

Public Sector Barometer: A Commentary

J O Kuye and R Sheoraj

School of Public Management and Administration
University of Pretoria

DEVELOPMENTALISM AND THE STATE OF SKILLS READINESS

A South African Perspective

At a time when the global economy is facing real meltdown issues on the economy, the public sector, a re-visitation to the lingering debate is on the developmental state and skills readiness. Even though governments cannot create wealth, they nevertheless can play a key role in the process of economic development. Economic growth represents an essential prerequisite for political stability in South Africa. However, efforts aimed at stimulating growth rates can be hampered by a lack of administrative capacity. The lack of administrative capacity can also impose a dominant constraint on policy-making in contemporary South Africa.

What are the needs of a developmental state? Are these needs related to skills readiness? A developmental state can and should become very interventionist in the way programmes are structured and implemented. It is within this context that we argue that a developmental state's policy must become the core element in government's programmatic armory. That is to state that government policy interventions are really not a bad idea in troubling times.

The authors of this barometric dialogue are open for further discussions.

