

Official Guide to South Africa

2017/18



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Fifteenth (15th) edition

Compiled, edited and published by:
Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)
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Images supplied by: GCIS

Design and layout: Rachel Sekhu

ISBN: 978-0-620-79163-2

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Unless otherwise specified, information contained in this *Official Guide to South Africa* was the latest available as at October 2018.

Contents

- Foreword by President Cyril Ramaphosa
- South Africa at a glance
- History
- South Africa's people
- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Arts and culture
- Communications
- Economy and finance
- Education
- Energy and water
- Environment
- Government
- Health
- Human settlements
- International relations
- Justice and correctional services
- Mineral resources
- Police and defence
- Provinces
- Rural development
- Science and technology
- Social development
- Sport and recreation
- Tourism
- Transport
- Reference list





Foreword

This edition of the *Official Guide to South Africa 2017/18* coincides with the period of renewal, revival and optimism in our country. The invigorating “Send Me – Thuma Mina” clarion call challenges all South Africans to make a meaningful contribution towards the creation of a transformed and prosperous society with a diverse and inclusive economy, as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030.

Despite sporadic incidences of racism, most patriotic South Africans are committed to upholding social cohesion and nation-building to create a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous country. In its relentless pursuit to ensure a better life for all South Africans, government is making a concerted effort to tackle poverty and

inequality by growing the economy and creating much-needed jobs.

As a secure, technologically advanced and attractive investment destination, South Africa is open for business. Government has introduced a number of enterprising initiatives to create a conducive environment to do business without hindrances. Agriculture and mining are some of the sectors which contribute to the economic growth and development of the country.

The NDP recognises tourism, which contributes about 9% to our gross domestic product and employs over 1,6 million people across the value chain, as one of the industries essential for economic growth and job creation.

As part of addressing the imbalances and injustices of the past, government will forge ahead with the orderly expropriation of land without compensation as a fundamental process to accelerate land redistribution and restore the dignity of the historically dispossessed people.

On the other hand, radical economic transformation will ensure the attainment of significant economic freedom by, among other things, accelerating shared and inclusive economic growth and transforming the ownership of business enterprises.

Government is determined to advance the socio-economic well-being of youth through various empowerment programmes such as the National Youth Service, which seeks to develop the abilities of young people through active service and learning.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 states that every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation. Law-enforcement agencies have adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards acts of women and child abuse to ensure that these vulnerable members of our society are and always feel safe.

Government aims to intensify efforts to improve the health of our people, particularly in the context of the devastating impact of the AIDS pandemic and other diseases such as tuberculosis,

cancer and diabetes. Of the estimated 7,1 million people living with HIV in South Africa, more than 4,2 million of them are on antiretroviral treatment, which makes it the world's biggest treatment programme.

On environmental matters, South Africa has a number of measures in place to tackle marine pollution, which threatens our fragile ecosystems. South Africa continues to sustain and deepen international and regional relations to promote peace, security, stability, economic cooperation and integration.

As an active member of the global community, the country plays active roles within various multilateral forums.

Through the National Anti-Corruption Hotline (0800 701 701), which continues to make remarkable progress in uncovering corruption in the Public Service, government aims to ensure clean, effective and efficient governance. All senior managers in the Public Service are expected to disclose all their financial interests by 30 April of each year. One of the priorities of government is to create a strong and capable state that provides quality services such as houses, safety and security, water, education and healthcare to our people.

Following the Year of Oliver Reginald Tambo in 2017, South Africa commemorates the centenary of two other liberation struggle icons, former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu in 2018.

Both Tata Mandela and Mama Sisulu dedicated their lives to securing better socio-economic and political conditions in South Africa. In honour of their legacy, all South Africans should strive to promote nation-building and a socially cohesive society.

The *Official Guide to South Africa* serves to highlight government's major achievements and future plans, particularly the cherished endeavour to address the triple challenge of inequality, poverty and unemployment.



His Excellency Cyril M. Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
October 2018