

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally)

Goal 8 effectively underpins the efforts of developing countries to achieve all of the other MDGs. Implicit in this goal is an acknowledgement that significant international effort and commitment is required of both developed and developing countries if the world is to be successful in achieving the MDGs. A critical aspect of the MDGs is the recognition that governments and international development organizations share collective responsibility for their achievement. Of specific importance to Africa is Chapter VII of the Millennium Declaration, “Meeting the Special Needs of Africa” in which the United Nations effectively responded to the call of President Mbeki and other African leaders, to make the 21st century an African century. Achievement of the MDGs by Africa requires taking decisive action to substantially accelerate progress being made on the continent. Development co-operation across the wide range of priority areas addressed by the MDGs and their various targets requires an integrated, coordinated, comprehensive and balanced approach, one that is worthy of a truly global partnership for development.

This section of the report takes into account the fact that goal 8 differs from the other MDGs in several important aspects:

- It refers to the internationally agreed obligations and the potential support of external partners and donor countries, in other words, while the targets associated with goals 1 to 7 are indicative of actions required within a country, goal 8 considers progress achieved in the context of the international community;
- Many of the indicators refer specifically to the conditions in Less Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Highly Indebted Poor Countries, to which South Africa does not belong, but whose interests South Africa does strongly support;
- The goal and its targets are a composite of several crosscutting and enabling factors, each of which refers to a complex area of analysis which cannot always be neatly packaged in terms of the stated targets.

South Africa actively supports a number of advocacy and awareness-raising efforts aimed at promoting the achievement of the MDGs by developing countries, with particular emphasis on the continent of Africa. In the latter regard, South Africa has played a leading role in championing the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), which is Africa’s primary socio-economic development programme through which the MDGs are addressed. Through NEPAD, African leaders have committed themselves to consolidating

democracy and good governance and to implementing sustainable socio-economic development programmes on the African continent. Assistance and support from the donor community is important for long-term success. NEPAD adopted the MDGs as the centrepiece of the African development agenda. The UN system as a whole is mandated to co-ordinate programmes of action on the continent within the framework established by the NEPAD. At the individual country level, the MDGs also inform the framework for national policy formulation and planning. Africa's main priority remains the identification of the constraints, prospects and challenges facing the continent in meeting the MDGs, in order to accurately assess the actual human, technological and financial resources needed to reach the MDGs.

Through successive Summits, the G8 countries have committed themselves to forging a new partnership with Africa to address issues crucial to Africa's development and to promoting NEPAD in multilateral fora. South Africa has played a prominent role in helping to forge this partnership. A committee of high-level personal representatives from G8 countries has worked with the NEPAD states to develop and implement a detailed Plan of Action and address priorities for development on the continent. South Africa is actively committed to the promotion of good governance and policy development on the continent and provided technical support for the creation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which came into effect in February 2004.

In addition, South Africa is committed to the promotion and strengthening of South-South co-operation for the purposes of promoting equitable global development. South Africa is a member of the India Brazil South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA), which serves as a mechanism for political consultation and co-ordination as well as for strengthening co-operation in sectoral areas and to improve economic relations between Member States and the countries of the South. IBSA serves as an example of developing countries seeking to strengthen their co-operation across a broad range of issues that are directly relevant to goal 8, in order to promote the international development agenda. Examples in this regard include promoting and strengthening co-operation on the implementation of effective policies to fight hunger and poverty, promote food security, health, social assistance, employment, education, human rights and environmental protection. In multilateral fora, IBSA also seeks to strengthen co-operation in advocating for the removal of distortions in the current world order that are skewed against developing countries, by improving the rules of the multilateral trade system and making the international financial architecture more responsive to development. In September 2003, the Governments of India, Brazil and South Africa decided to establish an IBSA trust fund, aimed at contributing, in a concrete manner, to poverty and hunger alleviation, in a framework of improved international co-operation, including towards the implementation of the millennium development goals. The trust fund is being used to implement identified replicable and scaleable projects to be disseminated in interested developing countries as examples of best

practices in the fight against poverty and hunger, including actions in the areas of improved access to health, education, sanitation and food security. The IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation is a dedicated trust fund within UNDP.

