

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA ANNOUNCES SEVEN PRIORITIES TO TAKE SA FORWARD

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced seven priorities that will fast-track South Africa's path to prosperity.



2019 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

As we enter this new administration, we will focus on seven priorities:

- Economic transformation and job creation
- Education, skills and health
- Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
- Spatial integration, human settlements and local government
- Social cohesion and safe communities
- A capable, ethical and developmental state
- A better Africa and World

@GovernmentZA #SONA2019

GovernmentZA

Let's grow South Africa together
as we celebrate 25 years of freedom

Delivering his third State of the Nation Address in Parliament on Thursday evening, 20 June 2019, the President said the time for idle talk was now over – everything comes down to implementation if the country is to realise the vision of the National Development Plan (NDP).

Announcing the seven bold priorities, he said the focus would be on:

- economic transformation and job creation

- education, skills and health
- consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
- spatial integration, human settlements and local government
- social cohesion and safe communities
- a capable, ethical and developmental state
- a better Africa and world.

The President said all the country's programmes and policies across all departments and agencies would be directed in pursuit of these overarching tasks.

"At the same time, we must restore the NDP to its place at the centre of our national effort, to make it alive, to make it part of the lived experience of the South African people," he said.

The South Africa we want

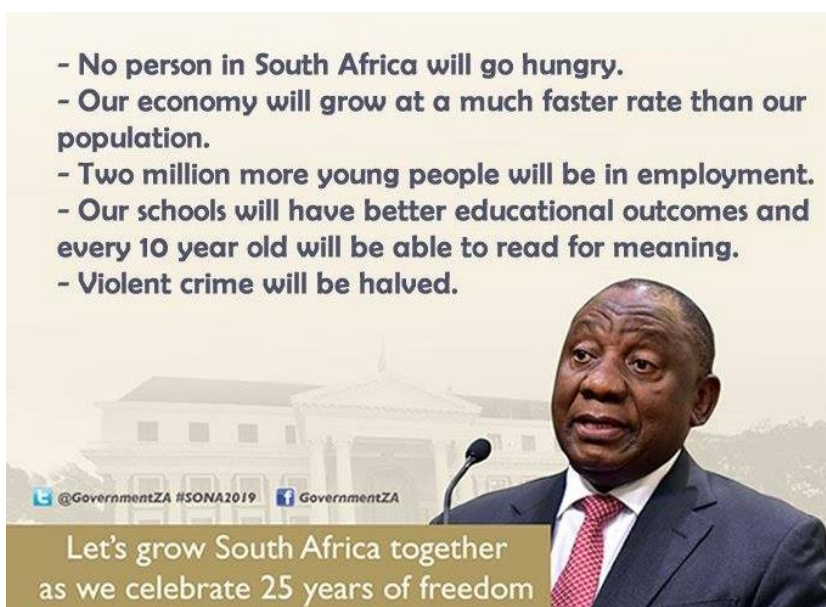
The President said as the country entered the next 25 years of democracy, there was a need to proclaim a bold and ambitious goal – a unifying purpose – to which everyone dedicates their resources and energies.

"As we enter the last decade of Vision 2030, let us even more clearly define the South Africa we want and agree on the concrete actions we need to achieve them.

"To ensure that our efforts are directed, I am suggesting that within the priorities of this administration, we agree on five fundamental goals for the next decade," he said.

The President said some of the goals, aimed at tackling poverty, inequality and unemployment, the pillars of the NDP, will mean that:

- no person in South Africa will go hungry
- the economy will grow at a much faster rate than the population
- two million more young people will be in employment
- schools will have better educational outcomes and every 10-year-old will be able to read for meaning
- violent crime will be halved.



South Africa intensifies investment drive

As part of building "a South Africa we want", President Cyril Ramaphosa says government will intensify its already successful investment drive.

This will build on the R300 billion worth of investments announced during the 2018 inaugural Investment Conference. Of these, just over R250 billion worth of projects have entered implementation phase.

"We continue to build a pipeline of investments, which will be showcased at the second South African Investment Conference to be held from 5 to 7 November," said the President.

