

GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Business Unusual: All hands on deck to speed up change



*Inside: Find out more about the
Government's plans for 2008*



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

This year it's Business Unusual ...

When the present Government started its term in 2004, it set out to meet the mandate it was given by the people of South Africa in the election. The pledge made by President Thabo Mbeki at the time was that the Government, in partnership with society, would continue to work together towards creating a better life for all.

As a country, we have made huge strides towards creating a better life for all our people. The results of the *Community Survey 2007* and the *Development Indicators* both show that our country is on the right track.

The economy is doing well and we are likely to meet the growth target rate of 4,5% each year until 2009, and at least 6% per year until 2014, which would result in poverty and unemployment being reduced. The number of people employed is also increasing – by September 2006, over one million additional people were employed. Government aims to halve unemployment by 2014.

Government continues to ensure that all those who live in South Africa have access to government programmes and economic opportunities brought by democracy. This effort is being intensified to ensure that all people, particularly women and youths, benefit.

All hands on deck to speed up change

For this year, government has put out a call for all of us to work together to improve our lives. Business Unusual means that government's programmes and policies have not changed but will be implemented in a faster, more efficient and effective way to ensure that the lives of our people can change for the better, sooner rather than later.

● **About this publication:** This publication aims to outline government's major plans for the year ahead. These plans are announced in the State of the Nation Address delivered by the President during the opening of Parliament in February of each year. ●

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

“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 will continue to work hard to ensure that the nation's objective and its commitments to the people are met. We all need to work together to ensure that the country moves forward even with the challenges of the day. Let us all put our hands on deck and create a society that cares.

Government decided that its Programme of Action for the coming year must focus in a special way in this period, to make sure it delivers quicker on its commitments. It identified a set of top priorities, which it calls "Apex Priorities", to further speed up the progress towards achieving a better life for all.

Government's Apex Priorities focus on:

- further accelerating economic growth and development
- speeding up infrastructure to reach our economic and social goals
- making Second-Economy and poverty-eradication interventions more effective
- strengthening the impact of education and training programmes
- accelerating our advance towards health for all
- revamping the criminal justice system to intensify our fight against crime
- further strengthening the machinery of government to meet development needs
- sharpening focus on international relations, especially on Africa and South-South relations.

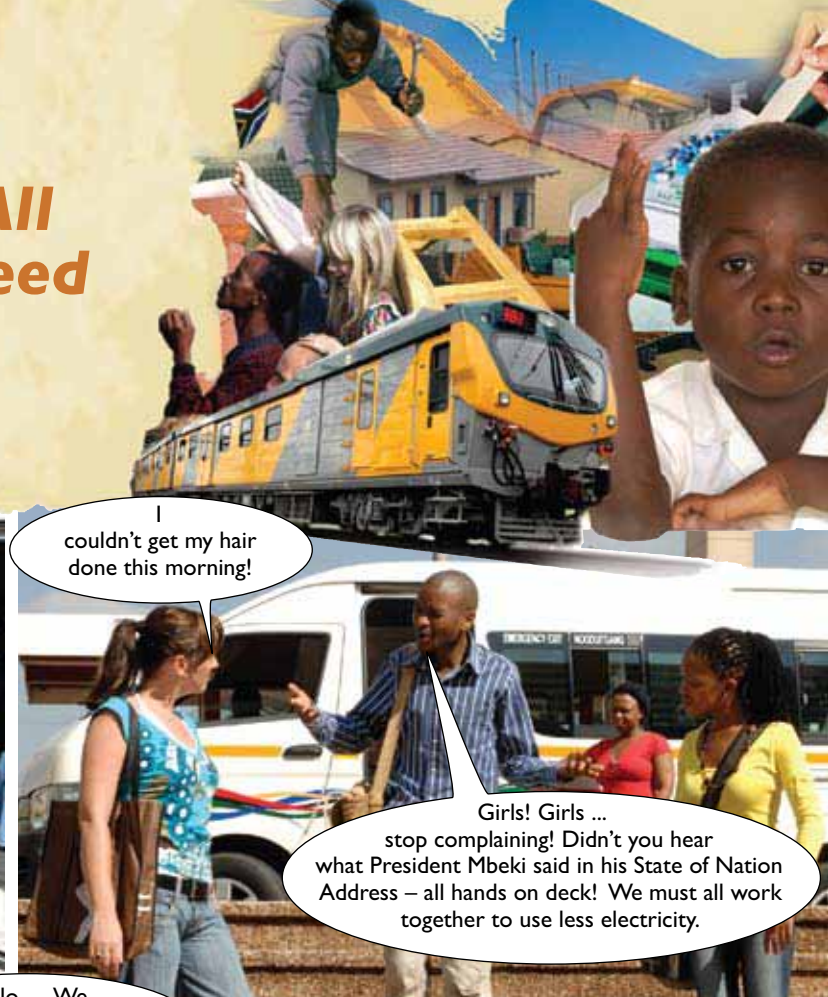
This means that national, provincial and local governments are committed to using this period to speed up progress towards a better life for all. The whole of government is committed to live up to the call for Business Unusual. This does not mean that government is changing its policies, but rather that it will work to speed up the implementation of existing policies and programmes.



