

# Imbizo Junction 2008

**Business Unusual:** All hands on deck to speed up change



## Inside:

- Growing the economy
- Improving the quality of life
- Bringing crime down
- Improving government services
- Working towards a better Africa and a better world
- Investing in 2010 for all

**The facts and figures that show government's delivery on its Programme of Action!**



## Business Unusual – All hands on deck to speed up change

### We must work harder to get more things done, faster

When President Thabo Mbeki delivered his State of the Nation Address in February this year, he made a call on all of us to work together to improve our lives. From the State of the Nation Address, came government's Programme of Action – or its plans – for the year ahead.

*More than at any other time, the situation that confronts our nation and country, and the tasks we have set ourselves, demand that we inspire and organise all our people to act together as one, to do all the things that have to be done, understanding that in a very real sense, all of us, together, hold our own future in our hands!* – President Thabo Mbeki, State of the Nation Address, 8 February 2008

### Government's Programme of Action, 2008

In light of challenges such as the national energy emergency, as well as the ongoing need to fight poverty, build our communities and improve our lives, President Mbeki urged all South Africans to act in unity to keep our country on course.

President Mbeki also said that government would, in 2008, focus especially on some of the very important areas for our country's growth and development. That is why government's Programme of Action for 2008 also introduced a list of top priorities called "Apex Priorities". The aims of the Apex Priorities are to:

- speed up economic growth and development
- increase investment in infrastructure to reach our economic and social goals
- give more help to the poor
- strengthen education and training programmes
- create health for all
- intensify the fight against crime
- strengthen the Government to meet development needs
- focus on international relations.

### We have made progress

Since democracy, government has been committed to growing the country and all its people. This has not changed. Since 1994, government has made much progress in improving the lives of all South Africans. Every year, the government's Programme of Action aims to take this progress further.

Halfway through 2008, government can report on some of its progress on the plans outlined in the Programme of Action earlier this year, as well as the broader areas of progress that it has achieved to improve the lives of all South Africans.

2008 is also the last year of office for the present Government and in looking back on the past few months, as well as on the ongoing implementation of government's commitments to halve poverty and unemployment by 2014, government can report that there has been much progress towards creating a better life for all, although much more still needs to be done.



# INTRODUCTION

## Quick facts and figures

### How government has created a better life for all since 1994

<b>Growing the economy</b>	The economy has been growing continuously since 1999. While the economy grew by 5,1% in 2007, slightly lower than the 5,4% recorded in 2006, we are still above the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa's (AsgiSA) targets of 4,5% per year.
<b>Creating jobs</b>	Unemployment decreased from 31,2% in March 2003 to 23% in September 2007. During this time, the number of employed people increased by 1 810 000 from 11 424 000 people employed in 2003 to 13 234 000 people employed by September 2007. More jobs are being created though at a slower speed than anticipated.
<b>Helping the poor</b>	Nine million people have been lifted out of poverty since 1996 and more than 12 million people now receive government's social grants.
<b>Creating access to housing, water and electricity</b>	Some 2,5 million subsidised houses have been completed or are in progress, providing shelter to some 8,8 million people. 87,2% of households have access to water at the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) standard or above compared to 61% in 1994. 73% of households have access to sanitation, compared to 50% in 1994. 72% of households have access to electricity, compared to 51% in 1994.
<b>Providing healthcare</b>	<p>Immunisation coverage has reached 85%. The number of malaria cases has dropped and the rate of increase in HIV prevalence has slowed down after its rapid growth in the 1990s.</p> <p>Government has built 1 600 clinics and healthcare centres since 1994.</p> <p>95% of South Africans now live within at least 5 km of a health facility.</p>
<b>Educating the nation</b>	Adult literacy is up to 74% and the participation among six-year-olds improved from 49% in 1996 to 70,3% in 2006 and to 91% in 2007.
<b>Fighting crime</b>	<p>The official crime statistics for 2007/08, released in June 2008, showed a general decrease in some areas of crime, but government acknowledges that the crime rate is still high.</p> <p>Government is increasing the resources for safety and security. By 2010, there will be around 192 000 police officers.</p>

This publication aims to provide an update on progress that has been achieved by government by the middle of 2008. It also reports on the overall delivery of government's programmes since 1994.

