



STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

THE STATE OF NATION ADDRESS
BY PRESIDENT MBEKI

11TH FEBRUARY 2005



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs & Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

water & forestry water & forestry water & for

Background

Challenges – Vision 2014

➤ To make new and decisive advances towards....

Further **entrenching democracy** and creating a truly non-racial & non-sexist society

Eradicating poverty with a growing First Economy and a transformed Second Economy

Opening the way for the **fulfilment of each and every South African**

Securing the **safety and security** of the people of South Africa

Building an **efficient, democratic state** that truly serves the people's interests

Contributing to the **African Renaissance** and a better life for the peoples of African and the world



STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

“only 56% of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant had been allocated to municipalities by December 2004 is a reflection of the lack of all-round capacity particularly in technical areas with regard to water, sanitation and public works projects. And the laborious decision-making process is not helping either. We can refer to the provision of services across all the spheres or the weakness in the implementation of the urban renewal and rural development programmes, and the conclusion is the same



STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM (cont)

"We need massively to improve the management, organisational, technical and other capacities of government so that it meets its needs. Government is committed to providing more resources and putting more effort to provide services to society at large and a safety net for the indigent. Relevant targets are, clean running water to all households by 2008, decent and safe sanitation for all by 2010, strengthen municipalities capacity to help provide services through Project Consolidate, continue campaigns to reduce disease and non-natural deaths."

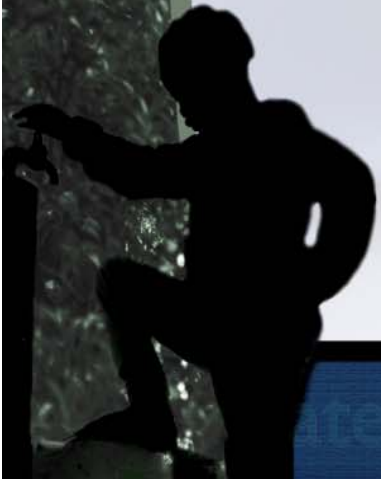


STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM (cont)

- The above assessment will required the Department to:
 - Have a systematic review of the support we are delivering to local government, in particular the emphasis should be on the strengthens and weaknesses of not only local government by also national governments ability to deliver effective support
 - There should be visible attention by the Department on the problems identified at local government level, e.g. Provision of free basic water, capacity to meet the targets to eradicate backlogs in water supply and sanitation services. In this regard the departments activities must be part of Project Consolidate

STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM (cont)

- The above assessment will required the Department to:
 - Imbizo's during the year should include interactions by political leadership with Ward Committees, and participation in public engagement around IDP's
 - In supporting and engaging local government emphasis must be implementing the EPWP



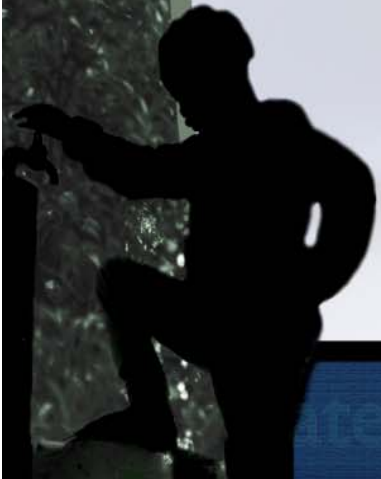


Investment in Economic Infrastructure

"The capital investment programme of government will be speeded up. We have since May 2004, developed strategies and investment plans upward to R180 billion in relation to transport logistics, water resources and electricity."

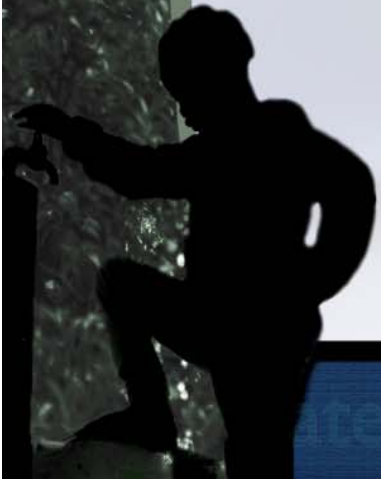
INVESTMENT IN ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE (CONT)

- Emphasis here for the Department would be to effectively communicate how its activities around water resources infrastructure development are contributing to:
 - Growing the first economy;
 - Ensuring economic inclusion of all South Africans i.e. Historically disadvantaged;
 - Provide skills development opportunities;
 - Promote Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment; and
 - Promote the principles of the EPWP



INVESTMENT IN ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE (CONT)

- Already, two major economic infrastructure projects are currently being implemented. These are the Berg Water Project (BWP) near Franschhoek (at total cost of R1,5 billion) and the Vaal River Eastern Sub-system Augmentation Project (VRESAP) to provide more water for the expansion of SASOL and Eskom at an estimated cost of R2,4 billion.
- The Olifants River Development Project, announced last year, is also underway. Construction of the first phase (the raising of the Flag Boshielo Dam) is proceeding well. Meanwhile, financing arrangements for the second phase of this important development, which will supply water needs for mining expansion as well as municipal services, are currently being negotiated



Improve Governments Capacity

"We need massively to improve the management, organisational, technical and other capacities of government so that it meets its objectives."



