



# APEX PRIORITIES

## Business Unusual: All hands on deck to speed up change February 2008

*Listed hereunder are Apex Priorities announced by President Thabo Mbeki in the State of the Nation Address on 8 February 2008. These priorities will be incorporated into the government Programme of Action and published on the government website, with relevant details such as time-frames and specific implementing agents.*

<p><b>Project 1: Industrial Policy Action Plan</b> <i>Description:</i> Urgently finalise CSPs for sectors already identified, develop and implement action plans for each, provided resources where applicable and ensure that all of government co-operates in their implementation.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b> Department of Trade and Industry and relevant sector departments should urgently strengthen structures to implement the project and ensure efficient M&amp;E</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 2: Set up an investment call centre</b> <i>Description:</i> Establish a call centre where all applications to set up enterprises are registered and strategic ones (size, location and employment) followed up, with escalation to The Presidency if insufficient progress is registered within 3 months.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b> TISA should set up such a call centre, register and follow up investment applications and escalate to DG, Minister and to The Presidency as and when necessary; ensure all relevant departments act on their responsibilities; and working with Government Communications (GCIS) implement communication campaign to ensure investor awareness of facility.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 3: Speed up ICT interventions to provide cheap platforms</b> <i>Description:</i> Increase usage of broadband and other ICT by addressing infrastructure development, cost, and access related issues including Infracore, Sentech and undersea cables.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b> Implement phase one of Sentech wireless broadband, finalise financial closure, submarine cable guidelines and begin construction of UHURU net submarine cable and benchmark telecommunication cost with comparator countries.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 4: Implement intensive campaign on energy security</b> <i>Description:</i> Besides intensifying the project plans already in place to improve generation, transmission, distribution and reticulation capacity and diversify sources of energy, launch a massive campaign to ensure saving of energy by households and industrial users.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b> Departments of Minerals &amp; Energy and Public Enterprises, working with Eskom, to conduct a creative and permanent public campaign on this issue; and housing to ensure that construction methods and planning of built environment take into account the issue of saving energy.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>

<p><b>Project 5: Resolve organisational issues on skills development</b>  <b>Description:</b>  In addition to ongoing development and implementation of an HRDS, address governance and operational matters pertaining to SETAs, and capacity in universities and FET Colleges to meet skills requirements.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  Departments of Labour and Education jointly and variously to address the matters and report in context of AsgiSA/JIPSA; and mobilise private sector, professional bodies and trade unions to contribute.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 6: Resource poor schools and monitor learning outcomes</b>  <b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide all schools in poorest quintiles with: basic resource package of appropriate books and materials for learners and teachers; support staff; assistance with management and governance of resources.</li> <li>• Monitor improved learning outcomes in these schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Department of Education to manage procurement and distribution of resources on behalf of provinces; and provinces to arrange for support staff and assistance with management and governance.</li> <li>• National Department of Education to monitor learning outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Social Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 7: Speed up land and agrarian reform</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Speed up acquisition of land for redistribution and ensure intensive training and assistance to ‘new’ farmers.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  Departments of Agriculture and Land Affairs to clear the logjams including matters pertaining to the capitalisation and mandate of the Land Bank, operation of MAFISA and leveraging of Financial Sector Charter opportunities.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 8: War against Poverty</b>  <b>Description:</b>  <i>Medium-term objective:</i> development of comprehensive anti-poverty strategy and its implementation plan, including broad societal consultations and agreement on issues such as poverty datum line.  <i>Interim campaign:</i> utilising CDWs, social workers, community- and home-based care workers, constituency offices, councillors and NGOs identify households and individuals in dire poverty and provide one or combination of interventions already available – social grants, ‘distress grant’, food parcels, school feeding, agricultural starter-packs, micro-finance and SMME assistance, enrolment into EPWP etc.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  War Room for War against Poverty: dsd working with the departments of Provincial &amp; Local Government (and provinces/municipalities), Health, Public Service &amp; Administration, Agriculture, Land Affairs, Public Works, National Treasury and StatsSA to set up a project team, prepare template for assessment of households, divide the country into manageable spaces, co-ordinate teams, process submissions and decide on interventions, and mobilise business and others to contribute for e.g. c/o NGOs.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Social Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 9: Self-/employment interventions in the Second Economy</b>  <b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Massive campaign for creation of self-/employment through micro-enterprises and co-operatives by organising and training women particularly in rural areas.</li> <li>• In addition to work being done through SETAs, FET institutions, EPWP and NIPF/IPIP, facilitate entry into labour market for young people through ‘massification’ of learnerships and special PWP programmes for youth.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special programme, ‘Jobs for Growth’ led by Department of Agriculture (using IDT) working with the departments of Trade &amp; Industry, Water Affairs &amp; Forestry, Environmental Affairs &amp; Tourism and others</li> <li>• Department of Labour to conduct an audit of impact of learnerships and work with private sector to ratchet up the programme; and dpw to expand its programme on e.g. rehabilitation of government buildings and eradication of mud schools.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>