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The prospects of developing countries for achieving the MDGs would be significantly enhanced with greater access to markets in industrial countries. South Africa is firmly committed to the pursuit of a fair, rules-based, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. This remains one of the most crucial but also most difficult of the targets to achieve in the furtherance of the international development agenda. Ensuring a successful, pro-development, and timely outcome to the Doha Round is therefore a primary responsibility of all Member States of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

One of the most significant developments in the lead-up to the 5th Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Cancun, Mexico (September 2003), was the emergence of the group of developing countries called the G-20. Led by Brazil, but also including India, China and South Africa, the group lobbied exclusively on agricultural issues, with a strong development focus that included special and differential treatment for developing countries. The G-20 also focused more on the elimination of export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support than on market access (tariff reductions). South Africa's active participation in the G-20 has been guided by, *inter alia*, the following multilateral objectives:

- Contributing to building and shaping a strong multilateral trading system;
- Seeking to make a contribution to address the challenges of development for all - in this regard the G-20 has underlined the need to effectively address development issues such as food security and rural development, erosion of preferences and the special needs of LDCs;
- Contributing to international efforts to build consensus and advance the development dimension of the Doha Development Agenda by working closely with other developing countries in the G90 – the ACP, African Group and LDCs;
- Working to find solutions that recognise the need not to distort global markets and destroy the legitimate rights of poor people in developing countries;
- Actively promoting much-needed reform of global agricultural markets.

The G-20 again played a significant role in the adoption of a framework for WTO negotiations in July 2004, which effectively put the Doha Round back on track.

South Africa has also been at the forefront of international efforts to promote much-needed reform of the international financial architecture. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have placed an increasing emphasis on the importance of democratic governance and participatory development (the involvement of all stakeholders in the development process), if developing countries want to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, it is generally acknowledged that these institutions themselves are in need of reform in the areas of representation, ownership, transparency and accountability (collectively known as the “voice and participation” debates). These reforms are necessary if the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs) want to reduce world poverty by helping poor countries to smoothly integrate into the global economy and to become more active participants in global economic decision making. The recognition has also grown that if developing countries are to contribute to international financial stability, they should be more involved in the activities of these institutions.

Given this recognition and the rising concern about the increasing disparity in voting power between developed country and developing country shareholders in the BWIs, South Africa succeeded in helping to place the issue of reform on the agendas of the Fund and Bank. This is in line with the 2002 Monterrey Consensus that stated that the IMF and World Bank should ‘continue to enhance the participation of all developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their decision-making.’ The joint IMF/World Bank Development Committee (DC) subsequently requested the Boards of the Bank and Fund to review options that could contribute to an increase in voice and participation of developing countries in their operations. Given the political nature of the required reforms, however, progress on this issue has remained slow. South Africa has continued to participate actively in meetings of the G20, which brings together twenty major players in the global financial system, both emerging and developed economies, to discuss international financial and development issues and promote the need for reform of the international financial system.

Target 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries and

Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small-island developing states

South Africa actively seeks to deepen and extend the economic linkages among African countries, within the context of ongoing efforts to shape the international development agenda. Regional integration remains a key policy focus area. This includes South Africa's participation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). Recent efforts in this regard have concentrated on efforts to operationalise a revised SACU agreement, covering management and

institutional issues, which was signed in 2002, after 8 years of negotiations. The SADC has adopted a development framework, the “Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan” (RISDP) which outlines the strategic priorities of SADC and provides a framework for the integration of the SADC economies, with the ultimate objective of fostering sustainable development.

South Africa is fully committed to the objectives of the “Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (2001-2010)” of the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) which was presented at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (UN LDC III) in Brussels in May 2001. Equally, South Africa is mindful of the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States and recognizes the need for an integrated approach to addressing regional sustainable development in this context. South Africa supports the objectives of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, arising from the International Review Meeting in Port-Louis, Mauritius, in January 2005. South Africa also recognises the particular needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries and supports the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Co-operation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.

In the above regard, several of the indicators for these two targets of goal 8 are also applicable to South Africa and are discussed together below.

