



STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL
13H30 ON 18 FEBRUARY 1995

Founding declaration of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac)

GROWTH, EQUITY AND PARTICIPATION

1. The democratic election of 1994 opened a new era for South Africa. It was the decisive step in the transition to democracy. Now our country must meet the challenges of social development and economic growth.
2. South Africa is a land rich in resources, with a strong and diversified economy. It has a people eager to make the democracy work. It has a well-developed physical and financial infrastructure, such as transport, telecommunications and the banking system.
3. South Africa is also characterised by severe inequality in incomes, skills, economic power, ownership, and a skewed pattern of social development. This, together with large-scale unemployment and inadequate economic performance, has created major problems in our society.
4. Government, organised labour, organised business and community-based organisations need to develop and strengthen cooperative mechanisms to address the challenges facing our new democracy. Our three defining challenges are:
 - 4.1 Sustainable economic growth - to facilitate wealth creation; as a means of financing social programmes; as a spur to attracting investment; and as the key way of absorbing many more people into well-paying jobs.
 - 4.2. Greater social equity - both at the workplace and in the communities - to ensure that the large-scale inequalities are adequately addressed, and that society provides, at least, for all the basic needs of its people.
 - 4.3. Increased participation - by all major stakeholders, in economic decision-making, at national, company and shopfloor level - to foster cooperation in the production of wealth, and its equitable distribution.
5. Meeting these challenges is critical to the success of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.
6. The National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) is the vehicle by which government, labour, business and community organisations will seek to cooperate, through problem-solving and negotiation, on economic, labour and development issues, and related challenges facing the country.

7. Nedlac will conduct its work in four broad areas, covering:
 - 7.1. Public finance and monetary policy.
 - 7.2. Labour market policy.
 - 7.3. Trade and industrial policy.
 - 7.4. Development policy.
8. Nedlac is established in law through the National Economic Development and Labour Council Act, Act 35 of 1994, and will operate in terms of its own constitution.

**WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT, ORGANISED LABOUR, AND
ORGANISED BUSINESS, NOW HEREBY ENDORSE THIS DECLARATION.**

**Minister Tito Mboweni
ON BEHALF OF
GOVERNMENT**

**Mr John Gomomo
ON BEHALF OF COSATU,
NACTU AND FEDSAL**

**Mr David Brink
ON BEHALF OF
ORGANISED BUSINESS**

**Saturday, 19 February 1995
Midrand, Gauteng**