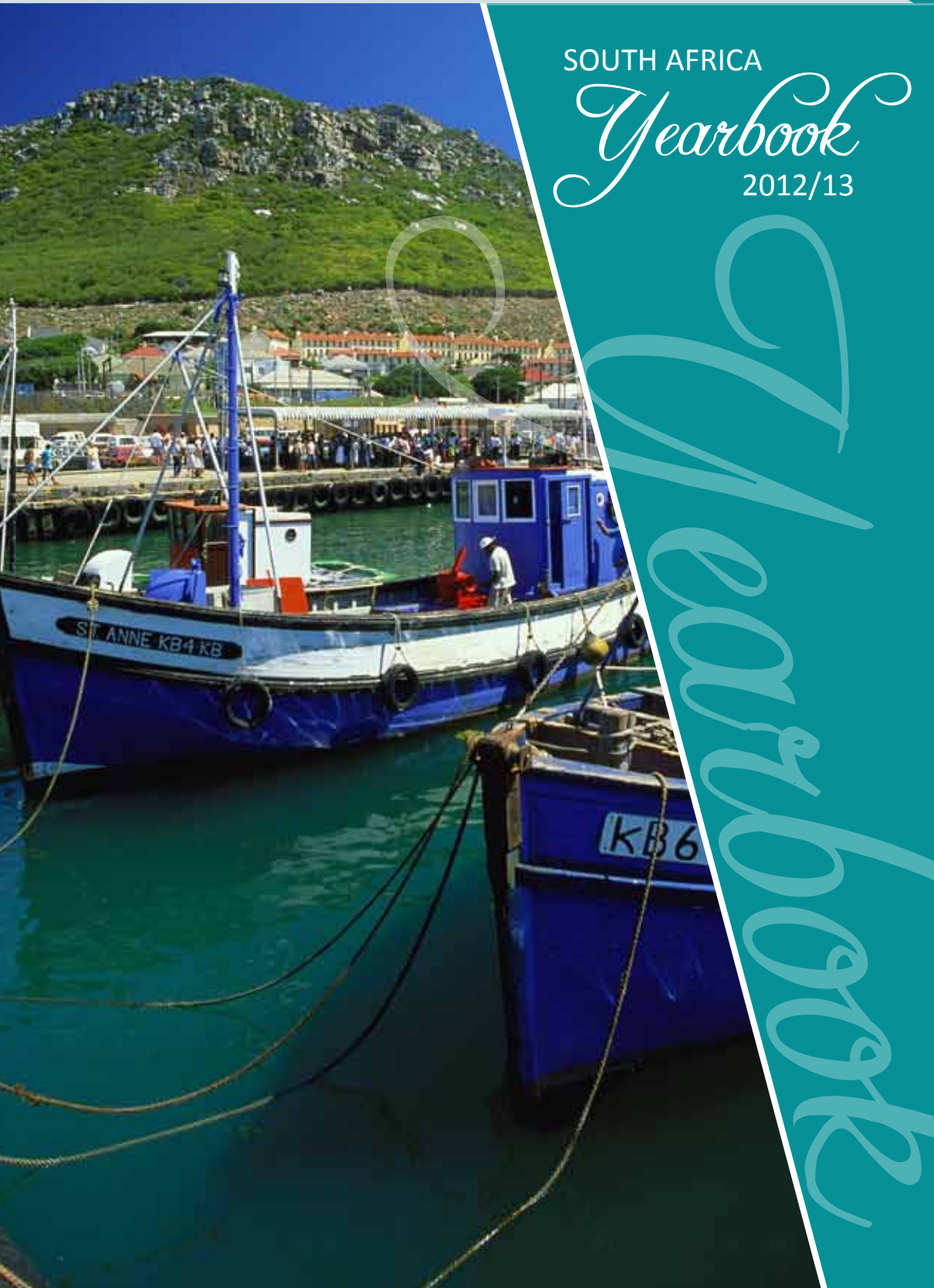


SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2012/13

SOUTH AFRICA

*Yearbook*

2012/13



*Yearbook*

*Foreword*



The *South Africa Yearbook 2012/13* reflects on 2012/13 as a special period for South Africa in which we celebrated, among many milestones, the 16th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic, which gives full expression to our democratic ideals.

