

National Planning Commission

# REPORT ON MONITORING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN INDICATORS AND TARGETS

December 2024



**national planning  
commission**

Department:  
The Presidency  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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## INTRODUCTION

The National Development Plan (NDP) aims to reduce unemployment and inequality while eliminating poverty. To achieve these objectives, it emphasises the need for inclusive economic growth, enhanced human capabilities, social protection, a capable and developmental state, and strong leadership. The NDP highlights the importance of coordination among the three levels of government—local, provincial, and national—as essential for establishing an effective state in South Africa. Furthermore, successful implementation of the NDP requires the active participation of all sectors of society.



Figure 1: Three spheres of government

In 2021, the National Planning Commission (NPC) developed the National Development Plan Implementation Framework to provide decisive guidance for achieving established targets. This framework clearly delineated the priorities essential for realising the goals of the NDP and outlined critical actions that needed to be executed immediately. Its primary objective was to create a robust national planning system that all levels of government, social partners, and key sectors could actively utilise. While the framework was built upon the government's leadership in implementation, it emphasised the need for a comprehensive measurement tool beyond the guiding principles to ensure its success. The NPC, therefore, developed the NDP Implementation Tracker tool, a dashboard that shows progress toward specific targets, goals, objectives, and indicators of the NDP. Since it is impossible to track everything, the tool focuses on those indicators that best measure the NDP's overall goals and objectives, based on the available data for those indicators.

This 2024 NDP indicators and targets report provide a comprehensive analysis of South Africa's progress toward realising NDP Vision 2030. It assesses the country's

advancements across key indicators outlined in the Plan, reflecting on the extent to which strategic objectives have been achieved and identifying areas that require accelerated intervention. The report serves as an essential tool for stakeholders across government, civil society, and the private sector, offering insights into the alignment of policy implementation with the overarching development goals.

As South Africa continues its journey towards a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive society, the 2024 report emphasises the importance of integrated planning, data-driven policy, and adaptive governance. These factors are critical in ensuring effective responses to both the enduring structural challenges and emerging complexities posed by global economic shifts, climate change, and local socio-economic issues. Through an examination of the NDP's specific targets across sectors like health, education, employment, infrastructure, and social security, this report reflects on the policies that have translated into positive outcomes, as well as the gaps hindering optimal progress.

The report also assesses the implications of these indicators on South Africa's global commitments, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on SDG indicators that intersect with national objectives. By highlighting these connections, the aim is to strengthen coherence between national and global efforts, underscoring the commitment to multilateral partnerships and frameworks, which are critical for addressing complex and interconnected challenges.

The report adopts a multi-dimensional approach to analyse progress and barriers, integrating quantitative data with qualitative assessments. Key themes in this year's report include:

- **Sustainable Economic Growth:** This assesses economic resilience and growth, focusing on employment, poverty reduction, and income inequality. It explores both structural reforms and short-term measures aimed at spurring economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic and recent economic disruptions.
- **Social Transformation:** Examining access to quality healthcare, education, housing, and social protection, the report evaluates efforts to reduce inequalities and enhance social cohesion. Special attention is given to marginalised and vulnerable groups, consistent with the principle of leaving no one behind.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** The report addresses climate resilience and the just transition to a low-carbon economy. It reviews efforts in renewable energy expansion, emissions reductions, and sustainable land and water use, highlighting strides and challenges in the Just Energy Transition (JET) framework.
- **Governance and Institutional Capacity:** Recognising the role of governance in achieving NDP targets, this report evaluates improvements in institutional effectiveness, accountability, and citizen engagement. It underscores initiatives

aimed at enhancing transparency and combating corruption, which are essential to fostering public trust and investor confidence.

Central to this year's report is the role of data-driven policy in achieving the NDP objectives. Reliable data collection, monitoring, and evaluation frameworks are crucial for assessing progress, and the report discusses advancements in these areas, including partnerships with research institutions and the adoption of digital tools. Accurate data has enabled more targeted interventions, allowing policymakers to adapt strategies based on real-time feedback and evidence.

The 2024 NDP indicators and targets report is both a reflection of South Africa's achievements and a call to action for a collective and sustained commitment to the NDP Vision 2030. By identifying critical gaps and proposing actionable solutions, this report invites all stakeholders to engage in the ongoing process of transformation.

## **BUILDING A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE**

The NDP envisages a state capable of playing a transformative and developmental role. This requires well-run and effectively coordinated state institutions staffed by skilled public servants committed to the public good and capable of consistently delivering high-quality services for all South Africans while prioritising the nation's developmental objectives.

The Cabinet adopted the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector in October 2022 to guide building a capable developmental state, but its implementation has not been realised. The Framework conceptualises professionalisation broadly as an intervention to institutionalise state capacity and institutional capability to optimise public value. Implementing the Framework will require addressing the delay in finalising the legislative reforms to formalise some aspects of it.

The Public Service Act Amendment Bill should be finalised and implemented. This legislation aims to harmonise the contradictions in the existing legislative framework by devolving administrative powers to the Directors-General (DGs) for alignment with their financial responsibility as prescribed in the PFMA. The legislative amendment will further resolve the political-administrative tension by assigning DGs the responsibility for recruiting senior public service officials and insulating them from partisan influence.

To address the lack of fundamental capacities in the local sphere of government, building capacity, and good governance must be dedicated with focused attention on developing skills and competencies, especially at the senior management level.

With regard to the institutionalisation of planning in South Africa, several interventions have taken place over the past years to streamline, align, and codify the planning system and to ensure that government institutions are coordinated and prioritise

appropriately to facilitate the achievement of the developmental goals of the NDP. The Ten-Year Review of the NDP, released in 2023, found that the incremental improvements in the planning framework functions and development have been below expectations. This can be attributed to a wide range of factors, including policy and institutional incoherence, a lack of capacity within the state to prioritise, sequence, and execute plans, state capture and corruption, misalignment of planning cycles and planning horizons across the three spheres of government, coordination, partnerships with partners outside of the state, and international and local shocks.

As part of stimulating the implementation of the NDP, the NPC advocates for institutionalising an integrated planning approach, improving coordination, and a partnership-based approach to development.

The selected indicators below highlight trends in the implementation of the NDP.

## IMPROVING STATE CAPABILITY

### State capability and professionalisation

<b>Goal</b>	A state that is capable of playing a developmental and transformative role
<b>Objective</b>	Professionalise the public sector
<b>Indicator</b>	Stabilise the political-administrative interface, Create an administrative head of the public service
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	A merit-based public service system immersed in the development agenda but insulated from undue political interference as a function of the professionalisation of public administration is imperative for building a capable and developmental state. While implementing the targeted actions has been slow, with mixed outcomes, the adoption by the Cabinet of the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector is a crucial milestone towards building a capable and developmental state. This included tabling legislation that gives effect to some of its proposals through amendments to the Public Service Act, Public Administration Management Act, and Public Service Commission Act. The finalisation of the pieces of legislation as amended should be expedited to give effect to the implementation of the key aspects of the Professionalisation Framework. The implementation further requires a designated process leader to coordinate all the efforts, a consolidated implementation plan; and clear roles and responsibilities.

### Government openness and transparency

<b>Goal</b>	Improving State Capability
<b>Objective</b>	Improve Public Trust and Confidence in Institutions

Indicator	% Confidence in institutions
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**Trend Analysis**

The NDP requires collaboration between all sections of society and effective leadership by the government. However, in 2023, less than 40% of South Africans reported having a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in any of the institutions, with only two exceptions: The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) at 57% and the South African Revenue Services (SARS) at 46%. Over the previous years, the confidence in institutions survey found that more than half of all South Africans expressed confidence in several key institutions, including parliament, the national government, the Constitutional Court, and the legal system in general. The Edelman SA Trust Barometer (2024) shows that 61% of South Africans believe partnerships between business and government can lead to more trustworthy management of technology-led changes, which ultimately will propel progress and growth for the country.

Figure 2: Confidence in selected institutions, 2017-2023

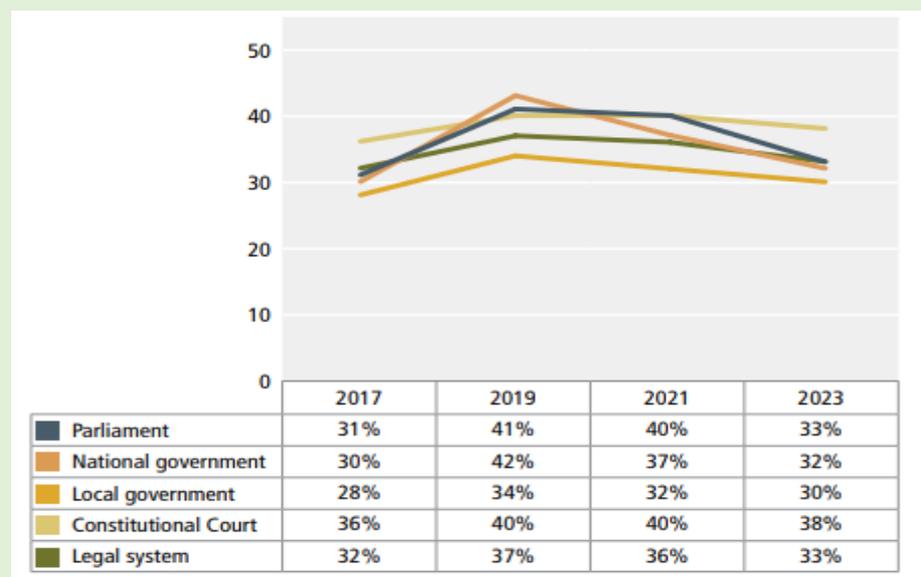
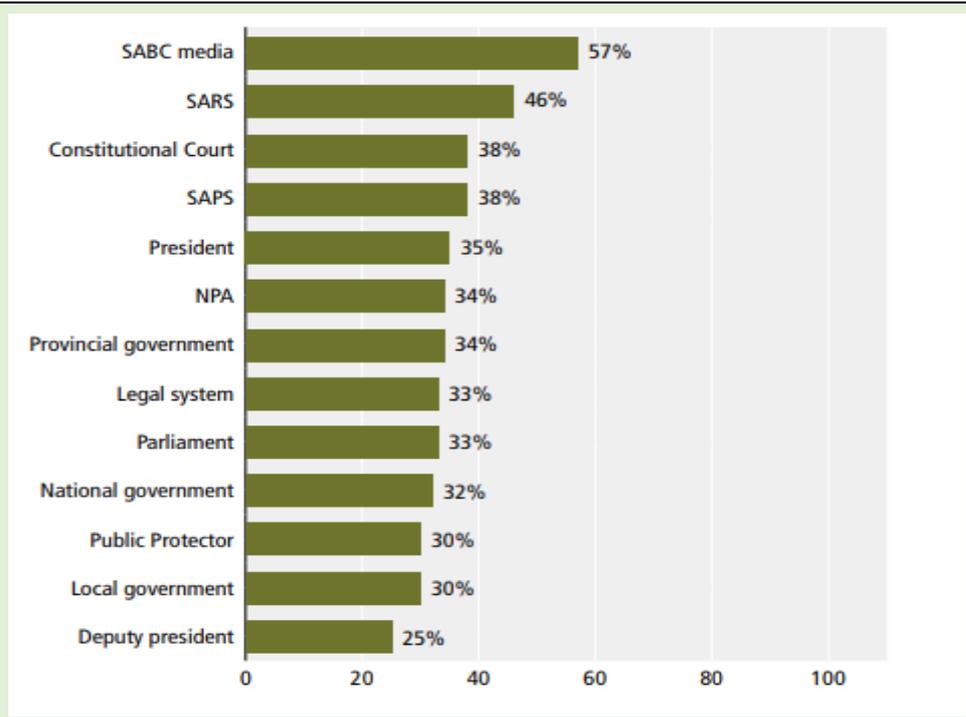
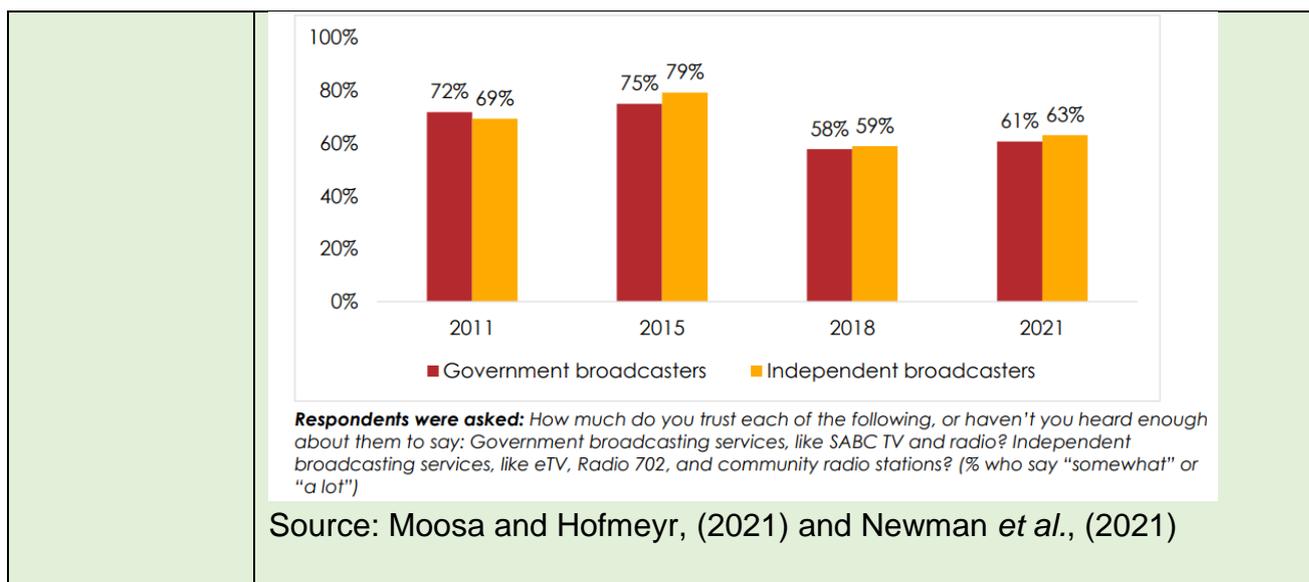


Figure 3: Confidence in institutions, 2023

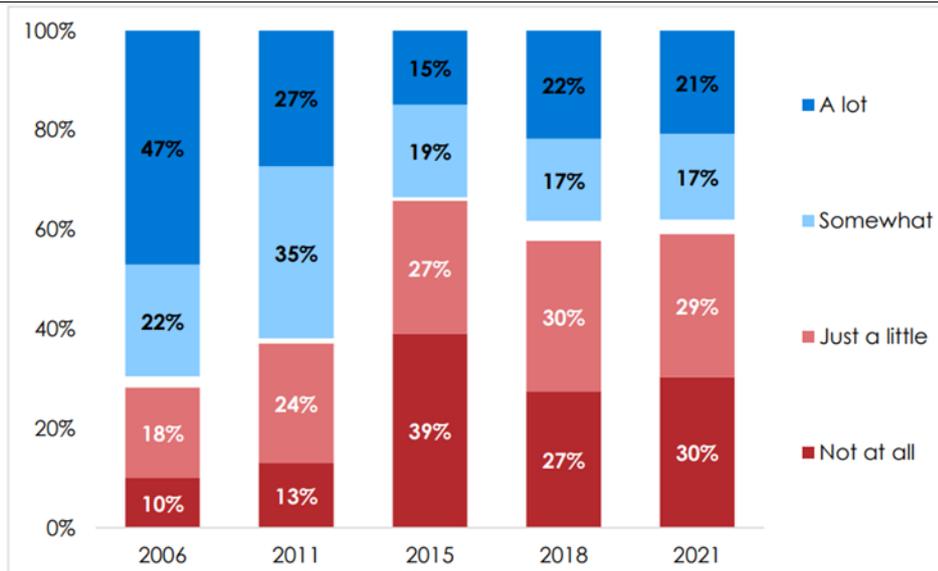


Source: Lefko-Everett, (2023) and Moosa, (2021). IJR; Edelman Trust Barometer, (2024)

<b>Goal</b>	A state that is capable of playing a developmental and transformative role
<b>Objective</b>	Improve Public Trust and Confidence in Institutions
<b>Indicator</b>	% Trust in Public Media broadcasters
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Media broadcasters, both independent (63%) and government (61%), enjoy the trust of a majority of citizens in comparison to other institutions. In South Africa, 57% of people trust news brands that are private, and they use frequently for more reliable and unbiased information, while 54% trust the government. Our most trusted news brands are the BBC (83%) and News24 (83%), with only 7 and 8 % of people respectively saying they don't trust them at all. eNCA is a close third at 82%, followed by SABC News (78%), Sunday Times (76%) and Mail &amp; Guardian (75%). The Daily Maverick, a publication that continuously produces important, excellent journalism, is at 12th position out of the 15 brands surveyed, with a trust score of 66%, and a very high percentage of respondents (23%) saying they neither trust nor distrust the site.</p> <p>Figure 4: Trust in media broadcasters, 2011-2021</p>



Goal	Improving State Capability
Objective	Improve Public Trust and Confidence in the President
Indicator:	% Confidence in the President
Trend Analysis	<p>The strength of trust in the President has implications for the extent to which he has leverage within government and in the broader society to influence narratives and effect changes. The proportion who trusts the President “a lot” has declined significantly, from almost half (47%) of respondents in 2006 to just one-fifth (21%) in 2021.</p> <p>In the course of the current Presidency, the share of respondents who do not trust the President “at all” declined from a high of 39% in 2015 to 30% in 2021. Trust in both the ruling African National Congress (ANC) (27%) and opposition parties (24%) continues to decline. Trust in the ANC is especially low among younger and more educated respondents, indicating that any presidential candidate to come from it will continuously be significantly distrusted by respondents. As of 2023, only 35% of South Africans have confidence in the President.</p> <p>Figure 5: Trust in the President 2006-2023</p>



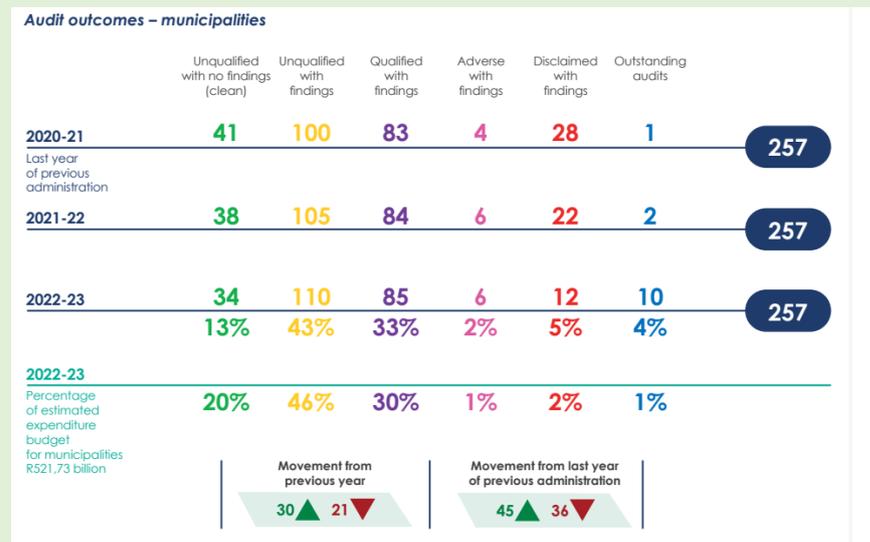
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the president, or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

Source: Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 474 (2021) and South African Reconciliation Barometer 2023

Objective:	Improvements in Audit Outcomes
Indicator:	% of Qualified Audits
Trend Analysis	<p>Overall, the audit outcomes of both departments and public entities improved. In 2022-23, the net improvement was 37 auditees (9%), the biggest movement over the four years. The provincial government showed a net improvement of 44 (27%), and the national government showed a net improvement of 34 (15%). The 147 auditees (35%) that achieved clean audits in 2022-23 managed 16% of the R3,10 trillion expenditure budgets in the national and provincial governments. In addition, the 162 auditees (39%) that received unqualified audit opinions with findings managed 48% of the budget.</p> <p>Of concern is the Auditor-General's Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) report for the 2023/24 financial year, which highlights persistence of no-consequences culture; the entrenched lack of accountability; weaknesses in contract oversight; and damaging effects of poor financial and performance management in national and provincial government. The trend of poor audit outcomes in local government continued, with only 34 (13%) municipalities obtaining clean audits. Although 45 municipalities have improved their audit outcomes since 2020-21, 36 have regressed. The most prevalent audit outcome was an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements with findings on performance reporting and/or compliance with key legislation – at 43% of municipalities. According to the</p>

Auditor General<sup>1</sup>, despite the commitments made by role players in the accountability ecosystem to improve, action has been slow and has had little impact on the lived realities of ordinary South Africans. The NPC calls for the institutionalisation of accountability mechanisms to address non-compliance and fraud in all spheres of government; professionalise public service to ensure capable management of resources and delivery of services; and prioritise consequences for officials who fail to uphold their responsibilities.

Figure 6: Audit outcomes- municipalities



Source: Auditor General South Africa, (2023)

## Inclusive governance

Objective	Transformation in the Legislative Sectors
Indicator:	% of Gender Representation in Legislative Bodies
Trend Analysis	In the composition of the Government of National Unity, women’s representation in Parliament declined from 46% in 2020 to 43% in 2024. In the Executive, of the current 77 ministers, there are 31 women, making up 40% of the executive. Although South Africa’s Cabinet reached gender parity in 2019, this gain has been substantially reversed in the composition of the GNU. In general, South Africa went from being the country with the highest number of women in Parliament in Southern Africa to being in third place and has declined to 22nd place globally.

<sup>1</sup> Auditor-General Consolidated Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes 2022-23, (Auditor General South Africa, 2022)

	<p>In contrast to women, the youth received much more attention from political parties. Concomitantly, South Africa’s seventh administration has many younger members of Parliament and Ministers. The youngest parliamentarian is 20 years old.</p> <p>Source: Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 474 and International IDEA, Women’s Political Participation: Africa Barometer 2024 (Africa Barometer, 2024)</p>
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## TRANSFORMING HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND THE NATIONAL SPACE ECONOMY

Access to proper shelter and basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity remains a key indicator of household well-being in South Africa. In recent years, notable improvements in service delivery have been achieved through government initiatives, infrastructure investments, and collaborations with private sector partners and civil society. Prioritizing informal settlements and underserved communities has been central to addressing historical inequalities and improving living conditions.

