



PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa announces the national Cabinet at the Union Buildings in Pretoria last night. | GCIS

# RAMAPHOSA'S DREAM TEAM



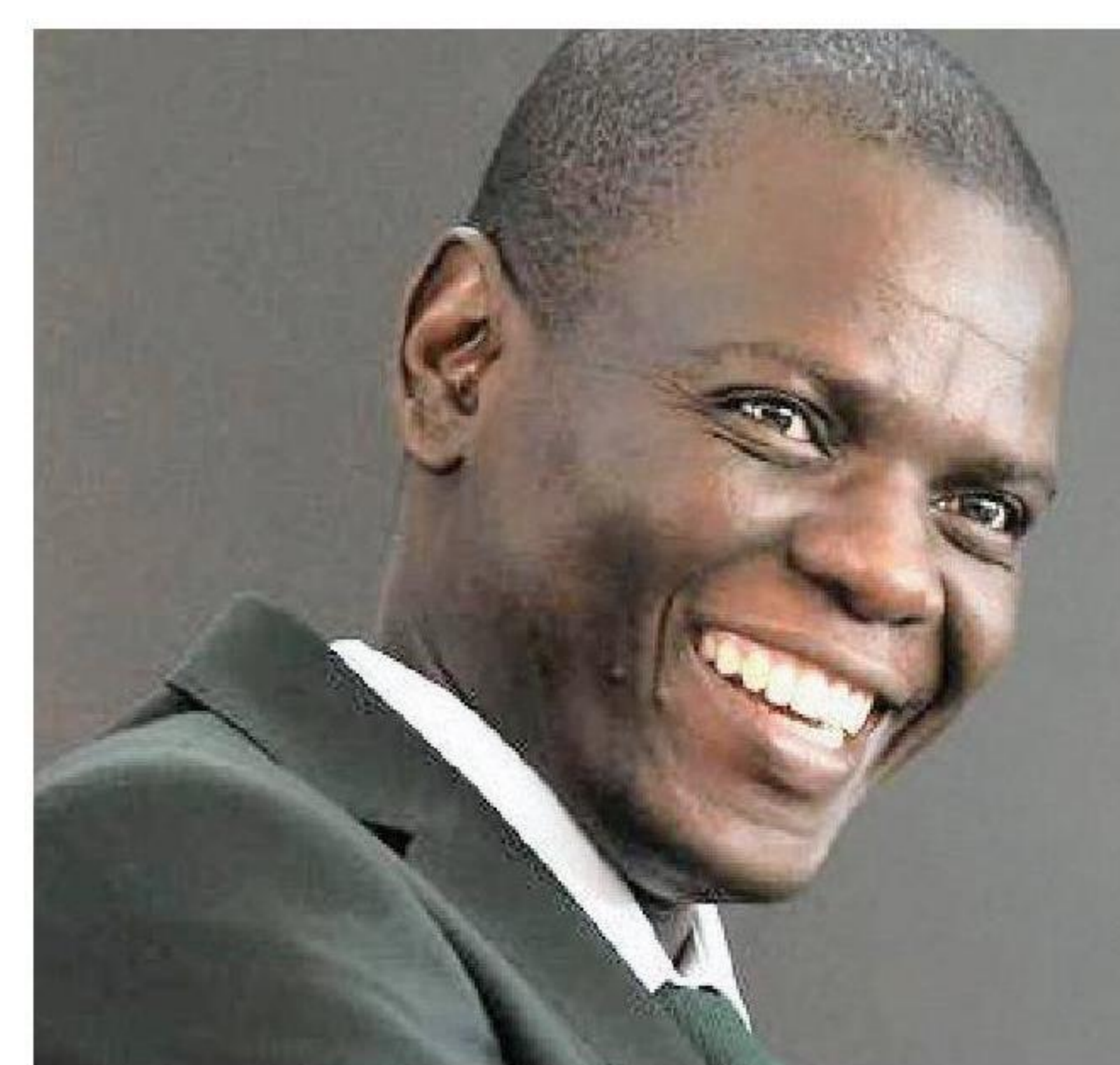
Patricia de Lille



Zweli Mkhize



Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma



Ronald Lamola



Barbara Creecy

## President backs Gordhan and Mabuza in trimmed Cabinet, De Lille a surprise pick

### SIVIWE FEKETHA

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa walked a tightrope in composing his Cabinet, resisting calls to replace Public Enterprise Minister Pravin Gordhan while ensuring he retained David Mabuza as his deputy to avoid a revolt in the ANC.

