The Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African Maritime Safety Authority were the first to implement Operation Phakisa, which will focus on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa’s oceans.

Phakisa is a major initiative by government to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality in South Africa.

Phakisa was presented in 2014 as a 50 billion rand investment in infrastructure development following the adoption of a Public-Private-Partnership model by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA). Another development has been the launch of a staat of retrieval and distribution facility in Cape Town, bringing an estimated 50 billion rand.

Phakisa provides a blueprint for the development of the oceans economy, with a focus on:• Aquaculture, led by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;• Small harbours development, led by the Department of Public Works; and• Coastal and Marine Tourism led by the Department of Tourism.

The Department of Tourism, Department of Public Works; Department of Environmental Affairs; Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) have adopted a Public Private Partnership methodology has been evident in the economic growth, and will continue to facilitate opportunities in the oceans economy for small, medium and micro enterprises SMMEs women, youth and people with disabilities. Small harbour development, coastal and marine tourism and aquaculture prevent significant potential for growing the economy. In the aquaculture sector there have already been a number of successful ventures involving local communities in aquaculture – with scope to expand further.

The implementation of Operation Phakisa and the Big Fast Results methodology has changed the way government conducts its business. In a move away from a ‘silo’ approach, it has introduced a new approach of syndication to resolve challenges and speed-up economic development. According to President Zuma in his State of the Nation address in 2016: “Operation Phakisa has compelled government to engage with all stakeholders collaboratively to shape a vision and mechanism for unlocking the economic potential of South Africa’s oceans and other sectors.

We thank all our stakeholders for supporting this worthwhile project, which is changing the way government works for the betterment of society and to improve the quality of life of our people.”

The successful application of the methodology has been evident in the Marine Transport and Manufacturing sector Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) and Transnet SOC Limited have adopted a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model to finance new Operation Phakisa infrastructure at the Ports of Saldanha Bay, Port Elizabeth and East London. Moreover they will work on the rehabilitation and upgrade of existing harbours and commercial ports in the Western Cape, Port Elizabeth and Durban.

Other important achievements in the sector include private sector investments, that will boost the sector significantly. The successful implementation of Operation Phakisa has been transmitted through off-shore and gas exploration to undertake research, using private sector vessels in the interests of South Africa.

Globally, aquaculture supplies almost 50% of the world’s fish and is estimated by 2030, the world will need an additional 10 tonnes of fish, which will come mainly from aquaculture.

In South Africa, this industry is still emerging and the production levels currently remain low, but it presents a great opportunity for diversification of production and safer local and national demand, while contributing to food and nutrition security. Aquaculture development is driven by:• Aquaculture, creating opportunity for responsible investment, the aquaculture sector fosters economic growth and sustainable development, through local communities’ involvement in its contribution to environmental integrity; “There has also been notable positive in the aquaculture sector where we have focused in this short time on regulatory reform, financing, skills development and access to markets,” Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs.

To date, 10 projects are in process in Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, with funding secured from the newly established Aquaculture Development Enhancement Programme (ADEP). More than 500 jobs have been created and committed, the sector has realised private sector investment of R338 million with government investment at R106 million, with a projected increase in production of 2051 tonnes. Twelve new projects have been selected and additional 17 new applications are currently in the assessment, which will allow Msphane and Gazeying. Aquaculture projects have the potential to grow the sector’s input from approximately R750 million today, to almost 50 billion by 2050. However, the industry does contain the risk of infrastructure and enabling environment that are being addressed.

As an example the Environmental Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Regulations have been amended and a field assessment is now required instead of a full environmental impact assessment. This will certainly reduce the timeframes tremendously and ensure faster application and authorisation processes. The Department of Environmental Affairs has reviewed the norms and standards for trawl and abalone of The Department of Public Works. Works will be awarding more long term leases for projects, following approvals of the respective project. Since the leases, the Department of Environmental Affairs has reviewed the norms and standards for trawl and abalone, following authorisation processes.