



10 *year*

REVIEW OF

**THE NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN**

2012-2022



*A Call to
Action*



**national planning
commission**

Department:
The Presidency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INTRODUCTION

The third National Planning Commission (NPC) has completed a detailed and thorough review of the progress made in the ten years since the adoption of the National Development Plan (NDP) in 2012. The NDP is the only cross-cutting long-term plan for national development in South Africa. This evidence-based review clearly shows that insufficient progress has been made towards the achievement of the NDP goals. Nevertheless, a number of key and ongoing initiatives provide a basis for hope. Hence this Call to Action by the NPC.

We call on all South Africans to refocus on the goals of the NDP. Government cannot achieve the goals of the NDP alone but needs the whole of society to partner with it. In its role as an independent advisory body and custodian of the NDP, the NPC strives to mobilise society towards the NDP: Vision 2030, encouraging ownership and implementation of the NDP by all key societal stakeholders.

The key goals of the NDP include the elimination of poverty, and the reduction of inequality and unemployment by 2030. However, for these critical goals to be reached, the envisaged economic, social, and environmental fundamentals must be in place. These include an economy that not only grows at the requisite pace but is also inclusive of those currently excluded from the benefits of economic growth. This means we need labour-absorbing strategies, an education system that produces a quality workforce armed with relevant skills, a comprehensive social protection system, a professional public service, a capable state, a functional universal public health system, efficient infrastructure services, and the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The shared vision of change that underlies the NDP is aimed at the creation of a united, prosperous, and equitable society by 2030. Whereas the NPC acknowledges the legacy of apartheid, which has resulted in deep-rooted inequality, unrelenting

poverty, and rising unemployment, these problems persist into the present, largely because of the abandonment of the NDP, deteriorating state capacity, and inappropriate policy management.

The abandonment of the NDP has resulted in incoherent planning. Nor has the state been able to fund, sequence, and co-ordinate the implementation of the NDP. These systemic challenges have been compounded by a combination of contextual challenges, such as the 2007/9 global financial crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, the July 2021 uprising in South Africa, and shifting geopolitical dynamics.

TEN-YEAR REVIEW FINDINGS

Our Ten-Year Review reveals that most of our economic targets have not only been missed but are moving in the wrong direction. Objectives and targets that have to do with inequality, poverty levels, employment and unemployment rates, energy security, a low-carbon economy, GDP, economic growth, and investment levels, have all been missed.

While there has been improvement in the social grant system and in terms of access to education, the quality and the relevance of the education and training received by our young people is of concern. The prevalence of childhood stunting is high and unchanged, mortality rates especially in the first months and the first five years of life are unacceptably high. Obesity and the attendant prevalence of diet-related non-communicable diseases are increasing. Most of the challenges affecting infants and children are linked to household hunger, the feminisation and racialisation of poverty among the mothers of the children.

The Ten-Year Review reveals several governance challenges: instead of a capable state, on which the plan is predicated, we have an increasingly corrupt

state; instead of a seamless planning system, we have a disjointed planning system that is poorly implemented and misaligned to the strategic goals of the NDP; instead of a more inclusive and equitable economy, we have economic policies that do not seem to be achieving the transformation that is required.

Social cohesion has fallen off the government priority list and is articulated superficially.

South Africans experience some of the highest levels of violent interpersonal crime globally, especially violence against women.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The NPC is convinced that the light of hope that was lit when the NDP was first adopted and that the NDP itself remains more relevant than ever.