“With all hands on deck, and committed to conduct our business in an unusual and more effective fashion, we shall sustain the process of our reconstruction and development and take it to even higher levels.”

President Thabo Mbeki, State of the Nation Address, 8 February 2008

Business Unusual – All hands on deck to speed up change



Everyone can help to build a better life for all. Start today! In your home, save electricity ... in your community, report criminal activities by calling 08600 10111.

Action to address the energy supply challenges

Both government and Eskom have apologised for the national emergency that has resulted in power cuts throughout the country. The emergency happened because there was a rise in electricity demand over the last two years. It has come about because of fast economic growth and more people getting access to electricity.

Government wishes to thank all citizens for their patience during the current difficulties. Government, together with Eskom, calls on all citizens to unite in action to save energy so that the problem can be solved within a short time.

Saving energy

Did you know? By saving energy in your home you can help reduce the number of power cuts in our country? Here are some helpful tips:

- Remember to switch off your geyser when you leave home and switch it on when you return.
- Close the windows and doors when the heater is on.
- Close the door every time you take things out of the fridge and also ensure that it is closed properly.
- Try to boil only the water you need instead of boiling a full pot or kettle every time.
- Switch off lights and other appliances not in use when you leave the room.
- Use energy-saving light bulbs. They last much longer and use less electricity.
- Do all your ironing at the same time.



For more information on how you can save energy, call Eskom on 08600 37566, visit www.dme.gov.za or contact your local municipality.

Did you know?

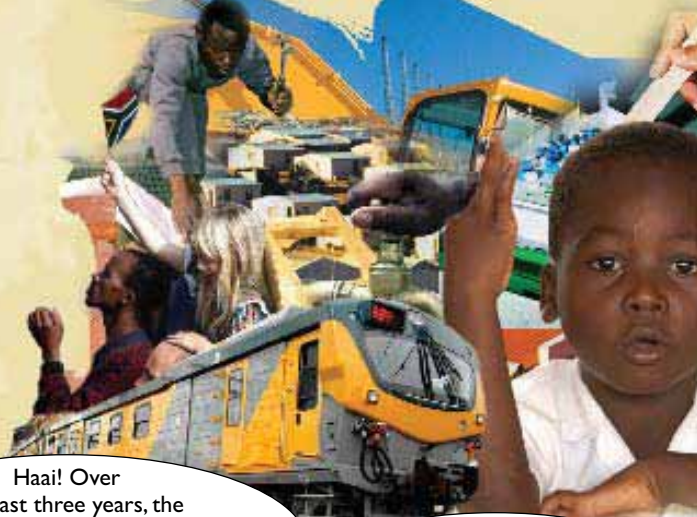
Eskom is investing R342 billion over the next five years in new power plants.



