



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

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

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MONDLI GUNGUBELE, MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY AND
CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

24 JANUARY 2022

His Excellency, President Cyril Matamela

Members of the National Planning Commission,

Directors-General and other senior government officials present,

Members of the Secretariat,

Good morning,

Welcome to this induction session which is convened for Commissioners of the third National Planning Commission (NPC) as they embark on their five-year journey. This induction is particularly important as we recognise that the task that lies ahead will require information slightly beyond their respective fields of expertise.

The discussions over these two days will include what Commissioners need to know and what to expect in the execution of their duties as an independent advisory body and think tank located within the Presidency.

Although everyone on the Commission brings their own expertise which we will draw on very heavily, we recognise that in undertaking the task set for you, you will need support from various institutions and from government and all social partners in the country.

We have invited a team of senior government leaders and experts who will provide you with some background in these sessions about the information, advice and support that they will make available to you over the next five years on particular sectoral issues based on evidence.

Present today are the DGs from Stats SA, GCIS, the Presidency and DPME. This is what we call the Presidency family. The secretariat will provide some background about the work of the previous NPC as well as information about how to deal with the practical issues of the NPC so that your role is made easier.

While this may initially appear broad and complex, your role will be supported not only by government and the state apparatus, specifically the secretariat in your case.

The senior government officials that are here today will take you through their roles and that of the departments that they steer in government in order for you to have a better sense of how you can use these expertise as you navigate your role.

Very briefly, as an introduction allow me to give you some background to these departments in the Presidency family that you have now joined.

As you will be aware by now, the National Planning Commission's work is co-ordinated by a secretariat. This secretariat forms part of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) which has the role to co-ordinate and have oversight of the implementation of the NDP. Their mission is "to mobilise stakeholders and harness resources towards the implementation of the NDP as a guide for the country's developmental trajectory".

The work of DPME, as with all other government departments is supported by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Stats SA's role is to make sure there is evidence-based decision making in planning with their stated mission to "Transform the production, coordination and use of statistics through optimization, partnerships and innovation". You will be aware of their crucial role in ensuring that economic planning is targeted so that those that need support the most are provided with it.

As a government that understands its responsibility to its people, we understand the importance of communicating what we are doing effectively. The Government Communication and Information Services department (GCIS) is available to provide the NPC with extensive communication support. Their mission is "to deliver effective strategic government communication; set and influence adherence to standards and coherence of message and proactively communicate with the public about government policies, plans, programmes and achievements".

The DGs, in their presentations, will elaborate on how we, as a collective, envisage the interface and working together to support to centre and the Executive in achieving its goals. We have also invited the DG of the Presidency who sits at the centre government, to give you a sense of the co-ordination that takes place and the way your work will assist to enrich what government is able to offer.

These entities are key players in the national planning space and will work closely going forward towards 2030.

The work of the NPC is supported by the Secretariat in DPME participating in the Presidential Councils and committees, Government cluster system, civil society, private sector and different technical teams in support of national development planning.

As mentioned when we initially met in December after your appointment, it is important that you understand your mandate which flows from work undertaken by both the first and the second NPCs.

Your mandate as I suppose you have been reflecting on, is to:

1. Lead the development of a strategy for a post COVID-19 economy and society to deal with the country's triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality by 2030.
2. Support strong leadership that will be required to mobilise society to promote the acceleration in implementing the National Development Plan towards 2030.
3. Assist in forging a conversation among key stakeholders, leading to effective and impactful social compacts on a number of key issues facing the country.
4. Advise on key issues such as food security, water security, energy choices, economic development, the economy's structure, social cohesion, education, health, 4IR, public transport, industrial development, spatial planning and climate change.
5. Undertake research and building a body of evidence on critical matters for long term planning and development of South Africa. Strengthen the use of evidence and the quality of empirical data, generated from impact assessments for national planning.
6. Monitor, review and assess progress in achieving the NDP.
7. Provide evidence-based advice on futuristic national planning and foresight scenario planning to implement the plan towards 2030 better.
8. Contribute to the development of international partnerships and networks on national planning.

The secretariat has prepared a presentation that provides more detail of this work as the handover from the second NPC.

The second NPC had as part of its work undertaken a review of the NDP and it is worth looking at some of the findings from this work. They reported that implementation of the NDP has been slow, and progress on the Plan's key proposals has been inadequate, and no action has, as yet, been taken on many issues addressed in the NDP.

As a result, the priority challenges identified in the Plan - poverty, unemployment and inequalities – remain entrenched, and will be worse in the aftermath of the devastating Covid-19 pandemic. “In these circumstances, the NPC is of the strong conviction that the NDP remains as relevant as ever as a set of solutions and programme of action to address South Africa’s core development challenges.” The second commission identified the need for course correction and the institutionalisation of planning, and more importantly, the need for advocacy and to rally the nation behind the plan.

