



FAST track to

The polls say...

According to an opinion poll by Markinor, 71 per cent of South Africans believe that government has been performing well in general. But only 56 per cent think government has been handling economic challenges well.



By Ndivhuwo Khangale

Fighting poverty, creating jobs, reducing unemployment and building a stronger economy.

These are the aims behind *Asgisa - the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa*, said President Thabo Mbeki when he addressed the nation at the opening of Parliament in February.

■ National effort

The message in his State of the Nation Address was simple – the people of South Africa believe that because of what they have achieved, the country can move even faster towards the realisation of its dreams. “Our people are firmly convinced that our country has entered its Age of Hope,” he said.

South Africans overcame apartheid to win freedom and build democracy; they have been working together to fight pover-

ty and grow the economy - what we need, he said, is to continue this national effort and speed up progress.

■ Growth

In his State of the Nation Address, the President explained that *Asgisa* is a key part of government’s programme.

Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is leading *Asgisa*. It will open the way for faster implementation of the various programmes of government.