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7th Report on Economic and Social Rights

*Millennium Development Goals and the Progressive Realisation of
Economic and Social Rights in South Africa*

2006-2009





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The 7th Economic and Social Rights Report: Millennium Development Goals and the Progressive Realisation of Economic and Social Rights in South Africa





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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON

One of the fundamental characteristics of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996 (Constitution) is the inclusion of economic and social rights. Section 27 (1) provides that everyone has the right to have access to health care services, sufficient food and water, and social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance. Similarly, section 26 (1) provides that everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. In contrast, the rights to environment, land and education do not explicitly have “access” in their provisions. In fact, section 25 (5) and section 25 (6), in respect of land tenure security and land restitution, can be read as an entitlement. However, with the exception of the right to education, all these rights are qualified by a second subsection that provides that the “*state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of the right*”. Section 7 (2) of the Constitution specifically mandates the state to give effect to the rights in the Bill of Rights by obligating it to respect, protect, promote and fulfil these rights. Similarly, courts, tribunals and forums are entrusted with the obligation in terms of section 39 (2) to promote the spirit, purport and objects of the Bill of Rights when interpreting any legislation. Chapter 9 of the Constitution also establishes state institutions supporting constitutional democracy, of which the South African Human Rights Commission (Commission) is one such body.

Theoretically, this appears to be a near perfect system but the lived experienced of the poor and marginalised in South Africa would provide a different analysis.

The consensus by most economic and political analysts is that approximately 40% of South Africans are living in poverty with the poorest 15% in a desperate struggle to survive. Depending on the definition that one uses, the unemployment rate in South Africa ranges between 25% and 35%. In addition, South Africa is classified as one of the most unequal countries in the world, and it is characterised by extreme degrees of inequality in the distribution of income, assets and opportunities. For the majority of the citizens in South Africa, therefore, the progressive realisation of economic and social rights is fundamental to their daily survival. As a testament to this, the past couple of years have seen an increase in service delivery protests across the country with each one becoming more violent. In addition, social movements have re-emerged and are beginning to forcefully occupy a civil and political space. May 2008 bore witness to the most horrific scenes of xenophobic attacks and although the reasons for the attacks are not absolutely clear, history has shown that the lived experience of poverty, deprivation, marginalisation and social exclusion often manifests itself outwardly into feelings of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. Workers have also taken to the streets to fight for better wages and improved conditions of employment. In 2009, and in the midst of a recessionary climate, the strike season lasted much longer than usual as many bargaining councils failed to reach an agreement. The prolonged strikes are perhaps indicative of the subjective experience of workers slipping further and further into the abyss of an underclass, and once again shows the stark reality that South Africa is a society divided because of gross economic disparities with pockets of a first, third and an increasingly peripheral fourth world.

The Commission’s public hearings for its 7th Economic and Social Rights Report took cognisance of the social reality of the majority of people in the country and, in a departure from its previous reports, utilised the targets and indicators from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to test the progressive realisation of economic and social rights. However, in recognition that meeting these targets does not necessarily equate to the fulfilment of economic and social rights, the Commission has taken the bold step of adding more content to the understanding of progressive realisation. In drafting its 7th ESR Report, the Commission has defined progressive realisation as a continuum where the rationale is to start at the minimum socio-economic provision necessary to meet people’s basic needs (minimum obligation), and move to a full realisation of the significant improvement of the capabilities of people in society to the extent that they can meaningfully participate in and shape society.

The findings of the Commission’s public hearings for its 7th ESR Report show that while there has been significant policy and legislation created which could enable the state to progressively realise economic and social rights, there are many policy failures, as well as gaps and weaknesses when translating policy into action. There is also no clear understanding throughout the system of government regarding the content of its constitutional obligation of progressive realisation, and there is little recognition of a rights-based approach to socio-economic rights in policy planning and implementation. Therefore, there is much work to be done to give meaning to words such as adequate, access, fulfilment, reasonableness, as they remain mere notions that are poorly defined and



understood. The slow pace at which the government is moving towards the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is disconcerting. It is hence recommended that the government moves toward the swift ratification of this important international instrument. Finally, in the absence of established norms and standards, much of the government's constitutional obligations remain loosely specified and, in the spirit of cooperative governance, it is hoped that this report will substantively contribute to improving the discourse on economic and social rights to the extent that these rights can be real for all who live in South Africa.