### It is time: make a difference

There are still areas where much more can be done. For government to succeed in its fight to eradicate poverty, it needs people to play a part as well. Government is committed to working with every sector of society to ensure that we speed up progress and continue to work together towards a better life for all.

For more information about government programmes and services, visit: [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za) or call the Batho Pele Call Centre 1020 (toll-free from a landline).

# GROWING THE ECONOMY

## How our economy has grown

The economy has been growing continuously since 1999 and accelerated towards the end of 2006. While the economy grew by 5,1% in 2007, slightly lower than the 5,4% recorded in 2006, we are still above the target of 4,5% per year.

	1994	2004	2007
Rate at which the economy is growing	3,2%	4,9%	5,1%



Photograph by Volkswagen South Africa

## 1,8 million jobs created since 2003

The rate of unemployment fell from 31,2% in March 2003 to 23% in September 2007. During this time, the number of employed people increased by 1 810 000 from 11 424 000 people employed in 2003 to 13 234 000 people employed by September 2007.

	2001	2004	2007
Number of employed people	11 181 000	11 643 000	13 234 000

## Lowering government debt

Government debt has fallen from 43,5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1994 to 22,3% in 2007. GDP is the total value of all goods and services produced within a country, and it also measures the income generated by production.

	1994	2004	2007
Government debt as % of GDP	43,5%	33%	22,3%

## Increasing the number of tourists who visit our country

By welcoming more tourists into our country, more jobs can be created in the hospitality industry. Over nine million people visited South Africa between January and December 2007.

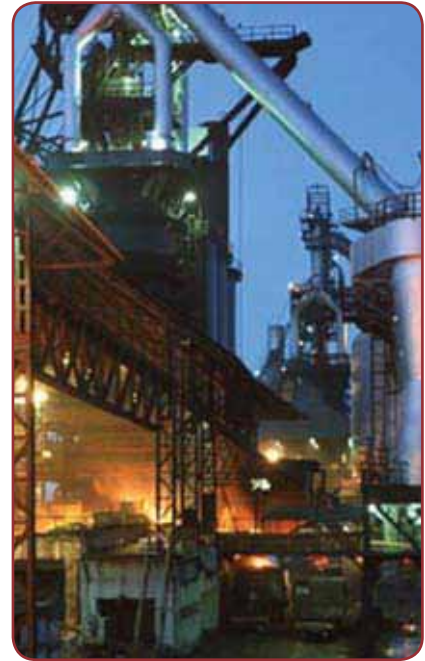
	2003	2004	2007
Total tourist arrivals	6 504 890	6 677 844	9 090 881
Jobs created (direct industry)	43,2%	42%	62,8%





## Progress highlights in 2008

- Plans to boost the industrial sector in the country are picking up pace. This includes finalising recommendations on government's industrial policy and developments in the various sector strategies.
- There has been a comprehensive review of industrial financing and new support programmes are being developed, including:
  - the launch of an enterprise investment programme
  - the launch of a film and TV production rebate
  - finalising an agreement on the structure of tax incentives for industrial policy interventions
  - the Competition Amendment Bill is being considered by Parliament
  - developing a comprehensive trade policy
  - establishing a Technology Innovation Agency.
- Government's progress in improving the Information and Communications Technology in South Africa includes speeding up our broadband access and finalising the Broadcasting Digital Migration Policy.
- The National Human Resource Development Strategy has been revised by government. It is now in a better position to deal with the shortage of skills in key areas that are required for our economy to grow.
- Taking into account global trends in relation to climate change, government has strengthened its approach in this area.



### Did you know?

Broadcasting Digital Migration is the process of converting television broadcasting signals from analogue to digital technology. The migration is necessary to ensure more efficient use of radio frequency as well as better quality pictures and sound on our television sets.

South Africa's digital signal will be switched on on 1 November 2008, and its analogue signal switched off on 1 November 2011.

To receive the digital signal on their current analogue TV sets, households will need to use set-top-boxes. Government has agreed to help approximately five million of the poorest television-owning households, by providing up to 70% of the cost of set-top boxes.

