



This edition of the *South Africa Yearbook 2014/15* bears testimony to some of the notable achievements of our democratic country.

Not only does it highlight the progress made over the past year by the various government departments and entities, but it also chronicles some of the tangible milestones.

Government continues to deal decisively with the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment. It has implemented far-reaching measures to improve the lives of the people.

At the same time, we are resolute in our endeavour to foster nation-building and social cohesion, which serve as the foundations of building a united, non-sexist and non-racial society.

South Africa celebrated 20 Years of Freedom with pomp and ceremony in 2014, which coincided with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Women's Charter. This historic occasion preceded the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter in 2015.

Another milestone was the successful national elections in May 2014, which ushered in the fifth administration.

After South Africa attained freedom in 1994, the democratic government identified infrastructure development as one of its key job drivers.

This involved multibillion-rand projects to refurbish and build schools, clinics, hospitals and power stations, as well as improve rail, roads and broadband infrastructure, which all form part of the country's developmental agenda.

Other job-intensive projects that contribute to boosting economic growth include tourism, manufacturing, mining and beneficiation.

Our health system continues to respond favourably to the medical needs of the people of our country, especially the poor, with life

expectancy increasing and HIV-infection rates being reduced considerably.

Our meaningful contribution to peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation in Africa and the rest of the world has distinguished our country as a key role player in promoting socio-economic and political stability as a catalyst for development.

As a peace-loving nation, we have for many years been living together in peace and harmony with foreign nationals, hence government fosters an inclusive society.

Government has also given prominence to the rights of the most vulnerable – the elderly, women and children. The total emancipation of women, who were previously discriminated against by both the apartheid government and a patriarchal society, is fast gaining momentum.

Meanwhile, as the country prepares to hold the local government elections in 2016, our democracy is being taken another step forward towards strengthening the mandate and capacity of our municipalities to provide better services to our people.

This edition of the *South Africa Yearbook* will undoubtedly serve as a formal source of reference to the progress that government has achieved in the past year.

It tells a good story of the individual and collective effort being made to move South Africa forward.

His Excellency Jacob G. Zuma
President of the Republic of South Africa
October 2015



Credits



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