



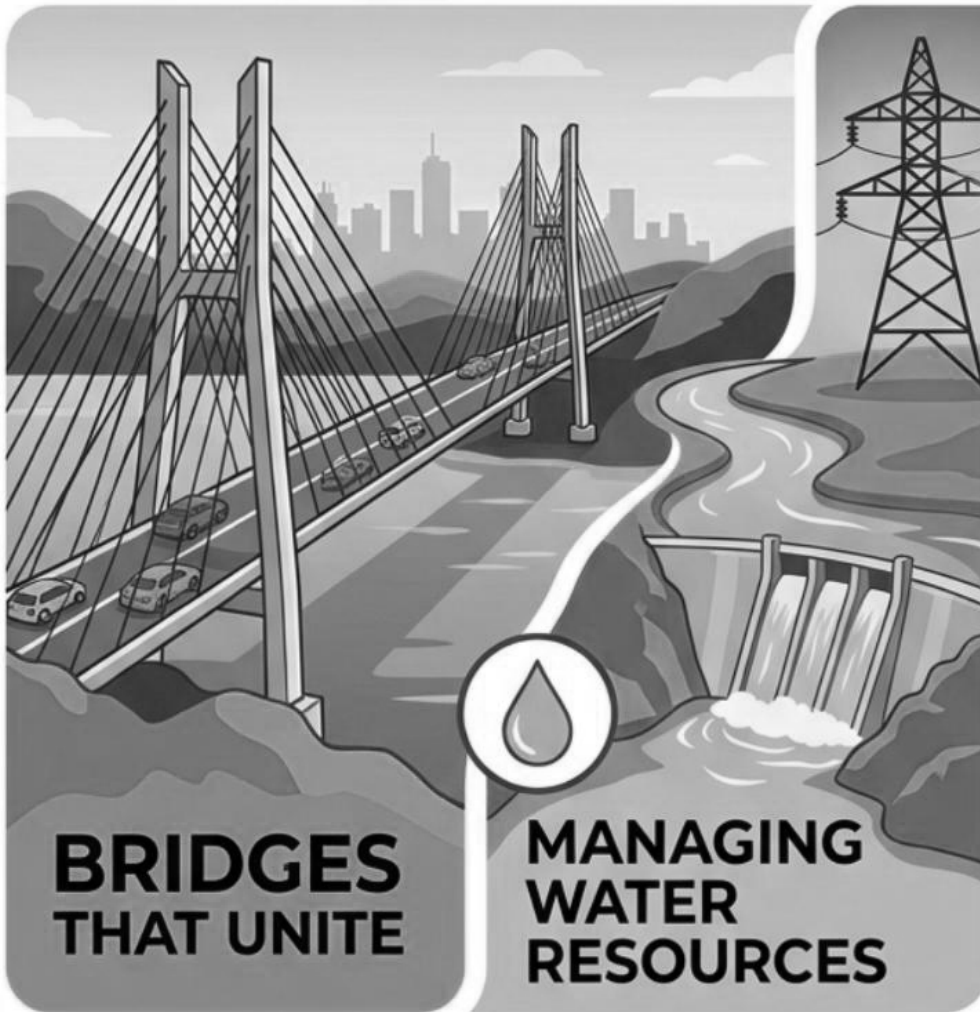
ANC PARLIAMENTARY Caucus

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Newsletter.

MAY

CONNECT SOUTH AFRICA INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE



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KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: HOW THE ANC'S ENERGY ACTION PLAN POWERED A NEW INDUSTRIAL DAWN

Since the announcement of the Energy Action Plan by President Cyril Ramaphosa in July 2022, we have seen it yield bold actions aimed at fixing Eskom, improving generation capacity, and closing the Gap in electricity supply.

The African National Congress's Energy Action Plan has five key pillars which includes, fixing ESKOM, accelerating private investment, fast tracking the procurement of new generation capacity, the investment in households and rooftop solar and reaching long term energy security.

Since the 1st of April 2025, the Department of Electricity and Energy officially became a stand-alone Department, enabling it to fully focus on implementing the Energy Action Plan which has resulted in the country being without load-shedding for more than 360 days to date and a marked increase in Energy Availability Factor which is seating at 65,16%, demonstrating greater system reliability and stability.

The restoration of reliable electricity has had direct economic benefits. Manufacturing output increased by 7.2% quarter-on-quarter during the



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third quarter of 2025, illustrating the close relationship between energy security and industrial productivity. Businesses have been able to work more efficiently, reducing dependence on expensive backup generation and planning production with greater certainty.

Energy stability has also strengthened investor confidence.



The removal of electricity supply constraints has supported broader reforms under Operation Vulindlela, helping unlock growth across manufacturing, mining, and other productive sectors. Improved reliability encourages both domestic and foreign investment, creating conditions for economic expansion and employment growth.

A notable feature of the Energy Action Plan has been the mobilization of private investment. Regulatory reforms enabled businesses and households to invest heavily in solar generation, adding substantial new capacity to the grid and reducing pressure on Eskom. This expansion of private

generation has complemented improvements at power stations and contributed meaningfully to reducing the severity of electricity shortages.

There is further an improved quality of life in households where school going children and higher education students who struggled to study in the evenings due to load-shedding, today do not have to worry about that. Uninterrupted electricity supply has resulted in improved service delivery, hospitals which need uninterrupted electricity supply to save people’s lives, as well as other institutions that cannot fully function to maximum capacity without electricity can now function with ease.

While there may still be challenges in long-term energy sustainability, the Energy Action Plan continues to demonstrate how focused leadership, coordinated implementation and partnership between the public and private sectors can deliver tangible results.

The Department of Electricity and Energy under the stewardship of its Minister, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, implementing progressive policies, has led the ending of load shedding and restoring energy security, South Africa has laid the foundation for renewed industrial growth, increased investment and greater employment opportunities, a new industrial dawn powered by reliable electricity•



TURNING LIMPOPO INTO AN INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND

For many decades, Limpopo province has carried the burden of being described mainly as a labour-sending province. Many of our people left their families and homes, villages and townships to build the mines, industries and cities of other provinces, while the full value of Limpopo's own mineral wealth, agricultural strength, tourism assets and strategic location was not sufficiently industrialised within the province itself. That historical pattern is now changing. Limpopo will no longer be seen only as a source of labour. It is becoming a place of production, beneficiation, manufacturing, logistics, skills development and decent work., A province striving to realise its full potential.

