



SA YEARBOOK 2009/10  
**FOREWORD**

It is an honour for me to present to you the *South Africa Yearbook 2009/10*, especially as we prepare to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. Years of planning and countless hours of hard work and commitment will be rewarded when we welcome the people of the world for this prestigious tournament.

At the same time, we know that the massive investment made by our country into this tournament – the world-class stadia, infrastructure and other developments – are boosting our efforts to improve the lives of all South Africans. There can be no doubt that 2010 brings with it strong testimony of our growth since 1994, giving life to our clarion call that “working together we can do more”.

In 2009, the people once again confirmed their commitment to a free and democratic South Africa. In April, millions of South Africans went out to cast their votes, participating in the country's fourth general election. The main focus of government over the next five years will be on creating decent work, education, health, rural development and the fight against crime.

The new administration that took shape following the elections has reorganised the structure and scope of government to achieve better alignment with the developmental challenges that need to be addressed in the country. The focus is on creating a state machinery that is more efficient and service-oriented and which will enable the achievement of visible and tangible socio-economic development within the next five years.

Notwithstanding the impact of the global economic slowdown, government remains steadfast in its commitment to build on the achievements of the first 15 years of democracy and to intensify its developmental agenda, in partnership with all sectors of society.

This edition of the *South Africa Yearbook* captures the essence of many of the fundamental developments in the history of our country over the past year. It gives an account of the programmes and policies of the South African Government and showcases the progress we have made together as a nation.

*The South Africa Yearbook* endeavours to be a factual and comprehensive information resource. As we reflect on the strides of 2009, there is still much more that needs to be done. I am confident that we can, and will, work towards achieving our vision of a better and more prosperous nation in 2010.



Jacob Zuma  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
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