

# Lend a hand Speak out



## Social grants registration campaign

### Lend a hand to ensure our children's right to a better life!

The President's call in February's State of the Nation Address to register all children eligible for Child Support Grants by 2005 has been taken up by government and its partners from business and civil society in the spirit of *letsema*.

Between April and June, another 300 000 new child beneficiaries were registered for grants, mostly the Child Support Grant. This was in part the result of a special effort during Child Protection Week (27 May to 2 June).

### By September 2002, over 2,21 million children were receiving grants, including the Child Social Grant, Care Dependency and Foster Care Grants.

Government and its partners have laid the basis for stepping up the campaign, and to register many more children during October.

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The 2002/03 financial year has been declared the year of *Children First / Abantwana Kuqala* by the Minister of Social Development

Week and the President's Imbizo visit to Gauteng. It is a month in which South Africans from all walks of life are called on to enlist as volunteers in the campaign to register all children who are eligible for social grants.

The response to the President's call has come from religious leaders united under the banner of the Moral Regeneration Summit and from business leaders and the media, including Johnnic Publishing, Cell C, Sowetan, SABC, Kaya FM, Y-FM, Soul City and ACCES. Organised labour as well as many non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations are part of the campaign.

To apply for registration, you must contact the nearest government office

for information. You must have a valid identity document and a birth certificate.

As part of government's commitment, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya, is emphasizing the theme of *Children First / Abantwana Kuqala* in 2002/03.

Many challenges lie ahead, especially with regard to children with disabilities and orphans accessing their grants.

During October, we are called on, as individuals and communities, through Imbizo, to Lend a Hand for a Better Life for Children and, accelerate the registration of children entitled to grants. Know your rights, and access opportunities offered by democracy!

## Service delivery update

Government continues to improve the lives of all South Africans, especially the poor. These are summaries of reports given by Ministers in Parliament.

### Housing

- ▲ By March 2002, the National Housing Subsidy Programme had included the following since 1994:
  - ▲ the approval of more than 1,4 million housing subsidies
  - ▲ the construction of more than 1,3 million housing units
  - ▲ Government investment of more than R18 billion.

### Access to water

- ▲ Between 1994 and April 2002, R5 268 million was spent, providing clean running water to 7,2 million people.
- ▲ This financial year a further one million South Africans in rural areas will gain access to clean water and a record 1,4 million will be provided with adequate sanitation.
- ▲ By 1 July 2002, 27 million people, 76,5% of which have access to water infrastructure, benefited from government's free basic water policy.

### Access to electricity

- ▲ The Integrated National Electrification Programme made a

total of 336 858 connections in 2001, of which 141 707 were in rural areas, and 195 191 in urban areas. This exceeded the target of 300 000 connections.

### Education

- ▲ The matric pass rate was below 50% only four years ago – in 2001 it increased to above 60% for the first time, as a result of work by teachers, parents and students.
- ▲ The number of schools which recorded a 0-20% pass rate has decreased from 1 000 to under 500 in the space of one year.

### Social development

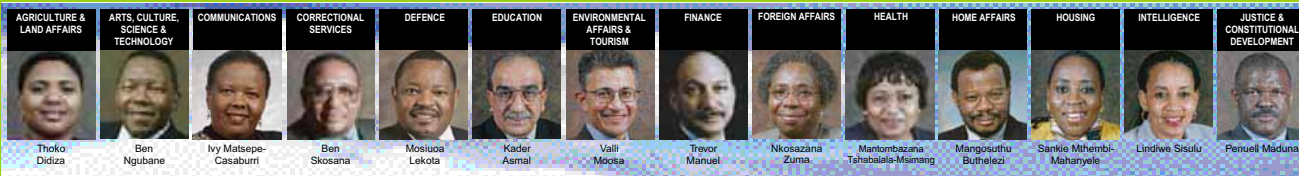
- ▲ From June 2002, a total of 2 103 875 children are receiving one of the three types of social grants. The majority, about 1,9 million children,

are receiving the Child Support Grant.

### Communications

- ▲ Over 2,5 million new telephone lines have been installed since 1997, 1,4 million of which were installed in historically under-served areas. Approximately 2 700 villages were connected for the first time. Though there are problems of disconnections in some areas, since 1994 some nine million South Africans have gained access to cell-phones.
- ▲ In the 2001/02 financial year, 100 Public Internet Terminals were launched country-wide. Some 200 more will be rolled out in 2002/03 for communication and government services through information technology.

