

Vuk'uzenzele



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■ Government increases efforts to build an enabling environment for job creation.



New minimum wage will help the poor
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Changing lives, protecting communities

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Employment is top priority

DESPISE SLOW economic growth government has plans to improve the lives of South Africans.

Chris Bathembu and Ongezwa Mogotsi

President Jacob Zuma delivered his State of the National Address (SoNA) at a time when the economy is not growing fast enough to create much-needed jobs. Despite this, the President delivered a speech that gave a positive outlook on the country's future.

He outlined a number of

DID YOU KNOW?

Government spends R500 billion a year buying goods and services. Added to this, government also has a R900 billion infrastructure budget.

proposals aimed at boosting employment including:

- The establishment of an Invest SA One-Stop Shop.
- Taking advantage of tourism as a job driver.
- Scaling up the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).
- Using public infrastructure as a way to create work opportunities.

Government will use the Nine-Point Plan announced in the 2015 SoNA to help speed up growth and employment.

The key pillars of the plan include, among other things, resolving the energy challenge, promoting agriculture and agro-processing, advancing beneficiation, and encourag-

ing private sector investment.

President Zuma said government had also identified tourism as a key job driver.

"We are thus pleased that our tourist arrival numbers for the period January to November 2016 increased to nine million, an increase of just over one million arrivals from 2015. This represents a 13 percent growth in tourist arrivals," he said.

In addition, government runs effective poverty alleviation programmes such as the EPWP.

"The EPWP has, since 2014, created more than two million work opportunities towards the attainment of the target of six million work opportunities

by the end of March 2019. Of the work opportunities created, more than one million have been taken up by the youth."

President Zuma noted that during 2015/2016, more than 61 000 work opportunities were created through Environmental Programmes such as Working for Water, Working for Wetlands, Working on Fire and Working for Ecosystems. More than 60 percent of the beneficiaries were young people.

This has led to job creation in the Northern Cape and diversification of the economy through the creation of artisan and maintenance jobs, and the promotion of science as a ca-



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reer of choice.

On road infrastructure, the South African National Roads Agency (Sanral) has started the planning phase of the R4.5 billion Moloto road upgrade.

In 2014, government launched the Operation Phakisa Big Fast results meth

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Nuwe minimum loon vir werkers

MEER AS 6 MILJOEN

werkers sal by die nuwe nasionale minimum loon baat.

Amukelani Chauke

Adjunkpresident Cyril Ramaphosa het aangekondig dat die nasionale minimum loon op R20 per uur of R3 500 per maand vasgestel is vir mense wat 40 uur per week werk.

Vir diogene wat 45 uur per week werk, is die minimum loon op R3 900 vasgestel.

Die Adjunkpresident het gesê die nuwe minimum loon sal vanaf 1 Mei 2018 van krag wees.

"Die nasionale minimum loon, wat die laagste loon is wat aan enige werker betaal mag word, sal die lewens van miljoene onderbetaalde werkers aansienlik verbeter en sit die bal aan die rol om die uitdaging van 'inkomste-ongelykheid' in die land die hoof te bied."

"Tydens die bekendstelling aanstaande jaar sal Suid-Afrika aansluit by verskeie lande reg-



Miljoene onderbetaalde werkers sal by die nuwe minimum loon baat.

oor die wêreld wat 'n nasionale minimum loon as 'n instrument vir ekonomiese sowel as maatskaplike ontwikkeling in werkking gestel het," het hy gesê.

Die Adjunkpresident het gesê sosiale vennote wat georganiseerde arbeid en burger-

like-samelewingsorganisasies by die Nasionale Ekonomiese Ontwikkelings- en Arbeidsraad (Nedlac) verteenwoordig, het ooreenkomste onderteken oor maatreëls om arbeidstabiliteit te versterk, sowel as om die proses van kollektiewe bedi-

"Die ooreenkomste herstel die waardigheid van alle arm Suid-Afrikaners."

ning en maniere om die nasionale minimum loon bekend te stel te verbeter.

Die ooreenkomste verteenwoordig 'n belangrike stap "in ons pogings as 'n nasie en as mense om die uitdagings van inkomste-ongelykheid in ons land die hoof te bied en om die arbeidsmark te stabiliseer".