<p><b>Project 10: Speed up community infrastructure programme</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Implement intensive campaign to meet targets for water, sanitation and electricity: speed up implementation of programme to attain universal access by 2014</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  Social Cluster to submit to Cabinet outcome of audit, the resource requirements, the action plan and communication strategy – and monitor implementation, reporting regularly to Cabinet.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Social Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 11: Ratchet up implementation of ECD programme</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Massively speed up implementation of ECD programme: expand the number trained staff and double number of sites and child beneficiaries by end-2009</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  Department of Social Development, working with the departments of Education and Health to supervise and monitor implementation</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Social Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 12: Intensify campaign on communicable diseases</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Implement the updated strategy on HIV and AIDS and intensify campaign against various TB strains as well as other communicable diseases.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  Departments of Health and Social Development to lead the campaign working with other departments and social partners.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Social Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 13: Assistance to SMEs including procurement activities by government</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Ensure preferential procurement through set-asides and that the principle of payments within 30 days is implemented through a call centre where SMEs which are not paid within this period can register their complaints and from where interventions can be made with relevant departments/institutions. Complete assessment of regulatory environment for SME and recapitalise Khula</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Trade &amp; Industry (SEDA) and National Treasury to set up such a centre or ensure inclusion of this mandate in existing centre(s), and working with Government Communications (GCIS) to popularise existence of facility</li> <li>• The Department of Trade &amp; Industry working with the Department of Labour and The Presidency to carry out assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Economic Cluster</b></p>
<p><b>Project 14: Implement special social cohesion campaigns</b>  <b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to campaign around national symbols, introduce a pledge that will be recited every morning in all schools, based on part of the preamble to the Constitution, and on a commitment to human solidarity and humane conduct.</li> <li>• Geographical Names Council and provincial committees to undertake country-wide hearings on names of districts/metros/local municipalities and complete this work within 24 months.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departments of Education and Arts &amp; Culture to initiate public debate on the matter.</li> <li>• Geographic Names Council to develop the necessary capacity to carry out this task.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Social Cluster</b></p>