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### Land restitution

- ▲ At the end of March 2002, the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights had settled 29 877 claims out of a total of 68 878 that had been lodged. Altogether 332 243 individuals representing 62 245 households have benefited from a total of 430 988 hectares.

### Crime fighting

- ▲ During 2001/02, 100 crime syndicate leaders were arrested and 230 organised crime groupings were broken.
- ▲ Crime statistics released in December 2001 indicated that serious crime had stabilised in 100 out of 145 police precincts where

more than 50% of serious crimes occur. By March 2002, eight more police station areas were brought under control.

### Health

- ▲ South Africa will soon achieve polio-free status. A subregional Certification Committee for a Polio-Free Initiative was launched in April with Lesotho and Swaziland, to ensure compliance with all the requirements to reach polio-free status by 2005.
- ▲ In the campaign against mother-to-child transmission of HIV, clinics and hospitals grouped as 18 research sites had seen more than 100 000 pregnant women by June 2002.

About two-thirds elected to take an HIV test and about 10 000 of those who tested positive were provided with Nevirapine.

- ▲ The primary school feeding scheme reaches 4,7 million children at 15 000 schools and has sustained this level of delivery for more than eight years.

### Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme

- ▲ Over 120 projects worth R3,7 billion were identified using Interim Integrated Development Plans through consultative workshops at the end of 2001. Twenty-two projects

worth R584 million were prioritised for 2002/03, of which 48% are currently being implemented while 52% are in the planning stages.

- ▲ The Department of Provincial and Local Government is investing an extra R700 million of infrastructure funding this year rising to R2 billion in 2004/05 in the rural and urban nodes.
- ▲ The Department of Labour has prioritised R18 million for skills development in support of the nodes.

### Municipal structure investment

- ▲ Since it started, the Consolidated Municipal Infrastructure Investment Programme has spent R3,8 billion to provide infrastructure for services such as water and roads to approximately 12 million poor households.

### Community-based Public Works Programme (CBPWP)

- ▲ In 2001/02, the CBPWP Programme created 25 124 short-term employment opportunities - 10 627 for women, 10 300 for youth and 527 for people with disabilities.
- ▲ In terms of Black Economic Empowerment, 85% of contractors in the CBPWP are emerging, historically disadvantaged entrepreneurs.

*In the past year, Government has provided millions of people with basic services such as water and electricity*



## Lend a hand in the fight against HIV/AIDS

### What has government done to intensify the campaign?

With each month the campaign to prevent HIV infection and to deal with its consequences grows from strength to strength. In April 2002, government launched the Campaign of Hope, calling on all sectors of society to join hands in intensifying the campaign.

This updates what has been done since and what is being planned as we implement our five-year strategic plan, one of the best in the world and the most comprehensive in Africa.

### What is government doing to step up prevention?

Since there is no known cure for AIDS, preventing HIV infection is critical.

Each of us must exercise our individual and collective responsibility to take care of our own lives. Promoting public awareness and the life skills and HIV/AIDS education programme are therefore the core of the efforts to prevent transmission of HIV.

Though the high level of awareness about HIV/AIDS in South Africa – (over 90%) is beginning to translate into behavioural change especially among the youth, the awareness campaign is being intensified.

The latest annual survey of pregnant women receiving care in the public health sector indicated HIV prevalence

amongst those less than 20 years old declining for the third year.

A new phase of the awareness campaign started in September 2002, joining government with partners such as loveLife, and focusing on youth prevention, support for orphans and vulnerable children and living positively. Government is providing R98 million for this new effort to change lifestyles.

### What about prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)?

The PMTCT research programme continues.

By the end of June 2002, over 101 202 women had visited the facilities attached to the 18 PMTCT research sites, with 63 217 accepting voluntary counselling and testing, 17 274 of whom tested HIV-positive. Nevirapine was dispensed to 6 947 babies who have already been born to women recruited in the programme.

Following the ruling of the Constitutional Court, all provinces have been provided with guidelines for the implementation of the PMTCT package.

Provinces will expand the services according to their differing capacities, monitored by national government. Training is in progress on the basis of the provincial roll-out plans.

### Has the package of support for survivors of rape been introduced?

The aim is to provide a comprehensive package of support for survivors of sexual assault, including counselling on the risks of using anti-retrovirals as preventive drugs. This is to ensure that they can make an informed choice and receive the anti-retrovirals if they should decide to.

