



**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
11 FEBRUARY 2021**

KEY MESSAGES

BRIEF:

President Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver the State of the Nation Address on 11 February 2021 at 7pm before a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament under the theme: ***“Following up on our commitments: Making your future work better”***. This year’s SoNA will take the form of a hybrid joint sitting, with no more than 50 Members of Parliament, representatives from the Judiciary and the Executive in the physical chamber and the rest connecting virtually.

During his address President Ramaphosa will highlight what has been achieved by the administration since his last address in 2020. He will also reflect on government’s response to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<i>All South Africans are invited to be part of this important address.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State of the Nation Address is an annual message delivered by the President of South Africa to a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament. • Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year’s SoNA will be a hybrid joint sitting where only 50 people will be in the Chamber while the rest will join via the virtual platform. • The 50 people who will be in the Chamber will be made up of representatives from the Members of Parliament, Judiciary and the Executive. • The address is an opportunity for the President to update us on the progress that has been made since the last address despite the massive challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. • During the address the President speaks to political, economic and social issues and the general state of South Africa as well its relations in Africa and abroad. • The address is also a rallying point for our entire nation to work together on how we can turn around our economy, end gender-based violence and tackle the triple threat of poverty, inequality and unemployment. • We also have to work together to change the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic that has completely changed our lives.
<i>South Africans are encouraged to get first-hand information about the state of their country.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government invites all South Africans to be part of the State of the Nation Address on Thursday, 11 February 2021 at 7pm. • South Africans can tune into their favourite television or radio station to be part of this national milestone.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceedings will also be covered via government and parliament social media accounts. • South Africans should also familiarise themselves with its content so everyone can contribute to our growth and development. • The debate on SoNA in the following week will provide members of Parliament with a chance to respond to the address.
<p><i>We are rebuilding our economy and livelihoods from the devastating impact of COVID-19.</i></p> <p><i>THIS SECTION COULD DO WITH MORE WORK AS IT WOULD BE THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The R500 billion emergency relief package announced by the President last year has helped the country navigate the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. • Over R40 billion has been paid to more than 4 million workers through the Unemployment Insurance Fund to prevent retrenchments, and more than 5 million beneficiaries have received the Special COVID-19 Grant for Social Relief of Distress. • A total of R25 billion has been paid through top-ups to existing social grants, as well as an additional Caregivers Allowance for recipients of the Child Support Grant. • Moreover, tax relief worth over R70 billion has been extended to businesses in distress. • These and other measures have provided necessary relief to vulnerable individuals and businesses across the country. • Furthermore, the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan which puts the creation of jobs at the heart of our economic recovery is currently being implemented. • We are, amongst others fast tracking economic reforms to unlock investment and growth, fighting crime and corruption, driving industrialisation with a focus on growing small businesses, improving the capability of the state, and creating jobs through mass public employment programmes. • Our implementation is guided by the Action Plan where all social partners committed to doing things collaboratively.
<p><i>Investment in infrastructure is at the heart of our economic reconstruction and recovery plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government is working closely with financial institutions and multilateral development banks to find innovative ways of funding large scale infrastructure investment. • About 276 projects with a total investment value of more than R2.7 trillion have been identified and we hope to unlock R1 trillion in infrastructure investment over the next four years. • Last year government gazetted 50 of these Strategic Integrated Projects with a value of R340 billion in the areas of water and sanitation, energy, transport, digital infrastructure, agriculture and agro-processing, and human settlements. • Infrastructure SA and the Infrastructure Fund have also been established to prepare and package

