



SOUTH AFRICA Yearbook 2021/22



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

SOUTH AFRICA Yearbook 2021/22 Foreword



The 2021/22 edition of the *South Africa Yearbook* (SAYB) coincides with a time of renewed hope and restoration in our country, as we gradually recover from the impact of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic that has dealt a harsh blow to our already ailing economy.

Although government had moved swiftly to deal with the pandemic by safeguarding lives and livelihoods, limited economic activity during the national lockdown resulted in job losses and increased poverty.

COVID-19 has hampered our efforts to tackle the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment through higher rates of economic growth, the creation of more jobs and the provision of better services to the people of South Africa.

As part of our economic recovery process, the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan primarily focuses on growing the economy, promoting foreign investment and creating much-needed jobs.

Infrastructure development is one of the ways identified as crucial to the growth of the economy and creation of jobs. Substantial funds have been allocated for catalytic infrastructure projects over the next few years. This will, among others, support the upgrading of roads, bridges, water and sewer, transport, schools, hospitals and clinics.

In addition to fighting the pandemic, government has also been waging an intensive and sustained war against the 'second pandemic', gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), which is destroying the fabric of our society.

We have since unveiled legislation that deals harshly with perpetrators of GBVF – the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act, 2021 (Act 12 of 2021), Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2021 (Act 13 of 2021) and Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2021 (Act 14 of 2021).

Our fight against the scourge of corruption, which undermines the gains of our democracy, is gaining momentum. Government is doing all in its power to ensure that perpetrators of corruption and related malfeasance are held accountable and face the full might of the law. This intervention will ensure that South Africans have confidence in public institutions and promote a capable state.

Through ongoing support, government has enabled small businesses to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Employment Tax Incentive encourages employers to hire more young and less experienced work seekers. Other important interventions include the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which aims to create jobs and strengthen livelihoods, and the

Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant, which provides temporary assistance to unemployed persons. The SRD Grant has been extended until the end of March 2023.

To create a conducive environment and encourage businesses to operate in South Africa, government has created a dedicated red tape team in The Presidency.

The team will identify priority reforms for the year ahead, including mechanisms to ensure government departments pay suppliers within the required 30 days. It will also support current initiatives to simplify processes relating to property registration, cross-border trade and construction permits.

South Africa remains committed to developing the African economy through the African Continental Free Trade Area, which promotes investment and tourism within the continent, accelerates industrialisation, and drives green growth and low-carbon development.

To address migration issues orderly, government has formulated the National Labour Migration Policy that will provide a framework and legal basis to regulate the extent to which employers can hire foreign nationals while also protecting the rights of migrants.

The chapters of the SAYB provide more information on these and other government programmes, plans and projects.

Mr Cyril M. Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
October 2022



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South Africa Yearbook (SAYB) 2021/22
Twenty-ninth (29th) edition
(Originally published as *South Africa Official Yearbook*)

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Design and layout: Moipone Mampane

ISBN: 978-0-621-50083-7

The SAYB 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 SAYB or more detailed specific information, should contact the responsible government institution. Additional information is also available on *Government Online* (www.gov.za).

Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this book was the latest available by November 2022.