

**SOUTH
AFRICA**
YEARBOOK
2005/06



Foreword

South Africa has entered the second year of the Second Decade of Freedom, fully geared to meet the popular mandate to halve unemployment and poverty by 2014.

Government has adopted a detailed programme of action, encompassing attention to improving the capacity of the State; building a growing economy that benefits all; expanding social services; and entrenching peace, security and democratic governance in our region and continent.

This programme outlines detailed steps that need to be taken in each area of social endeavour and, where appropriate, allocates timelines for each project.

It is in part a measure of the encouraging possibilities that our country faces that what is now the longest recorded upward economic trend in our history, gathered further momentum in the past year.

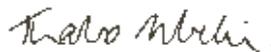
However, rather than merely celebrate this positive environment, government has joined hands with social partners to develop a comprehensive initiative that will raise the range of growth to higher levels,

and do so in a manner that benefits all South Africans. The Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa is centred on higher rates of public and private investments as well as expanding work opportunities.

As the *South Africa Yearbook 2005/06* goes to print, the initiative is being developed in further detail and government is consulting with social partners to ensure that the final product unites us all in pursuit of common development and growth objectives.

The *South Africa Yearbook* highlights the policies and programmes that have brought our country to the point at which we can proclaim with confidence that tomorrow looks much brighter than yesterday.

Together we can and shall indeed do the many more things that need to be done to build a South Africa that truly belongs to all.



President Thabo Mbeki
November 2005

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Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this book was the latest available in October 2005.

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