While progress has been made, persistent inequalities require sustained efforts to address infrastructure gaps, promote inclusive development, and build community resilience against future challenges. South Africa’s long-term vision, as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP), aims to ensure universal access to basic services—clean water, adequate sanitation, waste removal, and energy—by 2030. The NDP also emphasizes improving tenure security, enhancing public transport accessibility, reducing commuting costs, and ensuring a decent standard of living for all South Africans.

Despite commitments, significant barriers remain at the local government level. The landscape is marked by:

- Poor audit outcomes and financial mismanagement.
- Corruption and cadre deployment.
- Inadequate infrastructure maintenance and planning.
- Instability in councils and administration.

According to the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), municipal failures have led to deteriorating service delivery, rising public dissatisfaction, and an increase in service delivery protests. AGSA has called for a culture of accountability and capable, citizen-centric leadership to improve living conditions and address systemic failures.

South Africa’s municipalities, essential to addressing the country’s triple challenge of poverty, unemployment, and inequality, face growing institutional distress: By 2021, 23 municipalities were under provincial intervention, rising to 33 by early 2022. The

2021 State of Local Government Report identified 64 municipalities as dysfunctional, 111 at medium risk, and only 16 as stable. By September 2022, 151 municipalities were insolvent, 43 of which were in crisis, requiring urgent intervention to restore governance and financial stability.

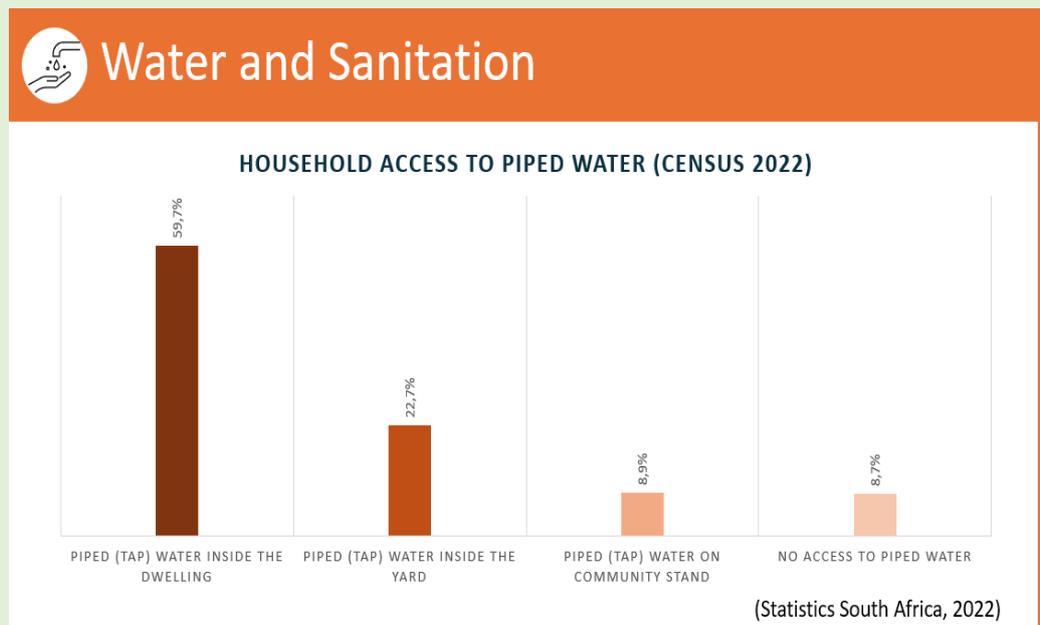
Twenty-six years after introducing the 1998 White Paper on Local Government, which envisioned developmental local government, municipalities are increasingly distanced from this goal. Challenges such as corruption, political interference, poor revenue management, and inadequate infrastructure maintenance exacerbate the gap.

To bridge this developmental divide, a shift toward alternative service delivery roadmaps rooted in accountability and collaborative governance is essential. A "quadruple helix nexus" involving government, private sector, academia, and civil society could reposition municipalities to fulfill their mandates effectively and deliver a "better life for all."

While progress has been made in certain areas, addressing the institutional and developmental weaknesses in local government is critical to realizing South Africa's vision for equitable human settlements and sustainable service delivery.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Transforming Human Settlement and the National Space Economy</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve Public Service Delivery
<b>Indicator:</b>	<i>Access to basic services: Household access to piped water</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	An effective service delivery praxis is an embedded requirement of public policy frameworks. The current service delivery failures, particularly at the local government level, have exposed public policy shortcomings and disrupted livelihoods in South Africa. At the core of an evidence-based policy-enabled service delivery regimen is a 'better life for all'. At a local government level, the integrated development plan of municipalities directs this 'better life' through service delivery priorities. By interrogating the service delivery and quadruple helix nexus, we provide future pathways to reimagine the country's local government service delivery praxis to achieve transformative aspirations and development futures (Biljohn and Magaiza, 2024).

Figure 7: Household access to piped water (Census 2022)



Concerning access to piped water, the 2022 Census summarised the data as follows: piped water inside dwellings increased from 46.3% in 2011 to 59.7% in 2022, piped water inside yards reduced from 27.1% in 2011 to 22.7% in 2022, and piped water outside yard/on community stand reduced from 17.9% to 8.9% in 2022.

This indicates improvements in water provision to ensure quality service delivery and ultimately position the local government sector on a positive path to achieving the vision of a developmental local government system.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Transforming Human Settlement and the National Space Economy</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Access to Electricity for All</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>90% Access to Grid Electricity (Target by 2030)</b>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Access to electricity remains a global challenge, with significant efforts required to achieve universal access by 2030. Globally, 91% of the population had electricity in 2022, a marked improvement from 73% in 2000. However, despite this progress, population growth has outpaced access improvements in some regions. In 2022, 10 million more people were without electricity compared to 2021, reversing prior gains.</p> <p>The challenge is most acute in Sub-Saharan Africa, where over 80% of the global population lacking electricity resides. Furthermore, fewer than 20% of African countries have set targets to achieve universal</p>

access by 2030, underscoring the need for urgent action and policy interventions.

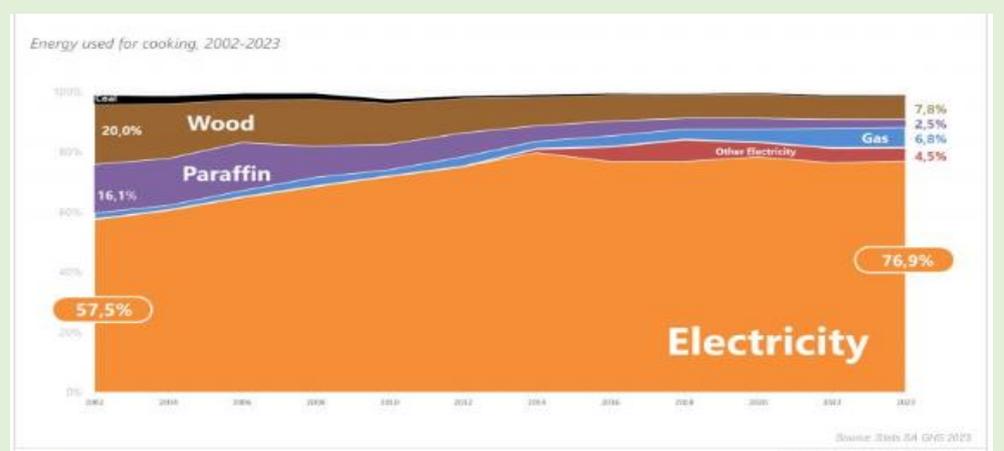
To accelerate universal access to electricity by 2030, the World Bank and the African Development Bank are partnering to provide electricity access to at least 300 million people in Africa by 2030.

The NDP envisages that by 2030, at least 95% of the population will have access to grid or off-grid electricity. Despite recent electricity struggles, South Africa has a well-developed electricity network and one of the highest rates of electricity access.

Since 2002, there has been a notable increase in access to mains electricity, rising from 76,7% to 89,8%. For households in formal dwellings, this access increased from 86,4% to 94,6%, while for those in informal dwellings, it rose from 52,3% to 58,3%. This improved access to electricity has had significant effects on households. The proportion of households utilising electricity as their primary energy source for cooking rose from 57,5% to 76,9%. Conversely, the use of paraffin decreased to 2,5% from 16%, and the reliance on wood or coal dropped from 23% to 8,1%. Gas usage rose from 2,2% to 6,8%. Regarding Free Basic Electricity, in South Africa, only indigent households qualify for this, with municipalities conducting means tests to determine eligibility.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has electrified over 8.3 million households. The DMRE through the International National Electrification Programme electrified 571 878 (57,2%) households against the MTSF target of 1 000 000 households by March 2024, 25 157 (34%) households were electrified through non-grid mechanisms for the period ending September 2022.

Figure 8: Energy used for cooking 2002-2023

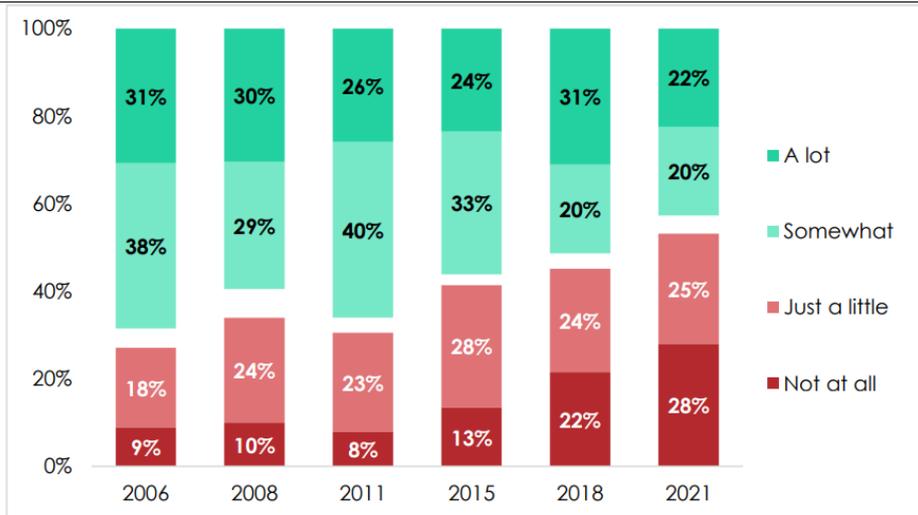


	<p>Source: Stats SA, (2023)</p> <p>However, due to load shedding, households resorted to a variety of alternative energy sources for both cooking and lighting. Nationally, 29,0% utilised LPG/Gas, while 23,1% relied on open fires fuelled by a range of materials such as wood, coal, and charcoal. Gas usage was particularly prevalent in the Western Cape (46,0%) and Gauteng (36,3%) (Stats SA, 2023). This increase is reflected in the fact that household ownership of gas stoves and plates increased from 19% in 2022 to 30,1% in 2023. In Limpopo, more than three-fifths (61,7%) of households used open fires, followed by 51,3% in Mpumalanga. More than two-fifths (44,1%) of households resorted to candles as their primary alternative lighting source.</p>
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## JUSTICE, CRIME PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

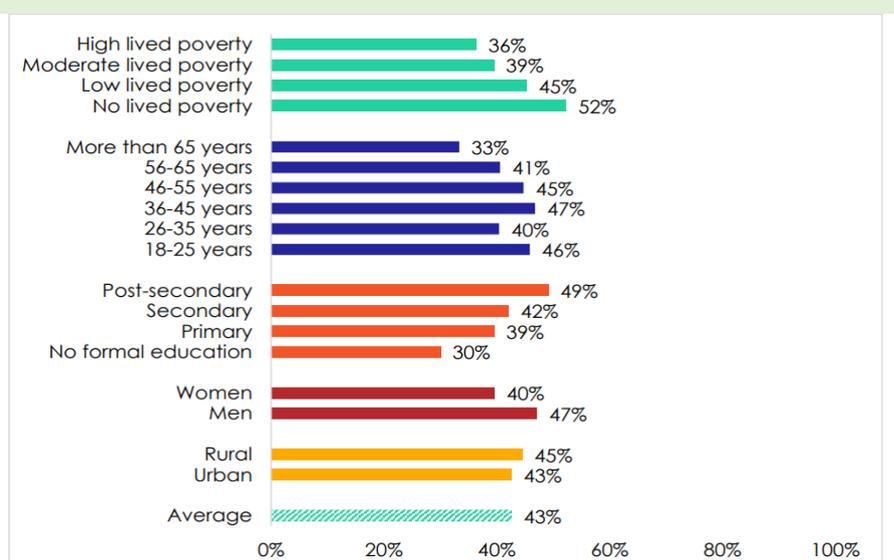
### Public Trust in The Court of Law

<b>Objective:</b>	
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>% Trust in Courts of Law</i>
Trend Analysis	<p>Courts of law, the third arm of the state, are charged with ensuring that the rule of law is upheld. Throughout democratic South Africa’s history, the judiciary has played an important role in expanding and protecting civil rights.</p> <p>The 2021 Afrobarometer survey was the first instance where a majority (53%) of respondents indicated little or no trust in the judiciary. While the courts are still considered more trustworthy (43%) than Parliament and the President, the share of respondents who trust the courts “just a little” or “not at all” has been climbing steadily since 2011.</p> <p>Figure 9: Trust courts of law 2006-2021</p>



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust courts of law, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Figure 10: Trust courts of law by socio-demographic group



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust courts of law, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Source: Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 474 (2021)

Goal	Justice, Crime Prevention and Building Safer Communities.
Objectives	In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, school and work
Indicator:	Percentage (%) of serious crimes
Trend Analysis	Chapter 12 of the NDP vision aims to create an environment in South Africa where people feel safe at home, on the street, at school, at work, and in public spaces and have no fear of crime. The NDP emphasises the safety and security of women and children. However, crime levels

	<p>in the country remain exceedingly high and have increased in the past year.</p> <p>There has been a 13.2% increase in attempted murder cases, a 2.9% increase in robbery with aggravating circumstances, and a 4% increase in common robbery. A slight improvement was seen in sexual offences, where this category of crime dropped by 0.4%. The drop remains insignificant in the context of high levels of sexual crime in the country. The overall category of contact crimes has shown an increase of 3.8%. The statistics indicate that the country is currently not making meaningful inroads towards achieving NDP objectives concerning people in South Africa feeling safe (Crime registrar head office, 2023)</p>
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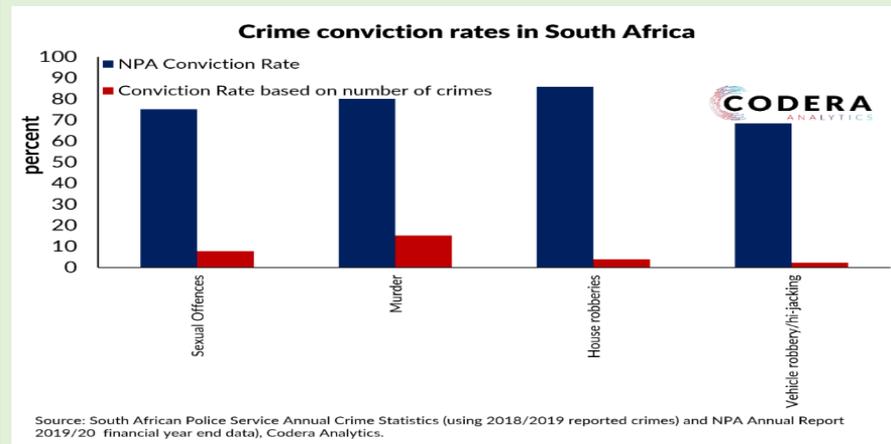
Goal	Reduce contact crime
<i>Objective</i>	In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, school and work
<i>Indicator:</i>	Incidence rate of violence experienced by sex/ gender, age, and disability
Trend Analysis	<p>Statistics for the period covered show that Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) remains an ongoing scourge in the country. Women continue to be exposed to high levels of sexual violence. Incidents of rape have decreased by only half a percent (-0.5%). Sexual assault cases have reduced by less than one percent (-0.9%). Of concern is the 7.7% increase in attempted sexual assaults. The number of recorded contact sexual offences has reduced by 13%. This reduction is significant and correlates with the high number of sexual assault attempts. This trend is an indication that an as-yet undefined intervention has resulted in numerous unsuccessful attempts made at sexual assault. The overall picture from the GBVF-aligned crime categories is that the country continues failing to reach the objective of reducing violence experienced based on gender (Crime registrar head office, 2023)</p>

Objective	Building Safer Communities
<i>Indicator</i>	Reduction in the levels of property-related crimes
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>Robberies at residential properties are reported for the top 30 police stations in the country. Of these, only eight recorded a reduction in robberies. This represents a drop in levels of property crimes at only 26.6% of the stations reviewed. Of these</p>

	<p>stations, three police stations in KwaZulu-Natal registered significant drops in reported robberies with reductions of 28.9%, 35.2% and 40.7%. While this number does not indicate a trend, the reductions are significant and indicate that at the level of individual stations, the interventions implemented at these stations are achieving markedly successful outcomes in reduced robberies. The specific areas of New Brighton in the Eastern Cape and Protea and Carletonville in Gauteng have seen house robberies increase at levels above 75% in the period reviewed. This indicates that little meaningful headway is being made in some areas of the country to, at a minimum, stabilise house robberies. These spikes are in the context of the remaining 22 reporting stations experiencing increased house robberies. This indicates that the overwhelming trend in the country, on average, is that of increasing house robberies and South Africans not being safe in their homes (Crime registrar head office, 2023).</p>
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<b>Objective</b>	<b>Building Safer Communities</b>
<i>Indicator</i>	Conviction rate
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>The conviction rate achieved by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in the High Courts was 91.8%, with convictions achieved in 691 of 759 cases tried. The conviction rate achieved in regional courts was 81.8% or 17,328 out of 21,180 cases. In the district courts, the conviction rate was 95.1% or 153 746 of 160 623 cases. The conviction rate in complex tax cases was 89.5% or 161 of 166 cases. The NPA conviction rate is consistently high across all categories of cases the organisation has trialled. The organisation can be described as an effective prosecutorial authority based on the rates achieved. This conclusion, however, does not capture the entire picture of the organisation's effectiveness as the country continues to experience high levels of reported crime. The high crime levels across various crime categories captured by SAPS crime statistics indicate that criminals are not being put away in a meaningful manner that reduces crime in the country. This becomes clearer when the high conviction rate of the NPA is not viewed in isolation but relative to the number of crimes committed in the country. This more substantive analysis indicates that reported conviction rates do not indicate effective actions that contribute to the ongoing goal of building safer communities as would appear at face value.</p>

Figure 11: Crime conviction rates in South Africa



Source: National Prosecution Authority South Africa (2023); CODERA Analytics, (2022)

<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Improvement in corruption perception index rating (improved investor confidence)</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Improved Transparency International Ranking. Target - Improvement in Corruption Perception Index ranking by 5 (to 68/100)</i>
Trend Analysis	No Progress

## SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING

### Transforming Societies and Uniting the Country

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Promoting Social Cohesion</b>
Objective:	Transforming Society and Uniting the Country
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>% of the population aware of the Constitution and its values % Adherence to the rule of law and fostering constitutional values State of social cohesion</i>
Trend Analysis	The NDP identified the following elements as critical in the nation-building effort, which is a key part of fostering social cohesion: knowledge of the Constitution and fostering constitutional values, equalising opportunities, promoting inclusion and redress, promoting social cohesion across society through increased interaction across race and class, promoting active citizenry and broad-based leadership, and achieving a social compact that will lay the basis for equity, inclusion, and prosperity for all.

	<p>In 2019, most South Africans (77%) agreed that the Constitution must be upheld and respected under all circumstances, relative to 66% in 2017. In 2017 and 2019, 44% and 54% of respondents respectively, agreed that elected representatives always have the right to make governance decisions. Further, South Africa's performance, as measured by the country's governance score for regulatory quality, rule of law, and political stability, has deteriorated significantly since 2010. They range from -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) (BER, 2020).</p> <p>In 2022, about 82.6% of people aged 16 years and older had heard about the Constitution. About 70.7% think it protects their rights, while less than half of the population (48%) believe it protects others' rights more than theirs (Stats SA, 2019).</p> <p>These results show an improvement from the 2018 Socio-Economic Justice for All programme baseline Survey (51%) by the Foundation for Human Rights. The mobilisation of all of society, consolidation of efforts, and massification of effective interventions to foster constitutional values are recommended. South Africa's unemployment challenge leads to poverty, making it more difficult to address inequality. This, in turn, reduces trust, erodes a sense of national identity, and spreads division among South Africans.</p>
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<b>Objective:</b>	<b>An inclusive society – In 2030, South Africans will be more conscious of the things they have in common than their differences. The nation will be more accepting of people's multiple identities.</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>State of social cohesion as measured by workforce inclusion, trusting social relationships and unity in the country</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>Some key factors associated with social cohesion in South Africa have deteriorated in recent years. These include workforce inclusion, social relationships, and unity in the country. The challenge with workforce inclusion is seen in the increasing unemployment and inequality rates, resulting in the highest total and youth unemployment rates globally.</p> <p>According to Krugel, (2022), workforce inclusion is closely linked to a lack of job creation and structural inhibitors, including education and skills challenges that increasingly restrict citizens' participation in the country's economy.</p>

Regarding trusting social relationships, IPSOS, (2022) shows that only three out of ten South Africans believe that ordinary men and women in the country are trustworthy. This score, the lowest recorded, has been consistent since 2019, signifying no improvement in trust among citizens. PwC points out that the low levels of trust among ordinary citizens stem from issues such as wealth inequality and xenophobia.

Given the diversity of social groups in the country, South Africans are relatively split about whether there is more that unites or divides us as a country. Close to one in four respondents (23%) say there is much more that divides than unites South Africans, but an equal share of respondents say there is much more that unites than divides (24%). This finding is in stark contrast to the 2019 South African Reconciliation Barometer data that suggests most respondents believe there is more that unites South Africans than divides them, but perhaps also speaks to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on social relations and material inequalities (BER, 2021). Transparent, accountable, and collaborative governance is key to creating trust and building more cohesive societies.



