

National Planning Commission NEWSLETTER



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Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Where long-term planning meets everyday life

Elections, human rights, social cohesion, digital connectivity,
youth opportunity and the work of building state capability.

FROM THE COMMISSION

The third NPC's term draws to a close

As the third National Planning Commission approaches the end of its term, this March – July 2026 edition of the NPC Newsletter reflects on what long-term planning means in a country where immediate needs and long-range choices are closely linked.

During this period, the Commission has engaged with questions central to South Africa's development: how to strengthen local democracy, rebuild public trust, deepen social cohesion, prevent violence, expand meaningful digital connectivity, support young people and preserve the institutional memory needed for future planning.

The National Development Plan: Vision 2030 remains an important national framework. But planning cannot be reduced to a static document or an administrative exercise. It must remain a living conversation about the country we are building, the capabilities we need, and the difficult choices we must face honestly.

As the Commission prepares its Handover Report, it must consolidate what has been learnt since 2021, identify areas of progress and set out the issues that still require attention. The next phase of national planning will need to look beyond 2030 while remaining grounded in the everyday realities of South Africans.

Why long-term planning still matters

Long-term planning remains central to the National Planning Commission because it enables South Africa to move beyond managing immediate crisis and to deliberately shape a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous future. By providing strategic foresight and shared national vision, the NPC helps ensure that today's policy choices contribute to sustainable development for generations to come.

National planning can sound distant from ordinary life. In practice, it concerns the places where people encounter the state and where development either becomes real or remains a promise: the municipal office, school, clinic, police station, voting station, household, workplace and digital connection that opens or closes opportunity.

Three questions recur across the Commission's engagements. Can South Africa build institutions that are capable and trusted? Can evidence carry greater weight in public decisions? Can long-term planning respond honestly to the pressures shaping communities, including unemployment, violence, migration, poor service delivery and inequality?

These debates are closely connected. Credible elections depend on strong institutions. Social cohesion depends on lawful and humane governance. Digital infrastructure shapes access to education, health, work and public services. Youth development depends on

treating young people as participants in the country's future, rather than merely as its future beneficiaries.

The NPC's relevance lies in connecting issues often treated separately. Planning means seeing the system as a whole, identifying what must change and advising on the choices needed to turn intention into implementation.

IN THIS EDITION

Planning across connected challenges

- Young people and the NDP
- The June Plenary and two approved advisories
- Digital infrastructure and meaningful connectivity
- Social cohesion, crime prevention and community engagement
- Strategic partnerships and July policy dialogue

The NDP aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. Its implementation depends on active citizens, capable institutions and sustained leadership.

YOUTH MONTH

Young people and the NDP: planning around lives, not only target



Youth Month invites an honest assessment of the conditions facing young South Africans.

Youth Month recalls the courage of the young people of 1976 and invites an honest assessment of the conditions facing young South Africans today. For the NPC, it is also a time to consider whether long-term planning speaks directly to their lived realities.

Education, skills, employment, mental health, digital inclusion, safety, social protection and meaningful participation are not separate youth concerns. They are national development concerns. Young people must help shape the country's future rather than wait to inherit it.



THE NDP'S YOUTH LENS:

- The NDP connects youth development with education, skills, employment, safety, health and active citizenship.
- South Africa's youthful population is an opportunity, provided that young people are supported to build their capabilities.
- Stronger youth service programmes and community-based opportunities can give young people practical ways to contribute.
- More post-school pathways are needed, including TVET colleges, learnerships and artisan training.
- Students from poor families should receive full financial support.
- Young people should be involved in finding solutions to violence, safety concerns and challenges in their communities.

The NDP connects youth development with education, skills, employment, safety, health and active citizenship.



NPC PLENARY | 10 JUNE 2026 | UNION BUILDINGS, PRETORIA

Elections, human rights and the next phase of planning



The NPC Plenary brought together questions of democratic institutions, human rights and long-term planning.

The NPC's June 2026 Plenary brought together issues that will shape South Africa's next development chapter: the credibility of democratic institutions, migration and human rights, and the need to preserve lessons from the current Commission as the country looks beyond 2030.

The Commission welcomed Mr Sy Mamabolo, Chief Electoral Officer of the Independent Electoral Commission, for a briefing on preparations for the 2026 Local Government Elections. The discussion placed the elections within a wider development question. Local government is where many citizens experience the state most directly, through service delivery, infrastructure, local economic development, public participation and democratic accountability.