President Ramaphosa had appointed investment envoys to search for investors with deep pockets last year. The President's Special Envoys on Investment include finance heavyweights such as former Finance Minister, Trevor Manuel, former Finance Deputy Minister, Mcebisi Jonas, the executive chairperson of Afropulse Group, Phumzile Langeni, and chairperson of Liberty Group and former CEO of Standard Bank, Jacko Maree.

The President said good progress had been made through the Public-Private Growth Initiative, which is being championed by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Roelf Meyer and Johan van Zyl.

The private sector has committed to invest R840 billion in 43 projects over 19 sectors and to creating 155 000 jobs in the next five years.

In discussions with business, government has committed to removing the policy impediments and accelerate implementation of these projects.

“We are urgently working on a set of priority reforms to improve the ease of doing business by consolidating and streamlining regulatory processes, automating permit and other applications, and reducing the cost of compliance,” said the President.

SA to double international tourist arrivals in 10 years

Government will double international tourist arrivals to 21 million by 2030, President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced.

“This will be achieved through the renewal of the country’s brand, introducing a world-class visa regime and a significant focus on Chinese and Indian markets and air arrivals from the rest of our continent,” President Ramaphosa said. .

The President said government was determined to ensure that tourists who come to South Africa are safe.

“We want a South Africa wherein all enjoy comfort and prosperity. We want a South Africa that has prioritised its rail networks, and is producing high-speed trains connecting our megacities and the remotest areas of our country.

“I dream of a South Africa where the first entirely new city built in the democratic era rises, with skyscrapers, schools, universities, hospitals and factories.

“We should imagine a country where bullet trains pass through Johannesburg as they travel from here to Musina, and they stop in Buffalo City on their way from eThekweni back here,” President Ramaphosa said. –
Source: SAnews.gov.za

2019 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

**Will you be at the harvest,
Among the gatherers of new fruits?
Then you must begin today to remake
Your mental and spiritual world,
And join the warriors and celebrants
Of freedom, realizers of great dreams.
You can't remake the world
Without remaking yourself.
Each new era begins within.
It is an inward event,
With unsuspected possibilities
For inner liberation.
We could use it to turn on
Our inward lights.
We could use it to use even the dark
And negative things positively.
We could use the new era
To clean our eyes,
To see the world differently,
To see ourselves more clearly.
Only free people can make a free world.
Infect the world with your light.
Help fulfill the golden prophecies.
Press forward the human genius.
Our future is greater than our past.**

by Ben Okri

SoNA in numbers

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN NUMBERS - JUNE 2019

Democracy

25 – The number of years since South Africa’s democracy.

National Development Plan (NDP)

1 100 – The number of indicators that the Medium Term Strategic Framework had for the last five years, which measured progress in the implementation of the NDP.

5 – The number of years in which the Medium Term Strategic Framework had more than 1 100 indicators, which measured progress in the implementation of the NDP.



Government priorities and goals

7 – The number of priorities that the new administration will focus on.

5 – The number of fundamental goals for the next decade.

10 – The number of years in which government will make progress in tackling poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Employment and economic opportunities

50% – The unemployment rate among young South Africans.

2 million – New jobs to be created for young people within the next decade.

50 000 – The number of young people that the National Youth Service will take a year.

6 – The number of months which the National Minimum Wage has been in place.

155 000 – Jobs to be created in the next five years through the Public-Private Growth Initiative.

2 million -- Young people who will be employed in the next decade.

Education

10 – The age in which a child will be able to read for meaning in the next decade.

3, 6 and 9 – The targeted school grades where there should be an improvement of the capabilities of teachers and ensuring a more consistent measurement of progress.

500 000 – The number of children of school-going age with disabilities who are not in school.

Human settlements

5 – The number of years that government will accelerate the provision of well-located housing and land to poor South Africans.

75% -- The number of South Africans who are going to be living in urban areas by 2030.

Health

2 million – The figure that government aims to increase the number of people on antiretroviral treatment by

December 2020.

Economy

10 – The number of years in which government expects South Africa's economy to be growing at a rate far greater than country's population.

R230 billion – The fiscal support that Eskom will require over the next 10 years.

R300 billion – The amount of investments announced at the inaugural Investment Conference in 2018.

