

NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NO2



Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON	3
PLANNING SUMMIT	4
P20 – YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	6
CLIMATE CHANGE ACT IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP	7
JOINT ENERGY PATHWAYS & COSTING WORKSHOP	8
UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (2026-2030) - STRATEGIC PRIORITISATION RETREAT	8
SMME GLOBAL FUNDING POLICY RESEARCH VALIDATION WORKSHOP	10
P20 – WOMEN’S PARLIAMENT	11
MASTERPLANS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION	13
FOOD SECURITY ROUNDTABLE	14
UPCOMING EVENTS	15
UP CLOSE WITH A COMMISSIONER	16
UP CLOSE WITH A COMMISSIONER	17

Message from the Deputy Chairperson

Our democracy is a product of nothing less than a national dialogue; to be more precise, a series of ‘national dialogues’. These took place in the prison cells of Robben Island and Victor Vester, in Sharpeville, Dakar, Soweto, Maputo, Lusaka, Kempton Park, Groote Schuur, Langa, Boipatong, Mitchells Plain, amongst many other places. Indeed, many other ‘dialogues’ were carried out in the streets, townhalls, and stadia where South Africans gathered to protest the injustice of apartheid.

We should proceed with the national dialogue based on our hopes for a better country as captured in our Constitution and in the National Development Plan, and not based on our fears and current frustrations – understandable as they may be.

Understandably, some have suggested that the National Dialogue may become a costly distraction (costly in more ways than finance), which will further delay the actions needed to solve the ‘country’s known’ problems. This need not be the case. We have agency. Part of the purpose of a national dialogue is to encourage citizens to take back the initiative from a government that has

missed most of the targets it set. It is an opportunity to harness and redirect the ‘national dialogues’ already taking place at dinner tables, bus stops, inside taxis, at drinking holes, shopfloors, funerals, classrooms, stokvels, and lecture halls. South Africans are already dialoguing about the things that matter most to them: jobs, water, electricity, transport, sanitation, corruption, crime, education, etc. The call for a national dialogue is a call for a continuation, a consolidation, and a deepening of these ongoing dialogues. Through the National Dialogue, citizens may speak for themselves and, in that way, interrupt the political parties and the ‘chattering classes’ who often assume to represent them fully and totally.

The National Dialogue summons South Africans to lift themselves above the current levels of gloom and despondence towards the construction of a new social compact that will catapult the country into its next developmental trajectory.

We have never needed a ‘second’ series of national dialogues more than we do now.

Planning Summit

The National Planning Commission, in partnership with the [Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation](#) (DPME), the [Northern Cape Provincial Government](#) (NCPG) and the [Sol Plaatje University](#) (SPU) convened a planning summit in Kimberley on 12-13 June 2025 under the theme, *Charting South Africa's Future: A Call for Collaborative Long-Term Planning as a Foundation for Equality, Solidarity and Sustainability*.



With five years before the end of the NDP and in preparation for the National Dialogue, the planning summit provided a platform for participants to shape a bold new vision for South Africa and share insights for the next long-term plan. It aimed to align South Africa's developmental agenda with the NDP, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Medium-Term Development Plan 2024–2029 (MTDP), and sought to mobilise a society-wide, people-led process to reshape the country's future and strengthen democratic

The summit had three core objectives:

- To bring together diverse stakeholders from government, business, civil society, labour,

academia, youth, and women to reflect on the progress and implementation of the NDP.

- To present key insights from the DPME's 30-Year Review, the MTDP, the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP), and the Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF), and to gather cross-sectoral input to inform future strategic platforms, including the National Dialogue and G20 engagements.
- To highlight both the contributions and challenges of local government in advancing national development, particularly in relation to service delivery.



The summit found:

- A persistent misalignment between planning and budgeting processes across government.
- There is a need for the reassessment of South Africa's democratic project.
- Despite constitutional rights, there remain barriers to full inclusion, particularly for groups

that continue to face socio-economic and cultural marginalisation.

- Persistent and interrelated socio-economic challenges have hindered inclusive development and social transformation.



The recommendations included:

- A call for a more integrated approach to planning, budgeting, and implementation to achieve practical and sustainable development outcomes, including across spheres of government.
- The need for urgent implementation of robust consequence management frameworks and strengthening of oversight institutions.
- Rebuilding trust between communities and law enforcement

that addresses both systemic issues and community concerns.

- Fast-tracking policy implementation and strengthening enforcement mechanisms.