IMPROVE GOVERNMENTS CAPACITY (CONT)

- The Department must take note of the following activities announced by the President in meeting the above challenge. Of importance is how the Department integrates and participates in support of these intervention:
 - FOSAD will submit to Cabinet a thorough review of how Government is functioning by May 2005, this must include proposals on how to increase Governments capacity to speed up social transformation
 - Government to review the skills and levels of competence within the Senior Management Service and put in place plans to fill capacity gaps identified
 - Intensify programmes to expand employment in the public service





IMPROVE GOVERNMENTS CAPACITY (CONT)

- Assist 136 municipalities to put their house in order in line with Project Consolidate
- Further resources for local government
- Better integration among all spheres of government using the Intergovernmental Relations Bill
- Align spatial and development strategies and planning cycles among all spheres of government
- Complete a plan for improved monitoring and evaluation across government by June 2005 for phased implementation
- Speed up implementation of the comprehensive plan to improve the capacity of the National Statistics System

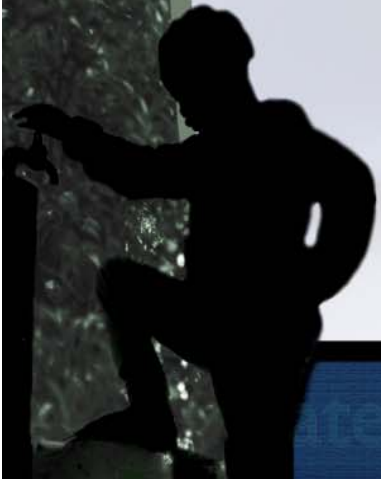


IMPROVE GOVERNMENTS CAPACITY (CONT)

- Strengthen the Batho Pele campaign in Government including enhance internal communications and unannounced visits to departments
- Convene a Summit on corruption, including strengthening Governments ability to deal with corruption, fraud and activities such as illegal connections, etc.

Consolidating the African Agenda

"Conscious of the responsibility that we have not only to our own citizens, but also to the rest of humanity in pursuing the goal of a better world. In the first instance, our greatest challenge is to consolidate the African agenda."





CONSOLIDATING THE AFRICAN AGENDA (CONT)

- Key issues relevant to the department in promoting the African agenda are:
 - Work to speed up Southern African economic integration, including infrastructure projects
 - Work for the success of Nepad and ensure the effective implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan support Nepad
 - Build co-operation among countries of the South to promote conditions for faster development, of importance here is our relationships with India, China and Brazil
 - Contribute to the Tsunami in Asia and Africa
 - Support efforts to a speedier resolution to the Palestine-Israel conflict



An economy that benefits all

"Government is committed to consult with its social partners to ensure that the economy continues to grow, building on what has been achieved."

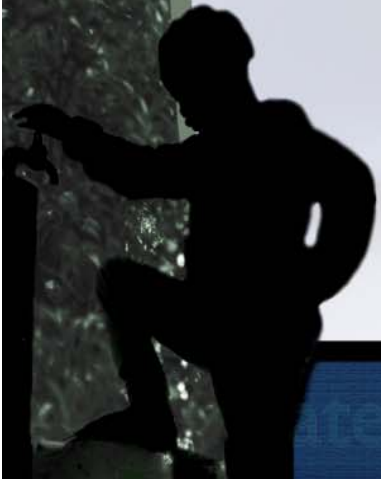


CONSOLIDATING THE AFRICAN AGENDA (CONT)

- Excluding infrastructure development, the issues relevant to DWAF are:
 - The finalisation of sector development strategies by the end of 2005 for the wood and paper sector amongst others
 - The finalisation in May 2005 the review of performance practices in State Owned Enterprises
 - Speeding up broad based black economic empowerment and small business development
 - The appointment the black economic advisory council after finalising the BEE Codes of Good Practice
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AN ECONOMY THAT BENEFITS ALL (CONT)

- Continue to increase the number of skilled workers, building on the training of 80 000 learners since the GDS Allocation of R21,9 billion over 5 years to fund a new national skills development strategy
- Strengthen the Expanded Public Works Programme, including an increase in labour intensive construction
- Expand access to finances and support for farmers previously disadvantaged
- More information on how those in the second economy can access opportunities in Government
- Focus the second economy programmes on urban renewal and rural development nodes



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