## Support for small business

Government recognises that small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) play an important role in the economy. If you want to become a small business owner and need guidance, you can contact one of the following institutions:

### ***Tourism Enterprise Partnership***

The Tourism Enterprise Partnership aims to help SMMEs in the tourism industry. For more information, visit [www.tep.co.za](http://www.tep.co.za) or call 011 832 2014/5.

### ***South African Women Entrepreneurs' Network (Sawen)***

Sawen represents and supports women entrepreneurs within the South African SMME sector. For more information, call 0861 843 384.

### ***Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda)***

Seda is the Department of Trade and Industry's agency for supporting small business in South Africa. It has eight provincial offices, 39 branches and 102 enterprise information centres. For more information, call 0860 103 703.

### ***Farmer support programme***

A total of 903 clients have received loans through the Micro-Agricultural Finance Scheme of South Africa, a farmer support programme. Contact the Department of Agriculture on 012 319 8495/7686/7917.



Photograph by Chris Kirchhoff

## Progress highlights in 2008

AsgiSA was launched by government to boost the South African economy. The Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (Jipsa) is part of AgsiSA and was launched to address skills shortages in our country. These are some of the achievements AgsiSA and Jipsa have made to date:

- The National Skills Fund has allocated an additional R300 million for the training of a further 7 350 artisans.
- The enrolment of engineering students will increase from 500 to 2 000 per year by 2010. In addition to an amount of R48 million provided in 2006, government has committed approximately R439 million between 2007 and 2009 towards improving teaching and learning infrastructure.
- Through the work placement programme, already some 3 580 graduates have been placed with South African companies for training and job experience. An additional 202 were placed in companies overseas.
- About 18 000 artisans have been registered with an additional 20 000 learners registered in the period 2008 to 2009 through agreements between government and the private sector.
- The first 1 000 graduates of the Monyetla Work Readiness Programme were all employed during May 2008, achieving 100% absorption rate of the learners. The training of a further 2 000 unemployed youth is planned this year.
- Four call centres have been launched, creating 315 jobs.



## Expanding access to social grants

By March 2008, about 12,4 million people were receiving social grants. Over 8,1 million of these people are receiving child support grants, which are provided to children in need up to the age of 14 years (and 15 years from 1 January 2009).

	1996/07	2005/06	2007/08
Number of people receiving grants	2 408 742	10 947 116	12 386 396

### Did you know?

#### Government offers a Social Relief of Distress Grant

This grant provides temporary assistance for people who cannot meet their families' most basic needs.

You can get social relief of distress from government if you are in a crisis situation. This could be because:

- you need help while you wait for the children's grants to be processed by government
- a crisis or disaster has occurred (for example, your house has burnt down)
- you do not qualify for a grant, and you are in a desperate situation
- you are unable to work because you are medically unfit – this means you are sick for less than six months
- you are unable to get maintenance from the other parent of the child or children
- the breadwinner in your family has died or has been sent to prison for a short time (less than six months)
- you have been affected by a disaster, but the area or community in which you live has not been declared a disaster area.

The Social Relief of Distress Grant may be in the form of a food parcel or a voucher to buy food. Some provinces give this assistance in the form of cash. Social relief of distress is given for a short time only – usually for up to three months, and sometimes for six months.



For more information on how to access any of the grants offered by government, call the South African Social Security Agency on 0800 601 011 toll-free from a landline.

## Creating temporary jobs

Government created the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to help more people learn skills such as building, plumbing, learning how to care for the terminally ill and teaching young children. By helping unskilled people to learn skills such as these, government aims to help them earn a living. From 2004 to the end of 2007, the EPWP created 950 000 work opportunities. Of these, 37% were for young people and 48% for were women.

	2004/05	2005/06	2007/08
Number of temporary job opportunities created	174 845	373 866	953 570

## Progress highlights in 2008

- In keeping with government's commitment in the Programme of Action 2008 to establish a "war room on poverty", the War on Poverty Campaign was launched in August 2008. Through it, trained professionals will go into communities and help the poorest households to get access to services so that they can live a better life.
- Government will help communities deal with the effects of the high food prices by expanding the school feeding scheme to reach more learners, and increasing the number of households receiving starter packs from 70 000 to 140 000.
- In August 2008, government also announced new regulations that will allow more people to apply for social grants. This means that just over a million people who did not qualify for grants previously, can now apply.
- Government has this year done much work on the draft National Family Policy, a policy for people with disabilities aimed at ensuring that the disabled poor receive adequate services and support. It is also a draft framework for moral regeneration.
- So far, R220 million has been awarded to students on scarce skills programmes. Government continues to support skills development through Further Education and Training colleges. Approximately R439 million has been allocated to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to improve the facilities at institutions of higher learning, in support of key skills areas.

