

GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF ACTION 2009



English

Working together we can do more

Inside: *Find out more about
government's plans for 2009*



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR 2009

WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE

The people of South Africa voted in a free and fair election in April 2009 for a new administration. The elections that took place were a testimony of our strong democracy and now it is time to move forward, in the same spirit, to realise our vision of a better life for all.

Government has been mandated by the millions of people who voted in the election to lead and nurture a South Africa that belongs to all – an inclusive society, a nation united in its diversity and a people working together for the greater good of all.

Over the past 15 years, government has done much to create a democratic, non-racist, non-sexist South Africa that meets the needs of all its people. But many challenges remain. The development of our rural areas and the eradication of poverty remain central to our Programme of Action.

The current programme of government is being introduced under difficult economic conditions. Countries throughout the world are being affected by the slow-down in the global economy. While South Africa has

not been as badly affected as other countries, we are in a recession. It is now more important than ever that we work together to respond to this crisis.

Government has identified 10 priority areas, from now up to 2014.

These are to:

- speed up economic growth and transform the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods
- introduce a massive programme to build economic and social infrastructure
- develop and implement a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security
- strengthen the skills and human resource base
- improve the health profile of all South Africans
- intensify the fight against crime and corruption
- build cohesive, caring and sustainable communities
- pursue African advancement and enhanced international cooperation
- ensure sustainable resource management and use
- build a developmental state, improve public services and strengthen democratic institutions.

“To be a citizen is not only about rights, it is also about responsibility, to make ours a better country ...

“... Fellow South Africans, working together we can do more to realise our common vision of a better and more prosperous nation!

“This is the partnership we are calling for.”

– President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address, 3 June 2009



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. This year, the address was made by President Jacob Zuma on 3 June 2009.

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

Government will continue to work hard to ensure that the nation's objectives and its commitments to the people are met, but we need the support and participation of all our people to ensure that we move forward.

Gearing up to deliver

The new structure of government that was announced by President Jacob Zuma on 10 May 2009 will create the necessary structures and resources to drive the implementation of government's priorities.

The new structure sees the creation of the National Planning Ministry within The Presidency. The Ministry, headed by Minister Trevor Manuel, will be responsible for strategic planning for the country to ensure one National Plan is followed by all spheres of government. A monitoring and evaluation competency has also been created in The Presidency and is headed by Minister Collins Chabane. It will monitor and evaluate the performance of government.

The new structure will be efficient, caring, effective and accessible to the needs of the people.

The changes are as follows:

- The Department of Minerals and Energy will be split into two separate departments of Mineral Resources and of Energy, each with a minister.
- The Department of Education will be split into separate ministries, one for Basic Education and the other for Higher Education and Training.
- The Department of Housing will be called the Department of Human Settlements.
- A new Department of Rural Development and Land Reform forms part of key priorities for the next five years.
- The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry becomes the Department of Water Affairs.
- A new Economic Development Department has been established to focus on economic policy-making for the country.
- A new Department of Tourism has been created.
- The Department of Agriculture becomes the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- The Department of Provincial and Local Government will be called the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

- A new ministry has been created for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities to emphasise the need for equity and access to development opportunities for the vulnerable groups in our society.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs becomes the Department of International Relations and Co-operation.
- The Department of Defence becomes the Department of Defence and Military Veterans.
- The Department of Safety and Security becomes the Department of Police.
- A new Ministry of State Security has been created.

The rest of the departments are:

- Department of Arts and Culture
- Department of Communications
- Department of Correctional Services
- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Government Communication and Information System
- Department of Health
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
- Department of Labour
- Department of Public Service and Administration
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Science and Technology
- Department of Social Development
- Sport and Recreation South Africa
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Transport
- Department of Public Enterprises
- Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities
- Independent Complaints Directorate
- National Intelligence Agency
- National Treasury
- Office of the Public Service Commission
- Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy
- South African National Academy of Intelligence
- South African Secret Service
- Statistics South Africa.

ECONOMIC SECTORS AND EMPLOYMENT

Dealing with the global economic crisis

Government will work in partnership with all of society on a common programme to respond to the economic crisis in the period ahead. We need to work together to make sure that the good progress that South Africa has made over the past 15 years, is sustained.

