

Statement by the National  
Planning Commission (NPC)  
on the passing away of

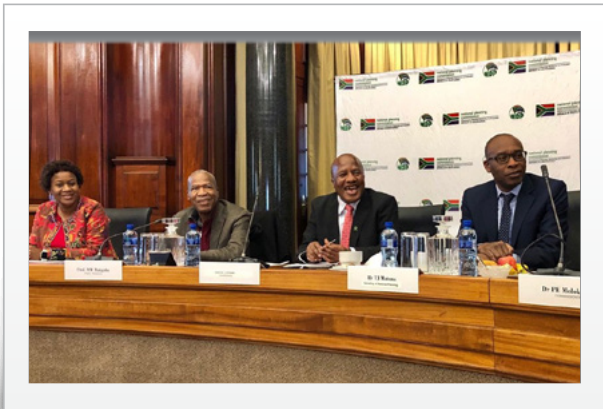
# *Mr Jackson Mthembu,*

Minister in the Presidency  
and Chairperson of the NPC



**The National Planning Commission is shocked and deeply saddened by the passing away of Mr Jackson Mthembu, Minister in the Presidency and one of our own in his capacity as Chairperson of the Commission.**

Minister Mthembu became the Chairperson of the NPC upon his appointment as Minister in the Presidency in 2019.



Covid-19 has robbed the country of a great patriot, a humble leader and fighter for a decent life for our people, especially the poor and most vulnerable.

He was an ardent champion of the National Development Plan, which he considered still relevant and a compelling response to fundamental development challenges of the country, in particular poverty, unemployment and inequality.

He was a vital voice of the NPC within government, agitating for redoubling of the efforts to implement the Plan better, and to accelerate progress in the years remaining to the 2030 goals of the NDP.

He believed passionately in the independence of the NPC as an expert advisory think-tank and encouraged the Commission to serve the interests of the country's long-term development rather than partisan interests.

Minister Mthembu's leadership was distinctive in style, principled and intellectually incisive, and yet humane and empathetic, which served the Commission well in his brief tenure as its Chairperson. He was an excellent listener and a great unifier, open to diverse viewpoints, and yet firm when convinced of the correct decision on a matter. He was an affable and warm personality.

His departure leaves the NPC poorer, and is a major loss to the government, his comrades and friends.

Our deepest condolences go to his family.

*May His Soul Rest in Peace*