

MESSAGE FROM SPD PATRON

In 2006 the Department of Social Development announced that they have to plan exit levels for social grants. Five years later, not much has changed. In the 2011 State of the Nation Address, President Zuma declared, "Since we are building a developmental and not a welfare state, the social grants will be linked to economic activity and community development, to enable short-term beneficiaries to become self-supporting in the long run". Today almost 15 million South Africans receive social grants from the State, and yet, poverty remains high and inequalities are growing. Clearly the State has not the capacity to succeed without the support of their social partners such as the SPD.

SPD has emerged as an active role player in planning for exit levels for social grants. The SPD is an organization with a vision to protect human rights and human dignity by finding the balance between the right to social grants and the right to development. The SPD's focus on abilities reflects a commitment and unlimited response to live up to the challenges of creating, developing and sustaining services and opportunities that build capacity and empowerment.

Social entrepreneurship is emerging as a model that can facilitate inclusivity for all in the economy. The focus of SPD's programmes on skills development for employment and income generation prepare individuals to become social entrepreneurs that not only change their own level of vulnerability and poverty, but also those of their families and communities. The SPD has become a social entrepreneur in its own right by facilitating change that creates benefits for human, social and economic development.

It is once again my privilege to congratulate SPD with the past year's achievements. The SPD leadership, staff, volunteers, donors, stake holders and service users are a formidable team whose united efforts ensure that the organisation goes from strength to strength. It gives me great joy to congratulate you with 70 years of accelerated growth and development. May you continue on this dedicated path and excel in your achievements of facilitating change and bringing joy and hope to the people that you serve that they will believe in their ability to build their capacity beyond their dreams.



Thank you to a Patron for a decade of dedication and goodwill

"I know of no great men except those who have rendered great service to the human race." - Voltaire

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