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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Public Affairs in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

SUPERVISOR: PROF DR JO KUYE

JANUARY 2012

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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.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To my supervisor Prof JO Kuye I would like to express my deep appreciation for his untiring efforts and scholastic contribution in directing the study. Without his encouragement and support realization of this dream could not have been achieved.

My heartfelt thanks to my husband, David, for his motivation and love throughout—even at times when I doubted myself, I thank you most profusely. Your thoughtfulness in bringing those cups of tea at two in the morning made a difference.

To my loving daughter, Mandisi, my sincere thanks for her encouragement and hard push and for helping me to balance family life with my studies.

My gratitude goes to my family for their prayers throughout.

My deep appreciation goes to Ms Lindiwe Mabunda, my Personal Assistant, for spending long hours formatting my thesis.

To all my colleagues at the Department of Social Development who have assisted me with data collection I appreciate.

Vuyelwa Nhlapo
South Africa
2010
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABET</td>
<td>Adult Basic Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPA</td>
<td>Beijing Platform for Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBs</td>
<td>Community Development Boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPWP</td>
<td>Expanded Public Works Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>FBO</td>
<td>Faith Based Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Price</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCBC</td>
<td>Home and Community Based Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRDP</td>
<td>Ha Tinh Rural Development Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICDP</td>
<td>International Conference on Population and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Integrated Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IISD</td>
<td>International Institute for Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>National Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Nongovernmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPO</td>
<td>Nonprofit Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSP</td>
<td>National Strategic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCAS</td>
<td>President’s Coordinating Advisory Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC</td>
<td>Public Service Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDP</td>
<td>Reconstruction and Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC</td>
<td>Regional Economic Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISDP</td>
<td>Regional Indicative Strategic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADCC</td>
<td>Southern African Development Coordination Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA-PPA</td>
<td>South Africa Participatory Poverty Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSSD</td>
<td>World Summit on Sustainable Development</td>
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