R250 billion – The amount worth of projects that has entered the implementation phase.

R840 billion – The amount that the private sector has committed to invest in projects through the Public-Private Growth Initiative.

43 – The number of projects that the private sector has committed to invest in through the Public-Private Growth Initiative.

19 – The number of sectors that the private sector has committed to invest in through the Public-Private Growth Initiative.

5 – The number of years in which government aims create 155 000 jobs through the Public-Private Growth Initiative.

R100 billion – The amount that government has allocated for the Infrastructure Fund.

1 day – The period it should take for companies to be registered.

R3.9 billion – The amount allocated to the Land Bank to support black commercial farmers.

Economy

R250 billion

The amount worth of projects that has entered the implementation phase.

5

The number of years in which government aims create 155 000 jobs through the Public-Private Growth Initiative.



Tourism

21 million – The number of international tourist arrivals projected by 2030.

Safety and security

5 000 – The number of students registered for basic training in South Africa's police training colleges.

7 000 – The envisaged number of students to be registered for basic training in South Africa's police training colleges per cycle over the next two intakes.

R14.7 billion – The value of estimated civil claims arising from the Special Investigative Unit investigations.

Local government

44 – The number of districts that government will focus on to speed up service delivery, ensuring that municipalities

are properly supported and adequately resourced.

8 – The number of metros that government will focus on to speed up service delivery, ensuring that municipalities are properly supported and adequately resourced.

- Source: Government Communications

MINISTER PANDOR CONCLUDES HER WORKING VISIT TO CHINA

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, has concluded her Working Visit to China, where she led a South African delegation of senior government officials at the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Coordinators' Meeting, which took place from 24 to 25 June 2019 in Beijing.



The meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Chen Xiaodong, Assistant Foreign Minister of China, and His Excellency Oumar Demba Ba, Foreign Minister of Senegal. The foreign ministers of 53 African member states were also in attendance.

The aim of the Coordinators' Meeting was to assess the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit in 2015 as well as progress made in respect of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to implement the Beijing Summit outcomes and to expedite the implementation of the follow-up actions endorsed by the summit, under the auspices of the Beijing Action Plan (2019 – 2021).

The Beijing Action Plan (2019 – 2021) addressed the broad areas of implementation agreed to at the summit, including Political Cooperation, Economic Cooperation, Social Development Cooperation, Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, Peace and Security Cooperation, International Cooperation and FOCAC Institutional Development.

One of the key outcomes of the FOCAC Coordinators' Meeting was the joint commitment made by both sides to continue to actively promote multilateralism and free trade within the current context of increasing isolationist and unilateral actions by global role-players, which could undermine existing rules-based international systems.

On the margins of the FOCAC Coordinators' Meeting, Minister Pandor also met with her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, and subsequently with Yang Jiechi, Senior Minister and a Member of the Ruling Communist Party's 25-member Politburo. Minister Pandor also had the opportunity to hold bilateral discussions with Malagasy Foreign Minister, Naina Andriantsitohaina, and Somali Foreign Minister, Ahmed Isse Awad.



Minister Pandor witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory and the National Astronomical Observatories and Chinese Academy of Sciences on Radio Astronomy Research Exchange Programme.

Following the FOCAC Coordinators' Meeting, Minister Pandor travelled to Osaka, Japan, to support President Cyril Ramaphosa at the G20 Summit, scheduled to take place from 27 to 30 June 2019.

MINISTER PANDOR HOSTS DIPLOMATIC CORPS, APPEALS FOR CLOSER TIES IN ADVANCING SOUTH AFRICA'S GOALS

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on Saturday, 22 June 2019, hosted a prestigious breakfast reception for the many ambassadors and high commissioners accredited to Pretoria – her first interaction with the Diplomatic Corps following her appointment to the critical ministry by President Cyril Ramaphosa after the May 8 general elections.

“I wish to begin by thanking you all for accepting our invitation and attending this breakfast. I sincerely look forward to working closely with all of you and to continue strengthening the strong bonds of friendship built by my predecessor, Minister Sisulu, and her team.