## BUILDING A CAPABLE ECONOMY

As noted above, the overarching goals of the NDP are that by 2030, South Africa aims to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality and unemployment. To achieve this, South Africa needed to grow its economy by 5.4% per annum over twenty years and create about 11 million new jobs. The unemployment rate was expected to fall from 27% in 2011 to 14% by 2020 and 6% by 2030. Total employment should rise from 13 million to 24 million. The NDP states that the country must address several challenges to achieve these objectives. It needs improved education outcomes, a healthier population, better-located and maintained infrastructure, a sound social safety net, a capable state, and much lower levels of corruption, among others.

In the context that the NDP aims to eradicate poverty by 2030, it must be noted that poverty rates had improved significantly towards 2011 before the adoption of the NDP but stalled after that till 2015. Central concerns relate to land redistribution, low-income housing, the deeds registry system, limited pension contributions, and high indebtedness. It will take generations to address South Africa's legacy of apartheid fully, and the country cannot wait indefinitely for the trickle-down effect to lift society's potential.

The 2024 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement charts a clear course for the medium term to address the economy's weaknesses in pursuit of the NDP Vision 2030 economic targets. Now, more than ever, South Africa will need to rely on this strength of character to implement reforms that change the long-term trajectory of our economy to build prosperity and sharply reduce poverty and inequality.

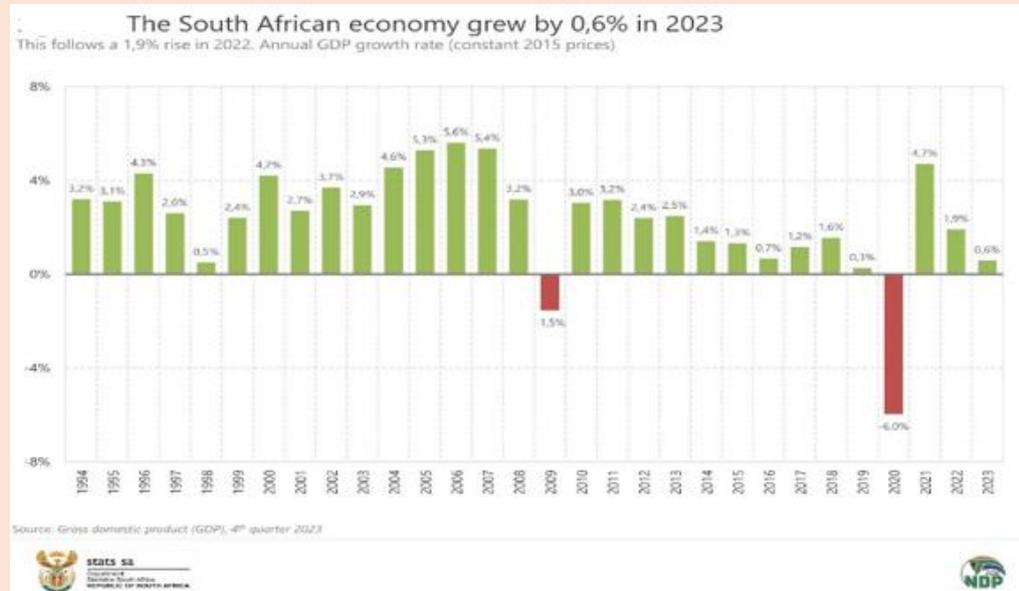
### ECONOMY, POVERTY AND EMPLOYMENT

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Increasing GDP Growth</b>
<i>Indicator</i> :	<i>GDP growth rate and per capita GDP growth</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>5.0% growth by 2030 and an average per capita GDP of R110 000</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The NDP envisions increasing economic growth in South Africa through inclusive, sustainable, and rapid economic expansion. To achieve this, it outlines the need to strengthen infrastructure, develop a skilled workforce, expand exports, support small businesses, and enhance governance to create a conducive environment for investment and job creation. Central to this vision is the need to create 11 million new jobs, particularly focused on empowering youth and women, thereby significantly reducing the unemployment rate to 6% by 2030.

The NDP seeks to achieve an average growth of 5.4 % until 2030, implying that economic growth would have to more than double between 2011 and 2030. This means GDP needed to grow significantly, from R2.9 trillion in 2011 to R7.8 trillion in 2030.

The GDP growth for 2019 was 0.3 % (R4.5 trillion) and has averaged 1.6 % between 2011 and 2019 – well below the NDP target. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, growth declined by 6.0 % in 2020. However, given significant structural challenges, the MTSF proposed a growth rate target of 2–3 % by 2024.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 12: Annual GDP Growth Rate (constant 2015 prices) in 2023



Source: Stats SA, 2023.<sup>3</sup>

The economy rebounded strongly in 2021, with 4.7 % growth, following the deep contraction of 6.0 % during the previous year. This growth resulted from sectors such as mining, agriculture, and manufacturing, reflecting the impact of high and increasing commodity prices.

The economy grew by 0.6% in 2023 after expanding by 1.9% in 2022. The finance, real estate, and business services industries were the main contributors in 2023, growing by 1.8% and contributing 0.4 percentage points to the GDP growth. Personal services, transport, storage and

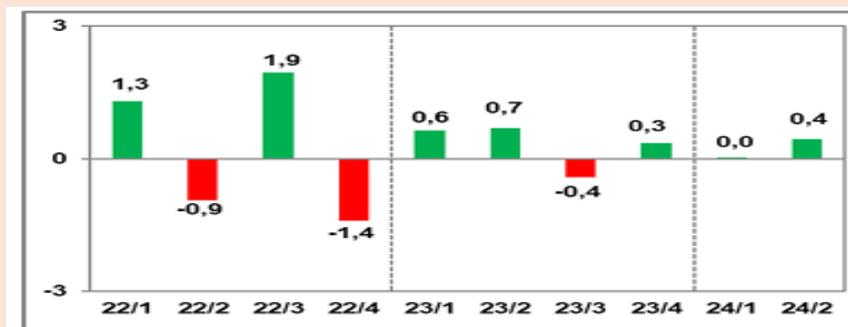
<sup>2</sup> Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). 2020. *Medium-Term Strategic Framework 2019–2024: Executive Summary*. Pretoria: DPME. Available at: [https://www.dpme.gov.za/keyfocusareas/outcomesSite/MTSF\\_2019\\_2024/2019-2024%20MTSF%20Executive%20Summary.pdf](https://www.dpme.gov.za/keyfocusareas/outcomesSite/MTSF_2019_2024/2019-2024%20MTSF%20Executive%20Summary.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> [www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0441/P04414thQuarter2023.pdf](http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0441/P04414thQuarter2023.pdf)

communication, manufacturing, construction, and government services also helped keep the economy in positive territory (Statistics South Africa, 2023a).

As of the second quarter of 2024, South Africa's GDP increased by 0.4% year-on-year, following a stagnant 0.0% growth in the first quarter (an upward revision from a previously reported contraction). This modest recovery indicates slight improvement but remains significantly below the target growth rate necessary to meet the ambitious goal of 5% by 2030. The economy experienced marginal growth despite the suspension of load-shedding for over five months, an increase in business confidence, and government supply-side structural reforms aimed at addressing constraints to economic growth outcomes (Stats SA, 2024)

Figure 13: GDP Growth, Quarter 2:2024



Source: (Stats SA, 2024a)<sup>4</sup>.

The positive growth in the second quarter of 2024 was primarily driven by several key sectors. Seven of ten economic sectors recorded positive growth in gross value added between the first and second quarters of 2024. Household consumption emerged as the largest contributor to overall growth, reflecting renewed consumer confidence with an increase of 1.4%. The finance, real estate, and business services sectors also played a significant role, contributing an increase of 0.3% to GDP growth with a notable rise of 1.3% in this sector (Stats SA, 2024). Additionally, the electricity, gas, and water supply sector experienced remarkable growth of 3.1%, largely attributed to improved electricity generation due to repairs under the Generation Operational Recovery Plan (GRP). However, challenges persist in sectors such as agriculture, which faced a notable decline of approximately 2.1%, following a substantial increase earlier in the year, due to adverse weather conditions, rising feed costs and lingering animal diseases (foot-and-mouth disease).

<sup>4</sup> Gross domestic product: Second quarter 2024. STATISTICAL RELEASE P0441. Page 2. Retrieved from <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0441/P04412ndQuarter2024.pdf>

Table 1: Quarterly economic performance by industry

% change q/q	Agriculture	Mining	Manufacturing	Utilities*	Construction	Trade	Logistics**	Business services***	Government	Personal services	GDP
2022Q2	-11,4	-3,5	-5,7	-1,6	-1,9	-1,4	2,6	2,0	-1,3	0,2	-0,9
2022Q3	38,4	1,7	2,3	-2,8	3,2	1,6	3,3	1,0	0,5	-1,1	1,9
2022Q4	-5,5	-3,4	-2,0	-2,1	0,1	-2,6	0,7	-1,6	-0,6	-0,1	-1,4
2023Q1	-4,6	1,5	1,0	-0,9	0,9	1,0	1,2	0,8	0,4	0,6	0,6
2023Q2	3,4	0,5	2,3	-0,7	-0,2	-0,5	-1,3	0,4	0,6	1,5	0,7
2023Q3	-19,4	-0,7	-1,3	0,3	-3,3	-0,3	0,5	1,1	0,5	0,8	-0,4
2023Q4	-2,4	2,6	0,3	2,3	-1,5	-2,8	3,1	0,8	-0,5	0,9	0,3
2024Q1	13,5	-1,7	-1,4	-0,4	-3,1	0,3	-0,5	0,2	-0,1	0,1	0,0
2024Q2	-2,1	-0,8	1,1	3,1	0,5	1,2	-2,2	1,3	0,5	0,2	0,4

Source: Stats SA

\*Utilities includes electricity, gas and water

\*\*Logistics includes transport, storage and communication

\*\*\*Business services includes finance, real estate and business services

Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, (2024)<sup>5</sup>

The economy is forecast to grow by 1.1% in 2024, after expanding by just 0.4%cent in the first half of 2024, and is projected to grow by an annual average of 1.8% over the next three years.<sup>6</sup>

GDP per capita peaked in 2014 and has since been declining. This means that economic growth has been struggling to keep up with population growth. GDP per capita decreased in 2020 to a level last seen in 2005 (Stats SA, 2021, p.2).

Figure 14: GDP per Capita

<sup>5</sup> Quarterly Economic Brief: September 2024, No. 42. Page 4 Retrieved from [https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/PBO/Quarterly\\_Economic\\_Briefs/2024/4-september/16-09-2024/PBO\\_QEB\\_September\\_2024.pdf](https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/PBO/Quarterly_Economic_Briefs/2024/4-september/16-09-2024/PBO_QEB_September_2024.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> National Treasury. 2024. *2024 Budget Review and Economic Outlook*. Available at: <https://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/National%20Budget/2024/review/Chapter%202.pdf>

### South African GDP per capita declined in 2020 to a level last seen in 2005

GDP per capita in rands, constant 2010 prices



Sources: Gross domestic product (GDP), 4th quarter 2020 Mid-year population estimates, 2020



Source: Stats SA (2021)<sup>7</sup>

South Africa's fiscal position reflects deeply entrenched and complex debt dynamics, which were evident even before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Government has endeavoured to close the large gap between revenue and expenditure that emerged following the 2008 global financial crisis. Since then, rising expenditure, unmatched by revenue growth, has led to primary deficits and a sevenfold increase in public debt.

The 2024 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) projected the gross government debt to reach R5.2 trillion, or 73.9% of GDP, in 2023/24. Gross loan debt is expected to stabilise at 75.3% of GDP in 2025/26, slightly lower than the 77.7% projected in the 2023 MTBPS. Debt-service costs are expected to stabilise in the same year. The consolidated budget deficit will narrow from 5% of GDP in 2024/25 to 3.2% of GDP in 2027/28.<sup>8</sup>

Inflation has shown signs of decline recently, averaging around 3.8% as of September 2024, down from higher levels earlier in the year due to rising food and fuel prices. This easing inflationary pressure positively affects household purchasing power and consumer confidence moving forward. The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has adopted a cautious approach to monetary policy to balance inflation control with economic support.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=14074>

<sup>8</sup> National Treasury. 2024. *2024 Budget Review and Economic Outlook*. Available at: <https://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/National%20Budget/2024/review/Chapter%202.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> South African Reserve Bank. 2024. *Monetary Policy Review October 2024*. Available at: <https://www.resbank.co.za/content/dam/sarb/publications/monetary-policy-review/2024/MPROCT2024INTERNET.pdf>

	<p>South Africa faces significant challenges in achieving the NDP's goals of a R110 000 average income and 5.4% GDP growth by 2030. Despite a modest recovery in GDP growth to 0.4% in the second quarter of 2024, structural issues, including the energy crisis and high public debt, hinder progress. Unless comprehensive reforms are implemented, the country is likely to fall short of its economic aspirations.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Reducing Unemployment</b>
<i>Indicator :</i>	<i>Unemployment rate (Official), Number employed, Employment growth, Gap between target and actual employment, Average annual employment growth, Dependency ratio, Employment ratio, Labour force participation rate</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Official unemployment rate to decline to 6%, the number of employed citizens to increase to 24.7 million, employment growth from 2010 to 10.9 million, average annual growth to rise to 517 000, a decline to 2.5 on the employment ratio and a 61.0% increase in labour force participation.</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP envisions a significant reduction in unemployment, aiming for an official unemployment rate of 6% by 2030. To achieve this, the NDP focuses on stimulating economic growth, creating millions of new jobs, and enhancing skills development across the workforce.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>However, the South African economy continues to suffer from structural challenges, such as a low-skilled labour force and a high unemployment rate, which remain prevalent in rural areas and townships, where the majority of the country's population resides.</p> <p>In the second quarter of 2024, South Africa's official unemployment rate rose to 33.5%, up from 32.9% in the first quarter. This marks the highest unemployment figure since 2022, with 8.4 million unemployed individuals, an increase of 158 000 from the previous quarter. Concurrently, the number of employed persons decreased by 92 000, bringing total employment down to approximately 16.7 million. Significant job losses were observed in key sectors, particularly trade (down by 111 000 jobs) and agriculture (down by 45 000 jobs), highlighting vulnerabilities in these areas. The formal sector reported a decline in employment by 77 000 in the second quarter of 2024,</p>

<sup>10</sup> National Planning Commission. 2012. *National Development Plan: Vision for 2030*. Pretoria: Government Printer. Available at: [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201409/national-development-plan-vision-2030.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/national-development-plan-vision-2030.pdf).

contrasting with an increase in informal sector employment by 48.000 during the same period.<sup>11</sup>

Table 2: Key Labour Market Indicators

	Apr-Jun 2023	Jan-Mar 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				Per cent		
<b>Population 15–64 years</b>	40 746	41 158	41 296	137	550	0,3	1,4
<b>Labour force</b>	24 268	24 971	25 036	66	769	0,3	3,2
<b>Employed</b>	16 346	16 745	16 652	-92	306	-0,6	1,9
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	11 329	11 544	11 467	-77	138	-0,7	1,2
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	3 029	3 082	3 129	48	100	1,5	3,3
Agriculture	894	941	896	-45	1	-4,8	0,2
Private households	1 093	1 178	1 160	-18	67	-1,5	6,1
<b>Unemployed</b>	7 921	8 226	8 384	158	462	1,9	5,8
<b>Not economically active</b>	16 478	16 188	16 260	72	-218	0,4	-1,3
Discouraged work-seekers	3 182	3 048	3 195	147	13	4,8	0,4
Other (not economically active)	13 296	13 140	13 065	-75	-231	-0,6	-1,7
<b>Rates (%)</b>							
Unemployment rate	32,6	32,9	33,5	0,6	0,9		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	40,1	40,7	40,3	-0,4	0,2		
Labour force participation rate	59,6	60,7	60,6	-0,1	1,0		

Source: Stats SA 2024 <sup>12</sup>

Youth unemployment remains a pressing issue in South Africa, with rates soaring to 60.8% among individuals aged 15 to 24 years. The expanded unemployment rate, which includes discouraged job seekers, has risen to 42.6%, reflecting broader challenges within the labour market. Notably, the unemployment rate among the Black African population stands at 37.6%, significantly higher than the national average and the rates for other demographic groups (Stats SA, 2024, p5).

Gender disparities further complicate the employment landscape: the unemployment rate for women is currently 35.8%, compared to 31.5% for men. This data underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions to address both youth and gender-related unemployment challenges in South Africa (Stats SA, 2024, p3)

The NDP's ambitious targets of official unemployment of 6% and 24.7 million employed citizens by 2030 will require an average annual employment growth rate of 517 000 jobs. However, current trends indicate that employment growth remains insufficient to meet these

<sup>11</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) – Q2: 2024*. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/Media%20release%20QLFS%20Q2%202024.pdf>

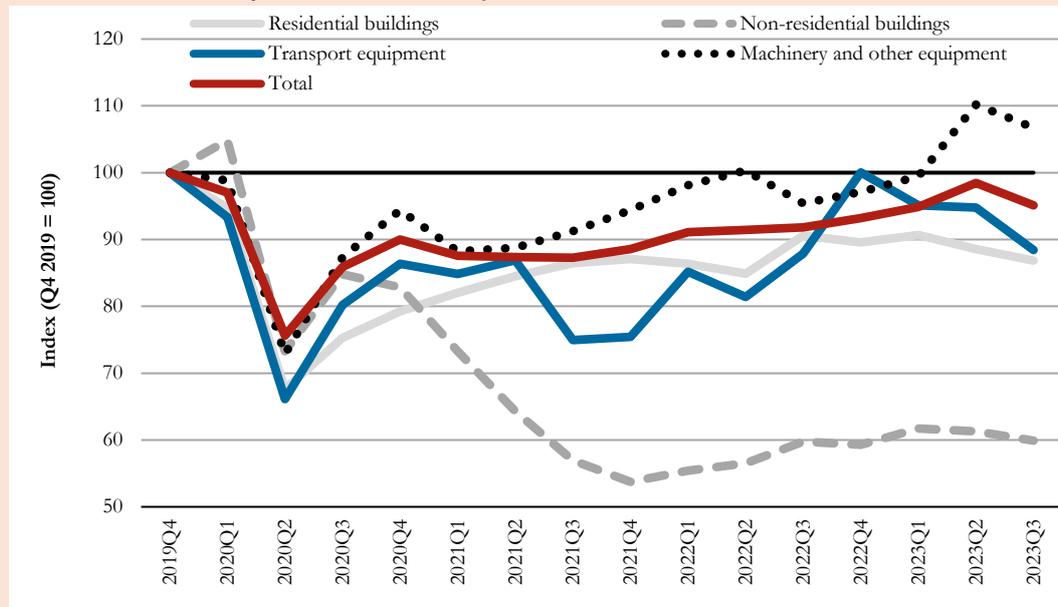
<sup>12</sup> Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) April to June 2024 (Q2: 2024). [https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page\\_id=1854&PPN=P0211&SCH=73893](https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=P0211&SCH=73893)

targets, with a net decline in employment observed across several sectors.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Increasing Investment by Government and the Private Sector</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP), Private sector investment (% of GDP), Public sector investment (% of GDP)
<b>Target:</b>	Gross fixed capital formation to reach 30% by 2030, with 20% and 10% increase in private sector investment and public sector investment as a percentage of GDP, respectively.

**Trend Analysis**  
 The NDP envisions increasing government and private sector investment to drive economic growth. To attain this, the NDP emphasises enhancing public infrastructure projects and creating a pro-investment climate to mobilise resources, strengthen private sector confidence, and support sustainable development goals by 2030.

Table 3: Quarterly Gross fixed capital formation



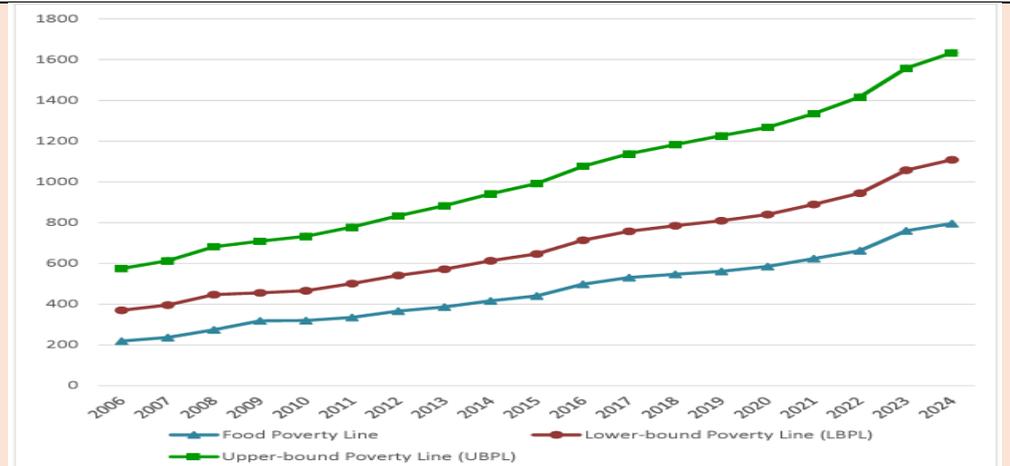
Source: National Treasury Budget Review 2024<sup>13</sup>

Currently, South Africa is underperforming on its investment targets as a share of GDP, which is significantly below the NDP's goal of achieving 30% in Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by 2030. After growing for seven consecutive quarters, gross fixed capital formation contracted by 3.4% in the third quarter of 2023 due to low business confidence and weaker growth. Machinery and equipment, the largest category of GFCF, is the only category fully recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic due to private sector investments in renewable energy. Investment growth is estimated to have slowed to 4.2% in 2023. It is expected to decline to 3.7% in 2024

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2024/review/FullBR.pdf>

	due to challenging business conditions, including high borrowing costs and low confidence. Machinery and equipment spending will benefit from renewable energy and Transnet’s port investments, supporting overall investment (South Africa National Treasury, 2024), p. 11).
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Poverty Reduction</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of the population living below the food poverty line (FPL), Percentage of people living below the lower-bound poverty line (LBPL), Percentage of people living below the upper-bound poverty line (UBPL), Percentage of people classed as poor using the South African multi-dimensional poverty index (SAMPI) headcount.</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>The NDP’s target was to have no people living both under the food poverty line and the lower-bound poverty line by 2030. However, there were no targets for the rest of the poverty indicators.</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP envisions a South Africa free from poverty and inequality by 2030, aiming to ensure no one lives below the food or lower-bound poverty lines. To achieve this vision, the NDP emphasises the need to create equal opportunities, improve access to quality education, healthcare, and social protection, and foster job creation to sustainably lift people out of poverty.</p> <p>The Food Poverty Line (FPL) has increased to R796 per person per month in 2024, up from R663 in 2012. This represents a substantial increase of approximately 20.04% from the base year. The FPL indicates the minimum amount needed for an individual to afford a basic nutritional diet. As of 2024, approximately 13.8 million South Africans are estimated to live below this line, reflecting ongoing challenges related to food insecurity (Stats SA, 2024, p3).</p> <p>The Lower-Bound Poverty Line (LBPL) has also seen a significant rise, now set at R1 109 per person per month compared to R810 in 2012. This increase represents a notable rise of approximately 37%. The LBPL includes essential non-food items and basic food needs and highlights the financial strain on households. Approximately 30% of the population is believed to live below this threshold (Statistics South Africa, 2024b, p3).</p> <p>Figure 3: Inflation-adjusted national poverty lines, 2006 to 2024 (per person per month in Rands)</p>



Source: Stats SA2024 <sup>14</sup> .

