

More Hands Needed To Pave Road Out Of Poverty

Saki Macozoma, Business Day



The stakes are high. The progress that South Africa has made over the last decade shows that we can succeed. Significant economic growth has resulted in the creation of some two million jobs.

Prudent fiscal management has made it possible to meet the needs of the poorest of South Africans through an extensive social grant system which now benefits some twelve million people. And improvements in service provision have resulted in basic facilities of water, electricity and sanitation expanding to increasing numbers of people.

As Oliver Tambo said, we should not be afraid of our successes. Neither should we fool ourselves. If we look behind the generalized statistics on national progress we see that there are large parts of the country and millions of South Africans who are being left behind. Work recently published by the Business Trust on South Africa's poverty nodes, in which some ten million South Africans live, underscores the depth of this challenge.

Electricity failures, crime, poor administration and of the skills shortage now affects the lives of all South Africans. So too will a failure to provide a route out of poverty for those being left behind. We are in this together and considering the price we have paid to get to where we are we can't afford to fail. We must improve our ability to think together, work together and share responsibility for the trade-offs that must be made if we are to succeed.....

To read the rest of this article click on the link below:

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_MoreHands_BusinessDay_12Apr08_Cropped.pdf

Macozoma is co-chairman of the Business Trust. He spoke at the annual results presentation in Sandton on 2 April 2008. This opinion piece was featured in Business Day on 17 April 2008.

Media Coverage

To download additional media coverage of the Business Trust report back on result, click on the links below:

Business Trust Beplan Groot - Die Burger, 27 March 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_BusinessTrustBeplanGroot_DieBurger_27Mar08.pdf

Cheaper Lines for Call Centres - Business Report, 27 March 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_CheaperLines_BusinessReport_27Mar08.pdf

Call Centres to Get Cheaper Tariffs - Daily News, 27 March 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_CallCentresCheaperTariffs_DailyNews27Mar08.pdf

R8bn for the Poor - Cape Argus, 27 March 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_R8bnForThePoor_CapeArgus_27Mar08.pdf

Brian Whittaker Interviewed - Classic FM, 2 April 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_ClassicFM_Transcript_02Apr08.pdf

Poor Left Behind - Fin24, 2 April 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_PoorLeftBehind_Fin24_2Apr08.pdf

Call Centres to Lure Foreign Investment - Business Day, 3 April 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_CallCentres_BusinessDay_3Apr08.pdf

Quote of the Day - The Times, 3 April 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_QuoteoftheDay_Times_3Apr08.pdf

Saketrust Mik Na Oproepsentrums - Sake, 6 April 2008

http://www.btrust.org.za/images/media/Med_SaketrustMikNaOproepsentrums_Sake_06Apr08.pdf

.....

Tel: 011 612 2000 | Fax: 011 612 2004 | Web www.btrust.org.za | Email info@btrust.org.za