“The assignment of serving as the President’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is both a privilege and a daunting challenge. I hope to respond successfully to these with your esteemed help and support.

“I come into this office at a time when seismic changes continue to face world leaders – all of us have to develop effective responses to the dynamic changes that straddle domestic regional and global domains.

“I know that I can rely on all of you to work closely with my department to advance the international relations goals of South Africa, the Southern African Development Community and our entire continent. After all, we enjoy freedom today due in large measure to the support many of you gave us during our hard-fought struggle for freedom. The collaboration we secured then, the single-minded determination aimed at defeating apartheid is required even more

as we confront the issues of ensuring increased African prosperity, the education and skilling of our youth populations, the entrenching of quality for women, the creation of sustainable inclusive democracies and respect for diversity and inclusion globally.

“Our President Ramaphosa set out this government’s key priorities last night – it is my task to ensure our work in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) contributes to these and to especially give attention to our Agenda 2063 for the continent of Africa.

“As DIRCO, we are convinced that our focus must consistently be our priorities, action to advance the development of the African continent, support for advancing human rights, promotion of respectful cooperative relations between nations, and active participation in achieving peaceful resolution of conflicts and of course support for measures to achieve increased, robust and inclusive economic development.

“These are tough aspirations in a world that seems determined to be fractured and tense. I am certain that all the excellencies gathered here share the noble ambitions of DIRCO and while I know we may not succeed in all of them, I am truly honoured that I have been charged to work closely with you to really try to achieve these ideals and I sincerely look forward to working with you to get your support in achieving as many of them as possible.”



South Africa hosts the second-largest number of diplomatic missions after the United States. The breakfast event on Saturday was attended by hundreds of diplomats, including Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Bene M’Poko of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Minister Pandor was accompanied by deputy ministers Candith Mashego-Dlamini and Alvin Botes.

ADVOCATE PANSY TLAKULA ELECTED TO SERVE ON A UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODY

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, has congratulated Advocate Pansy Tlakula on her election to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Advocate Tlakula will serve on this important Human Rights Treaty-monitoring body for four years, for the period 2020 to 2023.



Advocate Tlakula was elected among 14 candidates, who sought to fill nine vacancies on the 18-person committee. Meeting in New York on Friday, 21 June 2019, the 181 state parties elected nine new members to this committee. CERD comprises 18 experts.

The CERD monitors the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

For the past 24 years, Adv. Tlakula has occupied leadership positions in independent constitutional

bodies nationally and on the African continent. These positions have equipped her with practical skills and experience to perform her functions with impartiality and without fear, favour or prejudice.

The global resurgence of incidents of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance and their manifestations, require of CERD to have members such as Advocate Tlakula, who will be able to serve the committee with great distinction.

Minister Pandor is confident that Advocate Tlakula's election will greatly enhance the work of the committee as she has lived experience and extensive professional experience in terms of the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights at domestic and regional levels.

Minister Pandor wished Advocate Tlakula success in her endeavours in the CERD.

LOCAL COMPANIES SHOW OFF WARES AT AFRICA BIG 7

South African food and beverage companies recently showcased their products at the Africa Big 7 Exhibition.



The Department of Trade and Industry (dti) hosted 23 local companies at its pavilion at the exhibition at Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand.

Africa Big 7, which is an internationally-renowned food and beverage trade show, is the annual meetingplace for food and beverage professionals across the continent who visit to source, meet and gain insight into the latest developments in the industry.

The trade show is the only food and beverage show on the African continent and brings together hundreds of global buyers from significant segments of the agro-processing industry's value chain.

Deputy Minister Nomalungelo Gina said the dti's pavilion showcased local manufacturing capability in order to boost the export of South African products while simultaneously increasing intra-Africa trade.

Deputy Minister Gina said the exhibition provided local companies with an opportunity to join over 250 exhibitors from over 45 countries and to fly the South African flag in some niche food and beverage categories such as wines, ginger beer, soy products and preserved fruits.

"The agro-processing sector is critical to the South African economy and has grown to be one of the largest manufacturing sub-sectors, accounting for about 24% of manufacturing gross domestic product (GDP) and 3.3% of South Africa's total GDP in 2017.