South Africa must align with global development frameworks like the SDGs while retaining national sovereignty and tailoring strategies to local realities. Institutions like the NPC are essential in ensuring this balance through long-term vision and evidence-based guidance. The summit reinforced the need for coordinated planning, collective responsibility, and follow-through. Its outcomes should guide both immediate interventions and long-term strategies toward a just and prosperous future.



P20 – Youth Engagement

The NPC provided an input to the P20 Youth Engagement at Parliament on 13 June 2025 and was represented by Commissioners Chifunyise, Feela, and Mostert.



Commissioner Chifunyise provided background to the NPC and the ways that youth are incorporated into the different chapters of the NDP. She outlined the NPC's work on a youth diagnostic and stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation in the current policies that should address youth development: the MTDP, the National Youth Plan, and the Integrated Youth Development Strategy.

Commissioner Feela's addressed proposals being considered by the NPC, including exporting youth labour to other countries, a National Youth Employment Accelerator, Youth Employment Zones, and intentionally involving the youth in determining policy through the youth structures and determining employment opportunities, such as those offered by sector masterplans. The funding model must be intentional about youth-owned models and start-ups. The lessons from countries such as Kenya, the US and

Nigeria, which have been intentional about including the youth, should be incorporated.

He noted the following:

- Adopting a Presidential Youth Development Compact to coordinate efforts
- Prioritising intergovernmental coordination and youth-led implementation
- Mobilising public, private, and international partners in resourcing the agenda
- Prioritising existing catalytic programmes



The commissioners responded to questions about including rural youth in planning, challenges caused by the digital divide, and the opportunities and threats posed by artificial intelligence. In response to the effect of AI, Commissioner Mostert made the distinction between its ability to assist young people, which he conceded was significant, and the ability of young people to influence AI. He reminded the meeting that the NPC looked at longer-term planning and pointed out that it will have an effect on entry-level jobs, which will further affect employment levels.

Climate Change Act Implementation Workshop

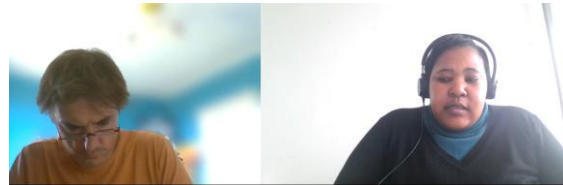
The NPC and [South African Local Government Association](#) (SALGA) hosted an online discussion between local government representatives and academic and research bodies on 2 July 2025. The discussions were based on the NPC's [advisory note](#) published in January 2025 that addressed the challenges that municipalities may face in implementing the [Climate Change Act](#) (No. 22 of 2024) and proposed ways to support local government. The workshop convened over 100 delegates from all three spheres of government, alongside representatives from academic institutions, civil society organisations, national departments, and international partners.



The Climate Change Act legislates the country's greenhouse gas emissions reduction trajectory and requires all government policies and measures to align with its goals.

The workshop was convened in recognition of the vital role that municipalities play in building climate resilience and driving a just transition. The discussions were aimed at understanding the challenges faced by local governments; providing national government departments such as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and

the Environment and National Treasury with an opportunity to indicate what support mechanisms are available; and how research and academic institutions can assist by providing data and skills. Participants engaged in structured dialogue around the opportunities and barriers faced by municipalities under the new legal framework. Panel discussions and breakaway groups identified a complex “web of gaps” that impedes effective action, ranging from the misalignment between planning instruments and climate responsibilities to the limited diffusion of climate knowledge within municipal structures. The importance of cross-sectoral coordination, improved data access, political continuity, and capacitation of senior municipal leadership emerged as key priorities.



The discussions concluded with the understanding that while managing climate change should be everybody's responsibility in general, the assignment of the tangible actions to the local government sphere means that ongoing support should be targeted here specifically. While this support includes practical measures such as financing and skills development, these can only be effectively addressed through effective leadership and political support.

Joint Energy Pathways & Costing Workshop

Following the completion of the energy paper on South Africa's Energy Sector Investment Requirements to Achieve Energy Security and Net-Zero by 2050 on 20 June 2025, the partnership between the NPC, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the National Treasury's Southern Africa: Towards Inclusive Economic Development programme (SA-TIED) and the Presidential Climate Commission organised a virtual Joint Energy Pathways and Costing Workshop

on 25 July 2025. The workshop emphasised the necessity of achieving energy security cost-effectively while adhering to South Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions, the NDP, and the National Infrastructure Plan 2050, alongside the SDGs, particularly SDG 7 concerning 'affordable and clean energy'. The launch of the study findings and recommendations is scheduled to take place in October 2025. A policy brief will be compiled before the end of the year.

