Dear Sir,


It is with great pleasure that I submit the following policy forecast you you for consideration and comment.

The forecast examines the current trends effecting social cohesion in South Africa, and offers a policy recommendation, relating to the role of higher education in fostering social cohesion.

While the government’s responsibility for social cohesion rests largely with the Department of Arts and Culture, it is our view, based on this study, that education, and higher education in particular, has a guiding role to play in determining the quality of social cohesion South Africa will enjoy in future.

The study draws on the findings of many scholars and researchers, making particular use of a policy analysis tool, the International Futures Model, an internationally developed causal model of global change, to examine the likely outcomes of the recommended policy intervention.

I applaud the important work you continue to do in leading the vital department of government, that is higher education, and trust that you will find my submission of value.

Sincerely,

Marius Oosthuizen
Enhancing Social Cohesion in South Africa (2012 - 2022) through a Policy Favoring the Role of International Graduate and Postgraduate Scholars of Child & Youth Development and Education.

POLICY FORECAST

Prepared for: Department of Higher Education, Government of South Africa
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The complexity, diversity, and paradoxical characteristics of the South African society, makes it a uniquely attractive subject for research in the field of “the Education and Development of Children, Youth, and Woman”. By turning the social and educational problems of South Africa into an asset, through the establishment of the nation, as the leading venue for graduate- and post-graduate scholarship on the subject, and supporting the establishment of programs that facilitate such work on mass, the country’s likelihood for long term social cohesion would be radically enhanced. Such a policy is shown to; improve economic growth, reduce inequality, accelerate education, improve democracy, raise the quality of life, and foster human development, especially among the youth.

TWENTY-ONE TRENDS SHAPING SOCIAL COHESION IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Social Cohesion in South Africa is being severely affected by the following trends: sharply downward SOCIAL MOBILITY, sharply upward CHILD VULNERABILITY, negatively upward INEQUALITY, negatively upward UNEMPLOYMENT, sharply downward EDUCATION levels, sharply downward EMPOWERMENT levels, sharply downward GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS, moderately downward ÉCONOMIC GROWTH, and among citizens, - negatively downward ENVIRONMENTAL PERCEPTION, -negatively downward SELF-EFFICACY, -negatively downward OUTCOME EXPECTATIONS, -negatively downward NETWORKING, -negatively downward CIVIL CONTROL, - negatively downward SENSEMAKING & IDENTITY, marginally upward SAFETY & SECURITY, stagnating HEALTH & WELBEING levels, stagnating INNOVATION levels, persistently negative POVERTY, inadequate and stagnating CIVIL ACCESS, moderately upward POLICY EFFECTIVENESS, and positively upward FIXED INVESTMENT.
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INTRODUCTION:

The following is a policy forecast for Social Cohesion in South Africa over the next twenty years. It focusses specifically on a policy relating to the favouring of international graduate and postgraduate scholars in the field of child and youth development and education. The reason for the selection of this policy issue, in relation to social cohesion, will be evidenced below.

The study asks the important question: “What are the driving forces affecting Social Cohesion in South Africa, what will be their likely outcome given current trends, considering the issue from a holistic, systemic, and developmental point of view, what form of policy intervention would enjoy the most leverage in ensuring social cohesion in South Africa in the future?”

The policy forecast is done using the International Futures Model (IFs), which allows for sophisticated causal interaction of issue area variables.

Social Cohesion is a complex quality of the overall social fabric. As such, it is impacted upon by a myriad of factors, including: socio-political, international/global, education, health, population/demographics, economy, agriculture, energy, technology, and the environment and resources.