"In employment terms, agro-processing is the largest contributor to jobs in the manufacturing industry. In 2018, it accounted for approximately 21% of all jobs in the manufacturing industry and 2% of jobs in the entire economy. It is therefore important to use every opportunity to promote, support and grow this sector," said Deputy Minister Gina.
– Source: SAnews.gov.za

AIR TANZANIA TO REINTRODUCE FLIGHTS TO SA

Air Tanzania is to resume flights to South Africa on Friday in a bid to attract South African tourists and business travellers.

The revived passenger schedule will connect four major airports in Tanzania with OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg with four direct flights per week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, Tanzania's Citizen TV reported.

Josephat Kagirwa, ATCL's public affairs spokesman, confirmed that the four local airports to introduce South African connections are Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar International Airport, Kilimanjaro International Airport in northern Tanzania, and Mwanza International Airport.

Return tickets will initially cost \$299 to 15 July as the flights are re-launched. Thereafter, the normal ticket price will be \$347.

Air Tanzania Company Ltd's (ATCL) recently-acquired Boeing 787- 8 Dreamliner jet has the capacity to carry 262 passengers. Dreamliner will be replaced by an Airbus A220-300 on the Johannesburg route from 16 July.

"We expect to maintain this route as we prepare for long-haul flights to India and China," said Kagirwa.

South Africa is in a strategic position when it comes to linking airlines in the southern and East African region to destinations abroad, including Australia. – Source: African News Agency (ANA)



OSCAR BUTHELEZI SCOOPS INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY AWARDS

Gauteng MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mbali Hlophe, has congratulated Oscar Buthelezi for his exploits at the 33rd International Competition for Choreographers in Hanover, Germany on 22 June 2019.



Buthelezi bagged three awards, including the main one for his dance piece *The Road*, at the international competition which featured 19 top finalists from across the world.

He arrived back in South Africa on Monday 24 June, at the OR Tambo International Airport with the following awards: Residency (scholarship) in Australia Dance Company; the Audience Choice; and the Jury Award which is the main one.

Says MEC Hlophe: "South Africa will have to get used to the name Oscar Buthelezi. The talent in him is amazing and no wonder he's taking the world by storm in

performance arts. Congratulations to him and his team for putting South Africa in the map.

"A product of our dance programme Motjeko Dance, he continues to make us proud as Gauteng for having helped found his success. We are glad to have been there when his passion was ignited, which is what we want to do for every young person within the spaces we operate: the arts and sport.

"We congratulate and celebrate him and wish his star to grow bigger and brighter. His exploits are going a long way to growing and changing the face of performance arts. He's an inspiration to many young people with talent, passion and hard work", concludes MEC Hlophe.

Buthelezi has earned international acclaim for his bold choreography and the brilliant style and sensitivity of his

dance. He is six-time and only winner of the acclaimed Kurt Jooss Choreography Awards, held in Germany every three years.

He is the 2019 recipient of the prestigious Naledi Theatre Award for Best Original Choreography in a musical for *The Colour Purple*.

SHO MADJOZI BAGS FIRST BET AWARD

Tsonga rapper Sho Madjozi just walked away with the BET Award for Best International Act – and made history as the first South African female to do so.

The awards were held on Sunday night at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, California.

The 27-year-old, who recently won Newcomer of the Year and Female Artist of the Year at the South African Music Awards was nominated alongside artists such as: Teniola Apata (Nigeria), Headie One and Octavian from the United Kingdom, Jokair and Nesly (France) and our very own AKA.



In her acceptance speech, the *Huku* hitmaker thanked her team before sharing what the award means to her.

"My story is testament that you can come from any village, in any forgotten part of the world, and still be a superstar. For girls that come from where I am from, which is Limpopo, I just want to say that you don't need to change who you are, you can still be big," she said. – Source: www.channel24.co.za

SA'S KLAASEN TRIUMPHS IN HALLE

South Africa's Raven Klaasen and his New Zealand doubles partner Michael Venus have won the ATP event in Halle on Sunday, 23 June 2019.



The third-seeded pairing rallied from a set down to beat Poland's Lukasz Kubot and Brazil's Marcelo Melo 4-6, 6-3, 10-4.