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	<p>projects as well help build capability for infrastructure delivery within the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Infrastructure Fund will provide R100 billion in catalytic finance over the next decade, leveraging as much as R1 trillion in new investment for strategic infrastructure projects. • The Special Economic Zone programme continues to play a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. • For instance, construction is currently underway at the Tshwane Automotive SEZ and the project has created a number of jobs, training and development to both the communities and SMMEs in the region. • Out of the 34 targeted infrastructure work packages reserved for local SMMEs, 22 have been successfully executed with the value of R170 million while more will be rolled out as the construction continues. • This infrastructure project estimated to be worth R3.15 billion over the next three years will see the creation of 2,000 direct manufacturing jobs while 8,600 jobs short-term jobs will be created during the construction phase. • The Special Economic Zones programme has since its inception in 2014 attracted R18.6 billion of private investment and an additional investment worth R48 billion is currently being considered. • We call on the private sector to be part of the implementation of the country's Infrastructure Investment Plan as there are opportunities for them to invest.
<p><i>We are accelerating measures to improve South Africa's energy generation capacity.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are fast tracking the implementation of the Integrated Resource Plan to provide a substantial increase in the contribution of renewable energy sources, battery storage and gas technology. • This should bring around 11,800 MW of new generation capacity into the system by 2022. More than half of this energy will be generated from renewable sources. • In the immediate term, agreements are being finalised with Independent Power Producers to connect over 2,000 MW of additional capacity from existing projects by June 2021. • The Risk Mitigation Power Procurement Programme is also expected to unlock a further 2,000 MW of emergency supply from a combination of technologies from private sector. • We have begun implementing the process to bid window 5 of the renewable energy programme and are taking further steps to enable power generation for own-use. • The Eskom Recovery Programme, which is underpinned by unbundling of Eskom is also being

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	<p>implemented to fast track the recovery of the generation fleet and improve energy supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work to restructure Eskom into separate entities for generation, transmission and distribution is progressing well. • Three divisions have been fully established and will ensure that each business can be a focused operation where profits and losses are managed.
<p><i>We have prioritised drawing South Africans into work opportunities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have begun creating temporary employment opportunities for thousands of young people to be education and school assistants. • The temporary employment opportunities form part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus to respond to the rise in unemployment caused by the coronavirus pandemic. • The initiative aims to create temporary employment opportunities for 800 000 youth across the country by the end of the current financial year. • Government has committed R100 billion over the next three years to create jobs through public and social employment. • These work opportunities are being created through the expansion of public and social employment, as well as through the protection of existing jobs in vulnerable sectors. • Over 400,000 work opportunities have already been supported, with several programmes in the recruitment or beneficiary identification phase. • This includes support that is provided to more than 100,000 early childhood development practitioners and to 75,000 small-scale farmers. • Our mass public employment programme is also drawing more people into the economy, in particular the youth. • The plan mobilises our country around an infrastructure-led recovery that emphasises localisation.
<p><i>We are getting our economy back on track and prioritising SMMEs.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa hosted its third South Africa Investment Conference last year, which focused largely towards delivery of existing commitments from the previous two conferences. • During the third investment conference, our country received commitments from 50 companies to invest close to R110 billion. • These investments combined with those from our first two investment conferences place us firmly on track to reach R1, 2 trillion in investment over five years. • South Africa has also laid the foundation to attract more investment into the digital and telecoms sectors by issuing out the policy directive for the release of high demand spectrum.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are also fast tracking reforms in the telecommunications sector that will see the allocation of high demand spectrum. • This will speed up the rollout of 5G, enhance the country's economic competitiveness, lower data costs and boost the operation of SMMEs, cooperatives, as well as small and large firms. • We are supporting SMMEs to participate in the manufacturing value chain by targeting specific products to be manufactured by them for both the domestic market and for export. • This includes providing business infrastructure support, financial assistance through loans and blended funding, facilitating routes to market, and assistance with technical skills, product certification, testing and quality assurance. • We are also working with women-empowered companies to progressively reach our target of directing at least 40 per cent of procurement spend to such enterprises. • We are also fast-tracking reforms to reduce the cost of doing business and lower barriers to entry.
<p><i>We are stamping out corruption.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent spate of arrests of several persons for alleged corruption is a testament no one is above the law. • We are determined that all who are guilty of wrongdoing must account for their actions. • The arrest follows President Cyril Ramaphosa's signed proclamation authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate any unlawful or improper conduct relating to the misuse of COVID-19 funds across all spheres of the state. • It is also as a result of the strengthening of the National Prosecuting Authority and the establishment of an Investigating Directorate in the Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions to ensure that allegations of corruption especially from commissions of inquiry are properly investigated. • In January this year, President Cyril Ramaphosa made four senior appointments in the NPA to enable the top leadership to deliver effectively on its mandate to prosecute. • These appointments align with government's commitment to ensure that all senior positions are filled and that the NPA safeguards justice for the victims of crime by prosecuting without fear, favour and prejudice. • Furthermore, in 2020 Cabinet approved the National Anti-Corruption Strategy that seeks to give more impetus to the ongoing work to address any weaknesses in programmes designed to fight corruption.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its pillars include promoting and encouraging active citizenry, whistle-blowing, integrity, and transparency; advancing the professionalisation of employees, enhancing governance in institutions, and strengthening resourcing, and coordination of performance and accountability. • An interim National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council has also been proposed to serve as an independent body that would oversee the implementation plan for the next two years.
<p><i>We are taking action to protect women and girl children from violence.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government introduced three amendment Bills aimed at closing the gaps that allow perpetrators of gender-based violence to evade justice and to give full effect to the rights of the country's women and children. • The introduction of Bills forms part of the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan that focuses on strengthening the criminal justice process, improving access to justice for survivors of violence and prevention campaigns to change attitudes and behaviour. • We have, as part of the plan increased the number of shelters and care centres for survivors and improved the capacity of our police to deal with crimes of gender-based violence. • We have also developed the National Strategic Plan that is premised on the equality of all gender groupings, including the LGBTQI+ community, and affirms that accessing services is human rights-based. • The NSP is centred around six pillars, namely (a) accountability, coordination and leadership, (b) prevention and rebuilding the social cohesion, (c) justice, safety and protection, (d) response, care, support and healing, (e) economic power; and (f) research and information management. • It also involves the creation of economic opportunities for women and we are determined to ensure that 40 per cent of public procurement goes to businesses owned by women.
<p><i>The African Union response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been swift.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa as the Chair of the AU refocussed its priorities towards efforts to contain the spread of the virus which include the development of a COVID-19 strategy. • The African Union promoted public health measures that depend on individual behaviour and implemented regulatory strategies, including lockdowns to fight the pandemic. • South Africa and the Bureau of the AU, in conjunction with the AU Commission, spearheaded the mobilisation of resources to mitigate the catastrophic socio-economic and humanitarian consequences that will befall Africa due to the pandemic. • As the Chairperson of the African Union, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed Special Envoys to solicit

