PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

COUNTRY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE 58TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY:

SOUTH AFRICA

06 NOVEMBER 2026

Hon. President, Hon. Members of the Forum, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a profound honour for me to present the Country Report on South Africa's implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 58th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF) held from 30th November to 5th December 2025 in eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (Durban), Republic of South Africa. The Plenary Assembly met under the theme "The Impact of Climate Change on Women and Youth in the SADC Region and the Role of Parliaments in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation".

In accordance with this theme and the resolutions adopted by the 58th Plenary Assembly, our Parliament actively monitored implementation of related policy frameworks, programmes and action plans by the Executive. Moreover, I'm pleased to also report to this Session of the 59th Plenary Assembly that, in discharging their constitutional mandate of oversight and accountability, our Members of Parliament raised several parliamentary questions relating to the impact of climate change on women and youth and the role of parliaments in climate change mitigation and adaptation during the

reporting period. This demonstrates our resolve to leverage on our parliamentary work to harness the potential and longitudinal impact of technology and innovation for realization of our country's societal and developmental economic outcomes.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

It would be recalled that, with regards to the impact of climate change on women and youth and on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the SADC Region, the 58th Plenary Assembly concluded by:

A. Expressing profound concern over the escalating impacts of climate change in the SADC region, including intensified droughts, devastating floods, tropical cyclones, and rising sea levels, which threaten food security, water access, public health, and socio-economic stability, thereby undermining the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SADC's regional integration agenda.
B. Acknowledging that climate change is neither gender-neutral nor generation-blind, recognising that women and youth bear a disproportionate burden due to pre-existing socio-economic inequalities, reliance on climate-sensitive resources, and limited access to decision-making, finance, and technology.
C. Resolving to prioritise parliamentary oversight and promote regional policy harmonisation to combat the climate crisis, safeguarding citizens and aligning climate action with the developmental aspirations of the SADC region as outlined in the SADC Vision 2050, the AU Agenda 2063, the outcomes of the 2025 G20 Summit, and COP30.
D. Reaffirming the critical interlinkages between climate change, health, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), noting that climate-induced disasters disrupt healthcare systems, restrict access to essential SRHR services, heighten risks of maternal mortality, gender-based violence, child marriage, and the spread of HIV/AIDS.
E. Reaffirming the central role of Parliaments in enacting climate-responsive legislation, approving climate-sensitive budgets, and strengthening oversight, while emphasising the need for dedicated climate research funding and the urgent

adoption of gender-responsive, youth-sensitive policies that recognise women and youth as key agents of change.

F. Underscoring the importance of strong parliamentary oversight to ensure transparency and accountability in climate finance, while promoting innovative financing for a just transition, and urged Member Parliaments to integrate climate resilience into national policies on agriculture, water management, and energy in response to threats to food sovereignty and water security.

Over and above that, it would be recalled that in addition to the Executive Committee Report, the Plenary Assembly also adopted various Reports emanating from the statutory meetings and joint sitting of standing committees ahead of the 58th Plenary Assembly, and accordingly:

i. Called for parliamentary action to address the regional energy deficit by urging national Parliaments to prioritize the ratification and domestication of the SADC Energy Protocol, strengthen oversight of its implementation and regional power pool integration, and utilise their budgetary authority to approve strategic investments in renewable energy and grid modernisation to promote a just energy transition;

ii. Reaffirmed the critical role of Parliamentarians in election observation for democratic consolidation, called for predictable funding and increased parliamentary participation in SADC PF Election Observation Missions (EOMs), and urged the institutionalisation of EOM funding within the national budgets of Member Parliaments;

iii. Encouraged Member Parliaments to strengthen oversight of anti-corruption strategies, advocate for the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and lead the revision of the SADC Model Law on Elections to address contemporary challenges such as cybersecurity, digital disinformation, and the conduct of elections during public health emergencies;

iv. Expressed strong support for the RWPC's advocacy for gender-responsive climate action and encouraged Member Parliaments to ensure that climate policies and financing are guided by robust gender analysis, supported by gender-disaggregated data in carbon markets, and reinforced by strengthened oversight to hold implementing agencies accountable to gender inclusion standards;

v. Commended the landmark benchmarking visit to Lesotho by the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee and urged Member Parliaments