The forthcoming elections are therefore more than an electoral milestone. They are a test of institutional credibility, public confidence and the quality of democratic life at the local level.



Independent Electoral Commission briefing to the NPC Plenary.

The plenary also engaged the South African Human Rights Commission on migration, human rights and social cohesion. Commissioners recognised that migration, documentation, access to services, social tension and community safety require a sober, lawful and humane response. Public frustration and hardship cannot justify violence, intimidation or the targeting of vulnerable people. The country must, at the same time, confront the administrative failures, economic pressures and social conditions that allow tensions to grow.



NPC Commissioners consider the Handover Report.

Commissioners also considered the Handover Report being prepared as the current term draws to a close. The report will set out what the Commission has learnt, what it has proposed, where progress has been made and where serious gaps remain. It will also inform the next phase of national planning by examining what has changed since the NDP was adopted and what planning capacity the state will need in the years ahead.

ADVISORIES APPROVED

Two priorities move from evidence to implementation

At the same Plenary, the Commission approved advisories on strengthening the Integrated Development Plan system and addressing the structural foundations of social cohesion.

- Improve the systems around municipal planning, budgeting, data and project preparation.
- Embed social cohesion in governance, public spending and accountable implementation.

The two advisory snapshots follow on the next page.

From evidence to advice: two priorities for implementation

The two advisories address challenges at the heart of long-term development: the effectiveness of municipal Integrated Development Plans and the structural foundations of social cohesion.

ADVISORY ON INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Strengthening the IDP system

A review of 20 municipal IDPs found that the instrument remains sound, but the complex compliance environment surrounding it has weakened strategic planning and implementation.

WHAT THE REVIEW FOUND

- Compliance has overtaken integrated planning.
- Municipal budgets frequently do not follow IDP priorities.
- NDP alignment is often nominal rather than strategic.
- Weak project preparation prevents priorities from becoming investable projects.
- Intergovernmental coordination is episodic and often arrives too late.
- Community safety is largely absent from IDP planning.



WHAT THE NPC RECOMMENDS

- Simplify planning requirements and improve access to usable data.
- Build shared project-preparation capacity and align planning with budgeting.
- Use the District Development Model as a genuine integration mechanism.
- Integrate community safety into IDP standards and differentiate municipal support.

“The IDP doesn’t need redesigning. The system around it does.”

ADVISORY ON SOCIAL COHESION

Addressing the fundamentals

Social cohesion cannot be built through symbolic events or treated as the responsibility of one department. It must be embedded in governance, planning and public spending, with responsibilities, budgets and measures that can be tracked.

Living well together, even in disagreement, through justice.



FOUR VARIABLES SHAPING COHESION

- Land as an economic, political, spiritual and relational question.
- The relationship between economic marginalisation, patriarchal norms and violence.
- Weak trust between citizens and the state, and within communities.
- Structural economic exclusion, particularly affecting young people and women.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Institutionalise social cohesion across government and society.
- Make economic justice, land reform and trusted public institutions central.
- Transform education for nation-building and pursue healing and reconciliation.
- Forge a renewed social compact supported by Presidency-level coordination, a Social Cohesion Council and an annual Social Cohesion Gauge.

LAUNCH OF THE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT STUDY | 30 MARCH 2026 | PRETORIA

From access to impact: advancing meaningful connectivity



Launch of South Africa's Digital Infrastructure Investment Study.

The NPC participated in the launch of South Africa's Digital Infrastructure Investment Study, produced with the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The study provides a detailed picture of the country's digital infrastructure and estimates the investment required to achieve universal, meaningful connectivity.

The central message was straightforward: connectivity alone is not enough. South Africa must move from basic access to meaningful use, with digital infrastructure that is affordable, reliable and useful to people in their daily lives and work.

Digital infrastructure is as much a development issue as a technology issue. Meaningful connectivity affects education, health, work, public services, innovation and participation in social and economic life. It is directly linked to the NDP's goals of reducing inequality, expanding capabilities and building an inclusive economy.

PRIORITIES FOR MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY

- Expand universal and meaningful connectivity
- Strengthen public and private investment in digital infrastructure
- Improve policy alignment and coordination across sectors
- Support digital skills and wider participation in the economy
- Use digital systems to improve service delivery and resilience

Digital infrastructure is a development issue as much as a technology issue.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE REPORT

Beyond the Gap: Why South Africa’s Digital Challenge Has Changed

400,000	R300	R163–R215 bn
households remain outside 4G or higher coverage	Monthly broadband remains beyond the reach of many households	estimated investment required by 2035

For years, South Africa’s digital divide was described in familiar terms: too many people, particularly in rural communities, had no internet access. The Digital Infrastructure Investment Study suggests that this picture has changed.