Hy het gesê die ooreenkomste gee ook meer momentum aan die stryd teen ongelykheid en armoede.

Die ooreenkomste herstel die waardigheid van alle arm Suid-Afrikaners.

Die Adjunkpresident het gesê 6,6 miljoen werkers leef op 'n

bestaansloon van onder R3 500 en dat daar 'n behoefte is om met stappe te begin om die inkomste van laagbetaalde werkers te verbeter.

"Die bedrag waarop die minimum loon vasgestel is, is nie 'n bestaansloon nie. Dit vorm 'n stewige fondament om ons land na 'n bestaansloon te help vorder. Dit is 'n begin. Hierdie ooreenkomste is die gevolg van byna twee jaar se onderhandelinge."

"Die ooreenkomste is 'n reaksie op 'n versoek deur President Zuma."

Ondernemings wat nie die nasionale minimum loon kan bekostig nie, kan by die regering aansoek doen om vrystelling.

Die Adjunkpresident het voorts gesê die minimum loon sal van tyd tot tyd geëvalueer word om vas te stel wat die impak daarvan op die arbeidsmark is. ▀

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Chris Bathembu and Ongezwa Mogotsi

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Land for all

Bathandwa Mbola

During the State of the Nation Address (SoNA), President Jacob Zuma announced that the state will increase its power to use the Expropriation Act to pursue land reform and land redistribution, in line with the Constitution.

"It will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve true reconciliation until the land question is resolved."

"Only eight million hectares of arable land have been transferred to black people, which is only 9.8 percent of the 82 million hectares of arable land in South Africa."

"There has also been

a 19 percent decline in households involved in agriculture from 2.9 million in 2011 to 2.3 million households in 2016."

Since 1994, government has transferred millions of hectares of land back to blacks who were removed from their ancestral land, but some people feel that the pace of redistribution has not been fast enough.

President Zuma said that going forward government will continue to implement other programmes such as the Strengthening of Relatives Rights programme, also known as the 50-50 programme.

In this programme, farm workers join together as a legal entity and together with the farm owner estab-



FAST FACT

The year 2017 has been declared the Year of Oliver Reginald Tambo who would have turned 100 years this year.

currently settled through financial compensation which does not help the process at all.

"It perpetuates dispossession. It also undermines economic empowerment," he said.

The President called on South Africans to unite to move the country forward.

"It is the year of unity in action by all South Africans as we move South Africa forward together," the President said. ▀



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Verander lewens, beskerm gemeenskappe

Parapara Makgahlela

Die *Working on Fire*-program is 'n inisiatief van die Departement van Omgewingsake wat daarop gerig is om mense, veral in arm gemeenskappe, se lewens te verander.

Die departement het die program in 2003 van stapel gestuur om werk te skep en vaardighede te ontwikkel onder jongmense uit gemeenskappe.

Dit het sedertdien baie lewens verander.

Die *Working on Fire*-program het 200 basisse en 5 000 brandbestryders regoor Suid-Afrika. Die program het 60 persent manlike en 40 persent vroulike brandbestryders in diens, waarvan 4 persent mense met gescremedhede is.

Sodra hulle gewerf is, deurloop die kandidate 'n 25-dae-opleidingsprogram in Nelspruit, wat 'n induksiekursus en 'n gevorderde veld- en bosbrandbestrydingkursus insluit.

Die doel van hierdie opleiding is om hulle toe te rus om veld- en bosbrande te help bestry.

Wanneer daar vaktures ontstaan, word advertensies vir die poste in openbare ruimtes in die gebiede waar hierdie spanne werk, geplaas.

Om in aanmerking vir die poste te kom, moet kandidate:

- Suid-Afrikaanse burgers wees
- Fisiese fiksheidstoetse tydens werwing slaag
- In gemeenskappe woon waar die advertensies geplaas is. □



Die *Working on Fire*-program, wat deur die Departement van Omgewingsake befonds word, is 'n Uitgebreide Openbare Werke-program wat daarop gemik is om geleenthede aan jong mans en vroue te bied.