Already, a framework for South Africa's response to the international economic crisis has been developed by government, together with representatives of labour and business. Government will act to minimise the impact of the economic recession, in particular on the poor, by implementing this framework.

Government will work with development finance institutions such as the Industrial Development Corporation to identify companies in distress and where appropriate, mobilise assistance.

“The economic downturn will affect the pace at which our country is able to address the social and economic challenges it faces. But it will not alter the direction of our development.”

– President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address, 3 June 2009

Keeping and creating jobs

One of the main aims of government's approach in dealing with the global economic crisis is to avoid job losses. Some of the things government will do include the following:

- acting with all social partners, government should be able to minimise the impact of the downturn on jobs and maintain the country's achievements so far
- there are also plans for workers who would ordinarily be facing retrenchment due to the economic situation to be kept in employment, for a period of time and re-skilled through the sector education and training authorities
- the work of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration will be supported to assist employers and workers to find alternatives to retrenchments through the relevant legal process
- buying goods and services locally will also assist in supporting local business.

Did you know?

A total of 1,4 million work opportunities were created by the end of the first five years of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The key sectors of the EPWP are a programme in the social sector, aimed at creating work opportunities through the provision of public social services. These include the Home- and Community-Based Care Programme, which provides care and support for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS and other terminal illnesses, as well as personnel required for the expansion of the Early Childhood Development programme.

Another EPWP intervention is in the environment and culture sectors. Programmes include Working for Water, Working on Fire and Land Care. New initiatives on waste management, including the Food for Waste Programme, will be expanded.

The EPWP is one of the measures that government has put in place to alleviate poverty and provide income, work experience and skills development to many who are unemployed.

Building on the successes of our industrial policy interventions, a scaled-up Industrial Policy Action Plan is being developed for the following sectors: automobile, chemicals, metal fabrication, tourism, clothing and textiles as well as forestry. In addition, attention will also be paid to, among other things, services, light manufacturing and construction to create decent jobs.

As part of Phase Two of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Community Work Programme will be fast-tracked. It will offer a minimum level of regular work to those who need it, while improving the quality of life in communities. This year, the Department of Public Works has allocated R5,2 billion to the EPWP.

Government's target is to create four million job opportunities through this programme by 2014 with 500 000 work opportunities by December 2009.

Helping small businesses to grow

In this regard, government will use measures such as procurement, licensing and financial support to assist small and medium businesses. It will also promote Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and affirmative action policies.

Special attention will be given to provide support to women, youth and people with disabilities.

Government will also aims to help small businesses by reducing the regulatory burden on this sector.

Tourism

Tourism is contributing more towards the growth of our economy. It employs some 500 000 people directly, and creates many indirect employment opportunities. More than R936 million of the EPWP allocation for 2009 to 2012 has been earmarked to develop the tourism sector, particularly rural tourism.



Did you know?

The Tourism Enterprise Partnership (TEP) was launched to support, guide and assist small and medium enterprises in the tourism sector. Since the inception of this programme in 2000, transactions worth more than R4 billion have been facilitated and 5 500 enterprises have received assistance.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Government has formed a cluster of several departments to ensure that huge delivery takes place in developing our country's infrastructure, such as building schools and houses, providing water and sanitation and improving public transport.

Some R1,2 billion has been allocated for the Capital Works Programme, which includes projects such as the Land Ports of Entry Project (R570 million), dolomite rehabilitation projects (R149 million), prestige projects (R230 million) and the Apex priority projects. There are also projects that focus on road construction, water reticulation, sewerage and waste water management.

The newly formed Infrastructure Development Cluster of government is made up of the departments of transport, public enterprises, communications, energy, water affairs, environmental affairs, human settlements, cooperative governance and traditional affairs, public works, economic development, National Treasury and The Presidency; National Planning Ministry.

Together, these departments will ensure that the planned R787-billion infrastructure expenditure as provided for by government in the Budget earlier this year is properly planned for and that these projects are implemented.

Did you know?