The Upper-Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) reached R1 634 in 2024, an increase from R1 227 in 2012, marking a rise of around 33%. This line reflects a broader measure of poverty, including food and non-food expenditures. Around 55% of South Africans are estimated to live below this line, indicating persistent economic hardship despite some improvements in income levels and social support systems (Stats SA, 2024, p3).

The South African Multidimensional Poverty Index (SAMPI) reveals a notable decline in multidimensional poverty over the years. In 2001, approximately 17.9% of the population was classified as multidimensionally poor. This figure decreased to 8% in 2011 and declined to 6.3% by 2021, indicating significant progress in improving access to essential services across various dimensions, including health, education, and living standards. Additionally, 12.2% of the population was identified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty in 2021, highlighting the risk faced by those who are not currently classified as poor but may fall into poverty due to various deprivations. Despite these improvements, the average intensity of deprivation among those classified as multidimensionally poor remains around 42%, suggesting that while fewer individuals are affected, those who are, still face considerable challenges.<sup>15</sup>

The NDP emphasises that no political democracy can thrive if a significant portion of the population remains in poverty. Achieving the

<sup>14</sup> National Poverty Lines 2024. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa.  
<https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03101/P031012024.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *South African Multidimensional Poverty Index (SAMPI) Report 2021*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03101/P031012021.pdf>

NDP's goals will, therefore, require sustained efforts to address both income disparities and multidimensional aspects of poverty through comprehensive policies that enhance economic opportunities and improve access to essential services. The current statistics underscore the need for continued investment in social safety nets and targeted interventions to uplift the most vulnerable populations as South Africa strives toward its ambitious poverty reduction targets.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Equity</b>																						
<b>Indicator :</b>	<i>Reduce income inequality (Gini income measure) and (Gini expenditure measure) and share of income going to the bottom 40%.</i>																						
<b>Target:</b>	<i>To reach an income inequality of 0.6% and a 10% target for the share of income going to the bottom 40% by 2030.</i>																						
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP envisions a more equitable South Africa by 2030, aiming to reduce income inequality from a Gini coefficient of 0.69 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. This goal includes improving the income share of the bottom 40% of the population, with a target of at least 10% of national income. By fostering a fairer resource distribution, the NDP seeks to support inclusive economic growth and reduce societal disparities.</p> <p>Figure 15: Income distribution by decile 2015</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Income distribution by decile: 2015</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Decile</th> <th>Percentage of Total Income</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>0.6</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>1.1</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>1.5</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>2.1</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>2.9</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>4.1</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9.7</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>18.1</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>53.9</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Living Conditions Survey: 2015</p> <p>Figure 4 illustrates income distribution by decile in 2015, where the top 10% of the population controlled 53.9% of the total income, while the bottom 10% held only 0.6%. This stark contrast underscores the concentration of wealth in the hands of a small percentage of the population.<sup>16</sup></p>	Decile	Percentage of Total Income	1	0.6	2	1.1	3	1.5	4	2.1	5	2.9	6	4.1	7	6	8	9.7	9	18.1	10	53.9
Decile	Percentage of Total Income																						
1	0.6																						
2	1.1																						
3	1.5																						
4	2.1																						
5	2.9																						
6	4.1																						
7	6																						
8	9.7																						
9	18.1																						
10	53.9																						

<sup>16</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2015. *Living Conditions Survey 2015*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03101/P031012015.pdf>.

Table 3: Dynamics of inequality in South Africa

Population Group	Population share	Households share	Median income	Mean Income
Black African	80.4	80.4	R9 186	R25 249
Coloured	8.8	7.2	R16 878	R44 637
Indian	2.5	2.3	R37 561	R36 910
White	8.3	10.0	R100 205	R163 359

Living Conditions Survey 2015

Table 3 highlights further income disparities, indicating that White households had a median income of R100 205, in contrast to the R9 186 median for Black African households, emphasising the historical effects of apartheid on economic inequality (Stats SA, 2015, p12).

South Africa's progress toward the targets set by the NDP has been slow. According to Stats SA's Inequality Trends in South Africa report, South Africa remains one of the world's most unequal countries, with a per-capita expenditure Gini coefficient of 0.67 in 2006, declining slightly to 0.65 by 2015. Despite efforts such as social grants benefiting nearly 45% of the population, over half of South Africans still live in poverty, and inequality remains high. The 2019-24 MTSF aimed to lower the Gini coefficient to 0.66 by 2024, but achieving the NDP's goal of a Gini coefficient of 0.60 by 2030 will require accelerated economic growth and effective policy implementation. Without significant collective action across all sectors and addressing income and asset inequality reaching these targets remains uncertain.<sup>17</sup>

Inequality remains unchanged from 2015/16 as no new estimates are available from Statistics SA.

Goal:	Exports Growth
Indicator:	Exports growth (constant rand), Non-traditional exports growth (non-mining based), Mining/metals exports
Target:	The NDP targets an average annual growth in total export volumes of 6% a year to 2030, with growth in non-traditional export volumes of 10% a year. This should result in the share of world exports almost doubling to close to 1% by 2030.

<sup>17</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *Inequality Trends in South Africa: A Multidimensional Diagnostic of Inequality*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03101/P031012024.pdf>

Trend Analysis	<p>The NDP envisages the expansion and active promotion of demand for South African products in domestic and foreign markets. To do this, the share of exports in South African output has to rise and the profile become more diverse, with a growing portion of non-mineral manufactures and services and a greater proportion of exports being directed to emerging markets.</p> <p>South Africa recorded a current account surplus in 2020, the first surplus in nearly 20 years estimated at 2.0% of GDP. In 2021, higher global commodity prices bolstered South Africa's terms of trade as the value of exports grew faster than that of imports. This led to the trade surplus reaching 3.7% of GDP. South Africa's trade surplus grew to R187 billion in the second quarter of 2024, up from R166 billion in the first quarter, driven by an increase in merchandise and net gold exports exceeding imports.<sup>18</sup></p> <p>Export volumes increased by 7.4% in 2022, modestly by 3.5 % in 2023, and are projected to increase by 3.4% in 2024 and 3.7% in 2025. The unit value index shows an annual rate of change of 1.3% for exported commodities and of 0.8% for imported commodities in August 2024.<sup>19</sup></p> <p>In the second quarter of 2024, merchandise exports rose by 1.7%, led by gains in mining (platinum metals, base metals) and manufacturing (chemicals, machinery, food, and beverages). Agricultural exports fell, mainly due to lower maize and hide values. Merchandise imports rose 2.6%, led by increased agriculture (rice and wheat) and manufacturing imports (vehicles, transport equipment, textiles). Vehicle import growth included passenger vehicles and parts for export-oriented manufacturing (Stats SA, 2024, p5).</p> <p>Net exports contributed -0.6 % to GDP, following a decrease of 0.4% in exports and an increase of 1.7% in imports during the same period.</p>
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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE)

<sup>18</sup> South African Reserve Bank. 2024. *Quarterly Bulletin: Current Account and Trade Surplus*. Pretoria: South African Reserve Bank. Available at: <https://www.resbank.co.za/content/dam/sarb/publications/quarterly-bulletins/current-account/2024/QB2024.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *Export and Import Unit Value Indices – August 2024*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P01427/P01427August2024.pdf>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improved and efficient regulatory authority, Certainty in the energy mix and pricing path, Improved access, and competition to reduce cost, Improved maintenance of distribution capacity of municipalities</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Electricity availability factor (EAF)</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>The NDP proposed that 20 000 MW of renewable energy capacity should be procured by 2030, and overall, the new power capacity built by 2030 was expected to be 40 000 MW.</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP envisages a situation where South Africa can produce sufficient energy to support industry at competitive prices, ensuring access for poor households while reducing carbon emissions per unit of power by about one-third. To achieve part of the target, the Integrated Resource Plan stipulates that 11,000MW of coal-fired power must be decommissioned by 2030 and 26,000MW of renewables must be constructed by 2030.</p> <p>Since 2002, there has been a notable increase in access to mains electricity, rising from 76,7% to 89.8%. This access increased from 86.4% to 94.6% for households in formal dwellings, while for those in informal dwellings, it rose from 52.3% to 58.3%. This improved access to electricity has significant effects on households. The proportion of households utilising electricity as their primary energy source for cooking rose from 57.5% to 76.9%. Conversely, the use of paraffin decreased to 2.5% from 16%, and the reliance on wood or coal dropped from 23% to 8.1%. Gas usage rose from 2.2% to 6.8%.<sup>20</sup></p> <p>However, due to load shedding, households resorted to a variety of alternative energy sources for cooking and lighting. Nationally, 29.0% utilised LPG/Gas, while 23.1% relied on open fires fuelled by wood, coal, and charcoal.</p> <p>The MTSF set an EAF target of 80% against the 2019 baseline of 73.74%. Over the MTSF period, the EAF performance declined, reaching 66.64% in March 2020 and 54.60% by the end of February 2024. For the year-to-date (01 April 2024 to 19 September 2024) the EAF is at 63.5%, a significant improvement of 8.3% compared to the same period last year (55.18%).<sup>21</sup></p>

<sup>20</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2021. *General Household Survey 2021*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182021.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> Biannual and Closeout Report of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (2019 – 2024). The Department Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Priority 2: Economy and Job Creation, Page 10, Section 2.

	<p>The Unplanned Capacity Loss Factor (UCLF) continues to be on a downward trend at 25.4% for the financial year to date (01 April 2024 to 19 September 2024), improving from 34.5% in the corresponding period last year. Implementation of the Eskom Generation Recovery Plan is underway, and 2 865MW has been recovered against the target of 3 115MW by 31 March 2024. The recovery plan aims to improve the EAF to 70% and to recover 6 000MW by March 2025.<sup>22</sup></p> <p>According to the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2019, a total of 28 584MW of new capacity would be required from varied sources, with 20 400MW from renewable energy sources (solar PV, wind) by 2030. South Africa’s renewable energy capacity has reached approximately 6 300MW in wind, solar, biomass, and small hydropower under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme. Additionally, over 5 800MW of this capacity is currently operational. This capacity is primarily provided through private sector investment, with recent rounds of bidding expected to add an extra 6 800MW over the next several years as part of the country's strategy to increase renewable energy integration and reduce reliance on coal (Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, 2019).<sup>23</sup></p> <p>According to the 2023 South African Energy Report produced by the Department of Mineral Resources, South Africa’s energy supply is dominated by coal, which accounts for 82% of the primary energy supply, followed by crude oil at 9% and nuclear at 4%. Natural gas contributed 3% while renewables and electricity contributed 1% each, respectively to the total primary supply (Mokwena and Nembahe, 2023).<sup>24</sup></p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improved access, efficiency, and cost of transport</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of goods transported by road and rail and proportion of the population using public transport</i>

<sup>22</sup> Eskom. 2024. *Loadshedding remains suspended for 177 days, due to ongoing structural improvements in the generation fleet*. Available at: <https://www.eskom.co.za/loadshedding-suspension-remains-for-177-days-due-to-ongoing-structural-improvements-in-the-generation-fleet-achieving-efficiencies-of-r11-92-billion-in-year-on-year-reduction-on-diesel-expenditure/>

<sup>23</sup> Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. 2019. *Integrated Resource Plan 2019*. Pretoria: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. Available at: <https://www.dmr.gov.za/publications/irp-2019.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. 2023. *South African Energy Report 2023*. Pretoria: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. Available at: <https://www.dmr.gov.za/publications/energy-report-2023>.

Target:	<i>The NDP envisaged a transport system that was “reliable, economical, with smooth flowing corridors linking its various modes of transport and a public transport system that could bridge geographic distances affordably, and foster reliability and safety.”</i>
Trend Analysis	<p>The NDP envisages that, by 2030, the transport sector investments will enhance affordable access to economic opportunities, support goods movement for growth, facilitate regional and international trade, and promote a low-carbon economy through sustainable transport options.</p> <p>According to Stats SA, passenger journeys increased by 11.6% in August 2024 compared with August 2023. The corresponding income increased by 7.3% over the same period. Seasonally adjusted passenger journeys increased by 0.2% in the three months ended August 2024 compared with the previous three months. Rail passenger journeys increased by 25.3% (contributing 4,6 percentage points) while road passenger journeys decreased by 5.3% (contributing -4.3 percentage points).<sup>25</sup></p> <p>Almost 87% of freight is moved by road and 13% by rail, reflecting a significant imbalance in the freight transport system and the lack of ability to implement the road-to-rail strategy in line with government policy. The volume of goods transported (payload) decreased by 6.7% in August 2024 compared with August 2023. The corresponding income decreased by 2,7% over the same period (Stats SA, 2024).</p> <p>In the three months ending August 2024, income from freight transportation decreased by 1.6% compared to the same period in 2023. This decline was primarily driven by a significant drop of 11.2% in the "other" freight category, which alone contributed a 2.4 percentage point reduction. Additionally, the transport of primary agricultural and forestry products decreased by 7.4%, contributing a further 0.5 percentage point to the overall decline (Stats SA, 2024).</p> <p>On the positive side, containers and commercial products notably boost freight transportation income. Container freight increased by 13.7%, adding 0.6 percentage points, while commercial products rose by 22.8%, contributing an additional 0.5 percentage points to the overall income.</p>

<sup>25</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. Passenger Transportation Statistics: August 2024. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P7162/P7162August2024.pdf>

Goal:	Water Resources and Water Usage
Indicator:	<i>Percentage of population with access to clean drinking water</i>
Target:	<i>By 2030, the aim is to have effective and evolving water management and services to support a strong economy and a healthy environment.</i>
Trend Analysis	<p>The NDP envisages that effective water management and the services derived from it will support a strong economy and a healthy environment. This includes reliable water supply, efficient agricultural water use, the protection of natural water sources, affordable, reliable access to sufficient, safe water, and hygienic sanitation.</p> <p>According to the report on the State of South African Households published by Stats SA, the improvement in housing quality is evident in the availability of drinking water. Between 2002 and 2023, the percentage of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site, increased by 2.6 percentage points to 87.0%. Households with access to piped water in their dwellings rose from 40.4% to 45.2%. The percentage of households with access to municipal water increased from 78.4% in 2004 to 80.4% in 2023, an increase of 6 million households.<sup>26</sup></p> <p>Access to improved sanitation (flush toilets and pit toilets with ventilation pipes) increased from 61.7% in 2002 to 83.3% in 2023 (Stats SA, 2023).</p> <p>For the 2022/23 hydrological year, the dam levels for all provinces were above the long-term median storage levels. The current national average groundwater level status indicates a recovery trend from below normal in 2019 to above normal in May 2023. This can be attributed to the above-normal rainfall received in the current and previous years, which has significantly recharged aquifers, now showing above-normal risk percentile levels (DWS, 2023a).<sup>27</sup></p> <p>In 2023, in terms of climatic conditions, South Africa's average temperature was 0.4 °C above the 1991-2020 norm, marking it the</p>

<sup>26</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2023. General Household Survey 2023: State of South African Households. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182023.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> Department of Water and Sanitation. 2023. National State of Water Report 2023. Pretoria: Department of Water and Sanitation. Available at: <https://www.dws.gov.za/Projects/National%20State%20of%20Water%20Report/Documents/National%20State%20of%20Water%20Report%202023-%20Groundwater%207.pdf>.

	<p>eighth hottest year since 1951. A significant warming trend of 0.17 °C per decade has been observed from 1951 to 2023.</p> <p>While the above is notable, the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) estimates that South Africa will have a water deficit of between 1.6 - 2.7 billion cubic metres of water (roughly 17%) by 2030. According to a recent No Drop Benchmarking Report by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), non-revenue (i.e. unpaid for) water currently accounts for 47.4% of water that enters the water supply system. The report also indicates that avoidable water losses are estimated at 40.8% of water entering the supply system (DWS), 2023b).<sup>28</sup></p> <p>While the agricultural sector remains the largest water consumer, with approximately 64% usage, DWS has introduced a revised pricing strategy to promote effective and efficient water management to support equitable and sustainable economic growth and social development in line with the overarching goals of the 2023 NWRS. The strategy also considers municipalities, hydropower, high assurance use, stream flow reduction activities, and industry and mining in the revisions (DWS), 2023b).<sup>29</sup></p>
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## INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE RURAL ECONOMY

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Integrated and Inclusive Rural Economy</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Total agricultural employment, Land reform progress, Tenure granted to new and existing communal farmers, Number of women and young people gaining access to land</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>The NDP set a target of 20% of commercial agricultural land to be transferred by 2030</i>
Trend Analysis	<p>The NDP envisages better integration of the country's rural areas, which is achieved through successful land reform, infrastructure development, job creation and poverty alleviation.</p> <p>The agriculture sector proved relatively resilient amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The sector contributed 0.3 percentage points to real GDP growth in 2020 and was one of only two sectors with increasing gross value added (GVA) in the year. The nominal growth in primary</p>

<sup>28</sup> Department of Water and Sanitation. 2023. NoDrop Benchmarking Report 2023. Pretoria: Department of Water and Sanitation. Available at: <https://www.dws.gov.za/publications/NoDropBenchmarkingReport2023.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> Department of Water and Sanitation. 2023. National Water Resource Strategy 2023. Pretoria: Department of Water and Sanitation. Available at: <https://www.dws.gov.za/NWRS/NationalWaterResourceStrategy2023.pdf>

agriculture increased by 8.9% per annum since 2010, while the entire South Africa's economy increased by 6.3% over the same period, resulting in an increase of agriculture's share to the GDP from 2.0% in 2010 to 2.7% in 2022 (Statistics South Africa, 2023c).<sup>30</sup>

The agricultural sector's real GVA contracted by 2.1% in the second quarter of 2024, following an expansion of 13.5% in the first quarter. The decrease reflected the lower production of field crops and animal products. Adverse weather conditions and persistent outbreaks of animal diseases over the period constrained agricultural activity. Consequently, the average level of real agricultural output in the first half of 2024 was 10.1% lower than in the corresponding period of 2023 (Stats SA, 2024, p5).

According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), the agricultural sector experienced a 17.9% year-on-year growth in employment between the second quarters of 2022 and 2023. This was the fastest growth of any sector, following a decline of almost 12% in the first quarter of 2023. Between the first and second quarters of 2024, the number of employed persons in the agricultural sector decreased by 45 000 (Statistics South Africa, 2024c).<sup>31</sup>

The NDP proposes the redistribution and restitution of approximately 20% of private commercial farmland by 2030. Of the 23.5 million hectares committed to land reform in the NDP, South Africa has achieved 16.07 million hectares, or 69.1% (67% in September 2020), by August 2021.

Since the inception of its land redistribution and tenure reform programme, the state acquired over 5.2 million hectares (ha) at the cost of about R20 billion. There are over 2.3 million ha acquired and allocated to farmers through leasehold in terms of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy, with an asset value of about R12 billion (DALRRD), 2023).<sup>32</sup> This delivery translates to a 32% contribution towards the NDP target of 16.4 million ha by 2030. The 2019-24 MTSF set a target of 900 000 ha for acquisition, of which over 170

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<sup>30</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *Gross Domestic Product, Fourth Quarter 2023*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0441/P04411stQuarter2024.pdf>.

<sup>31</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *Quarterly Labour Force Survey: Q2 2024*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02112Q22024.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2023. *Agricultural Land Redistribution Report*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0341/P03412023.pdf>

	<p>000 are currently being acquired for redistribution and tenure reform, translating to 19%.</p> <p>To accelerate land redistribution and tenure reform during the 2021/22 financial year, 58 000 ha were acquired through land redistribution and tenure reform programmes. The acquired land continued to benefit previously disadvantaged individuals, particularly women, with 20 358 ha allocated to women and youth, amounting to 52% of the total 39 037 ha allocated. (DALRRD), 2023)<sup>33</sup></p>
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## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Reduction in total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, Renewable energy (RE) – total existing, RE – generation capacity, Protecting biodiversity</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>No Target</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Chapter five of the NDP envisages that, by 2030, South Africa will have made headway in transitioning to an environmentally sustainable, climate change resilient, low-carbon, and just society. In this regard, the NDP prioritises efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, greater focus on renewable energy, and the protection of biodiversity.</p> <p>The draft 9th GHG Inventory Report indicates that South Africa’s GHG emissions were 489 748 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2000, which decreased by 2.2% to 478 888 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2022. This excludes land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF). Overall emissions, including LULUCF, were 435 828 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022, which had decreased by 5.5% since 2000 from 462 205 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e. The Energy sector was the largest contributor to the overall emissions (excl. LULUCF) in 2022, comprising 78% of total emissions, with the industrial processes and product use sector contributing 6.4%. The LULUCF</p>

<sup>33</sup> Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. 2023. Annual Performance Plan 2023 to 2024. Pretoria: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Available at: [https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/phocadownloadpap/Annual\\_Performance\\_Plans/Annual%20Performance%20Plan%202023%20to%202024.pdf](https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/phocadownloadpap/Annual_Performance_Plans/Annual%20Performance%20Plan%202023%20to%202024.pdf).

sector increased its sink by 56.3% since 2000 and 17.9% since 2020. The waste sector contributed 4% overall (DFFE, 2024b)<sup>34</sup>.