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	<p>international support to enable African countries to respond adequately and swiftly to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specially appointed AU envoys have been at the heart of relief efforts and have been able to unlock funds from entities, such as the EU, African Development Bank, Bank of Arab States, Global Fund and Afreximbank, IMF and the World Bank. • The money received is being used to support the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19. • This period has also seen the launch of the Africa Medical Supplies platform, which would act as a nodal point for pooling of resources and distribution of medical supplies throughout the Continent. • The platform is assisting with price competition and cost reduction. All countries will have equitable access to products which will include medical supplies made in Africa. • A COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team was also established to ensure that African countries are able to access and distribute affordable and effective vaccines without delay. • The Task Team, which is made up of representatives from across the continent has already secured a provisional 270 million vaccine doses with at least 50 million being available from April to June. • South Africa is steadfast on the implementation of the African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, which was signed with the African Union. • As a result of the postponement of AfCFTA due to COVID-19, trading under this agreement started on 1 January 2021. • AfCFTA creates a single continental market for goods and services in Africa and presents an opportunity for African countries to diversify their exports, attract foreign direct investment and grow their economies.
<p><i>Thank you South Africa for rallying together in the fight against COVID-19.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government thanks business, civil society, non-governmental, community and faith-based organisations for doing everything they can to stop the spread of the virus. • In adhering to the call not to convene or attend large public gatherings, practising social distancing and hand hygiene South Africans are at the forefront of our fight. • We appreciate the prevention measures taken at places of work and public areas; including the provision of sanitisers and safety gear. • We value the vital role media are playing in providing crucial information on the virus to the public. • We thank the health and social services workers for taking care of people who are ill, hungry or alone. • Working together, we have mobilised the nation's resources under difficult conditions and in a very short

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	<p>space of time to support poor families, protect jobs and keep businesses afloat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="643 300 1401 398">• We must now rebuild our economy to revive businesses and restore jobs, and to continue our drive for new investment.<li data-bbox="643 405 1401 501">• We must also work together to ensure that the mass vaccination campaign we have embarked on becomes a success.