



# Foreword



**SOUTH  
AFRICA**  
YEARBOOK  
2011/12

# Foreword

As President of the Republic of South Africa, I am pleased to present the *South Africa Yearbook 2011/12*.

This is government's official publication of record that showcases the achievements of our nation. The *Yearbook* profiles the work undertaken by various government departments and progress in sectors related to departments.

This is, therefore, a compilation of facts and figures that demonstrates the progress we are making in building the non-racist, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa envisioned in our Constitution.

We look back with pride on 2011 as an industrious year, which we declared as the *Year of Job Creation* and during which we started implementing our plans to fight the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality in a difficult economic climate.

This provided fresh focus for a nation that had been energised and inspired by the success of the first African FIFA World Cup™ a year earlier in 2010.

In the Year of Job Creation, employment unfolded in the public and private sectors through large-scale developments such as electricity plants, rail and road upgrades and water management that will sustain thousands of jobs and push our economy onto a higher trajectory of growth. We also formed various strategic partnerships to give further impetus and drive to our key imperatives.

The year 2011 was also the year in which we marked 21 years since the release from prison of our beloved founding President Nelson Mandela. The date, 11 February 1990, was a momentous, special moment for our country, our continent and the international community, marking our victory over the repugnant system of apartheid.

This *Yearbook* contains powerful evidence of the progress we have sustained since our political transformation. It also shows how our programme of economic transformation is producing results that are changing the lives of ordinary people and making South Africa a better place in which to live and work, and an attractive destination for investment, trade and tourism.

You will discover in this volume the strides we are making in national priority areas such as education and skills, health, rural development and land reform, creating decent work and fighting crime and corruption.

Above all, you will discover that we are a dynamic, energetic and proud nation whose achievements in 2011 create further hope and inspiration for achieving the goals we have set for our future.

Our goal is clear. We want to have a country where millions more South Africans have decent employment opportunities, which has a modern infrastructure and a vibrant economy, and where the quality of life is high. This *Yearbook* illustrates how we are getting there.

We are indeed writing a new story about South Africa and you are holding part of that story in your hand.

I hope the *Yearbook* will inspire and impress you to be or become a champion for building an even better South Africa.



JG Zuma  
President of South Africa  
April 2012