The country has, over the years, implemented a strategy for expanding its conservation estate towards levels which will ensure adequate protection of biodiversity. A land area equating to a minimum of 0.5% of South Africa's total land area is added to the protected area network annually.<sup>35</sup> However, the current protected area network is still inadequate for sustaining biodiversity and ecological processes. This is largely due to the fact that only 22% of terrestrial ecosystem types are well protected, and 35% are completely unprotected (DFFE, 2024a).<sup>36</sup>

South Africa is considered one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world due to its species diversity, rate of endemism and diverse ecosystems. Although its endemism rates are about 56% for amphibians, 65% for plants and up to 70% for invertebrates, its Red List Index shows an overall negative trend since 2007, with species becoming more threatened over time. The decline is happening unequally with freshwater fish and butterflies declining at a faster rate.<sup>37</sup>

According to the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the loss of taxation in South Africa is a result of competition from invasive plant species (40%), crop cultivation (33%), urban development (20%) and habitat degradation due to overgrazing (11%). Marine species are threatened by over-harvesting, discharge of industrial effluents into the water systems, and climate change. Since South Africa has a high rate of endemism, loss of biodiversity may lead to the extinction of some species globally.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *Draft 9th National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report for the Republic of South Africa for Public Comment*. Pretoria: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Available at: [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/202405/50607gon4772.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202405/50607gon4772.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES)*. Pretoria: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Available at: [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalprotected\\_areasexpansion\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalprotected_areasexpansion_strategy.pdf).

<sup>36</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *Environment Outlook: Chapter 7 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health*. Pretoria: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Available at: [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/environmentoutlook\\_chapter7.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/environmentoutlook_chapter7.pdf).

<sup>37</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *State of South Africa's Biodiversity Report*. Available at: [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/state\\_of\\_biodiversity\\_report.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/state_of_biodiversity_report.pdf).

<sup>38</sup> South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). 2023. *Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Report*. Available at: <https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/>

	<p>Most of South Africa’s electrical energy in 2023/24 was generated from coal (82.8% of total system demand), with renewable energy providing 8.8%. The system could not provide 2.2% of the electricity demand resulting in loadshedding. Although no additional utility-scale installed generation capacity was added in 2023/24, The first half of the current financial year (2024/25) was marked by an absence of loadshedding.<sup>39</sup></p> <p>Annual electricity production from coal as a percentage of total production continued to decrease in 2023, with a corresponding increase in unserved energy. The downward trend in national energy requirements is evident through decreased electricity peak demand and energy production since 2010. Although renewable energy installed capacity and energy production are increasing, they constitute a small portion of the total capacity and energy mix (CRSES, 2024).</p> <p>Furthermore, in terms of policy responses to climate change, government promulgated the Carbon Tax Act in 2019, passed the Climate Change Bill in Parliament in 2024 and is piloting a climate budget tagging system.</p> <p>The carbon tax gives effect to the polluter-pays-principle and helps to ensure that firms and consumers take the negative adverse costs (externalities) of climate change into account in their future production, consumption, and investment decisions. It was introduced in a phased manner to allow businesses to make the necessary structural adjustments to their production processes and practices to ensure a just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. The Carbon Tax Act specified an initial rate of R120 per tonne, which would increase by consumer price inflation +2% per year until 2022, after which it would increase only by CPI. The current carbon tax rate is R190 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The carbon fuel levy increased to 11 cents per litre for petrol and 14 cents per litre for diesel from 3 April 2024.<sup>40</sup></p> <p>Although the President signed the Climate Change Act into law on 23 July 2024, it has not come into effect yet. The Act aims to develop and implement an effective national climate change response, including mitigation and adaptation actions that will give effect to</p>
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<sup>39</sup> Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES). 2024. SA Energy Made Visual. Available at: <https://www.crses.sun.ac.za/sa-energy-stats/>.

<sup>40</sup> South African Revenue Service (SARS). 2024. Carbon Tax. Available at: <https://www.sars.gov.za/customs-and-excise/excise/environmental-levy-products/carbon-tax/>.

South Africa's fair contribution to the global climate change response, places a legal obligation on every organ of the state to harmonise their various policies, plans, and processes relating to climate change to ensure that the of climate change risks and impacts are considered. It also establishes the Presidential Climate Commission to coordinate the inputs by organised labour, civil society, and business and to provide advice on the country's climate change response.

Between October 2020 and June 2024, the National Treasury and World Bank piloted a Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) project that incorporated climate and just transition considerations into the budget and planning processes to establish a conducive regulatory, policy and institutional environment that enables efficient response to climate change. The project tracks and monitors climate change-relevant expenditure in the public budget system, providing the credible expenditure data required for public planning and budgeting processes. The pilot process included awareness-raising workshops, reviewing international experience on CBT practice, conducting capacity needs assessments, developing design options, and engaging stakeholders in all spheres of government on design choices. The draft CBT system was designed and tested in eight pilot sites across selected national and provincial government departments, and metropolitan and local municipalities. Tagging will be rolled out in a phased approach, as some sectors are affected more than others. Direct investments into adaptation, mitigation and dual-benefit projects are being tracked.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Mokoro. 2024. *Climate Budget Tagging in South Africa*. Available at: <https://mokoro.co.uk/project/climate-budget-tagging-in-south-africa/>.

## BUILDING HUMAN CAPABILITIES

The NDP draws extensively on the notion of capabilities and takes an approach to change, which views developing human capabilities through education, skills, innovation, and social protection as key elements of overall development. Together with raising employment through faster growth and building the state's capability, these three elements will transform the economy and society. This section provides an overview of the progress towards developing human capabilities. It focuses on early childhood development (ECD), basic education, post-school education and training (PSET), health and social protection. The indicators in this section provide the empirical data, which show the progress or lack thereof in the last financial year 2023/24, where data is available and indicate whether or not we are on course to reach the NDP 2030 targets. There have been challenges with sourcing the latest data, for example, the latest School Monitoring Survey is not in the public domain hence we are using the School Monitoring Survey 2017/18 report. In addition, the DHET Annual Report 2023/24 is also not publicly available.

### EDUCATION

The NDP acknowledges education as a human right and a force for social cohesion against the backdrop of the divisions and inequalities produced by South Africa's colonial and apartheid past. The NDP further focuses on the role of education in the economy and refers to it as 'the single most important investment any country can make.' The importance of education in eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, growing the economy by an average of 5.4%, and cutting the unemployment rate to 6% by 2030 cannot be over-emphasised.

#### Early Childhood Development

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strengthen the capability of learners entering the education system</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of learners entering quality preschool education</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Two years of compulsory schooling for all 4- and 5-year-olds by 2030</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	The General Household Survey (GHS) data is not disaggregated for the different age groups in a similar manner every year, hence it is difficult to compare over time. In 2013, the percentage of four-year-old children attending ECD facilities was 74.4% (GHS 2014, Stats SA). While the percentage fluctuated over time, there was a marginal increase in 2019 to 74.7% (GHS 2020, Stats SA). This raises some concern as the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (NIECD)

	<p>was adopted in 2015, and by 2019, there was no real increase in access for four-year-old children. The ECD function was shifted from the Department of Social Development (DSD) to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in April 2022.</p> <p>Regarding the percentage of five-year-old children attending ECD facilities, attendance was 87% in 2017 (GHS, 2017), and 92,7% in 2019 (GHS, 2020). This reflected a 4.7% increase over three years. As a result of Covid-19 lockdown policies, attendance was reported to have significantly decreased to 56.6% in 2020. In addition, there could also be methodological issues related to the collection of data in the 2020 GHS regarding sampling, coverage, and response.</p> <p>The DBE's <i>25-year Review and 2020 Action Plan to 2024: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030</i> shows similar levels of ECD facility attendance by four- and five-year-olds.</p> <p>Despite a temporary setback caused by the reported declines in the percentage of ECD attendance by four- and five-year-olds, the target of all children of these ages attending ECD facilities is achievable by 2030. The 2022 GHS reports that access for three- to five-year-olds is at 68%. This average mask the low proportion of three-year-olds attending an ECD facility.</p> <p>According to the DBE, the percentage of 5-year-olds attending educational institutions has increased from about 40% in 2002 to almost 90%. This means that for 5-year-olds, the NPC target will probably be met by 2030 (DBE Annual Report p6).</p> <p>The Thrive by Five Index Report, released in 2022, surveys the proportion of children enrolled in early learning programmes (ELPs) who are on track for their age in key areas of development. The findings of the composite index show that 57% of children attending an ELP are not on track for cognitive and/or physical development. This has implications for school readiness and will also impact progress through school. The findings on the early learning component showed that 45% of South African children attending an ELP are on track. However, the remaining 55% of children cannot undertake the learning tasks expected of children their age, with 28% of children falling far behind the expected standard. This is of concern as it indicates that the quality of ELPs needs to be addressed. The next iteration of the Thrive by Index Report is being undertaken in 2024. The data will be available in 2025.</p>
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## Education, Training and Innovation

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Higher quality delivery in the classroom</i>

<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Time spent in a classroom</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>No NDP target</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>The indicator above is intended to reflect on the improvements in education quality, particularly at the classroom level. In this case, there is no NDP target. On average, in South Africa, teachers spend 66% of the time on actual teaching and learning (the equivalent of 40 minutes out of a 60-minute lesson) and 17% of classroom time on keeping order in the classroom (the equivalent of 10 minutes out of a 60-minute lesson) (DBE, 2020)</p> <p>The international average time spent teaching is 78%. This reflects no change over the preceding year.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Higher quality delivery in the classroom</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Improved learner-educator ratio</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>No NDP target</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>The basic education sector faces numerous challenges, including increased numbers of learners, fewer teachers being employed, and posts not being filled once a teacher resigns as a result of the above-inflation wage increases. This has many negative effects, such as larger class sizes, which have led to higher learner-educator (LE) ratios in the latter period of the review period. The 2018 Technical Report based on the 2017-2018 School Monitoring Survey, which is conducted every five years, indicates that on aggregate, LE ratios increased between 2003 and 2017, particularly in primary schools. However, in the initial period between 2003 and 2010, the average (primary and secondary schools) LE ratio declined from a high of 34:1 in 2003 to a low of 31:1 in 2010 before returning to just under 33:1 in 2016. For primary schools, the LE ratio decreased from 35:1 in 2003 to a low of 32:1 in 2012, which increased to just above 34 in 2017. By 2021, the LE ratio reached a high of 33.5:1 in primary schools and 32.2:1 student to one teacher in secondary schools. This upward trend is of concern as it impacts the quality of education.</p> <p>Another factor contributing to the high LE ratios is grade repetition. The report shows that grade repetition rates remain high, particularly in the foundation phase. Around 15% of learners repeat Grade 1, while the figure is around 10% for Grades 2 and 3. This contributes to higher class sizes. Although no NDP target exists for this indicator, the DBE should address the increasing LE ratios. There is no updated data for a progress update.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Higher quality delivery in the classroom</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of schools meeting minimum standards for infrastructure (sanitation, water, electricity, libraries, and laboratories)</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>All schools must meet minimum standards of infrastructure</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>Based on the 2017-2018 School Monitoring Survey data, which covered the period from 2011 to 2017, the national compliance of schools with nationally determined minimum physical infrastructure standards was 59%. While this shows no progress on aggregate between 2011 and 2017, infrastructure at some schools would have improved and deteriorated at others. Provincially, Gauteng was at 92% and the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal were at 42% in 2017. The country seems unlikely to achieve this NDP target unless the DBE accelerates its efforts to ensure all schools comply with the minimum standards for infrastructure related to water, electricity, libraries, and laboratories.</p> <p>During the 2019-24 MTSF, 139 infrastructure projects were completed. One school was completed in the 2023/24 financial year. An additional 122 Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative projects were completed and handed over for use (cumulatively 337 by 2024) ((DBE, 2023), p38).</p> <p>Of the 22 511 schools, 57% have waterborne systems, 38% have VIP, 12% have pit latrines, and 13% have Enviro Loo. About 48% have municipal supply, 34% have boreholes, 46% use rainwater harvesting, 12% use municipal communal, and 6% use mobile tankers (DBE Annual Report 2023/24 p30).</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Build effective leadership at school and at district levels</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of schools with School Governing Bodies</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>No NDP target</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>Although there is no NDP target for this indicator, which does not measure quality but focuses on the percentage of schools with school governing bodies (SGBs), the country is doing well, with 97.05% of schools reported to have SGBs (2017-2018 Technical Report: School Monitoring Survey). The NPC could consider strengthening this indicator by including a clear target and criteria that measure quality, such as assessing the effective management of the SGBs.</p>

	The percentage of SGBs that meet the minimum criteria in terms of effectiveness is 96.5% or 965 of the 1000 sampled schools (DBE Annual Report, p97).
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Improve the quality of teaching at TVET colleges and align it with the industry's needs</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of TVET lecturers who are qualified pedagogically (difficult to measure) and professionally (this could be possible to measure)</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>No NDP target</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	Although there is no NDP target for this indicator, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) set an annual target of 65%. In assessing progress toward the set target, the department achieved 59% of lecturers who graduated or qualified pedagogically in 2021/22. Without an NDP target and a baseline, the NPC should take the lead from DHET and consider setting a target for 2030. According to the DHET, 21 universities across South Africa offered accredited TVET college lecturing qualifications in 2021. In addition, and measured against the set target of 250 lecturers, 118 TVET college lecturers were supported during the 2021 academic year in acquiring professional qualifications (DHET, 2023, p95).

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Improve the quality of teaching at TVET colleges and aligning it with industry's needs</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>TVET and artisan programme throughput rates</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>30 000</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	The DHET's 2022 Annual Report and the Statistics on PSET in South Africa report (DHET) show increases in the number of learners enrolling in artisanal programmes between 2012 and 2019. Enrolment increased from 15 000 in 2012 to 21 000 in 2019. The figures for 2021 and 2022 were significantly lower at 10 302 and 10 376, respectively. This sudden decline between 2019 and 2020 could largely be ascribed to the Covid-19 lockdown policy. While the 2030 NDP target is achievable despite the regression between 2019 and 2020, the NPC might want to revisit the target given the ambitious infrastructure plans. In the 2022/23 financial year, 20 062 learners completed artisanal learning programmes, a 2.7% (526) increase compared with the 2021/22 financial year (19 536). The Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) (1 640), the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing Sector Training Authority (FP&M SETA) (465), and

	INDLELA, the National Artisan Development Programme (148) were the main contributors to the growth.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Improve the quality of teaching in the PSET sector</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of university academic staff with PhDs</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>5000</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>The higher education sector increased the number of academic staff with PhDs from 1500 in 2012 to 3000 in 2019 (DHET Fact Sheet, 2020). In 2018, the percentage of staff with doctorates as the highest qualification per university was 48%. By 2019, there was a marginal decline to 47.7%. As the NDP target for 2030 is 75%, it is likely that it will be achieved. The issue of quality, however, still requires attention.</p> <p>The number of graduates with doctoral degrees was 3 690 in 2022, which was 3.2% (116) higher compared with 2021 (3 574) ((DHET, (2020), p19).</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Improve the research and innovation capacity of South Africa</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Number of university enrolment: 1 620 000 per year</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>1 620 000</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>The DHET's annual monitoring reports show that in 2012, the number of students per 100 000 population was 1 050 (or 1 050 851 as an absolute figure). In 2015, the number increased to 1 901 per 100,000 people, pointing to improvements over the period that were on track to potentially exceed the target set for 2030. However, in 2019 the figure declined to 1 283 per 100 000 population. The NDP target of 1 600 per 100 000 population for this indicator should ideally grow consistently over time. This number could recover to achieve the target despite the significant drop between 2015 and 2019. The higher education sector needs to address quality and focus on producing students that meet the needs of the economy including the professionals required in the social services.</p> <p>The 2020 Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa (DHET) notes that the higher education institution (HEI) sector comprises 26 universities and 131 private higher education institutions (PHEIs) (pp 8-10: 2020). In 2019, 1 283 890 students were registered in these institutions compared to 983 703 in 2010. The report shows that most students enrolled in public HEIs in 2019 at 83.7% or 1 074 912 of the total registrations. There has been a continuous increase in enrolments over the period between 2010 and 2019, with a dip in numbers in the latter period under review.</p>

	<p>The reported indicator is more inclusive (universities and PHEIs). The NDP target could potentially be reached by 2030 if there is an expansion in the system.</p> <p>In 2022, almost 1.3 million students were enrolled in public and private HEIs, with public HEIs accounting for the majority (1 077 768) of enrolments while private HEIs enrolled 258 215 students (Statistics on Post-School Education Report 2022/23 p19).</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Improve the research and innovation capacity of South Africa</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Number of ISI-accredited articles and patents registered</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>No clear NDP target</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	The number of ISI-accredited articles and patents registered in 2017 was 15 388.42. By 2020, it had increased to 17194.2, which shows a 5.71% growth (DHET, Report on the Evaluation of the 2019 Universities' Research Output, 2021). By 2022, the number of publications rose to 24402.84 units (DHET Annual Report 2022/23).

## HEALTH

The National Development Plan (NDP) emphasises the importance of lowering disease burden and enhancing the national health system by addressing infrastructure backlogs. Human capability is essential in all of this.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Improving life expectancy</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Average male and female life expectancy at birth to increase to 70 years by 2030</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	The average life expectancy (LE) is a critical measure of a nation's healthcare system's effectiveness. In South Africa, LE dropped to 61.7 years in 2021, marking the lowest point since 2013 (62.1 years) due to the Covid-19 crisis, which led to an unusually high death toll. Consequently, the nation experienced a reduction in LE of 0.5 years between 2019 (64.9 years) and 2020 (65.4 years) and a further decline of 3.5 years from 2020 (65.4 years) to 2021 (61.7 years). Despite these reported challenges, the country's LE increased from 62.8 years in 2022 to 66.5 years in 2024 (Stats SA 2024 Mid-Year Population Estimates). This indicates a favourable recovery of the South African healthcare system from the impacts of Covid-19. If this upward trend continues, it enhances the chances of reaching the NDP 2030 target of a LE of 70 years.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Reducing the under-five child mortality rate</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Fewer than 30 deaths per 1000 births</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) is a significant South African child health indicator worth tracking over time to monitor the country's primary health performance. The U5MR indicator shows a positive declining trend over time. It has decreased from 74,7 child deaths per 1000 live births in 2002 to 44 in 2012. A further improvement is noted with a decline to 28,6 child deaths per 1000 live births in 2024 (Stats SA, 2024 Mid-Year Population Estimates). Among others, the improvement is attributed to living and health conditions, such as the availability of HIV prevention and treatment. Additionally, advancements in antiretroviral therapy have allowed individuals living with HIV to live longer and healthier lives.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Reducing the infant mortality rate</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Fewer than 20 deaths per 1000 live births</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>Among others, the infant mortality rate (IMR) is used to determine the development of the country's health system. The IMR has decreased from an estimated 57.0 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 2002 to 22.9 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 2024. (Stats SA, 2024 Mid-Year Populations Estimates). The IMR was estimated at 35.2 deaths per 1000 births in 2012. The statistics show a notable 34.1 decrease in IMR between 2002 and 2024 (Stats SA, 2024 Mid-Year Population Estimates). This decline is a positive indication of improvements in healthcare and overall living conditions over the years. It also reflects successful efforts in reducing infant mortality rates. Based on the 2024 IMR estimate, the country has recovered from the Covid-19 challenges and is back on track to reach the NDP target of fewer than 20 deaths per 1000 live births.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Reducing maternal mortality</i>

<b>Target:</b>	<i>Less than 100 deaths per 100 000 live births</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	Based on the DoH, (2023) annual report, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) indicator trends show that it has declined from 134 deaths of pregnant women per 100,000 live births in 2002 to 109 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2020. Similarly, the institutional MMR dropped from 140.4 in 2011 to 100.6 deaths per 100,000 live births in March 2024. This success can be ascribed to improved access to maternal health services, increased knowledge of pregnancy-related problems, and higher quality care in healthcare settings. Although the country's MMR indicator shows a decreasing trend, it is notably slow and might fall marginally below the target of less than 70 per 100,000 live births in 2030.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<i>Number of ideal clinics established</i>
<b>MTSF Target:</b>	<i>Transform 3,467 (100%) PHC clinics in the 52 districts to qualify as Ideal Clinics by 2021</i>
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The primary healthcare facilities in South Africa include clinics and community health centres. There are 3471 primary healthcare facilities in the country. Based on the Department of Health's fourth quarter report, the number of primary health care facilities in the Ideal Clinics Realisation and Maintenance program rose from 2046 facilities with ideal clinic status to 2076 in 2023/2024. This shows an increase of 30 primary health facilities converted to the Ideal Clinics status within the 2023/2024 financial year (Department of Health, 2024 Operations Phakisa Scaling Up the Ideal Clinic, Quarter 4 Progress Report).

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<i>A social wage, which will result in a reduced cost of living (education, healthcare, basic services)</i>
<b>Target:</b>	
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The social wage, which will reduce the cost of living, comprises education, healthcare, and basic services. The NDP did not set a baseline or targets

other than the injunction that access to these services should reduce the cost of living.

