

# news BULLETIN

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## SAIGA NEWS BULLETIN



### News Update



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In this edition, we talk about the key SONA insights for SAIGA and the future of the public sector highlighting key aspects related to economic development and the professionalisation of the public sector.

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## KEY SONA INSIGHTS FOR SAIGA AND PUBLIC SECTOR'S FUTURE

The 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA) by President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted key aspects related to economic development and the professionalisation of the public sector. The President highlighted the importance of economic growth and the crucial role it plays in closing the skills gap.

This approach aims to ensure South Africa achieves the strategic objectives outlined in the five-year Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF). This is particularly interesting for SAIGA, as a leading professional body, is dedicated to advocating for ongoing skills development within the public sector.

This focus ensures that professionals are equipped to manage the complexities of governance and public finance. The Institute highlights the importance of proper financial management and accountability, aiming to use public funds responsibly to improve services like healthcare, education and infrastructure.

These initiatives are in line with the government's plan as outlined in the SONA, key highlights include:

- The President announced R38 billion for capital infrastructure projects, urging a review of public regulations like the procurement Act to ensure competitive bidding and compliance. He also highlighted major water infrastructure projects, with over R20 billion allocated for water purification and infrastructure reforms through the water amendment bill.
- Municipal Finance: reinvesting revenue in municipalities by looking at the funding model and revenue structures of municipalities and to ensure good governance, accountability, and transparency in local government, announcing the submission and draft of the White paper for local government and funding model.
- SOE reform unit which will focus of strategy of SOC's and private capital through Public private partnerships to drive investment and increase competition, including energy action plan: funding model in place to attract multilateral partnerships for investment in minerals and regulatory framework.
- Global markets in green economy, highlighting the need to improve the export Markert economy for the agricultural sector, trade and investment relations for a resilient economy
- Transformation fund for woman empowerment initiatives in line with the PSC: This initiative aims to ensure funding and entrepreneurial opportunities is available for young woman and skills for people with disabilities, meaning capital injections into the education sector and NSF for training and skills.
- Infrastructure Investment: The President announced a significant investment of \$50 billion over the next three years to improve the country's infrastructure. This investment aims to enhance transportation networks, energy supply, and water resources, thereby laying the foundation for sustainable economic growth and improved service delivery.
- Social Development and Poverty Alleviation: The President reaffirmed the government's commitment to social support programmes, including the extension of the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant, which currently assists approximately 9 million unemployed individuals monthly.

The SONA outlined a comprehensive plan to address South Africa's challenges through economic reforms, infrastructure investment, social support and educational improvements, while emphasising the nation's sovereignty in the face of international pressures.

As Ramaphosa further emphasised, government is committed to continuing efforts in providing training and support to women entrepreneurs, equipping them with the necessary skills and resources to effectively compete for government tenders. Empowering women in business is essential for promoting inclusivity, promoting gender equality and driving economic growth across the country.

This is in line with SAIGA's efforts to develop an "Entrepreneurial Plan" to support Registered Government Members looking to venture into entrepreneurship, whether by launching their own auditing firms or pursuing individual opportunities as SAIGA-recognised public sector audit and finance providers.

The Institute will also host the 2nd SAIGA Audit and Finance Indaba, focusing on Financial markets, capital investments and the impact of foreign exchange on local currencies. Discussions will include Ramaphosa's plans to welcome international investors as he prioritises economic growth to create job opportunities.

A strong economy will help South Africa recover and improve its position after being placed on the FATF grey list. The country is being closely watched for issues like money laundering and terrorist financing. However, South Africa will thrive by working together to ensure a better life for everyone and provide essential services.

-ENDS-

Issued by the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors

#### About SAIGA

The Southern African Institute of Government Auditors is a non-profit professional body that certifies and develops finance and auditing professionals in the public sector. SAIGA represents a unique brand of professionals, the Registered Government Auditors (RGA) in the public sector and academia. SAIGA is the sole provider of the RGA, which is regarded as the highest professional qualification in public sector auditing. Visit: [www.saiga.co.za](http://www.saiga.co.za) for more information.

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