Klaasen and Venus will now set their sights on Wimbledon, the year's third Grand Slam which starts on Monday, 1 July.

Meanwhile, the singles title was won by Swiss star Roger Federer, who beat Belgium's David Goffin 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 to bag his 10th Halle title and 102nd ATP Tour title. – Source: www.sport24.co.za

IT'S BRONZE FOR JUNIOR BOKS AT WORLD CHAMPS

The Junior Boks defeated hosts Argentina to claim third place in the World Rugby U20 Championship at the Racecourse Stadium on Saturday, 22 June 2019.



Junior Springbok coach Chean Roux on Saturday lauded his team's fighting spirit to claim the bronze medal after outplaying Argentina, 41-16 in a strong finish to their campaign.

The Junior Springboks delivered a strong first-half showing, which saw them scoring two converted tries and a penalty goal, while they limited the hosts to a penalty goal for an encouraging 17-3 lead.

The second half was dramatic as the home side came out with a bang, scoring back-to-back tries and a penalty goal to reduce their deficit to one point going into fourth quarter. But the

SAU20's showed their class and character to power through for the win as they scored a timely drop goal and three more tries to seal the victory.

Junior Springbok scrumhalf Sanele Nohamba's try, four conversions and penalty goal earned him 16 points, while winger Thaakir Abrahams scored two of the team's five tries.

"I am very happy for the players," said Roux. "It is tough to play five games in a row, so credit to them for finishing the tournament strongly."

Reflecting on the tournament as a whole, the coach said: "From a results perspective, we wanted to win the trophy, so the lesson we will take from this is that every game is important.

"You cannot slip one, and unfortunately we were not up for it against France. But that said, one needs a little bit of luck as well.

"From a player development point of view, however, several players put up their hands and took big strides forward in the last few months, so we will keep an eye on them." – Source: www.sport24.co.za

JUNIOR BOK NOMINATED FOR U20 CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD



Junior Springbok scrumhalf Jaden Hendrikse was nominated as one of four players for the World Rugby U20 Championship Breakthrough Player of the Tournament Award after a strong contribution to the team's performance in the international showpiece in Rosario.

Hendrikse went head-to-head with French flyhalf Louis Carbonel, Argentina centre Juan Pablo Castro and Australian flanker Fraser McReight for the award.

Hendrikse – who turned 19-years-old in March – made his debut for the Junior Springboks in the U20 International

Series in the Western Cape in April, and he has been a key figure in the squad since.

He is a product of SA Rugby's Elite Player Development Programme, with his selection for the Junior Springbok squad following appearances in the U17 SA Rugby Interprovincial Sevens Tournament, U18 SA Rugby Craven Week and the SA Schools team in the AON U18 International Series. – Source: www.sport24.co.za



Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World

NEWS FROM THE UNSC

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JERRY MATJILA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 2019

“Mr President,

“I would like to thank Mr Mladenov for his briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine.

“We are all aware of the expression, that the Emperor of Rome, Nero, is reputed to have fiddled while Rome burned.

“If this Council and indeed the international community continue to deal with the question of Palestine in the manner in which we are currently doing, history will no doubt judge us as the abominable Nero.

“We are fiddling, while the reality of an independent, safe, secure and self-sufficient Palestinian State is slowly dwindling.

“Compounding the effects of the illegal Israeli occupation, earlier this week, the Governor of the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA), Mr Azzam Shawwa, highlighted the dire financial constraints of the Palestinian Authority that makes it very difficult to deliver basic services to its people.

“Mr President,

“On 22 November 1967, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 244, which called on all parties to end territorial claims, respect sovereignty and for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories. In 2019, 52 years later, this has still not happened. In reality, Israel has illegally expanded its occupation with no consequences.

“These historical injustices against Palestine and its people must be addressed. This Council must uphold its UN Charter-mandated responsibilities and act.

“It is long overdue for the Security Council to reassume its responsibility and act decisively to assist Israel and Palestine in finding a lasting peace in the Middle East.

“Over the years, established legal frameworks have been agreed upon, including the Madrid Principles, the Arab Peace Plan, the Quartet Peace Plan and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. It is now time to put action to these guidelines.