- Over R1 billion will be spent over the next three years to provide special and major capital projects on behalf of government departments as part of the inner city regeneration programme.
- There will be effective roll-out of the National Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy in conjunction with the Construction Industry Development Board and the Council for the Built Environment, with emphasis on all spheres of government to implement proper plans, which will factor in the maintenance of public infrastructure.
- R230 million has been allocated in support of the Energy Efficiency Programme.
- Through the Independent Development Trust, government aims to replace all mud schools with built schools. To date, the Department of Public Works has handed over eight complete schools, with access to solar energy, safe sanitation, information and technology resources, vegetable gardens and school furniture, and intends to hand over a further nine by the end of September 2009.
- Civil works for the construction of the Pan-African Parliament have begun.
- In Uganda, the Department of Public Works completed the construction of the Oliver Tambo Military School of Leadership at Kaweweta for the benefit of the Ugandan People's Defence Force.
- The Construction Charter, which commits both the construction industry and government to fulfilling transformation targets has been gazetted. To date, seven construction contact centres have been established and two more will be opened soon.
- Government will also be focusing on the contractor development and the property incubator programmes.



Investing in 2010

One of the biggest infrastructure investment projects is in the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup™. Government is using its investment in the World Cup to speed up growth and development in the country so that it leaves behind a proud legacy that will benefit generations of South Africans to come.

National government is contributing over R28 billion to World Cup-related projects. The major contributions are to:

- stadiums and precinct development: R9 841 billion
- transport: R11 728 billion
- broadcast and telecommunications: R300 million
- event operations: R684 million
- safety and security: R1 305 million
- ports of entry infrastructure: R3 500 million
- immigration support: R630 million
- communications, hosting, legacy and culture programmes: R504 million.

South Africa is ready and on track to meet the requirements of hosting the 2010 World Cup and already in June 2009 hosted the Confederations Cup, which is the most important soccer tournament prior to the 2010 World Cup.

Did you know?

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System was introduced in 2008 to deal with the increasing congestion on our roads. It is a bus system designed to provide high-quality and affordable transport, which is fast and safe.

The BRT System is a key component of the Department of Transport's integrated transport network plan, which government is implementing in the 2010 FIFA World Cup host cities.

When the BRT System starts operating, commuters will have access to world-class public transport at competitive prices. The system will feature dedicated and segregated bus-only lanes, as well as bus stations that are safe, comfortable, weather-protected and friendly to disabled passengers. It will run for 18 hours a day from 5:00 to 23:00 and the plan is to eventually extend this to 24 hours a day. There will be bus stations every 500 metres, with security officers and CCTV cameras linked to a BRT control room.

Government will continue to engage the taxi industry to ensure that the BRT System benefits everyone.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Improving education

Education will be a key priority for the next five years. Government is committed to working with teachers, learners and parents to turn all schools into thriving centres of excellence.

To achieve this, government will, among other things:

- Strengthen the Early Childhood Development programme to ensure universal access to Grade R and double the number of 0- to 4-year-old children by 2014.
- Improve school management – formal training will be a precondition for promoting teachers to become principals or heads of departments.
- Put in more effort to encourage all pupils to complete their secondary education and find ways to bring back into the system pupils who dropped out of school, and to provide them with support.
- Increase enrolment rates in secondary schools to 95% by 2014.
- Ensure that the *Guidelines on Sexual Harassment and Violence in Public Schools* are observed by educators and learners.
- Speed up revival of school sport and ensure that it forms part of the school curriculum. Government will ensure that sports facilities in poorer communities receive priority.

Further Education and Training (FET) and Adult Basic Education and Training will be intensified to promote life-long learning. The mass literacy programme, *Khatri Gude*, which is intended to enable 4,7 million adults to become literate by the end of 2012, will be intensified. Government will ensure that training and skills development initiatives in the country respond to the requirements of the economy.

The FET sector with its 50 colleges and 160 campuses nationally will be the primary site for skills development training. Government also aims to ensure that more learners from poor families are able to receive FET at colleges and universities.

Youth development

The National Youth Development Agency, formed through the merger of the Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the National Youth Commission, and launched on 16 June 2009, will enhance service and development opportunities provided to the youth.

It will link up unemployed young graduates with economic opportunities, strengthen efforts to expand the National Youth Service Programme and support young entrepreneurs.

Building a vision for the country

Government will continue to work towards creating a united society. In order for South Africa to reach the next level of growth and development, we must have a shared value system and become active citizens in the renewal of our country.