Each of these factors, are in turn the product of underlying driving forces and trends, that indicate their current and likely future state. To investigate the state of, and future of social cohesion in South Africa, we looked at the following such determinants;

1) Within the classification of the Social Contours, we looked at:
   a) Social Inclusion:
   b) Social Capital:
      Determined by the levels of; Social Connections, Shared Values, Shared Norms, Collaborative Behaviour
   c) Social Mobility:
      Determined by the levels of; Social Capital, Cultural Capital, Early Developmental Influences, Education, Employment/Labour Market Experiences, Health and Well-being, Area-based Influences
   d) Networking
      Determined by the availability of; Information Networks, Networks of Production, Networks of Consumption, Networks of Power, Networks of Experience, Networks of Culture
   e) Education
      Determined by, on the Micro Level (Individuals); access, efficiency, and quality of education received, knowledge, skills, responsible citizenship, self-confidence, trust in institutions, respect for others, critical thinking, sense of responsibilities, humanitarian values, social engagement, civic engagement
      Determined by, on the Meso Level (Schools); access, efficiency, and quality of educational institutions, integration and participation in the local community, integration and participation in the greater community, enhanced democracy, pluralism, cultural open-mindedness, trust in the school institutions
      Determined by, on the Macro Level (Society) access, efficiency, and quality of the education system, enhanced democracy, pluralism, cultural open-mindedness, social and civic engagement, trust in institutions, social cohesion
   f) Human Agency

we lead change
2) Within the classification of the **Social Climate**, we looked at:

a) Degree of Access:
   - Determined by the active: Pursuit of Civil Liberties, Pursuit of Constitution, Institutions, of Civil Society, Good, Active Citizenship, Connection and Integration of Civic Knowledge and Skill, Participation in Extracurricular/Informal Activities, Knowledge of Current Events, Local and Regional vs. International Perspective

b) Degree of Sensemaking:
   - Determined by the existence of: Worldview vs. Cultural Lag, Impact Assessments, Rate of Social Change, Commitment as Foundation, Construct of Identity, Expectations, Adaptation: Updating and Doubting

c) Degree of Control:
   - Determined by the levels of: Autonomy, Voluntary Association, Voluntary Participation

d) Perceived Environment:
   - Spatial Properties, Constraints, Settlement, Ownership and Attachment, Comfort vs. Discomfort, Safety

e) Self Efficacy:
   - Determined by the levels of: Motivation vs. Dejection, Self-perception, Optimism vs. Pessimism

f) Outcome Expectation:
   - Determined by the levels of: Confidence vs. Scepticism, Awareness of Consequences, Judgement of Consequences

The current trends relating to each of these driving forces and their determinants was research, gleaning widely form the work of others, and distilled into **21 trends that are currently affecting the outlook for social cohesion in South Africa. (page 51)**
PART 1 - RESEARCH REVIEW:

The Presidency approaches Social Cohesion (SC) in an integrated manner, that combines Human Rights, Families, Social Networks, and Religious beliefs.

An Emergent Model of Social Cohesion:

Our research has shown that Social Cohesion (SC) is vastly complex, and possibly better conceived of as an emergent quality of the social fabric. In order to study, and forecast SC, we have constructed an emergent model of cohesion, consisting of two dimensions, namely the “Social Contours”, and “Social Climate”. The first, the “contours”, denotes the tangible, structural components of the social fabric. The latter, the “climate”, denotes the intangible, volatile aspects of human perception and the social mood as it were. These two are furthermore composite of two subsets of contributing factors that act synergistically to produce the level of cohesiveness or fracturing of the social fabric.

The dimensions and components of our emergent model are in keeping with the classifications of the Causal Layered Analysis approach to defining the social construct.

At the base of the model, “Social Inclusion”, “Social Capital”, and “Social Mobility” synergistically give rise to high levels of cohesion on the litany, or “facts” level of society, and determine the levels of “Social Development” attained. So too, “Human Agency”, “Networking”, and “Education” synergistically give rise to cohesion, determining the level of “Human Development” attained, and incorporate the “Social Causes” determines cohesion at this level of the social construct.

Contributing to the “Social Climate”, citizens’ “Degree of Sensemaking”, perceived “Degree of Access”, and “Degree of Control” synergistically determine the coherence between their “Worldview” and their real-life experience, affecting cohesion positively, or negatively. Further, in keeping with the Social Cognitive Theory, citizens’ “Outcome Expectations”, “Perception of [their] Environment”, and “Self Efficacy” determine the level of adaptation at work in the learning process essential to maintain cohesion.

