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**23 JULY 2021: DAILY TALKING POINTS**

***The situation in our country remains stable.***

* No new incidents have been reported, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal are both stable.
* We urge the public to regard as fake news recent reports of disruptions on N1 highway.
* Our law enforcement agencies have confirmed that the N1 and N2 highways are secure and continue to flow smoothly.
* While investigations continue on the cyber-attacks on Transnet, we are treating this as unrelated to the unrest.
* Our law enforcement agencies continue with high visibility and monitoring operations.
* The police remain on high alert to respond quickly to intelligence should there be further attempts to loot and destroy infrastructure.

 ***We are in this together and will build back stronger.***

* Government welcomes the decision by the Reserve Bank’s Monetary Policy Committee to keep interest rates unchanged.
* The move helps allay fears of food inflation that some had predicted would result from the public violence.
* The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition also continues to take action to prevent inflated food prices.
* South African businesses have committed themselves to prioritise the rebuilding our country and eradication of hunger and poverty.
* Government and business has met and agreed to work together to rebuild the country in the aftermath of the crisis.
* We appreciate the work of community members, organisations and businesses in the continued clean-up operations across Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.
* All actions count, let us all do something today to help rebuild South Africa.

***We are closing in on those who endangered our democracy.***

* The police are moving swiftly to bring instigators and key participants of the unrest to book.
* Those responsible for planning of the unrest, the killing of people and damaging of property will be held to account.
* Our law enforcement agencies continue with their investigation to reveal the identities those who attempted to undermine our democracy.
* Four suspects have already been remanded in custody; we expect more to follow as investigations reveal their identities.
* We are a country of democracy and the rule of law; therefore, it is fitting that those who tried to undermine our democracy face justice at the hands of the system they tried to destroy.

***Law enforcement operations continue to yield results.***

* A number of arrests have been made by law enforcement agencies for incitement of violence, looting and public violence.
* Many of those linked to the public violence have made appearances in various courts.
* Our security forces have also embarked on an operation to recover looted items with the collaboration of citizens.
* In terms of developments on deaths and destruction to property:
	+ Police have opened 132 case of arson in KwaZulu-Natal.
	+ A total of 258 deaths in KZN are believed to have occurred because of the unrest.
	+ Currently the SAPS are investigating 171 cases of murder, 87 inquests dockets have been opened.
	+ A total of 279 deaths are believed to be related to the unrest which occurred in Gauteng.
	+ The SAPS are investigating 42 cases of murder and 37 inquests dockets have been opened.

***Fake News is meant to mislead.***

* We call on everyone to verify the validity of a story on social media and other sharing platforms.
* There have been many false or misleading stories shared to create unnecessary fear and panic.
* Go to the following trusted sources
	+ <https://africacheck.org/> contains a wealth of information on spotting fake news, and regularly fact check issues in the communication environment.
	+ What’s crap on WhatsApp <https://www.whatscrap.africa/> is a handy resource to both identify fake or false information shared on WhatsApp.
	+ The official government website <https://www.gov.za/> is a one stop portal for news and information.
	+ The Real 411 <https://www.real411.org/> is where you can report disinformation, hate speech, incitement to violence and journalist harassment.
	+ You can also download the MySAPS mobile app for accurate information or sign up
* A crime committed in the social media sphere is as good as a crime committed in person.
* Together we can stop fake and false news, and ensure that those who are doing so are held to account.