



Together

Business Trust Report Back 2006 5th February 2007, Market Theatre

"Those who thought that building a new society would be done at a sprint, look exhausted at the four kilometre mark of what turns out to be a marathon", said David Brink, Co-Chairman of the Business Trust at the organisation's Report Back meeting attended by business and government leaders on the 5th of February 2007.

He went on to say that while we cannot under estimate the challenges facing South Africa, we should be encouraged by the fact that all South Africans want the same things for themselves and their children. "This is not a nation divided about what it wants", he said. He also said that South Africans should be encouraged by a growing ability to work together as evidenced by the report of the Business Trust.

Started in 1999, the Business Trust is a partnership between business and government focused on building partnerships, supporting policy dialogue, encouraging positive perceptions of the role of partnership and undertaking programmes. It is based on the belief that the partnership between business and government can make a decisive difference in the years ahead

At the event on Monday afternoon, Brian Whittaker, Chief Executive of the Business Trust presented results for the 2005/6 year to an audience of leaders from business and government. He showed how new appointments have been made to the board (which now includes 7 ministers and 7 deputy ministers); how new resources had been mobilised (some R750m for the period to 2010); new partnerships built; and new programmes launched. These new programmes are focused on:

- Encouraging growth, in the priority sectors of tourism and business process outsourcing.
- Building capacity by supporting infrastructure and skills development.
- Combating poverty by supporting public works and helping to improve the lives of people living in areas designated poverty nodes (where some 10 million South Africans live below the minimum subsistence level.)

These programmes will run to 2010 and taken together with the work done during its first five year term (1999 – 2004) will help to expand employment by some 250,000 (by helping to expand tourism and attract outsourced business to South Africa) and touch the lives of millions of South Africans.

To download the 2005/6 Business Trust Annual Report please visit:
http://www.btrust.org.za/images/Publications/PUBLIC_Business Trust Report 2006.pdf

For more information on the Business Trust, please visit www.btrust.org.za