Ramaphosa removed Bathabile Dlamini from the Presidency, risking unhappiness from the ANC Women's League, after trimming the number of cabinet ministers from 36 to 28.

Emboldened by the ANC's election victory, Ramaphosa appointed into his executive team some party leaders who were associated with former president Jacob Zuma, in a move to neutralise his foes.

They include former Cosatu president Sdumo Dlamini, Lindiwe Zulu, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Njabulo Nzuza and Nathi Mthethwa while not rejigging the finance and public enterprise portfolios.

In a surprise move, Ramaphosa appointed Good party leader Patricia de Lille as Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Ramaphosa announced a reconfigured executive to ensure efficiency in the state.

Trade and Industry has been combined with Economic Development, Higher Education and Training was combined with Science and Technology, Environmental Affairs joined with Forestry and Fisheries and Agriculture

has merged with Land Reform and Rural Development.

Ramaphosa noted that Mineral Resources has combined with Energy, Human Settlements with Water and Sanitation, while Sports and Recreation merged with Arts and Culture.

"It is critical that the structure and size of the state is optimally suited to meet the needs of the people and ensure the most efficient allocation of public resources," Ramaphosa said last night.

He added that he would sign performance agreements with all the ministers, which he would monitor closely, and that action would be taken against those who do not perform.

"In the elections of May 8, South Africans provided this administration with a clear mandate to accelerate inclusive economic growth, act with greater urgency to tackle poverty, improve government services, fight corruption and end state capture," he said.

Ramaphosa was faced with the challenge of deciding whether or not to remove Gordhan – viewed as his key ally – from the Cabinet after being found guilty of improper conduct by Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane

following his 2010 approval of former SA Revenue Services deputy commissioner Ivan Pillay's early retirement and payout.

Mabuza, who was cleared and sworn in as an MP yesterday, triggered speculation that Ramaphosa would either pick Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dlamini Zuma, or former higher education minister Naledi Pandor, to deputise him at the Union Buildings.

Pandor was last night appointed Minister of International Relations.

Were Ramaphosa to snub Mabuza the latter would have returned to Luthuli House, where ANC Secretary General Ace Magashule is a dominant player.

Ramaphosa had been expected to announce the Cabinet on Sunday, but it was delayed by the ANC integrity commission's interviews with 22 of its leaders flagged to have brought the party into disrepute, including Mabuza.

"President Cyril Ramaphosa is emphatic that the new executive must possess requisite skills, experience, representivity and a commitment to the public services that will take the work of the sixth administration for-

ward," the Presidency said in a statement.

Ramaphosa had faced a possible revolt had he removed Mabuza from his Cabinet.

The EFF also indicated that it would target Ramaphosa should he retain Gordhan.

Gordhan had received support from Cosatu and civil society organisations including Freedom Under Law.

Ramaphosa's balancing act included ensuring that he did not rock the boat in the ANC while appeasing investors, business and rating agencies.

He indicated ahead of the general elections that one of his first tasks would be to trim the Cabinet, which had been bloated under his predecessor, Zuma.

Former president Thabo Mbeki, who served from 1999 to 2008, had 50 members of the national executive, which were composed of 29 ministers and Zuma as his deputy, the Cabinet, and 20 deputy ministers.

When Zuma succeeded Mbeki in 2009, he increased the size of his national executive to 73, with his deputy, 35 ministers and 37 deputy ministers.

● For Ramaphosa's full speech, go to [www.iol.co.za/news/politics/opinion/cabinetannouncement-read-president-cyril-ramaphosa-s-full-speech-24375584](http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/opinion/cabinetannouncement-read-president-cyril-ramaphosa-s-full-speech-24375584)



Senzo Mchunu



Thoko Didiza



Jackson Mthembu

Ramaphosa promised action would be taken against those ministers who do not perform