



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION
PROGRAMMES: A CASE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

By

VUYELWA NHLAPO

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SUPERVISOR: PROF DR JO KUYE

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DECLARATION

I, Vuyelwa Nhlapo, hereby declare that this research entitled "The role of civil society in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes: A case for Social Development in South Africa", is my own original work and has, as far as I am aware, not previously in its entirety or in part, been submitted at any university in order to obtain an academic qualification and that any references included herein have been duly acknowledged.



DEDICATION

To my late mother who taught me to put God first, to be humble and to persevere.



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ABSTRACT

The dawn of democracy in 1994 brought hope to South Africans particularly those who had been previously disadvantaged as a result of apartheid policies. This new hope was premised on a vision of creating a people-centred society and a better life for all expressed in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) whose goals were to eliminate poverty and inequalities of the decades of apartheid. In order to meet this vision the RDP made explicit reference to building the capacity of civil society through extensive development of human resource. It provided a central role for nonprofit organizations. A vibrant and diverse civil society is important in consolidating and sustaining democracy as well as in holding government accountable. Since 1994 government has involved civil society in various stages of policy development aimed at alleviating poverty. This study therefore evaluates the extent to which programmes implemented by civil society, particularly in partnership with Social Development, are participative, empowering, effective and sustainable.

This research indicates that civil society, have succeeded in mobilizing communities to take charge of their own development. This has been achieved through activities like needs and beneficiary identification, project implementation and fund raising. Despite this success the study shows that civil society experience challenges in ensuring that their programmes are effective and sustainable. These challenges include limited funding, lack of various skills including management skills, organizational skills, resource mobilization and accountability.

The study contends that civil society has a critical role in implementing poverty alleviation programmes and in occupying space between the state and the community. In order to ensure long lasting impact of programmes, there is a



great need for strengthening the organizational, management and administrative capacity of civil society. It is generally accepted that local organization capacity is recognized as key for development effectiveness and empowerment of the poor.



ACRONYMNS

ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	African National Congress
BPA	Beijing Platform for Action
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDBs	Community Development Boards
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
FBO	Faith Based Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Price
HCBC	Home and Community Based Care
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HRDP	Ha Tinh Rural Development Project
ICDP	International Conference on Population and Development
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NDA	National Development Agency
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NPO	Nonprofit Organization
NSP	National Strategic Plan
PCAS	President's Coordinating Advisory Structure
PSC	Public Service Commission



RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SA-PPA	South Africa Participatory Poverty Assessment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

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