Appreciation is extended to all who participated in and contributed to the public hearings and the writing of the 7th ESR Report. In particular, I would like to thank Cameron Jacobs, Yuri Ramkissoo, James Motha, Rashida Kalake and Christine Jesseman from the Research, Documentation and Policy Analysis Programme; Southern Hemisphere Consulting for the writing of the report; the invaluable expertise of the numerous panellists and all those individuals who contributed by way of written submissions and oral testimony.

Mabedle L Mushwana

Chairperson, South African Human Rights Commission





ABSTRACT

The South African Human Rights Commission (Commission) is a constitutional body governed by section 184 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996 (Constitution). In terms of its constitutional obligation, the Commission must require relevant organs of state to provide it with information on the measures that they have taken towards the realisation of the rights in the Bill of Rights concerning housing, health care, food, water, social security, education, land and the environment.

Such monitoring and assessment is not only for the purposes of constitutional compliance but more importantly to achieve specific objectives, namely:

1. To determine the extent to which the organs of the state have respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled human rights.
2. To determine the reasonableness of measures including legislation, by-laws, policies and programmes adopted by organs of state to ensure the realisation of human rights in the country.
3. To make recommendations that will ensure the protection, development and attainment of human rights.

For the 7th ESR report, the Commission decided to use the MDG as the indicator set for analysis. The rationale was primarily because the MDG provide benchmarks for measuring the progressive realisation of economic and social rights and therefore can provide renewed vigour for the determination of the violation of the rights. However, the strategy for the monitoring of ESR in South Africa requires that it goes beyond the quantitative targets of the MDG, and makes an evaluative assessment of the qualitative and substantive issues with regard to its progressive realisation.¹ While it is clear that there is a connection between the content of the eight MDG and the seven ESR enshrined in the Constitution, one must be mindful that the former are motivated by political commitments, whereas the progressive realisation of ESR is driven by constitutional imperatives and international law. Furthermore, even though there are minimum standards attached to both, ESR create the immediate and binding obligations to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights. In contrast, MDG are political and therefore are voluntary. It must also be borne in mind that human rights in general have not played a significant role in the construction of the MDG and consequently the minimum standards attached to both may be qualitatively different. In that respect, the targets and indicators attached to the MDG may appear attractive but when measured against the obligation of the progressive realisation of a right, it may mean that meeting the targets does not equate to the realisation of a right.² In part, this is what made the MDG such an attractive tool, as the various human rights obligations provide the natural context and lens through which the goals and targets can be critically viewed and understood.

The strategy of the Commission was thus to fuse the MDG with national indicators and the national policy and legislative framework to form a comprehensive measurement tool to assess the progressive realisation of ESR within a rights-based approach.

The primary methodology for the 7th ESR Report was the use of public hearings on each right, which were held from 8 to 12 June 2009. In preparation for the public hearings, terms of reference were drafted to assist stakeholders to make submissions to the Commission. These were sent out together with a working document titled "*Millennium Development Goals and the Realisation of Economic and Social Rights in South Africa: A Review*," which critically assessed the progress of ESR in the context of South Africa's commitment to meeting the MDG. The purpose of the working document was to provide a basis for those writing submissions.

The written submissions, together with the oral testimony of stakeholders at the hearings, formed the basis for the analysis. However, the use of focus groups as a methodology has its limitations especially in respect of measurement validity. It is for this reason that the results of the public hearings were supplemented by extensive secondary research of government documents, academic texts, international literature and key informant interviews and discussions.

1 The South African Human Rights Commission, *The Monitoring of Economic and Social Rights in South Africa, A Draft Strategy Paper*, SAHRC Research, Documentation and Policy Analysis Programme, (2008).