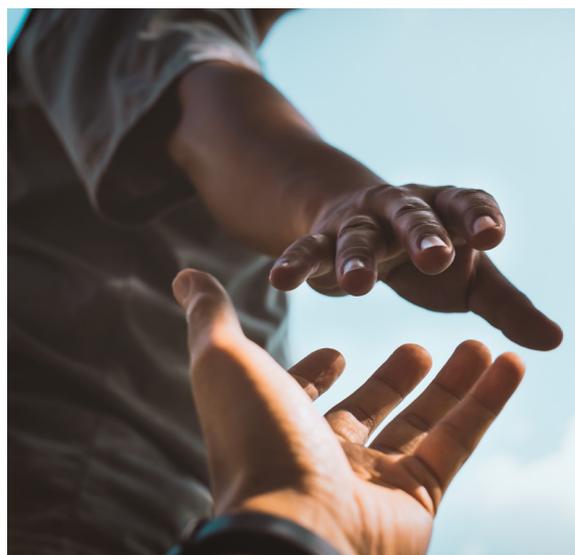
Our new story is open ended with temporary destinations, only for new paths to open up once more.

It is a story of unfolding learning.

Even when we flounder, we remain hopeful.

In this story, we always arrive and depart.

(NDP Vision Statement)



Guided by the vision of change that informs the NDP, the NPC is convinced that for the goals of the NDP to be achieved, a comprehensive, co-ordinated, multi-sectoral approach to development is required. Such an approach must include partnerships between civil society, the private sector, government, and academia.

To rekindle the hope that is captured in the NDP and to correct our course toward the 2030 goals, we hereby reassert the significance of the goals of the NDP as the lodestar of our developmental vision as a nation. Such an approach should be rooted in good governance, economic transformation, social cohesion, a just transition to more sustainable development pathways as well as a bias in favour of the poorest of the poor.

CALL TO ACTION

There are numerous initiatives across the country that clearly demonstrate that it is possible to rebuild in practical ways that make a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor. Owing to their targeted, and partnership- and collaboration-based nature, some of these initiatives may usher in a type of governance that can reignite hope in an inclusive future precisely because they align with the NDP goals.

THE EXAMPLE OF FOUR MAJOR PROGRAMMES ALREADY UNDERWAY

In this Call to Action, we highlight four such government initiatives already underway, namely:

- a national infrastructure implementation programme;
- a sectoral growth implementation programme;
- a just energy transition implementation programme;
- a national state capability building programme.

These programmes have the potential to touch all South Africans. Implementing these programmes will result in a great leap forward in realising the goals of the NDP.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

To realize the infrastructure goals of the NDP, the National Infrastructure Plan 2050 (NIP2050) was approved by Cabinet in 2022. The aim of the plan is to drive an infrastructure-led economic growth strategy. Four specific infrastructures are targeted by NIP2050: energy, water, digital infrastructure, and freight. The NPC's Infrastructure Task Team has been mandated to investigate the long-term investment requirements to achieve the goals of NIP2050.

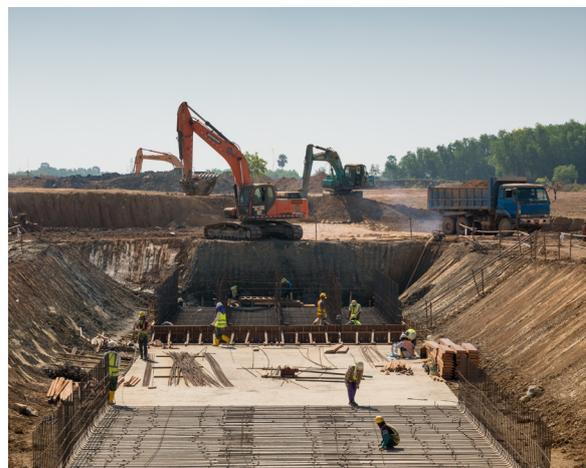
We call upon government to use the NIP2050 to stimulate economic growth through the acceleration of investments in the four infrastructure sectors. Such investments may include large-scale public and private funding and the prudent investment of pension funds.

SECTORAL GROWTH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

Since 2019, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) with support from the Presidency has co-ordinated the co-development of sectoral masterplans for priority industries and strategic sectors. This targeted approach includes the building of social compacts with key stakeholders, as well as in-depth economic analyses to identify attendant strengths and challenges.