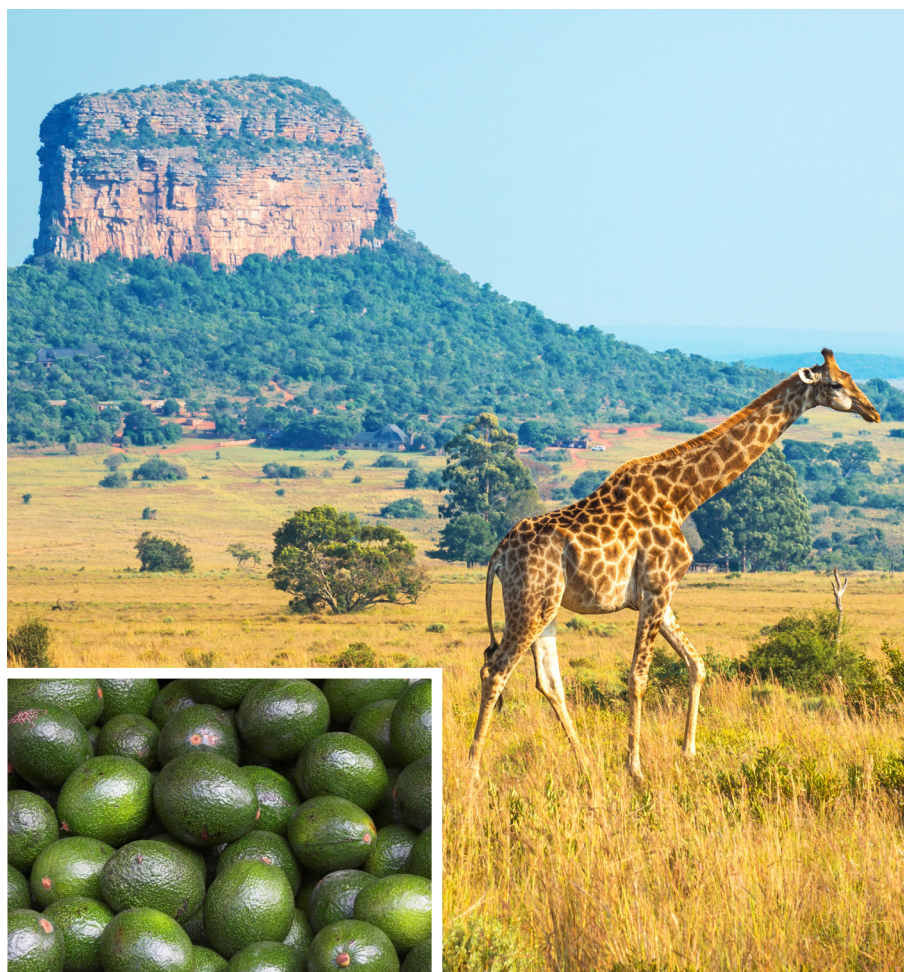
The outcomes of the 2025 Limpopo Investment Conference show that this shift is no longer just an aspiration. The conference, held in Polokwane on 30 and 31 October 2025, secured investment pledges of approximately R170 billion, with commitments spread across energy, mining, water infrastructure, manufacturing, logistics, real estate, tourism, public infrastructure and related sectors. According to the preliminary outcomes report, these investments have the potential to create more than 32,000 permanent jobs and over 15,000 temporary jobs, which is a significant platform for changing the structure of the provincial economy.

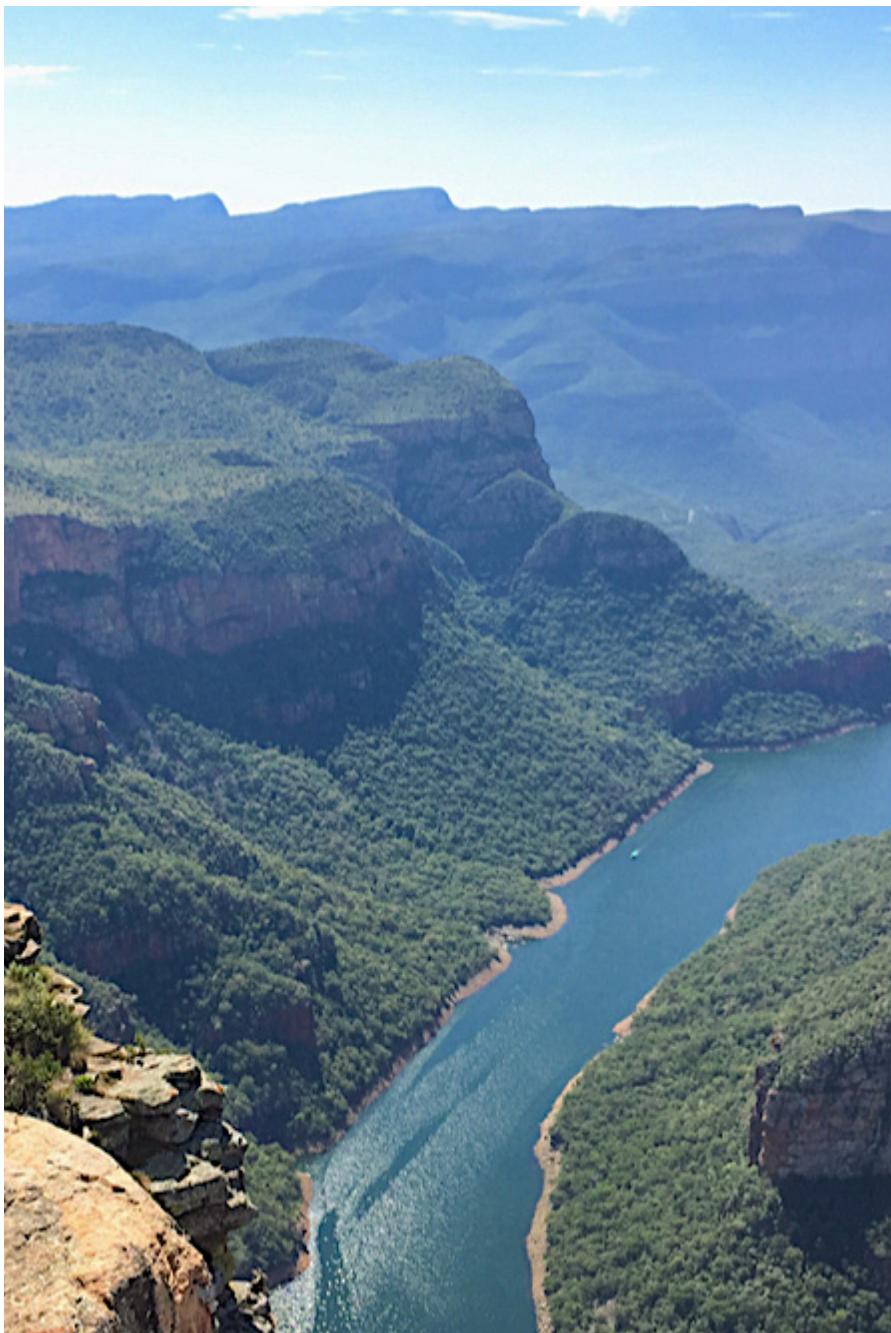


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The importance of these pledges lies not only in their size, but in what they represent. Limpopo is beginning to position itself as an industrial province that can use its own natural advantages to drive development. The conference report records major sector commitments, including large-scale investments in energy, water, mining, logistics, manufacturing, tourism and property development.

The fuller conference report also





mineral beneficiation panel therefore correctly argued for an integrated provincial mining-to-industry roadmap, focused on beneficiation, manufacturing and downstream value chains.

This is where the ANC's developmental vision becomes practical. When minerals are extracted and exported in raw form, the province loses opportunities for factories, artisans, engineers, technicians, transport operators, small suppliers and local entrepreneurs. But when minerals are beneficiated locally, the province captures more value. It creates a wider industrial ecosystem. It builds skills. It strengthens local enterprises. It ensures that communities located near mineral wealth are left not only with the social and environmental costs of mining, but also share in its economic benefits.

The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone and the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone are central to this new industrial path. The LEDET Budget Vote Speech records progress in the Musina-Makhado SEZ, including work on bulk water infrastructure, the transfer of 3,500 hectares to the province, township establishment for the South Site, an investment pipeline exceeding R2 billion confirmed by the Industrial Development Corporation, and additional renewable energy investment potential. It also records progress on the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ, including bulk infrastructure work supported by more than R400 million through partnerships involving LEDET, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, Sekhukhune District and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality.

confirms that the province used the conference to showcase its comparative advantages in mining, agriculture, renewable energy and logistics, while promoting public-private partnerships to support industrialisation, sustainable growth and job creation in line with the Limpopo Development Plan 2025–2030.

At the centre of this programme is mining and mineral beneficiation.

Limpopo is rich in minerals that are essential not only for South Africa's present economy, but also for the future global economy. The discussions at the conference emphasised that mining must not remain a standalone extractive activity. It must become the foundation for industrialisation, downstream manufacturing, local procurement, skills development and long-term community development. The mining and



The green hydrogen agreement signed between the Fetakgomo Tubatse Special Economic Zone, Valterra Platinum and Mintek is especially important. It points to the future of Limpopo's industrialisation: one that combines mineral beneficiation, renewable energy, hydrogen mobility, research and innovation. The agreement aims to establish a pilot green hydrogen production facility and logistics truck refuelling station within the SEZ, while also enhancing local beneficiation of platinum group metals and other critical minerals.