## Ensuring access to water, sanitation and electricity

Government's goal is for all people in South Africa to have access to potable water, basic sanitation facilities and electricity by 2014. Much progress has been made since 1994 towards achieving this goal. Sanitation, for example, was available to only 50% of the population in 1994 compared to 73% in 2007 and the number of households that have electricity doubled from 4,4 million houses in 1994 to 8,8 million in 2007.

Water	1994	2004	2007
Total number of households in South Africa	10 150 478	12 396 707	12 879 070
Households with access to water infrastructure (RDP standards or higher)	6 259 251	9 894 367	11 229 758
Households with access to free basic water	n/a	8 868 007	10 862 205
Households with no access to water infrastructure	3 614 884	1 003 361	646 914

Sanitation	1994	2004	2007
Number of households with access to sanitation	5 065 626	8 197 075	9 353 279
% of total households with access to sanitation	49,9%	66,1%	72,6%



# IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

<b>Electricity</b>	<b>1994/95</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
Number of households with access to electricity	4 477 400	8 610 706	8 819 835
% of total households with access to electricity	50,9%	72,4%	72%

## Housing for all

The total number of houses completed or in progress in government's subsidised housing programme reached 2,6 million by 2007, providing shelter to some 8,8 million people.

	<b>1995</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>
Subsidised units (completed/in progress)	74 409	1 831 860	2 568 062

### Did you know?

By the end of 2007/08, 74 747 land claims were settled, involving more than 1,4 million beneficiaries.



## Increasing immunisation against diseases

By 2007, government's immunisation programme was reaching just under 85% of infants under the age of one year. The immunisation programme makes sure that these children receive vaccines against diseases such as tuberculosis (TB), measles, hepatitis and polio.



	<b>1998</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>
% immunisation coverage	63	83,1	84,5

## Fighting HIV and AIDS

HIV in women attending antenatal clinics decreased over the past two years from around 30,2% in 2005 to 28% in 2007. During the 1990s, the rate of HIV-infection increased rapidly but now the number of people becoming infected with HIV is slowing down.

	<b>1994</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>
% women (attending antenatal clinics) with HIV	7,6	28,5	28

For more information on HIV and AIDS, call the AIDS Toll-Free Helpline: 0800 012 322.

## Improving education

Government has made progress in bringing down the learner-educator ratio in schools. This means that the number of learners per educator is decreasing, which creates an environment for better learning to take place.

	1999	2004	2007
Learner-educator ratio	34	34	31



## Adult literacy

From 2002, there has been a gradual increase in the number of literate adults. Government's aim is to bring illiteracy down by 50% between 1990 and 2015.

	1995	2004	2007
% total literacy	69,6	73,3	74,4

## Progress highlights in 2008

Government is doing a review of the work that it has done since 1994. This is called the *15-Year Review*. This review shows that we have made much progress in improving people's lives. Some of the highlights of our progress are:

- Over four million homes have been electrified since 1994.
- Homes with access to a communal tap increased from 62% in 1996 to 88% in 2007 and access to water inside a dwelling rose from 61% to 70%.
- Access to sanitation increased from 50% in 1994 to 72% in 2007.
- Access to health services also increased dramatically.
- Government has built 1 600 clinics and healthcare centres since 1994, as a result of which 95% of South Africans now live within a five-kilometre radius of a health facility.
- Figures show that at least 456 000 patients are receiving antiretroviral treatment in all 407 government facilities providing this service. Of these, 39 759 are children.
- The participation rate in education increased dramatically. For instance, participation among six-year-olds improved from 49% in 1996 to 70,3% in 2006 and to 91% in 2007.
- The number of students enrolled at tertiary institutions increased from 300 000 in 1986 to 750 00 in 2005.
- By 2007, a total of 5,9 million learners in 18 000 schools were benefiting from government's Schools Nutrition Programme, which provides nutritional meals for learners.
- Some 6 390 schools are already participating in government's programme to establish food gardens.



