



Publication: Herald, The - Main
Title: SA's problems will not be solved overnight -Steenhuisen
Publish date: 02 Jul 2024
Page: 4

Reach: 10949
AVE: R 8572.61
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Sisanda Mbolekwa

The DA will use its cabinet posts as a vehicle to drive its promises to the electorate, party leader John Steenhuisen said.

Steenhuisen, who was appointed agriculture minister on Sunday, said the DA's priorities would continue to guide the work its employees did in government.

"This includes the urgent need to grow the economy and create jobs, to bring an end to the energy crisis, to combat corruption and maladministration, and improve the quality of services such as education," he said.

"As the DA takes up our rightful place at the cabinet table, the same priorities will continue to guide the work we do."



JOHN STEENHUISEN

President Cyril Ramaphosa's cabinet announcement on Sunday night ushered in a new government, with the DA taking the ministries of agriculture, basic education, public works and infrastructure, environment, forestry and fisheries, home affairs and communications and digital technology.

The party also assumes deputy ministry posts in the portfolios of finance, trade, industry and competition, higher education, energy and electricity, water and sanitation and

small business development.

Steenhuisen admitted the task would not be easy and said they would not be able to turn the tide overnight.

"We must not get carried away by the significance of the moment. The truth is the road ahead will be difficult.

"None of us should expect the problems to be resolved overnight.

"None of us should expect the entrenched problems to be solved by politicians alone."

He urged South Africans to work with the DA ministers, saying collaboration should go beyond political parties and should include citizens.

"While the historic events of the past month have challenged political leaders who respect the constitution to step up like never before, the challenge must also be met by the

rest of society.

"Where the DA is in government, you will be welcomed with an open door and open hand. We know the time for confrontation is over," he said.

"The time for collaboration has arrived. But the collaboration is not only between political leaders.

"Collaboration is also required between the government of national unity and the people who voted to create it."

Steenhuisen defended his party's negotiation tactics which led to delays in the announcement of a new cabinet.

"The DA was never in this for positions for its own sake, which is why we refused to accept watered-down compromises, and why we drove a hard bargain at times to ensure the portfolios we get are of real substance." — *TimesLIVE*