2 The South African Human Rights Commission, *Millennium Development Goals & the Realisation of Economic and Social Rights in South Africa: A Review*. Working Paper, Research, Documentation & Policy, Analysis Programme (2008).



Unlike other methodologies, the success of public hearings depends largely on the multi-faceted input from stakeholders. In the case of the ESR Public Hearings, all government departments and ministries, as well as civil society organisations, academic institutions and the general public were invited to make submissions and to attend the hearings. Unfortunately, the initial response to the call for submissions was very poor and the Commission was forced to extend the deadline. Through the considerable effort of the Commission's Research, Documentation and Policy Analysis Programme, the response improved from the national government and the non-state sector, but the response from provincial government departments remained very limited. The only exception was the Western Cape provincial government which prepared a comprehensive submission. In respect of the national government departments, two key departments did not participate at the hearings. These were the former Department of Minerals and Energy and the Department of Social Development, and although the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform participated at the hearings, it did not provide a submission. This made it difficult to interrogate the department's progress in respect of the county's crucial land reform program.

Principal Findings

The findings are divided between the operation of government in respect of its constitutional obligation to progressively realise the rights in the Bill of Rights, and findings in respect of the rights themselves. In terms of the operation of government, it is argued that while some of the government's quantitative targets are positive, there are nonetheless significant impediments, with the result that the targets do not necessarily coalesce with a human rights understanding of progressive realisation. These impediments are as follows:

1. The conceptual misunderstanding by the government of its constitutional obligation to progressively realise economic and social rights.
2. The inadequate fulfilment of public participation processes and access to information, which are key elements of a rights-based approach.
3. The social exclusion of the poor and vulnerable which includes women, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV and AIDS, non-nationals, farm workers and indigenous populations.
4. The disjuncture between strategic planning and implementation which resides in the weak capacity of government departments to deliver on their intended outputs.

Whereas the above referred to the operations of government, the following highlight the challenges related to the progressive realisation of specific rights:





Right to Environment

Findings

- Ineffective policy implementation reduces the availability of a healthy environment and undermines the effective conservation of open spaces.
- Accessibility continues to be undermined by a lack of access to information and the government's lack of response to either requests for information or participation in decision making.
- The inadequacy of overarching planning frameworks as well as the inadequacy of inter-departmental and inter-sectoral collaboration reduces the appropriateness of environmental policies.

Recommendations

- The amendment of relevant legislation is required to ensure that the responsibility for environmental sector obligations is a concurrent competence of all three spheres of government instead of just national and provincial government.
- An amendment of the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations and public participation guidelines in respect of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2 of 2000 is needed, to ensure greater engagement and more meaningful dialogue between Impact and Assessment Practitioners and the public and private sectors.
- An inter-governmental initiative, involving all three tiers of government, should develop guidelines for the streamlining of operational procedures and for improved co-ordination between different government departments and different spheres of government.
- A multi-stakeholder task team with the participation of the government, the private sector and the international donor community must be established to develop a well-resourced programme to deal with the existing and threatening mining impacts, particularly the impacts on watersheds and air quality.

The Right to Water and Sanitation

Findings

- Although the Commission recognises the improvement in the delivery of water services, there is still much that needs to be done in respect of the right to have access to adequate sanitation.
- There is no indication of continuous improvement and progressive realisation in service delivery to households in respect of the right to water and sanitation.
- Free Basic Water is provided only to those households that are registered as indigent, but vulnerable households are unaware of the indigent policy or do not register for fear of being stigmatised. The appropriateness of the Indigent Policy used in South Africa is questionable as it places the onus on poor households to prove that they are poor and to voluntarily register as an indigent household.
- There are severe capacity problems at municipal level which is hindered by gross under spending despite the urgent need for service delivery.



