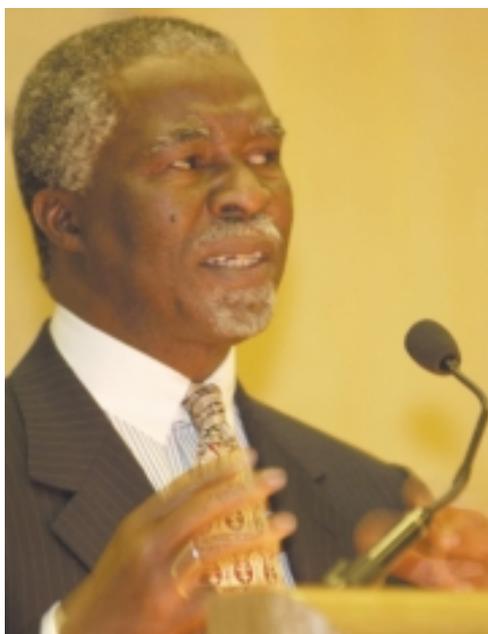


**SOUTH  
AFRICA  
YEARBOOK  
2002/03**

## Foreword



Since South Africa achieved democracy in 1994, our country has made formidable progress in creating a better life for all its citizens.

Because of people lending a hand in the national effort to improve the lives of all, and government programmes that put people first, almost every aspect of life has been touched by the changes.

The progress we are making feeds the hope and confidence which South Africans, like the peoples of the world, feel about our future as a country. They are determined to see our country progress, overcoming the legacy of our divided past.

The Government is resolved to sustain this confidence and hope. Its current programme builds on the foundations that have already been laid, informed by the broad objectives of reconstruction and development.

This *Yearbook* details the elements of an integrated and comprehensive programme, the principal objective of which is to push back the frontiers of poverty. What we have achieved so far gives us the ingredients for faster progress on all fronts.

Better integrated planning and implementation; a comprehensive approach to poverty eradication; economic interventions that build on the macro-economic stability which we have achieved to speed up investment and job-creation; priority for human resource development and improving the nation's health; and progress in the fight against crime – together these and other programmes are changing South Africa day by day.

Because growth and development in South Africa are intimately linked to that of the rest of the continent, the success of the African Union (AU) and its socio-economic programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, is of profound interest and importance to us. We were therefore greatly honoured to host the inaugural meeting of the AU in July 2002.

We are proud, too, to have successfully hosted the World Summit on Sustainable Development, one of the largest gatherings of the United Nations and the world's peoples.

Such events, like all engagements in regional, continental and global affairs, have as their objective the creation of an environment more favourable to development and the eradication of poverty, in our country and beyond. In this regard too the conditions for more rapid progress exist.

While we celebrate progress across all these fronts, we are under no illusion that the challenges are massive. And we do acknowledge that the enterprise of fundamental change is itself a learning experience for all South Africans.

The *South Africa Yearbook 2002/03* reflects the efforts and the determination of government and all South Africans to build a better life for all.

*Thabo Mbeki.*

President Thabo Mbeki  
November 2002

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