Table 4: A selection of education, health, and social development indicators for accessing services.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Percentage of individuals or households with access</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Education</b>	Percentage of children attending primary school	97,5%			
	Percentage of children attending school	95,6%	87.6%	86.8%	86,8
	Percentage of children with special needs aged 7-15 years not enrolled in an educational institution	8%	22.7%		
	Percentage of learners that do not pay school fees	73,3%	70.2%	67.7%	66,1%
	Percentage of learners in schools receiving social grants	69,1%			
	Percentage of learners in public schools benefiting from the nutrition programme	79,3%	77.3%	78%	76,7%
	<b>Health</b>	Percentage of persons with medical aid coverage	15,2%	16.1%	15.8%

		Percentage of households for which the usual place of consultation is a public facility	71,9%	71,9%	66.6%	73,1%
	Social Development	Percentage of people 60 years and older who received social grants	99,8%	20,21%, 0,52 increase	73%	
		Percentage of poor households with children aged 7-18 years who do not spend money on school fees	70,0%	70.2%	67,7%	
Source: GHS 2023						

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Expanded social grants coverage</i>
<i>Target:</i>	
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p><b>Social Assistance</b></p> <p>Social assistance comprises seven social grants viz. the Older Persons Grant (previously called the Old Age Grant), War Veterans Grant (WVG), Disability Grant (DG), Grants-in-Aid (GA), Foster Care Grants (FCG), Care Dependency Grant (CDG), and the Child Support Grant (CSG).</p> <p>The NDP's goal is to achieve expanded social grants coverage, increasing the take-up rate for those who qualify with the intermediate target of 100% coverage for old-age pensions by 2020, which was achieved (GHS 2021).</p> <p>The percentage of individuals that benefited from social grants steadily increased from 12,8% in 2003 to approximately 31% between 2017 and 2019 before increasing sharply to 39,4% in 2023. This growth was tracked closely for households that received at least one social grant (GHS, 2023, p23). The percentage of households that received at least one social grant increased relatively consistently from 30,8% in 2003 to 45,5% in 2019 before rising to 52,4% in 2020 due to the introduction of the SRD Covid-19 grants. Since then,</p>

the percentage of households that receive at least one grant has declined to 50,0% in 2023 (GHS, 2023 p23).

Table 5: Number of Social grants per type, 2012/13-2022/23

Grant type	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Old age	3 553 317	3 676 791	3 722 675	3 774 604	3 886 708	4 041 763
War veterans	92	62	40	25	15	9
Disability	1 048 255	1 042 025	997 752	1 004 798	1 035 437	1 056 270
Grant-in-Aid	221 989	273 922	267 912	283 771	328 507	401 761
Care dependency	150 001	154 735	150 151	153 768	156 982	165 764
Foster Care	386 019	355 609	309 453	294 031	274 130	253 256
Child support	12 452 072	12 787 448	12 992 589	13 166 342	13 147 937	13 218 701
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 811 745</b>	<b>18 290 592</b>	<b>18 440 572</b>	<b>18 677 339</b>	<b>18 829 716</b>	<b>19 137 524</b>
Annual Growth	1.72%	2.69%	0.81%	1.28%	0.82%	1.63%

Source: SASSA 2023/24 Annual Report

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) 2023/24 Annual Report shows that during the 2023/24 financial year, the number of grants in payment increased from 18 829 716 at the end of March 2023 to 19 137 524 at the end of March 2024, reflecting growth of 1.63% over the period (SASSA, 2023).

The number of social grants increased from 12 423 739 to 19 137 524 between April 2007 and March 2024. This represents a 54% growth over the period and was mainly driven by the CSG (13 218 701), the Old-Age Grant (OAG) (4 041 763), and Disability (1 056 270), which showed significant upward trends over these years due to policy changes and an improved outreach programme (SASSA, 2023/24 p24).

Social grants remain a vital safety net, particularly in the poorest provinces. Grant beneficiaries were most common in Eastern Cape (52,9%) and Limpopo (50,4%), and least widespread in Western Cape (24,4%) and Gauteng (26,9%). Households that received at least one type of social grant were most common in Eastern Cape (64,9%) and Free State (63,9%), and least common in Gauteng (36,6%) and Western Cape (38,6%) (GHS, 2023 p24).

#### **Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant**

In May 2020, the Covid-19 SDR grant was introduced as an ad hoc intervention to address the economic consequences of the national lockdown policies in

response to the pandemic. Initially, the eligibility criteria were quite broad and were aimed at individuals aged between 18 and 59 who were unemployed and had no income. This temporary grant, initially introduced for six months from May to October 2020, has been extended to March 2025 and has reached approximately 5,5 million individuals monthly from May 2020 to February 2021 (SASSA, 2021). The percentage of individuals aged 18– 59 years who received the grant has increased from 5,3% in 2020 to 12,4% in 2023 (GHS, 2023). The highest uptake was noted in Limpopo and North West (17.8%) and Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape (17.0%), while the lowest proportion of beneficiaries were in Western Cape (3.6%) and Gauteng (8.6%) (GHS, 2023, p25).

Table 6: Covid-19 SRD Expenditure 2019/20- 2023/24 R'000

Grant type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Covid-19 SRD	–	19 543 008	32 330 702	30 221 747	33 468 704

Source: SASSA Annual Report 2023/24

UNICEF, (2022), *An Update Study on the Exclusion Error Rate for Children*, showed that the take-up rate of the CSG for 0–1-year-olds was 56.7% in 2014, increasing to 64,5 in 2019. While we see an improvement over time, this take-up rate should increase to at least 80%. All the research shows that early receipt makes a difference in children’s lives. While there have been marginal improvements in the take-up rate, the first two years of a child’s life is a significant period of development, which, once lost, is difficult to make up.

#### **Development of social welfare services**

The NDP indicated that South Africa's social welfare services do not offer the necessary level of care due to a shortage of social work, community development, and child and adolescent care experts. It is estimated that over 55,000 social service specialists are necessary. The 2016 Review of the White Paper on Developmental Social Welfare noted that progress in this area had been limited.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Strengthen financial and human resources and infrastructure for social development</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>increase of 1.9% per annum in the budget for the next 5 years and universal availability of facilities).</i>

<i>Trend Analysis</i>	Professional social service positions rose from 10 389 in 2013 to 18 300 in the 2020–21 financial year (DSD, 2021). Of the 7000 jobless professionals, only 163 social service workers were employed throughout the 2021–2022 financial year. It is hard to imagine how the number of social service professionals will increase by a third unless there is a substantial injection of funding to hire those jobless social care professionals, given that the MTSF objective is 31 744 appointments by 2024.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>					
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Increased access to basic services energy, water, sanitation, waste</i>					
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Energy 75% by 2030 Integrated Resource Plan target</i>					
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	Table 7: Access to basic services between 2012 and 2022					
	<b>Basic Service</b>	<b>Percentage of households</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Energy</b>	Connected to the mains electricity supply	83,6% (2011)	90%	89.6%	89.8%
	<b>Water</b>	Access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site	90,1%	89,1%	88.5	87%
	<b>Sanitation</b>	Access to improved sanitation	77%	83,2%	83.2	83.3%
	<b>Refuse removal</b>	Refuse removal at least once per week	62,5%	60,5%	59.9	60%
	<i>Source: GHS 2023</i>					
	Table 4 illustrates that between 2012 and 2023, the expansion of access to basic services was uneven. Access to energy through connection to the mains electrical supply increased from 83.6% in 2012 to 89.8% in 2023,					

	<p>with a 7% improvement in 2020 and a slight reduction in 2023. (GHS 2023, p41)</p> <p>Access to piped or tap water in residences, either off-site or on-site, was relatively high among households in the Western Cape (99.3%), Gauteng (97.6%), and Free State (93.3%), but much lower in provinces such as Limpopo (64.2%) and the Eastern Cape (67.2%) (GHS 2022). It has been highlighted that in Limpopo, access to piped or tap water in their homes, off-site or on-site, declined from 80.1% in 2012 to 71.3 in 2020, and will further decline to 64.2% in 2023, about 16 percentage points lower than a decade before in 2012. On a more positive note, access to water in the North West grew marginally from 85.4 to 86.2% between 2022 and 2023 (GHS 2023, p29).</p> <p>Access to improved sanitation expanded from 77% in 2012 to 83.3% by 2023 (GHS 2023). Access to improved sanitation was highest in the Western Cape (95.6%), Gauteng (90.7%), and Eastern Cape (88.1%). The Eastern Cape and Limpopo experienced increases, with access improving by 18% and 12.1%, respectively. Installing ventilated pit toilets has contributed significantly to the Eastern Cape's growth. Refuse removal services at least once a week decreased from 62.5% to 60.0% between 2012 and 2023. (GHS 2023, pp36 and 47).</p> <p>While the number of households receiving basic services increased between 2012 and 2021, access to water and refuse removal decreased slightly in 2023. However, reliability, sustainability, and infrastructure upkeep continue to be challenges for municipal services.</p>
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## DISABILITY

The NDP Review (2020) noted that the issues of persons with disabilities, children, youth, and gender were addressed as cross-cutting themes across the document's chapters. In addition, the NDP Review proposed that future planning must more comprehensively address these cross-cutting issues.

### Access to education and schools

Goal:	Inclusive Education and Special Needs
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of teachers in service who have received in-service training in the last 12 months to teach students with special educational needs</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>No NDP target</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	Unlike the preceding financial year, the 2023/24 DBE Annual Report does not provide a disaggregated breakdown of trained teachers by

	<p>specialized areas. For instance, it does not specify the number of teachers trained in South African Sign Language (SASL), autism education, braille, or inclusive education programs, as was detailed in previous years.</p> <p>This missing disaggregated data is critical for tracking progress in specialized training areas and assessing educators' capacity to meet the diverse special needs of learners effectively.</p> <p>DBE, (2023) reported that 46,944 teachers received training in areas such as braille, SASL, autism education, and inclusive programming (DBE Annual Report 2023/24). This specialized training focused on identifying reading and numeracy barriers, implementing intervention techniques, and enhancing pre-literacy and numeracy skills.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Accessible Schools</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Build and upgrade education facilities, which are disability sensitive</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of schools with access to (a) electricity, (b) the internet for pedagogical purposes, (c) computers for pedagogical purposes, (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, (e) basic drinking water, (f) single-sex basic sanitation</i>
<i>SDG/NDP Target:</i>	<i>No NDP target</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	The DBE has repaired and refurbished 11 077 schools, provided water infrastructure to 2 459 schools, electrified 8 313 schools, provided fencing to 5 605 schools, and added 115 512 additional classrooms to alleviate overcrowding. By August 2023, 329 state-of-the-art schools have been built, replacing 510 identified in 2011. This means that there is a deficit of 181 replacement schools to keep up with the demand for related infrastructure. The Sanitation Appropriate for Education programme has equipped 3 015 schools with age-appropriate and safe sanitation facilities since 2018 (DBE Annual Report 2023/24).

### Access to Employment

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Full Employment</b>
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Achieve full employment for persons with disabilities</i>
<i>Indicator:</i>	
<i>SDG/NDP Target:</i>	<i>No NDP target</i>

<i>Trend Analysis</i>	The 2024 first quarter QLFS reported the official unemployment rate increased by 0,8 of a percentage point to 32,9% from the previous quarter. The number of persons with disabilities who were not economically active increased marginally from 1669 in 2023 to 1643 persons in 2024. Additionally, the Commission for Employment Equity's 2023/24 annual report shows that the representation of persons with disabilities has averaged 1% in both the private and public sectors in the 25 years since the Employment Equity Act was passed. In 2023/24, persons with disabilities' representation remained unchanged at 1.2% of the total workforce as reported by designated employers during the 2023 reporting cycle (Department of Labour and Employment Annual Report 2023/24). However, the country's performance remains below the national target of 2% of persons with disabilities as part of the total workforce. It also remains unlikely that the country will meet the NDP employment target for including persons with disabilities by 2030.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Inclusion and Empowerment</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, and disability.</i>
<i>SDG Target:</i>	<i>Percentage of positions in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) held by persons with disabilities</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) has surpassed 2% of the national target of employing people with disabilities. At the end of the 2023/24 financial year, the department achieved a headcount of 2.3%. People with disabilities often face barriers to employment (DPSA, (2023): 13). This is a marginal improvement compared to the previous financial year, which reported an achievement of 2.3%.

## Access to Transport

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Accessible Transport</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Accessible and sustainable transport systems for all including persons with disabilities</i>
<i>SDG Target:</i>	<i>Percentage of public transport vehicles meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	Stats SA's National Households Travel Survey 2020 shows special transportation service for persons with disabilities is at 17%. In 2020, 31.7% of employees with disabilities and 22.1% of students with disabilities used public transport (Stats SA National Households Travel Survey, 2020). These statistics highlight the importance of transportation choices that are easy for individuals

	with disabilities to use, as a significant portion rely on public transport. Efforts to improve the accessibility and availability of special transit services can greatly benefit this population.
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## CHILDREN

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Reduce Malnutrition</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Percentage of students who benefit from the National School Nutrition Programme</i>
<i>SDG Target:</i>	<i>End all forms of malnutrition by 2030</i>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	Updates on children-related programmes such as health, education and social development have been provided elsewhere in the document as their well-being is cross-cutting. This section addresses the nutrition programme. Between 2009 and 2023, the percentage of students who benefited from the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) rose from 63.1% to 76.7%. The Western Cape at 54.4% and Gauteng at 61.2% had the lowest percentage of learners benefiting from the school nutrition program, while the largest percentage of learners benefiting from the NSNP can be found in rural provinces with the greatest need, such as Limpopo (89.4%), Eastern Cape (88.1%), and Mpumalanga (86%) provinces. (Report on GHS 2023).

## GENDER

<b>Goal:</b>	
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>No Indicator</i>
<i>SDG Target:</i>	
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>South Africa remains committed to achieving its long-term aspiration of an ideal future where women, youth, and persons with disability are economically empowered and enjoy full equality. This year, the country took stock of the progress made towards achieving this vision through the National Voluntary Review (VNR) and the 30-Year Review of Democracy report.</p> <p>South Africa drafted its second VNR, reflecting and reaffirming its commitment to advancing the SDGs. The VNR tracked the country's progress on SDG 5, focusing on gender equality from 2020-2024. The VNR report highlighted the positive progress achieved by the country, which included South Africa's strong legal framework to improve gender equality, the GBVF Response Fund, its increasing</p>

commitment to advancing women's political representation, and the high conviction rates when it comes to violence against women (74.8% conviction rate in cases related to sexual violence and gender-based violence). The government has also committed to increasing women's economic participation by directing 40% of its procurement towards women-owned enterprises. However, despite these positive developments, the report indicated that South Africa has among the highest reported cases of rape in the world, women remain disproportionately exposed to other forms of violence, women experience lower labour market participation than men, and the private sector continues to grapple with a pay gap between male and female employees.

South Africa's 30-Year Review of Democracy highlighted the government's commitment to an inclusive society by promoting the inclusion and participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in social, economic and cultural aspects of development through the comprehensive social protection floor, which alleviates poverty experienced by women, access to economic empowerment programmes, and the legal framework. Leading to 2030, government commits to:

- Intensifying collaboration with social partners on youth employment creation.
- Partnering with non-state actors (NGOs, CSOs, private sector and international community).
- Leveraging existing systems to monitor progress.
- Addressing the intersections of factors hampering the advancement of women.

# POSITIONING SOUTH AFRICA IN THE WORLD AND POLICY MAKING

## INTRODUCTION

South Africa continues to play a pivotal role in the BRICS bloc. In 2023, the group expanded to include new members such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Iran, reflecting a strategic shift toward creating an alternative to Western-dominated global systems. South Africa's leadership remains committed to fostering equitable global trade and strengthening partnerships within the bloc. However, this approach has drawn criticism for potentially distancing the country from Western allies<sup>42</sup>

South Africa has deepened its partnership with China, with a \$51 billion commitment to support African development through infrastructure and green energy projects. President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasized the importance of balancing the trade deficit by encouraging China to import more South African manufactured goods. This partnership is part of broader efforts to leverage China's Belt and Road Initiative for economic modernization<sup>43</sup>

The "Atlanta Phambili" initiative exemplifies strengthened ties with the U.S., focusing on trade, investment, and cultural exchanges. The partnership aims to position South Africa as a gateway for U.S. investors to access African markets while promoting mutual economic growth. Subnational diplomacy, like this initiative, demonstrates innovative pathways for enhancing U.S.-South Africa relations<sup>44</sup>

As the only African country with a strategic partnership with the EU and an active member of the G20, South Africa continues to advocate for Africa's interests in global forums. Its upcoming G20 presidency in 2025 is expected to focus on inclusive economic growth, industrialization, and digital transformation<sup>45</sup>

South Africa maintains its policy of non-alignment, emphasizing peace and dialogue in global conflicts, including the Russia-Ukraine war. The country has balanced historical ties with Russia and its advocacy for peaceful resolution while fostering bilateral relations with Ukraine<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/president-cyril-ramaphosa-addresses-nation-south-africa%E2%80%99s-foreign-policy-27>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.forbesafrica.com/current-affairs/2024/09/05/south-africa-and-china-deepen-ties-with-51-billion-commitment-and-strategic-partnership-upgrade-during-state-visit/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/south-africa-signs-pledge-with-atlanta-to-drive-us-investment-in-south-africa-2024-12-05>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/president-cyril-ramaphosa-addresses-nation-south-africa%E2%80%99s-foreign-policy-27>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/president-cyril-ramaphosa-addresses-nation-south-africa%E2%80%99s-foreign-policy-27>

## DEFINE NATIONAL PRIORITIES

### South Africa's National Interest

Goal:	South Africa's National Interest
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Clear articulation of South Africa's national interest</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Strategy or document compiled and finalised</i>
<i>Progress</i>	The Department of International Relations and Co-operation's (DIRCO) Framework Document on South Africa's National Interest and its Advancement in a Global Environment (National Interest) defines the protection and promotion of South Africa's national sovereignty and constitutional order, the well-being, safety, and prosperity of its citizens, and a better Africa and world.
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>As South Africa's national interest is based on the country's Constitution, it includes its domestic objectives and priorities and is integrated into government planning and policy-making, including through the NDP, the MTSF, the National Security Strategy, and the 2019 Foreign Service Act. South Africa's national interest is influenced by other national, regional, and global policy instruments such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) and its Agenda 2063, and the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The national interest is also shaped through solidarity and mutual interests with the region, continent, and the global South, including through the Bandung Principles, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Group of 77 and China and the UN. The national interest in turn shapes the key principles of South Africa's foreign policy<sup>47</sup>.</p> <p>Articulating South Africa's national interest involves a holistic approach that integrates economic, social, environmental, and security dimensions. By focusing on these core areas, South Africa aims to enhance its resilience, promote sustainable development, and position itself as a leader in both African and global affairs. This strategic framework guides foreign policy decisions and ensures that the country's engagement on the international stage aligns with its developmental goals and the aspirations of its people.</p>

<sup>47</sup> DIRCO (2023). "Framework Document on South Africa's National Interest on and its advancement in a global environment". [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/sa\\_national\\_interest.pdf](https://www.dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/sa_national_interest.pdf)

## International, continental, and regional geopolitics

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>International, Continental and Regional Geopolitics</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Review the geopolitics of the region, the continent, and the world</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Assessment is done and documented</i>
<i>Progress</i>	<p>South Africa has made notable progress in its geopolitical engagements regionally, continentally, and globally, strengthening its role as a leader and advocate for development, democracy, and human rights. However, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues, and the superpower contestation for political and economic influence, including in Africa, has been amplified. South Africa has strengthened economic ties within SADC, enhancing trade agreements and joint ventures to boost regional economic integration.</p> <p>In addition, South Africa maintains a balanced foreign policy, engaging with major powers such as the US, China, and the EU while advocating for the interests of developing nations.</p>
<i>Trend Analysis</i>	<p>South Africa's analysis of the geopolitics of the region, continent, and world reveals a complex landscape of challenges and opportunities as a key player. By focusing on regional stability, continental integration, and global engagement, South Africa aims to enhance its role as a leader in advocating for development, peace, and sustainability. Balancing domestic priorities with international responsibilities will be critical for its continued influence and success on the global stage.</p>

## South Africa's foreign representation

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>South Africa's Foreign Representation</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Research review of South Africa's foreign representation to determine efficacy and efficiency</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Assessment is done and documented</i>
<i>Progress and analysis</i>	<p>The research on the analysis of the hosting and chairing of international events by South Africa has been completed.</p> <p>The report underscored the benefits and challenges associated with hosting and chairing events in South Africa by concluding that South Africa has made considerable contributions, both politically and economically, by hosting and chairing SADC, AU, and BRICS. However, the extent to which these contributions have aligned with the country's national interests and economic objectives varies. The research highlighted that South Africa must reassess and realign its foreign policy orientation, revise its national strategy documents, and adopt a more strategic and consistent approach to hosting and chairing international events. By implementing the</p>

recommendations presented in the research, South Africa can optimise its strategic benefits, advance its national goals, and align its engagements with its evolving foreign policy framework. Embracing these insights will enable South Africa to maximise the benefits of future hosting and chairing endeavours and can help strengthen South Africa's position as a strategic and ideational actor in global affairs.

The report made the following recommendations to enhance South Africa's approach to the hosting and chairing of events:

- National framework documents (including Chapter 7 of the National Development Plan) relating to South Africa's foreign policy must be updated continuously and should be supported by regular studies to assess South Africa's foreign policy objectives, positioning, and achievements in global affairs.
- Parliament needs to strengthen its oversight role in ensuring that international engagements follow the proper legislative requirements while also deepening accountability and fostering transparency in the monitoring and evaluating of specific objectives and outcomes.
- South Africa should consider establishing a forum – along the lines of the Aswan Forum (Egypt), Raisina Dialogues (India) and Kigali Dialogues (Rwanda) – that brings together policymakers, academics, civil society, and the private sector to deliberate on critical foreign policy issues.
- DIRCO should consider reconstituting the South African Council on International Relations. This Council should be complemented by the revival of the former Ambassadors Association and broader consultations with representatives from civil society.
- The role and contribution of the Policy Research and Analysis Unit within DIRCO must be reviewed and reconfigured and additional capacity may also need to be created within DIRCO to strengthen co-ordination and cooperation across government in planning for and implementing events.
- The guidelines for the hosting and chairing of events should be reviewed and where necessary, revised. More importantly, these guidelines should be communicated widely within DIRCO and amongst all relevant line Ministries to ensure that they are fully understood and enforced.
- South Africa needs to develop a clear communications plan for specific events, which should be underpinned by a broader branding strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth studies should be undertaken to assess South Africa's priority economic opportunities in the BRICS and SADC by country and sector and to identify the main constraints to increased trade, investment, and tourism flows with these countries.</li> <li>• South Africa should propose and lobby for an extension of the SADC Chairship to between two to three years and the country should work closely with its BRICS partners to identify issues of common interest that can be carried forward through a multi-year agenda across multiple fora.</li> <li>• There must be continuous monitoring of South Africa's positions, contributions, and commitments across all of its regional and international engagements and more frequent and rigorous evaluations of the outcomes and impact of the hosting or chairing of international events.</li> </ul>
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### Training of foreign-service officers

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Training of Foreign-Service Officers</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>The research review on the training of foreign-service officers starts by studying global best practices in economic diplomacy and international negotiations</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Assessment is done and documented</i>
<i>Progress</i>	DIRCO runs a Diplomatic Academy that offers training programs for new and experienced diplomats through its established programs and institutions.