Commissioned by the National Planning Commission and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the report argues that the next phase of digital transformation is no longer concerned only with expanding network coverage. The more pressing question is whether South Africans can afford to use the existing infrastructure.



The digital challenge has shifted from coverage alone to meaningful use.

The study estimates that about 400,000 households, or 2.2% of all households, remain outside 4G or higher broadband coverage. Most South Africans, therefore, live within reach of modern digital networks.

Millions are still excluded, however, because broadband is too expensive for many families, devices remain out of reach and digital skills have not kept pace with technological change.

The report uses the international concept of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity. This recognises that digital participation depends on network coverage, affordability, reliable service, access to devices, digital skills and online safety.

Affordability is the report’s most serious concern. A monthly broadband package costing about R300 remains beyond the means of many households. The modelling suggests that more than half of South African households would struggle to afford high-speed broadband under current economic conditions. Closing this gap will require new pricing models, stronger competition and targeted public policy to make digital services more affordable.

The scale of the required investment is substantial. Depending on the country’s economic trajectory, South Africa will need between R163 billion and R215 billion to provide universal high-speed broadband by 2035.

Infrastructure, however, will not determine success on its own. The study warns that South Africa’s digital skills pipeline is not keeping pace with the demands of a rapidly changing economy. Investment in networks must therefore be matched by investment in people.

The report changes the terms of the debate. South Africa’s digital challenge is no longer to connect people to the internet, but to ensure that connectivity opens real opportunities.

SOCIAL COHESION ROUNDTABLE | 3 TO 4 MARCH 2026

Returning to the fundamentals of belonging



Participants at the NPC Social Cohesion Roundtable.

The Active Citizenry, Capable State and Leadership workstream convened a Social Cohesion Roundtable under the theme “Going Back to Fundamentals”. Participants examined the historical roots of social fragmentation in South Africa and the present-day conditions that weaken social cohesion, nation-building and shared citizenship.

The discussion considered the unfinished work of building a society based on dignity, equality, belonging and mutual recognition. Participants also examined how inequality, exclusion, violence, low levels of public trust and uneven access to services shape people’s experience of social cohesion.

The roundtable treated social cohesion as a practical concern for a capable, democratic and developmental state. It requires work across education, local government, justice, migration governance, spatial planning, public participation and communication to:



The roundtable returned to the fundamentals of belonging.

- Return to the founding values of the Constitution and the NDP
- Rebuild trust between citizens and public institutions
- Strengthen the role of local government and communities in addressing fragmentation
- Use evidence to understand and respond to social cohesion challenges
- Ensure that long-term planning responds to structural inequality and everyday experience

VIOLENT CRIME PREVENTION | 17 MARCH 2026

Beyond policing alone: preventing violence before it takes root

Through the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Task Team, the NPC convened a workshop on the future direction of violent crime prevention in South Africa. The discussion focused on evidence-based, integrated approaches to preventing crime and violence.

The central message was that violent crime cannot be addressed through policing alone. Long-term prevention requires coordinated action across social development, education, health, local government, community safety and the criminal justice system.

Participants considered the drivers of violent crime, including organised crime, gang activity, socio-economic vulnerability, poor institutional coordination and declining public trust. They also discussed the professionalisation of policing, stronger leadership and improved accountability across the safety and security system.

PLANNING IMPLICATION *Safer communities are not created through enforcement alone. They require social prevention, accountable institutions, credible local planning and a state able to coordinate across mandates*

MSUNDUZI OUTREACH | 10 MARCH 2026

Faith and traditional leaders help shape the next chapter of South Africa's long-term plan

The National Planning Commission (NPC) continued its programme of public engagement with a visit to Msunduzi, Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, where faith and traditional leaders shared their perspectives on the challenges facing their communities and South Africa's long-term development priorities.



The engagement formed part of the Commission's work to gather evidence and lived experience as the country assesses the implementation of the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 and begins shaping its next long-term development agenda.

Minister in the Presidency and NPC Chairperson Maropene Ramokgopa said the NDP was more than a government document. It was South Africa's shared long-term vision, intended to guide successive administrations while remaining grounded in the realities of communities.

"The value of engagements like these is that they allow us to hear directly from those who work closest to our communities," the Minister said. She emphasised that citizens and local leaders must have a voice in shaping the country's long-term plans.

