



Province of the  
**Northern Cape**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STATE *of the* NATION ADDRESS**

# DEBATE

*TOPIC: Leveraging our provincial capabilities to improve the conditions of its residence and contribute to the National Development Objectives.*



**#SONA2025 #SOPANC2025**

Address by the Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul, on the occasion of  
the debate of the State of the Nation Address (SONA)

City Hall - Cape Town

11 February 2025

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**Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

**Chairperson of the NCOP**

**His Excellency, the President of South Africa**

**His Excellency the Deputy President of South Africa**

**Honourable Members of the National Assembly and NCOP**

**Dames en here, Ek dra groete van die Noord Kaap mense**

Let me commend the President, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, for delivering a forthright and forward-looking State of the Nation Address (SONA). The SONA laid out a clear vision, accompanied by pragmatic responses to grow the economy, create the much needed job opportunities, re-industrialise the country, massive investment in infrastructure, and expanding our social wage wallet to cushion the poor and the working class. There is a VISION and a PLAN, and that is leadership and not turbo-charged cheap populism by motor-mouth TRUMP equivalents in here, who never disappoint.

**Honourable Speaker**, after the 2024 elections the ANC played a pivotal and pioneering role in the establishment of the GNU. I have attended three meetings of the GNU, and as the province we hosted 4 Ministers and 6 Deputy Ministers. All these activities left me with an emblematic impression, that despite the enormous challenges in the operational aspects of the GNU, it will run its full term, it is not going to collapse. This is good for political stability in the country. We need to thank the participating parties in the GNU for their ability to shun politics of brinkmanship.

**Honourable Speaker**, a first year student of geopolitics will tell you that the US is very nervous since the beginning of this third decade of the 21st century. Because there is a real strategic contender on the horizon for global leadership, which is China. What frustrates the North is that this contender is coming from the South, former third-world country and now a developing economy bolstered by the BRICS outfit. This strategic contender is surging, and not pulling back an inch.



So we are trapped in a battle of giants, in this we must support the President in his brave assertion that “we will not be bullied” by a rogue superpower. I firmly believe that with our collective resolve and determination, as a people we can handle anything thrown at us, even by this fading captain of imperialism.

These ill-conceived White House Executive Orders are certainly going to spark and fuel racial tensions in a country where vivid memories of racial oppression, economic exploitation and exclusion of blacks still resides. Black poverty and economic marginalisation is a systemic function of the penetrative impact of apartheid colonialism. A very big section of the white population in the country, is disgusted and enraged by these Executive orders.

**Honourable Speaker**, just yesterday at the airport I met a very enraged white middle age lady, called Magdalena. Magdalena and her husband own 16 farms and the hectareage of those farms combined is bigger than Kimberley and she understands the need for expropriation of land. She enquired whether I was flying out to attend the SONA debate. En toe het sy my baie mooi gevra om die boodskap aan all die ledes van parlement deur te bring, dat sy sê “Trump se moer, en ook hulle se moer die wat big daddy Trump in onse land betroke maak”.

**Honourable Speaker**, 2024 marked the last lap of the Sixth Administration, and was a good year for the Northern Cape:

- In the first three quarters of 2024, the Northern Cape economy created 27 000 new jobs and that put Northern Cape on the second spot as a province with lowest unemployment. This morning 331 000 people clocked at employment places. Highest ever figure of employment in the history of the province and about 80 000 new jobs from June 2020.
- Our GDP per region in 2024 was R152 Billion, which marked a R35 Billion increase from R117 in 2019. The major contributing factors to this growth were mining, renewable energy and government spending on infrastructure.
- Last year we recorded a 5 years cumulative expenditure of of R24, 7 Billion on infrastructure. This accounts for 19 modern state of the art schools, 11 clinics, roads, libraries, water, bucket toilet eradication.
- The Namakwa Special Economic Zone was designated by Minister Ebrahim Patel.

- We launched our first phase R1 Billion housing project and contractors are on site.
- SANRAL commenced with the implementation of the R14 Billion road maintenance project.
- With former Minister Mchunu we launched the completed R1.7 Billion first phase of the Vaal Gamagara Water Project in John Taolo Gaetsewe Region. Comrade President with the massive infrastructure investment we must include the R10 Billion second phase of this project, that will see more than 200 villages having improved access to clean water.
- The R2.5 Billion BFI funded project commenced in Sol Plaatje, aimed at repairs to bulk water supply infrastructure.
- We recorded a decrease in 15 of the 17 priority crimes. We are now the safest province in the country.
- 8 clean audits, which marked the highest ever in the history of NC provincial administration.
- The pass rate for 2024 considerably increased with 8,4% from 75,8% to 84,19%. Over the past 5 years, we have seen a steady growth of our matric pass rate from 66% to 84,19%, this represents 18% increase.

**Honourable Speaker,** to build on this momentum, we are in a process of finalising the Provincial Infrastructure Plan 2040 and the Provincial Job Creation Strategy 2030. It is in the same breath that we welcome the President's announcement of the National Government's commitment to Boegoebaai Port and Rail Infrastructure Project and the intended government's R940 billion investment in infrastructure . Implementation of the Boegoebaai Port and Rail infrastructure will alleviate the port gridlock in the country and will change the socio-economic landscape of the Northern Cape.

**Honourable Members,** the Northern Cape is endowed with vast mineral wealth, renewable energy potential, and strategic geographic positioning is uniquely poised to serve as a new growth front. The Northern Cape Industrial Corridor, anchored by the Boegoebaai Port and Rail Development together with the Boegoebaai Green Hydrogen Development Programme, has been identified as game changers.

**Honourable President** in your speech, you made it abundantly clear that it is difficult, but constantly complaining is not going to make it better. Instead of being complain-mongers, these difficulties produce a generation that is deeply embedded in a true spirit of **ALUTA CONTINUA**, recently manifested in the BELA Act, NHI and Expropriation Act.

As the Northern Cape we offer South Africa an opportunity for the creation of a new growth front, which this country desperately needs to energise our economy.

Thanks Honourable Speaker