Of particular interest are masterplans designed to positively impact such crucial sectors as renewable energy, ICT/ digital, global business services, tourism, mining and beneficiation, agriculture, agro-processing, and the automotive sector.

We call on DPME to implement the monitoring and evaluation dashboard for all masterplans. The dashboard should be used to drive implementation, mobilise executive oversight committees and other stakeholders as well as incorporating masterplan priority outcomes into departmental medium-term goals and annual performance plans. We call upon municipalities to create their own dashboards for the implementation of their medium- and short-term planning. We call on all sectors, including business, NGOs and labour, to participate in the implementation of the masterplans.



JUST ENERGY TRANSITION IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

In order to address loadshedding and energy insecurity, we have several plans in place. These include, the Energy Action Plan, the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan, the Low Emissions Development Strategy, Eskom Roadmap and the Just Transition Framework, amongst others.

The ending of loadshedding in the short-term, and the gradual transition to energy security for all and net zero carbon emissions will help restore hope in the future of South Africa.

We call on everyone involved in this national effort to stay the course, no matter the challenges and uncertainties.

A NATIONAL CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

The National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Service, which was adopted by Cabinet in November 2022, provides guidelines for how a public service insulated from undue political interference can serve the country better.

To ensure that the Framework is institutionalised and implemented, we call upon government to adopt a national capability-building implementation programme aimed at:

- improving performance and accountability in strategic state institutions;

- building the capacity of municipalities for improved service delivery and better governance;
- developing the skills and expertise of employable young graduates and professionals;
- promoting co-operation and collaboration among state institutions and with private sector stakeholders; and
- mobilising turn-around interventions in strategic state institutions.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

We call on the President to use his high office to advocate for the return of the NDP to the centre of all government planning. Among other things, the President should foreground the NDP in the framing of his main national addresses, including the SONA.

We call for a mode of governance that prioritises implementation and targeted problem-solving through the promotion and implementation of the NDP.

We call on Cabinet and all government departments to create a policy environment that prioritises the needs of the poorest of the poor.

In exercising its oversight role, we call on Parliament to refocus on the NDP when holding entities to account.

We call for a regulatory environment that enables large, small, micro, medium enterprises and co-operatives - formal and informal - to operate without undue impediments.

Furthermore, we call on the National Treasury, the South African Reserve Bank and other financial institutions to facilitate a robust and inclusive debate about the suitability and effectiveness of our current macro-economic and micro-economic policies with regards to the implementation of the NDP.

We call on local governments to focus on the core responsibilities of providing services, promoting social and economic development, creating a safe and healthy environment, and encouraging the involvement of communities, businesses, and civil society.

We call upon the NGO community to continue the good fight for social justice, human rights, and a healthy environment. We call upon NGOs to advocate for the rights of poor communities and the rights of the environment so as to animate and drive sustainable local economic development strategies.

We call on the business sector to be bold, less risk-averse, and innovative as they make their own contribution to good governance, manufacturing, climate change mitigation, and the overall national effort to implement the goals of the NDP goals.

While we appreciate the GBV Strategy that emanated from Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, we call for the urgent implementation and the adequate resourcing of this strategy.

These are some of the actions needed to correct our course toward the 2030 goals and to rekindle the hope of all South Africans. Former USA President, Barack Obama aptly defines hope thus:

Hope is not blind optimism. It's not ignoring the enormity of the task ahead or the roadblocks that stand in our path. Hope is that thing inside us that insists, despite all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the courage to reach for it, and to work for it, and to fight for it. Hope is the belief that destiny will not be written for us, but by us, by the men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is, who have the courage to remake the world as it should be.

We therefore call on all South Africans to play their part in the restoration of hope and in a more vigorous pursuit of the goals of the NDP over the second decade of the NDP up to 2030.

It is our future, let us make it work!