to institutionalize similar peer-learning processes to support the domestication of SADC Model Laws, strengthen legal drafting capacity, enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration, and establish dedicated budgetary allocations and robust monitoring frameworks to translate model laws into tangible outcomes for SADC citizens;

vi. Commended the ongoing development of the SADC Model Law on Safe Abortion, as mandated by the Plenary Assembly, and urged Member Parliaments to actively champion it as a vital, harmonized regional framework, while facilitating inclusive national consultations on its context-sensitive, rights-based provisions;

vii. Urged national parliaments to advocate for the ratification and domestication of the Gender Protocol; accelerate the adoption of gender-responsive budgeting; strengthen monitoring frameworks; implement reforms to address digital gender-based violence; and promote expanded intergenerational dialogue.

viii. Reaffirmed the SADC PF's commitment to gender equality and youth empowerment, and called for the development of a Youth Development Scorecard, alongside the institutionalisation of multisectoral engagement and sustained resource allocation to ensure inclusive and effective regional implementation;

ix. Emphasised the critical need for strengthened parliamentary oversight in the areas of health and labour, by urging parliaments to: ensure adequate domestic funding for health protocols; ring-fence resources for HIV/AIDS and TB programmes; and expedite the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour;

x. Strongly recommended that the SADC PF advocate for the elevation of the SADC SRHR Strategy into a legally binding Protocol, to ensure uniform legal reforms, enforceable commitments, and mandatory budget allocations across Member States—thereby strengthening accountability, enhancing implementation, and promoting sustainable progress in SRHR;

To this end Hon. President and Hon. Members,

It gives me great pleasure to report that South Africa has demonstrated substantial progress in implementing the resolutions adopted by the 58th SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) Plenary Assembly. The most significant achievement has been the

operationalisation of the Climate Change Act 22 of 2024, which entered into force on 17 March 2025 and provides the first comprehensive legislative framework for climate governance, adaptation, mitigation, emissions management, and climate-resilient development. The Act provides the legal framework for:

- National climate governance mechanisms;
- Climate response implementation frameworks;
- Adaptation planning obligations;
- National greenhouse-gas emissions reduction targets.
- Climate adaptation planning across government spheres.
- Integration of climate risks into development planning.
- A "just transition" approach toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has commenced with implementation arrangements required by the Act, including institutional frameworks and adaptation planning processes. Equally important to also note in this regard is the fact that South Africa continued updating its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and using international platforms to strengthen climate action. In particular, the South African government has focused on, amongst others:

- More ambitious emissions reductions.
- Adaptation and resilience building.
- Alignment of climate action with sustainable development.
- Inclusion of communities, civil society, women, and youth in climate governance.

On top of that, several Parliamentary committees have also intensified oversight of implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP-GBVF), which aligns with SADC-PF resolutions calling for domestication of regional gender commitments and stronger measures against gender-based violence.
In particular Hon. President and Hon. Members, concerning the call for strengthened parliamentary action on climate mitigation, adaptation and climate-resilient development, particularly to protect women and youth from disproportionate climate impacts. I can report that since November 2025, South Africa's Parliament and Government have taken several notable steps to strengthen climate mitigation, adaptation, and climate-resilient development, with increasing attention to the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and youth.

But whilst in terms of an overall assessment, the strongest actions undertaken pursuant to implementation of the resolution on climate change adaptation and mitigation have been; a) implementing the Climate Change Act and strengthening climate governance; b) Reaffirming adaptation and resilience as national priorities; c) Embedding the Just Energy Transition within development planning; d) Explicitly recognizing women and youth as disproportionately affected by climate change; e) Using parliamentary and regional platforms to advocate gender-responsive and youth-inclusive climate action and; f) Strengthening the role of the Presidential Climate Commission as a mechanism for inclusive climate policymaking. At the end of it all, however, most progress to date has been in policy frameworks, governance structures, and commitments. The key challenge going forward will be translating these commitments into measurable outcomes for women, girls, and young people on the ground.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

With regards to the resolution on gender-responsive climate action, the Plenary Assembly encouraged member parliaments to ensure that climate policies and climate finance are guided by gender analysis and gender-disaggregated data. Consequently, during the inaugural special session of the newly reconstituted Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) in February 2026, President Cyril Ramaphosa reaffirmed that climate-proofing infrastructure, strengthening resilience, and protecting vulnerable groups are national priorities. He also highlighted the role of the reconstituted Presidential Climate Commission in ensuring that climate policies remain inclusive and evidence based. Speaking to the 25 newly appointed commissioners, President Ramaphosa emphasized that climate-proofing infrastructure and protecting vulnerable groups are not just environmental imperatives but matters of economic and social survival. He acknowledged the fact that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities—such as the poor, the unemployed, women, children, and people with disabilities.

