



## **2019 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS PRE - SONA KEY MESSAGES**

President Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver the country's 2019 State of the Nation Address (SoNA) to a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament on 7 February 2019. The address will be delivered at 19:00 and broadcast live across a number of television and radio stations.

The President will set the tone on critical matters and report back to South Africans on the progress since his last address. He will also provide an update on the implementation of the Programme of Action based on the National Development Plan.

Government is at the end of implementing its 2014-2019 Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF). The MTSF contains detailed targets, indicators, roles and responsibilities, and timeframes for the implementation of key programmes.

The 2019 SoNA will be delivered within the context of the current strides made by government to respond to the various challenges our country is facing. The address also takes place on the cusp of the country celebrating 25 years of freedom and democracy.

This year the country will also hold its sixth democratic national and provincial elections. It is an opportunity for a new generation of young South Africans to exercise the right to vote and determine their own future.

The 2019 SoNA will be followed by a debate in the National Assembly and the President's reply to the debate.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><b><i>The State of the Nation Address is the most significant event in our democratic calendar.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State of the Nation Address is a constitutional imperative where the sitting head of state reports to parliament on the country's progress and challenges.</li> <li>• In line with the Constitution, the President calls a joint sitting of the houses of parliament, which is the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.</li> <li>• The occasion brings together the legislature, the executive and judiciary as separate but interdependent components.</li> <li>• This separation allows for the checks and balances in our democracy, as it enables each branch of the state to scrutinise the acts of the other to prevent one from acting unilaterally.</li> <li>• The pronouncements by the President during the address becomes part of government's Programme of Action, which is underpinned by the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF).</li> <li>• To carry out the SoNA commitments, the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation aligns the strategic plans and annual plans of national and provincial departments.</li> <li>• The address allows Parliament and public oversight of the work of government.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>All South Africans are invited to be part of this important national milestone.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government invites all South Africans to be part of the State of the Nation Address on Thursday, 7 February 2019 at 7pm.</li> <li>• South Africans can tune into their favourite television or radio station to be part of this national milestone.</li> <li>• South Africans should set time aside to familiarise themselves with its content so everyone can contribute to our growth and development.</li> <li>• South Africans can also use the content of the address to ensure the accountability of government departments and entities on promises made.</li> <li>• The State of the Nation Address is an important milestone in our country's fight against the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality.</li> <li>• The State of the Nation Address is a barometer to assess our development year on year.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>We have made strong inroads over the past year to improve our prospects as a nation.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The President will update South Africans on the implementation of government's Programme of Action.</li> <li>• We will continue to build on the new hope and optimism for a brighter future that has reverberated across our nation.</li> </ul>

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the past year government convened a Jobs Summit to develop new pathways into work for millions of South Africans.</li> <li>• Government and social partners agreed to far-reaching initiatives to grow the economy and create many more jobs.</li> <li>• Government embarked on a massive investment drive to place our economy on a new path of inclusive growth.</li> <li>• The introduction of the country's first national minimum wage will ensure that millions of South African workers benefit.</li> <li>• Government released its stimulus package to ignite economic activity and secure confidence in sectors affected by regulatory uncertainty.</li> <li>• National government in partnership with various Non-Governmental Organisations held the National Gender Summit to address challenges faced by women, especially gender-based violence.</li> <li>• The Presidential Health Summit addressed various challenges facing the public health system so that it is strengthened in preparation for the implementation of the National Health Insurance.</li> <li>• Power Purchase Agreements for 27 renewable energy projects were signed as part of the country's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>The State of the Nation Address must be allowed to follow the decorum and dignity it deserves.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SoNA is a solemn occasion in line with the sanctity and decorum associated with a key democratic institution such as Parliament.</li> <li>• It is the responsibility of all who are privileged to participate in the process to display behaviour in keeping with the dignity of Parliament and the spirit of our nation.</li> <li>• During the State of Nation Address the President is not expected to answer questions or deal with any other business.</li> <li>• The debate on the State of the Nation Address will provide members of Parliament with a chance to respond to the address.</li> <li>• South Africans should protect the integrity of Parliament as it is one of the most important pillars of our democracy.</li> </ul>