Energy is another decisive part of this industrial future. No province can industrialise without reliable, affordable and sustainable energy. The conference discussions recognised Limpopo's potential to become a climate-smart energy province, with opportunities in renewable energy, green hydrogen, clean mobility, energy storage and local manufacturing linked to the energy transition. This is why the large energy-related pledges matter. They are not only about electricity generation; they are about building the energy platform required for industrial production, mining expansion, beneficiation and manufacturing competitiveness.

Agriculture and agro-processing are also a crucial part of Limpopo's industrial heartland. Limpopo is already one of South Africa's major agricultural provinces, with strengths in citrus, avocados, macadamia nuts, potatoes, livestock and other high-value agricultural products. The agriculture and agro-processing panel correctly emphasised that the province must move from primary production to value-added agro-processing if agriculture is to unlock more jobs, exports and inclusive participation. This is particularly important for rural communities,

women, young people and emerging farmers.

The province's strategic location gives this agenda further strength. Limpopo is South Africa's northern gateway into the Southern African Development Community region. Through the N1 corridor, the Beitbridge Border Post, the Musina-Makhado SEZ and the broader North-South Corridor, Limpopo can become a logistics and manufacturing platform for regional trade. The AfCFTA message at the conference was therefore important: products that are substantially transformed in Limpopo can access wider African markets, provided the province builds the infrastructure, logistics systems and productive capacity required to compete.

However, investment pledges alone will not transform Limpopo. Implementation will. The Premier's closing message was clear that pledges must be converted into bankable and implementable projects, with the Limpopo Economic Development Agency mandated to track commitments and report on progress. The investment conference report also records immediate next steps, including monthly reporting, due diligence on investor readiness, investor workshops, intergovernmental problem-solving, regulatory unblocking, SEZ infrastructure, local beneficiation and skills alignment through TVET colleges and universities.

This is the discipline required to turn promise into production. Communities must see factories being built, roads improved, water and energy infrastructure delivered, young people trained, local suppliers included and jobs created. Investors must also experience a government that is organised, responsive and capable of resolving bottlenecks.

Municipalities, provincial departments, public entities, development finance institutions and the private sector must therefore work as one system.

The ANC's task is to ensure that industrialisation is not abstract. It must be felt in the lives of ordinary people. It must mean that a young person in Sekhukhune can train for work in mining beneficiation or green hydrogen. It must mean that a small business in Vhembe can participate in agro-processing and logistics. It must mean that communities around Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse benefit from supplier development, skills programmes and local employment. It must mean that the wealth of Limpopo is used to build Limpopo and contribute to the growth of the economy and creation of job opportunities.

The 2025 Limpopo Investment Conference has therefore given the province a mammoth task. More than R170 billion in pledges must now become a programme of action. If implemented with discipline, accountability and urgency, these investments can help shift Limpopo from being a labour-sending province to becoming an industrial heartland rooted in mineral beneficiation, manufacturing, agro-processing, renewable energy, logistics and inclusive growth.

That is the Limpopo we must build: a province that no longer exports only its people and raw materials, but produces goods, skills, enterprises and opportunities. A province that rises through implementation. A province that turns its natural wealth into shared prosperity•

Sources:

1. *limpopo investment conference report.*
2. *LEDET 26-27 Budget vote speech.*



REMOVING THE HANDBRAKES

HOW OPERATION VULINDLELA IS UNLOCKING JOBS



South Africa’s constitutional democracy is founded on the values of human dignity, equality, and social justice. Central to this foundation is the recognition that labour rights are human rights and that economic transformation must be aligned with the advancement of decent work. Since 1994, the democratic state led by the African National Congress has pursued a developmental agenda aimed at expanding employment, reducing inequality, and transforming the structure of the economy in favour of the working class and the poor. However, persistent structural constraints—ranging from



energy insecurity, logistics inefficiencies, regulatory delays, and administrative bottlenecks—have limited the economy’s ability to grow at the scale required to absorb labour. It is in response to these constraints that Operation

Vulindlela was introduced as a strategic reform programme aimed at “removing the handbrakes” on economic growth and job creation.

By fixing technical inefficiencies in the state, Operation Vulindlela is creating a more efficient, predictable, and investment-friendly environment that is essential for expanding economic activity.

Importantly, the success of Operation Vulindlela is directly linked to the mandate of the Department of Employment and Labour. While Vulindlela focuses on enabling growth through structural reforms, the Department ensures that such growth translates into



decent, protected, and inclusive employment. In this sense, the two are mutually reinforcing pillars of a single developmental state strategy: one enabling growth, the other safeguarding the labour market and ensuring social justice.

South Africa's labour market is governed by a progressive legislative framework that includes amongst other pieces of legislation, the *Labour Relations Act*, the *Basic Conditions of Employment Act*, the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the *Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act*, the *Unemployment Insurance Act*, and the *Employment Equity Act*. These instruments collectively ensure fair labour practices, workplace safety, income protection, employment equity, and skills development, forming the backbone of a regulated and humane labour market.

Operation Vulindlela's reforms in energy, transport, water, and regulatory systems are critical because they unlock productive capacity across the economy. However, without strong labour market institutions, economic expansion risks deepening inequality. The Department of Employment and Labour therefore plays a central role in ensuring that as barriers to growth are removed, workers are protected through enforcement, regulation, and proactive labour market interventions.

Through intensified labour inspection and enforcement services, the Department ensures compliance with minimum wage laws, occupational health and safety standards, and employment equity obligations. This enforcement function is particularly important in high-risk sectors such as mining, construction, manufacturing, and

agriculture, where workers are often vulnerable to exploitation and unsafe working conditions. In this regard, the Department safeguards the principle that economic growth must never come at the expense of worker dignity and safety.

The historical experience of mine workers' struggles remains a powerful reminder of the consequences of unchecked inequality and exploitation. These struggles helped shape South Africa's labour laws and continue to inform the state's commitment to ensuring that workers are treated as rights-bearing citizens rather than disposable inputs into production. Today, the Department continues to advance this legacy through occupational safety regulation, dispute resolution mechanisms, and compensation systems.

At the same time, Operation Vulindlela's focus on improving economic efficiency strengthens the environment in which the Department delivers employment services, skills development, and labour activation programmes. Through collaboration with the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), government is expanding access to training, learnerships, apprenticeships, and workplace-based learning. These initiatives are essential in addressing structural unemployment, particularly among young people, and in aligning skills with the demands of a changing economy shaped by digitalisation, industrialisation, and green transitions.

The Department further strengthens social protection through the Unemployment Insurance Fund, which provides income support to workers during periods of unemployment, maternity, illness,

or economic disruption. This system plays a stabilising role in the labour market, ensuring that workers are protected during economic transitions driven by reform and restructuring.

Equally important is the Department's commitment to inclusion and equality. Through the enforcement of employment equity legislation, efforts to integrate persons with disabilities into the labour market, and interventions aimed at eradicating child labour, the Department ensures that economic growth is inclusive and that vulnerable groups are not excluded from opportunities created through structural reform.

South Africa's engagement in the International Labour Organization and the African Regional Labour Administration Centre further reinforces its commitment to global and continental labour standards. These platforms enable South Africa to contribute to shaping international norms on decent work, social protection, and fair labour practices, while also drawing lessons to strengthen domestic policy implementation.

In conclusion, Operation Vulindlela and the Department of Employment and Labour represent two interconnected dimensions of South Africa's developmental state. Operation Vulindlela removes structural and bureaucratic barriers that constrain growth and job creation, while the Department ensures that this growth is translated into decent work, protected labour rights, and social justice. Together, they demonstrate that unlocking employment is not only about economic reform, but also about building a capable state that places workers at the centre of development.



DELIVERING **WATER SECURITY** AS A CONSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPERATIVE

Since the democratic breakthrough of 1994, the democratic state led by the African National Congress has worked tirelessly to expand access to water and sanitation services to millions of South Africans who were deliberately excluded under apartheid. The struggle for water has always been inseparable from the broader struggle for human dignity, equality and social justice. From the ANC perspective, water is not merely a commodity. It is a constitutional right, a strategic national resource and a foundation for inclusive economic development.

