



**MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X1000, Pretoria, 0001; Tel: 012 300 5200 / 021 464 2100

OPENING REMARKS BY MINISTER GUNGUBELE

3rd NPC PLENARY MEETING, 6 MAY 2022

Greetings to the Deputy Chairperson of the NPC, Prof Maluleke

Commissioners

Members of the Secretariat

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the third plenary meeting of the National Planning Commission (NPC).

This meeting comes amidst the challenges of floods, climate change disasters as well as the COVID-19 pandemic which have all severely impacted lives and livelihoods. The lessons arising from how the country responds to these disasters and challenges of development remain real and critical for our future. These are the lessons beyond theoretical undertakings for national development planning. They place practical issues at our door step.

The National Planning Commission being an independent advisory body and think tank of the country, should mobilize ideas across the board and synthesize them into a coherent plan which responds to the prevailing environment we find ourselves in.

Key amongst the issues that need our urgent attention as a Commission is the issue of disaster management and the lack of readiness of the state to intervene during times of disaster. We expect the Commission to assist government in intervening in a timeous and predictable manner.

While attending to these pressing issues, we should also strive to address the threats posed by climate change and digital divide. I am foregrounding these high-level issues so that we bear them in mind when discussing our journey for the next five years.

One of the overarching objectives for today's meeting is to consider the NPC's draft Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2026 which will be shared with us today. You will recall that this Strategic Plan will be presented to the President as a translation of our mandate into a workable and implementable plan. When finalised, this plan will not only outline our mission and long-term vision, it will also provide a framework delineate the strategic targets we need to meet to fulfil our mandate.

This draft Strategic Plan is the outcome of all our deliberations, including the induction in January and our planning lekgotla in March. At this moment, I would also like to extend a word of gratitude to the small team spearheading this important process which will lead us to the finalisation of our road map for the remainder of our term.

The granular details of our work will be contained in an operational plan reflecting the thinking and priorities in the three work streams reports which will also be tabled before us.

As we continue with our work, we should continue to strive towards guiding the country to the attainment of the three Apex priorities of the NDP:

1. To grow the economy and create jobs so that incomes rise.
2. To build human capabilities so that livelihoods improve.
3. To build a capable state and developmental state.

Through these goals and priorities, we should propel the country towards fighting the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment towards 2030. Your critical observations and recommendations on how to implement and coordinate our efforts better under the current circumstances remain important to the country.

The past three years have presented South Africa with real development planning lessons and tests, amongst them - an economy that fails to grow, the state that got challenged and aspires to be developmental, human capabilities that remain to be improved and continuously built upon as well as the inability to reduce poverty and inequality in the face of increasing unemployment in our population.

Despite the changes, I am confident that this NPC will rise to the challenge. You will be measured through your advice, research, monitoring and assessment, mobilisation of the whole of society,

better social compacting for development and international cooperation for sustainable development.

The country will continue to seek your advice and input on better planning for sustainable development as we implement the national development plan, Our vision towards 2030. Your success will further be measured from your ability to promote and change the implementation of the NDP towards a better trajectory.

I thank you.