“The national emergency represented by the current power outages poses the challenge and presents the opportunity to the entirety of our nation to give concrete expression to the call we have just made for all of us to unite in action and act in unity to keep our country on course. This must say to all of us that we are indeed in a period of challenges, but surmountable challenges. And precisely because it is a period of challenges, it is also an era of opportunity!”

President Thabo Mbeki, State of the Nation Address, 8 February 2008

Economic growth and development



Eish, things are expensive, look at the price of this burger! The economy is going down!

Haai! Over the past three years, the economy grew at 5,1% and the number of employed people by 1,3 million.

Yep, the economy is on the up, look at this new mall. Government's plans – AsgiSA and Jipsa – are working.

Sho! Who are you – "Mr Stats SA"?

I'm impressed ... you know your facts! So, you say the economy is growing?

Askies! What's that!

AsgiSA is government's plan to grow South Africa. Government is working with its partners on big projects that will provide more water and electricity, roads, railways ...

But do we have the skills for this?

Christina, part of the AsgiSA programme is to identify what skills we need, and to make sure we get them. This is Jipsa. It also involves sending some of our people to other countries to learn skills.

Duh! As if we are all getting on the next plane to Holland!

My cousin was chosen for a learnership programme in Holland, as part of Jipsa.

There are also programmes that we can benefit from ... like the further education and training colleges, where you can learn skills such as plumbing, welding, motor mechanics, being a chef ... And the best part is there are even bursaries!

They should not forget our schools, especially the poor ones.

No they haven't, poor schools will be provided with books, learner material, support for teachers, so they don't have to charge school fees.

Wow – there are many opportunities, hey!

Yes – government has created many opportunities – but it is up to us to grab them!

Did you know?
You can find out more about further education and training colleges at your provincial department of education.

Skills development

- A total of 25 425 students enrolled in the new National Certificate (Vocational) programmes in 2007. The target for this year is 40 000. We are pleased to record that over 52 000 students have registered for the three-year programme.
- The Department of Education has identified 18 further education and training (FET) colleges (two per province) that will be dedicated to training students in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills.

National Skills Development Strategy

- By December 2007, 194 913 employed learners and 117 729 unemployed learners in scarce and critical skills had been registered on accredited occupational-based learning programmes by sector education and training authorities (Setas).
- On average, 66% of those who received training through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) were placed in full-time or temporary employment.

Mass Literacy Campaign – Kha Ri Gude

Government has launched the Mass Literacy Campaign Kha Ri Gude (let us learn). The campaign aims to teach some 4,7 million people who cannot read or write by 2012. Some 300 000 people will be taught basic literacy and numeracy in their home language in 2008. A total of 40 000 tutors will be recruited for this five-year mass literacy campaign, which will be rolled out as a pilot in 2008, and will go to scale in 2009. Through the campaign, government aims to meet its 2000 World Education Forum promise to reduce illiteracy by 50% by 2015, and to have the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation declare South Africa a territory free of illiteracy.

For more information on the Mass Literacy Campaign, contact your provincial department of education.