An important contribution made by South Africa to peace, stability and the African Renaissance was the establishment in 2000 of the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund for the purpose of enhancement of international co-operation with and on the African Continent. The Fund is multilaterally orientated, and provides for the pro-active involvement in action-oriented programmes and projects involving organisations and parties other than the governments of countries (although not excluding the governments of countries). South Africa currently budgets R50 million per year, which is allocated to the Fund.

The broad objectives of the African Renaissance are very relevant to addressing the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states in the context of Goal 8 and, indeed, for the achievement of the other MDGs that the global partnership for development seeks to support:

- The establishment of democratic political systems in Africa that will ensure the accomplishment of the goal that the people should govern;
- Ensuring that these systems take into account African specifics so that while being truly democratic and protecting human rights they are nevertheless

designed in ways which really ensure that political and peaceful means can be used to address the conflicting interests of different social groups in each country;

- Establishing institutions and procedures which will enable the continent to deal collectively with questions of democracy, peace and stability;
- Achieving sustainable economic development that results in the continuous improvement of the standard of living and the quality of life of the masses of the people;
- Qualitatively changing Africa's place in the world economy so that it is free of the yoke of the international debt burden and no longer a supplier of raw materials and an importer of manufactured goods; and
- Ensuring the emancipation of women of Africa / even, successfully confront the scourge of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and lastly – ensure the protection of our environment.

The establishment of the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund has enabled the South African Government to identify and fund, in a proactive way:

- Co-operation between South Africa and other countries, particularly African countries;
- The promotion of democracy, good governance;
- The prevention and resolution of conflict;
- Socio-economic development and integration;
- Humanitarian assistance; and
- Human resource development.

Target 15: Deal comprehensively with debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long run

South Africa has maintained a high profile in international calls for debt relief for developing countries, most notably those on the continent of Africa. South African President Mbeki and other leaders have played a meaningful role in engaging the G-8 leaders on the issue of debt, making specific proposals in respect of increased aid to Africa in this regard. Equally, South Africa has actively participated in the work of the Commission for Africa, established by UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, which calls on wealthier nations to double aid to poor African countries to \$50 billion by 2015, reduce agricultural subsidies, and cancel the debt owed by impoverished countries. In this regard, The South African Government has tirelessly engaged the international community and policy makers, researchers and representatives of civil society in Africa to assess the role of the international community in the development of the continent.

Within multilateral for a, South Africa has actively supported the World Bank special scheme for countries with heavy debt burdens, known as the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative, which is premised on the understanding that debt should be reduced to a "sustainable level". The Government of South Africa has demonstrated its support for providing debt relief to poor countries by:

- Contributing its balance in the Second Special Contingent Account (SCA-2), which amounts to R 7.5 million, to the HIPC Initiative as a grant;
- Pledging R 200 million in 2000, payable in equal instalments over five years, to the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility-HIPC Trust; and
- Writing off loans granted to Malawi and Mozambique in the amounts of R 8.8 million and R 48.5 million respectively.

Every effort should be made to prevent countries from returning to a debt trap situation once they have achieved sustainable debt levels. Inasmuch as recent successes in promoting international support for debt relief initiatives has been encouraging, much more needs to be done in the area of securing debt relief for poor countries. This is especially so if they are to be in any position to halve poverty by 2015 and meet the other MDGs. South Africa therefore continues to call for the doubling of aid for this purpose.

Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Definitional issues concerning the labour market

In common with certain of the International Labour Organisation guidelines on labour market measurement, Stats SA defines:

- The *working age population* as all those persons aged 15 – 65 years.
- The *economically active population* as those in this age category who are either employed or unemployed.
- The *employed* as those who performed work for pay, profit or family gain in the seven days prior to the survey interview for at least one hour, or who were absent from work during these seven days, but did have some form of work to which to return. This definition includes those who:
 - Ran any kind of business, large or small, for themselves;
 - Did work for a wage, salary, commission or payment in kind;
 - Did work as a domestic worker for a wage, salary or payment in kind;
 - Helped, paid or unpaid in a family business of any kind;
 - Did work on their family's plot, farm, food garden, cattle post or kraal, or helped in growing farm produce, or in looking after animals for the household;
 - Did construction or major repair work on the home, plot, farm, cattle post or kraal, or own business or family business; and