Parapara Makgahlela

Working on Fire se vlieënieropleidingsinisiatief is in 2015 van stapel gestuur. Die opleiding werf brandbestryders uit die *Working on Fire*-program wat in besit is van 'n matrieksertifikaat en wat Engels, Wiskunde, en Fisiese Wetenskappe geslaag het en 'n passie vir lugvaart het.

Toé die inisiatief begin is, het dit 'n inname van twee brandbestryders gehad wat in Nelspruit

Working on Fire ontwikkel vaardighede

"Ek wil die eerste gekwalifiseerde vlieënier uit my township word."

by die Kishugu Organisasie vir Lugvaartopleiding opgelei is.

Een van die kandidaat-vlieëniers, die 22-jarige Donald Malekuto van Mohale-township in Magaliesburg, word by

die Kishugu Organisasie vir Lugvaartopleiding in Nelspruit opgelei om 'n professionele vlieënierslisensie te kry.

"Ek wil die eerste gekwalifiseerde vlieënier uit my township word."

Ek sal nie hierdie gulde geleenthed wat aan my gegun is om as 'n vlieënier opgelei te word, verkwis nie," sê hy.

Vir Donald is lugvaart niks nuuts nie, aangesien hy reeds as 'n sweeftuigvlieënier in Magaliesburg opgelei is.

Hy sê hy is besonder dankbaar dat hy hierdie omvattende opleiding as vlieënier gratis kry.

"Ek het gesukkel om my lisensie as sweeftuigvlieënier te kry weens 'n tekort aan geld. Ek is regtig dankbaar dat die Orga-

nisasie vir Lugvaartopleiding my met hierdie opleiding help," sê hy.

Die Algemene Bestuurder van die *Working on Fire*-program in Gauteng, Stephen Boyes, sê hierdie inisiatief is 'n hupstoot vir vaardigheidsontwikkeling. □

Vir meer inligting oor die *Working on Fire*-program besoek: www.workingonfire.org of stuur 'n e-pos aan: parapara.makgahlela@wofire.co.za, of skakel: 011 314 0254.

The African Union Commissioner (AUC) and New Zealand recently launched the 2017 edition of the African Union Handbook.

The African Union Handbook was first launched in 2014 as part of an ongoing collaboration between the AUC and the Republic of New Zealand.

The African Union Handbook aims to provide updated information to Member States and the public at large about the purpose, structure and key facts about the AU organisation.

This is in line with the AUC's mission towards becoming a people centred union and the Agenda 2063 Communication strategy to generate public awareness, involvement, ownership

African Union Handbook launched

rship and support for the programmes of the African Union.

While making her remarks opening remarks, AUC for Trade and Industry Fatima Haram Acyl noted that the 2017 AU handbook was one of the tools available for creating open lines of communication between the Commission and the public as relates to the implementation of AU programmes.

She further reiterated that in line with the 2017 AU theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth"; the need for communication between AUC and its key stakeholders was of greater importance given

the role that youth must play in creating the desired future of an Africa whose growth is inclusive and sustainable.

Ambassador of New Zealand to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union, Bruce Shepherd, remarked on the continued good relationship between the AUC and New Zealand.

He expressed his gratitude for the support accorded by the AU and its Member States during New Zealand's two-year term in the UN Security Council. He reiterated New Zealand's commitment to international peace and security and support for the AU initiative for Sile-

ncing the Guns by 2020.

He also noted the extensive relations between the AU and New Zealand on matters related to renewable energy and in particular, geothermal energy.

The Ambassador also announced that New Zealand would be offering 38 new tertiary scholarships to various AU member states in 2017 as a sign

of the continued commitment to support youth and education in the continent and in line with the AU theme for 2017.

The African Union Handbook 2017 is available from the Directorate of Information and Communications in the AU Commission; and a PDF version can be downloaded from the African Union (www.au.int) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (www.mfat.govt.nz) websites. □

Correction: In February Edition 2 of Vuk'uzenzele a comment on the State of the Nation Address was erroneously attributed to Ms Sibongile Boo (pictured). Ms Boo's correct comment can be viewed on: www.vukuzenzele.gov.za or on the Vuk mobile App. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.