As the four qualities of the emergent model increase, Social Development, Human Development, Convergence of Worldview and Adaptation to the Environment, the conditions for social cohesion are increased. The major assumption of this study is therefore that, as the combination of social contours, and a social climate conducive to cohesion increase, so the quality of the social fabric improves.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Emergent: arising as an effect of complex causes and not analyzable simply as the sum of their effects, arising and existing only as a phenomenon of independent parts working together, and not predictable on the basis of their properties
Research Approach

In order to conduct the study, the determinant drivers of social cohesion were identified. Thereafter, trends relating to these drivers were analysed. The likely long-term outcomes of existing trends were demonstrated using the International Futures Model.

Looking then at the social fabric systemically, key points of leverage were identified that offer the most promise for improving social cohesion. A policy intervention was conceived and tested using the model.

Research Appropriateness

Given the complexity of social cohesion, and the dual nature of the drivers of cohesion as both qualitative, such as economic, material, environmental, and technological conditions, as well as qualitative, such as cultural norms and values, popular attitudes and social movement, the approach tries to make provision for both the structural as well as fluid nature of the issue area.

Accuracy of Forecast

Importantly, this approach to policy forecasting does not strive above all else for accuracy, but instead seeks to serve as a stimulant for policy investigation and debate. It is the hope of the author that the forecast would uncover new and meaningful policy alternatives, not readily obvious in the case of an issue as complex as social cohesion.

Existing Forecasts

To the knowledge of the author, no forecast currently exists, which deal as broadly with the topic of cohesion as does this endeavour.

Data Availability

Fortunately, for the majority of research that this study investigated, quality and recent research does exist. However, in the case of the more qualitative aspects of the study, a high level of interpretation of existing data was required in order to distil useful information from available data.
PART 2 - CURRENT TRENDS - THE BASE CASE

A. TRENDS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S SOCIAL CONTOURS:

a. Social Inclusion

Poverty in South Africa:

Poverty in South Africa has been reduced from 40.6% of the population in the early 1990s, through 41.3% by 2000, down to only 33.2% by 2004. As such, poverty is being reduced at an accelerating rate, yet, due to the extremely high initial incidence of poverty, the level of poverty remains a hindrance to social inclusion, and by implication, a threat to social cohesion. In fact, the South African Participation Poverty Assessment found that the theme of isolation and exclusion from social institutions is an important component and determinant of poverty in contemporary South Africa.
Inequality. Income by Race:

In South Africa, poverty is exasperated by the inequality between racial groups, due to the effects of the Apartheid Era, which prevented non-whites from participating equally in the economy. Early in the century (1917), the relative percentage of annual per capita personal income was distributed; White: 100%, Coloured: 22.0%, Asian: 22.1%, African: 9.1%, this had changed by 1987 to; White: 100%, Coloured: 22.9%, Asian: 30.2%, and African: 8.5%, reflecting the oppression of the African majority. By 2008, the distribution of personal income had changed to; White: 100%, Coloured: 22%, Asian: 60%, African: 23.2%, the African majority’s relative personal income doubling over a twenty year period, yet, remaining at a fifth that of the white White minority.

Inequality along racial lines therefore remains a major threat to social cohesion. The trend remains that a “visible and growing gap between rich and poor” persists.
Unemployment:

A particularly pointed threat to social cohesion is “Youth Unemployment”. Of the 24.9% of the population that is unemployed, the vast majority are under the age of 35, with the poorest areas experiencing unemployment of up to 75%. Where the number of unemployed youth of those aged 20 to 27 ranged at around 100 000 per age in 1995, that number had more than doubled to around 250 000 per age by the 2000s. This rise constitutes a unemployed youth bulge, particularly among the African community, and poses a major threat to social cohesion.

