:

- Empowering every child as a rights-bearing, active citizen;
- Strengthening systems and partnerships for

holistic child development; and

- Improving health, education, safety and social inclusion.
- The NPAC reflects a collaborative approach between government and partners to ensure all children are recognised, empowered and enabled to thrive.

### E. Programme of Action to address gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF)

- Cabinet approved a comprehensive Programme of Action to address GBVF, including a service delivery framework and institutional arrangements to drive a whole-of-society approach.



#### Priority areas:

- Prevention and rebuilding social cohesion;
- Enhanced law enforcement, protection, safety and justice;
- Victim and survivor-centred support;
- Communication and stakeholder engagement; and
- Institutional arrangements.
- Support services: Victims are encouraged to use the 24-hour GBVF Command Centre Hotline: 0800 428 428.

### F. Draft National Open Science Policy (OSP)

- Cabinet approved the Draft National Open Science Policy, a framework to guide South Africa's approach to Open Science – making research, data and processes accessible to the public and scientific community.

#### Policy objectives:

- Promote transparency, collaboration and innovation in scientific research.
- Enhance availability of research outputs (findings, publications, data and tools) for researchers, policymakers, students and the public.

- Encourage collaborative research within South Africa and globally through open data sharing.
- By fostering openness and inclusivity, the NOSP positions South Africa to advance scientific progress and innovation for societal benefit.

### G. Report on the performance of the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Incentive Programme (2022/2023)

- Cabinet approved tabling the Performance Report of the R&D Tax Incentive Programme for 2022/23 in Parliament.

#### About the incentive:

- Offered under Section 11D of the Income Tax Act of 1962.
- Provides 150% tax deduction on approved operational expenditure for R&D activities, which is one of the most generous globally.

#### 2022/23 performance:

- One hundred and eighty-eight (188) project applications from 77 companies, with planned R&D expenditure of R1.5 billion.
- Most applications from large companies (annual turnover of R100 million+).
- Highest number of applications from Gauteng, followed by Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

### H. Draft regulations on national research facilities and research institutions

- Cabinet approved publication for public comment of draft regulations on the establishment and governance of National Research Facilities (NRFs) and draft regulations on the Declaration of Research Institutions. The purpose of the regulations is to provide a framework to identify eligible research institutions for funding, national priority alignment, data-sharing and oversight; ensure institutions possess a public research mandate, infrastructure, capabilities and expertise to advance the National System of Innovation; and strengthen governance and ensure research institutions play a strategic role in driving innovation and supporting South Africa's development objectives.

## BILLS

### ■ Draft Gas Bill, 2025

- Cabinet approved the submission of the Draft Gas Bill, 2025 to Parliament for further processing.

#### Purpose of the Bill:

- Repeals the Gas Act of 2001 and introduces a modernised legislative framework reflecting recent technological developments in gas transportation and storage.

- Addresses challenges in implementing and enforcing the current Act, positioning South Africa to better manage gas resources and infrastructure in line with global best practices and national energy priorities.

#### Key provisions:

- Empowers the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) to:

- Set, monitor and regulate distribution tariffs;
- Regulate the registration regime; and Determine suitable licensing periods.
- Provides for centralised strategic planning of new gas facilities, particularly transmission and re-gasification facilities critical for gas importation and bulk transportation to ensure national energy security.

### • Natural Scientific Professions (NSP) Bill, 2025

- Cabinet approved the publication of the Natural Scientific Professions Bill, 2025 for public comment. The purpose of the Bill is to update and replace the Natural Scientific Professions Act of 2003, which regulates natural science professions in South Africa and to modernise gov-

ernance of the profession and ensure alignment with current scientific practices and international standards. The Bill also introduces an updated legal framework for registration and regulation of natural scientists and ethical standards and scope of practice.

## UPDATES TO CABINET

### ■ Implementation of two major human settlement development projects in Gauteng

- Cabinet noted progress on two major human settlement projects aimed at providing nearly 68 000 households in Luthering (City of Johannesburg) – minimum housing yield estimated at 32 636 units and Mookloof (City of Tshwane) – expected to deliver approximately 50 000 housing units. The Luthering Development will be a fully integrated community with social and economic amenities, including schools, crèches, clinics, places of worship, parks, open spaces, business and commercial nodes and recreational facilities. These projects will create significant employment opportunities during construction and beyond, stimulate small-business development, and drive local economic growth – critical interventions in addressing unemployment and inequality.