- Caught fish, prawns, or other seafood, hunted wild animals, or produced any other food for sale or for the family.
- The *unemployed* as those people within the economically active population who:
 - Did not work in the seven days prior to the interview;
 - Want to work, and are available to start work within two weeks of the interview; and
 - Have taken active steps to look for work or to start some form of self-employment in the four weeks prior to the interview.
- The people who are *not economically active* as those who are not available for work, including full-time scholars and students; full-time homemakers; those who are too ill or disabled to work; those who are retired; and those who are unable or unwilling to work.
- *Discouraged work-seekers* as those who:
 - Did not work in the seven days prior to the interview;
 - Want to work, and are available to start work within two weeks of the interview; but they
 - Did not take active steps to look for work or to start some form of self-employment in the four weeks prior to the interview.

Table 33
Summary of indicators regarding unemployment among youth

INDICATORS	Sep-00	Sep-01	Sep-02	Sep-03	Sep-04	2015 Target	Progress towards target
Youth unemployment rate, aged 15-24, total	47,4%	54,2%	56,6%	56,8%	51,8%	To significantly reduce youth unemployment within framework of an expanded public works programme, support for small and micro-businesses and for other sustainable livelihoods or for work creation strategies. Training and internship programmes.	On course to meet the target.
Youth unemployment rate, aged 15-24, males	44,1%	50,1%	51,8%	54,2%	44,8%		
Youth unemployment rate, aged 15-24, females	51,2%	58,7%	61,9%	59,7%	58,4%		
Ratio of youth unemployment (15-24): adult (25-65) unemployment, total	44:100	44:100	45:100	50:100	50:100		
Ratio of youth unemployment: adult unemployment, males	47:100	45:100	48:100	53:100	48:100		
Ratio of youth unemployment: adult unemployment, females	42:100	42:100	43:100	48:100	52:100		
Share of youth unemployed to total unemployed, total	30,8%	30,3%	31,2%	33,5%	33,4%		
Share of youth unemployed to total unemployed, male	32,1%	31,0%	32,6%	34,8%	32,6%		
Share of youth unemployed to total unemployed, female	29,6%	29,7%	30,0%	32,3%	34,1%		
Share of youth unemployed to youth population, total	14,3%	15,4%	16,8%	15,6%	14,2%		
Share of youth unemployed to youth population, males	14,4%	15,0%	16,3%	15,8%	13,6%		
Share of youth unemployed to youth population, females	14,3%	15,9%	17,2%	15,4%	14,7%		

Status and Trends

Youth unemployment rates for September 2000 to September 2004 are indicated in Table 33. Young people entering the labour market are struggling to find employment. They form a relatively large proportion of the unemployed, overall, but particularly young unemployed women.

Unemployment among youth is related to highest level of education and the age at which the young person becomes economically active. In general, those with 12 years of schooling or higher qualifications have a lower unemployment rate than those who have not completed 12 years of schooling. People dropping out of education and entering the labour market between the ages of 15 – 19 years are more likely to be unemployed than those who enter the labour market at an older age.

Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable drugs in developing countries

Measurement of target is not available for South Africa. (There is a policy of free primary health care for all, giving access to essential drugs. Also, SA has been involved in numerous legal cases and negotiations aimed at ensuring that South Africans access affordable medication).

Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

The tables below summarize how South Africa stands on the commitments made at the Millennium Declaration:

Table 34: ICT Indicators and Statistics at a glance

<i>Indicators</i>	1995	2001	2003
ICT infrastructure & Access			
Total Telephone subscribers (Teledensity) (per 1 000 people)	10 767	13 384	18 641
Telephone fixed lines (per 1 00 people)	101	4 962	4 821
In largest cities	417	415	-
Cost of local call (\$ per 3 minutes)	0.06	0.07	0.1
Cost of international call (\$ per 3 minutes)	-	0.58	0.2
Mobile cellular subscribers (per 1 000 people)	1.4	8 322	13 797
Radios per 1 000 people	335	338	-
Television sets per 1 000 people	132	152	-
Broadcasting coverage	80%	90%	-
Post offices per 10 000 people	2,440	2,640	2,855
Post Offices on the Network	588	820	1314
Computers & the Internet			
Personal computers (per 1000 people)	27.9	68.5	-
Installed in schools (thousand)	92.8	364.7	-
Internet users (per 1,000 people)	460.0	3,068.0	-
Internet Service provider charge (\$)	-	29.6	-
Telephone usage charge (\$)	-	033	-
ICT Impact			
Total ICT (\$, millions)	8.649	11.430	-
ICT as % of GDP	5.7	9.2	-
ICT per capita (\$)	209.7	268.7	-

