



# GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE

August 2013

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE



## Are you responsible for this?

### Development Indicators Report 2012

**H**ow did South Africa change between the time you came to work and the time you left the office yesterday?

It's hard to tell, isn't it? How must you know?

What do we mean by "change"? Surely a country doesn't change in a day?

So, let's rephrase to make it easier: how did you change South Africa between the time you came to work and the time you left the office yesterday?

Is that better now? It should be, because you should know how you helped to change South Africa yesterday.

All of us should know, because that's what public service is about. Those things we call our "jobs" are in fact means to change the

country for the better – one task at a time, one day at a time.

Our fingerprints should therefore be on the scene of delivery all of the time. If they're not there, we have a problem.

With just a few months to go to the end of the political term of the current administration and as we get ready to celebrate 20 Years of Freedom, this is an important time for public servants to reflect on their individual contributions to making South Africa a better place.

There is a great deal to celebrate, going by the outcomes of the National Development Indicators 2012 – government's definitive assessment of how it performed during the year in question, which in turn built on

achievements in the years before.

Collins Chabane, Minister in the Presidency for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, released the indicators in August, giving the nation and the Public Service cause for optimism and hope.

With the National Development Plan as our GPS for the future, the Development Indicators are the dashboard showing how well we're doing – or not – on the road to attaining Vision 2030.

The indicators show the progress made in 2012 itself, and how the year contributed to the record of growth and development since 1994.

The indicators show that in education, South



From early childhood development all the way to Matric, South Africa's education system is producing good results in the Development Indicators.



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Africa's enrolment rates for the compulsory age of schooling are excellent.

The percentage of children attending Early Childhood Development facilities has increased, and Grade R enrolment rates have doubled from 300 000 in 2003 to 705 000 in 2011.

The percentage of Matric passes has increased from under 60% in 1994 to 73% in 2012.

For the first time, Annual National Assessments are showing strengths and weaknesses of the educational system below Grade 12. These



assessments have highlighted that as a country, we are simply not performing on the same level as other countries that spend the same or less on education.

In health, South Africa is making commendable progress in improving the health status of the nation. The tide is turning and we are achieving more positive health outcomes.

Free primary health care for children and pregnant mothers has had a significant, positive impact in terms of immunisation and child nutrition, among other benefits.

South Africa's bold leadership in turning the tide against the HIV and AIDS epidemic has also been acknowledged by UNAIDS in its February



**Success in the public health sector is producing a healthier and more productive nation.**

2013 publication. Our country has one of the largest ARV programmes, with approximately 2 million people on treatment.

As a result, data from the Rapid Mortality Surveillance system shows that South Africa's life expectancy has increased to 60 years, exceeding our 2014 targets. Infant and child mortality rates are also decreasing.

Inequities and the quality of health care remain an area of concern. This applies also to the number of mothers who die due to direct and indirect factors related to pregnancy.

In the fight against crime, the Development Indicators 2012 show that while our battles remain difficult, we are winning the war against crime.

The crime rate is coming down, although it remains high.

Overall, government is making an impact on crime, with several surveys confirming that citizens and communities are now beginning to feel safe.

For example, the Stats SA 2012 Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) showed that the percentage of households who experienced at least one incident of the identified crime has declined, except for housebreaking and theft. Close to 60% of households expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the police and courts were doing their work.

These achievements tell an impressive story about the dedication of hard-working, focused, ethical public servants who are helping to build a better life for all South Africans and making the best possible use of

their own energy and time and the public money at their disposal to make things work.

Such public servants make up the majority of our Public Service and continue to make the country proud with their invaluable contribution..

We have a few months to go to shape the Development Indicators for 2013, and it's therefore within our means to declare now that we will make government work and look even better this year than we did in 2012.

There's no need to "workshop" this commitment, consult with anyone, integrate anything or anyone, enable this or that, clarify deliverables, mobilise resources or kick-start anything.

There's a need only to consult yourself and ask on your way to the office, building site or service centre: "How am I changing South Africa today?"

You can think about the answer on the way home.



**The battles are tough, but we are winning the war against crime.**