Although the presentation will deal with these issues in detail, the second NPC noted that there were several implementation prerequisites that were not met such as a lack of focused leadership and partnerships in development planning and implementation. Although the NDP is a Plan for the whole country, it has not been sufficiently adopted by all sectors. Although government had adopted the NDP as part of its programme, there have been challenges with institutional capability and resource mobilisation.

In other words, there have been challenges with agreements on trade-offs as well as a social compact which has limited the ability of government to redirect fiscal resources from consumption to investment. The NPC recognised that the heightened political contestation in the past have further hampered the required policy trade-offs from being made.

They also found that this was made worse by government’s inability to prioritize, despite tighter fiscal constraints and the weakening of government’s institutions, in particular SOEs. One of the main findings was that there were blurring of lines between political and administrative functions resulting in several institutional challenges that required attention not being addressed.

To this end, the third NPC must use available research and undertake further investigations to support the implementation of the NDP guided by the economic, social, governance, justice and international relations clusters and our Commission work streams.

We must strengthen policy deliberation and evidence in pursuit of better implementation of the NDP through the MTSF in the remaining 8 years to 2030. We are now closer to 2030 than we are to 2012 when the first long term plan of the country was adopted. This calls for celebration, recalibration and ACTION.

We are now more than a decade since the promulgation of the Commissions through the Green Paper on National Planning Commission in 2010. We can confidently indicate that the granary is full with evidence and proposals to inform nation planning to date. Papers and advisory notes produced to date are on, among others: The developmental state, Institutionalising planning, Social compacts, District Development Model (DDM), Gender, Disability, Children’s NDP, Youth Transitions into the

labour market, Social Protection, Basic Income Grant, Economic review, Employment, SOEs, Township Economy, Energy, Exports, Digital Futures, Water Security and Pathways towards low carbon economy (Submitted to Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission).

These papers, reports and advisory notes, on the NPC website form critical basis for discourse on building the capable state, the capable economy and capable people for our country when lives change for the better.

This NPC must spearhead communication and stakeholder engagements on building a capable nation based on matters health through the fight against Covid-19, building strong institutions for development, ensuring capability of SOEs to play their developmental role. Continue to advise the country on how the country can improve in fighting crime and corruption. Engagements should ensure active citizenry and strong leadership for development. In the economic sector which is critical in meeting the targets of the NDP so that livelihoods can be improved., we should focus on matters food security, employment, infrastructure, rural economy and township economies, SMMEs and environmental sustainability. All papers in the possession of the NPC should create a developmental discourse and policy dialogues to reach consensus for better implementation towards 2030, led by NPC.

Measuring the implementation of the NDP should be enhanced in the remaining years to 2030. This is particularly because the year 2022 marks the decade of implementation of the plan since it was adopted in 2012.

Your five-year term also coincides with the year 2024, when we will be 30 years into democracy and we need to have a long-term review of our country`s developmental trajectory. This time will be important to strengthen the development of the priorities for the seventh administration and the last medium term strategic framework 2024-29. We will use this information to measure the performance of our country in meeting the other developmental aspirations on the SADC region, continent through Africa Agenda 2063 and the world through SDGs Vision 2030.

Working with DPME and other stakeholders, the NPC produced a set of indicators to measure NDP implementation, framed by 3 NDP Apex Priorities: growing and transforming economy; developing human capabilities; building a capable state. The NPC also produced an advisory note on the implications of covid-19 on long-term planning and economic recovery. The findings of the NPC economic review paper 2020, NDP Review 2020, Handover Report 2015-20 and the Annual Report 2020-21 are aligned to the MTSF, ERRP and other sectoral proposals to reclaim the legitimacy of the state and build the developmental state aspired for by all.

The proposals are also on how to course correct in implementing the policies and programmes for meeting the targets and goals of the NDP in our quest to create a better South Africa for its own people ensuring that the state turns the corner to revitalise economic recovery, fighting crime and corruption, enhancing quality of life, building partnerships to strengthen implementation of the plan with all social and developmental partners in South Africa and across the continent as well as the world.

You must help us launch a call to action for the whole country in the remaining time towards 2030. Help us create a predictable national planning landscape and system for our country, looking ahead into scenarios and fore sighting and making informed trade-offs and choices.

You can help us rethink our COVID-19 free society, stronger leadership, active citizenry and well as effectiveness of government in playing its role together with all social partners to achieve our NDP vision 2030, while we continue to say this is OUR FUTURE, MAKE IT HAPPEN.

I wish you fruitful deliberations over the next two days.

I thank you.