“Mr President,

“A vital aspect of ensuring lasting peace, security and stability in the Middle East is for the parties to talk to each other, in direct negotiations, towards finding a credible path to peace that is acceptable to both Israel and Palestine. These direct discussions must include final status issues, particularly with regard to borders, the status of

Jerusalem, and the return of Palestinian refugees.

“Eroding these core issues through detrimental unilateral action severely undermines previous peace-making efforts and damages the prospects for durable peace for both Palestinians and Israelis alike.

“The Security Council and its partners in peace must exert every effort to bring all sides to the negotiating table, to allow them to find a long-term, peaceful solution.

“Mr President,

“With regard to the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, here too we have failed. Palestinians continue to live in unacceptable environments where their movement is restricted, their land and property is seized and they have very little control over their own futures. In Gaza, Israel’s illegal blockade has harshly and negatively impacted the economic and social development of the area.

“This has been further exacerbated by Israel’s illegal withholding of tax and customs revenue that rightfully belongs to the Palestinian Authority to dispense as they see fit. In this regard, South Africa calls for the immediate lifting of the illegal blockade and the release of all tax and customs revenue collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

“In the West Bank, we see continued expansion of illegal settlements, the confiscation or destruction of Palestinian property and land, in direct violation of international law, including Security Council Resolution 2334. Again the Council has not acted to rectify this injustice.

“As we heard last month and acknowledged by many members of the Council, UNWRA plays a vital role in the lives of most Palestinians through the provision of health and education services and employment opportunities in these fields. Their important work must be fully supported and encouraged at the upcoming UNWRA conference later this month.

“Mr President,

“On a positive note, we congratulate the State of Palestine for successfully joining the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an observer on 18 June. This is a further step towards full acceptance by the international community of the reality that Palestine is indeed a State.

“In conclusion Mr President, the international community has acknowledged that the only credible solution is one that is based on the two-State solution, with the 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine. Any proposed peace plan must acknowledge these facts and must ensure a Palestinian State that has sovereignty, territorial contiguity and economic prosperity.

“I thank you.”



STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JERRY MATJILA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND THE SITUATION IN SUDAN, 19 JUNE 2019

“Mr President,

“At the outset, allow me thank the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Ms Fatou Bensouda, for her comprehensive briefing on the situation in Sudan.

“South Africa continues to support Resolution 1593 (2005), which refers to the situation in Darfur since 1 July 2002, mandating the ICC to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity.

“South Africa is deeply concerned about the continuing violence and loss of life in Darfur as indicated by the Prosecutor in her report. South Africa deplores the fact that violence has been directed in particular at civilians.

“While we note the significant progress achieved in the peacekeeping and peace-building efforts in Darfur, South Africa is concerned with the security challenges that persist and human rights violations as highlighted in the Special Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of UNAMID.

“What is of particular concern is that women and children remain the most vulnerable and affected by sexual violence, which continues to be a weapon of war in Darfur.

“South Africa calls on the military and security forces to ensure the full protection of civilians and respect for human rights and freedoms in Darfur.

“In this regard, in line with the AUPSC Communiqué of 13 June and the Press Statement by the African countries represented on this Council of 3 June 2019, we strongly condemn and lament the tragic and unjustified loss of life and remind the transitional authorities in Sudan of its obligation to protect civilians and respect their fundamental rights.

“We urge the Transitional Military Council to return to the internal dialogue with the aim of responding swiftly and effectively to the legitimate aspirations of the Sudanese people.

“Furthermore, we call on the TMC to return to the framework established by the African Union. We underline the primacy of African-led initiatives in search of a lasting solution to the crisis in Sudan. It is important that the Sudanese people chart their own path of peace, devoid of interference. This is also vital to ensure that the substantial progress in peace building achieved in Darfur is not reversed.

“South Africa urges all stakeholders in Sudan to engage in constructive dialogue in order to restore peace and stability in the country. This is also vital for regional stability.”

“I thank you.”



Stay Connected with us



For back issues of Newsflash, visit: <http://www.dirco.gov.za/department/newsflash.html>