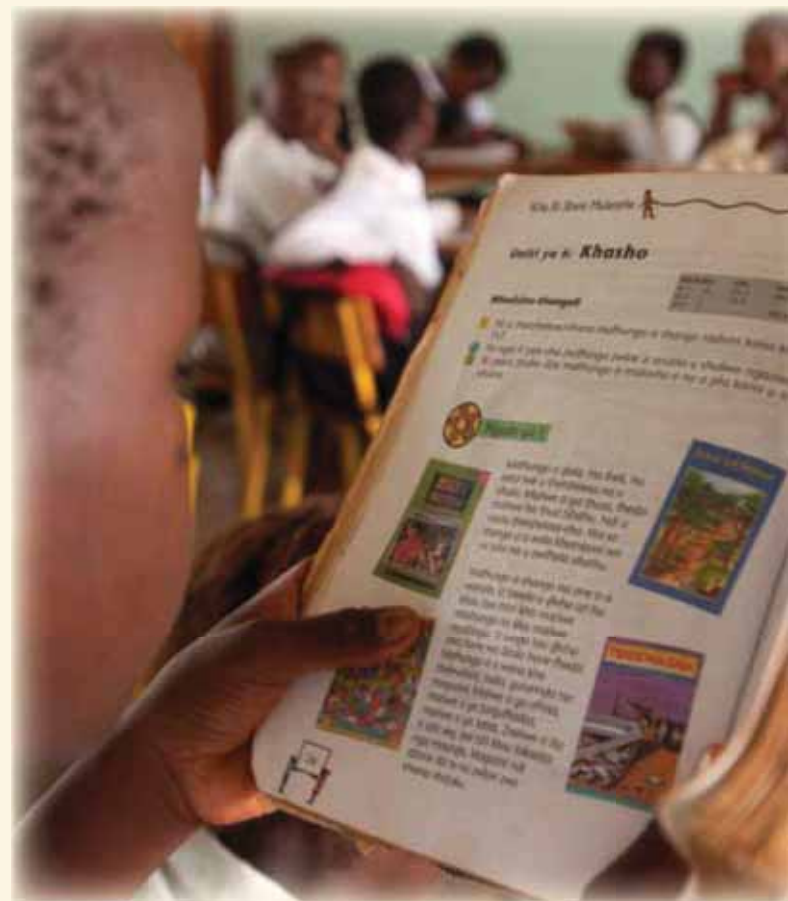
Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (Jipsa) intensified

A total of 70 CEOs of Johannesburg Securities Exchange-listed companies are to work together with government to address the challenge of skills shortage under Jipsa. Government will continue to be involved in FET colleges, Setas, resourcing schools in the poorest communities, freeing them from the responsibility to charge fees, and speeding up on-the-job training for professional graduates.

Land reform and rural development

Government will continue to find ways to reduce poverty and continue to address a number of many weaknesses, including the:

- processing of the Land Use Management Bill
- finalisation of land restitution cases
- support programme for those who acquire land, and the development and implementation of a determined rural development programme.



Accelerating our advance to health for all



Mark, I'm scared to get our HIV test results ...

I know – but we did the right thing. Getting tested is important so we don't put each other at risk.

Morning sister, we're here for our HIV test results.

Morning Karabo, your results are ready. Can you wait a bit? I'm just getting ready to do some TB tests this morning.

I didn't know we can be tested for TB here.

Most government clinics and hospitals do TB testing. Government is also training over 3 000 people in TB management.

Shoo! That's a lot of money. I'm sure many people will benefit!

President Mbeki said in his State of the Nation Address that this year it's Business Unusual – time to speed up change!

I heard the Minister of Finance saying that this year government will spend R6,7 billion more on healthcare.

I heard the Budget Speech too. I'm so pleased pensioners are getting R940 a month! Gogo is so happy!

So what does government say about housing, lights and water? Some people still don't have those things.

Government will provide around 260 000 houses this year. They also want everybody to have water and electricity by 2014.

2014? That's too long!

Remember, Mark, government is also growing the economy, building roads, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure, taking care of the poor ... there's a lot to do!

That's why the President said its Business Unusual this year – government has started many good programmes but now they are moving faster to make sure things happen faster!

Did you know?

- TB treatment is free at public health facilities.
- For more information on HIV and AIDS, call 0800 012 322.

Health for all

- Accelerating our work towards the achievement of health for all includes intensifying the fight against HIV and AIDS.
- During 2008, we aim to control tuberculosis (TB) by reducing the number of patients who do not take their medication properly from 10% to 7%. We also aim to train over 3 000 health workers in the management of TB and ensure that all multi-drug-resistant and extreme drug-resistant TB patients receive treatment.
- We also aim to complete the work on the comprehensive social security system, benefiting from the consultations that have started with social partners.

