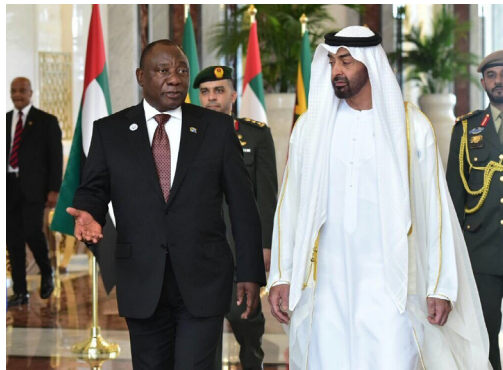


SOUTH AFRICA

BUSINESS FEATURE

September 2025



Building Bridges Across Continents

**CONNECTING AFRICA
TO THE WORLD
ONE FLIGHT AT A TIME**


SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



OVERVIEW

The G20 comes to Africa

The Redstone Solar Thermal Power Plant, located near Postmasburg. Photo: Pexels

South Africa's G20 presidency marks a historic first for the continent—and an opportunity to reshape global priorities around developmental goals, equitable financing and a future based on shared prosperity.

For the first time in history, the G20 is being hosted by an African nation. Guided by the theme 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability', South Africa's presidency ushers in a new era, placing the spotlight on Africa and the Global South. With an agenda focused on fairer development in finance, climate-aligned investment and the reform of multilateral institutions, the emphasis is on fostering cooperation that delivers results—not rhetoric. "Our G20 presidency is a valuable opportunity for South Africa to advance efforts towards greater global economic growth and sustainable development," President Cyril Ramaphosa said.

At the centre of this effort is a drive for collaboration and social cohesion, embodied by ubuntu—the

philosophy of shared humanity, often summarised as 'I am because you are.' This is reflected in the government's reform-led domestic agenda, which centres on

THE EMPHASIS IS ON FOSTERING COOPERATION THAT DELIVERS RESULTS—NOT RHETORIC.

boosting inclusive growth, tackling the cost of living and building a capable, ethical state. "To undertake this task, we need a government that works for the

people," Ramaphosa said.

On the ground, that translates into a wide-ranging investment programme covering areas including infrastructure, utilities and digital public services. This is accompanied by a broad-based reform of local government that echoes South Africa's goals to transform institutions on the international stage. In shaping an agenda that blends both domestic and global priorities, the nation is demonstrating its commitment to leading by example. "We know that our future prosperity is inextricably bound to the prosperity of the African continent," Ramaphosa said. As a continental hub for investment, trade and inclusive growth, South Africa stands ready to pave the way.

FOCUS ON THE G20

Vision in action: our statecraft, our future

Prioritising shared growth, industrial infrastructure and renewable energy, President Cyril Ramaphosa is using South Africa's G20 presidency to drive inclusive reform at home and champion African-led solutions globally.

President Cyril Ramaphosa is steering South Africa through a pivotal moment in the nation's journey. With the G20 Leaders' Summit set for Johannesburg in November, his presidency emphasises a dual focus: economic renewal at home and African-led solutions on the global stage.

Central to the domestic agenda is inclusive growth through industrialisation and infrastructure. Under the Medium-Term Development Plan, Ramaphosa highlights structural reform, job creation and poverty reduction as key goals. "We must lift economic growth to above 3%," he said in the State of the Nation Address. "To achieve higher levels of economic growth, we are undertaking massive investment in new infrastructure."



President Cyril Ramaphosa visiting the UAE.
Photo: The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa

In practice, that means over R940 billion earmarked for infrastructure projects over the next three years. This includes roads, ports, airports and waterways—revitalising logistics while improving basic services. Flagship projects like the Mtentu Bridge—set to become Africa's tallest—and the Polihali Dam symbolise this effort. Meanwhile,

ENERGY TRANSFORMATION IS A CORNERSTONE OF RAMAPHOSA'S POLICY AGENDA.

through Operation Vulindlela, the administration continues to reduce red tape and attract private investment into freight rail and energy. A new digital visa platform is also being deployed to boost tourism and signal that South Africa is open for business.

Energy transformation is a cornerstone of Ramaphosa's policy agenda. With over US\$13 billion pledged by international partners for South Africa's

energy transition, the government is scaling up renewables, reforming the electricity sector and opening transmission investment to private capital. These steps aim to eliminate load shedding, create a competitive electricity market and anchor a cleaner, more resilient grid.

Yet the strategy goes further—towards green industrialisation. South Africa is building capacity to add value to critical minerals and develop local manufacturing for clean technologies. This includes batteries, solar components and green hydrogen, positioning the country as a supplier to global energy transitions. "We are harnessing the sun and the wind to make our country a leader in renewable energy and green manufacturing," Ramaphosa said. "With an abundance of cheap, green energy, we can produce products that are competitive anywhere in the world."

Support for beneficiation in mineral production is key to South Africa's G20 agenda. The chosen theme of 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability' underscores the nation's priorities in securing investment for localised value addition in producer countries—bridging do-



"WE ARE UNDERTAKING MASSIVE INVESTMENT IN NEW INFRASTRUCTURE."

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA,
PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

mestic policy with global energy transition goals. With the African Union now a permanent G20 member, Ramaphosa is using the moment to advance renewal at home and position South Africa as a continental leader on the world stage.