The President specifically stated that women, children, persons with disabilities, poor households, and unemployed people require targeted protection as climate impacts intensify. Thus, for him, climate action and development must be aligned and support the country's growth and prosperity. President Ramaphosa further pointed out that since climate change is likely to undermine the country's efforts to address inequality, poverty

and unemployment- as such, addressing it must therefore go hand in hand with improving living conditions for all through targeted budgeting.

The President was emphatic that those most vulnerable to climate change – including women, children, people with disabilities, the poor and the unemployed – need to be protected. As such, to give effect to this and other executive undertakings, the South African government's response mechanisms since late 2025 showed a stronger emphasis on adaptation strategies and key priorities identified included:

- Climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Improved disaster risk management.
- Protection of vulnerable communities from droughts, floods, and extreme weather.
- Climate-proofing development planning.
- Supporting communities to adapt to worsening climate impacts.

Additionally, the South African Parliament has also strengthened oversight of climate governance through the oversight work of the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and other related committees. On the same vein, I can further report that as the South Africa government continues with implementation of the Gender-Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework (GRPBMEAF)- the country's National Treasury introduced a Gender Budget Statement in the 2025 budget process, representing an important step toward institutionalising gender-responsive budgeting.

In as far as parliamentary action on this resolution is concerned, I can report that the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) produced detailed analysis on gender-responsive budgeting and the implementation of gender budgeting frameworks, highlighting both achievements and remaining implementation challenges. Added to that, the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities has maintained oversight of programmes intended to improve gender equality and gender-responsive public expenditure.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

With respect to the resolution on gender-based violence and domestication of SADC Model Laws, the Plenary Assembly urged domestication of SADC model laws and

stronger action against gender-based violence and child marriage. Relatedly, South Africa's efforts to domesticate the SADC Model Law on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) have encompassed two approaches, namely: (i) a direct parliamentary engagement with the SADC Model Law, and (ii) the alignment of South Africa's domestic GBV legislative and policy framework with the standards and principles contained in the Model Law.

The South African Parliament has therefore participated in the broader regional parliamentary processes aimed at translating various SADC Model Laws into national legislative and policy measures- but also in aligning and progressively incorporating the substantive principles of the Model Law on Gender-Based Violence into its domestic framework. In particular, a major contribution by the South African Parliament to GBV legislative reforms that sought to substantially advance domestication has been the enactment of three significant pieces of legislation following the 2018 Presidential Summit on GBVF. These are;

- Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act 12 of 2021
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 13 of 2021
- Domestic Violence Amendment Act 14 of 2021

The Domestic Violence Amendment Act is particularly relevant to the SADC Model Law because it broadened and refined the legal treatment of domestic violence and strengthened protection-order mechanisms. It commenced, for the most part, on 14 April 2023. On the other hand, the Sexual Offences Amendment Act expanded protections for vulnerable persons, strengthened the National Register for Sex Offenders and introduced, among other things, the offence of sexual intimidation.

These reforms reflect the SADC Model Law's broader approach of moving beyond a narrow conception of GBV and strengthening prevention, protection, prosecution and victim support. But added to that, pursuant to the implementation of the Plenary resolution on domestication of the Model Law on GBV, I'm delighted to report that South Africa continues with the implementation of the 2020-2030 National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). The National Strategic Plan on GBVF outlines South Africa's roadmap for addressing gender-based violence and femicide over the next decade. Focused on creating a safe, violence-free environment, the plan sets clear, strategic outcomes centred on six key pillars, namely: Accountability,

Prevention, Justice, Response, Economic Empowerment, and Research. With an emphasis on bold leadership, multi-sectoral coordination, and survivor-centred support, the National Strategic Plan seeks to drive social change, tackle harmful norms and ensure that survivors have access to the necessary resources for healing. By involving a wide range of stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector, the Strategic Plan aims to transform South Africa into a place where women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons can thrive, free from violence.

