

**REMARKS BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER, ARTHUR FRASER AT THE
OPENING OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION - KOPANONG CONFERENCE
CENTRE ON 14 AUGUST 2019.**

Welcoming and opening remarks:

NatCom indicated that:

Yes, here we meet again. With great sense of excitement, I am particularly pleased that we made it possible to convene again as a collective, with necessary gusto in defining the journey for corrections in this country. This is an important platform as it will determine what we do for the next few months and years in fulfilment of the mandate given to us by the Constitution of this country.

This is our first Planning Session after the National General Elections. It's the first session under the 6th Administration, under new leadership, new electoral mandate under difficult economic and financial situation.

People look up to government to provide answers and they are demanding that something be done to put our nation once again on a winning path. It is for this reason that our vision as Correctional Services, "providing the best correctional services for a safer South Africa," must be realised and resonate with all sectors of society.

During the State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa stressed the need to focus on actions that will have the greatest impact, actions that will catalyse faster movement forward, both in the immediate term and over the next 10 years.

The July 2018 Strategic Planning Session was unique as it pushed us to rethink of a correctional service beyond the normal five to 10 year planning cycle. We opted for an integrated approach spanning over a 50 year period. The inputs received from other entities clearly demonstrated that government can achieve more when we plan as a

collective. Synergies in our programmes and policies can respond with great impact on the needs of our people.

The presentations to be made today must be viewed as discussion points for the commissions and must never be considered as the end product.

They will provide important information to be considered by commissions in the development of the 5 year Departmental Strategy and contribute to the new Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF). Further engagements in the plenary and inputs from the Executive will refine the end product.

Just last week, we had a Special FOSAD Planning Workshop hosted by the Presidency and the President came to give us his overview on the development of the new MTSF. He indicated to the Directors-General his vision of District Based Development. He proposed that Government needs to descend to the districts when providing services. He made an example of going to the Eastern Cape to open a Clinic and declined to do so as some of the services were not been prioritised such as roads and water.

He indicated that in our country we have 44 Districts (226 Local Municipalities) and 08 Metropolitan Municipalities and government should learn to descend to people. We need to consider Government as a single entity - impact must be commensurately strong and demonstrative of our collective effort.

The Current Economic Situation is forcing us to stop doing business in silos and plan together as we have less but more to deliver.

As I have already indicated that all of us in government must align our programmes and policies in pursuit of making a meaningful difference. In the main, the Strategic Planning Session is convened with a view to translate our mandate into practice. This

convergence must therefore quicken the tempo of empowering all of us as Ideal Correctional Officials in the escalation of the war against crime. We need to leave this place with a great sense of what kind of contribution we can expect from each branch.

Let us engage as Correctional Services in a rethink of where we are and where we should be beyond 2030. There has been extremely limited focus on this need to align what correctional services does to the broader government approach, and serious shying away from setting any bold targets. I have observed a trend in government (including DCS) where departments sets performance targets that are lower than what was achieved in the previous year. Whatever the real reasons for this culture, these require a critical look and correction in required. Such can never be correct as it simply says we strive to achieve no impact.

When we leave here, we must have identified our focus areas, agreed on our method of working and be in unison in terms of systems that will drive the implementation which will ensure that this session does not become a talk-shop.

I would like to share a leadership quote on Shaka: - “Shaka was a Nation Builder because he learned from nature that in order to transcend human circumstance, a great personality must create original ideas, possess a strong character, and have a tenacity of purpose, as well as aspire to the highest ideals.”

Minister and Deputy Minister your guidance today will help us shape the new DCS in becoming the best correctional service for a safer South Africa.

I thank you.