Sources: SA Census 1996 & 2001, ITU, The World Bank and UNESCO

South Africa has only one Public Switched Telephone Network Operator, namely Telkom SA. This company has been given exclusivity to operate the mainline service. As shown in Table 35 below, there has been a decline in the number of subscriptions from 5,493 million in 2000 to 4,821 million in 2004

The decline in subscriptions of fixed lines is mainly attributed to the operator's modernization of the network in 2001, which stalled the connections as a result of the migration to this new network, customer migration to mobile services because of the convenience associated with mobile telephony and service disconnections due to customer non-payments.

In terms of mobile telephony, the current South African mobile telecommunications market consists of three mobile communication network operators, namely MTN, Vodacom and Cell C. The first two operators commenced their operations in 1993 whereas the latter started operating in November 2001. As at 31 March 2004 the three operators had a total of 18.3 million subscribers representing a penetration level of more than 40%.

The increase in the mobile telephone subscribers is mainly attributed to the new evolution towards second-generation wireless system and introduction of prepaid cards targeting people on the lower bracket of the economy.

The total number of telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants (total tele-density) is the first indicator to measure Target 18. Table 35 below demonstrates a sharp increase in the number of telephone subscribers from 10,767 million in 2000 to 23, 116 million in 2004. The mobile telephone networks have grown their subscribers at a faster rate as compared to the fixed line networks whose subscribers have been declining.

Table 35 Telephone subscribers*

Telephones	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Fixed lines	5,493	4,962	4,924	4,844	4,821
Mobile phones	3,069	5,108	6,557	7,874	9,725 VodaCom
	2,215	3,214	3,877	4,723	6,270 MTN
	-	-	500	1,200	2,300 Cell C
	5,284	8,322	10,934	13, 797	18,295
Total Tele-density	10,767	13,284	15,858	18,641	23,116

Operators Annual reports for 2004

*Both fixed and mobile operators have been given social obligations (license obligation) to rollout services to the under-serviced areas such as urban townships and rural areas as part of their license requirements. This was to increase the penetration level.

A complementary strategy to secure affordable access to telephony was introduced through the establishment of a Universal Service Fund to subsidize network rollout to under-serviced areas and access to needy people. Sixty-eight tele-centers have since been established in these areas to provide, amongst others, basic telephone services. The Universal Service Agency is the vehicle established to achieve this objective.

Although South Africa has the most developed infrastructure on the continent with a tele-density of over 12%, there are still areas where access to basic telephony and broadcasting signals is still a problem. Tele-density in those areas stands below 5% as compared to urban areas where the coverage, facilities and services are widely available.

A process has commenced to issue additional licenses to the Second National Operator and small business operators to provide services in those under-served areas, namely areas with less than 5% tele-density.

The second indicator to measure Target 18 is Personal computers per 100 inhabitants. To measure the indicator, the number of computers per household was used. According to the 2001 Census, at least 8.6% of households had one computer in good working order as compared to 4% during the 1996 Census. The reason for this increase is that computers are the leading access devices for Internet use, which has been on the increase.

The third indicator to measure Target 18 is the number of Internet users for 1,000 inhabitants. The generally accepted indicator is the frequency of use for example once a week or month and the services used, e.g. Internet browsing and e-mail. According to Table 35, there were 68.2 Internet users per 1,000 people in 2002 as compared to 42.3 in 1999, which is an increase of more than 50%. This figure continues to grow because of the efforts being made to encourage the use of this facility at various levels.

The ITU has ranked South Africa 18th in terms of the Internet usage. Although there are some 120 Internet service providers in South Africa, access to the Internet is still restricted to some geographic locations and segments of the society.