Faith leaders raised concerns about drug abuse, gender-based violence, unemployment, crime and political killings. They called for stronger partnerships between government and religious institutions, noting that churches are often the first point of support for vulnerable families. They argued that faith-based organisations should be recognised as development partners rather than approached only for ceremonial occasions.

Traditional leaders highlighted deteriorating infrastructure, unsafe roads and bridges, inadequate water supplies at schools, delays in the recognition of traditional leaders and poor service delivery. They also spoke about the growing insecurity facing Amakhosi and called for closer cooperation between traditional leadership and government in rural communities.

The Minister said the implementation of the NDP depended on active citizenship, capable institutions and effective government. She called for stronger partnerships with faith-based organisations, traditional leaders, NGOs and community structures.

Commissioners Prof Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu and Phumzile Chifunyise engaged with participants and reflected on the issues raised, helping to connect local experiences with the Commission's national planning work.



As the NDP approaches the end of its implementation period, the NPC is expanding its engagements with communities across South Africa. These conversations will help inform a future development framework grounded in evidence and the lived realities of South Africans.



These conversations will inform a future development framework grounded in evidence and lived experience.

POLICY DIALOGUE | 14 MAY 2026

Webinar considers the National Strategic Plan on Adolescent Pregnancy



Academic webinar, 14 May 2026.

On 14 May 2026, the NPC convened an academic webinar on the National Strategic Plan on Adolescent Pregnancy in South Africa, in partnership with the Human Sciences Research Council and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

Academics, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and other stakeholders discussed prevention, adverse outcomes, coordination, financing and accountability. Early pregnancy can interrupt education, limit future opportunities and deepen existing social and economic vulnerability, particularly in poorer communities. An effective response requires sound evidence, coherent policy and practical support for young people.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

From strategy to practical support

- How can prevention and early intervention be strengthened?
- Which institutions are accountable for coordinated implementation?
- How should evidence and sustainable financing guide the response?
- What practical support do young people need in different settings?

Effective implementation requires sound evidence, clear institutional responsibility and support that reaches young people in practice.

THE NDP CONNECTION

Keeping opportunity open

Adolescent pregnancy is connected to the NDP's goals for education, health, gender equality, social protection and youth opportunity.



- Keep learners connected to education and pathways beyond school.
- Coordinate health, education and social-support services.
- Track implementation and outcomes, not only policy commitments.

DISABILITY RIGHTS | 8 TO 10 JULY 2026

National disability rights plenary informs NPC advisory work

The NPC, represented by Commissioner Makhiba Mollo, participated in the biannual plenary of the National Disability Rights Machinery in Durban from 8 to 10 July 2026.



Convened by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the National Disability Rights Machinery is South

Africa's central coordination platform for disability rights. It brings together national and provincial government departments, constitutional institutions, organisations of persons with disabilities, civil society, academia, the private sector and development partners.

The plenary forms part of efforts to implement the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, approved by Cabinet in 2015, and to advance South Africa's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

For the NPC, the engagement also contributed to work on a disability advisory currently being developed by the Commission. The deliberations will help inform the advisory's consideration of the barriers that continue to limit equal access, participation and socio-economic inclusion for persons with disabilities.

PLANNING BEYOND 2030 | 9 JULY 2026

Workshop examines gender and care in long-term planning

Gender inequality, power and the unequal burden of unpaid care work were the focus of a validation workshop convened by the NPC and the International Economic Policy programme on 9 July 2026. The discussion considered how these issues should inform South Africa's long-term planning beyond 2030.

The discussion examined persistent structural barriers facing women in the economy, society and systems of governance, despite South Africa's progressive laws and policy frameworks. Participants considered the economic value of unpaid care work, the relationship between gender, poverty and inequality, the position of women in agriculture and the informal economy and the need to strengthen early childhood development, community health workers and social protection systems.

Care systems should not continue to depend disproportionately on women's unpaid labour.

The workshop also highlighted the gap between policy and implementation. Participants emphasised the importance of gender-responsive planning and budgeting, together with care systems that do not continue to depend disproportionately on women's unpaid labour.

The issues raised during the workshop will help shape the final paper.

THE DISCUSSION CONSIDERED

- UNPAID CARE WORK
- GENDER-RESPONSIVE PLANNING AND BUDGETING
- EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
- SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS | 10 JULY 2026

New UN cooperation framework strengthens alignment around South Africa's long-term development priorities



Signing of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2026-2030.



