

# realise dreams

Through *Asgisa* government is focusing on overcoming the things that have held the economy back from growing as fast as it could. It will tackle these things in a way that will help close the gap between the First and Second Economies (*see box below*) to make sure that poor people share in the country's growing wealth.

The aim is to speed up economic growth to at least 6% a year between 2010 and 2014. This will help halve unemployment and poverty by 2014

## ■ Infrastructure

R370 billion has been set aside for *Asgisa* infrastructure programmes.

Some of these programmes will strengthen the economy by investing in the electricity, transport and telecommunications systems.

To improve service delivery in underdeveloped urban and rural areas, *Asgisa* will work through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and other infrastructure funds.

These will improve service delivery such as roads and railways, water, electricity, housing, schools and clinics, business support centres, sports facilities and government service centres.

## ■ Opportunities

The EPWP also helps reduce poverty. It was launched in 2004. Since then, over 280 000 people, many of them women heading families, have been given temporary jobs.

Through EPWP people work in road construction, water projects, community care and development projects, and environmental projects.

They also get on-the-job training to learn skills that will help them find more permanent jobs.

*Asgisa* will boost the development of small business. This will focus on black economic empowerment and the development of women and young people.

*Asgisa* will also improve current business-support programmes like Mafisa (for agricultural development); SEDA (Small Enterprise Development Agency); Khula; Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the Small Business Initiative.

## ■ Stable economy

South Africa has been enjoying steady growth for more than ten years now. In the last two years growth has increased and is set to speed up further.

This is one indication that the country has entered its "Age of Hope" for all.



### First Economy

Advanced, increasingly competitive and impacting on people with the necessary skills.

### Second Economy

Mostly poor, and lacking skills and access to information.

People find it hard to make a proper living due to the legacy of apartheid.