Better healthcare

To improve public healthcare provision, government's main aims are to boost human resource capacity, revitalise hospitals and clinics and step up the fight against the scourge of HIV, AIDS, TB and other diseases.

Working together with communities, government plans to improve the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for the Treatment, Management and Care of HIV and AIDS to reduce the rate of new HIV infections by 50% by the year 2011. Government wants to reach 80% of those in need of antiretrovirals by 2011.

Government will introduce a National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme in a phased manner. To initiate the NHI, the urgent rehabilitation of public hospitals will be undertaken through public-private partnerships.

The remuneration of health professionals at public hospitals is also being looked at urgently.

Did you know?

Government will introduce the Teacher Laptop Initiative starting from July 2009. Through it, government aims to ensure that by 2012, every teacher has access to a laptop computer and the Internet.

“... Since 1994 we have sought to create a united cohesive society out of our fragmented past. We are called upon to continue this mission of promoting unity in diversity and to develop a shared value system, based on the spirit of community solidarity and a caring society.”

– President Jacob Zuma, *State of the Nation Address, 3 June 2009*

“We will proceed from the understanding that human settlement is not just about building houses.

“It is about transforming our cities and towns and building cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with closer access to work and social amenities, including sports and recreation facilities.”

– President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address, 3 June 2009

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Boosting local economies

Government aims to work on the targeted renewal of rural towns, through grants such as the Neighbourhood Development Grant programme to benefit and boost the economies of marginalised rural towns.

Government has unveiled a pilot project for rural economy development in the Greater Giyani Local Municipality in Limpopo. Already, all three spheres of government are working together with the people of Giyani to help them find ways of developing their communities. Some of the projects implemented include the commercialisation of Mopani worms and oyster mushrooms and developing beekeeping skills.

Did you know?

The Neighbourhood Development Grant aims to stimulate and accelerate investment in poor, underserved communities by providing technical assistance and grant financing for municipal projects.

Creating decent human settlements

As part of social infrastructure development, government will provide suitably located and affordable housing and decent human settlements.

Government's approach is that people do not only need houses, but communities in which they have access to important facilities such as schools, sports facilities, public transport and clinics.

Agricultural reform and food security

Working together with people in the rural areas, government will ensure a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security.

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme is part of government's plans to speed up the growth

of rural areas. It essentially aims to enable people living in rural areas to use the natural resources at their disposal to become economically active.

Government will also help rural communities to produce their own food by establishing vegetable tunnels for household food production and providing relevant training to communities.

More farmers will get financial help from government through the Micro-Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa (Mafisa) scheme, for which R150 million has been allocated in 2009/10.

Dealing with climate change

Like many other countries of the world, South Africa must take urgent action to deal with the impact of environmental changes. One of the areas of priority for government in terms of climate change is to ensure the provision of water. Government will implement the Water for Growth and Development Strategy, which will strengthen water management. It will also continue to improve our energy efficiency and reliance on renewable energy.

Did you know?

The newly named Department of Human Settlements (former Department of Housing) has made significant progress towards housing delivery by building more than 2,6 million houses for more than 14 million needy households since 1994.

The department has introduced the innovative housing delivery plan, Breaking New Ground, to eradicate informal settlements and create vibrant and sustainable settlements with amenities on well-located land.

This plan dictates that housing must be in a sustainable environment that enhances the quality of life so that communities enjoy secure tenure and can access basic services such as water, sanitation, healthcare, education and transportation.



JUSTICE, CRIME PREVENTION AND SECURITY

Transforming the criminal justice system

Government will continue to transform the criminal justice system into an integrated, modernised and properly-resourced and well-managed institution.

It will continue to work towards the enhancement of judicial independence, entrenching internal systems of judicial accountability as well as ensuring full access to justice by all.

Work has started to improve the efficiency of the courts and the performance of prosecutors and to enhance detective, forensic and intelligence services. Government aims to ensure that the number of prosecutors and Legal Aid Board personnel, as well as police detectives, is increased.

Fighting crime

Government is committed to contribute to the reduction of serious and violent crimes by the set target of 7% to 10% per year.

The most serious attention will also be given to combating organised crime, as well as crimes against women and children.

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. Government is also working with communities through campaigns like Against Crime Together (ACT), ACT against crime by calling 08600 10111.

