



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

5 minutes allocated

Theme:

Salutations

- Programme Director
- Your Excellency Silvio Luiz de Almedia, Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship Federal Republic of Brazil
- Your Excellency Anielle Franco da Silva, Minister of Racial Equality, from the Federal Republic of Brazil
- Your Excellency Monica Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprises from the Republic of Zimbabwe.
- All Minister's and Dignitaries present.

In 1974 the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid which declared the racial based policies of apartheid as a crime against humanity. In South Africa, discrimination and racism are two sides of the same coin as the roots run deep into the structure of the economy, development and all aspects of society.

The 1994 democratic breakthrough therefore called for not only a “Whole-of-Government” approach to dismantling the institutional racism and discrimination, but a whole of society transformation. This is evidenced in the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic which states and I quote:

- We, the people of South Africa,
- Recognise the injustices of our past;
- Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;
- Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and
- Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

In responding to this intention, the Constitution in Chapters 9 and 10 directs that Government establishes independent institutions to support Constitutional Democracy. These include the:

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

Working with the Public Service Commission and the National School of Government, and the Department of Public Service and Administration, we have produced the Professionalisation Framework for the Public Sector, which was approved by Cabinet and is being implemented through various means including the changes to Legislation and policies.

In addition, we have promulgated the Employment Equity Act, the Broad Based Economic Empowerment Policy and Act, the Preferential Procurement Act and Affirmative Action which were designed to ensure that the Public Service and economic participation reflects the racial demographics of the country. With the success of this racial and gender transformation, we are now implementing the Professionalisation Framework to achieve meritocratic appointments and higher standards of professional ethics.

To keep ourselves in check, we also participate in the African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union which seeks to ensure that we remain accountable, democratic, transparent and developmental. Our participation in the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Open Government Partnership has seen South Africa being recognised as having the most open budgeting process where the public gets to participate in how resources are allocated, thus determining what is a priority for the country.

Challenges remain including the abuse of these democratic systems and openness by those who enjoyed and continue to enjoy the benefits of apartheid through the abuse of the Justice System, economic access and their linkages with former colonial powers.

However, we remain committed to the transformation of our Republic as enshrined in our Constitution, by continuing to institutionalise and transform the whole of society to deliver non-racialism, non-sexism, justice and fairness.

As Bob Marley said in his song, title War, we are confident of the victory of good over evil, and we shall leave no one behind!

END.