

SACPLAN REACTS TO SONA 2019

President Ramaphosa has since coming to office, consistently given signals that he fully appreciates the centrality of the Urban and Regional Planning profession in driving the development of the country. In his latest State of the Nation address, he made this understanding even more clear and highlighted a number of areas his administration will use the planning principles as we push for Vision 2030 with much more energy. All pointers suggest this is the time to revive and relive the desires of visionaries behind the NDP and for planning to (re)claim it's rightful place and help guide the country to a better future. The future is indeed bright, better days for the profession are here and in return South Africa! This can only be welcomed by SACPLAN and the profession at large. Never in the life of a democratic state such attention has been accorded to planning related matters and with such clarity. To be more specific some of the areas relating to the profession covered were:

- Over 25 years, we have done much to meet people's basic needs, to reduce poverty and to transform a devastated economy that was built to serve the interests of the few.
- The persistent legacy of apartheid has left our country with extreme structural problems – both economic and social.
- As we enter this new administration, we will focus on seven priorities:
 - Economic transformation and job creation
 - Education, skills and health
 - Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
 - **Spatial integration, human settlements and local government**
 - Social cohesion and safe communities
 - A capable, ethical and developmental state
 - A better Africa and World
- At the same time, we must restore the National Development Plan to its place at the centre of our national effort, to make it alive, to make it part of the lived experience of the South African people.
- Our determination that within the next decade that no person in South Africa will go hungry is fundamental to our effort to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality.
- In addition to creating employment and other economic opportunities, this means that we must strengthen the social wage and reduce the cost of living.
- It means we must improve the affordability, safety and integration of commuter transport for low income households.
- While we have made great progress in providing housing, many South Africans still need land to build homes and earn livelihoods.
- In the next five years, we will accelerate the provision of well-located housing and land to poor South Africans.
- Through spatial interventions like special economic zones, reviving local industrial parks, business centres, digital hubs and township and village enterprises, we will

bring economic development to local areas. We will also focus on small medium enterprises in our cities, townships and rural areas and create market places where they trade their products.

- Faster economic growth also requires accelerated land reform in rural and urban areas and a clear property rights regime.
- In the immediate term, government will accelerate efforts to identify and release public land that is suitable for smart, urban settlements and for farming.
- I dream of a South Africa where the first entirely new city built in the democratic era rises, with skyscrapers, schools, universities, hospitals and factories.
- This is a dream we can all share and participate in building.
- We have not built a new city in 25 years of democracy.
- Seventy percent of South Africans are going to be living in the urban areas by 2030.
- The cities of Johannesburg, Tshwane, Cape Town and Ethekekwini are running out of space to accommodate all those who throng to the cities.
- Has the time not arrived for us to be bold and reach beyond ourselves and do what may seem impossible?
- Has the time not arrived to build a new smart city founded on the technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution?

SACPLAN at your service Mr President. Looking forward with renewed hope to work with this administration to turn the tide for our profession.

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