Government will also start the process of setting up a Border Management Agency, intensify its efforts against cyber crime and identity theft and improve systems in jails to reduce repeat offending.

Did you know?

- The South African Police Service (SAPS) will spend R640 million on the deployment of 41 000 officers for the 2010 World Cup. This includes 31 000 permanent members and 10 000 police reservists.
- 120 SAPS members will go through an intensive train-the-trainer crowd-control management programme presented by the French National Police Force. These members will train 9 000 of their colleagues in crowd-control management and in the use of new specialised body armour.
- The number of police reservists will be doubled from 55 000 members to 100 000, meaning that by 2010, South Africa will have a significantly larger and better-capacitated police service. Some R665 million will be spent on buying special equipment, including crowd-control equipment, command vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, six Robinson R44 Raven II helicopters, specialised body armour, high-tech bomb-disabling equipment and 300 mobile cameras.
- South Africa will have police stations dedicated to the 2010 World Cup close to each of the stadiums, as well as dedicated crime-investigation teams and special courts to investigate and deal with event-related crime 24/7. A 24-hour multi-lingual hotline will assist visitors requiring police or medical services.

“Together we must do more to fight crime ... Let me emphasise that we all have a role to play in this war against crime ...

“We must actively participate in community policing forums. We must stop buying stolen goods, which encourages crime.

“We must report crime and assist the police with information to catch wrongdoers. In this way, we will move forward towards a crime-free society.”

– President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address, 3 June 2009

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Building a responsive public service

Government will insist on putting people first in service delivery. We will ensure courteous and efficient service from front-counter staff in the provision of services in all government departments. The vision is to move towards a more interactive government in the spirit of "Batho Pele" or "People First".

The Presidency will spearhead the effort to open the lines of communication with all South Africans by establishing public liaison capacity.

To ensure that all three spheres of government – local, provincial and national – improve service delivery, government will speed up the establishment of a Single Public Service. The aim of creating a Single Public Service is to standardise the conditions of service across government, so that government is able to work better. It will promote access to services and assist in instilling an ethos of people-centred service. It will make it easier for government to offer a range of services at a single access point.

"To be treated with respect and dignity by one's fellow citizens, and by those who have the responsibility of providing a public service, is important for the recovery of our humanity."

– Reply to the Debate of the State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma, 9 June 2009

Fighting corruption in government

Government is committed to rooting out corruption and criminal activities within the public sector. This includes addressing corruption and fraud in procurement and tender processes, application for drivers' licences, social grants, IDs, and the theft of police case docketts.

Did you know?

To report suspects of criminal or corrupt activity in the Public Service, call the toll-free hotline on 0800 701 701.

Strengthening governance

To strengthen strategic planning and to monitor and evaluate the performance of government, two ministries have been established in The Presidency.

All Cabinet ministers will be held accountable through performance instruments, using established targets and output measures, starting in July 2009.

Government will also involve state-owned enterprises and development finance institutions in the government planning processes and improve the monitoring and evaluation of their performance.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, TRADE AND SECURITY

A better Africa and a better world

Government will continue to build relations on the continent and internationally in the interest of boosting our economic growth and development.

Some of the main elements of government's approach to foreign relations are to:

- Continue to prioritise the African continent by strengthening the African Union (AU) and its structures and give special focus to the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
- Strengthen regional integration with particular emphasis on improving the political and economic integration of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Government will establish a South African Development Partnership Agency to promote developmental partnerships with other countries on the continent.
- Continue to assist in the reconstruction and development of the African continent, especially in post-conflict situations. We will continue to encourage a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Support the peace efforts of the AU and the United Nations on the African continent, including in the Saharawi Arab Republic and Darfur in Sudan.
- Participate in peace-keeping and negotiation efforts, as the chairperson of the SADC, in Zimbabwe and Madagascar.
- Work towards the entrenchment of democracy and the respect for human rights on the African continent.
- Contribute to the strengthening of South-South relations and pursue mutually beneficial agreements with key countries of the South.
- Enhance relations with the developed North, including the G8 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and our strategic partnership with the European Union.
- Continue to play an active role in ensuring the conclusion of the World Trade Organisation Doha Development round of negotiations.

“We have committed ourselves over the years to contribute to building a better Africa and a better world.”

– President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address, 3 June 2009