Recommendations

- A strategy to ensure that the poor and vulnerable retain access to water, while simultaneously resolving issues around non-payment for services, is required. The Indigent Policy and register for the allocation of Free Basic Services should be replaced with a universal allocation approach or geographic targeting.
- A national regulation of water tariffs and credit control practices to promote social and environmental justice is needed to ensure uniformly low tariffs for low consumption and equitable rates across rich and poor municipalities.
- As a matter of great urgency, the assessment and resolution of capacity problems at a municipal level is required. Steps should therefore be taken to ensure greater financial and technical support as well as the allocation of skilled personnel to under-capacitated and poor municipalities.
- Service delivery would improve and be benefitted by research in the following areas:
 - Environmental, institutional and economic dimensions of service delivery;
 - Climate change and the availability of water resources including pollution, water quality and water resource development;
 - The institutional framework of water management and service provision, organisational capacity and human resource development and training;
 - Levels of water consumption and costs and affordability of water services for low income households, including the non-payment for services; and
 - Options for cross-subsidisation and elasticity of demand at different levels of consumption across different bands of user groups.

The Right to Food

Findings

- Most of the state's food security programmes facilitate access to food through capacity-building and income generation. Though the intention of these programmes is to address immediate needs, they tend to be temporary in nature and fail to address the long term food needs of South Africans.
- Adequate co-ordination between government departments and between government and civil society is lacking. This is demonstrated by the variance between allocation and spending in some government departments, unfilled posts, under-skilled staff and the general inefficiency of service delivery.
- The state is not moving as expeditiously and effectively as possible to give effect to the right to have access to sufficient food.
- At provincial level, programmes are not always based on clear, measurable targets and indicators, and programmes that are said to focus on food insecurity sometimes do not have indicators designed to give effect to that focus.

Recommendations

- The government must implement a more rigorous integrated planning process involving all relevant national, provincial and local government departments including NGOs and FBOs to ensure that targets and outputs are measurable and meaningful.
- Service delivery efficiency and effectiveness must be improved by focusing on the development of service delivery skills and capacities, particularly at a provincial and local government level.
- It is recommended that the scope of programmes be expanded to include food-stressed people outside the categories of vulnerable people so that they have access to food.
- The government must assess the negative impacts of the land tenure and land reform policies in respect of the impact on food security.



The Right to Social Security

Findings

- The oral and written submissions brought before the Commission during the public hearings demonstrated that the South African social security system is not substantially reducing poverty.
- Although it is acknowledged that the social security safety net has been expanded to reach more people, this expansion does not necessarily equate to progressive realisation.
- The full realisation of the right to social security will require much broader multi-departmental and multi-sphere efforts to integrate anti-poverty strategies.
- It is clear that ineffective governance by key South African government agencies is a major factor militating against both the realisation of the right to social security and the first Millennium Development Goal.

Recommendations

- The organisational mindset of the Department of Social Development needs to be reoriented towards embracing a human rights-based approach to social security.
- As much as possible, social security goals should be firmly linked to solid opportunities for economic advancement.
- The Department of Social Development needs to undertake the process of developing a comprehensive Road map for social security. Inter alia, the Road map should clearly articulate how the government intends to meet the specific MDG and how the constitutional right to social security will be progressively realised.
- The South African government must ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The Right to Health

Findings

- There is inconsistency in data gathering on health issues, and the consequent unreliable statistics and lack of disaggregation of certain indicators make it difficult to measure the progressive realisation of the right to health care services.
- South Africa is not even close to halfway on meeting the target for the child mortality rate, after nine years of commitment to the MDG and with only six more years to go.
- South Africa is a far way from reaching the target of reducing the maternal mortality rate by three quarters. In fact the trend is suggesting that it is increasing.
- The growth in HIV prevalence among the 25+ age group, which shows an increase of 1.3% from 15.5% to 16.8% since 2002, is disconcerting.
- New patients living with and affected by HIV/AIDS find it difficult to access ARV programmes due to a lack of additional resources, and therefore their right to adequate health care is compromised.
- Access to health care services for the poor is severely constrained by expensive, inadequate or nonexistent transport, by serious shortages with regards to emergency transport, and by long waiting times at clinics and other health care facilities.
- There is insufficient access to health care for vulnerable groups such as women, sex workers, prisoners and older persons.