### Collaboration on cross-border research

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Collaboration on Cross-Border Research</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Research collaboration among vital state institutions that deal with cross-border issues</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Research outputs</i>
<i>Progress</i>	<i>No progress</i>

## AGGRESSIVELY EXPAND TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE REGION, ON THE CONTINENT AND GLOBALLY

South Africa is aggressively expanding trade and investment through strategic regional integration, strong promotion of exports and foreign direct investment (FDI), infrastructure development, and support for small and medium enterprises. By leveraging trade agreements and enhancing bilateral relations, the country aims to strengthen its position as a key player in African and global markets. The focus on

sustainable practices and digital transformation further complements these efforts, paving the way for a resilient and competitive economy.

### **Intra-regional trade**

Promoting the movement of goods, services, people, and capital across Africa is vital to the continent’s future growth and prosperity. This is why the South African government is working to strengthen economic and trade ties with the rest of Africa. African integration promises to open up more opportunities for local producers and consumers, lower trade costs and attract large-scale investment.

Intra-regional trade is vital for South Africa’s economic strategy and stability, offering opportunities for growth, diversification, and regional integration. By addressing challenges and leveraging regional agreements, South Africa can enhance its role as a regional trade hub and contribute to broader continental economic development.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Intra-regional Trade</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Increase intra-regional trade in Southern Africa</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>7% of trade to 25% of a trade by 2030.</i>
<i>Progress</i>	The launch of the preferential trade under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) on January 31, 2024, marks a significant milestone for South Africa and its trade relations across the continent. South African companies can now export duty-free or with reduced duties to 12 African countries, significantly lowering trade barriers and enhancing competitiveness.
<i>Analysis</i>	<p>This agreement opens new markets for South African goods, allowing businesses to diversify their export destinations and reduce reliance on traditional markets. The AfCFTA provides a more favourable intra-trading environment and encourages multinational companies to establish manufacturing operations in South Africa, leveraging the country as a base for regional production and distribution. The reduced tariffs and enhanced market access will likely make South Africa a more attractive destination for foreign direct investment, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and services.</p> <p>Increased access to larger markets will benefit South African small and medium enterprises, enabling them to scale up and compete more effectively. Initiatives to help local businesses navigate the new trade landscape and comply with AfCFTA regulations will be essential for maximising benefits.</p> <p>Ongoing efforts to support local businesses, address implementation challenges, and encourage investment will be</p>

	essential for maximising the potential benefits of this landmark agreement.
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## Trade with regional neighbours

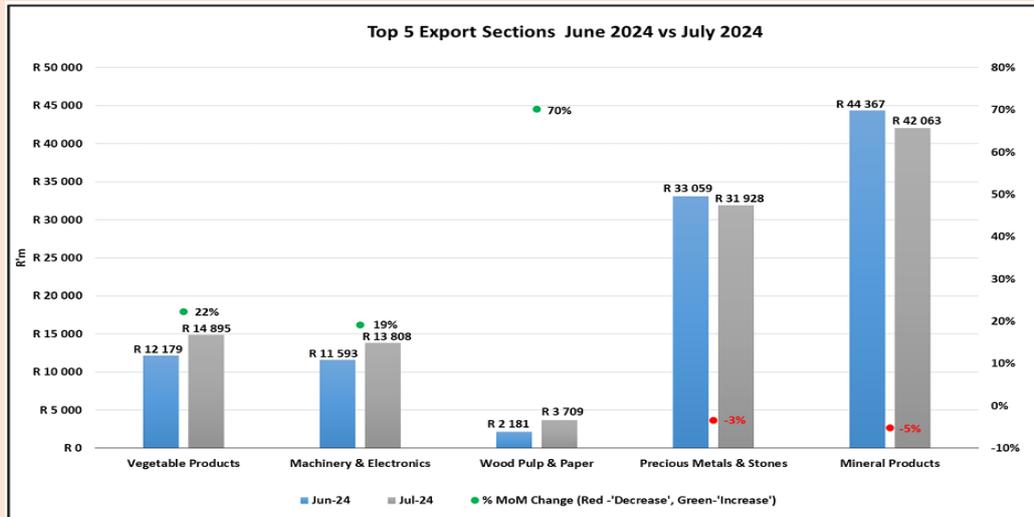
<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Trade with regional neighbours</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Increase South Africa's trade with regional neighbours</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>15% of trade to 30%.</i>
<i>Progress</i>	Trade between South Africa and its neighbouring countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique) plays a crucial role in the region's economic landscape, supported by regional agreements like AfCFTA and SADC. With a generally positive trade balance and diverse exports, South Africa is well-positioned to continue strengthening its regional trade relationships. Addressing logistical and regulatory challenges will be essential for maximising the benefits of these trade dynamics and ensuring sustainable economic growth.

## Exports

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Exports</b>
<i>Indicator</i> :	<i>Increase South Africa's exports (as measured in volume terms)</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Grow by 6% a year to 2030, with non-traditional exports growing by 10% a year.</i>
<i>Progress</i>	South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R17.6 billion in July 2024, attributable to exports of R175.0 billion. <sup>48</sup>
<i>Analysis</i>	<p>In July 2024, South Africa's export performance demonstrated positive trends, reflecting a 1.9% increase in export flows compared to the same month in the previous year: R175.0 billion in July 2024 and R171.8 billion in 2023. This increase signifies a healthy growth trajectory for South Africa's trade.</p> <p>Furthermore, there was a month-on-month increase of R3.2 billion (1.8%) from R171.9 billion in June 2024 to R175.0 billion in July 2024, indicating consistent growth in export activity.</p> <p>South Africa's terms of trade improved in the first quarter of 2024, suggesting that the prices of exported goods rose more significantly than those of imports. This improvement can enhance the country's trade balance and overall economic health.</p>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Docs/TradeStats/2024/July6621/Media-Release-July-2024.pdf>

Figure 16: The main month-on-month export movements



Source: SARS preliminary trade statistics for July 2024

## Foreign Direct Investments

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Foreign Direct Investments</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Increase Foreign Direct Investments in South Africa</i>
<i>Target:</i>	
<i>Progress</i>	In the second quarter of 2024, South Africa experienced FDI inflows of R16.6 billion (approximately \$965.87 million), reflecting a notable decline from the R24.4 billion recorded in the first quarter. <sup>49</sup>
<i>Analysis</i>	<p>South Africa's foreign liabilities decreased by 3.0%, from a revised R6,905 billion at the end of December 2023 to R6,700 billion by March 2024. This decline indicates a contraction in the country's outward investment obligations.</p> <p>The 3.0% decrease in South Africa's foreign liabilities reflects significant valuation effects tied to market performance, particularly the decline in the FTSE/JSE All-Share Index. Understanding these dynamics is essential for policymakers and investors alike as they navigate the challenges and opportunities in the South African economic landscape. Addressing the factors that contribute to investor sentiment will be critical for stabilising and potentially increasing foreign investment in the future.</p>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/quarterly-bulletins/download-information-from-zipped-eviews-files/2024/DownloadInformationFromZippedEviewsFiles0>

## INCREASE TOURISM IN SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa's tourism sector is on a positive trajectory, and it's playing a crucial role in the country's economy, which is supported by its diverse attractions and strategic goals outlined in the NDP. By focusing on sustainable practices, infrastructure development, and community engagement, South Africa can enhance its position as a leading tourist destination while maximising the economic benefits associated with increased visitor arrivals.

The ambitious goal of increasing international arrivals to 15 million by 2030 reflects a strategic vision for expanding the tourism sector. This target aligns with broader economic growth objectives and aims to enhance South Africa's global competitiveness as a travel destination.

International tourist arrivals from January to March 2024 totalled 2.4 million, representing a remarkable 15.4% increase compared to 2023.

### Foreign tourist arrivals

Goal:	Foreign Tourist Arrivals
Indicator:	Increase in foreign tourist arrivals (numbers)
Target:	
Progress	In August 2024, South Africa recorded 924,111 foreign arrivals, reflecting a slight month-on-month increase of 0.2% compared to July 2024. <sup>50</sup> From January to March 2024, South Africa saw a total of 2.4 million international tourist arrivals, marking a significant 15.4% increase compared to the same period in 2023.
Analysis	<p>South Africa's tourism sector showed impressive growth and diversification from January to March 2024, with significant contributions from various regions, such as the African continent with 1.8 million tourist arrivals, 420,727 tourist arrivals from Europe, and 2,387 tourist arrivals from Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>This data reflects the overall vibrancy of South Africa as a travel hub and suggests that foreign travel is recovering strongly, with a substantial number of foreign visitors coming to the country.</p> <p>As the tourism sector rebounds, focusing on sustainable practices and enhancing the visitor experience will be essential for long-term success and preserving South Africa's unique cultural and natural heritage.</p>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0350/P0350August2024.pdf>

## Analysis: Foreign tourist expenditure

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Foreign Tourist Expenditure</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Increase in foreign tourist expenditure</i>
<i>Target:</i>	
<i>Progress</i>	In the first quarter of 2024, foreign travellers spent R25.7 billion in South Africa.
<i>Analysis</i>	<p>This foreign traveller spending indicates a healthy influx of tourist expenditure and underscores the importance of tourism to the country's overall financial health.</p> <p>The distribution of tourists from January to May 2024 indicates that different regions contribute variously to South Africa's tourism sector. This diversity can be crucial for strategic planning and marketing efforts. Understanding which regions are sending the most tourists can help the South African tourism authorities tailor their marketing strategies, enhance promotional efforts, and build relationships with travel agencies in those areas.</p>

## HARMONISE BORDER POLICIES BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA'S REGIONAL TRADING PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE EMERGING TRIPARTITE FREE TRADE AREA

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Harmonise border policies between South Africa's regional trading partners, especially in the emerging Tripartite Free Trade Area</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Harmonised border policies between South Africa and trading partners</i>
<i>Target:</i>	
<i>Progress</i>	No progress

## INTEGRATE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY, INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, AND MONITORING.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Integrate national institutions responsible for foreign policy, international negotiations, and monitoring</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Integrated national institutions</i>
<i>Target:</i>	
<i>Progress and analysis</i>	South Africa's strides in integrating national institutions into foreign policy and international negotiations are reflected by a commitment to cohesive and effective diplomacy. DIRCO is pivotal in coordinating with various government departments and agencies.

	<p>This collaborative approach ensures that foreign policy is aligned with national interests and comprehensively addresses global issues. Moreover, it enhances the effectiveness of South Africa's foreign engagements, allowing for a unified stance on international matters</p> <p>By enhancing collaboration, monitoring, and responsiveness to global challenges, South Africa is strengthening its position as a key player in regional and international affairs, ultimately promoting its national interests and contributing to global stability.</p>
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## IMPROVE HUMAN SECURITY THROUGH EFFECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improve human security through effective transnational natural-resource management – especially when it comes to water and energy – and knowledge-sharing on vital issues such as communicable diseases, most notably HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and transnational crime and maritime piracy</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Effective transnational natural resource management</i>
<i>Target:</i>	
<i>Progress and analysis</i>	<p>South Africa is an active member of SADC, which promotes regional cooperation in managing shared natural resources, including water, wildlife, and minerals. South Africa shares major river basins such as the Limpopo and Zambezi, with neighbouring countries. Collaborative frameworks like the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses provide a framework for cooperation among member states, promoting the sustainable use of water resources and addressing issues such as water quality and availability. It emphasises the need for joint management strategies to mitigate conflicts and ensure fair distribution.</p> <p>The World Health Organization supports regional initiatives and works with South Africa to enhance health systems and disease response capabilities. Therefore, collaborative surveillance systems help to monitor communicable diseases that can spread across borders, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.</p>

## ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS FOR PLANNING, INCLUDING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>
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<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Progress report on the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 (SDGs)</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Alignment and domestication of SDGs</i>
<i>Progress and Analysis</i>	<p>The NPC secretariat, in partnership with the UNDP, assessed the convergence between the NDP, the SDGs, and the African Union Agenda 2063. The assessment findings indicated a very high level of convergence of 94.87% between the NDP objectives and Agenda 2063 goals and priority areas. The difference is mainly in Aspiration 5, which is not reflected in the NDP. The level of convergence between the NDP objectives and SDG targets is also quite high at 74%.</p> <p>In 2023, South Africa engaged stakeholders in the VNR process, and a draft of the VNR was produced in 2024. The report is scheduled to be presented in the 2025 HLPF.</p> <p>Nine municipalities successfully produced their first VLR, whereas the City of Cape Town produced its second report. Civil society also successfully produced its second people's report, and the business sector successfully produced its second VNR.</p> <p>In addition, a Children's SDG report was produced.</p>

### **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063**

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>African Union (AU) Agenda 2063</b>
<i>Indicator:</i>	<i>Progress report on the implementation of AU's Agenda 2063</i>
<i>Target:</i>	<i>Alignment and domestication of Agenda 2063</i>
<i>Progress and Analysis</i>	<p>South Africa has submitted a continental report to the AU, the latest of which was on the consultation on evaluating the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023 and developing the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan.</p> <p>South Africa has completed the data entry template for the third biennial implementation report on Agenda 2063, which scores performance analysis over the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan period of Agenda 2063 from various government departments. A narrative report that explains the performance indicated by the data inputs was drafted and submitted to the AU.</p>

# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NDP

Implementing the NDP in 2024 has faced various challenges, revealing valuable lessons for accelerating progress toward Vision 2030. These challenges and insights inform ongoing efforts to enhance national policies' effectiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability.

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## CHALLENGES

### Economic Constraints and Slow Growth

**Challenge:** Persistent economic stagnation, driven by structural constraints and a challenging global economic climate, has impacted funding for key NDP initiatives. High unemployment, especially among youth, and rising inequality have compounded these issues, limiting the reach and effectiveness of poverty-reduction strategies.

**Lesson:** To foster long-term sustainable growth and job creation, economic diversification and resilience-building measures, particularly in sectors such as technology and green industries, must be prioritised.

### Energy and Infrastructure Deficiencies

**Challenge:** Infrastructure shortfalls, particularly in energy, have posed significant economic and social development obstacles. Load-shedding and the slow rollout of renewable energy projects under the Just Energy Transition (JET) framework have hampered productivity and limited citizens' access to reliable services.

**Lesson:** Accelerating investment in sustainable energy infrastructure and enhancing public-private partnerships can mitigate these issues and ensure the stability of critical services.

### Weak Institutional Capacity and Coordination

**Challenge:** Limited institutional capacity at all levels of government levels has hindered NDP goals' efficient implementation and coordination. Insufficient staffing, skills gaps, and bureaucratic delays have further complicated the realisation of key development targets.

**Lesson:** Strengthening institutional capacities and enhancing government-level coordination is critical. This includes building skills, especially in data analysis and policy monitoring, and encouraging collaboration across departments.

### Data and Monitoring Limitations

**Challenge:** A lack of consistent, high-quality data has constrained the ability to monitor progress effectively. In particular, data gaps in key areas like poverty reduction, social inclusion, and environmental indicators have made it difficult to assess the full impact of policies and adjust strategies accordingly.

**Lesson:** Investing in robust data systems and monitoring frameworks is essential for evidence-based policy adjustments. Enhanced data collection and sharing among government bodies and stakeholders can improve responsiveness and accountability.

### **Social Inequality and Exclusion**

**Challenge:** Despite some progress, high levels of inequality and exclusion, particularly among rural populations, women, and marginalised communities, have limited the inclusivity of development benefits. The principle of “leaving no one behind” is challenged by persistent disparities in education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

**Lesson:** Policies must emphasise equity and social inclusion, ensuring that marginalised groups are prioritised in resource allocation, service delivery, and employment opportunities.

### **Political and Socio-Political Challenges**

**Challenge:** Political instability, changes in leadership, and differing political agendas have, at times, led to shifts in priorities, delaying the implementation of critical NDP targets. Political complexities have also affected public trust in government, which is essential for mobilising collective action.

**Lesson:** Maintaining policy continuity and fostering transparency in decision-making can build trust and ensure that long-term goals remain a priority despite political changes. Engaging civil society and local leaders in the development process can help anchor initiatives across different political climates.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

### **Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement**

Broad-based engagement with the private sector, civil society, and development partners has proven valuable for mobilising resources and enhancing accountability. Collaborative initiatives have been instrumental in areas such as skills training, healthcare access, and social protection.

**Moving Forward:** Strengthening these partnerships can create a more inclusive development process, providing diversified expertise and resources to support sustainable development goals.

### **Flexibility and Responsiveness in Policy Implementation**

The rapid changes in the global and local landscape require adaptable policy approaches. The experience in 2024 has underscored the importance of responsive governance structures capable of adapting to shifting needs, particularly in response to economic or environmental crises.

**Moving Forward:** Instituting agile policy frameworks that can be adjusted based on emerging data and feedback will enhance resilience in the face of unforeseen challenges.

### **Investing in Human Capital Development**

Skills shortages in critical areas like data science, renewable energy, and public health have underscored the importance of developing a skilled workforce that can effectively implement NDP initiatives. Efforts to upskill and empower young people have shown promising results in improving productivity and innovation.

**Moving Forward:** Increasing investments in education, vocational training, and digital skills development will better equip South Africa to address complex development needs.

### **Focus on Regional and Local Implementation**

The successful implementation of NDP targets often depends on local level action. Initiatives tailored to the specific needs of communities have shown better outcomes, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

**Moving Forward:** Decentralising some elements of the NDP and strengthening local government capacities can improve service delivery and responsiveness to community needs.

### **Incorporating Climate and Environmental Resilience in All Policies**

Climate-related challenges have become increasingly prominent, impacting agriculture and urban infrastructure sectors. Recent climate events have reinforced the urgency of integrating environmental sustainability into all policy areas of the NDP.

**Moving Forward:** Prioritising climate resilience, especially within infrastructure projects, and promoting the Just Energy Transition (JET) will be critical to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2024 report on monitoring the **NDP Indicators and Targets** reflects South Africa's commitment to realising the Vision 2030 agenda. It captures the country's achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, providing a foundation for informed decision-making and strategic action in the coming years.

Some progress has been made in implementing the NDP in areas such as access to essential services like education and healthcare. It is also paramount to acknowledge the collaborative efforts among the government, civil society, and the private sector that have produced positive outcomes, especially in promoting social equity and economic development.

Despite some progress in implementing the National Development Plan (NDP), persistent challenges such as unemployment, inequality, and institutional inefficiencies have hindered further advancements. Additionally, the effects of global economic uncertainty, climate change, and energy insecurity highlight the necessity for improved resilience and adaptability in both planning and execution.

Strengthening data systems and adopting evidence-based policies are also critical to improving the effectiveness of NDP initiatives. Enhanced coordination between national, provincial, and local governments is essential for ensuring alignment and resource optimisation. Addressing systemic barriers such as inequality and exclusion requires a renewed focus on inclusivity and leaving no one behind.

To accelerate progress toward Vision 2030, there is a need to prioritise the following:

- **Deepening Stakeholder Collaboration:** Engaging all sectors, including development partners, is key to addressing multi-dimensional challenges and leveraging diverse resources.
- **Focusing on Economic Recovery and Growth:** Implementing structural reforms and promoting investment in emerging sectors like green energy and technology can drive sustainable development.
- **Advancing Social Equity:** Targeted interventions to uplift marginalised communities will ensure that society shares development benefits equally.
- **Embedding Climate Resilience:** The Just Energy Transition must remain a central focus, balancing environmental goals with economic and social needs.

As South Africa progresses toward 2030, the importance of monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive planning cannot be overstated. This report serves as a reminder that while challenges persist, the vision of a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable South Africa remains achievable. By embracing innovation, fostering collaboration, and prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable, the nation can continue to build a future where all citizens thrive.

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## ANNEXURE: DASHBOARD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NDP 2021

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>Confidence in institutions</b>	Percentage of respondents with confidence in institutions	No baseline	90% by 2030  The 2019-2024 MTSF outcome target is 80% trust in government as per the Edelman Trust Barometer.	Trust in national government remains low at 25%, and local government trust is at 22% (GCIS Tracker, Dec 2022).  Trust in Government remains very low. GCIS Tracker December 2022 report indicate that overall trust levels in local and national government are on a downward trend, at 25% for the national government and 22% for local government/municipalities compared to the findings reported in June 2022.
<b>Service delivery</b>	Number of major service delivery protests	In 2012: 173	No target	Service delivery protests continue to rise, exacerbated by infrastructure backlogs and poor governance in municipalities.
<b>The general political climate</b>	Political climate as a serious constraint on business conditions	No baseline	Improved efficiency and capabilities of the state and political leadership	Index value:  2019: 87  2020: 81
<b>Adherence to the rule of law and</b>	Agreement with statements on rule of law	No baseline	Improved leadership, governance,	The Constitution must be upheld:

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>constitutional values</b>			and accountability	In 2017: 66%, In 2019: 77%  Elected representatives always have the right to make governance decisions:  In 2017: 44%, In 2019: 54%
<b>Stabilise the political-administrative interface</b>	Security of tenure of DGs and senior management	2.7 years (2014)	Capable, professional, responsive state in 2030	3.08 years (2017) 7-10 years (National Implementation Framework on Professionalisation of the Public Sector Recommendations, 2022)
	Separation of political and administrative decision-making in respect of departmental management  Change in section 3 of the Public Service Act.	No baseline	Appointment of an administrative head of the public service	Cabinet approved a policy proposal that seeks to amend the Public Service Administration Act (PAMA) of 2014 and the Public Service Act (PSA) of 1994.  The Public Service Amendment Bill seeks to amend section 7 of the Public Service Act and facilitate the implementation of the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector, and the establishment of the Head of Public Administration.