### ■ South African Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators Report, 2025

- Cabinet noted findings of the 2025 STI Indicators Report, which show that South Africa has established a solid foundation for a national science and innovation system. However, the system remains fragmented across government, academia, industry and civil society. Persistent underfunding limits the ability to translate research outputs into commercial products or social innovations. The report calls for stronger integration among stakeholders and coordinated investment in STI to enable translation of research outputs into tangible economic and social benefits, enhancing South Africa's global competitiveness.

### ■ Post-School Education and Training state of readiness 2026

- Application cycle opened in September 2025 (earlier than previous years) and closed on 15 November 2025. Real-time data verification integrated with the Department of Home Affairs, South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the South African Social Services Agency to automate income and citizenship checks.

Fraud prevention will be strengthened through biometric and physical identification measures.

### ■ National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) sustainability

- Cabinet noted a report on the status and sustainability of NSFAS and acknowledged systemic challenges undermining stability and credibility of the scheme; endorsed urgent stabilisation measures, including strengthening governance, ICT systems and disbursement mechanisms; and welcomed progress in consultations with stakeholders and agreed that a new sustainable student funding model must be finalised by early 2026. The model will focus on long-term affordability; differentiated support for university and TVET students; improved efficiencies in application, allocation and appeals processes. Cabinet re-affirmed the centrality of public financial aid in advancing equitable access to post-school education and training.

### ■ NSFAS support measures

- Full-time capacity at each institution during registration to assist with funding challenges.
- Establishment of a war room comprising the Department of Higher Education and Training, NSFAS, institutions and student bodies to meet weekly and address challenges.
- Updated communications protocol to ensure students receive information quickly online, by phone and in person.
- Tourism Growth Partnership Plan (TGPP) 2025 – 2030: Driving inclusive growth and job creation
- Cabinet was briefed on the TGPP 2025 – 2030, a five-year framework to accelerate inclusive, sustainable tourism-led economic growth. The framework leverages partnerships across public, private and community sectors to boost international arrivals and domestic tourism, diversify tourism products, create jobs (with focus on youth and women), strengthen resilience and ensure community benefits.
- Outlines five strategic objectives, six priority programmes, and an implementation roadmap with measurable KPIs,

supported by phased investment and multiple funding sources.

- Cabinet noted that tourism growth has already surpassed 2030 targets, including pre-pandemic (COVID-19) tourism receipts, job creation milestones and focus on improving rural value capture, upgrading infrastructure, and embedding climate-smart practices.

### ■ 13th World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ)

- Cabinet welcomed the successful hosting of the 13th WCSJ held from 1 – 5 December 2025 in Pretoria, jointly convened by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The conference underscored the critical role of science journalism in addressing global inequalities and strengthening public confidence in science.

#### Key outcomes:

- Commitments to advance ethical journalism;
- Enhance regional capacity-building;

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ■ Reconciliation Month

- South Africa will commemorate Reconciliation Month throughout December, culminating in the National Day of Reconciliation on 16 December 2025 at the Ncome Museum in Nquthu, KwaZulu-Natal under the Reconciliation Month theme: "From Shared Histories to Shared Futures through New Paths and Innovation"; and the National Day of Reconciliation: "Reaffirming Reconciliation for Future Generations".

### ■ Cabinet's call to action:

- 1.1.1. Build on three decades of democracy by mentoring young people;
- 1.1.2. Support inclusive local enterprises; and
- 1.1.3. Engage in open and honest dialogue that fosters understanding and shared purpose.
- Reconciliation Month reminds us that freedom and democracy were hard-won and shaped by South Africa's history of injustice and inequality. The country's shared future depends on collective efforts to heal, unite and innovate together.

## MESSAGES

### Caution against adverse weather conditions

- Cabinet urges all South Africans to exercise extreme caution amid severe weather conditions including heavy rains, thunderstorms and hailstorms across various parts of the country. Credible weather information: <http://www.weathersa.co.za>.

### Prioritising safety is a shared responsibility this festive season

- Cabinet wishes all South Africans a joyous festive season and calls for prioritising safety on roads, in communities and at public events. Eight hundred (800) national road traffic law-enforcement officers have been deployed, supported by other agencies; and additional 558 newly trained police officers for public safety.

### South Africans are reminded to:

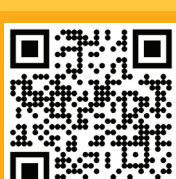
- adhere to traffic rules, cooperate in roadblocks, avoid reckless behaviour (drinking and driving, speeding, phone use);
- not leave children supervised, ensure seat belts are fastened and remain vigilant in public spaces;
- beware of scammers and fraudsters; and
- report suspicious activity immediately.

Safety is a shared responsibility – let us work together to prevent accidents and protect lives.



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