The relevant protocols were developed and distributed by May 2002 to provinces, and they have started with implementation. Additional funding is being sought to cover the training, drug and HIV-test requirements of the Programme for provinces.

### What about treatment?

The quality of life of those infected with HIV is a major concern of government. Their health can be improved greatly through the effective treatment and management of opportunistic infections.

That is why it is important for people to know their HIV status. The programme to provide voluntary HIV counselling and testing (VCT) was started in 2000 – by the middle of 2002, 691 VCT sites were operational. The number is still growing.

Treatment for opportunistic infections is available at public health care facilities irrespective of the person's HIV-status, as a routine part of health service. Government continues to work with pharmaceutical companies to lower the cost of drugs to treat these infections.

TB, a major cause of death among those with HIV infection, is curable and the treatment is free and available.

To further enhance this programme, the Department is continuing with the training of health care workers on the management of opportunistic infections. As part of the Diflucan Partnership Programme between the Department of Health, the pharmaceutical company Pfizer and IAPAC (the training partner), about one million tablets of Diflucan (Fluconazole) were processed by July 2002. Diflucan is provided free of charge in over 300 public facilities. Some 7 800 health care workers have received training as part of the programme.

### What about anti-retroviral treatments?

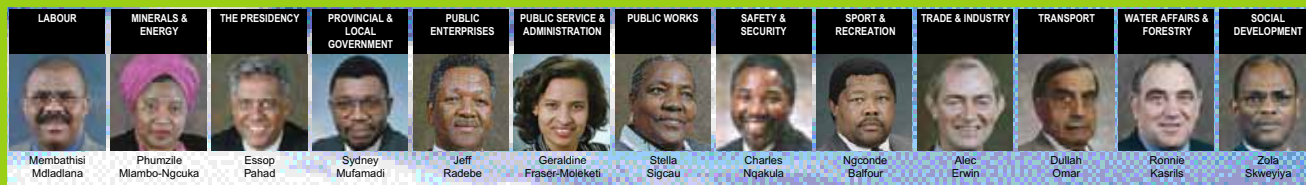
Anti-retroviral treatments can help improve the condition of people living with AIDS if administered at certain stages in the progression of the condition, and in accordance with international standards.

However, these drugs are too costly for universal access and they can cause harm if incorrectly used and if the health systems are inadequate. Despite these challenges, Government is actively engaged in addressing these issues. Government continues to work for the lowering of the cost of these drugs, to intensify the campaign to ensure that patients observe treatment advice given to them by doctors and to strengthen the health system.

Government has in consultation with

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the main pharmaceutical companies, drawn up regulations that will facilitate the import and manufacture of cheap and generic drugs. The regulations are expected to come into force after some technical amendments to the law.

In this regard, the WSSD has confirmed the World Trade Organisation /TRIPS agreement on intellectual property rights, facilitating access to affordable drugs for major health problems, including HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

It has been recognised that the quality of life of people with AIDS can also be improved by the use of alternative treatments based particularly on supplements and medication to boost the immune system.

In addition to the treatment which is administered for opportunistic infections, antibiotics are available which can prevent the onset of common infections in people infected with HIV. Good nutrition plays a critical role in warding off infections, and therefore government's poverty alleviation programme is an essential part of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

But we should all remember: there is no cure for AIDS. The campaign to prevent HIV infection is the most important challenge we all face.

### What has been done to strengthen the Partnership Against AIDS?

HIV/AIDS is a challenge for all of us, in every sector of government and society. Together we can overcome the disease by working to implement the comprehensive programme in the Partnership Against AIDS.

New sectors are constantly becoming involved with the Partnership.

- ▲ In March 2002, the Traditional Leaders AIDS programmes were launched, joining traditional leaders, government departments, non-governmental and community-based organisations to implement practical programmes.
- ▲ In April 2002, a programme was launched to form a partnership with organisations operating in high-risk environments, such as bars, taverns and shebeens.
- ▲ In May 2002, the information, education and information campaign was launched, with commuters and drivers in trains, taxis and buses.
- ▲ In the same month the hospitality industry came on board.
- ▲ In August 2002, government and the

scientific community met for a two-day intensive session on the evaluation of the research and to discuss how scientific research can be translated into practical programmes.