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	Qualifying exams to serve in the public service.	No baseline	Implement writing of qualifying exams for recruitment into the public service	Roll out of compulsory induction programme, focused on inducting new entrants to the public service at levels 1-12, Wamkelikile Induction for senior managers, and the executive induction programme for levels 15 and 16.
	Strengthened merit-based appointments.	No baseline	Professionalise the public service.	National Implementation Framework for the Professionalisation of Public Service approved by Cabinet in 2022
	Lifestyle audits are to be done as standard routine	No baseline	Introduce and implement lifestyle audits	Guide to implement lifestyle audits in the public service approved by Minister: DPSA, from 1 April 2021, making it compulsory for national and provincial departments and government components to conduct lifestyle audits.
<b>Building safer communities</b>	Murder rate (murders per 100 000 people)	In 2011/12 murder rate: was 29 per 100 000.	People in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime	In 2018/19 36 per 100 000  In the SAPS financial year 2019/20, 21 325 murders were reported. South Africa's murder rate has stagnated at 36 victims per 100,000 of

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	<p>Number of individuals aged (16 years+) that experienced street robbery.</p> <p>Perceptions of safety: Feeling at least fairly safe walking alone when it is dark.</p> <p>Number of reported crimes compared to the number of successful prosecutions</p>			<p>the population over the past three years.</p> <p>Street robbery Victimization: In 2014/15: 706000 In 2019/20: 1 109 000</p> <p>In 2018/19: Adult males: 37.4%, in 2019/20: 43.7% Adult Females: in 2018/19: 33% In 2019/20: 39%</p> <p>In 2019/20 Contact crime: 621 282, Property related 469 224, Crime detected as a result of police action 290 176</p>
<b>Strengthen the anti-corruption system.</b>	Protection of whistle-blowers (Number of whistle-blower reports received)	No baseline	<p>A resilient anti-corruption system</p> <p>South Africa has zero tolerance for corruption</p>	<p>In 2017: 5327 In 2019: 3560 In 2020: 4560</p> <p>whistle-blower reports received by Corruption Watch.</p> <p>Transparency International's Corruption Perception</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				The index suggests that between 2012 and 2019 South Africa did not make any progress. In 2019, it was ranked 70th place out of 198 countries.
<b>Revive the National Anti-Corruption Forum</b>	Relaunch of the National Anti-Corruption Forum (NACF) and tracking commitments made by all sectors and measuring these.	No baseline	An effective, integrated anti-corruption strategy	<p>Reconstitution of NACF in 2017 to combat and prevent corruption.</p> <p>Approval of National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2020-30 by Cabinet in November 2020</p> <p>Appointment of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) in August 2022 to advise the President on effectively implementing the anti-corruption strategy in all spheres of society and provide advocacy and action in the fight against fraud and corruption.</p>
<b>Improvement in Corruption Perception Index rating</b> (The Corruption Perception Index score measures	<p>The conviction rate for serious fraud and corruption in the private sector.</p> <p>The conviction rate for serious fraud and corruption in the public sector.</p>	No baseline	No target	South Africa's score improved slightly from 43 points in 2018 to 44 points in 2019, but in 2020 South Africa maintained the same score as it had in 2019. Its rank, however, improved

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
the perceived levels of corruption in the public sector)	<p>Percentage of cases finalised by departments through investigations.</p> <p>The number of financial intelligence reports used for the identification of high-priority cases.</p> <p>The number of civil cases enrolled in the Special Tribunal Court. Specialised Commercial Crime Courts established in five provinces</p>			<p>from 70th place in 2019 to 69th in 2020.</p> <p>739 National Anti-Corruption Hotline cases were referred to the relevant departments and public entities within seven days of receipt on 30 September of the 2022/23 financial year. Out of the 739 referred cases, 350 (47%) were finalised.</p>
<b>Effectively defended, protected, safeguarded , and secured communities</b>	<p>Percentage of identified drug syndicates neutralised with arrests.</p> <p>Percentage increase in the number of arrests (number of cases) for dealing in</p>	No baseline	No target	

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	<p>drugs (excluding cannabis).</p> <p>Percentage of identified organised criminal groups or syndicates neutralised with arrests.</p> <p>Percentage of identified illegal mining operations terminated with arrests.</p>			<p>Specialised cybercrime investigative support case files successfully investigated, increased from 80,22%, in 2019/20 to 80,30%, in 2021/22.</p>
<p><b>Expanding basic services and infrastructure</b></p>	<p>Access to basic services (water, sanitation, waste, energy)</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>Energy: 75% by 2030 Integrated Resource Plan target</p>	<p>89.3% of households have access to piped water (2023). Basic sanitation access is 84.1% (Stats SA, 2021).</p> <p>In the provision of adequate sanitation, 84,1% of households have access to improved functioning or hygienic sanitation facilities in 2021 (Stats SA). An increase from 83,2% in 2020 - Eskom's energy availability factor (EAF) 66.9% in 2019</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				Households with access to grid electricity marginally decreased from 90% in 2020 to 89,3% in 2021. (Stats SÁ, GHS 2021)
<b>Increase in the number and type of residential units</b>	Informal settlement upgrading	No baseline	Upgrading of the 1 500 informal settlements by 2024 (MTSF 2019-24 target)	<p>The upgrading of informal settlements target is currently at 1.5% (MTSF). The proliferation of informal settlements has increased from 1 453 018 in 1996 to 1 979 000 households in 2020 (36,2% increase)</p> <p>The underperformance in the upgrading of informal settlements poses a negative impact on households that live in inhabitable living conditions in informal settlements and reinforces spatial poverty traps.</p>
<b>Adequate housing and improved quality living environments</b>	<p>Social housing/rental housing units in Priority Development Areas (PDAs)</p> <p>Community residential units (CRU)/ rental housing units in PDAs</p>	No baseline	<p>300 000 social housing/rental housing units in PDAs</p> <p>12 000 community residential units (CRU)</p>	<p>Delivery of 300 000 Breaking New Ground houses at 57% in 2022</p> <p>Delivery of 5 000 CRUs – 34% in 2022</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
			18 000 rental housing units in PDAs	Delivery of 18 000 social /rental units in PDAs – 47% in 2022
<b>Security of tenure including the eradication of title deed backlogs</b>	Eradication of title deed backlogs	No baseline	Issuing of outstanding title deeds.	Issuing of 1 193 222 outstanding title deeds comprising pre-1994 backlog (45 535), post-1994 (500 845), post-2014 (346 842) and new title deeds (300 000).  New title deeds 2019: 898 2020/21:3457 2021/22: 12935 2022 Sept: 14960
<b>Equal opportunities, inclusion, and redress</b>	<p>The number of designated employers is subject to the DG review process to enforce compliance with the Employment Equity Act.</p> <p>The number of persons with disabilities employed increased annually by at least 1.5% of the total workforce reported by designated employers.</p>	No baseline	No target	<p>1782 (against a target of 1662) employers were subjected to the DG review process to enforce compliance with the Employment Equity Act, 1996 (56%) employers were found to be compliant and 786 (44%) non-compliant</p> <p>Persons with disabilities decreased by 0.1% in 2021/22 (from 1,3% in 2020 to 1,2% in 2021) in the workforce of both public and private sectors against a</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	<p>The number of sustained and visible initiatives and campaigns throughout the year on gender and anti-xenophobia.</p> <p>The number of sustained and visible antixenophobia campaigns conducted with departments and role players. Effective governance structure to lead and co-ordinate the overall implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (NAP).</p>			<p>target of a 1.5% increase.</p> <p>Data from the DPSA also indicates that the government has not been able to meet the 2% target over the past four years (1.03% March 2019, 1.04% March 2020, 1.04% March 2021, and 1.12% March 2022).</p>
<p><b>Promoting social cohesion through increased interaction across space and class</b></p>	<p>Number of programmes on television and radio showcasing national days and constitutional values.</p> <p>The number of digital campaigns showcasing the significance of national days.</p> <p>The number of community conversations/dialogu</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>Social cohesion construct (80% in 2019, 62.7% in 2020 and 62.9% in 2021)</p> <p>For the 2019/20 period, 16 and ten community conversations were held in 2020/21, and</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	<p>es held to foster social interaction.</p> <p>Number of people actively participating in organised sport and active recreation events</p>			<p>this was due to Covid-19 and the fact that they are mass-based. In 2021/22, 20 community conversations/dialogues were held owing to the relaxation in the lockdown regulations.</p> <p>The performance has been poor over the years because of poor governance, among other things within some national federations.</p>
<b>Promoting active citizenry and leadership</b>	The number of face-to-face to face career development events held per annum.	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported.
	Number of election results declared within seven days after election day.	Local elections 2011	Election results are declared within seven days after election day.	Elections have been declared seven days after elections for 2016 and 2021
<b>Fostering social compacts</b>	The number of social compact(s) for a more democratic, equal, and prosperous society. Overarching social compact.	No baseline	No target	Different sectors have been in a process of fostering social compacts. Quantifying the indicator remains a challenge.
<b>Increasing GDP growth, measured</b>	GDP growth rate	3.3%	Average GDP growth of 5.4% for 2011-2030 (5.0%)	-7.0% (2020) 0.2% (2020) 4.9% (2021)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	Per capita GDP growth	R50 000 per person (2010)	R110 000 per person (2030)	R 54 900 per person (2020) R 74 907 per person (2021)
<b>Reducing unemployment</b>	Unemployment rate (Official)	25% (2010)	6%	34.9% (Q3: 2021) 32.6% (Q2: 2023)
	Number employed	13 million (2010)	24 million	14,3 million in Q3: 2021 16,3 million in Q2: 2023
	Employment growth relative to 2010 baseline	No baseline	11 million	2.5 million (2019)
	Dependency ratio	3.9 (2010)	2.5	3.6
	Employment ratio	41.9%	61.0%	42.5%
	Labour force participation rate	55.7%	65.0%	59.6%
	<b>Increasing investment by the government and the private sector</b>	Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	19.3% (2010)	30% of GDP
Private sector investment (% of GDP)		No baseline	20% of GDP	11% of GDP (2020) 9.9% of GDP (2021)
Public sector investment (% of GDP)		6.8%	10% of GDP	5% of GDP (2020) 4.1% of GDP (2021)
<b>Poverty reduction</b>	Percentage of the population living below the food poverty line (FPL)	21.4%	0%	25.2% (2016)
	Percentage of people living below the lower-bound poverty line (LBPL)	36.4%	0%	40% (2016)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	Percentage of people living below the upper-bound poverty line (UBPL)	53.2%	No target for UBPL	55.5% (2016)
	Percentage of people classed as poor using the South African multi-dimensional poverty index (SAMPI) headcount	8.0%	No target for SAMPI	7% (2016)
<b>Improving equity</b>	Reduce income inequality (Gini income measure)	0.69 (2009)	0.6	0.68 (2015)
	Reduce income inequality (Gini expenditure measure)	0.65 (2009)	No target for expenditure measure	0.65 (2018)
	Share of income going to the bottom 40%	6% (2010)	10%	Less than 6%
<b>Export growth</b>	Exports growth (constant rand)	4.0% (2010)	6%	0.1% (2018/19) -10.2% (Q2, 2023)
	Non-traditional exports growth (non-mining based)	7.6% (2010)	10%	-0.8% (2020)
	Mining/metals exports	5.9%		1.9% (2020) -9.3 (Q1,2022)
<b>Improved and efficient regulatory authority, certainty in the energy mix and pricing path, improved access, and competition to reduce cost and</b>	Electricity availability factor (EAP)	No baseline	40 000 MW power capacity	3 700 MW (2018)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>improved maintenance of distribution capacity of municipalities</b>				
	Renewable energy (RE)-total existing RE generation capacity	No baseline	20 000 MW	12041 MW (2018)
<b>Improved access, efficiency, and cost of transport</b>	Percentage of goods transported by road and rail	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
	The proportion of the population using public transport	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
<b>Water resources and water usage</b>	Percentage of population with access to clean drinking water	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
<b>Integrated and inclusive rural economy</b>	Total agricultural employment	781 000	+393 000 (Under-utilised land/ smallholder (field crops only) +250 000 (Export-led) +326 000 (thousand Agro-processing/integrated value chain)	-100 000 -utilised land/ smallholder (field crops only) +25 000 Export-led +102 000 Agro-processing/integrated value chain
	Land reform progress	No baseline	23.3m ha	15.56m ha

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>Environmental sustainability</b>	Reduction in total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	No baseline	No target	
	Renewable energy (RE)-total existing RE generation capacity	No baseline	20 GW	6.5 GW (2019) 6.2 GW (2022)
	Protecting biodiversity	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
<b>Basic Education</b>	Percentage of learners entering quality preschool education (target: two years of compulsory schooling for all 4- and 5-year-olds by 2030),	4-year-olds (2013): 74.4% of attendance	Two years of compulsory schooling for all 4- and 5-year-olds by 2030	4-year-olds (2013): 74.4%, (2019): 74.7% (2020): 56.6%, (2021): 55%
		5-year-olds (2016): 87% attendance		5-year-olds (2016): 87% (2019): 92.7% (2020): 77.5%
	Time spent teaching.	No baseline	No baseline	Teachers in South Africa spent 66% of classroom time on actual teaching and learning
	Improved learner: educator ratio	LE ratio of 31 in 2003		Average LE Ratio (primary and secondary schools) (2003): 34 (2010): 31 (2016): 33

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				(2021): 34 primary school (2021): 32 secondary school
	Percentage of schools meeting minimum standards for infrastructure (sanitation, water, electricity, libraries, and laboratories)	59% compliance in 2011	All schools to qualify by 2030	(2011):59% (2017): 59%
	Percentage of schools with School Governing Bodies	2011- 56%	No target	(2017): 100% compliance 2020 - 97.05% (1 941/ 2 000)
<b>Post-school Education</b>	Percentage of TVET lecturers who are qualified pedagogically (difficult to measure) and professionally (this could be possible to measure)	No baseline	No target	(2022): 59%.
	TVET and artisan programme throughput rates	(2012): 15 000	30 000	(2019): 21 000 (2021) - 10 302 (2022) – 10 376
	Percentage of university academic staff with PhDs	(2012) - 1 500	5 000	(2012) - 1 500 (2018)- 48% (2019) - 3 000 (2022) – 47.7%
	Number of post-graduate students per 100 000	(2012): 1 050	1 600	(2015):1 901 (2019):45 685
	Number of ISI-accredited articles and patents registered	No data available	No target	14 612.27 units in 2016 to 15 388.42 in 2017, a 5.3% growth.

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
Promoting health	Improving life expectancy	61 years in 2012	70 years	60 years (2011) 62.1 years (2013) 65.3 years (2019) 65.4 years (2020) 61.7years (2021) 62.8 Years (2022)
	Reducing the under-5 child mortality rate	44 deaths per 1000 live births	Fewer than 30 deaths per 1000 live births	42.4 deaths per 1 000 births (2017) 35.2 child deaths per 1000 live births (2020) 30,8 child deaths per 1 000 live births (2021) 30,7 deaths per 1000 births (2022)
	Reducing the infant mortality rate	34 deaths per 1000 live births (2012)	fewer than 20 per 1000 births	32,8 per 1 000 births (2017) The infant mortality rate for 2021 is estimated at 24, 1 per 1 000 live births. 24,3 per 1 000 live births (2022)
	Reducing maternal mortality	Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) per 100 000 live births 164 in 2012  (Rapid Mortality Surveillance Report 2019 & 2020)	Less than 100 deaths per 100 000 live births	134 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in 2016, reduced from 153 per 100 000 in 2013.  Nationally, the ratio stands at 109/100 000 live births in 2017

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>Improving the quality of primary healthcare at clinics</b>	Number of ideal clinics established	Base of zero in 2013/14	Transform 3,467 (100%) PHC clinics in the 52 districts to qualify as Ideal Clinics by 2021	Ideal Clinics stands at 1928 (of 3479 PHC clinics)
<b>Enhancing social assistance</b>	A social wage, which will result in a reduced cost of living (education, healthcare, basic services),	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
	Expanded social grants coverage, increasing the take-up rate for those who qualify (target: 100% coverage for old age pension by 2020),	2012 – Individual – 29.5% Household – 42.9%	No target	2012/13: 16 106 110  2019/20: 18 290 592  2020/2021: 18,9 million
<b>Development of social welfare services</b>	Strengthen financial and human resources and infrastructure for social development (target: increase of 1.9% per annum in the budget for the next 5 years and universal availability of facilities).	2012: the baseline was for 3908 scholarships to be awarded to Social Service Practitioners (SSPs), only 918 were awarded  932 SSPs were trained	Human resources 55 000	10 389 posts in 2013  2020 / 21:  Currently: 18 300  There has been an increase of 163 SSPs (during 2020/21 financial year)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
Inclusive education and special needs	Ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities	No baseline	Percentage of teachers in service who have received in-service training in the last 12 months to teach students with special educational needs	(2015): 557 (2020): 45 942 (2022): 7067 (53 009)
Accessible schools	Build and upgrade education facilities which are disability sensitive	(2012) a: 88 (2012) b: 12,5 (2012) c: 23,6 (2012) d: 93 (2012) e: 99,9	Percentage of schools with access to (a) electricity, (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes, (c) computers for pedagogical purposes, (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, (e) basic drinking water, (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities, and (g) basic hand washing facilities (as	(2015) (a) Electricity = 98,0% (b) Internet for pedagogical purposes = 19,7% (c) Computers for pedagogical purpose = 32,6% (e) Basic drinking water = 99,0% (f) Sanitation facilities = 100,0%

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
			per the WASH indicator definitions)	
Full employment	Achieve full employment for persons with disabilities	(2014): 24,9%	The unemployment rate, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities	(2012): 14 838  (2021): 16 832 were not economically active
Inclusion and empowerment	Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, and disability.	No data	Percentage of positions in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) held by persons with disabilities	(2021): 12
Accessible transport	Providing access to safe, affordable accessible and sustainable transport systems for all including persons with disabilities	No data	Percentage of public transport vehicles meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities	(2018): 2349
<b>Define national priorities</b>	Review training of foreign-service officers,  starting by studying global best practices in economic diplomacy	No baseline	Assessment is done and documented	No progress

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	and international negotiations.			
	Enhance research capabilities and co-operation among vital state institutions that deal with cross-border issues	No baseline	No target	No progress
<b>Aggressively expand trade and investment in the region, on the continent and globally.</b>	Increase intra-regional trade in Southern Africa	No baseline	From 7% of trade to 25% of a trade by 2030.	<p>As a share of South Africa's total merchandise exports and imports, trade from SSA did not play a significantly more prominent role in 2018 than in 2010. In 2018, exports to SSA were at 26% and imports at 11.6%.</p> <p>January to October 2023, South Africa's intra-Africa trade balance amounts to R307 billion with exports at R454 billion and imports at R147 billion. The exports, excluding BELN, amounts to R294 billion and imports are R94 billion.</p> <p>South African exports to African markets show a notable shift towards the services sector, as the percentage of</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				surveyed service sector exporters more than doubled from January 2022 to May 2023.
	Increase South Africa's trade with regional neighbours	No baseline	From 15% of our trade to 30%.	No progress has been reported
	Increase exports (as measured in volume terms)	No baseline	Should grow by 6% a year to 2030 with non-traditional exports growing by 10% a year.	South Africa's trade as a share of GDP peaked in 2014 but declined after that. In 2019, it was only 3% points higher than in 2010.  South Africa's global export trade, for January to October 2023, stood at R1 trillion.
	Increase FDI into South Africa	No baseline	No specific target	FDI into South Africa is related to the commodity cycle, accounting for the drop in inward FDI after 2013. South Africa's FDI outflows exceeded FDI inflows between 2014 and 2017 but returned to a net positive position in 2018 and 2019. In 2020, South Africa attracted \$2.5 billion in new foreign investments. A 45%

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				<p>drop from the figure of \$4.6 billion in 2019.<sup>51</sup></p> <p>South Africa recorded foreign direct investment inflows of R53.8 billion in the second quarter of 2023. The acquisition of a domestic beverage company by a non-resident firm contributed to the increase.</p>
<b>Increase Tourism in South Africa</b>	Increase foreign tourist arrival numbers	No baseline	No target	<p>In 2019, 14,8 million non-resident visitors to South Africa, down from 15,0 million in 2018. Of the 14,8 million, 31% were same-day visitors, and 69% were tourists.</p> <p>More than 4 million tourist arrivals in South Africa between January and June 2023 (4.8 million). In August 2023, 165 705 foreign tourists came to South Africa.</p>
	Increase foreign tourist expenditure	No baseline	No specific target	Inbound tourism expenditure increased by 1,2% to R121,5

<sup>51</sup> report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				<p>billion in 2019 compared with 2018.</p> <p>R25.3 billion expenditure in the first quarter of 2023 which is an increase of 143.9% compared to quarter 1 of 2022</p>
<p><b>Harmonise border policies between South Africa's regional trading partners, especially in the emerging Tripartite Free Trade Area,</b></p>	<p>Harmonised border policies between South Africa and trading partners</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>South Africa has ratified as a member of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).</p>
<p><b>Integrate national institutions responsible for foreign policy, international negotiations , and monitoring.</b></p>	<p>Integrated national institutions</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>No progress has been reported</p>
<p><b>Improve human security through effective transnational natural-resource</b></p>	<p>Effective transnational natural-resource management</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>No progress has been reported</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
management – especially when it comes to water and energy – and knowledge-sharing on vital issues such as communicable diseases, most notably HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and transnational crime and maritime piracy				
Establish international partnerships and networks on planning including in respect of sustainable development	Progress on implementation of UN Agenda 2030 (SDGs)	No baseline	Alignment and domestication of SDGs in domestic plans	The first Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented to the UN in 2019.  Process to present the second VNR in 2024 is underway.
	Progress on implementation of AU's Agenda 2063	Report submitted to AU	Alignment and domestication of Agenda 2063 in domestic plans	Progress report presented in 2020 during the Heads of State and Government Summit.  Stakeholder consultation report on evaluation of the first ten-year implementation plan and developing the second ten-year

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				<p>implementation plan submitted in 2022.</p> <p>Data input submitted towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial report of Agenda 2063.</p>



Compiled by the Secretary of Planning  
National Planning Commission  
December 2024