Job Creation and Labour Participation:

Attempts have been made by the government and private sector, through investment projects, to create jobs and increase labour participation among the large unskilled and semi-skilled segment of the unemployed. While these projects have indeed drawn unemployed workers into the labour market, 33% of those who filled them had completed high school, “running counter to the strategic objectives of the projects. Government infrastructure projects have therefore not succeeded efficiently at taking uneducated job-seekers off the street, amplifying the lack of social inclusion and deterring their social mobility for the most vulnerable, at the expense of social cohesion.”
Economic Growth:

“South Africa is the Hong Kong of Africa, it’s all about opportunity”
Christopher Gardener (in Danto, 2007)

In order to alleviate poverty and unemployment, South Africa would need to achieve high and sustained economic growth. While, in keeping with trends in emerging markets, South Africa has outperformed the developed world recently, economic growth has remained in the 6.5% to 3.2% range, dropping into recession at the height of the global economic crisis in 2009, and reflecting a downward trend year on year since 2008. Today, South Africa is facing a deteriorating global economy, driven by the EURO Zone Crisis, slowing international trade and lowering commodity prices, bolstered by Japan’s rebound and emerging market growth, but emerging market prospects are increasingly uncertain. While sub-Saharan Africa is expected to grow at just over 5%, the South African Reserve Bank has revised growth forecasts down, already having been sluggish in the last two years, driven by weakening demand from our European trading partners, who account for a third of trade, causing confidence in domestic manufacturing sectors to deteriorate, weakening a key industrial sector.

Lack of economic growth, feeding unemployment, and driving inequality upwards, hampers social inclusion, stalls social mobility, and degrades social capital, posing an enormous threat to social cohesion.
Gross Fixed Investment:

To achieve economic growth in an emerging market necessitates aggressive fixed investment by the public and private sectors, both of which have occurred. Yet, while private sector investment grew steadily from the early 1990s, coinciding with the democratic dispensation and resultant political stability, the public sector only ramped up fixed investment in the early 2000s.

“Government was not investing adequately in infrastructure prior to 2009, where direct investment came from the private sector” (BUSA, 2012).

While having to remain financially frugal, the unequal partnership between the state and private sector in fixed investment, results in an unequal burden for job creation, the state not until recently demonstrating a developmental capacity able to spur social inclusion and mobility, thus not contributing equally to cohesion. Additionally, for corporate investment, especially foreign investment, to continue and increase, investors will require: market liquidity, a variety in terms of securities, fair and equal treatment of corporations, ease of trading in term of regulation, low trading costs on the exchange market. Furthermore, listed companies would look for; the ease of raising capital, efficient pricing, tax breaks, and low listing costs on the stock exchange.
Innovation as a Key to Growth:

South Africa, in spite of its colourful past, has demonstrated a keen capacity for innovation. This is evident in the Military Arms and Financial sectors, where exports to developed nations feature. To be competitive, South African firms must innovate to meet global need though. Where African Translational Corporations are; “making strategic investments in Africa, creating jobs and acting as role models to attract healthy rivalry from other firms, contributing to the integration of African markets, holding up to the global economic crisis”, South Africa has not set the pace. While 65.4% of firms demonstrate innovation, in terms of the sale of good and services, only half of sales nationally are by innovative firms, where the trend is that less than a third, and often a quarter, are sales by such firms in Europe, USA, and Asia.

The implication is that South African innovation is not translating into domestic and export sales, and unless policymakers create the policy and infrastructure environment that supports innovation in the productive sectors, the South African business sectors cannot foster cohesion through job-creating growth, which increases social inclusion and mobility.

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Global Competitiveness Rankings:

Hampering the dissemination of innovation from South Africa, is South Africa’s downward trend in global competitiveness. Having ranked 35th in the Global Competitiveness Ranking, South Africa now ranks 55th, having been bypassed by 20 nations. This is attributable to a combination of factors relating to “ease of doing business”, and the “quality of the labour market”.

Unless regulation and exchange controls are eased, corporate governance enhanced, and an array of labour issues addressed, a lack of global competitiveness will keep South Africa out of the globalising markets, preventing the creation of greater social inclusion and mobility, that enhanced cohesion would necessitate.
Safety and Security Concerns:

Having become infamous for crime, South Africa has shown signs of improvement in safety and security. Threats to personal security have declined from 84% to 50% in this decade, murder and attempted murder rates have halved from around 67.5 per 100 000 in the mid 1990s, to around 31.5 per 100 000 today, so too have assaults halved, and while aggravated robbery boomed up to 288 per 100 000 in the mid 2000s, it return to 1999s figure of 200 per 100 000 today. The economic recession, linked to an increase in social fabric crimes, point to a relationship between inequality and poverty crimes, and between social-conditions and inter-personal violent crime. One of the most reliable predictors of high crime levels in an area is therefore the size of the income gap between it and the poorest neighboring area. The greater the gap, the higher the rate of property crime in the affluent area.

