



## Statement by H.E. Ambassador Madonsela

21 July 2021

A week ago, I shared with you my Government's unequivocal condemnation of the violence, destruction of property and looting that took place in the two provinces of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

The past week, our people have demonstrated that there is no challenge we cannot overcome. We are indeed a country of democracy and the rule of law; one in which our much revered Constitution, which turns 25 years this year, is supreme law. Therefore, it is fitting that those who tried to undermine our democracy will now face justice at the hands of the very system they were trying to destroy. We continue to do all that is necessary to protect our democratic institutions and to get life in our affected communities back to normal.

You may ask, where are we now?

### **\*\*Our first priority is to restore and maintain stability.**

Our country has turned the tide and we are well on the trajectory of stability. The South African Police Service (SAPS) continues to maintain high visibility in areas which could potentially experience a resurgence of violence, destruction of property and looting. The SAPS are also on high alert to respond quickly to intelligence they receive of those who are still planning to loot and destroy public infrastructure.

### **\*\*Our second priority is to secure essential supplies**

Business continuity and clean-up operations are in full swing across Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. The N2 and N3 highways have been free of incidents as law enforcement agencies continue patrols and roadblocks. Our rail networks are operational, the Ports of Durban and Richards Bay are open and the country's export chain has resumed.

Food supplies at retail stores are being replenished to help prevent further shortages.

The South African Government thanks all individuals, organisations and businesses for their relief support to ensure our communities do not go hungry.

### **\*\* Our third priority is to provide relief and start rebuilding**

We are in the process of providing immediate food relief to affected households. The SA Government has been working with social partners to finalise an extensive social and economic relief package that will support poor households and provide assistance to affected businesses and employees. South Africans continue to stand together by protecting local economic and social infrastructure, and actively contributing to clean-up and food delivery efforts.

### **\*\*Our fourth priority is to accelerate inclusive economic recovery.**



The violence and destruction of the past week has provided the starkest reminder of what is at stake. It has exposed several of the social and economic fault lines in our society and underlined the urgent need to decisively address poverty, inequality and unemployment. In October last year, we launched the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan to drive the growth of our economy.

Now, more than ever, we need united action across the economy and society to drive investment and inclusive growth.

***A number of suspects have appeared in various courts in connection with violence and looting.***

A number of arrests have been made by the law enforcement agencies for incitement, looting and public violence. Key suspects facing charges of incitement to commit public violence have appeared in various courts and remanded in custody for bail applications. We will ensure that perpetrators face the full might of the law.

### **Conclusion**

As President Ramaphosa stated, although it has its seeds in discord, the recent crisis has created a renewed unity of purpose among South Africans. It has generated goodwill and encouraged social solidarity, both at home and abroad. It has created a sense of urgency to address our pressing challenges. While it is regrettable that these incidents took place in the month of Tata Madiba's birthday, we are thankful that his spirit has lifted our nation to rise again against new forms of adversity.

We are renewed in our commitment to the ideals of our Constitution, democracy and to building a united and prosperous nation.

- **Ambassador Vusi Madonsela**