NPC Commissioners and partners at the signing ceremony.

The signing of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2026–2030 on 10 July 2026 marked an important step in strengthening cooperation around South Africa's long-term development priorities.

The framework will guide collaboration between the Government of South Africa and the United Nations over the next four years. Aligned with the National Development Plan and Medium-Term Development Plan, it links international development support to priorities identified through national planning processes.

NPC Commissioners joined representatives from government, United Nations agencies, Chapter 9 institutions, business, organised labour, civil society, academia and the diplomatic community at the signing. For the NPC, its significance extends beyond the ceremony. As custodian of the NDP and an independent advisory body, the Commission advocates stronger alignment between national plans, programmes, budgets and wider society's contributions.

With the NDP and Sustainable Development Goals sharing a 2030 horizon, time is limited to accelerate implementation and address poverty, inequality,

unemployment, weak state capacity, infrastructure constraints and climate vulnerability.

Speakers stressed that development must be judged not by the number of plans or frameworks produced, but by improvements in people's lives, including better learning outcomes, decent work, safer communities, stronger public services and greater dignity and opportunity.

The framework's priorities reflect the integrated nature of long-term planning. Progress in education, employment, social protection, institutional capability, infrastructure and environmental sustainability requires coordinated action across government and society.

The framework is not a separate United Nations agenda. It supports South Africa's priorities through technical expertise, policy advice, institutional strengthening, data, partnerships and resource mobilisation.

Joint structures will monitor progress and promote accountability. The signing reinforces long-term planning as a shared national undertaking requiring capable leadership, coordination, sustained partnerships and active participation.

ALIGNING COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S PLAN

The framework is organised around three mutually reinforcing priorities: inclusive growth, decent work and social inclusion; accountable governance, rights and safety; and resilience through sustainability, climate action and risk preparedness.

For the NPC, the task remains to keep the NDP at the centre of public life and to provide independent advice that supports more coherent planning, faster implementation and better development outcomes for all South Africans.

MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE | 29 JULY 2026

NPC brings a long-term planning lens to global geopolitical change



The joint NPC, PCC and PEAC multistakeholder dialogue.



Participants in the dialogue on navigating global geopolitical change.

The National Planning Commission (NPC), Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) and Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) convened a multistakeholder dialogue on 29 July 2026 to consider how South Africa should respond to a rapidly changing global environment.

Titled Navigating Global Geopolitical Change and Uncertainty, the dialogue formed part of a consultative process on a draft joint policy advisory developed by the three bodies. It was convened to test and strengthen the advisory through stakeholder input.

The draft advisory responds to a world marked by growing geopolitical tensions, volatile energy markets, changing investment patterns and increased competition over strategic technologies and critical minerals. These shifts present immediate risks for South Africa, but also raise important questions about the country's long-term development path.

NPC Deputy Chairperson Prof Tinyiko Maluleke described the joint advisory as both rare and timely. He said the complexity of current global conditions meant that "sector-by-sector or even commission-by-commission responses are inadequate".

His remarks underscored the value of bringing together the mandates of the three bodies. For the NPC, the collaboration reflects the importance of long-term planning that connects immediate policy challenges to the country's wider development objectives.

The dialogue examined South Africa's dependence on imported fossil fuels, the global shift towards electrification and the need to align energy, industrial, infrastructure, trade, finance and climate policy. It also considered the expansion of renewable energy, electricity market reform, investment in transmission infrastructure and the need to broaden economic participation in the energy transition.

NPC Commissioner Prof Mark Swilling brought the financing challenge into sharper focus. Drawing on NPC research, he examined the scale of investment required in electricity generation and transmission and the changes needed to direct more capital towards productive infrastructure.

This included a stronger investment role for development finance institutions and state-owned enterprises, greater participation by pension funds and other non-bank financial institutions and increased lending to small and medium-sized enterprises.

FROM ENGAGEMENT TO ADVICE

At the centre of the advisory is the argument that energy security, industrial development, economic competitiveness and a just energy transition cannot be pursued separately. They require coordinated policy choices that reduce South Africa's exposure to external shocks while building productive capacity at home.

The dialogue marked the beginning of a broader engagement process. Contributions made during the session, including questions submitted by participants, will be considered as the three bodies refine the joint advisory before it is submitted to the President.

AFRICA AND LONG-TERM PLANNING | 31 JULY 2026

NPC convenes dialogue on South Africa's draft Africa Strategy



NPC Commissioner Prof Siphamandla Zondi opens the dialogue.

