



OFFICIAL GUIDE TO South Africa 2020/21



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





OFFICIAL GUIDE TO South Africa 2020/21

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THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' i Afrika
 (God bless Africa)
 Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
 (Raise high her glory)
 Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
 (Hear our prayers)
 Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.
 (God bless us, we her children)

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
 (God protect our nation)
 O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
 (End all wars and tribulations)
 O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
 (Protect us, protect our nation)
 Setjhaba sa South Afrika – South Afrika.
 (Our nation South Africa – South Africa)

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
 (Ringing out from our blue heavens)
 Uit die diepte van ons see,
 (From the depth of our seas)
 Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
 (Over our everlasting mountains)
 Waar die kranse antwoord gee.
 (Where the echoing crags resound)

Sounds the call to come together,
 And united we shall stand,
 Let us live and strive for freedom,
 In South Africa our land.

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The editor has taken all reasonable care to ensure correctness of facts and statistics. However, any person requiring confirmation of any data in the *Official Guide to South Africa* or more detailed and specific information, should contact the relevant government institution.

Unless otherwise specified, information contained in this *Official Guide to South Africa* was the latest available as at October 2021.

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FOREWORD

The 2020/21 edition of the *Official Guide to South Africa* is published at a time when South Africa is undertaking a process of recovery and rebuilding following the devastating impact of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Government acted decisively to deal with the deadly pandemic by safeguarding lives and livelihoods. The measures taken in March 2020 helped to curb the spread of COVID-19 and allowed government enough time to intensify prevention efforts and strengthen the healthcare system to be able to respond to the anticipated increase in infection rates. Government introduced a massive social and economic relief package to mitigate the hardships caused by COVID-19 and prepare the country for the phased reopening of the economy.

As a result of the pandemic, South Africa has experienced a sharp decline in economic growth and a significant increase in unemployment. We have therefore made it a priority to accelerate the pace of our economic recovery to overcome poverty, hunger, joblessness and inequality.

The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan – which we launched in October 2020 – aims to create jobs, primarily through aggressive infrastructure investment and mass employment programmes; reindustrialise our economy, focusing on growing small businesses; accelerate economic reforms to unlock investment and growth; fight crime and corruption, and improve the capability of the State.

Operation Vulindlela, an initiative of The Presidency and National Treasury, aims to open the way for high-impact economic reforms in network industries such as energy, water, telecommunications and transport. It focuses on a number of priority reforms and seeks to ensure that they are effectively and swiftly executed.

The Infrastructure Fund, which was launched this year, has fundamentally transformed the State's approach to the financing of infrastructure projects through mobilising finance from public entities, the private sector and multilateral institutions.

The African Continental Free Trade Area, which came into operation on 1 January 2021, will ensure that South African businesses expand into markets across Africa and enable the country to position itself as a gateway to the continent. With its advanced infrastructure, diverse economy, sophisticated capital markets and developed manufacturing capacity, South Africa is the ideal location for any company wanting to reach the continental market.

As part of the recovery of our tourism sector, which was particularly hard hit by the pandemic, South Africa is introducing eVisas to visitors from 15 countries across the world.

To expand energy generation capacity, government is working with Eskom to find ways of ensuring that the utility's financial positions improves, manages its debt and reduces its dependency on the fiscus.

Government continues to intensify the fight against crime and corruption, and is strengthening the State by advancing honesty, ethics and integrity at all levels of the Public Service. The National School of Government provides ongoing training to government officials to ensure a capable state.

The signing of performance agreements between Ministers and the President is intended to enhance accountability and focused performance by members of the Executive.

To ensure that deserving students are supported to access higher education, government is implementing the policy of providing fee-free higher education.

South Africa is facing another pandemic in the form of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The National Strategic Plan on GBVF provides a framework to guide the country's response to dealing with the crisis by, among other interventions, making law-enforcement agencies more effective in combating the scourge.

This edition of the *Official Guide to South Africa* details these developments alongside many other government programmes and projects. It chronicles a year in which the country has faced unprecedented challenges, to which it has responded with determination, resourcefulness and most importantly, unity.



His Excellency Cyril M. Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
October 2021