### Did you know?



Government is working with Eskom to ensure that the country's energy shortage is dealt with and has set aside some R2 billion over the next three years for programmes that will help to address the problem. All of us can help as well by saving energy in our homes and places of work. Remember: if you are not using it, switch it off!



# BRINGING CRIME DOWN

## Fighting crime

While some crime levels are going down, they are still unacceptably high. As part of its commitment to fight crime, government has redeployed more resources to the various police stations in the country.

Government cannot win the fight against crime on its own – it is willing to work with all communities to create a safe and secure country for all.

The official crime statistics for 2007/08, released in June 2008, showed the following:



murder  
attempted murder  
rape  
indecent assault  
assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm  
common assault  
robbery at residential premises  
robbery at non-residential (mainly business) premises  
robbery with aggravated circumstances  
common robbery  
truck hijacking  
malicious damage  
public/street robbery

### 2007/08

down 4,7%  
down 7,5%  
down 8,8%  
down 2,1%  
down 4,6%  
down 6,6%  
up 13,5%  
up 47,4%  
down 7,4%  
down 9,5%  
up 39,6%  
down 5,4%  
down 15,3%.

## Progress highlights in 2008

- The average decrease of 6,4% in serious violent crimes was below the 7% target but higher than in the 2006/07 financial year.
- Safety and security at the 2010 World Cup is a big priority for government. By 2010, there will be around 192 000 police officers. South Africa has already submitted its security plan for 2010 to FIFA.
- Government is focusing especially on children in conflict with the law. By July 2008, there were 3 478 children in detention (1 669 in places of safety, 820 in correctional facilities and 989 sentenced detainees at correctional facilities).
- The review of community policing forums (CPFs) has begun with the aim of giving CPFs powers to co-ordinate independently the relationship between communities and the South African Police Service (SAPS). By the end of 2007, some 1 072 CPFs were established and functioning in communities throughout South Africa.
- The Criminal Justice System is being reviewed. This will have a big impact on crime because it looks at how the work of the SAPS, the Department of Correctional Services and the National Prosecuting Authority can be aligned so they become more effective.

## Did you know?



- Communities have established different kinds of anti-crime groups that work together with the police to protect their neighbourhoods, including doing patrols on trains and beaches during the festive season. Government is also working with communities through campaigns such as the Against Crime Together (ACT). To ACT – Against Crime Together –, report criminal activity by calling 08600 10111.
- The Community Police Forum is a partnership between police and the community to stop crime. To find out how you can get involved, visit your local police station.

## Taking services closer to communities

In June 2008, President Thabo Mbeki launched the 100th Thusong Service Centre in the Inhlazuka area near Richmond. These centres are located in all the provinces and offer services from departments such as home affairs, social development, education and labour, as well as the South African Post Office and the South African Social Security Agency. Through these centres, government takes services and information to communities, so that they do not need to travel long distances to get help.

**To find a Thusong Service Centre near you, call 1020 toll-free from a landline.**

## Boosting tax collection

Since 1996, the revenue (tax) collected by government has doubled. Because of this, government's resources has increased, making it easier to implement programmes that will improve the lives of all South Africans.



	1996	2004	2007
Revenue collection (in billion rands)	147,3	355	572,90

## Faster, better services at Home Affairs

During 2008, several of the steps taken by the Department of Home Affairs over the past few years to improve services, are bearing fruit:

- The time it takes for processing ID applications is now 68 days (down from 163 days). The department also has a "track and trace" system whereby members of the public can check the status of their application.
- ID smart cards will be piloted by December 2008 to prevent ID fraud. All IDs will eventually be replaced with smart cards.
- The department's Customer Contact Centre has been expanded to 102 contact-centre agents and 22 case-resolution officers and now deals with approximately 80 000 calls per month.

### Did you know?

To check the progress of your ID or passport, simply send an SMS with the letters "ID" for your ID or "P" for your passport, followed by a space and then your ID number to 32551.