These stated improvements in safety and security though, when relativised to world trends, are irrelevant to the ominous threat that crime is to the social capital, and by implication negatively affecting the social inclusion that drives mobility, making persistent crime trends a crucial obstacle to improved cohesion, evidenced by the public perceptions of safety rocketing to over 50% of citizens feeling “very unsafe”.

The Social Context of Crime:

According to the Institute of Security Studies, the factors driving crime are interconnected with the socio-economic conditions of; urbanising poor, poor housing, poverty and unemployment, family-breakdown, poor education levels, and the absence of aftercare and recreational facilities. So too, attitudes about crime and violence, the facilitating effects of; alcohol, drugs, gangs, firearms, xenophobia, and poor urban design, coupled with weak regulatory systems, create an environment where crime can flourish. The influence of social conditions on crime prevalence, is evidenced by the fact that the majority of crimes are perpetrated by people “known to the victim” and related to “domestic conflict”. The overall quality of the social fabric itself therefore threatens social cohesion.
State Social Policy Interventions:

Social upliftment and improvement policies are widespread in South Africa. Yet, Business Unity South Africa has cautioned about the imbalance between “welfare spend” and the “burden on taxpayers”, in conjunction with the state's emphasis on “job creation” without “implementation”, and the risks of state dependance associated with increased welfare spending, exasperated by municipal financial mismanagement. Nonetheless, policy interventions have spanned; health, education, poverty based “asset” distribution, social assistance grants, targeted provision, and universal provision through benefits. These policies have sought to address the issues of; primary health and early childhood development, universal access to basic education and nutrition, the need for shelter and land restitution, safety nets for vulnerable groups, temporary employment opportunities and community development, household benefits and basic services (water, electricity etc.) for the poor.

These policies have however exhibited gaps in terms of; lack of institutional capacity and collapsing infrastructure, lack of social infrastructure and inconsistent delivery, lack of information and understanding to facilitate access coupled with a slow pace of implementation, administrative problems, reaching only certain social segments while missing the unemployed youth segment, structural hindrances to infrastructure development, shortage of alternatives for school-leaving job-seekers, lack of institutional capacity and lack of holistic planning by local authorities. The lag effect and shortcomings of these policies have created a groundswell of discontent, translating into scores of service-delivery and other protests, that sharply degrade social capital, stifle inclusion and stall mobility, pressurising the social fabric into lower levels of cohesion.

Government Performance:

It has been said that “…[Zuma’s] battle with Thabo Mbeki exposed abuses by the state in almost every wing of the ruling party” (White, 2011, p. 401) Corruption, maladministration, and lack of institutional capacity is a trend that continues unabated, with increasing numbers of anti-government ferment being seen in large and sweeping service-deliver, and working class strikes in various sectors. Further, research shows that “…economies in transition, or those with high levels of inequality, may be especially prone to the "dark side of social capital" and may be trapped in a syndrome of distrust, in which cronism and corruption can flourish” (Holland 1998, 67; Beall 1997, 960; Putzel 1997, 945). This is certainly the case presently in South Africa.
b. Social Capital

Education: Access, Efficiency, and Quality:

“Special attention is paid to issues of access, efficiency, quality and equity in monitoring progress towards redressing the legacy of disparities and inequalities in education that characterized apartheid South Africa. ... The report shows that substantial progress has been made since 1994, but that there are still many areas that are cause for concern. (Department of Education, 2009).

The availability, access to, efficiency, and quality of education in South Africa stands out as a major hindrance to all aforementioned drivers that contribute to the improvement of social cohesion.

The percentage of adults over the age of 20 who had attained Grade 7, where basic literacy and numeracy would have been established, stood at 69% in 1995, growing through 70% by 2000, and more than 75% today, amounting to a slow upward trend, an improvement of 5% over 20 years. While democracy has seen the education system restructured and transformed to a degree, parents have lost “ownership” of the education process of their children due to migration for school choice, distances to schools, lack of transport, and language barriers. The effects are evident in the statistics.

