



GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE

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IN CONVERSATION WITH THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE



Moving SA forward - Public Service in 2014



Before opening this newsletter, what did you do in the past hour – or day, at very least – as a public servant to make South Africa a better place: Making South Africa a better place is the essence of public service, whether we are educating the nation’s children, caring for the nation’s sick or vulnerable people, sheltering the nation’s homeless persons or studying distant galaxies from the Square Kilometre Array in the Karoo.

Since the advent of freedom and democracy in 1994, South Africans and interested parties internationally have relied on one administration after the next - nationally, provincially or locally - to lead the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist prosperous South Africa.

As 2014 dawns, in the wake of the loss of President Nelson Mandela, founding President of a democratic Public Service, we are entering an historic year.

This is the year in which South Africa and our friends and partners around the world will celebrate our 20 Years of Freedom.

A range of celebratory events – including an SA-Brazil football match – will take place in the build-up to April 27, which will mark the momentous day in 1994 on which South Africans flooded polling stations to make their mark for democracy.

2014 also signals the end of the political term of the 2009 administration led by President Jacob Zuma, and is therefore also the year in which we will express will at the polling stations in the fifth general election.

But first, on Thursday, February 13, 2014, President Jacob Zuma will deliver the closing State of the Nation Address of this administration.

The President is expected to reflect in detail on the achievements of government since 2009, and how, working together, we have done more



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South Africans voters will return to the polls in a few months' time to build on the foundations laid in 1994 by the first generation of voters in a democratic South Africa, pictured here. So far, close to 450 000 young people aged 18 to 19 have registered to vote for their very first time.



President Jacob Zuma has declared the matric Class of 2013 the best since the dawn of democracy, following the achievement of a 78.2 per cent pass rate, surpassing the target of 75 per cent set in 2009.

to improve lives in the country.

The State of the Nation Address comes in the middle of the election period during which the achievements and challenges of this administration will be intensely debated in the country and abroad.

Government's own records, including the National Development Indicators 2012 and Census 2011, as well as the recent Goldman Sachs report offer volumes of evidence of the progress we have made as a nation.

Behind this impressive record of delivery is the integrity, passion and energy of around 1,2 million public servants entrusted with the mandate to change South Africa for the better.

And so, as the nation reflects on how South Africa has changed in 20 years and voters consider how South Africa can be moved even further forward, our past and future as a country hinges on the contribution of the Public Service.

2014 is a year for reflection, not for rest.

At the end of one political term and on the threshold of another, public servants must challenge their conscience and assess their commitment to making South Africa an even better place.

The Public Service continues to render services to all people irrespective of changes from one administration to the next. As we reflect, we must make sure that the people continue to access services due to them.

Let's give it our all this year – and every year beyond.