



The new loans schemes to develop SMMEs is, however, a step in a right direction but will require tight measures to prevent corrupt personal enrichment. There is further no clarity on the process to develop 'new consensus' and sound like the President running short of ideas to provide leadership in pursuit of better society. The scourge of corruption is eroding the benefits of democracy, as finally confirmed by the Zondo Commission report. In addition, reports have shown that SASSA is losing millions and many businesses colluded with corrupt employees to defraud government through the procurement of COVID-19 personal protective equipment. The PSA, however, welcome the setting of special rolls for state capture and corruption matters.

Infrastructure development plans are welcomed as these will uplift the economy and create massive job opportunities. The use of labour-intensive methods will ensure skills development for young people and the planned construction of 95 bridges will contribute to the safety of especially learners. The extension of the R350 social grant for another year will further assist to mitigate the plight of unemployment.

The PSA is, however, also concerned that the President made no mention on how government intends to professionalise the Public Service as public servants are to play critical role in the majority of the announced initiatives.

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