A NATION IN THE MAKING

X CONCLUDING REMARKS

There is a need, at least more effectively, to articulate an overarching vision for the country attached to which should be the detailed programmes and partnerships already in place.

- The drive to grow the economy and ensure that the benefits of such growth are equitably shared should be expedited.
- 43 Socio-economic interventions should take into account the various trends noted in this document, especially to ensure that the manner of implementation of programmes reinforces the principle that South African society, by providing opportunities, does not reproduce inequality.
- The dynamics of migration and the demographics they spawn should inform a spatial perspective in planning and implementing economic and social interventions.
- Society should encourage forms of social organisation at the basic level that promote social cohesion, especially better household environments and communities for the upbringing of children, such as the strengthening of nuclear family households: while this should be pursued in partnership with civil society, including faith-based organisations, state leverage should be employed where appropriate.
- The outlook of social partnership to achieve national objectives should permeate all of government's work, and should be encouraged across society. This would help address issues of citizen obligations in exercising rights; but also discourage a passive dependence on the State as the provider of all solutions to all social challenges.

- The recommendations in this document should also be weighed against the outcome of discussions on the capacity and organisation of the State.
- The Presidency's Policy Co-ordination and Advisory Services is pursuing various areas of research, such as the National Income Dynamics Study, which would be updated on an ongoing basis to track trends in the major macro-socio-economic indicators and further improve public policy interventions and programmes as we better understand households' socio-economic decision-making.
- Overall, this discussion document depicts major trends that require attention and national effort, not only of government but, of all of our society.
- The launch of this discussion document for public discourse provides an opportunity for interaction across society on these issues. On its part, government is distilling the conclusions of the report for their implications on public policy. Taking into account public comments, specific macro-social development interventions will be developed for implementation.