As a result, we shoulder a historic responsibility to ensure that no community is left behind in the provision of clean water and dignified sanitation. Guided by the vision of the Freedom Charter that “there shall be houses, security and comfort,” government continues to intensify infrastructure delivery to improve the material conditions of our people and build a better life for all.

The Department of Water and Sanitation remains firmly committed to advancing the transformative agenda led by Cyril Ramaphosa. Through sustained public investment, institutional reform and strategic partnerships, we are



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steadily rebuilding infrastructure, unblocking stalled projects and restoring the capacity of the state to deliver quality services to our communities.

The challenges confronting the water sector are well known. Decades of apartheid spatial injustice, uneven development, ageing infrastructure, rapid urbanisation, climate change and governance failures in certain municipalities





have placed enormous pressure on the sector. Yet, despite these difficulties, government has refused to surrender to despair or paralysis. Instead, we are confronting these challenges with determination, discipline and a clear developmental vision anchored in the principles of social transformation and economic reconstruction.

Across the country, several strategic projects that had stalled for years due to contractor failure, weak oversight and governance instability are now either completed or progressing steadily towards completion. This progress reflects the growing resolve of the democratic state to restore institutional capacity, strengthen accountability and accelerate delivery to the people.

The democratic state continues to demonstrate, through concrete action, that infrastructure development remains central to the transformative agenda of the ANC-led government. Across South Africa, strategic water infrastructure projects are not only expanding supply and strengthening economic resilience, but are also restoring dignity to rural communities that were deliberately neglected and underdeveloped under apartheid.

Among the most significant achievements in recent years has been the successful completion of the raising of the Hazelmere Dam wall in KwaZulu-Natal and the completion of the Ntabelanga Dam, which forms part of the broader uMzimvubu Water Project in the Eastern Cape. These mega-projects stand as enduring symbols of government's commitment to rural development, social justice and inclusive growth.



The completion of the Hazelmere Dam raising project marked a major milestone in government's efforts to improve long-term water security in KwaZulu-Natal.

Through this intervention, the storage capacity of the dam was significantly increased, enabling greater supply to communities, industries and agricultural areas across eThekweni, iLembe and KwaDukuza. Importantly, the project strengthens the state's ability to support economic growth while simultaneously improving access to reliable water supply for historically disadvantaged communities.

Beyond its engineering significance, the project carries profound developmental importance. It demonstrates the capacity of the democratic state to undertake sophisticated infrastructure projects that directly improve the lives of ordinary people. The completion of the Hazelmere Dam also included the successful resettlement of affected families into newly constructed homes, reflecting government's commitment to ensuring that development proceeds in a manner that respects

human dignity and social justice.

Equally historic is the completion of the Ntabelanga Dam in the Eastern Cape, a transformative component of the uMzimvubu Water Project. For decades, communities across the former Transkei homeland endured poverty, underdevelopment and inadequate access to water infrastructure as a direct consequence of apartheid's deliberate marginalisation of rural black communities. The completion of this project therefore represents more than the construction of a dam; it is the restoration of hope and the fulfilment of a democratic promise.

The Ntabelanga Dam is expected to fundamentally change the socio-economic landscape of the region by improving access to clean water, enabling agricultural development, supporting local economic activity and creating opportunities for employment and industrial growth. Together with associated bulk infrastructure, the project is expected to benefit over 700 000 people across the Eastern Cape, many of whom have historically lacked reliable access to water.



was completed in March 2026 at a value of R9 million, restoring full operational capacity and ensuring safe drinking water for surrounding communities.

The Department also intervened decisively to unblock four delayed bulk water schemes in Chris Hani District Municipality, valued collectively at R2.24 billion. These projects, which serve the Engcobo, Xonxa and Hofmeyr areas, are now progressing towards completion by June 2026 following intensified oversight and improved coordination between all spheres of government. Their completion will restore and augment water supply to communities that have waited for far too long for the fulfilment of this basic right.

Further progress is being made on major infrastructure programmes in the province. The R2.26 billion OR Tambo bulk water supply and reticulation project, which serves more than one million people across King Sabata Dalindyebo and Nyandeni Local Municipalities, is now advancing steadily after decisive intervention by the Department to address contractor underperformance. Similarly, the R618 million Greater Mbizana Bulk Water Scheme in Alfred Nzo District is progressing following the appointment of a new contractor in September 2025. Once completed, the scheme will improve water supply to approximately 44 500 households in Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality.

In Limpopo, government continues to advance the historic task of restoring dignity to communities through the R4.8 billion Giyani Water Project. Since February 2026, all 24 villages under Phase 1 have been fully connected, with

These projects affirm the central role of infrastructure-led development in advancing the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution. They demonstrate that the ANC remains firmly committed to using the capacity of the state to drive transformation, eradicate apartheid backlogs and build a more equitable society.

Water infrastructure is not merely about pipes, pumps and dams. It is about human dignity. It is about creating conditions in which rural communities can thrive, children can learn, clinics can function effectively and local economies can grow. It is about ensuring that no South African is condemned to poverty and underdevelopment because of where they were born.

As government continues to invest in strategic infrastructure, we remain guided by the principle that development must reach the poor, the marginalised and the historically excluded. The completion of

the Hazelmere and Ntabelanga projects sends a clear message that rural communities matter, that their aspirations matter, and that democracy must continue to deliver tangible improvements in the material conditions of our people. These mega-projects are therefore flowing with more than water. They are flowing with hope, dignity and the promise of a better future. They stand as monuments to the resilience of our people and to the enduring commitment of the democratic state to build a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it.

In the Eastern Cape, government completed and handed over the Misgund Bulk Water Supply Scheme in Koukamma Municipality in March 2026 at a cost of R15 million. This project now provides reliable water supply to approximately 2 000 people who had endured persistent hardship and unreliable access to water. In the same province, the Sterkspruit Water Treatment Works refurbishment in Joe Gqabi District



Elias Motsoaledi and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities.

In partnership with the Infrastructure Fund and mining houses, the democratic state is also steadily advancing the implementation of the Olifants Management Model Programme, a transformative R25 billion initiative that embodies the principle of social compacting for development. This programme will improve water security for approximately 390 000 people while simultaneously supporting industrial growth, mining development and job creation in Limpopo.

In KwaZulu-Natal, Phase 3 of the R1.5 billion Maphumulo Bulk Water Scheme was completed in November 2025. The project has significantly expanded treatment capacity and strengthened water supply to underserved communities in Maphumulo Local Municipality. Construction of the final phase is progressing well and is expected to be completed by December 2026.

Government also continues to make progress on the R4.9 billion Mandlakazi Bulk Water Supply Scheme in Zululand District Municipality. This strategic project will ultimately supply water from Jozini Dam to more than 33 000 households across Zululand and uMkhanyakude District Municipalities. The project remains on course for full completion by 2030 and forms part of our broader programme to overcome historical underdevelopment in rural communities.

In Mpumalanga, the democratic state completed the refurbishment of the Piet Retief Water Treatment Plant in Mkhondo Local Municipality in March 2026 at a cost

water now flowing directly into households. This represents a major breakthrough in improving the quality of life of communities that suffered years of neglect and broken promises. Reticulation to the remaining 31 villages will commence before June 2026, ultimately bringing reliable water supply to all 55 villages within the project scope.

The Department also completed the R736 million Babanana Bulk Water Pipeline in March 2026. The project is now operational and supplies approximately 59 000 households

across 18 villages in Greater Tzaneen and Letaba Local Municipalities. Phase 1 of the Mametja Sekororo Bulk Water Supply Scheme was completed in December 2025 and is currently supplying water to over 5 000 households across six villages in Maruleng Municipality.

Government is equally encouraged by progress on the R797 million Moutse Bulk Water Supply Scheme in Sekhukhune District, which is now nearing completion and expected to be finalised by October 2026. Once completed, the project will improve water supply to 40 villages across



of R52 million. The project is now supplying reliable potable water to approximately 26 000 households. Government also completed the Easterhoek and Ekulindeni Bulk Water Scheme in Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality at a cost of R234 million, improving access to water for communities in the area.

