



OFFICIAL GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA 2019/20

FOREWORD

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.

Official Guide to South Africa 2019/20

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Unless otherwise specified, information contained in this *Official Guide to South Africa* was the latest available as at October 2020.

Visit www.gov.za for additional information.

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FOREWORD

The *Official Guide to South Africa 2019/20* documents a year of progress across society. At the same time, it will forever be defined by the severe disruption to lives and livelihoods caused by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

This edition of our annual *Official Guide to South Africa* is published amid the global struggle against COVID-19. In South Africa, the last few months of the financial year centred on the management of the pandemic in partnership with civil society and with our partners in Africa and across the globe.

Until the identification of the first COVID-19 case in South Africa in March 2020, government was making steady progress in concerted efforts to tackle the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The pandemic has affected our growth trajectory and implementation of far-reaching programmes to improve the lives of South Africans. In its wake, the virus has left a damaged economy, a sudden loss of income for individuals and businesses and a country that has to engage with the world outside in new and different ways.

However, as with all crises, COVID-19 has compelled us to revisit our plans for revitalising the economy and making our economy more inclusive and equitable.

This crisis has also sparked innovation and adaptation in many areas, and the adaptability and flexibility demonstrated by our nation during this time bodes well for the tasks that we must now undertake.

One of the key developments in our quest for inclusive growth was the appointment in October 2019 of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council, tasked with ensuring greater coherence and consistency in the implementation of economic policies that spur inclusive growth.

The expertise of the Council members is an even more critical asset to our country in the midst of COVID-19.

This *Official Guide to South Africa* reminds us of the vital interventions we took in the year under review to support Early Childhood Development, which is globally recognised as the most powerful investment in human capital that a country can make.

To strengthen the ongoing fight against gender-based violence and femicide, women's rights and gender power relations will be part of Life Orientation in the school curriculum. Necessary amendments are being made to laws and policies to ensure that perpetrators of gender-based violence are brought to book.

During South Africa's Chairship of the African Union in 2020, we have prioritised gender empowerment and protecting and promoting the rights of adolescent girls and young women on the African continent.

Back home, the District Development Model was introduced to build a coherent and coordinated state, and improve integrated planning across government. In each of the 44 districts and eight metropolitan areas, the District Development Model involves all social partners, including business, civil society, faith-based communities and traditional leaders, in the approach of One District, One Plan.

Government recognises the important role played by traditional leadership in mobilising our people behind a common vision of freedom, equality and justice. As part of efforts to address the challenges of landlessness, poverty and inequality, it is fast-tracking the process of land reform.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have cast a heavy shadow over our efforts to grow South Africa, but this crisis has changed the way we approach the health and well-being of our nation, the way we treat our environment, and how we relate to each other.

Our continued fight against the virus, South Africa's own contribution to the global search for a vaccine, the solidarity and cooperation we have deepened with states across our continent and the regard the world has expressed for our efforts to fight the virus, will ensure that the new normal will also be a better normal.

That requires us to build on the many achievements recorded in this publication, which I am proud to commend to you.



His Excellency Cyril M. Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
October 2020