



**national planning  
commission**

Department:  
The Presidency  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REFLECTS ON LONG-TERM PLANNING AS CURRENT TERM ENTERS FINAL PHASE**

**9 MARCH 2026**

The [National Planning Commission](#) (NPC) held its first plenary meeting on 6 March 2026 since its Lekgotla in December last year. As the meeting took place shortly after the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SONA) and the national Budget Speech, both of which highlighted the pressing challenges facing South Africa, including persistent unemployment, infrastructure constraints, water and energy security, and the rising cost of living, these issues were part of the discussions.

In her opening remarks, the Chairperson of the NPC and Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Hon. Maropene Ramokgopa, reminded Commissioners that moments of national reflection such as SONA and the Budget reinforce the importance of maintaining a clear long-term development direction for the country.

The Minister emphasised that the [National Development Plan \(NDP\): Vision 2030](#) remains the country's long-term compass and that the NPC plays an important role in ensuring that the country maintains strategic direction even when confronted with immediate pressures.

The plenary meeting took place as the current Commission approaches the final phase of its term. Commissioners, therefore, dedicated significant attention to deliberations on this NPC's Handover Report, which will seek to consolidate the work, insights and lessons emerging from its activities over the past four years.

The NPC also considered how the work of the Commission has contributed to strengthening the national development conversation in areas such as energy reform, water security, state capability, social protection and support for micro, small and medium enterprises (SMMEs). These areas have featured prominently in the Commission's advisory work and stakeholder engagements over the past several years.

In addition to critically assessing its work over the past four years, the discussions included a high-level assessment of the efficacy of South Africa's planning system. Commissioners highlighted the need to strengthen alignment across national, provincial and local plans,



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improve consequence management where plans are not implemented, and deepen the institutionalisation of long-term planning across government and society.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Chairperson of the NPC, Prof Tinyiko Maluleke underscored the importance of the production of an informative, data-rich, evidence-led handover report. He also argued that there was a connection between meticulous long-term planning, apt policy making as well its implementation across the board on the one hand, and the elimination of poverty, unemployment, inequality and corruption, on the other.

The NPC conducted these discussions in keeping with its role as an independent body of experts, appointed by the President as the custodian of South Africa's [NDP: Vision 2030](#) and to use its expertise 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.

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