The R2 billion Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme is progressing steadily and is expected to become operational by December 2026. Once completed, the project will benefit more than 54 000 households in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and neighbouring areas in Limpopo. Significant progress is also being made on the R500 million Gabosch Dam project, which will strengthen long-term water security for approximately 20 000 households.

In Gauteng, the R759 million Klipdrift Water Treatment Works in Hammanskraal has reached an advanced stage. The treatment works is already producing its full capacity of 50 megalitres per day, while final network readiness work is nearing completion. Once finalised, the project will supply safe drinking water to approximately 47 000 households across 15 wards, restoring dignity and public confidence in the capacity of the state to deliver.

Government is equally encouraged by progress made through the partnership between Rand Water and Emfuleni Local Municipality. The establishment of the Special Purpose Vehicle in December 2025 represents a bold intervention aimed at restoring sustainable water and sanitation services in the area.

This intervention demonstrates the capacity of the developmental state

to deploy innovative institutional mechanisms to confront service delivery challenges while protecting the interests of communities.

In the North West province, the Bulela Metsi Programme continues to accelerate implementation of strategic infrastructure projects across municipalities. The R845 million Brits Water Treatment Works is expected to be completed by September 2026 and will significantly improve water supply to Brits and surrounding communities. The R790 million Mafikeng South Bulk Water Supply Scheme is progressing towards completion by August 2026 and will improve water supply to approximately 360 000 people.

The R605 million Greater Mamusa Bulk Water Supply Scheme is expected to be completed by June 2026 and will alleviate persistent water shortages affecting multiple communities in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality. Phase 2 of the Taung/Naledi Bulk Water Supply Scheme is similarly expected to be completed by June 2026, while Phase 3 remains on course for completion by October 2026.

Government also completed and handed over major components of the Moretele South Bulk Water Supply Scheme, including a 20 megalitre reservoir and a 36-kilometre bulk pipeline valued at R351 million. These interventions are already improving access to water for communities with an estimated population of 150 000 people.

In the Western Cape, the R1.1 billion George Water Supply Security Project has now reached

approximately 93% completion and is expected to be finalised by October 2026. The project will significantly improve water supply reliability for more than 295 000 people while strengthening long-term water resilience in the region. Government is equally committed to restoring dignity through sanitation infrastructure. In the Free State, the Bucket Eradication Programme in Arlington, Dealesville, Reitz and Senekal has now exceeded 80% completion. Following decisive action against underperforming contractors, implementation has accelerated significantly, with the programme targeted for completion by June 2027.

These projects are not simply construction initiatives. They are instruments of social transformation and practical expressions of a caring developmental state. They reflect the enduring commitment of the ANC-led government to overcoming apartheid backlogs, advancing equality and ensuring that all South Africans enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution.

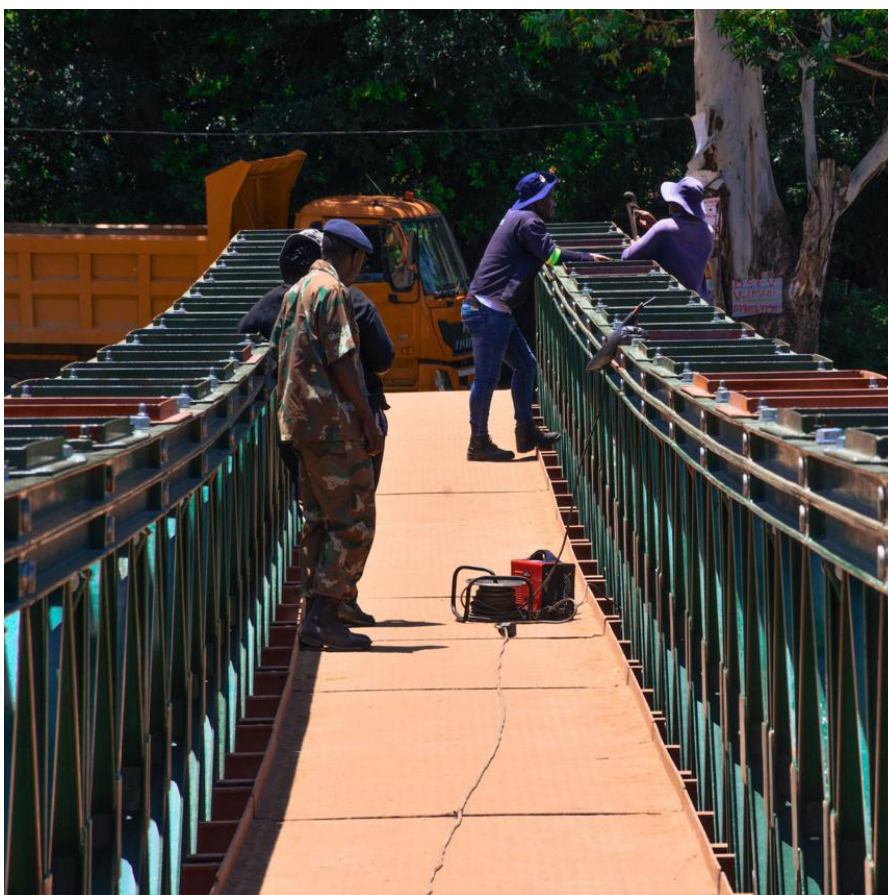
The progress being made across the country demonstrates that the democratic state has both the capacity and determination to confront the challenges facing the water sector. While much work still lies ahead, we are steadily laying the foundation for a water-secure South Africa that supports economic growth, social development and human dignity.

The struggle for universal access to water and sanitation is part of the broader struggle for social and economic emancipation. Together, we must continue building a society founded on equality, dignity and shared prosperity •



WELISIZWE RURAL BRIDGES BUILDING PROJECTS

ADVANCING CRITICAL CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AREAS FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL



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United States, China, India and Brazil routinely provide engineering assistance during disaster response, rural infrastructure development and emergency bridge deployment.

Constitutional and Legislative Basis in Pursuit of National Development 2030 Objectives

The involvement of the South African National Defence Force in domestic infrastructure support is consistent with Section 200(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which provides that the primary object of the defence force is to defend and protect the Republic, its territorial integrity and its people. In addition to conventional defence functions, the SANDF may be employed in cooperation with other state departments for purposes including disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, infrastructure support and national development.

Introduction

The Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme is a national infrastructure initiative aimed at improving access to essential services in rural areas through the construction of modular bridges. The programme is implemented through a partnership between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), the

South African National Defence Force (SANDF), and provincial authorities. The SANDF, through the South African Army Engineer Formation, plays a central technical and operational role in the design, construction and installation of bridges under this programme. The use of military engineering formations for infrastructure support is consistent with international practice. Armed forces in countries such as the



The Defence Act further provides for the utilisation of the SANDF in support of government departments and public authorities where specialised military capabilities are required. Section 18(1) reads that “the President or the Minister may authorise the employment of the Defence Force for service inside the Republic or in international waters, in order to –

- (a). preserve life, health or property in emergency or humanitarian relief operations;
- (b). ensure the provision of essential services;
- (c). support any department of state, including support for purposes of socioeconomic upliftment...”

The deployment of the South African Army Engineer Formation within the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme undoubtedly falls within the broader constitutional and developmental mandate of the SANDF, in pursuit of NDP 2030 objectives.

The Role of the South African National Defence Forces

Programme data indicates increasing construction output and improved coordination between implementing the SANDF’s contribution which is executed through the South African Army Engineer Formation, commonly referred to as the Sappers. These military engineers are responsible for the technical execution of the bridge construction programme. The programme enables the SANDF Engineer Formation to maintain operational engineering readiness through real-world infrastructure deployment.

