



***Pocket Guide to South Africa 2008/09***

Sixth edition

Published by Government Communications (GCIS)

Private Bag X745, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa

Tel: +27 12 314-2911

Fax: +27 12 323-0557

Website: [www.gcis.gov.za](http://www.gcis.gov.za)

ISBN: 978-0-621-38413-0

Managing editor: Nina Bhaktawar

Editor: Delien Burger

Assistant editors: Refilwe Thobega and Antonia Vermeulen

Editorial support: Ongezwa Manyathi and Elias Tibane

Cover design: Neville Rabie

Design and layout: Chris-Mark Prins and Rachel Molo

Picture researchers: Elizabeth Mpila and Ongezwa Manyathi

Photographs supplied by the: GCIS (Elmond Jiyane, Kendridge Mathabathe and Ntswe Makoena); Department of Science and Technology; Department of Housing; Department of Foreign Affairs; Rand Water; CSIR; Philip van Niekerk; Piet Smith, City of Cape Town; Denel; MediaClubSouthAfrica.com (Hannelie Coetzee, Roger Bosch, Graeme Williams, Chris Kirchoff, ORC, Jeffrey Barbee and Emily Visser), Gautrain and South African Airways.

Suggested reading list: Prof Reuben Musiker

Printed and bound in South Africa by Formaset Printers

The editorial staff has taken all reasonable care to ensure correctness of facts and statistics. However, any person requiring confirmation of any data in the Pocket Guide to South Africa, or more detailed and specific information, should consult the relevant department/institution. This information is also available at [www.gcis.gov.za](http://www.gcis.gov.za).

Unless otherwise specified, information contained in this Pocket Guide was the latest available as at October 2008.



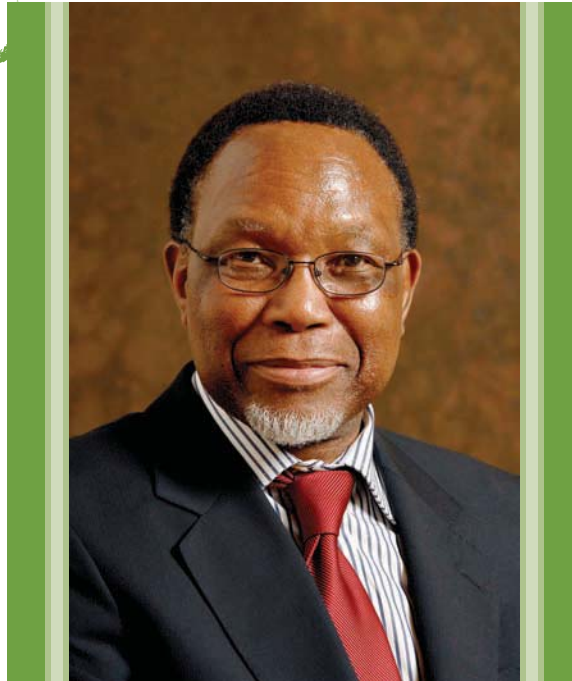


Pocket Guide to South Africa 2008/09

## FOREWORD

### Contents

Foreword by President Kgalema Motlanthe	iii
South Africa at a glance	V
South Africa today	1
History	19
South Africa's people	27
Government	33
Provinces	47
Economy	63
Finances	79
Doing business in South Africa	89
Foreign affairs	99
Communications	111
Transport	123
Agriculture, forestry and land	135
Minerals and mining	147
Energy and water	157
Education	169
Science and technology	177
Housing	189
Safety, security and defence	197
Justice and correctional services	209
Social development	221
Environment	229
Arts and culture	243
Tourism	255
Health	275
Sport and recreation	285
Reading lists	301



I am proud to present to you the *Pocket Guide to South Africa 2008/09*. As the official resource on the work of government, this publication provides a comprehensive account of the programmes and policies of our government and highlights the areas of progress we have made, particularly during 2008.

I believe that this publication plays an important role in capturing the evolution of our government and our country. It is updated every year to record as accurately as possible the countless efforts of all government departments that give life to our Programme of Action, shape the lives of millions of South Africans and influence our standing in the international community.





Pocket Guide to South Africa 2008/09

## FOREWORD

In 2008, government undertook a *15 Year Review* to take stock of the progress it had made in improving the quality of life of all South Africans. The review, based on both external and government-based research, indicated that overall, government has made definite strides towards meeting its broad development objectives. Major progress was noted in key areas such as access to basic services like water, electricity, housing, social support and healthcare. At the same time, the review also indicated areas that require further intervention. Government acknowledges that much more can and must be done, and that new challenges have arisen that our country needs to respond to from 2009 onward.

The experiences of 2008, specifically the demands placed on us by challenges in both the local and international environment and our resilience in responding to them, attest to the fact that we have laid solid foundations for our democracy since 1994. We have also continued to show our consistency and commitment to making real the aspirations of our country and our continent to host a successful Soccer World Cup in 2010, ensuring that the various projects of government in this regard are on track.

In this edition of the *Pocket Guide to South Africa*, not only do we offer the scope of government's implementation but also a reflection on the progress we have made in creating a better life for our people. On the eve of our country's fourth general election — and halfway through the Second Decade of Freedom — the content of this edition of the *Pocket Guide to South Africa 2008/09* therefore takes on even greater significance. It is an account of the journey we have travelled over the past 14 years of democracy. In this sense, it is both a beacon of hope, a testimony of the change we have created together, as much as it is a barometer that reminds us that much more remains to be done.

President Kgalema Motlanthe  
January 2009