



FACT SHEET: Infrastructure in Africa and South Africa

Infrastructure development is a catalyst for economic development in the continent.

- Many of the RECs have developed regional infrastructure plans to facilitate regional trade and investments. However, it is important to also invest in national infrastructure, in addition to regional infrastructure.
- Regional infrastructure can facilitate regional trade but national infrastructure will facilitate industrial production and national trade.

South Africa's infrastructure achievements over the past five years

Construction of dams

- 176 million litres of drinkable water per day was available for South Africans to consume, through new or expanded water treatment works that were completed. This is almost equal to a glass of water per day for every person in sub-Saharan Africa. The storage capacity of drinkable water increased by 39 million litres through expansion of reservoirs and tank facilities.

Road and rail infrastructure

- A major programme of construction is under way to integrate urban centres through integrated public transport systems, with funding provided through national government to metros for implementation. Rea Vaya in Johannesburg and MyCiti in Cape Town have already completed parts of their network. Already, over 100 000 people use the Rea Vaya system. Some 333 new buses were assembled locally for the new integrated transport system for Johannesburg and Cape Town. Of these, 112 also had 80% of their bus bodies made locally. Moreover, by the end of March 2014 some 20 800 new taxis had been assembled in new factories in eThekweni and Springs.

Construction of power stations to contribute to energy security

- We initiated Africa's largest green energy programme during this administration, with approval of green energy plants that will generate solar and wind energy roughly double the electricity demand of Johannesburg. In addition to conventional forms of generation, 328 megawatts of renewable energy will be brought onto the grid by March 2014 and 2460 megawatts by 2015. A treaty was signed between South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in which South Africa has an option to purchase 2 500 MW of hydro-energy from the first phase of Inga 3, a major dam on the Congo River.



**Telecommunication infrastructure**

- 37 000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable for broadband were laid. This has provided the basis for a massive expansion in the ICT sector and for significantly greater access to the Internet by millions of South Africans through fixed-line and mobile connections.

Fuel pipelines

- A new 700-kilometre fuel pipeline from Durban to Gauteng was completed. It can transport 4 billion cubic litres of petrol, diesel and jet fuel a year.

Education infrastructure

- Existing universities have added 10 700 beds to the existing stock of student accommodation, and about 500 new lecture theatres. Moreover, two new universities and 12 new campuses for Further Education and Training (FET) colleges are due for or under construction, marking the biggest post-secondary school build in the past 30 years.

Health infrastructure

- Ten new hospitals were completed, in five provinces, with 2770 patient beds.

Housing infrastructure

- One of the largest new housing projects in recent years has started outside eThekweni with the building of 482 houses in Cornubia. They form part of an eventual 24 000-house estate that will accommodate more than 100 000 people. Preliminary estimates suggest more than 630 000 houses were built over the past five years.

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