The use of SANDF engineering capability provides several strategic advantages:

- Availability of specialised military bridging expertise
- Rapid deployment capability in remote or disaster-affected areas
- Ability to operate in difficult terrain and adverse conditions
- Existing logistical and engineering command structures
- Reduced mobilisation times compared to conventional processes
- Capacity to support government in areas where private-sector delivery has been limited

Core Functions

The SANDF performs several critical functions within the programme, including:

- Engineering design of bridge structures
- Site preparation and technical planning
- Construction and installation of modular bridges
- Provision and management of bridge components
- Deployment of bridges in emergency situations, including flood response

- Uniformed SANDF engineers operate in a technical and implementation capacity, particularly in remote and flood-prone rural environments.

Interdepartmental Coordination

The SANDF operates in close coordination with the DPWI, provincial transport departments, and local authorities.⁵ As of 2026, coordination between these entities has been significantly strengthened, resulting in improved on-site efficiency and accelerated construction timelines.

Engineering Methodology and Bridge Technology

The programme relies primarily on modular bridge systems, initially based on the Bailey bridge design. Bailey bridges were originally developed and widely used during the Second World War and are characterised by their portability, modularity and rapid deployment capability.

Modular Bailey-type bridges are particularly suited to rural South African conditions because they can be transported in sections, assembled without heavy permanent infrastructure, and adapted to varying river widths and terrain conditions. These bridges are constructed from prefabricated steel components, sometimes incorporating timber elements and are supported by reinforced concrete substructures. A key advantage of this system is that bridges can be assembled and installed within a matter of days, in contrast to conventional bridge construction which requires significantly longer timeframes. Although derived from military bridging systems, the structures installed under the programme are designed for medium- to long-term civilian use and are supported by permanent concrete foundations and engineered approaches.

Projects is a Successful National Pride

The Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme is being implemented across six provinces: KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northwest and the Free State.

Progress has accelerated in recent years:

- By November 2025, a total of 109 bridges had been completed, with 46 under construction.
- By March 2026, the number of completed bridges had increased to 118, with a further 52 under construction. Many of these bridges are in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.



Case examples of SANDF implementation

1. One example is the Tebe-Tebe bridge in the Eastern Cape, a 45-metre structure constructed to replace a hazardous river crossing. The project involved SANDF engineers, DPWI artisans and 40 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers.
2. A second example is the De Grans Bridge in the Moretele Local Municipality in the Northwest province, with construction scheduled to commence on 2 February 2026.
3. In KwaZulu-Natal, bridge construction has included projects such as the Ngilanyoni Sports Field crossing in Mkhambathini, forming part of the broader rollout.

The programme includes a recovery plan managed by the DPWI, with 118 project sites identified. The number of active recovery projects decreases as bridges are completed, reflecting increased delivery rates and improved implementation efficiency. The overall target is the construction of 288 bridges by the end of the 2025/2026 financial year. This includes an approximate allocation of 48 bridges per province, with 17 specifically planned for Mpumalanga.

The Key Strategic Operational Areas of the Project: Emergency Response Function

In addition to planned construction, the SANDF has demonstrated the operational flexibility of the modular bridge system during emergencies. Following severe flooding around 2022, 14 Bailey bridges were deployed in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape to restore access for affected communities.

Employment and Skills Development

Although the SANDF provides technical leadership, the programme incorporates significant civilian participation through the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Each bridge site typically includes approximately five artisans and 40 EPWP workers, working alongside SANDF engineers. Activities include welding, groundwork, earthmoving and soil retention. The programme has both employment and training components. At one bridge launch in Mpumalanga in December 2024, 105 EPWP beneficiaries were employed. Across the programme, approximately 17,000 job opportunities and 510 training opportunities are projected. At a

provincial level, approximately 1,045 employment opportunities per province per year are anticipated, including artisans, EPWP participants and graduates. In addition, 136 artisans and professionals are expected to receive experiential learning across 96 bridge sites.

Funding and procurement

The programme is supported by an allocation of R3.8 billion over the 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 financial years. Procurement policy requires that construction materials and bridge components be sourced locally, supporting domestic industry.

Functional impact

The bridges constructed under the programme serve critical infrastructure functions. They enable safe crossing of rivers and other hazardous terrain, particularly in flood prone areas. This improves access to schools, healthcare facilities, workplaces and economic centres. In the absence of such infrastructure, communities have faced significant disruptions, including inability to cross rivers, interruption of schooling, and suspension of economic activity.

Conclusion

The SANDF, through the South African Army Engineer Formation, plays a central and technically specialised role in the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme. Its responsibilities span design, construction, installation and emergency deployment of modular bridge systems. The use of military engineering capacity has enabled agencies, with progress toward the target of 288 bridges by the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme demonstrates the potential value of specialised military engineering capability in supporting national development objectives. Through the SANDF Engineer Formation, government has been able to accelerate bridge delivery in remote and underserved communities while simultaneously strengthening disaster response capability and technical skills development. Continued success of the programme will depend on sustained intergovernmental coordination, effective oversight, adequate maintenance planning and long-term funding support.



COUNTING EVERY SOUTH AFRICAN

WHY STATISTICS MATTER FOR OUR DEMOCRACY



CDE N MHLAULI

This year marks two profound milestones in South Africa's democratic journey: 30 years of our Constitution and 30 years since our first democratic Census in 1996. These were not simply administrative achievements. They were foundational acts of nation-building.

The Constitution enshrined the values of human dignity, equality and freedom. The Census ensured that, for the first time in our history, every person in South Africa was counted and recognised. Together, they affirmed a powerful democratic principle: every person counts, and every person matters. That principle remains as relevant today as it was three decades ago.



In a world shaped by rapid economic, technological and social change, South Africa needs institutions that provide clarity, truth and evidence. Few institutions are as essential to this mission as Statistics South Africa.

The Value of Facts in a Democracy
Democracy depends on informed decision-making.

Government cannot effectively address unemployment, poverty,

inequality or economic stagnation if it does not have a clear understanding of the realities confronting our people. Statistics South Africa provides this understanding.

Through accurate, objective and timely data, Stats SA helps us measure progress, identify challenges and direct resources where they are needed most.



Its work informs every sphere of society.

Government uses statistics to shape policy and allocate budgets. Business relies on them to make investment decisions. Labour uses them to understand trends in employment and wages. Researchers, civil society and citizens use them to hold institutions accountable.

Without trusted statistics, public debate is weakened and policy becomes guesswork.

Every Number Tells a Human Story



Statistics are often seen as abstract figures and percentages. But behind every number is a person.

When the Quarterly Labour Force Survey reports on unemployment, it reflects the lived experiences of millions of South Africans seeking opportunities.

When poverty statistics are released, they reveal the daily realities of households struggling to make ends meet.

When population data is updated, it helps us understand where schools, clinics, housing and infrastructure are most urgently needed. Data is not impersonal.

It is a mirror of our society. And it is one of the most powerful tools we have to build a more just and inclusive country.

A Trusted National Institution

Over the past 30 years, under the leadership of the African National Congress, South Africa has built strong democratic institutions that serve the public interest.

Statistics South Africa is one of those institutions.

Led by Risenga Maluleke, Stats SA has earned the trust of South Africans and the respect of the international community.

Its credibility rests on a simple but vital principle: independence.

Protected by the Statistics Act, Stats SA operates free from political or external interference.

This independence is non-negotiable.

South Africans must have confidence that official statistics are impartial, professional and trustworthy.

Modernising for a Data-Driven Future



As our society evolves, so too must our national statistical system.

The Statistics Amendment Act, which came into effect in October 2025, strengthens the authority of the Statistician-General to coordinate the National Statistical System and improve collaboration across government.

This reform will enable better data sharing with institutions such as the South African Revenue Service, the South African Reserve Bank and the Department of Home Affairs.

It will reduce duplication, improve efficiency and ensure that policymakers have access to consistent and credible information. At the same time, Stats SA is modernising its operations through continuous population surveys, expanded web-based data collection, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning and advanced data science and analytics.

These innovations will improve the speed, quality and relevance of official statistics.

Statistics as a Tool for Transformation

The National Democratic Revolution has always been about changing the material conditions of our people.

To transform society effectively, we must understand where inequality persists and where interventions are making a difference.

Statistics help us answer critical questions.

- Are we reducing poverty?
- Are more young people finding work?
- Are women gaining greater economic opportunities?