Universal access to water, sanitation and electricity

Government will speed up its programmes to provide sustainable human settlements to accelerate access to water, sanitation and electricity for all. By 2014, we should have decent human settlements and access by all households to these services.

Did you know?

- It is estimated that up to 90% of the total population will have access to basic water-supply services by the end of 2008.
- Government aims to supply all people living in existing houses with a basic water supply by 2012.
- Government and its partners want to increase the current delivery rate of 300 000 housing units to 500 000 units.

Building infrastructure – Integrated Infrastructure Plan

Government plans to speed up the process of building infrastructure by finalising the development of an integrated infrastructure plan that will pay special attention to energy efficiency. This involves co-ordinating the programmes of state-owned enterprises and overlaying all the infrastructure plans, including freight and other logistics, energy pipelines, ICT, road infrastructure, water and electricity, both in terms of their timing and geographic location.



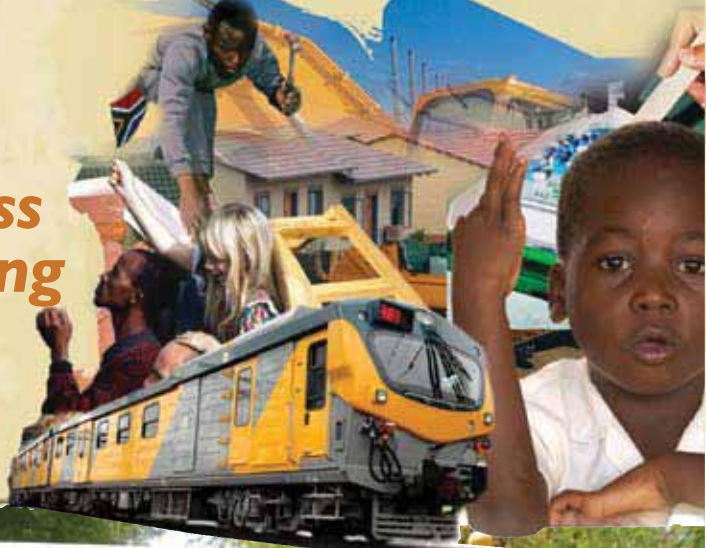
For more information on HIV and AIDS, call the AIDS Toll-Free Helpline: 0800 012 322.

Social cohesion

As we unite as a nation and answer the call for Business Unusual, we should all put our hands on deck and engage in discussions on the issues that define us as a nation. There are two issues that we should be thinking about:

- The first is a national schools pledge that will be recited by learners in their school assemblies. The aim of this project is to instil values among all citizens.
- The launching of a process guided by the South African Geographical Names Council and its provincial committees across all provinces on geographic and place names.

Developing small business and strengthening training programmes



Hey, there's Mark ... he has his own business these days!



Hola!

Hey, I like your wheels! Business is good, hey?



Sho! Owning a business is hard work ... I'm glad I went to Seda ...

Christina ... Seda is an agency funded by government to help people start small businesses.

Owning a small business myself, I can tell you, getting paid sooner will really help ... many small businesses go down when they get paid late.



Where's Seda? Sounds like a nice place ...

Government is serious about growing the economy and helping small business, hey?

Yes ... President Mbeki said in his State of the Nation Address that government would continue to help small businesses grow. He said government was going to buy certain products from small businesses and to help the owners, government will pay them within 30 days.

I can't wait to finish studying ... maybe start my own business one day ...

I don't think it's so easy ... I'd rather get a job ...



Talking about jobs ... What happened to your brother, did he find work?

Ja, thanks to the EPWP, he got a job building roads.



What's the EPWP?

It's government's Expanded Public Works Programme.

Through the EPWP, government trains people skills while giving them work. This is helping to fight poverty. I heard the Minister of Finance say government will spend one billion rand more on the EPWP this year.



Did you know:

- If you need help starting your own business, call the Small Enterprise Development Agency on 0860 103703.
- Government has set up the Micro-Agricultural Finance Institution of South Africa (Mafisa) to provide financial services to develop small farmers. For more information, contact the Department of Agriculture on 012 319-7295/7917.