Equally important to note is the fact that, whilst the South African government has enacted major GBVF legislation in recent years and continues implementing prevention, protection, prosecution and support measures under the NSP-GBVF framework- the South African Parliament has also continued to play a more prominent role in this regard. In particular, the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities conducted oversight engagements on implementation of the NSP-GBVF during the reporting period. Parliament specifically reviewed:

- implementation progress;
- shelter programmes;
- monitoring mechanisms;
- GBVF dashboards and;
- intersectoral coordination mechanisms.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

Pertaining to the resolution on critical role of Parliamentarians in election observation for democratic consolidation and increased parliamentary participation in SADC PF Election Observation Missions (EOMs), I can report that the South African Parliament remains committed to the promotion of democracy, constitutional governance, human rights, and the rule of law across the African continent and the broader international community. One of the important ways in which Parliament contributes to these objectives is through participation in election observation missions conducted under the auspices of regional and international bodies.

South African Members of Parliament have, over the years, participated in election observer missions through institutions such as the African Union (AU), the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the

Commonwealth. These missions are an important mechanism for supporting credible, transparent, and peaceful electoral processes and for strengthening democratic institutions in member states.

The participation of Members of Parliament in election observation missions reflects South Africa's constitutional values and foreign policy objectives. It advances Parliament's oversight and diplomacy functions by enabling Members to engage directly with democratic processes in other jurisdictions while contributing to the credibility and legitimacy of electoral outcomes through impartial observation and reporting.
Parliament recognises that free, fair, and credible elections are fundamental to democratic governance. Through continued participation in election observation missions, South African parliamentarians contribute to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting electoral integrity, preventing conflict, and fostering public confidence in democratic processes across Africa and the Commonwealth.

As Parliament continues to engage with continental and international partners, it reaffirms its commitment to supporting democratic elections, enhancing parliamentary diplomacy, and advancing the principles of democracy, accountability, and good governance.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

Concerning the resolution on health, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and HIV/AIDS, the Plenary Assembly highlighted links between climate change, SRHR, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence and urged strengthened oversight and domestic financing. In this regard, I’m delighted to report that the South African government continues with the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs; SRHR programmes and public health resilience measures. South Africa has increasingly recognised that climate change, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are interconnected public-health and development issues, although the government has largely addressed them through separate but increasingly intersecting policy frameworks, rather than through one dedicated national strategy dealing with all three simultaneously.

In particular, the most useful way to understand the South African approach is through five areas: climate-resilient health systems, HIV programmes, SRHR integration, gender and vulnerability, and disaster/climate adaptation. South Africa's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) provides the overarching adaptation framework. It seeks to reduce the vulnerability of society, the economy and the environment to climate impacts and calls for greater coordination across government sectors.

The Department of Health has also explicitly identified HIV/AIDS and TB among the communicable diseases potentially affected by climate change, alongside malaria, cholera and other climate-sensitive diseases. The Department's climate-and-health work recognises that extreme heat, changing precipitation, floods, droughts, food insecurity and other climate stresses can place additional pressure on health systems and vulnerable populations.

This is important because climate events can affect HIV outcomes indirectly through:

- disruption of health facilities;
- interruptions to medicine and laboratory supply chains;
- displacement and migration;
- food insecurity affecting people living with HIV;
- loss of livelihoods;
- disruption of HIV testing and treatment;
- increased vulnerability of women and girls; and
- pressure on already constrained health services.

South Africa's policy response therefore increasingly emphasises resilient and integrated health systems, rather than treating climate change simply as an environmental issue. This is why South Africa’s HIV policy has moved towards an integrated, multisectoral approach. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2023–2028 is particularly a case in point. The NSP is explicitly people-centred and multisectoral and aims to eliminate HIV, TB and STIs as public-health threats by 2030. Its four strategic goals include breaking down barriers to services, ensuring equitable access, building resilient health systems and sustaining accountable institutions. More importantly, the NSP does not treat HIV in isolation. It recognises relationships between HIV, STIs, gender-based violence, human-rights violations, inequalities, mental health

and social vulnerability. This creates an important entry point for addressing climate change because climate shocks tend to magnify precisely these existing inequalities.

