



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TO : Hon CT Frolick
House Chairperson: Committees
National Assembly
National Parliament of the RSA

FROM : Hon EM Coleman, MP
Chairperson: PC on Economic Development
National Assembly
National Parliament of the RSA

DATE : 19 April 2011

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEALING WITH THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

The Portfolio Committee on Economic Development (the Committee) was one of the committees which were identified to play a role in overseeing the progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (correspondence dated 09 February 2011).

The Committee started the process on 11 March 2011, where the Committee was briefed by the Department of Economic Development (EDD) on the progress with regard to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

During the briefing the EDD highlighted that there are 5 MDGs where the Department has a significant role to play. These are:

- Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2 – Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8 – Develop a global partnership for development

Progress on Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Absolute poverty has declined from 3.2 in 2000 to 1.1 in 2006 (poverty gap ratio), which is based on a period of economic growth combined with a series of redistributive measures, notably the number of people benefiting from social grants. There is however still challenges that remains e.g. persistent inequality. Recommendations inter alia include: strengthening support for local entrepreneurs, increased support to women in cooperatives, land reform, improvements to EPWP, competition interventions to control prices.

Progress on Goal 2 – Achieve universal primary education

The focus is no longer on access, but more on quality, since the access issues have been achieved, however the provision of infrastructure, facilities and learning resources at primary and secondary schools need to be expanded. The completion



rates of primary education and higher education for those aged 18 years increased from 89,6% to 93% in 2009. Some of the targets have already been met and other are likely to be met. Further work is still needed relating to: improving sanitation, school maintenance interventions and support staff.

Progress on Goal 3 - Gender parity in employment

The EDD stated that women's share of non-agricultural wage employment is an important indicator of progress made both on gender equality and women's empowerment in the labour force. In both 1996 and 1999, the female share of wage employment was 43% if agriculture was excluded.

Progress on Goal 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability

The EDD noted that it is possible to achieve Goal 7. SA need to use the Climate change challenge as an opportunity to leverage job creation and local industrial development.

Progress on Goal 8 – Key target : Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

None of the targets set on developing an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system have been met; however the EDD indicated that some of these targets are likely to be met.

During the meeting the PC resolved the following:

- A briefing by the Financial Fiscal Commission (FFC) on the economic outlook of the country, focusing on the attainment of the MDGs.
- Schedule a workshop with the Department of Economic Development, Statistics South Africa and the National Planning Commission (NPC) on the figures as provided for by the EDD at the briefing on 11 March 2011.

It is envisaged by the Committee to schedule the said activities (as indicated above) during the second term as follows:

- Briefing by the FFC – Friday, 27 May 2011
- Workshop with EDD, Stats SA and the NPC – Tuesday, 31 May 2011

It is envisaged that the report on the progress towards attaining the MDGs will be considered and adopted by the committee on Friday, 03 June 2011.

Ms EM Coleman
Chairperson