Wow! That's a lot of money ... a thousand million! So the President meant it when he said this year, it's Business Unusual!

Ensuring a successful 2010

One of the important challenges for our nation is to ensure a successful 2010 FIFA World Cup™. We must honour our undertaking to FIFA, the world community of soccer players and fans. We must create all the necessary conditions to hold the best ever FIFA Soccer World Cup tournament. We must ensure that we sustain good progress in terms of our all-round preparations. Let us ensure that all hands are on deck as we continue to prepare to host the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2009 and the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Some opportunities created by 2010 to date:

Employment

- Thousands of volunteers are to be identified and recruited throughout the country for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.
- The build-up to the 2010 World Cup has already created about 80 000 job opportunities in the local and hospitality sectors, according to an audit by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The audit also indicates that over the next three years, a further 116 000 jobs will be created.
- More than 300 people have been employed since the start of the upgrade project at the Bhisho airport in the Eastern Cape last year.

Tourism

- Compass Group South Africa's Chef Academy is training young people from poor communities to deal with the influx of tourists for the 2010 World Cup. The company said it aimed to have at least 500 chefs trained within five years. Trainee chefs have to have at least a Grade 12 or matric pass. In addition to chefs, 24 000 cooks and 23 500 waiters and waitresses are needed for 2010 and beyond.

Safety and security

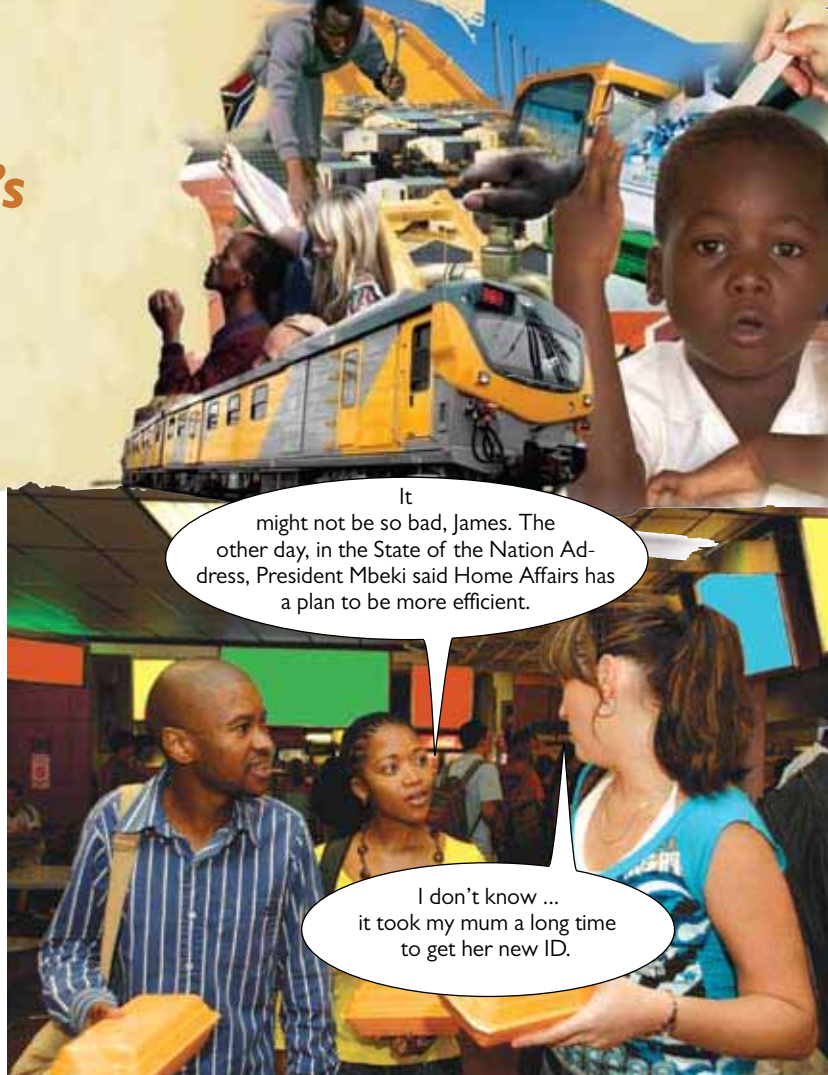
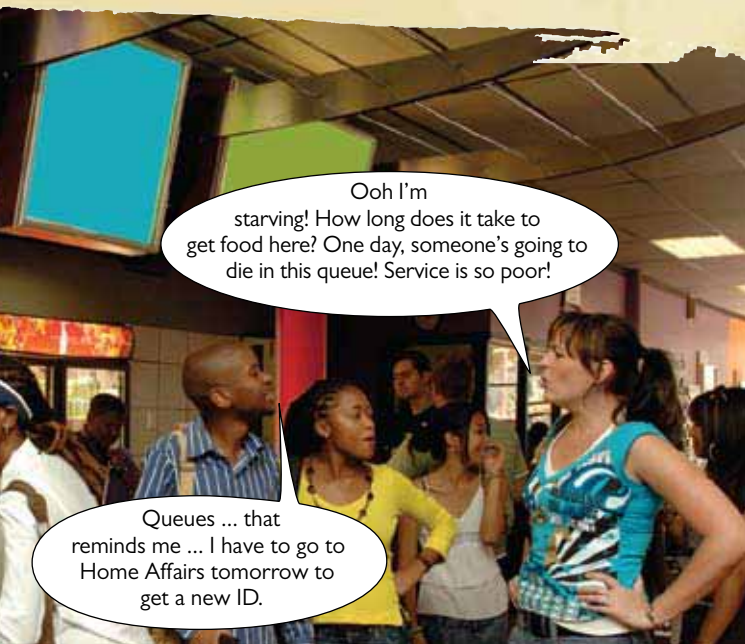
- Some 31 000 police and 10 000 reservists will be deployed during the 2010 World Cup.

