



2023/24

# OFFICIAL GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA



government communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2023/24

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO  
SOUTH AFRICA



Contents and  
Foreword

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' i Afrika  
(God bless Africa)  
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,  
(Raise high her glory)  
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,  
(Hear our prayers)  
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.  
(God bless us, we her children)

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,  
(God protect our nation)  
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,  
(End all wars and tribulations)  
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,  
(Protect us, protect our nation)  
Setjhaba sa South Afrika – South Afrika.  
(Our nation South Africa – South Africa)

Uit die blou van onse hemel,  
(Ringing out from our blue heavens)  
Uit die diepte van ons see,  
(From the depth of our seas)  
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,  
(Over our everlasting mountains)  
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.  
(Where the echoing crags resound)  
Sounds the call to come together,  
And united we shall stand,  
Let us live and strive for freedom,  
In South Africa our land.



*Official Guide to South Africa 2023/24*  
Twenty-first (21st) edition

Compiled, edited and published by:  
Government Communications (GCIS)  
Private Bag X745  
Pretoria, 0001

**Telephone:** 012 473 0000

**Website:** [www.gcis.gov.za](http://www.gcis.gov.za)

**ISBN:** 978-0-621-52091-0

**Editor:** Elias Tibane

**Assistant Editor:** Thato Shale

**Picture coordinator:** Busisiwe Malungwane

**Images supplied by:** GCIS Photography Unit

**Design and layout:** Rachel Sekhu

Compiled, edited and published by the GCIS

The editor has taken all reasonable care to ensure correctness of facts and statistics. However, any person requiring confirmation of any data in the *Official Guide to South Africa* or more detailed and specific information, should contact the relevant government institution.

Unless otherwise specified, information contained in this *Official Guide to South Africa* was the latest available as at December 2024.



## CONTENTS

- Foreword by President Cyril Ramaphosa
- South Africa at a Glance
- History
- People of South Africa
- Government
- The Presidency
- Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
- Communications
- Economy and Finance
- Education
- Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
- Health
- Human Settlements
- International Relations
- Justice and Correctional Services
- Mineral Resources and Energy
- Police, Defence and Intelligence
- Provinces
- Science and Innovation
- Social Development
- Sport, Arts and Culture
- Tourism
- Transport
- Water and Sanitation

## 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 *Official Guide to South Africa 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, include an expanded renewable energy 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 National Development Plan 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 12th 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 *Official Guide to South Africa* highlights the country's progress in building a better life for all its people.



**His Excellency Cyril M. Ramaphosa**  
**President of the Republic of South Africa**  
**December 2024**