



MINISTRY
PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

For immediate release

Date: 29 November 2023

Minister Kiviet's UNESCO Opening Ceremony Address on Transformation and Accountability

The Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Ms Noxolo Kiviet, delivered an opening ceremony address focusing on the themes of transformation, accountability, and justice during the UNESCO Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination held in São Paulo, Brazil.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, including Minister Silvio Luiz de Almedia from the Federal Republic of Brazil, Minister Anielle Franco da Silva, Minister of Racial Equality from Brazil, and Minister Monica Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprises from the Republic of Zimbabwe.

In her address, Minister Kiviet acknowledged the historical significance of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. She emphasized that discrimination and racism are deeply ingrained in the fabric of society, affecting every aspect of the economy and development. The adoption of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid by the United Nations in 1974 marked a crucial step in recognizing apartheid as a crime against humanity.

The democratic breakthrough of 1994 in South Africa called for a comprehensive approach to tackle racism and discrimination. Minister Kiviet highlighted the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society transformation, as enshrined in the South African Constitution. The Constitution explicitly acknowledges the injustices of the past, honours those who fought for justice and freedom and emphasizes the unity of all who reside in South Africa.

In line with constitutional directives, the government has established various independent institutions to support constitutional democracy, including the Public Protector, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission for the

Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious, and Linguistic Communities, the Commission for Gender Equality, the Auditor General, the Independent Electoral Commission, the Independent Authority to Regulate Broadcasting, and the Public Service Commission.

Minister Kiviet highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Public Service Commission, the National School of Government, and the Department of Public Service and Administration in developing the Professionalisation Framework for the Public Sector. This framework, approved by the Cabinet, aims to enhance professionalism, meritocracy, and ethical standards within the public sector through legislative and policy changes.

The Minister also emphasized the government's commitment to achieving racial and gender transformation through the implementation of the Employment Equity Act, the Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Policy and Act, the Preferential Procurement Act, and Affirmative Action measures. These initiatives seek to ensure that the public service and economic participation reflect the racial demographics of the country, promoting inclusivity and equality.

In the spirit of accountability and transparency, South Africa actively participates in the African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the Open Government Partnership. These engagements have positioned South Africa as a leader in open budgeting processes, allowing public participation in resource allocation and prioritization.

Minister Kiviet acknowledged the challenges that persist, including the abuse of democratic systems and openness by those who benefited from apartheid. She reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to the transformation of the Republic, promoting non-racialism, non-sexism, justice, and fairness.

In conclusion, Minister Kiviet quoted Bob Marley, expressing confidence in the victory of good over evil and the government's determination to leave no one behind in the pursuit of a transformed and just society.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Mr Moses Mushi, Communication Director, Department of Public Service and Administration, 012 336 1358, mosesm@dpsa.gov.za.

For Media Interview Requests: Mr Dudley Moloi, +27 72 420 9946, dudley@dpsa.gov.za