The National Planning Commission convened a multistakeholder roundtable on 31 July 2026 to consider South Africa's draft Africa Strategy for 2026–2036 and its relationship to the country's long-term development priorities.

Developed by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, the draft strategy is intended to guide South Africa's engagement with the continent over the next decade. The roundtable formed part of an ongoing consultative process rather than the launch or adoption of a final strategy.

The online engagement brought together representatives from government, advisory bodies, academia, research institutions, civil society, organised labour, the private sector and international partners. Discussions covered the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of South Africa's continental relationships, together with regional integration, governance, peace and security.

Opening the dialogue, NPC Commissioner Prof Siphamandla Zondi located the discussion within the National Development Plan. He emphasised that the NDP remains South Africa's overarching long-term vision and places Africa at the centre of the country's national interest.

He argued that South Africa's continental engagement must support its domestic development priorities. Trade, investment, regional integration, human security and political cooperation should contribute to reducing poverty, inequality and unemployment while supporting development across the continent.



NPC Commissioner Dr Lebohang Pheko addresses social and cultural relations.

NPC Commissioner Dr Lebohang Pheko focused on social and cultural relations. She argued that culture, identity, knowledge, memory and people-to-people connections should not be treated as secondary to the political and economic work of foreign policy.

Dr Pheko also cautioned against approaching Africa as a single, homogeneous space. Continental engagement must recognise its different histories, economies, political formations and development paths.

The roundtable sought recommendations for strengthening the draft and considering its eventual implementation, monitoring and evaluation. By convening the engagement, the NPC connected the foreign-policy discussion to the NDP and created space for stakeholders to consider how South Africa's continental relationships can support the country's long-term development.

“Geography alone does not make a project Pan-African. Its politics do.”

COMMISSIONER NEWS

Public leadership beyond the Commission

NPC Commissioners bring independent expertise from academia, civil society, business, public policy, planning, health, education, climate and governance. Their public appointments and contributions add to the Commission's collective knowledge and show the value of independent expertise in national planning.

AWARD AND APPOINTMENT



Commissioner Ravi Naidoo was named Job Creation Leader of the Year 2026 at the South African Future of Leadership Awards. He was also appointed to the Advisory Board of the South African Artificial Intelligence Association. The two appointments relate directly to NDP priorities, including employment, inclusive growth, youth opportunity and the responsible use of technology.

APPOINTMENT



Commissioner Tshepo Feela was appointed to the Independent Expert Review Panel supporting the review of South Africa's Draft National Artificial Intelligence Policy. His work on the NPC's digital infrastructure programme connects AI policy with development priorities and meaningful digital inclusion.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE



Commissioners Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu and Mark Swilling participated in the Global Partnerships Conference in London as members of the South African delegation led by Minister Maropene Ramokgopa. Discussions covered finance, innovation, technology, sustainability and locally led development solutions.

Commissioner Mark Swilling also took part in a closed roundtable on financing, where he contributed to discussions on sustainable development, transformative investment and equitable financing in a changing global development environment.



COMMISSIONER'S PERSPECTIVE

Redefining global partnerships

"Global development can no longer rely on unequal relationships, dependency-driven systems or solutions designed far away from the people most affected by them. Ultimately, the real success of these discussions will not be measured by speeches or declarations, but by whether they lead to meaningful improvements in the daily lives of ordinary people."

Commissioner Hangwelani Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu

SECRETARIAT UPDATES



The NPC marked the retirement of three colleagues on 31 March 2026.

Retirement of colleagues

On 31 March, the NPC bid farewell to Acting Deputy Head of Secretariat Mr Ashraf Kariem, Chief Sector Expert Ms Mastoera Sadan and Senior Sector Expert Dr Zarina Rahman on their retirement. The Commission thanked them for their years of service, institutional knowledge and contribution to the NPC's work, and wished them well for the next chapter.



LOOKING AHEAD

Consolidating lessons for the next phase of planning

As the current Commission approaches the end of its term, the NPC is consolidating the lessons, insights and recommendations that have emerged since 2021. This includes its research and advisory work, stakeholder engagements, institutional arrangements and wider reflections on how long-term planning can be strengthened in South Africa.

The handover process provides an opportunity to preserve institutional memory and support the next phase of national planning. It should help the country assess what has changed since the NDP was adopted, what remains urgent and what planning capacity will be needed in the years ahead.

In the coming months, the Commission will continue to share its research and advisory work, reflect on progress towards the NDP and contribute to discussions about South Africa's development beyond 2030.

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