

NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT VULNERABLE GROUPS IN SOCIETY

6 JUNE 2025

The [National Planning Commission](#) (NPC) held its quarterly plenary meeting on 6 June 2025, which was the first one since its lekgotla in March this year. In his opening remarks, the Deputy Chairperson, Prof Maluleke, noted that 49 years after the Soweto student uprising and despite the 'Fees Must Fall' protests ten years ago, funding for the so-called 'missing middle' students remains a challenge. Prof Maluleke also recognised the annual World Environment Day (5 June), noting, with appreciation, the South African Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which was unveiled on 5 June 2025. Similarly, the Deputy Chair reaffirmed the observations made in the recent trilateral meeting between the NPC, PEAC and the PCC, urging the country to keep exploring the economic and environmental opportunities embedded in the rising demand for low-carbon technologies, sustainably sourced materials and circular economy solutions.

The National Planning Commission also reflected on the challenges faced by women and the increasingly violent nature of crimes against women and children. Recognising that the [National Development Plan: Vision 2030](#) (NDP) does not go far enough in protecting these vulnerable groups, the Commission has been conducting feminist-led gender-mainstreaming workshops, in search of comprehensive responses to the current fate and state of women and youth. The NPC argues that it isn't only violent crime that is of concern but also the structural violence embedded in the silences and lacunas of key national policies and strategies. The NPC is calling for societal introspection and interventions in this regard.

As part of the deliberations, the NPC discussed the current structure of South Africa's monetary architecture, which is not conducive to meaningful economic growth, the investment requirements to achieve energy security and net-zero in South Africa by 2050, as well as the opportunities and challenges of irrigation development in South Africa.

In addition, the Commission approved four advisory notes to government and to society as a whole. Each of the advisory notes, which will be released shortly, makes recommendations aimed at addressing the key objectives of the NDP, namely, to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality. The advisory notes cover the following themes:

- SMME Red Tape Reduction
- Adequacy and structure of funding needed to collect and provide official statistics
- Accelerating the implementation of the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan
- The State of Service Delivery in the Country

As an independent advisory body appointed by the President, the NPC is the custodian of South Africa's [NDP: Vision 2030](#). The primary role of the NPC is to advise government and Parliament on matters pertaining to the implementation of the NDP. It also has the responsibility to mobilise the whole of society, including the private sector, around the objectives of the NDP, which remains the only cross-cutting long-term plan for national development in South Africa.

For media inquiries, kindly contact Dr Zarina Rahman at +27 82 345 2919 or Zarina@dpme.gov.za or Ms Sandisiwe Mapine at +27 71 3701048 or Sandisiwe.Mapine@dpme.gov.za

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