## Progress highlights in 2008

- The vacancy rate for municipal manager posts decreased from 22% in September 2007 to 12% in March 2008.
- There have been several service-delivery improvements made by the Department of Home Affairs, including faster turnaround times for IDs and passports, introducing the smart card system and providing better customer service to the public.
- To improve service delivery, government has committed that all senior managers should sign performance agreements. By August 2008, 34 national departments reported a total of 2 977 senior managers of whom 1 985 had signed performance agreements (67%).



## Peacekeeping efforts in Africa

Government's goal is to contribute towards peace, security and stability in Africa. The number of peacekeeping efforts involving the South African Government has increased. South Africa is a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council and a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and it is therefore very involved in peacekeeping on the continent, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Sudan and Zimbabwe.



## Building diplomatic relations across the world

The number of South African missions in Africa increased from 28 in 2001/02 to 45 in 2007/08. Expanding South Africa's representation in other countries contributes to stronger international relations and helps to promote our foreign policy.

	2001/02	2004/05	2007/08
South African missions in Africa	28	37	45
South African missions in the world	92	110	121

## Progress highlights in 2008

- South Africa assumed the chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in August 2008. On 17 August 2008, President Mbeki launched the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) agreement. The FTA agreement is part of the SADC's ongoing efforts to create strong relations with southern African countries through trade. The SADC also aims to create a regional customs union, referred to as the Southern African Customs Union, by 2010.
- 2008 marks 10 years of relations between South Africa and the People's Republic of China. South Africa is China's largest trading partner in Africa and trade between the two countries has grown rapidly over the past few years.
- In its commitment to contribute towards peace in the DRC, South Africa has established the South Africa-DRC Binational Commission.
- Through our role in Zimbabwe, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two opposition parties in the country. South Africa continues to work with both parties towards finding a peaceful solution for their future.

## Did you know?



Another major milestone achieved at the SADC Summit in August 2008, was the adoption of the Protocol on Gender and Development. The protocol will help to advance women's emancipation through policies, laws, programmes and projects, which all member states have to implement.

## Investing in 2010 for all

Government is using the hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ to fast-track the growth and development of the country. By 2010, South Africa will have better sports facilities, a more reliable public transport system and a stronger telecommunications infrastructure. These improvements are not only for the 2010 World Cup as they will benefit all our people in the future as well.



## Government's investment in 2010

As of February 2008, national government's contribution to World Cup-related projects is R28 billion. The major contributions are to:

• stadiums and precinct development	R9 841 million
• transport	R11 728 million
• broadcast and telecommunications	R300 million
• event operations	R684 million
• safety and security	R1 305 million
• event volunteer training	R25 million
• ports of entry infrastructure	R3 500 million
• immigration support	R630 million
• communication	R504 million.

The various provinces and local governments are also making additional investments. Government's investment will speed up our country's programmes for achieving economic growth and development.

## Creating jobs

The job opportunities being created through the 2010 World Cup are already benefiting many South Africans:

By 2008, 80 000 job opportunities had been created through the build-up to the 2010 World Cup. It is estimated that 116 000 jobs will be created in the next three years. The number of formal jobs in the construction industry has risen to 100 000 in 2008 – this number is expected to increase to more than 160 000 by 2013.

## Progress highlights in 2008

- Preparations for the 2010 World Cup are on track in all areas of the guarantees that government provided to FIFA, including essential infrastructure development, transport, safety and security and healthcare.
- All the stadiums will be ready in time for the 2010 World Cup.
- The Schools World Cup was successfully launched in May 2008 to raise awareness among youth and students. This competition is being co-ordinated by the Department of Education and Sport and Recreation South Africa.
- The National Transport Plan was submitted to FIFA on 30 June 2008.
- Government is working with our neighbouring countries and the rest of the continent to ensure that the 2010 World Cup will promote the continent for tourism and trade.



### Did you know?

- An estimated additional two million international tourists will visit South Africa between 2007 and 2015 because of the 2010 World Cup.
- The 2010 World Cup will contribute an estimated R51,1 billion to South Africa's GDP between 2006 and 2010.

**KE NAKO. Celebrate Africa's Humanity™**



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