2010 has been a remarkable year for our country.

Seven years ago, when we won the rights to host the FIFA 2010 World Cup™ tournament, the task seemed too huge. Many wondered if an African country could make a success of the biggest sporting event in the world.

Despite all the doomsaying, South Africa and our home continent triumphed in 2010.

According to FIFA, more than three million spectators attended the 64 matches of the tournament. This was the third-highest aggregate attendance behind the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States, and the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

This figure excludes the millions of people who watched World Cup games at fan fests, fan parks and public viewing areas across the country, and in various cities around the world.

Government recorded that more than 1.4 million foreigners visited the country during the tournament. The systems we put in place to control the movement of people worked seamlessly and efficiently. Our stadiums were described as world-class.

South Africa has demonstrated that it has the infrastructure and capability to warrant serious investment consideration. The real pride, however, for me and for the nation, is that the World Cup tournament revealed that South Africans are capable of working together in unity.

This South Africa Yearbook 2010/11 documents countless examples of the various policies and initiatives that were undertaken by government, in partnership with the people of South Africa, not only to meet its World Cup commitments, but also to fulfil its electoral mandate and improve the lives of all South Africans in the long term.

Towards the latter objective, much effort in government during 2010 was dedicated into organising and shifting government onto a new plateau of efficiency and accountability. I believe that we have clearly identified the priorities that require our attention through the 12 outcomes:

• an improved quality of basic education
• a long and healthy life for all South Africans
• all South Africans should be safe and feel safe
• decent employment through inclusive growth
• a skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path
• an efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network
• vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities with food security for all
• sustainable human settlements and an improved quality of household life
• a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system
• environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and enhanced
• a better Africa and a better world as a result of South Africa’s contributions to global relations
• an efficient and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship.

A big part of making the outcomes a reality lies in escalating the extent to which departments are accountable for their delivery areas.

The performance monitoring and evaluation systems that have been put in place during 2010 will continue to be built upon so that the work of government towards achieving these outcomes is consistently tracked.

Through this monumental year 2010, we have created a legacy for a nation that strives, believes and rises up to any challenge, together.

I have no doubt that we will continue on this exciting journey to greater things in 2011.

Jacob Zuma
President of the Republic of South Africa
January 2011