A workshop is due to take place to review and reconstitute the South African National AIDS Council to boost its impact on the fight against AIDS and to ensure that it effectively links with the international community and the Global Fund.

### What additional resources are being allocated?

New resources are being introduced in the fight against the dual epidemics of HIV/AIDS and TB as well as other infectious diseases.

Government's special HIV/AIDS budget increased from R350 million in 2001/02 to R1 billion in 2002/03 and will reach R1,8 billion in 2004/05.

South Africa has been allocated a total of R1,8 billion through the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria. An additional R100 million has been provided by the United States Government for expansion of the PMTCT Programme.

### What about those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic?

Government is intensifying efforts to assist families affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The departments of Health and Social Development work together on this.

This includes foster-care grants, assistance to child-headed households, and food parcels.

The budget for home-based care and community-based care is increasing from R25 million last year to R138 million in 2004/05.

For more information consult the following web sites:  
[www.health.gov.za](http://www.health.gov.za)  
 & [www.aidsinfo.co.za](http://www.aidsinfo.co.za).

*By the end of June 2002, 10 043 women and 6 947 babies received Nevirapine as part of the mother-to-child transmission programme*



## World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) – A new agenda for practical action

*The successful hosting of the WSSD in Johannesburg was a shared achievement of all South Africans*

### A new agenda for practical action

We are proud as South Africans that we were able to host one of the largest gatherings of the United Nations (UN) and the world's peoples. The aims of the WSSD are very relevant to our own programme of reconstruction and development.

Representatives of nearly 200 countries grappled with complex and difficult issues. Not everything that everyone wanted was possible. But at the end there was agreement on a new agenda for practical action: to end poverty and protect the environment.

Some of our own programmes already surpass targets and time frames set by the Jo'burg Summit. But our own reality of stark poverty and inequality demands that we intensify all our programmes. The momentum of

the Summit will help us do so.

### Making it happen to improve lives of the poor

To improve the lives of the poor requires co-operation among governments, and also between governments and all sectors of the world's peoples, including non-governmental organisations and business.

The Jo'burg Summit shifted the focus of world leaders from policy debates to the real task of 'making it happen'. Pledges were made by heads of state and business and civil society leaders to meet and even surpass the goals.

Among the victories of the Summit was the launch of over 300 partnerships including 32 energy initiatives, 21 water programmes and 32 programmes for biodiversity and ecosystem management.

### Major new agreements

The biggest success was to get the world to turn the UN Millennium Declaration aim of halving world poverty into a concrete set of programmes, and to mobilise funds for those programmes.

It emphasised the most marginalised sectors of society, including women, youth, indigenous people and people with disabilities.

The Implementation Plan includes programmes to deliver water, energy, health care, agricultural development and a better environment for the world's poor.

Targets set at the Summit will have enormous impact on the global agenda.

- ▲ The number of people without basic sanitation will be halved by 2015.
- Last year the world's leaders agreed

to halve the number without access to safe drinking water by 2015.

- ▲ Chemicals with detrimental health impact will be phased out by 2020.
- ▲ Energy services will be extended to 35% of African households over the next 10 years.

### South Africa: alive with possibilities

The successful hosting of such a large gathering of the UN and the world's peoples, not long after the African Union Summit and the World Conference Against Racism, was a shared achievement of all South Africans.

We can be sure that, as our guests returned home, they took with them special memories of a warm people and a country alive with possibilities.

We are proud of those whose peaceful marches and other activities not only highlighted the strong views they hold on global matters, but also showed the practical meaning of our constitutional right to free expression.

Together, our unity in diversity has once again proven to be a shining torch for democracy in the world.

**Out of Africa and out of Jo'burg has emerged a new agenda for practical action.**

# African Union (AU) Summit

## What was the significance of the launch of the AU in Durban in July?

- ▲ The transformation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into the AU is an important process in light of the need for a continental structure better suited to the challenges of the 21st century and globalisation and better geared to the goal of the realisation of Africa's Renaissance.
- ▲ Member states of the Union will commit the continent to a departure from the old, in implementing serious changes related to political, economic and corporate governance.

