



**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND
ADMINISTRATION, HONOURABLE SINDISIWE CHIKUNGA, MP**

13 JULY 2020

SEMINAR ON BUILDING GOVERNANCE CAPACITY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Honourable Deputy Ministers

Executive Mayors

Prof Zhang Bo Vice President of UCASS

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National School of Government Principal, Prof Busani Ngcaweni

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**Charge' d'Affaires at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China
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Deputy Directors-Generals at all spheres of government

Deputy Director of Bureau of International Cooperation

Head of Policy in the Office of the Premier, Gauteng Province

Senior Managers at all levels

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Introduction

At the outset, allow me to extend my appreciation to the management and leadership of the National School of Government (NSG) for inviting me to officially launch the seminar on **Building Governance Capacity for South Africa**. This seminar is the culmination of a partnership between the NSG and *the China-Africa Institute and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)*.

We meet today against the backdrop of 2020, a year that represents a watershed and milestone for the entire world given the COVID-19 pandemic. This global pandemic has tested our collective capacity, resolve and resilience to survive. We are compelled to have to re-imagine new ways of normality in all spheres of our lives, including learning, teaching and development environments.

The world has been rudely awakened to the reality that we live in a “Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous” (VUCA) world. Developments of a social, economic, environmental,

technological, or geo-political nature constantly generate webs of challenges and 'alarming' problems that require insightful and innovative responses. Indeed we find ourselves in an uncharted terrain as we grapple with this global pandemic.

DELIVERING ON THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) AND MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (MTSF) 2019-2024: BUILDING A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The hosting of this seminar provides an opportune moment to expose South African government officials and senior leaders to international models of development and economic governance.

We consider the seminar to be in line with the focus of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024 on strengthening governance, decision making and accountability; building critical capabilities to foster development, cohesion and economic growth; improving cooperative relationships across

national, provincial and local governments; and working with the private sector, labour, and civil society as social partners.

Governance and leadership capabilities are central to the important mission of building state capacity.

Senior officials are seized with ensuring that the programme undertaken in their institutions, portfolios, and Ministerial Clusters meaningfully lead to the attainment of strategic outcomes. Yet, without the benefit of learning experiences from other institutions and regions, officials will continue to have limitations in decisions, choices, and innovations at their disposal.

Present disruptions and future trends in global, national and institutional systems of working and relating, demand that senior officials be supported to respond to, and learn from shared challenges.

AFRICA AND THE WORLD RELATIONS

While the MTSF 2019-2024 places first priority on *A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State*, the significance of South Africa's connection with the rest of the world is articulated in *A better Africa and World*.

The presence and influential role of South Africa on the continental, regional and international arena needs to be nurtured. To date, South Africa has retained its good standing in the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and other bodies.

The relationships forged through international compacts serve to promote integration and cooperation for successful implementation of common agendas and policies. Notably, the MTSF 2019–2024 is informed by a global governance framework, as evidenced by specific outcomes that are aligned

to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2063 priority areas.

As part of the South-South cooperation, the G-20 and the BRICS grouping, South Africa's relationship with China continues to make possible the sharing of knowledge, skills, expertise and resources, in addition to foreign direct investment.

Recently, there have been increased movements towards regional integration, technology transfers, sharing of solutions, and other forms of exchanges.

Ladies and gentlemen;

In strengthening the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP), the MTSF for the period 2019-2024 identifies a capable ethical and developmental state as a foremost priority, which underpins the seven MTSF priorities altogether. It is our firm belief that building state capacity is the most important step towards achieving a developmental state.

Lest we forget, we need to be cognisant of the historical context that birthed our Constitution. Guided by the principle of the Freedom Charter (1955) that “**South Africa belongs to all who live in it” and the promotion of the democratic government based on the will of the people**; government committed itself to build a developmental state that will address the socio-economic challenges and create a better life for all.

The developmental state is thus an effort by government to build the nation, eradicate poverty, promote literacy, provide health and decent education, and the grow the economy in a manner that people are not left out, but are fully participating and become part of the solutions to their problems.

DEVELOPING AND STRENGHTNING STATE CAPACITY

Within this context, we place a huge premium on restoring the credibility of public institutions given their agency in the implementation of government programmes that are responsive to our people’s needs. This has created a mammoth task for the sixth administration to ensure the institutionalisation of integrity,

transparency, accountability, and responsiveness and, more importantly ethical leadership guided by sound governance principles and values. The erosion of good governance and accountability in public institutions coupled with poor consequence management has to be addressed head on.

To our Chinese Counterparts, we immensely appreciate the progressive diplomatic relations and cooperation between the Republic of South Africa and the People's Republic of China and the China-Africa Institute. We look forward to more developmental, and sustainable programmes that will ensure the strengthening of public administration, development and governance in our state institutions.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE (NSG) MANDATE AND VISION

I also wish to applaud and implore NSG to relentlessly pursue partnership opportunities like this one to ensure we make a

meaningful impact on the Public Sector training, learning and development landscape.

The NSG has tirelessly pursued their vision and mission trajectory of building an ethical, professional and capable public sector across all three spheres of government in the service of the people of South Africa.

We must congratulate the Principal, Prof Ngcaweni together with his Executive management, led by the Ministry of Public Service and Administration, in their adoption of a new hybrid model in the execution of the vision of the NSG.

This model has ensured that the NSG collaborates with various partners in the public and private sector to ensure that its education, training and development (ETD) interventions are of high quality, relevant and within reach to all public servants at the right time and place.

We are hosting this seminar today because the NSG also works with a network of similar institutions in Africa and around the world to promote democratic governance and development of the public sector on the African continent.

Through all the various collaborative partnerships, the NSG has managed to do the following:

- Under the umbrella of Governance in Africa and capacity development, the NSG together with African Management Development Institutes' Network (**AMDIN**), have developed a qualification on Governance in Africa.
- The NSG currently leads the production of the African Journal of Public Sector Development and Governance under the auspices of AMDIN, bringing various perspectives to public administration, development and governance from around the world but most importantly the African continent;

- ***On the Triangular cooperation and capacity development*** the NSG engaged in a regional capacity-building programme with Sudan, Burundi and Rwanda. The focus of the programme was to facilitate peer learning and capacity building of public servants in those three countries as funded through the cooperation with the Government of Canada;
- A gender responsive public sector is critical to inclusive service delivery and sustainable development. Working with partners such Flanders, Canadian Development Agency and UN-Women, the NSG led the development of gender mainstreaming programmes that advance the gender transformation agenda of South Africa;
- The NSG, working with partners such as the South African Local Government Association and other international

partners equips newly elected local government officials with the operations and functions of local government;

- Amongst others, the NSG embraces digital transformation to enable more teaching and learning to happen on digital platforms. To this end, the NSG is ensuring that there is continuous investment, on more online learning platforms. Capacity for the successful implementation of digital transformation in the public sector remains a priority for the NSG.

As I conclude, allow me to wish you fruitful discussions. I implore all senior officials to embrace this opportunity with the outmost determination, dedication and discipline. May you emerge fully empowered, energised and enthused to take on the challenges facing leadership at all levels in our government. Let us harness and leverage technology to build critical mass as leaders who benefit from these opportunities that the NSG provides through its online platforms.

South Africa is a better country and will be the best when realize and comprehend the importance of a professionalized public service with high quality thought leadership and management, who think out of the box, innovate and implement sound policies and programmes. This we will realize and achieve, as the NSG says, ***“We Learn, Serve and Grow!”***

***God bless South Africa
Africa, and the World.***

I, Thank You.