With regards to government action and policy responses on SRHR, I can report that human rights issues have been integrated with HIV and STI programming. The 2020 National Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy provides an important bridge between HIV and SRHR. The policy consolidates a range of clinical and policy interventions, including contraception, safe conception and infertility services, termination of pregnancy, STI management, cervical cancer, post-exposure prophylaxis, adolescent health, HIV testing, GBV and services for key populations. This is significant because it moves the policy approach away from treating HIV, contraception, reproductive health, adolescent health and GBV as separate programmes. The 2023–2028 HIV/TB/STI NSP similarly includes SRHR within the broader response. At its launch, government highlighted an SRHR campaign addressing reproductive-health services, STI prevention, condoms, family planning and newer HIV-prevention technologies such as the dapivirine ring.

But notwithstanding all of the above, the important gap that exist in the South African context is that there is not yet one fully integrated "Climate–HIV–SRHR" framework and perhaps this is where the country's approach could be strengthened. There is substantial policy integration between HIV and SRHR, and there is an established climate-and-health adaptation framework. But the three-way intersection is still relatively underdeveloped.

Overall, South Africa has developed relatively strong separate policy frameworks for climate adaptation, HIV/AIDS and SRHR and has begun connecting them through resilient health systems, gender-responsive programming and disaster preparedness. The major opportunity now is to move from sectoral integration to an explicit nexus approach, in which climate vulnerability is treated as a determinant of HIV and SRHR outcomes and HIV/SRHR services are deliberately built into climate adaptation and disaster-response planning.

Relatedly, when it comes to parliamentary action pertaining oversight on SRHR issues, on 18 June 2026, a parliamentary question was asked to the Minister of Health

Regarding the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights curriculum, particularly (a) on what date was the curriculum first introduced and (b) where has the specified curriculum been taught? In response, the Committee was informed that the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) training course was first introduced on 15 July 2021. b. The training course is provided through the National Department of Health's Knowledge Hub which is a central online platform designed to support learning, information sharing, and capacity building across the health system. The SRHR course consists of 14 modules and is self-paced with participants working through recorded lecture and since its inception, a total of 12,043 participants have enrolled in the training on the Knowledge Hub. The target audience includes administrative staff, community health workers, clinical associates, emergency medical services practitioners and technicians, managers, doctors including medical interns and community service doctors, nurses, pharmacy staff, and support staff.

Now coming to other equally important imperatives of strengthened oversight and domestic financing- I can report that in terms of parliamentary action, the Portfolio Committee on Health continues to exercise oversight over HIV, TB, reproductive health and public health financing. For instance, on n 06 May 2026, the PC on Health considered the Annual Performance Plan (APP) and Budget of the Department of Health for 2026/2027 financial year. The Department pointed out in its presentation that South Africa's health system continues to operate in a highly resource-constrained environment in 2026/27. The withdrawal of PEPFAR and reductions in broader United States funding support in 2025 have had sustained negative effects on the public health system. As a result, a number of research initiatives and service delivery programmes have either been terminated or significantly downscaled, placing additional strain on already overburdened public health facilities.

At the same time, global economic conditions remain uncertain. Ongoing instability in energy markets and disruptions in global supply chains continue to affect the availability and cost of essential medical supplies. Rising fuel prices and persistent inflationary pressures are further eroding the real value of health budgets, limiting the sector's ability to expand services and maintain infrastructure.

Within this context, the National Department of Health has set its priorities for the 2026/27 financial year, maintaining a dual focus. On the one hand, there is an urgent

need to stabilise and strengthen core health service delivery, particularly in primary healthcare, human resources for health, and medicine availability. On the other, the Department continues to advance structural reforms associated with the National Health Insurance, aimed at achieving universal health coverage over the medium to long term.

A critical risk to the system remains the long-term impact of reduced external funding for HIV and TB programmes. PEPFAR has historically supported a substantial portion of South Africa's HIV/AIDS response, including prevention, treatment, and community-based services. Without a fully funded and carefully managed transition to domestically supported programmes, there is a significant risk of reversing public health gains.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

Regarding the resolution urging national Parliaments to prioritize the ratification and domestication of the SADC Energy Protocol, strengthen oversight of its implementation and regional power pool integration, and utilise their budgetary authority to approve strategic investments in renewable energy and grid modernisation to promote a just energy transition, the following is worth noting. Firstly, the South African government is continuing with implementation of renewable energy procurement programmes; electricity sector reforms; Just Energy Transition programmes and transmission infrastructure expansion. The Climate Change Act further strengthens the legal basis for the transition to a low-carbon economy. Secondly, in terms of parliamentary action, relevant parliamentary committees continue oversight of energy-sector reforms, electricity planning and renewable energy investment.