Recommendations

- The long term vision for one inclusive national health system should be pursued.
- The reasons for the increase in the child mortality and maternal mortality rates must be investigated by the Department of Health.
- Basic skills and competencies at primary health care level, in respect of basic mental health problems need to be developed.
- A standardised manner of gathering data must be agreed and collaborated upon by government and civil society.
- Sufficient funding must be sourced for tertiary health care facilities as well as primary health care facilities to adequately serve the needs of the most vulnerable.
- A review of legislation governing the planning and implementation of health care for all is recommended.

The Right to Land

Findings

- The land reform programme is not appropriate to the needs of many of the landless.
- The government's narrow focus on meeting land redistribution targets and the shift away from a pro-poor policy which promotes transformation shows a limited understanding of the constitutional obligation to progressively realise the right to access to land in an equitable manner.
- The failure of almost half of the land reform projects is problematic in terms of the progressive realisation of socio-economic rights, as the right to land is delivering neither the restoration of dignity nor economic benefits to hopeful beneficiaries, and is not contributing to improved rural development.
- The failure of the government to secure land rights for those living on farms and in communal areas, and to act decisively against evictions, is very worrying.
- Poor post-settlement support programmes have contributed to the assessment that the right to land is not being progressively realised.

Recommendations

A new phase of land reform located within a wider agrarian reform is needed and will require new institutional arrangements. These will have to encompass the following:

- A policy review in terms of the understanding of communities in rural areas.
- A review in respect of the arrangements with regard to traditional leaders.
- Improved land use planning and consideration of land use planning and restitution/redistribution when considering land resettlement and the provision of mining rights.
- Implementation and reporting annually on the recommendations of the Commission's 2007 hearings on Land Tenure Security, Safety and Labour Relations in Farming Communities.
- Creation of substantive rights in land for occupiers.
- Proactive creation of new, sustainable settlements in farming areas.



The Right to Housing

Findings

- Significant gaps exist in the housing provisions for a variety of categories, such as people who qualify for a subsidised house and are waiting in the queue for one; backyard dwellers and people in rural areas. They are therefore not able to access and enjoy their rights.
- The methods of informal settlement upgrading and the process of upgrading are increasingly becoming synonymous with evictions.
- The housing policy is one dimensional and is based on the concept of a household. It does not recognise the multiple needs in communities, including single person households.
- The housing policy has not adequately addressed the problem of inner-city accommodation for low income groups.
- The Housing Demand Data Base is very problematic and lacks transparency.
- The quality of the housing that has been built is a significant problem and compromises the right to adequate housing.

Recommendations

- The Department of Housing must recommit itself to a positive and indirect approach to doing away with slums, as promoted by both the Housing Act and Breaking New Ground.
- Housing policies must take diversity into account and need to be tailored to the needs of each individual, family and special needs group.
- The rental housing policy for low-income groups particularly needs to be restructured, to guarantee security of tenure for tenants.
- The National Housing Code must be reviewed to eliminate discriminatory phrasing against asylum seekers and refugees.
- The Housing Demand Data Base needs to be brought online throughout the country, and the relevant government authorities need to explain the transition from the waiting list process to people who are on the list.



The Right to Education

Findings

- Statistics show that education in South Africa is not providing the broad access to quality education that would enable the equitable sharing of opportunities.
- The poor performance of learners and teachers in literacy and numeracy and the declining numbers of Grade 12 learners who are eligible for entrance to higher education provides evidence that sufficient standards of quality are not being met.
- The lack of decent infrastructure infringes on a child's right to education, and educational opportunities remain bound to historical patterns of inequality.
- The increased access to education has come at the expense of quality.
- In 2007, the average literacy score in Grade three was 36%, but only 15% of children passed both numeracy and literacy.
- There are concerns around the quality of teaching in schools.

