

**PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT IN TERMS  
OF THE ASSESSMENT AND FEASIBILITY  
OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.**

by

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**ABSTRACT**

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**PROMOTER:** Prof. C. J. van Aardt  
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This study is about the perceptions, feelings, attitudes and knowledge of people towards government with regard to service delivery and participation with communities in order to accelerate social development. Government's enthusiasm to get things done often results in development not occurring at all. Entering into balanced partnerships with the private sector and communities needs to be explored a lot deeper. It must be borne in mind that people's attitudes, perceptions and feelings may differ according to the different strata of government. The study was undertaken to ascertain how people feel and thereby assess how effective government has been in the past seven years. This in turn will enable government to focus its efforts in the right direction.

The study took into account various theoretical issues regarding the role of the state in developing a nation, the importance of knowledge and the management thereof as well as the changing face of development over the years. The shift in paradigm of the study of development is discussed as a matter of importance with structural adjustment programmes often resulting in slowed development and negative economic growth. Often schools of thought in development try to impose their thinking, but what this paper proposes is that schools of thought are not of importance here but quality of life in terms of social development and empowerment are.

The study was conducted by means of three focus groups whereby each focus group had different characteristics. After the focus groups were conducted coding of the information gathered took place so as to facilitate analysis and interpretation.

The study found that people are generally happy with the efforts of national government but that the delivery of service by regional and local government does not meet their expectations. It is also clear that the private and NGO sector seem to concentrate on the big urban townships whilst ignoring the plight of rural areas. The road ahead seems to indicate that consultation must take place and be improved with the communities as well as with big business who wish to develop their social responsibility programmes.

It is recommended that local government be improved in terms of its effectiveness and responsiveness to its communities. Private sector must also re-assess its role in social development in the communities of its employees. The importance of this is then that government and private sector can work together in partnership in order to accelerate the pace of development.

The credibility of government amongst the people as well as the reinforcement of democracy is at stake and the development of impoverished areas by ways of innovative strategies can only benefit all the peoples of our country.

**MENSE SE PERSEPSIES OOR DIE REGERING AANGAANDE DIE  
BEPALING EN UITVOERBAARHEID VAN  
ONTWIKKELINGSPROGRAMME**

Deur

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Hierdie studie gaan oor die persepsies, gevoelens, houdings en kennis van mense teenoor die regering ten opsigte van dienslewering en deelname met gemeenskappe om sodoende die sosiale ontwikkeling te versnel. Die regering se entoesiasme om dinge gedoen te kry lei baie kere daartoe dat geen ontwikkeling plaasvind nie. Deelname aan 'n gebalanseerde vennootskap tussen die privaatsektor en gemeenskappe moet in meer diepte ondersoek word. Daar moet ook in ag geneem word dat mense se houdings, persepsies en gevoelens verskil ahangende van die verskillende "strata" in die regering. Die studie was gedoen om te bepaal hoe mense voel en daarvolgens te evalueer hoe effektief die regering was die afgelope sewe jaar. Daarvolgens, kan die regering hulle pogings in die regte rigting aanwend.

Die studie het verskeie teoretiese situasies in ag geneem aangaande die rol van die regering in die ontwikkeling van die land, die belangrikheid van kennis en die bestuur daarvan sowel as die verandering van die aard van ontwikkeling oor die jare. Die skuiwing in die paradigma van die studie van ontwikkeling is bespreek, as 'n geval van belang, met strukturele aanpassingsprogramme wat gereeld lei tot stadige ontwikkeling en negatiewe ekonomiese groei. Denkskole in ontwikkeling sal baie kere probeer om in te dring by hulle denke, maar wat hierdie dokument beoog is dat denkskole nie hier belangrik is nie, maar dat die gehalte van lewe in terme van sosiale ontwikkeling en bemagtiging wel belangrik is.

Die studie was gedoen deur middel van drie fokusgroepe, waar elke fokusgroep verskillende eienskappe gehad het. Nadat die fokusgroepe gedoen was, was al die inligting versamel sodat analise en interpretering kan plaasvind.

Die bevindings van die studie was dat mense oor die algemeen te vrede was met die pogings van die nasionale regering maar dat die lewering van diens in die streek en plaaslike regering nie aan hulle verwagtings voldoen het nie. Dit is ook duidelik dat dit lyk asof die privaat en NGO sektor meer konsentreer op die groot stedelike “townships” en die toestande van die landelike “townships” ignoreer. Die pad vorentoe dui daarop dat raadpleging moet plaasvind en dat raadpleging moet verbeter tussen die gemeenskappe sowel as die groot besighede wie se behoefte dit is om hulle sosiale verantwoordelikeheidsprogram te ontwikkel.

Dit word aanbeveel dat die plaaslike regering verbeter moet word ten opsigte van sy effektiwiteit en verantwoordelikheid teenoor sy gemeenskap. Die privaatsektor moet ook sy rol herevalueer in die sosiale ontwikkeling in die gemeenskap van sy werknemers. Die belangrikheid hiervan is dat die regering en privaatsektor saam kan werk in vennootskap om so die pas van ontwikkeling te versnel.

Die geloofwaardigheid van die regering tussen die mense sowel as die versterking van demokrasie is in gedrang en die ontwikkeling van die verarmde areas, deur middel van innoverende strategieë, moet al die mense van ons land bevoordeel.

**Search Terms:**

Sociology

Development

Government

Community Development

Knowledge

Perceptions

Economic Development

Service Delivery

Political Awareness

Public-Private partnerships

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