

1 Preface

The attainment of democracy in 1994 presented government with twin challenges: significant institutional transformation and at the same time introducing new policies in line with the democratic Constitution. Secondly, the Government had to deal with the legacy of Apartheid within South Africa, whilst at the same time facing new challenges of integrating the country in a rapidly changing global environment.

Since 1994, the State has deliberately set out systematically and deliberately to dismantle Apartheid social relations and create a democratic society based on the principles of equity, non-racialism and non-sexism.

In line with the prescripts of the new Constitution, new policies and programmes have been put in place to dramatically improve the quality of life of all the people. Key to this programme of action has been the extension of universal franchise and the creation of a democratic state. This has created the requisite environment for the country to address poverty and

inequality, and to restore the dignity of citizens.

This process, defined in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), has been elaborated in all post-1994 policies. The RDP identifies the following key objectives:

- Meeting basic needs
- Building the economy
- Democratising the State and society
- Developing human resources,
- Nation building

In the elaboration of government policy since 1994, the RDP objectives have been elaborated upon to include more specific priorities of different clusters and departments. After 1999, the policy objectives of government were consolidated into the priorities of the five Cabinet clusters (see Annexure I).

The Towards a Ten Year Review was overseen by a steering group of Ministers and received inputs from individual departments in government. The project outputs were reviewed by the Directors-general (DG) clusters.

The Review is organised on comprehensive research conducted within and outside of government, and attempts to evaluate the extent to which government has achieved its objectives in the past decade. More modestly, it explores the possible policy permutations for the next decade in the context of the imperatives of the Constitution and the challenges of reconstruction and development.

The Review primarily reflects on government's performance in realising its objectives and does not seek to examine in detail the evolution of various sectors of society in the period under review. It is expected that organisations in the areas of sport, the arts and culture, universities, professionals and the intelligentsia, trade

unions, non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and community-based organisations (CBO's) and the private sector will conduct their own assessments which, together with this Review, will help inform the nation's evaluation of itself in the First Decade of Freedom.

Such an evaluation will be an on-going process, which will achieve definitive conclusions only after data on the whole of the Decade is available, which in turn will be after the Decade has expired in April 2004.

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