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2026-2030) - Strategic Prioritisation

Retreat

The United Nations Country Team, in partnership with the government of South Africa, convened the Strategic Prioritisation Retreat from 29 to 31 July 2025 to inform the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2026–2030. The retreat provided a platform for structured engagement between government, civil society, the private sector, academia,

and the UN system to jointly determine priority areas of cooperation over the next five years.

The UNSDCF is the UN's principal instrument for planning and implementing its development cooperation at the country level. The new framework will build on the UNSDCF 2020–2025, which focused on inclusive and sustainable economic growth,

human capital development, accountable governance, and climate resilience. The next cycle (2026–2030) seeks to strengthen the MTDP, the NDP, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Ms Maropene Ramokgopa, and Chair of the NPC, delivered a keynote address emphasising the importance of collaborative partnerships to accelerate national development outcomes. Various commissioners of the NPC also participated, offering substantial and critical input. Additionally, based on South Africa’s recent Voluntary National Review (VNR), a detailed contribution was provided, assessing the country’s progress and challenges in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The three-day retreat facilitated:

- A review of South Africa’s evolving development landscape, including structural challenges such as youth unemployment, spatial inequality, and energy security.
- Consideration of stakeholder perspectives emerging from

consultations with civil society, labour, the private sector, and youth representatives.

- A shared visioning exercise on “The South Africa We Want” by 2030.
- Consensus on a limited set of strategic priorities for the UNSDCF 2026–2030, based on the UN’s comparative advantage.
- The development of draft Theories of Change to guide programming, with explicit integration of cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, leaving no one behind, and climate resilience.

The retreat reaffirmed the importance of anchoring the UN’s cooperation in national policy frameworks while ensuring alignment with the global development agenda. It also underscored the UN’s role as a trusted partner in supporting South Africa’s transition towards a more inclusive, just, and sustainable development trajectory.

The outcomes of the Strategic Prioritisation Retreat will serve as the foundation for drafting the UNSDCF 2026–2030, which will be validated with stakeholders and finalised later in 2025

SMME Global Funding Policy Research Validation Workshop

The NPC hosted a virtual multistakeholder Funding Policy Research Validation Workshop with support from SiMODiSA's SA Start-up Act Movement and Allan and Gill Gray Philanthropies to unlock global capital and markets for high-growth tech start-ups and development credit for small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) on 5 August 2025.

The workshop was chaired by Commissioner Phumzile Chifunyise, in her capacity as the chair of the NPC task team on the Development and Regulation of Township Economy and SMMEs.

The programme featured interactive panel discussions and group

discussions to analyse global capital and market policy research findings and development. It facilitated an action-oriented discussion about the reform opportunities available to increase both global capital and market access for South Africa's start-ups and development credit for SMMEs.

The workshop discussed gaps in evidence-based research in two areas: The policy impact on digital start-ups' ability to attract global capital markets, and impediments to accessing developmental credit. It identified potential policy reforms that can be explored to strengthen the recommendations as well as contribute to bottom-up policy making.

P20 – Women’s Parliament

The NPC participated in the P20 Women’s Parliament on 13 August 2025, held under the theme: “Accelerating Equality, Sustainability and Shared Growth: Correcting the Gender Re-distributional Bias of Growth and Development – through the Women’s Charter, the MTDP and the 2025 G20 Development Priorities”.



Commissioner Pheko’s presentation on feminist approaches to policy-making emphasised equity, transformative justice, and community-led responses to address systemic oppression and structural violence. It centres equity, power dynamics, and lived experiences. In addition, it addresses oppression, including patriarchy, racism, ableism, and classism and goes beyond merely adding women to policies. This approach advocates for resource redistribution, including land and healthcare and revitalises indigenous

African knowledge and promotes intersectional policy design and community-based safety models.

Commissioner Cohen made a presentation that focused on gender mainstreaming in planning processes to achieve gender equality and empower women in South Africa, titled ‘Re-engineering Government’s Planning Machinery by Institutionalising Gender Mainstreaming in Planning Process across the three Spheres of Government’. In the context of the Constitution and the country’s commitment to the SDGs, she noted that the NPC has taken the approach that gender equality ensures equal rights for all genders in social, economic, and cultural development. ‘We need to re-engineer government’s Gender Planning Machinery, while existing gender-centred policies remain relevant, including the National Policy Framework for Women’s Empowerment.’



The National Gender Machinery aims to dismantle systemic inequalities and prioritise women's needs. However, the Ministry responsible for women has faced poor performance and dysfunctionality. Gender focal points are ineffective due to low-ranking appointments and a lack of prioritisation.

