

**SOUTH  
AFRICA  
YEARBOOK  
2004/05**



# Foreword

This past year has been a time for South Africa and its friends across the world to celebrate the progress that freedom has brought and to prepare to quicken the pace of change during the Second Decade of Freedom.

The Government and people of South Africa are united as never before in their commitment to achieving a better life for all.

In our third democratic election the South African electorate gave an overwhelming mandate to a Programme of action that will build on progress achieved in order to move our country further and faster towards the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment, towards an inclusive society and towards the regeneration of Africa.

South Africa will also work to help bring about a world order that is more equitable and responsive to the needs of the poor of the world and which will respond to the political, economic, social and technological challenges of globalisation.

As we seek to do these things, we will draw on the lessons of the past 10 years, taking cognisance of the shortcomings and of the

understanding we have gained of the social dynamics of a country in transition.

The *South Africa Yearbook 2004/05* details the work of the democratic Government of South Africa in partnership with the people of this land. It identifies key areas for improvement and the steps being taken to that end. It explains the Programme of Action to sustain and speed up progress towards the kind of society whose vision inspired South Africans and their supporters in the victorious struggle to end Apartheid. The *Yearbook* conveys the immense resources of our country and the potential still to be tapped.

In these pages, readers will gain insight into the practicalities of a nation that has got down to work in a people's contract to build a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world.



**President Thabo Mbeki**  
**November 2004**

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# Contents



## Chapter 1

The land and its people	1-25
The people	1-5
Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities	5
Religion	5-7
The land	7-9
The provinces	9-25

## Chapter 2

History	29-45
The early inhabitants	29-31
The early colonial period	31-32
The British colonial era	32-34
The mineral revolution	34-35
The Anglo-Boer/South African War (October 1899-May 1902) and its aftermath	35-36
Segregation	36-38
Apartheid	38-39
The end of Apartheid	39-42
The first decade of freedom	42-45

## Chapter 3

Overview	49-68
Introduction	49
Governance and Administration Cluster	50-53
Social Cluster	53-56
Economic Cluster	56-59
Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster	59-62
International Relations, Peace and Security (IRPS) Cluster	62-65
Key findings and lessons of the First Decade of Freedom	65-67
Challenges and opportunities in the Second Decade of Freedom	67-68

## Chapter 4

Agriculture and land affairs	69-98
Agricultural Sector Plan	69-70
Agricultural economy	70-71
Genetically Modified Organisms	71-72
Sustainable resource management and use	72-73
Production	73-79
Veterinary services	79-80
Pest control	80-81
Marketing	81-82
Land administration	82
Food security	82-84
Risk management	84
Credit and assistance	84-89
Training and research	89
Trade relations	89-91
Import and export control	91-93
Land affairs	93-98

## Chapter 5

Arts and culture	101-121
Funding	101
National symbols	102-103
Arts and culture organisations	103-108
Arts and culture initiatives	108-109
Education and training	109
Cultural tourism	109-110
The Cultural Industries Growth Strategy	110
International relations	110
Arts festivals	110-111
Theatre	111
Music	111-112
Dance	112-113
Visual arts	113
Photography	113
Architecture	113-114
Rock art	114
Crafts	114-115
Design	115

Literature	115
Film	115-117
Museums	117-120
Archives and heraldry	120-121

## Chapter 6

### Communications 125-150

Policy	125-127
Telecommunications	127-133
Postal sector	133-136
Media	136-150

## Chapter 7

### Economy 153-190

Domestic output	153-155
Domestic expenditure	155-157
Price inflation	157
Exchange rates	157-158
Foreign trade and payments	158-159
Department of Trade and Industry	159-161
Trade relations	161-168
Enterprise and industry development	168-172
Manufacturing	172
Competition policy	172-173
Small, medium and micro-enterprises	173-176
Restructuring of state assets	176-178
Consumer and corporate regulation	178
Public works programmes	178-181
Black economic empowerment	181-182
Employment and skills development	182-187
Labour relations	187-190

## Chapter 8

### Education 195-216

Education structures	196-199
Statutory bodies	199-201
Financing education	201-202
Education policy	202-212
The School Register of Needs	212
Human Resource Development Strategy	212
HIV and AIDS	213
Partnerships, international relations and funding	213-214
Library and information services (LIS) sector	214-216

## Chapter 9

### Environmental management 219-249

State of the environment	221-222
Biological diversity	222-226
Preserving biodiversity	226-230
Botanical gardens	230-232
Zoological gardens	232
Breeding centres	232-233
Aquaria	233
Snake parks	233
Marine resources	233-240
Conservation challenges	240-246
International co-operation	246-249
Private-sector involvement	249

