



**SOUTH AFRICA  
YEARBOOK  
2023/24**



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





# SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2023/24

## FOREWORD



The Government of South Africa remains firmly focused on reducing poverty, inequality and unemployment by 2030. To do this, government has been working to attract greater levels of investment, accelerate inclusive economic growth and create employment opportunities, particularly for women and young people.

The African Continental Free Trade Area is making a significant contribution towards African economic integration and has the potential to boost development over the next decade. Promoting the movement of goods, services, people and capital across Africa is vital to the continent's future growth and prosperity.

As the South Africa Yearbook (SAYB) 2023/24 details, the country has been struck by severe weather events caused by climate change, resulting in devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and other parts of South Africa. The country has therefore put in place programmes to mitigate the effects of climate change, including the expanded Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme, biodiversity and conservation management, air quality management, as well as successful natural resource management programmes such as Working on Fire, Working for the Coast and Working for Water.

South Africa's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan 2023-2027, outlines the country's strategy to reduce carbon emissions in the energy sector, which is the largest contributor towards South Africa's total greenhouse gas emissions. The investment plan focuses on investment in electricity infrastructure, new energy vehicles, green hydrogen, skills development and municipal electricity distribution.

As it prepares for the future, the country has been focused on developing the capabilities of its people. Government is determined to achieve the constitutionally guaranteed right to quality education. Since the formative years are critical to laying a strong foundation for our children's education, we are intensifying efforts to improve access to and quality of early childhood development. We are also working to improve literacy and numeracy skills across all phases of schooling.

One of the milestones in South Africa's ongoing quest for a more just society, was the signing into law of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Act in May 2024. Since the provision of healthcare in this country has been historically fragmented and unsustainable, the NHI Act aims to progressively realise equitable access to healthcare services for all its citizens, regardless of their social and economic circumstances.

Corruption robs South Africans of resources that should be used to improve the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. Government has taken decisive steps to expose and prosecute corrupt activities in the public and private sectors, and restore a professional and effective public service.

The National Prosecuting Authority's Investigating Directorate Against Corruption was established to prosecute state capture crimes and other significant corruption cases. Through new legislation, government has strengthened South Africa's ability to prevent money laundering and fraud.

Government continues to intensify its fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) by implementing the National Strategic Plan on GBVF. This is a society-wide strategy to end all forms of

violence and abuse against women and children. Progress has been made in strengthening the response of the criminal justice system, providing support to victims and undertaking awareness programmes, particularly among young men.

The achievement of the NDP targets by 2030, requires greater investment in the social and economic infrastructure that improves the quality of citizens' lives and drives economic development.

Government has prioritised new investment in infrastructure in areas such as energy, water and sanitation, transport, digital infrastructure, human settlements, agriculture and agro-processing. It is through such labour-intensive infrastructure programmes that government aims to increase employment opportunities, particularly for women, young people and persons with disabilities.

Municipalities are being supported to ensure water, electricity and road infrastructure is being maintained and quality services are being delivered to communities. In rural areas, the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme, in collaboration with engineers from the South African National Defence Force, is providing access for many communities to services and economic opportunities.

A milestone in the promotion of the rights of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing, was the adoption of South African Sign Language as the country's twelfth official language.

Our remarkable sporting achievements in this period include the Springboks being recognised as the best rugby team in the world and the reigning World Champions, after winning the Rugby World Cup for a record four times in 1995, 2007, 2019 and 2023.

As part of celebrating 30 Years of Freedom, this edition of the SAYB highlights the country's progress in building a better life for all its people.

**Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa**  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
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