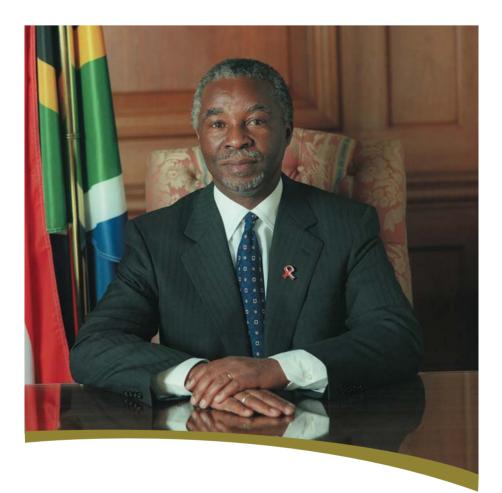
SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2004/05



Foreword

This past year has been a time for South Africa and its friends across the world to celebrate the progress that freedom has brought and to prepare to quicken the pace of change during the Second Decade of Freedom.

The Government and people of South Africa are united as never before in their commitment to achieving a better life for all.

In our third democratic election the South African electorate gave an overwhelming mandate to a Programme of action that will build on progress achieved in order to move our country further and faster towards the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment, towards an inclusive society and towards the regeneration of Africa.

South Africa will also work to help bring about a world order that is more equitable and responsive to the needs of the poor of the world and which will respond to the political, economic, social and technological challenges of globalisation.

As we seek to do these things, we will draw on the lessons of the past 10 years, taking cognisance of the shortcomings and of the understanding we have gained of the social dynamics of a country in transition.

The South Africa Yearbook 2004/05 details the work of the democratic Government of South Africa in partnership with the people of this land. It identifies key areas for improvement and the steps being taken to that end. It explains the Programme of Action to sustain and speed up progress towards the kind of society whose vision inspired South Africans and their supporters in the victorious struggle to end Apartheid. The Yearbook conveys the immense resources of our country and the potential still to be tapped.

In these pages, readers will gain insight into the practicalities of a nation that has got down to work in a people's contract to build a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world.

Talm Mbeli:

President Thabo Mbeki November 2004

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Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this book was the latest available in October 2004.

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