

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE 3rd NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, HONOURABLE MONDLI GUNGUBELE AT THE OCCASSION OF THE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE THIRD NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR SOUTH AFRICA

15 DECEMBER 2021

Deputy Minister Kekana,

Deputy Minister Siweya,

Professor Tinyiko Maluleka , the Deputy Chairperson

All members of the Third National Planning Commission of South Africa,

Acting Head of the Secretariat to the National Planning Commission, Dr Masiteng,

Directors-General and other senior government officials present,

Fellow Citizens

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning and Compliments of the Season,

It is my singular honour to welcome you as fellow members of the Third National Planning Commission (NPC) for South Africa. Congratulations on your appointment and I have no doubt that as a formidable team , we will build on the work of our predecessors in rallying South Africa around the vision of the National Development Plan 2030, of a just and prosperous society.

I wish to extend the greetings of His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa who is isolating in terms of the public health protocols after having contracted the corona virus infection. The Acting President , His Excellency Deputy President David Mabuza also sends his greetings and due to other equally important commitments, he assigned to me the task of announcing this Third National Planning Commission to the public on behalf of the Presidency of South Africa. As the National Planning Commission (the NPC) is an independent body reporting directly to

the President, I can assure you that he holds your work in high regard and will interact with you in due course.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all the Commissioners on your appointment and in particular Prof Tinyiko Maluleke who is appointed the Deputy Chairperson.

Prof Maluleke is a distinguished academic and researcher with extensive leadership experience at various universities as Dean, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and has recently been announced as the incoming Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Tshwane University of Technology.

The profiles of other distinguished members who come from various demographic and socio-economic sectors, will be available on the National Planning Commission (the NPC) website for ease of reference.

We will however provide each member an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves immediately after my remarks.

Fellow Commissioners,

I am Mondli Gungubele, the Minister in the Presidency who has been appointed as the Chairperson of this third National Planning Commission for South Africa.

I wish to pledge the support of government to this Commission whose mandate is to advise on and to steer the process towards the achievement of the South Africa our people want broadly referred to as Vision 2030, which is – ‘ A prosperous nation with a thriving capable people, an inclusive economy and an accountable honest and results driven state. ‘

The work of the NPC should at all material times mirror the progress our nation is making in redressing poverty, unemployment and inequality. Our work should steer our nation towards the achievements of the goals and targets set out by the National Development Plan 2030 for improving the quality of life of our people.

The Commission is expected to provide thought leadership, evidence based advice, foresight and futuristic planning as well as sustainable solutions that inspire and guide the national development trajectory.

Our collective mandate is to make a critical analysis of our country's social, economic and political landscape, reflect on the levers and obstacles for progress and advise on decisive steps to remain on course the developmental path.

This third term of the NPC begins in the new normal of the COVID19 pandemic which has not only surfaced and but also exacerbated the sluggish economic growth, poverty, unemployment and inequality in our society.

To redress this desperate moment , we together are responding to a clarion to avail our collective effort, intellect, skill, expertise and experience to the nation, to enable the unleashing of the creativity and capabilities of our people, our economy and the state institutions. United in our diversity a greater sense of urgency is critical.

We cannot over-emphasize that our mandate is to steer all of society towards affirming the dignity and improving the quality of life of our people – the South African child , youth , woman and man, people living with disability , workers , the elderly and everyone else. No one should be left behind.

A firm foundation has been laid for us to build on.

The First NPC delivered a widely consulted National Development Plan 2030 that was broadly endorsed including unanimously by all parties in Parliament in 2012. The NDP 2030 Plan therefore embodies the South Africa we want and must continue to build. This pivotal task which was led by the former Minister Trevor Manuel and deputised by now President Cyril Ramaphosa set the nation on the path of moving beyond reconciliation and short term planning towards concretizing a broad consensus on a long term plan to realise the South Africa we want as we deconstruct the Colonial-Apartheid legacy .

