



South Africa Yearbook 2018/19



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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FOREWORD

It is an honour to present South Africans and the international community with the official *South Africa Yearbook 2018/19*.

This volume provides inspiring reminders of and insightful data on a year marked by renewal and the collective effort of South Africans and our partners globally to move our country further forward.

Our nation dedicated 2018 to the centenary of Struggle stalwarts former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu. Our observance of this centenary year was born out of our recognition of these exceptional leaders' contribution in our past as well as our belief that the values they held dear will stand our society in good stead for centuries into the future.

Indeed, it was the values that Tata Mandela and Mama Sisulu had realised in their own lives and in the lives of the millions they led, that inspired our renewal in 2018.

Changes in the national leadership; firm actions to turn around years of corruption and flawed governance across many public institutions and our pursuit of inclusive growth made 2018 a watershed in our recent history.

Events of national importance during this year included the Presidential Health Summit which encompassed all sectors of society and the Jobs Summit where social partners adopted measures to create more jobs, prevent job losses, provide more investment in black-owned enterprises and support companies in distress.

Equally significant were the South Africa Investment Conference and an inaugural Africa Investment Forum which respectively saw South African and global enterprises commit and recommit themselves to growing our economy, and investors stepping up to reshape the fortunes of the African continent.

An economic stimulus and recovery plan containing a range of measures to ignite economic activity, restore investor confidence and create new jobs paved the way for the investment forums. The stimulus and recovery plan included measures to address challenges in education and healthcare, and improve municipal social infrastructure.

This Yearbook revisits 12 months in which South Africans from all walks of life recorded extraordinary achievements within our national borders and in the international arena.

This Yearbook should inspire all readers and users to contribute to South Africa's growth and renewal in ways that will ensure that the story we will tell in yearbooks to come will be even more inspiring and compelling.

We must be part of the change we want to see in South Africa, by uniting to build a society founded on the principles of justice, equality and prosperity for all.



Cyril Ramaphosa

Mr Cyril M. Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
July 2019

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