Infrastructure

- Construction of the new stadiums is creating about 170 000 temporary jobs.
- R9 billion has been allocated to public transport-related projects.



Improving government's delivery of service



Did you know?

You can work with government to build a better South Africa. In your home, save electricity ... in your community, report criminal activities by calling 08600 10111.

Improving the machinery of government

As part of the call for Business Unusual, all government departments have committed to work together more effectively to fulfil the needs of the people, and provide high-quality service.

Home Affairs turn-around

Recognising that the Department of Home Affairs touches the core of every citizen's life, we will this year intensify the implementation of the turn-around strategy approved by Cabinet. This includes improving information and technology systems, training staff on the new systems and rooting out corruption. This all is aimed at improving the service you receive from Home Affairs.

Did you know?

There is an easy way to check the progress of your application for an identity document (ID) or passport. Simply send an SMS containing the letters ID, followed by a space and then your ID number to 32551. If you would like to check for your passport, SMS the letter P, followed by a space, and then your ID number.

Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Programme

Working with other social partners, government will ensure that, by the end of this year, the second National Anti-Corruption Programme is adopted, and that the action plan agreed to with organised business is implemented. At local government level, the first 150 municipalities will be assisted with developing anti-corruption strategies.

The National Anti-Corruption Programme aims to fight corruption in business, civil society and in the Public Service. If you would like to report corruption, you can do so by calling the National Anti-Corruption Hotline on 0800 701 701 – you do not have to leave your name.

Five-Year Local Government Strategic Agenda

This year we will continue to support efforts to strengthen local government capacity in line with the Five-Year Local Government Strategic Agenda. The South African Local Government Association will give quarterly reports on the work being done.

Batho Pele concretised

Batho Pele aims to improve the performance in the Public Service and improve the commitment of public employees to their duties. This is the responsibility of the leadership, the public servants themselves and the trade-union movement.

Filling critical vacancies

As part of government's plans to improve services, government should fill vacancies within six months, especially very senior positions.