## What is the vision of the AU?

- ▲ The AU will be Africa's principal organisation aimed at the political and socio-economic integration of the continent, which will lead to greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and people.
- ▲ It will be based on the common vision of a united and strong Africa and on the need to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society, in particular women, youth and the private sector, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion amongst the people of Africa.
- ▲ As a continental organisation it will focus on the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent as a prerequisite for the implementation of the development and integration agenda of the Union.
- ▲ The AU will be the principal institution on the African continent responsible for promoting sustainable development at economic, social and cultural levels, as well as the accelerated integration of African economies.

## What are the aims of the AU?

- ▲ To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the people of Africa
- ▲ To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its member states

- ▲ To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent
- ▲ To promote and defend common African positions on issues of interest to the continent and its people
- ▲ To encourage international co-operation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ▲ To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent
- ▲ To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance
- ▲ To promote and protect human and people's rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and other relevant human rights' instruments
- ▲ To establish the necessary conditions to enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations
- ▲ To promote sustainable development at economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies
- ▲ To promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living

(NEPAD) and bringing about an age of prosperity and progress.

## What is NEPAD?

- ▲ NEPAD is an instrument to advance people-centered development in Africa, based on democratic values and principles. It is the focal point and overall strategic framework for the engagement of development initiatives and programmes in Africa.
- ▲ It is not the first development plan for Africa. However, NEPAD is new in the sense that for the first time, African leaders have taken the initiative and have themselves conceptualised the Programme for the reconstruction of the continent. They have also assumed responsibility for its implementation.
- ▲ African leaders have agreed on the



The launch of the African Union in July signaled the start of renewed economic growth and development on the African continent

- standards of African people
- ▲ To coordinate and harmonise policies between the AU and existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union
- ▲ To advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology
- ▲ To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.
- ▲ It is clear from the above that the AU objectives are different and more comprehensive than those of the OAU. The AU has come at the ideal time, being the perfect instrument for implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development

- need for an African Peer Review Mechanism to ensure that together Africa is able to reflect on the manner in which each country works, in accordance with the agreements that are important for the development of African countries.
- ▲ Africa has moved beyond words to concrete action plans that are being articulated for implementation by African leaders. This has introduced a new approach to issues and a new way of doing things.
- ▲ NEPAD is premised on African ownership, African control of projects and programmes, with African leaders accepting openly and unequivocally that they will play their part in ending poverty and bringing about sustainable development.
- ▲ A detailed programme of action and

projects linked to specific time frames for implementation and funding have been agreed upon.

## What is the 'African Century'?

- ▲ The rebirth, revival and renewal of Africa are encapsulated in the vision of an African Renaissance and in the belief that this will truly be the African Century.
- ▲ The African Renaissance vision is an all-embracing concept that draws its inspiration from the rich and diverse history and cultures of Africa. It acknowledges Africa as the cradle of humanity, whilst providing a framework for the modern Africa to re-emerge as a significant partner in the new world order.
- ▲ A solid base of peace and security for all citizenry is central to the agenda of the African Renaissance. Efforts must not only be geared towards creating conditions in which there is absence of war, but must also focus on the fundamental improvement in the quality of life of all Africa's people.
- ▲ The African Renaissance is possible because Africans have entered into a new partnership with the rest of the world on the basis of what Africa has determined is the correct route to its own development.

## How will the AU improve the living quality of Africa's people?

- ▲ In order to achieve the social and economic regeneration of the continent, the pre-eminent issue of poverty alleviation, through sustained people-centred development, must be vigorously pursued, so as to provide an improved quality of life for all of Africa and her people.
- ▲ The AU will work towards poverty alleviation and people-centred development, which together with peace and stability are essential for a growing economy.
- ▲ The priority is to develop a prosperous and balanced economy in Africa, based on the principles of equity and mutual benefit, through the active involvement and, empowerment of all the continent's people.

## Is there good news about South Africa?



It does not require much effort to find such news, says the International Marketing Council

- ▲ South Africa has one of the world's most progressive democratic constitutions.
- ▲ It is the world's largest producer of gold and platinum.
- ▲ It is the second largest fruit exporter in the world.
- ▲ It is the sole international producer of Mercedes Benz Class C

right-hand drive vehicles; and its BMW plant is ranked first in quality among manufacturers of BMW, including German and other European plants.

- ▲ Sasol's Secunda factories were the biggest petrochemical projects undertaken on a single site at any one time in the world.
- ▲ The Kruger National Park supports the greatest variety of wildlife species on the African continent and the country is ranked first in the world for its floral kingdom.

South Africa sports some of the most diverse fauna and flora in the world

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