



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### OPINION PIECE

#### **The NDP is firmly rooted in the developmental approach**

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*The National Development Plan (NDP) is set as the course of action for government. As a developing country, South Africa needed such a plan to help chart the path of action targeted and driven from a central point. The NDP therefore is such a plan and has been drawn by South Africans and duly accepted by government as such.*

*Negative talks about the possible failure of the National Development Plan (NDP) should be dismissed outright.*

*As a country, progress has been substantial since the dawn of our democracy. Our history provides many examples of South Africans coming together to achieve amazing things: our democratic transition, our constitution, regular and credible elections are but some of the factors showing this, and we must not undermine what we have achieved.*

*We still have a lot to do if we are to move towards the inclusive and just society envisaged in our constitution by 2030. Fortunately, the challenges that confront us are not insurmountable.*

*To achieve our vision, each South African must make a contribution. Active citizenry means showing inspirational leadership at all levels of society. Leaders, be it political or not, should mobilise respective communities and constituencies into taking charge of their future, raising grievances and proposals, and assuming responsibility for ensuring outcomes are achieved. This is the basic purpose of the National Development Plan (NDP).*

*The NDP was bent on developing the South African economy hence Government has identified infrastructure development as key to unlocking the socio-economic development of the country. With government's plan to grow the economy and triple the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2030, the consulting engineering industry has a significant role to play in achieving this growth through infrastructure provision.*

*The integral part of development rests upon building people's capabilities. These capabilities are not just technical, but must include being active citizens in each space and make the most of the opportunities we are afforded. In this way, citizens become partners - not dependents – in a capable state.*

*The recently released Medium Term Strategic Framework is meant to "provide a framework for prioritising and sequencing development initiatives for the next five years". However, the truth is that development must be a process of expanding the political and economic freedoms our people will enjoy.*

*The NDP is firmly rooted in its approach towards development. It is hoped that legislation, such as the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill and the Infrastructure Development Act, will intensify state intervention. In this regard, care must be taken not to deter investment or diminish growth and jobs, as this will only worsen poverty. As*



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*the state intervenes, it must also seek to retain "development as freedom". As such, the responsibility for providing policy clarity on development (including implementing the NDP) lies with and is driven by the Presidency.*

*The Presidency sits at the apex of government. It directs all government business. It serves as the nucleus of strategic leadership and co-ordination, and is responsible for integrated planning and policy coherence. The National Development Plan: Vision 2030 is built on the premise that the state must be interventionist and must never leave out critical areas such as health, education, development of industries, and so on.*

*The NDP offers a long-term perspective. It defines a desired destination and identifies the role different sectors of society need to play in reaching that goal. The NDP is a plan for the country to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030 through uniting South Africans, unleashing the energies of its citizens, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capability of the state and encouraging leaders to work together in solving complex problems.*

*The plan aims to reduce households with a monthly income below R419 per person (in 2009 prices), from 39 percent to zero. It also aims to reduce inequality. Some of the intended milestones aim to increase employment opportunities from 13 million---- in 2010 to 24 million in 2030; raise per capita income from R50 000 in 2010 to R120 000 by 2030; establish a competitive base of infrastructure, human resources and regulatory frameworks; ensure that skilled, technical, professional and managerial posts better reflect the country's racial, gender and disability makeup; broaden ownership of assets to historically disadvantaged groups, and; increase the quality of education so that all children have at least two years of preschool education and that all children in grade 3 can read and write.*

*The success of this plan will be judged by its ability to change relationships among people, within families, between people and the state and within the state itself. The plan is about bringing about transformation - to achieve a cycle of confidence and trust, a growing economy and expanding opportunities.*

*The National Development Plan makes a firm commitment to achieving a minimum standard of living which can be progressively realised through a multi-pronged strategy. The plan does not define a minimum standard of living but provides a framework for the adoption of a minimum standard of living by society. This approach is consistent with the government's view that the achievement of such a base would require support and participation from all social partners.*

*In the remainder of its five-year term, the state will raise awareness of the plan among stakeholders, drive a long-term research agenda and advise government and society on its implementation.*

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