In discharging its oversight responsibility, on 11 March 2026, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy received a briefing on Department of Electricity and Energy's quarter three Performance for 2025-26 financial year. The Parliamentary Committee was informed that the Department has set the following five strategic priorities for the 2024 – 2029 period:

- Achieve universal access: availability, affordability and quality energy
- Attain sovereign and regional energy security: Defend and expand Eskom's share of generation capacity, drive a catalytic programme – Green hydrogen, reset the role and place of nuclear and expand and modernise transmission.

- Drive industrialisation and lead innovation
- Qualitatively transform energy demographics: elevate the role of women and youth
- Assert South Africa, continental and global energy leadership.

In terms of the Department's Quarter 3 performance and its electricity sector reform [whose objective is to Transform the electricity sector to achieve long-term energy security, affordability, and green growth] the department reported that; a) The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) approved a Market Operator license for the National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA) on 27 November 2025 to facilitate grid access & trading. It was further reported that in addition to finalization and publication of Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Regulations on 31 October 2025, four projects under the fifth round of the renewable energy procurement programme (REIPPPP 5) reached commercial operation in December 2025, adding 365 MW to the grid. The regulations aim to facilitate investment in transmission capacity by private parties and the connection of electricity generation into the transmission system as well as enhance the reliability and security of the grid. Moreover, the Portfolio Committee was also informed that the Cabinet approved the final draft of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP 2025) in October 2025 outlining an indicative and forward-looking plan for South Africa's future energy supply.

Further to that, on 22 April 2026, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy received a briefing on department of electricity and energy annual performance plan (APP) for 2026-2027 financial year. In the APP, the Department commits to:

- Resolving regulatory bottlenecks.
- Finalising electricity market reforms.
- Driving policy certainty and streamlining regulatory approvals.
- Enhancing intergovernmental energy planning and aligning national, provincial and municipal policies.
- Promoting stronger regional energy cooperation through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).
- Strengthening governance of state-owned energy entities.
- Operationalising the Independent Transmission System Operator (ITSO).

Observably, these commitments support the harmonisation and implementation of regional energy obligations by ensuring South Africa's regulatory and policy framework

is aligned, coherent and capable of incorporating regional commitments. In addition, these commitments provide clear areas for parliamentary oversight, including:

- Progress on ITSO establishment.
- Electricity market reforms.
- Grid expansion.
- Regional power-pool participation and integration.
- Governance and performance of state-owned entities.

In addition to receiving briefings on annual reports, quarterly performance, strategic plans and annual performance plans- the South African Parliament's Rules also make a provision for members of parliament to make oral questions or submit written questions to from various government departments and state entities, as part of their oversight role. As such, during the reporting period, the following parliamentary questions were asked to the Department:

- On 07 May 2026, a parliamentary question was asked the Minister of Electricity and Energy on a) the total number of countries in Southern Africa provided electricity by the Republic of South Africa and (b) the total monetary value of electricity sold to Southern African countries? And as part of its response, the Department indicated that; a) South Africa provides electricity to a total of eight Southern African countries. These are Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe and (b) the total monetary value of electricity sold to Southern African countries is forecasted to be R18,8 billion for the financial year ending 31 March 2026.
- On the same date on 07 May 2026, another parliamentary question was asked to the Minister of Electricity and Energy as to how does his department intend to address delays in the connection of new renewable energy projects to the national grid, particularly where grid capacity constraints are slowing investment? As his response, the Minister indicated that the Department recognises that delays in connecting new renewable energy projects to the national grid, especially in areas where grid capacity is constrained, are slowing investment and delaying the pace of the energy transition. However, according to the Minister this is not a challenge unique to South Africa, as grid congestion is affecting the rollout of renewable energy in many parts of the world. As such, the Department is implementing targeted interventions to address these delays and has gazetted the Grid Capacity

Allocation Rules, which came into effect on 24 December 2025, to ensure that limited grid capacity is allocated fairly, efficiently and without capacity hoarding.