As President of the Republic, I declared 2012 the year of construction by launching a major national infrastructure development programme to boost the level of our economy and create jobs.

By developing the economy and creating opportunities for all South Africans, we are giving effect to the Constitutional imperative of creating a non-racist, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa.

This Yearbook extensively covers the infrastructure programme, which is driven and overseen by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC). The PICC brings together ministers, premiers and metro mayors under the leadership of the President and the Deputy President.

Government has identified critical social infrastructure projects aimed at laying the basis for the National Health Insurance (NHI) system, such as the refurbishment of health infrastructure.

As part of our infrastructure drive, R300 million has been allocated for preparatory work on two new universities in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape, respectively. It is not every day that a country undertakes an investment on this scale in developing its human capital. Therefore, this investment demonstrates our commitment to developing the human potential of all South Africans.

The massive investment in infrastructure must leave more than just power stations, rail-lines, dams and roads. It must also industrialise the country, generate and develop skills, and boost much needed job creation projects.

This large-scale reshaping of our physical and social environments is informed and coordinated by the National Planning Commission's National Development Plan (NDP), which the country adopted formally in August 2012.

The NDP creates a vision of a very different, more developed, more efficient and more equal South Africa in the year 2030. The plan offers a long-term perspective, defines a desired destination and identifies the role different sectors of society need to play in reaching that goal.

Fundamentally, it aims to ensure that all South Africans attain a decent standard of living through the elimination of poverty and reduction of inequality.

2012/13 was a year of challenge and achievement in all sectors of South Africa, influenced in large measure by the continuing setbacks in the global economic situation and conditions of underdevelopment in many parts of our society and economy.

It was a momentous year in which we were both inspired and challenged by the results of *Census 2011*, which outlined the progress made in key areas of our development as a nation and the problems that continue to face millions of South Africans.

It is indisputable from the census's results that South Africa is a much better place, both for its own people and as part of the African continent and global community, than it was back in 1994.

You will see this progress coursing through the *South Africa Yearbook 2012/13*, which is developed annually by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

The book outlines, among other things, progress made in our key priority areas, namely: education, health, rural development and land reform, the fight against crime and creating decent work, infrastructure development and strengthening local government and increasing access to basic services.

As we get closer to celebrating 20 years of freedom, we remain committed to delivering in all our key priority areas. As government, we know that our success will be measured by how we intensify efforts in all these areas to improve the lives of our people.