Recommendations

- The definition of 'basic education' should include a learner's entire schooling career, which would be consistent with international trends.
- The funding, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the school funding policies should be reviewed to achieve greater accessibility to education.
- The government should develop measures to ensure the equitable allocation of funding and the provision of infrastructure between and within provinces.
- The Department of Basic Education must provide nutrition programmes at all schools, from Grade R, primary to secondary, to realise the right of access to food of all children.
- The Admission Policy for Ordinary Public Schools should be revised to reflect the right of children without South African birth certificates to access education.
- The Department of Basic Education must monitor the quality of education by assessing throughput rates, matriculation pass rates, the grades at which young people are passing or failing, and the teaching pedagogy at schools.



STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report is structured as follows:

The first chapter provides a background to the writing of the report.

The second chapter focuses on the nature and content of the constitutional obligations in respect of the various rights, through deconstructing progressive realisation and its nexus to the notion of reasonableness as expounded in the various constitutional court judgments. Part of the intention of this chapter is to shift the debate in human rights discourse from using “progressive realisation” as a generic term to unpacking it into its constituent elements. In the General Comments, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provided the normative content and criteria for monitoring the specific economic and social right.³ Although these criteria vary depending on the specific right, the core denominators are accessibility, availability, acceptability and appropriateness. These criteria are applied within the rights-based approach when assessing the progressive realisation of the specific rights. However, it should be noted that these criteria are not legally binding and there is a need to develop a new enforceable methodological framework for monitoring the fulfilment of socio-economic rights.

Chapter 3 is a discussion of the four specific findings that emerged through the analysis of the public hearings and focuses on the impediments to the enjoyment and fulfilment of economic and social rights. These impediments are:

1. The conceptual misunderstanding by the government of its constitutional obligation to progressively realise economic and social rights.
2. The inadequate fulfilment of public participation processes and access to information which are key elements of a rights-based approach.
3. The social exclusion of the poor and vulnerable which includes women, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV and AIDS, non-nationals, farm workers and indigenous populations.
4. The disjuncture between strategic planning and implementation which resides in the weak capacity of government departments to deliver on their intended outputs.

These impediments are elaborated upon in chapter 3 in which the status of each right is explicated.

Chapters 4–11 concern the individual rights. Each chapter contains an overview of the international and South African commitments and obligations governing the right, and includes a listing of relevant South African legislation, policies, programmes and institutions. This is followed by a description of the MDG relevant to the right and the status of the right in respect of the main themes arising. A predominantly quantitative analysis of South Africa’s progress towards fulfilling the MDG is then provided, followed by a discussion on the progressive realisation of the respective right. This last sub-section attempts to analyse the progressive realisation within the framework of the 4 As which have been used in international discourse, particularly in the General Comments to the ICESCR for interpreting the progressive realisation of ESR. This analytical framework has been used in the absence of any other, and although useful, it is not entirely satisfactory. Firstly, the 4 As have not been applied to the rights to land, environment, water and food in the general comments, and therefore one has to interpret them as meaningfully as possible. Secondly, they differ, as although access, availability, and acceptability are common, the general comment on the right to education uses “adaptability” while the general comments to the rights to health and social security use “appropriateness”. Thirdly, they are not clearly distinct from one another and at times the analysis appears to be somewhat superficial. This has highlighted the need for the Commission to continue on its own path towards identifying a structured framework for analysis based on well defined indicators and measured against a set of desired outcomes.

Chapter 12 is the final chapter and provides some general concluding observations of all the economic and social rights.

³ See General Comment 4 (Housing), 12 (Food), 13 (Education), 14 (Health), 15 (Water), and 19 (Social Security).



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABET	Adult Basic Education Training
ACCESS	Alliance for Children's Access to Social Security
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's Rights
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ALP	AIDS Law Project
AMPS	All Media Products Survey
ANC	African National Congress
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
ARV	Antiretroviral
BNG	Breaking New Ground
CALS	Centre for Applied Legal Studies
C.A.P.E	Cape Action for People and the Environment
CASE	Community Agency for Social Enquiry
CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCMA	Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration
CCMT	Comprehensive Plan for HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CGE	Commission on Gender Equality
CLRA	Communal Land Rights Act
CIP	Comprehensive Infrastructure Planning Process
CoRMSA	Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa
CMR	Child Mortality Rate
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRLR	Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights
CRU	Community Residential Unit
CSDA	Centre for Social Development in Africa
CSG	Child Support Grant
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DDSP	District Development Support Programme
DEMIS	District / Regional-Based Education Management Information System
DICAG	Disabled Children's Action Group
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
DCGTA	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
DFA	Development Facilitation Act
DHS	Department of Human Settlements
DLA	Department of Land Affairs
DME	Department of Minerals and Energy
DoEn	Department of Energy
DoH	Department of Health
DoHA	Department of Home Affairs



