

*Pocket Guide to*  
**SOUTH  
AFRICA**  

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**2012/13**



*Pocket Guide to South Africa 2012/13*

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## FOREWORD

The *The Pocket Guide to South Africa 2012/13* provides an overview of 2012/13 as a special period for South Africa in which we celebrated, among many milestones, the 16th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic, which gives full expression to our democratic ideals.

As President of the Republic, I declared 2012 the year of construction by launching a major national infrastructure development programme to boost the level of our economy and create jobs.

By developing the economy and creating opportunities for all South Africans, we are giving effect to the Constitutional imperative of creating a non-racist, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa.

This *Pocket Guide* contains concise information on South Africa's infrastructure programme, which is driven and overseen by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC). The PICC brings together ministers, premiers and metro mayors under the leadership of the President and the Deputy President.

Government has identified critical social infrastructure projects to lay the basis for the National Health Insurance (NHI) system, such as the refurbishment of health infrastructure.

## FOREWORD

As part of our infrastructure drive, R300 million has been allocated for preparatory work on two new universities in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape respectively. It is not every day that a country undertakes an investment on this scale in developing its human capital. Therefore, this investment demonstrates our commitment to developing the human potential of all South Africans.

The massive investment in infrastructure must leave more than just power stations, railway lines, dams and roads. It must also industrialise the country, generate and develop skills, and boost much needed job creation projects.

This large-scale reshaping of our physical and social environments is informed and coordinated by the National Planning Commission's National Development Plan (NDP), which the country adopted formally in August 2012.

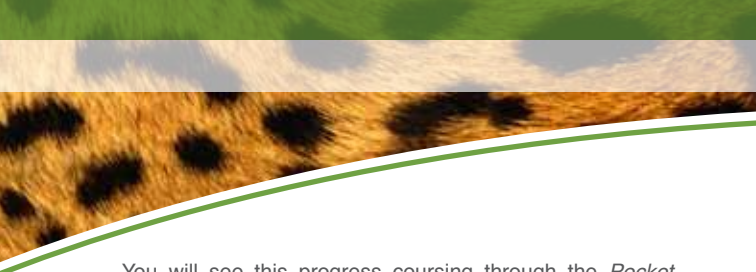
The NDP creates a vision of a very different, more developed, more efficient and more equal South Africa in the year 2030. The plan offers a long-term perspective, defines a desired destination and identifies the role different sectors of society need to play in reaching that goal.

Fundamentally, it aims to ensure that all South Africans attain a decent standard of living through the elimination of poverty and reduction of inequality.

2012/13 was a year of challenge and achievement in all sectors of South Africa, influenced in large measure by the continuing setbacks in the global economic situation and conditions of underdevelopment in many parts of our society and economy.

It was a momentous year in which we were both inspired and challenged by the results of *Census 2011*, which outlined the progress made in key areas of our development as a nation and the problems that continue to face millions of South Africans.

It is indisputable from the census's results that South Africa is a much better place, both for its own people and as part of the African continent and global community, than it was back in 1994.



You will see this progress coursing through the *Pocket Guide to South Africa 2012/13*, which is developed annually by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

The publication outlines, among other things, progress made in our key priority areas, namely: education, health, rural development and land reform, the fight against crime and creating decent work, infrastructure development, strengthening local government and increasing access to basic services.

As we get closer to celebrating 20 years of freedom, we remain committed to delivering in all our key priority areas. As government, we know that our success will be measured by how we intensify efforts in all these areas to improve the lives of our people. As South Africans, we should continue to have one primary goal – to make our country a truly great and prosperous nation.

I trust that this publication will not only leave you better informed, but that it will leave you inspired to help build a peaceful, prosperous South Africa in the spirit of working together.



Jacob Zuma  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
May 2013