The Second NPC deepened the work through extensive research and consultations that produced a review of the progress made by 2018, identified obstacles including areas of structural barriers and made recommendations on critical interventions to get back on course. Their work reflected the aftermath of the destructive and disruptive brazen corruption in the state, the sluggish growth and now the devastating COVID19 pandemic. The outputs of the second NPC include research, reports and recommendations on:- revitalization of the economy ; state owned enterprises, the energy sector, water security, social

protection, a capable, professional, and ethical developmental state, the children and the National Development Plan, youth labour market transitions, medicines pricing, meeting the labour market objectives, pathways for a just transition to a climate-resilient future, the Covid-19 pandemic and the capable , ethical and developmental state

The second Commission was chaired by the late Minister Jackson Mthembu with the Deputy Chairperson being Prof Malegapuru Makgoba. In this period Minister Mthembu reiterated the independence of the Commission and the mandate to reach out to all sectors of society beyond government. The work on the Covid19 pandemic was specifically commissioned by him based on both his insights and foresight on its socio-economic impact. Least did the nation expect that he himself would be counted amongst many South Africans and people of the world who succumbed to the pandemic. May his spirit continue to inspire us.

The mandate of this third Commission is to build on the work done and fundamentality to recourse and re-path towards the set objective and goals of the NDP 2030 whilst being adaptive and resilient to curve balls that emerge from time to time in the domestic and global environment .

Our collective task is to ensure that the torch of hope remains bright through hard work, innovation, meritocracy, honesty and concrete results by all in the nation to enable the achievements of the developmental goals and a shared prosperity .

Whilst the Commission will have an opportunity to analyse the details of the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024 and the National Annual Strategic Plan 2022-2023 that is being finalised , the Commission's continuous vigilance on the extend of alignment of medium and short term plans of government , business and civil society institutions to the NDP goals is crucial.

Within the context of financial and fiscal constraints, the country has been making some , albeit slow, progress in the journey to recourse the development trajectory through interventions that include the Presidential Stimulus Package to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID19 on lives and livelihoods ; the Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Program which is infrastructure led and focussed on the network industries ; and the Optimization of collaborative efforts and inclusivity in the implementation of programs including the introduction of the District Development Model whose aim is to focus on making

an impact closest to communities. The use of this model has already taken root in the response to the pandemic and in addressing the epidemic of GBV&F .

For the year ahead the identified interventions of government as approved by the Cabinet Lekgotla in September this year , are pillared on four priorities name 1) Managing the Covid19 pandemic 2) driving economic recovery 3) Employment support and relief and 4) Enhancing the State capability to deliver.

A Stabilization and Recovery Program premised on top ten interventions is being engaged upon being : Vaccination Coverage against Covid19; Jobs ; Ease of Doing Business; Food security; Water and Sanitation; Issuing of Title Deeds ; Addressing violent crimes including GBV&F ; Digitalization ; Public procurement reforms and ensuring successful Prosecutions against corruption.

Fellow Commissioners ,

Whilst a better Africa and a better World would enhance our chances to succeed, our success lies in no-one but our collective effort as a nation. We should take inspiration from the paraphrasing of the call of President O.R. Tambo for South Africans unite and be their own liberators from the anti-Apartheid Struggle which he gave on the 2nd May 1984 in Mazimbu:

‘ victory will come as a result of our own efforts and as a result of our reliance on ourselves’.

As South Africa and the African Region we have competitive advantages because we are endowed with the a population of over a billion people which is youthful, minerals and other natural assets. Experience globally indicates that with a clear consensus on a development path established, prosperous nations invest in cohesion and consistency of effort to align into a positive energy necessary for a results driven leadership. The mammoth responsibility of this commission is to mobilise all of society for a successful breakthrough for the envisaged transformation and change to be realised as we move closer to the 2030 mark .

Also available are on the NPC website to contextualise our task ahead are - the Policy Documents that established the National Planning Commission for South Africa ; the National

Development Plan for South Africa: Vision 2030 ; the Handover Report from the Second National Planning Commission as well as ; the Government gazette that establishes this Third National Planning Commission for South Africa

The secretariat led by Dr Masiteng is there to provide the necessary technical and administrative support. Those commissioners who are returning will attest to the professional nature of the support provided.

Allow me, once again, to welcome you on board and trust we will leave a legacy of an inspirational impactful formidable team which is the pride of our nation.

I thank you