Are public services reaching the communities that need them most? Reliable data ensures that transformation is measurable and accountable.

It allows us to move beyond rhetoric and focus on results.



institutions are more accountable and our development efforts are more effective.

From Counting People to Expanding Opportunity

Thirty years ago, South Africa made a commitment to count every person.

That commitment was about more than numbers.

It was about recognition, inclusion and dignity.

Today, we renew that commitment.

We reaffirm that every child in a rural village, every worker in a city, every entrepreneur, pensioner and student matters.

We reaffirm that evidence must guide our decisions.

And we reaffirm that democratic institutions must be protected and strengthened.

Building the South Africa We Envision

Our Constitution sets out a vision of a society based on justice, equality and opportunity.

To realise that vision, we need institutions that tell us the truth about where we are and what remains to be done.

Statistics South Africa is one of those institutions.

Its work helps us plan better, govern better and serve our people better.

As we mark these two historic anniversaries, let us recognise that facts matter.

Institutions matter.

And every South African counts.

By supporting Statistics South Africa, we are strengthening the foundations of our democracy and equipping our nation to build a future of inclusive growth, shared prosperity and social justice for all •

Investing in Statistical Capacity

Producing high-quality statistics requires investment.

It requires skilled professionals, secure technology, modern infrastructure and robust systems.

The South African Statistics Council, under the leadership of Dr Nompumelelo Nzimande-Mbele,

has rightly highlighted the financial pressures facing the organisation. These concerns deserve serious attention.

Funding official statistics is not a bureaucratic expense.

It is an investment in democracy.

When our statistics are credible, our policies are stronger, our



DIGNITY RESTORED

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION AT HOME AFFAIRS

The struggle for liberation in South Africa was not only about the right to vote, but it was also about restoring the dignity of the oppressed majority and building a society where every citizen enjoys equal access to opportunities, services and justice. The vision captured in the Freedom Charter declared boldly that “The People Shall Govern.”

That vision continues to guide the program of transformation pursued by the African National Congress in a democratic South Africa. As we mark 30 years since the adoption of our democratic Constitution, ANC has made significant interventions to transform our country in all service delivery areas, the economy and security. This period provides us as a nation an opportunity to reflect,



CDE M CHABANE

and the recent Colloquium hosted by the Parliament articulated positive victories and setbacks occasioned by our Constitutions in the three arms of the State.

The democratic state inherited a deeply unequal society shaped by decades of apartheid exclusion, underdevelopment and racial discrimination.

Millions of black South Africans were deliberately denied access to basic services, infrastructure and economic participation. The task of a democratic

government therefore became not only political liberation, but also social and economic transformation.

At the center of this transformation has been the building of a developmental state, a state that actively intervenes to improve the lives of the people through infrastructure, technology, innovation and service delivery. The ability of a nation to adapt to technological advancement is no longer a luxury; it is a revolutionary necessity. Technology must serve the people and dismantle barriers created by poverty, distance and inequality.

It is on this basis that the Department of Home Affairs has emerged as one of the key drivers of innovation within government. Under the leadership of successive ANC deployees amongst others Cde Nkosazana



Zuma, Cde Naledi Pandor, Cde President Malusi Gigaba and Cde Aroon Motsoaledi, the department has pursued reforms aimed at modernizing services while restoring dignity to ordinary citizens.

For decades, many South Africans, especially the elderly, endured the humiliation of waking up before dawn to stand in endless queues for basic services. That indignity contradicts the very ideals of freedom and equality. The introduction of the Smart ID Card therefore represented more than technological progress; it symbolized the determination to build a secure, modern and people-centered state.

Enhanced security features protect citizens from fraud and identity theft while ensuring reliable access to social grants, banking services and economic opportunities. On the other hand, Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) launched a fully online, digital visa and Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system to secure and speed up entry and exit procedures for travellers.



The ANC through conference resolution post 1994 has played significant role in transforming the Department of Home Affairs in advancing policy and legislative reforms which includes the establishment of the Border Management Authority, review on the Migration landscape to make it more comprehensive to ensure its promotes economic development whiles managing national and regional security, the re-development of six port of entry (Beitbridge, Lebombo, Maseru Bridge ,Ficksburg Oshoek , Kopfontein)

and this affirms the long ANC standing to relocate the four refugee centers namely Tshwane, Cape Town, Durban, Gqeberha to the port of entry. The re-development of the ports of entry has been initiated during the 5th administration

The economic struggle also remains one of the defining battles of our democratic era. Global economic instability and domestic structural challenges have contributed to persistently high unemployment, particularly among the youth. However, revolutionary governance



young South Africans was therefore a transformative intervention. It was not merely an administrative project; it was a revolutionary investment in human capital and state capacity. Young people gained employment, skills and experience while the state strengthened its digital infrastructure for future generations.

The ANC initiative for the rollout of Home Affairs services through participating banks and increase of mobile trucks further reflects a government committed to reducing the daily burdens faced by South Africans. According to Statistics South Africa, transport costs remain one of the greatest pressures on household income. For many workers, travelling long distances to government offices consumes a substantial portion of their earnings.

Expanding access to Home Affairs services through banks reduces costs, saves time and improves convenience for ordinary citizens. That is what a people-centered developmental state looks like in practice.

requires innovative interventions that address both development and economic inclusion simultaneously. Digital transformation” is a broad concept rather than a single event, several African countries are recognized for pioneering different digital milestones on the continent. The African National Congress (ANC) formally adopted the National Development Plan (NDP) as the overarching long-term vision for South Africa at its 53rd National Conference in 2012. The NDP serves

as the guiding blueprint for eliminating poverty and reducing inequality by 2030. It identified digital infrastructure and technologies as critical catalysts for economic growth, poverty reduction, and improved public service delivery. It advocates for universal broadband access and digital inclusion to bridge societal divides. In the year 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Home Affairs Plans to digitize over 350 million paper records within Home Affairs while employing more



The launch of self-service kiosks by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2024 further advances this program of technological transformation. Efficient and accessible government services are not privileges reserved for the wealthy; they are democratic rights that must reach every citizen.

Again, the home affairs during the 6th administration established offices in shopping malls to decentralized civic services, eliminate long queues and improve accessibility and it modernize public service by integrating essential services and to date 8 offices are successfully running..

With all significant progress, corruption and weak system remain an obstacle to reverse ANC strategic gains.

The recent SIU interim report reveals gabs in the Home Affairs value chain, vulnerable to soliciting fraudulent documents facilitated by some within the system in collaboration with syndicate. It is against this background that ANC initiated the overhaul investigation as our key

priority is to fight against corruption. To tighten the system the capacitation of the counter corruption unit within the department has yield positive outcomes in the fight against corruption.

The BMA with its limited budget allocation remain a strategic law enforcement agency focused with mending our 71 ports of entry which 52 land borders, 11 global and regional flights, and 8 seaports. It has recorded significant gains in the arrest of illegal migrants, confiscation of illicit goods, and related.

It has successfully administered the biggest session of the G20 and collaboration with other jurisdictions for safety and smooth transit in the ports including managing the crisis in Lebombo port of entry post Mozambique National Elections disputes.

Key challenges still remain in the immigration branch hence the ANC resolve to review the Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee protection Act and the abuse of our systems in our refugee centers in processing asylum seeker.

In the same score, the SIU interim report does give confidence, and its recommendation will eliminate this corrupt – activities. Fight corruption is one of the ANC resolve.

Thirty years into democracy, South Africa continues to confront enormous challenges such as poverty, inequality, unemployment and the legacy of apartheid underdevelopment. Yet the revolutionary task remains clear: to build a capable developmental state that places the people at the center of governance.

The true measure of freedom is not found only in constitutional guarantees, but in whether ordinary people can access services with dignity, participate meaningfully in the economy and enjoy the benefits of democracy in their daily lives.

As South Africa reflects on three decades of constitutional democracy, the nation must recommit itself to revolutionary transformation through innovation, inclusion and service delivery.