<p><b>Project 15: Regularise employment and KPA at designated levels</b>  <b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all vacant positions especially DG, DDG, CFO, COO and Municipal Manager are filled within 6 months of vacancy emerging.</li> <li>• Ensure that by May of every year all SMS members have submitted signed KPAs (and within 2 months of beginning of financial year at municipal level).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departments of Public Service &amp; Administration and Provincial &amp; Local Government to do an audit and all relevant Executing Authorities and Heads of Departments to ensure this happens; and special assistance to be provided to targeted municipalities to acquire and retain skilled staff.</li> <li>• Office of the Public Service Commission working with the departments of Public Service &amp; Administration and Provincial &amp; Local Government to report on this to Cabinet in July of every year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Governance and Administration</b></p>
<p><b>Project 16: Ensure integrated planning across all spheres</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Complete road map for the setting up of planning capacity and ensure alignment among planning instruments across all the spheres.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  The Presidency to finalise proposals on planning capacity, and continue implementation of work related to NSDP/PGDS/IDP alignment.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Governance and Administration</b></p>
<p><b>Project 17: Improve civic services</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Ensure that services such as IDs and passports and processing of work permits are massively improved.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  Departments of Home Affairs, Trade &amp; Industry and other relevant departments to improve their organisational capacity including urgent filling of vacant SMS and professional posts, reengineering of Department of Home Affairs systems, piloting of new ID card and rooting out corruption.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: Governance and Administration</b></p>
<p><b>Project 18: Implement special crime combating &amp; security initiatives</b>  <b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revamp the criminal justice system</li> <li>• Each police station to identify and focus on two/three serious crimes in its precinct, the combating and prevention of which would impact on other crimes, including crimes against women and children.</li> <li>• Intensified action on organised crime and corruption.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organisational Implications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JCPS to oversee revamp of the criminal justice system</li> <li>• SA Police Service to use its electronic and other monitoring systems to ensure that this happens.</li> <li>• SA Police Service, National Prosecuting Authority and National Intelligence Agency and others to strengthen their co-operation in addressing these crimes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: JCPS</b></p>
<p><b>Project 19: Reduce number of cases pending trial</b>  <b>Description:</b>  Reduce case backlogs by 30% by 2009.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b>  Utilise ex-magistrates, and additional (contract appointments) prosecutors and legal aid representatives and administrative support to establish additional capacity to finalise long outstanding cases; improve Case Flow Management; take advantage of plea bargaining, alternative sentencing and diversion to achieve this objective; align work relating to improved screening of cases and liaison between the SA Police Service and National Prosecuting Authority with the CJS Review.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: JCPS</b></p>

<p><b>Project 20: Partnerships and communication on fighting crime</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensify work with BAC and other partners, including new mandates and resourcing for CPFs</li> <li>• Implement a comprehensive communication strategy to improve community partnerships and enhance public confidence.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JCPS Cluster to build such partnerships, and working with Government Communications (GCIS) to prepare for activities such as izimbizo.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: JCPS</b></p>
<p><b>Project 21: Continue to facilitate resolution of political challenges facing Zimbabwe</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Undertake facilitation as mandated by SADC; ensure that, by the 2008 elections, the main issues are resolved; and working with SADC, assist reconstruction process.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <p>Ensure capacity within The Presidency, Department of Foreign Affairs and other agencies to support the facilitation process, and monitor implementation.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: IRPS</b></p>
<p><b>Project 22: Consolidate advances relating to peace and reconstruction in DRC</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>As part of programmes to realise agendas of Africa and the South, ensure regular interactions with DRC government at level of dfa, The Presidency, dti, dplg, dpe and dpsa to monitor progress and assist where required.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs to co-ordinate and monitor implementation, including assistance programme and ensure optimal capacity in our DRC and other missions.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: IRPS</b></p>
<p><b>Project 23: Intensify economic diplomacy and communication</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Implement comprehensive strategy to attract FDI, improve access to and diversity of global markets, expand tourism and improve country's international image.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <p>Departments of Foreign Affairs, Trade &amp; Industry, Environmental Affairs &amp; Tourism, National Treasury and Government Communications (GCIS) (and partners such as International Marketing Council, SA Tourism, Local Organising Committee and International Investment Council) to intensify international work and ensure co-ordination across and beyond government.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: IRPS</b></p>
<p><b>Project 24: Increase SANDF (MSD) intake of young trainees</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Gradually increase SANDF intake to 10 000 per year from current 4 000, to rejuvenate the SANDF and provide more young people with technical and social skills.</p>	<p><b>Organisational Implications:</b></p> <p>Department of Defence/SA National Defence Force to expand capacity to meet this objective in line with National Youth Service; and other departments and private sector to assist in placing graduates.</p> <p><b>Cluster Responsibility: JCPS</b></p>