Thusong Service Centres

A Thusong Service Centre is a one-stop service centre that aims to empower communities by providing access to information, and access to government programmes and services. Communities can access all government departments, a library, education and training facilities, municipal activities, and other community-based organisations and workers.



For more information on where you can find a Thusong Service Centre in your area, call 1020 (toll-free from a landline) or visit www.gcis.gov.za.

Revamping the criminal justice system in its totality

In 2007, government – together with business and other sectors of the population – began working together to improve the country's justice system.

Fighting crime

Government is concerned about the levels of crime in our country and calls on all citizens to work towards getting rid of crime. This can be done by co-operation among all of us as law-abiding citizens, respecting the rule of law and our judiciary as well as the pursuit of equal human rights, which our Constitution requires us to observe in our daily lives and pronouncements.

Transformation of the judiciary

In 2008, government will:

- process the Bills on the transformation of the judiciary together with judges and magistrates
- complete the strategy aimed at strengthening border control and security
- continue to implement the Victims' Charter
- pay particular attention to the issue of repeat offenders
- continue to apply additional measures drawn from recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Community police forums (CPFs)

You can get involved in the fight against crime by getting involved in a CPF in your area. A CPF is a partnership between the police and the community, working together to create and maintain safe and secure communities. For more information on how you can get involved in making your community safer, contact your local police station.

ACT – Against Crime Together

What you hear, see or say today can stop a crime and save a life. If you know of any criminals or crime taking place in your area, then you need to ACT – Against Crime Together by calling Crime Stop on 08600 10111 to give information.



International – A better Africa and a better world

In 2008, government will continue to:

- remain ready to assist in facilitating the Zimbabwe negotiations, as mandated by the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- create a free trade area in the SADC, using our chairpersonship of the SADC in 2008/09 to speed this up
- work with the Democratic Republic of Congo, to contribute to its efforts to attain lasting peace and implement their reconstruction and development programme
- celebrate the 10th anniversary of diplomatic relations between South Africa and the People's Republic of China, promoting the China-South

Africa Partnership for Growth and Development as an important relationship of mutual benefit

- host the 2009 Review Conference to evaluate implementation of decisions of the World Conference Against Racism held in our country in 2001.

South-South co-operation and global responsibilities

We will continue to carry out our tasks in the United Nations Security Council, seeking to strengthen co-operation between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

“We shall all put our hands on deck to communicate to the rest of the world the spirit of Business Unusual, and our continuing advance towards the creation of a society that cares and the conditions for the world to gather in our country to celebrate Africa’s humanity in 2010.”

President Thabo Mbeki, State of the Nation Address, 8 February 2008



All hands on deck to speed up change

Did you know?

You can work with government to build a better South Africa. In your home, save electricity, in your community, report criminal activities by calling 08600 10111.

There are so many new buildings, shops, roads, houses ... every day things change!

I'm sure it's all for 2010.

That's if we get to 2010 – come on, guys, you must admit – we have some challenges such as crime and the electricity cuts don't look good either ... I'm not so sure ...

What do you mean? See that new building over there, it's progress! It means business, it means infrastructure, it means growth, it means jobs!

Christina, this year, government is focusing on what it calls Apex Priorities. These are the same programmes government has had in place over the past few years, but this year, they are going to push harder for quicker results. Crime, electricity, helping the poor, growing the economy ... these are all Apex Priorities.

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Well, it may help us host the best World Cup ever, but remember, the stadiums, roads, all these things will be around long after 2010.

That's great – we get to host the biggest soccer tournament in the world and grow our country at the same time. I'm all up for that!

But don't you think all the bad things are going to overtake the good things one of these days?

Why wait for that to happen? No one will benefit if we do nothing ... we must work with government to deal with the problems.

I hear you ... but government must lead the way.

That sounds like business!

It's "Business Unusual!"

Did you know?

You can report corruption in government by calling the National Anti-Corruption hotline on 0800 701 701.