Parliament was also informed that, at the same time, the Department is modernising the grid through grid-enablement technologies and accelerating transmission expansion through the Independent Transmission Projects Procurement Programme (ITP Programme). In Phase 1 of that programme, seven pre-qualified bidders have been appointed to compete for the construction of 1,164 kilometres of new 400kV transmission lines and associated infrastructure. These measures are intended to unlock grid access, reduce delays and support faster investment in renewable energy generation.

Further to that Hon. President and Hon. Members,

It would be recalled that the 58th Plenary Assembly also adopted resolutions related to strengthening anti-corruption implementation measures. To this end, I can report that South Africa has strengthened anti-corruption implementation measures through a combination of legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, international commitments (including SADC and AU instruments), enhanced oversight, and implementation of recommendations arising from the State Capture Commission.

In terms of legislative measures, the cornerstone of South Africa's anti-corruption framework is the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act (PRECCA), which:

- Criminalizes both public- and private-sector corruption.
- Creates offences relating to bribery, abuse of public office, procurement corruption, and conflicts of interest.
- Requires certain persons in positions of authority to report corruption above a prescribed threshold.

Parliament has periodically reviewed and amended anti-corruption legislation to close loopholes and align South African law with regional and international obligations. In terms of whistle-blower protection, Parliament enacted and later strengthened the Protected Disclosures Act to protect employees who disclose wrongdoing and

corruption. On the other hand, regarding public procurement reforms, Parliament passed the Public Procurement Act to establish a more transparent and standardized procurement framework aimed at reducing opportunities for corruption in government contracting.

Moreover, regarding the ratification and implementation of international and regional instruments, I can report that South Africa has ratified and implemented several anti-corruption instruments, including:

- SADC Protocol Against Corruption
- African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption
- United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

Parliament approved these agreements under section 231 of the Constitution, while government departments incorporated many of their obligations into domestic law and policy. Additionally, Government has invested in rebuilding the capacity of the National Prosecuting Authority following concerns raised in the context of reported state capture that was the subject of the Zondo Commission of Inquiry. This specifically entailed the following measures:

- Recruitment of specialist prosecutors.
- Increased resources for complex corruption cases.
- Improved cooperation with financial investigators.

Of particular importance to note is that the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture have driven major reforms and the implementation of State Capture Commission Recommendations has resulted in the following government actions:

- Development of an anti-corruption strategy.
- Strengthening of procurement controls.
- Improving governance of state-owned enterprises.
- Enhancing protection for whistle-blowers.
- Reforming appointment processes for key public institutions.
- Establishing mechanisms to recover assets obtained through corruption.
- Strengthening Financial intelligence systems.
- Reinforcing beneficial ownership transparency measures.
- Tightening Anti-money laundering controls.
- Strengthening Asset forfeiture processes.

On its part, Parliament has continued to monitor implementation through committee hearings and oversight engagements. In particular, the Portfolio Committees regularly scrutinize:

- Departmental anti-corruption measures.
- Auditor-General findings.
- Progress on State Capture recommendations.
- Performance of law-enforcement agencies.

Furthermore, Parliament has increasingly used hearings and inquiries to hold ministers, officials, and entities accountable for failures in governance and corruption prevention. With regards to ethics and disclosure requirements, Parliament has strengthened ethics frameworks requiring: a) Disclosure of financial interests by Members of Parliament; b) Codes of conduct for public representatives and; c) Oversight of conflicts of interest.

The executive has also expanded lifestyle audits and integrity management measures within parts of the public service. Cumulatively, this has yielded the following positive outcomes and key achievements for the country:

- South Africa has created one of Africa's most comprehensive anti-corruption legislative frameworks.
- The country has ratified major international and regional anti-corruption conventions
- The country has rebuilt key prosecutorial and investigative institutions.
- It has also increased asset recovery efforts.
- South Africa adopted a national anti-corruption strategy and enhanced parliamentary oversight of corruption risks.

Nonetheless, despite these reforms, significant challenges remain. For example, there are still:

- Delays in investigating and prosecuting complex corruption cases.
- Capacity constraints in law-enforcement agencies.
- Procurement-related corruption.
- Inadequate Protection of whistle-blowers.

- Challenges in ensuring full implementation of State Capture Commission recommendations and translating strong legal frameworks into consistent enforcement.

Hon. President, I so submit.

Thank you.