ANALYZING THE ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN PROVIDING OVER 60% OF SOUTH AFRICA'S JOBS



CDE K BILANKULU

Small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) are the undisputed backbone of the South African economy, accounting for over 60% of employment and roughly 90% of all new jobs. As your Member of Parliament, I am focusing on how we empower local township entrepreneurs to drive economic transformation.

The Backbone of Our Economy

The data clearly shows that small businesses are no longer a secondary economic factor; they are the primary engine of our workforce. Across our communities, from the bustling streets of Giyani to the economic hubs in Gauteng, these enterprises are:

- **Employing the Majority:** Small enterprises provide livelihoods for the majority of the South

African labor force.

- **Fostering Inclusion:** They serve as the critical entry point into the economy for marginalized groups, first-time job seekers, and youth.
- **Driving Value:** The sector contributes significantly to the national GDP, while remaining heavily labor-intensive.

The ANC's Commitment to SMME Growth

The African National Congress has laid out an aggressive strategy to ensure these small enterprises are fully supported. We recognize that to unlock the sector's full potential, we must remove the historic hurdles—such as capital shortages, red tape, and lack of infrastructure. Our localized intervention plan focuses on three key pillars:

1. Expanding Access to Financial and Business Support We are actively working through the Small Enterprise Development & Finance Agency to provide young and historically disadvantaged entrepreneurs with the capital, business skills training, and market facilitation they need to survive the crucial first few years of operation.
2. Unleashing the Township

and Rural Economy The ANC remains committed to revitalizing township and rural economies. We are streamlining local regulations so that informal and micro-enterprises can easily transition into the formal sector, access government procurement opportunities, and build sustainable generational wealth.

3. Enhancing Private Sector Partnerships Through government's Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) programs, we are compelling large corporations and State-owned Entities (SoEs) to open up their supply chains to local SMMEs.

Building a Self-Sustaining Future

Achieving our target of reducing unemployment and building a truly inclusive economy demands that we champion the small business ecosystem. The ANC will continue to advocate for policy shifts that make doing business in South Africa easier, fairer, and more rewarding for local innovators. I invite you to engage with me on how we can further support local businesses in our constituency. Together, we can build an economy that works for all.



BOOK REVIEW

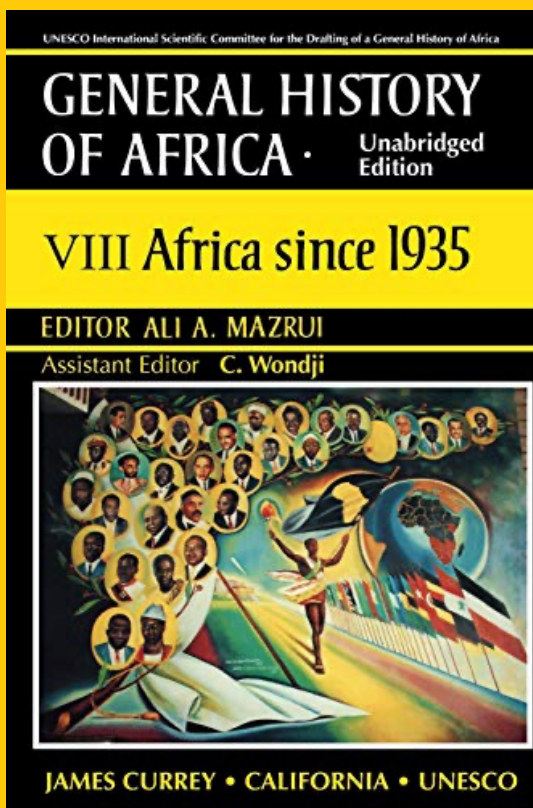
Cde Saul Pelle

General History of Africa Volume 8

Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

“The vision of a new society in Africa will need to be developed in Africa, born out of the African historical experience and the sense of continuity of African history. The African is not yet master of his own fate, but neither is he completely at the mercy of fate.”

African historian, Ade Ajayi, - General History of Africa, vol. 8, p.743



his eighth and final volume of the UNESCO General History of Africa examines the period from 1935 to the 1980’s. For Africa, 1935 marked the beginning of the Second World War, with Mussolini’s invasion of Ethiopia. International conflict dominates the first section of this volume, which describes crises in the Horn and North Africa, and other regions under the domination of European powers.

The next three sections cover the ensuing Africa-wide struggles for political sovereignty, from 1945 to independence; underdevelopment and the fight for economic independence; and socio-political change since independence, looking at nation-building and changing political structures and values.

Section five deals with socio-cultural change since 1935, from religion to literature, language to philosophy, science and education. The last two sections address the development of pan-Africanism and the role of independent Africa in world affairs. Acknowledging the original irony that it was the imposition of European imperialism that awakened African consciousness, the volume points up the vital and growing interrelation of Africa and the rest of the world.

While it is true that the volume in general is intriguing in its rich historical knowledge of the entire African continent, what I suppose will particularly tickle your fancy is the section dealing with the section

titled Pan-Africanism: Liberation and Integration since 1935, especially regarding the configuration of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), precursor to the African Union (AU) and its role on decolonisation

and liberation, which includes the struggle against apartheid.

Briefly, in 1961, Ghana, Guinea, Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Libya and the Algerian government in exile formed



the Casablanca group, while the remaining former French colonies plus Nigeria, Ethiopia, Liberia, and Sierra Leon formed the Monrovia group.

Generally, the Casablanca group favoured a strong political union along the lines of Kwame Nkrumah's United States of Africa. The group consisted of the militant pan-Africanist, socialist and non-aligned leaders of Africa, who believed in centralised continental economic planning and development, in a continental defence and security system, and in cultural restoration. The Monrovia group favoured a loose confederation of independent sovereign African states that would promote voluntary participation and cooperation in cultural exchanges and economic interaction. The group was particularly adamant about respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state.

Through the relentless efforts of the Casablanca group, especially Nkrumah, Sekou Toure and Modibo Keita, and with the support of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, a summit conference of independent African states was convened in Addis Ababa in 1963, to resolve the factionalism, unite the leaders and form a common pan-African structure. After many proposals and counter-proposals, many committee meetings and bilateral negotiations, 30 African Heads of independent states and government signed the Charter of African Unity which established the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963.

One of the most effective pan-Africanist activities of the OAU was its concerted assistance to national liberation movements in colonised Africa. At the summit in Addis Ababa, the independent states adopted a strong resolution on decolonisation. After listening to representatives of the national liberation movements, speaking on settler colonialism and on the possible course of action, the heads of state resolved, amongst others, that the continuation of colonial rule was a flagrant violation of the inalienable rights of the legitimate inhabitants of the territories concerned and a menace to the peace of the continent.

They also resolved that Namibia was an African territory under the UN mandate, whose inhabitant were entitled to self-determination and independence, and that South Africa's presence was an act of aggression. The heads of state further resolved that the Portuguese were conducting genocide in Africa, and that their western allies had to choose between their friendship for the African peoples and their support of colonial oppression and exploitation.

The heads of state also adopted a programme of action on decolonisation. They agreed to the breaking of diplomatic and consular relations between all African states and the governments of Portugal and South Africa, and to the boycotting of trade with the two countries by prohibiting the import of goods from those two countries, closing African ports and airports to their ships and planes, and forbidding the planes of those two countries to fly over African states.

More significantly, they established the African liberation Committee consisting of Algeria, Ethiopia, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire (today's DRC), to be headquartered in Dar Es Salaam and be responsible for coordinating the assistance from African states and for managing the special fund.

The special fund was to be raised from voluntary annual contributions by OAU members to supply the necessary practical and financial aid to the various national liberation movements.

Member states also agreed to receive and sponsor nationalists from liberation movements for military, educational and vocational training, and to allow the transit of all material aid and volunteers. They also declared 25th May as African Liberation Day on which to organise popular demonstrations and raise funds over and above the state contributions for the special fund.

This 1, 025-page volume is illustrated with black and white maps and figures. The text is fully annotated and there is an extensive bibliography.

It was first published in 1993 by the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and Heinemann Educational, a division of Heinemann Publishers•