

Foreword

Nearly three years into our Second Decade of Freedom, the prospects of halving unemployment and poverty by the end of the decade are brighter than ever.

The encouraging possibilities that were opening up before us a year ago have persisted. They have consolidated into what South Africans recognise as the beginning of their Age of Hope.

All sectors of our society are strengthening the partnerships that allowed us to overcome the obstacles to our freedom and opened the

way to the most important advances since we achieved our freedom. We are determined to build and surpass our achievements.

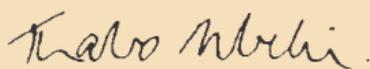
Government is giving leadership to this national effort through a detailed Programme of Action. Working with the public, with communities and with our social partners, we are doing what needs to be done for us to achieve the goals we have set ourselves as a nation. We are strengthening partnerships to effect a step change in the reduction of crime; to reverse the tide of HIV and AIDS and other diseases; and to continue pushing back the frontiers of poverty.

As South Africa prepares to host the 2010 Fifa World Cup, the Government will leave no stone unturned to ensure that everything is done to host a tournament that meets the expectations of billions of football fans across the world. We feel privileged and honoured at the confidence of Fifa and the international community in our country and our continent. Together we will ensure the resounding success of the first Fifa African World Cup.

Hosting 2010 will also lend impetus to making this a century of African growth and development and to our own initiative for accelerated and shared growth.

The *Pocket Guide to South Africa 2006/07* details our programmes and policies.

They create a framework for the national effort of government and the people of South Africa to continue and speed up the advance to a better life for all.



President Thabo Mbeki
November 2006