DoM	Department of Mineral Resources
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course
DSD/DoSD	Department of Social Development
DRD&LR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
DWEA	Department of Water and Environmental Affairs
DPLG	Department of Local Government
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioners
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDI	Education Development Index
EFA	Education for All
EFV	Efavirenz
EHP	Emergency Housing Programme
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
ESR	Economic and Social Rights
ESTA	Extension of Security of Tenure Act 62 of 1997
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBW	Free Basic Water
FBSan	Free Basic Sanitation
FET	Further Education and Training
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems
FMSP	Forced Migration Studies Programme
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improving Nutrition
GDARD	Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEGPRI	Gender, Education and Global Poverty Reduction Initiatives Project
GHS	General Household Survey
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HCPMA	Housing Consumers Protection Measures Act 95 of 1998
HDA	Housing Development Agency
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
HSS	Housing Subsidy Operational System
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IDASA	Institute for a Democratic South Africa
IES	Income Expenditure Survey
IFSNP	Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme
IFSS	Integrated Food Security Strategy
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IQMS	Integrated Quality Management Systems
JIOP	Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LARP	Land and Agrarian Reform Project



LER	Learner-to-Educator Ratio
LRA	Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995
LRAD	Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development
LRC	Legal Resources Centre
LTSM	Learning Teaching Support Materials
LUMB	Land Use Management Bill
LURITS	Learner Unit Record Information Tracking System
MDG	Millennium Development Goal/s
MDR-TB	Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis
MIG	Municipal Infrastructure Grant
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MPRDA	Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NCCEMD	National Committee on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths
NDP	National Drug Policy
NEEDU	National Education Evaluation and Development Unit
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998
NFCS	National Food Consumption Survey
NFES	National Food Emergency Scheme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHBRC	National Home Builders Registration Council
NHFC	National Housing Finance Corporation
NHI	National Health Insurance
NEIMS	National Infrastructure Management System
NSFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme
NSNP	National School Nutrition Programme
NSP	National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS
NTCP	National TB Control Programme
NSDP	National Spatial Development Perspective
NDoSD	National Department of Social Development
NURCHA	National Urban and Reconstruction Agency
OBE	Outcomes-Based Education
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSD	Occupational Specific Dispensation
OVC	Orphaned and Vulnerable Children
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
PEM	Protein-Energy-Malnutrition Programme
PHC	Public Health Clinics
PHP	People's Housing Process
PIE	Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998
PLAAS	Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PPIP	Perinatal Problem Identification Programme
PTOs	Permissions to occupy
QIDS	Quality Improvement and Development Strategy



RDP	Reconstruction and Development Plan
RED	Reaching Every District
RHLF	Rural Housing Loan Fund
RNC	Revised National Curriculum
RoD	Record of Decision
SADHS	South African Demographic and Health Survey
SAHRC	South African Human Rights Commission
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SAPS	South African Police Services
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
SAIRR	South African Institute for Race Relations
SANAC	South African National AIDS Council
SCR	Smear Conversion Rate
SGB	School Governing Body
SHF	Social Housing Foundation
SKEP	Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme
SLAG	Settlement Land Acquisition Grant
SLAPP	Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation Suits
SocPen	Social Pension System
SPFS	Special Programme for Food Security Projects
SRoD	Social Relief of Distress
START	Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Treatment
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
STEP	Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Planning
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TAC	Treatment and Action Campaign
TB	Tuberculosis
TRAs	Transitional Relocation Areas
UNCRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UCT	University of Cape Town
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
VIPs	Ventilated Pit Latrines
WBWS	Willing Buyer Willing Seller
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation



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