Commissioner Pheko provided an additional presentation on climate justice through an African feminist and decolonial lens aimed at achieving climate justice and addressing systemic inequalities. She noted that in South Africa climate justice is rooted in colonial dispossession and apartheid

engineering as the mining-energy complex is built on land theft, with impacts distributed along lines of race, class, and gender. A climate justice approach must address the structural roots of vulnerability and redistribute resources and power. Poor rural communities, often women-headed, face existential risks from decarbonisation, with land and water assets concentrated among a few. A decolonial policy approach must ensure that the benefits of a low-carbon economy flow to those most harmed. Solutions involving women are often more effective, and human development must be prioritised in decision-making. Redistributive justice includes accelerating land reform and targeting investment at women-led enterprises. Transforming the labour market should prioritise women in green job creation and remove participation barriers.



11TH G20
PARLIAMENTARY
SPEAKERS' SUMMIT



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Masterplans Roundtable Discussion

Guided by South Africa's NDP, the NPC convened a roundtable under the theme “Recasting Masterplans as Instruments to Accelerate Inclusive Growth and Employment Outcomes” in Parktown, Johannesburg on 19 August 2025.

The roundtable brought together government, business, labour, researchers, and other stakeholders to explore how the masterplan system can

be strengthened to deliver jobs and promote inclusive growth.

The inputs were consolidated into an advisory which identifies some of the key challenges, providing recommendations on what can be done to amplify masterplan outcomes in a way that meaningfully contributes to inclusive growth and employment, to make our economy more competitive and resilient.



Food Security Roundtable

The NPC, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence in Food Security, the SA-TIED programme, the Trilateral Research Chair at the University of Johannesburg, and the Centre for Sustainability Transitions at Stellenbosch University, convened a roundtable at the University of the Western Cape on 26 August 2025.

The objective of the roundtable was to discuss and understand the challenges, lessons, and opportunities that South Africa faces in ensuring that all households are food and nutrition secure. The convening brought together experts drawn from government,

research institutes, academia, and the private sector.

Discussions at the roundtable were informed by a discussion paper written by Commissioner Julian May titled ‘Sustainable Staple Food Systems: Investment Needs to 2050: Case studies on maize, soybean, and poultry’.

The roundtable recommended the involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector and development actors, with a view to leveraging them in advocacy and capacity building, as well as in generating funding opportunities.



Upcoming Events

Mental Health Webinar: 9 October 2025

Youth Workshop with Sol Plaatje University: 15 October 2025

Social Cohesion Roundtable: 9-30 October 2025

Energy Paper Launch: 5 November 2025

SMME Advisory Launch: 6-7 November 2025

Up Close with a Commissioner

Commissioner Feela



1. What is your full name and title?

Dr Commissioner Tshepo Feela, on the golf course, I go by Prof.

2. What is your role and area of expertise in the NPC?

My areas of focus in the NPC are the Economy, Technical infrastructure, Science & Technology and Youth. I chair the South African digital infrastructure investment steering committee, a joint initiative between the NPC and the DBSA, which aims to reach 98% connectivity in South Africa by 2030 by modelling and implementing the investment requirements to achieve this NDP/ISA/SDG goal.

3. Which NDP target are you most passionate about?

Connectivity for all. This is a catalytic goal that has direct implications for trade, reducing poverty and unemployment.

4. What is your occupation outside the NPC?

I lecture post-grad students at several universities. I am also the CEO of Diversifex Group and executive chair of the SITS equipment group. I serve on several boards both private and public.

5. What is your personal vision for 2030?

To see my work in the NPC implemented, and to attain a professorship through one of the SA universities. Lastly, to be more involved in charity work.

6. What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Apho kukho ubomi, kukho ithemba (where there is life, there is hope).

7. What is a fun fact about you that your colleagues might not know about you?

I'm training to be a pilot, just in case I can afford a private jet later in life.

8. Describe South Africa in 3 words.

Diverse, Democratic, Developing.

Up Close with a Commissioner

Commissioner Bannister



1. What is your full name and title?

Ms Sue Bannister

2. What is your role and area of expertise in the NPC?

I work in the area of spatial planning and local governance.

3. Which NDP target are you most passionate about?

Spatial equality and spatial transformation

4. What is your occupation outside the NPC?

I am an urban planning consultant.

5. What is your personal vision for 2030?

A South Africa where people are not disadvantaged on the basis of their race, background or gender. A place where people can live life fully, and their living conditions do not further disadvantage them

6. What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Actions are more important than words

7. What is a fun fact about you that your colleagues might not know about you?

I love cooking!

8. Describe South Africa in 3 words.

My home. I'm proud to be South African (I also can't count).