Another important indicator to measure Target 18 is the number of radio sets per 100 inhabitants. Radios have demonstrated themselves to be powerful tools for disseminating information to the wider audience. The 2001 Census revealed that radio is the most prevalent household item. Overall 73,0% of households possessed at least one radio.

Equally, the number of television sets per 100 inhabitants is another important indicator to measure Target 18. The 2001 Census has revealed that 53,8% of households possessed at least one television set. Possession of these goods by broad settlement type indicate that households in urban areas were more likely to have these items than those counted in urban informal settlements, deep rural areas and commercial farms. Lastly, the post office is the most accessible and convenient means available to citizens through its extended network. The ratio of postal outlets to inhabitants has improved from 1:16,659 in 1996 to 13,484 in 2003. This is still considered to be high in terms of the general criteria of 1:10,000 in inhabitants.

Concluding Remarks

As the report shows, SA is well set to accomplish the MDGs in time. This is largely attributed to the hard work by government & all social partners aimed at improving the material conditions of all South Africans. The Programme of Action of the South African government is predicated upon the four key objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme adopted in 1994. These objectives are: meeting basic needs, developing human resources, building the economy and finally democratizing the state & society.

Although a lot of mileage has been gained towards achieving these broad RDP objectives, there remain some challenges. However the South African government, working with peoples of South Africa and social partners, is determined to overcome any obstacles that may hinder progress on ensuring a better life for all South Africans. Some of the major challenges relate to the economy's insufficient growth and its inability to generate sufficient employment opportunities. These are further compounded by the following socio-economic challenges:

- The number of households has been growing considerably faster than the rate of population growth which implies that the servicing obligations of the state were greater than population growth initially suggested;
- While employment grows, the number of unemployed and rate of unemployment is growing faster because of the rising labour force participation rate;
- The changing structure of the economy, with many more jobs now available or potentially available in the service sectors of the economy than in traditional sectors like agriculture, mining and construction, requires a labour force with different skills to those available to the bulk of the unemployed labour force; and
- Rapid migration into the urban areas as well as shifts in the demographics.

In short, these trends point to the persistence of a large group of poor people who might remain marginal to the growth opportunities in the modern economy unless the government makes significant developmental interventions. Indeed, the government is making significant developmental interventions, in directly dealing with the marginalized. In addition, government, together social partners, is pursuing the major interventions recommended in the Ten Year Review:

- The need for a framework of encompassing interest amongst the main social forces of the country, entailing, perhaps, a substantive social contract beyond the Growth and Development Summit agreement;
- The need to considerably improve the performance of the state in focusing on better coordination and allocation of responsibilities between the spheres of government;

- To address the consequences of the social transition outlined above, within the philosophy of the National Spatial Development Framework; i.e. that government should invest heavily in areas where there is both great social need and economic potential, and for areas of need with less potential government should provide support for the development of human capital (especially health, education, transport and communications); and
- To improve the regional environment and implement NEPAD.

At the core of the “People’s Contract”, which informs the government’s Programme of Action, is that by 2014 government would have:

- Reduced poverty and unemployment by half
- Provided the skills required by the economy
- Ensured that all South Africans are able to fully to exercise their constitutional rights and enjoy the full dignity of freedom
- Ensured compassionate government service to the people
- Achieved a better national health profile and massively reduced preventable causes of death, including violent crime and road accidents
- Significantly reduced the number of serious and priority crimes and cases awaiting trial
- Positioned SA strategically as an effective force in global relations.

The supportive environment to achieve the above exists and is continually strengthened and elaborated. For instance, government is presently working on two major programmes: the Rapid Economic Growth Strategy and the Macro-Social Development Strategic Framework. These two are aimed at expediting the resolve to meet the RDP objectives and meet them faster. The two major strategies are aimed at responding to the challenges that have been identified in the assessment of the first decade of freedom.

Lastly, government has put in place monitoring and evaluation systems that would assist in continuous assessment of whether government is meeting or not the objectives that it has set for itself. The existing monitoring and evaluation systems are being strengthened through increasing capacity in the respective areas.

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