## Chapter 10

### Finance 253-283

Fiscal policy framework	254-256
Debt management	256-257
Legislation	257-259
Financial Services Sector Charter	259
State expenditure	259-261
South Africa's anti money-laundering system	261
Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC)	261-262
Budget Council	262
Public Investment Commissioners (PIC)	262
Macro-economic strategy	262-263
South African Revenue Services (SARS)	263-267
Gambling and lotteries	267-268
Auditor-General	268-269
Financial sector	269-271
Monetary policy	271-272
Financial Services Board	272
The banking industry	272-273
The microlending industry	273-274
Insurance companies	274
Other financial institutions	274-277
Financial markets	277-279
Money-market activity	279
Exchange control	279-281
JSE Securities Exchange	281-282
Bond Exchange of South Africa	282-283
STRATE Limited	283

## Chapter 11

### Foreign relations 285-311

South Africa and Africa	285-300
Relations with Asia and the Middle East	300-305
Relations with the Americas	305-306
Relations with Europe	307-309
Multilateral diplomacy	309-311

## Chapter 12

### Government system 313-339

The Constitution	313-314
Government	314-324
Government and communication	324-325
International Marketing Council (IMC)	325
Co-operative governance	326
Elections	326-327
Disaster management	327
The Public Service	327-336
Home Affairs	336-339

## Chapter 13

### Health 343-366

Statutory bodies	343
Health authorities	343-345
Health policy	345-348
Funding	348
Health team	348-353
Costs and medical schemes	353-354
Community health	354-365
Integrated Nutrition Programme and food security	365-366

## Chapter 14

### Housing 369-382

Legislation and policy	371-373
Funding	373
Capacity-building	373-375
Housing institutions	376-380
Urban renewal	380-381
Settlement policy and urban development	381-382

## Chapter 15

### Justice and correctional services 383-416

Administration of justice	383-390
Human rights	390
Crime prevention	390
Integrated Justice System	390-393
Legislation	393-396
Court and other legal structures	396-404
International affairs	404-405
Correctional services	405-416

## Chapter 16

### Minerals, energy and geology 419-447

Policy	419-423
Black Economic Empowerment	423
Mining industry	424-426
Chamber of Mines	426-427
Junior and small-scale mining	427
Mineral wealth	427-429
Energy	429-435
Gas	435-436
Electricity	436-440
Biomass	440
Renewables	440-444
Geology	445-447

## Chapter 17

### Safety, security and defence 449-476

Safety and security	449-452
South African Police Service	452-460
Defence	460-470
Armaments	470-474
Intelligence services	474-476

## Chapter 18

### Science and technology 479-506

Policy and funding	479-484
International science and technology co-operation	484-485
Science councils	485-500
Other scientific and research	

organisations and structures	500-501
General research areas	501-504
Private-sector involvement	504-506

## Chapter 19

<b>Social development</b>	<b>507-517</b>
---------------------------	----------------

Legislation	508-510
Social assistance	510-511
Poverty-Relief Programme	511-512
Responding to the impact of HIV and AIDS	512-513
Promoting and protecting rights of vulnerable groups	513-515
Victim-Empowerment Programme (VEP)	515-516
Non-profit organisations	516
Statutory bodies	516-517

## Chapter 20

<b>Sport and recreation</b>	<b>519-533</b>
-----------------------------	----------------

Sports Tourism Project	521
Young Champions Project	521
South African Sports Commission	522-525
Transformation in sport	525-526
Ministerial Task Team into High-Performance Sport	526
Sporting accolades	526-527
Sports organisations	527-530
Recreation	530
2004 sports highlights	531-532
2004 Olympic Games	532-533
2004 Paralympic Games	533

## Chapter 21

<b>Tourism</b>	<b>535-568</b>
----------------	----------------

Tourism policy	536-541
Hints for the tourist	541-542
Tourism in the provinces	542-568

## Chapter 22

<b>Transport</b>	<b>571-595</b>
------------------	----------------

Policy	571-574
Agencies	574-575
Transnet Limited	575
Road transport	575-577

Public transport	577-584
Rail transport	584-588
Civil aviation	588-591
Ports	591-593
Pipelines	593-594
Maritime affairs	594-595

## Chapter 23

<b>Water affairs and forestry</b>	<b>597-616</b>
-----------------------------------	----------------

Hydrological conditions	597-600
Water-resource management, development and water services	600-601
Funding	601-602
Water for All	602
Policy and legislation	602-605
Water-resource management	605-609
Regional and international co-operation and initiatives	609
Forestry	609-616

<b>Addendum</b>	<b>619</b>
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<b>Index</b>	<b>648</b>
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