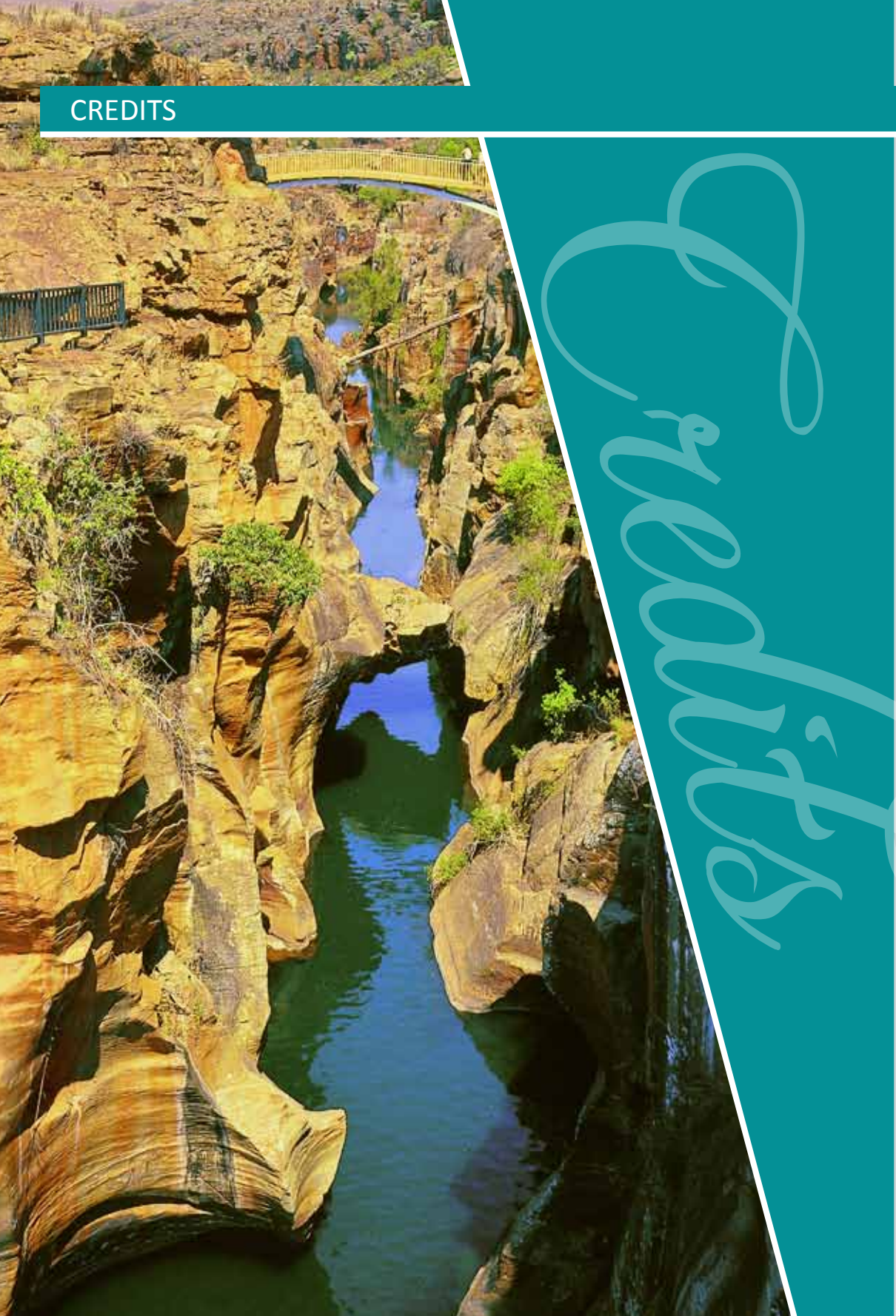
As South Africans, we should continue to have one primary goal – to make our country a truly great and prosperous nation.

I trust that this Yearbook will not only leave you better informed, but that it will leave you inspired to help build a peaceful, prosperous South Africa in the spirit of Working Together.



Jacob Zuma  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
May 2013

CREDITS



*Qualitas*

*South Africa Yearbook 2012/13*

Twentieth edition

(Originally published as *South Africa Official Yearbook*)

ISSN 0302-0681

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Images supplied by: GCIS Photo Studio; Louise van Niekerk; Tendai Gonese; SA Tourism; South African Post Office; Tshwane University of Technology; Pictuernet; MediaClub South Africa; Gautrain; Uhuru Communications; Eco Images

Cover design: Yolande Dednam

Design and layout: Brenda Ryan

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South Africa Yearbook on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/South-Africa-Yearbook/149867311752264>

Printed and bound in the Republic of South Africa by CTP Printers

ISBN 978-0-621-41371-7

ISSN 1022-9515

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 57-40609

The *South Africa Yearbook* is compiled and edited by the GCIS. The editorial staff has taken all reasonable care to ensure correctness of facts and statistics. However, any person requiring formal confirmation of any data in the *South Africa Yearbook*, or more detailed specific information, should consult the sources as indicated. The information is also available on *Government Online* ([www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)).

Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this book was the latest available in December 2012.