The percentage of adults of the same age who did not acquire a full primary education stood at 17.3% in 1995, remained at around 17% in 2000, and fell to 14% today, amounting to a tiny downward trend only recently. The percentage of adults of the same age who acquired no schooling in 1995 stood at 13%, fell slightly to 12% in 2000, and then to 10% today, amounting to a slow downward trend only recently. These trends indicate negligible improvements in the terms of access to education in recent years, and a failure to provide 25% of adults with even a basic education since democratisation. Furthermore, of the educated, only 25% progressed to secondary education. Little social inclusion and mobility can be achieved in a globalising, capital-orientated world when 75% of the labour force has little or no education. Persistent and grave lack of employability threatens social cohesion like little other.

The figures for post-Grade 12 education are equally ominous, where less than 6% achieve a diploma, less than 3% a degree, and around 1% a post-graduate degree. In total, a mere 9% of the
The education system, while reflecting improvements in access to education, has struggled to foster progress, the main cause of non-attendance being, cited by 30% to 40% of pupils, being “no monies for fees”. Poverty and unemployment, systemically exhasperated by lack of education, are in turn undermining education efforts.

The school drop-out rates by grade, while remaining between 1% and 3% in Grades 2 to 7, drop-out rates ramp up sharply from Grade 8 and almost double in Grade 11. This implies that difficulty levels and adolescence combine to decay educational attainment, possibly indicating a crucial lack of support needed to navigate the challenges of that phase.

The quality of education too is under pressure, where the Learner-to-Educator Ration (LER) is pegged above 30, in comparison to as little as 17 in Argentina and Russia, and 22 in Brazil, only Lesotho and Gabon having a higher LER than South Africa. Inadequate Educator presence contributes to low progression rates and ultimately to low levels of educational attainment.

The ration between learning outcomes and enrolment places South Africa well below the global average, and the usual trend where outcomes increase as enrolment increases. With relatively high enrolment for a developing African nation, South Africa’s educational outcomes are among the worst in the world, implying unusually low levels of education quality, across numeracy, literacy, and life skills measures.

Low quality of education directly reduces social inclusion, mobility, and hampers the development of social capital, making improvements in social cohesion highly unlikely. The overall performance of lower grade students in South Africa remains at half of that in comparator countries. The implications are that long term global labour market competitiveness will remain weak due to poor education.
Apart from low education quality, the enrolment in higher education across racial groups remains stubbornly unequal. While enrolment by African students doubled from 5% in 1986 to 12% by 2006, and that of White students dropped only slightly from 61% in 1986 to 59% in 2006. The remaining disparity of 49% in higher education enrolment, between the two major race groups, systemically prevents social mobility among the African majority, reenforcing the inequality gap, and harming social cohesion.

The figures for pass rates in the Grade 12 senior certificate, indicated a changing trend, where over the period 1991 to 2000 pass rates decreased slowly year-on-year, then increased rapidly from 2000 to 2003. This trend is misleading since the number of candidates dropped steeply from 1997 to 2002, likely reducing the pool of pupils to those with those who have higher basic education. This coincided with the post-Apartheid transformation of the education system. Problematically, Grade 12 pass rates remain around 50%, and given the low enrolment rates in the first place (25%), is a massive drain on the factors necessary for social inclusion, mobility, social capital, and thereby diminishes the conditions for social cohesion.
The repetition rates by Grade of South African students have historically been high, between 5% and 10% in lower grades, and as high as 20% in higher Grades. The negative social impacts of repetition weaken social capital and slow mobility. “In low socioeconomic contexts, an early beginning in literacy has a large impact on students’ development by compensating for the cultural capital they lack — cultural capital that other children received in their families” (ETC Policy Centre, 2011)
Orphanhood and AIDS:

Largely due to HIV/AIDS, orphanhood rates in South Africa have increased sharply, outpacing the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. Due to HIV/Aids, an estimated 50 million children under the age of 15 had lost at least one parent by 2010. The early 90s, the percentage of children in South Africa who have mothers and fathers has tripled and doubled, respectively, and increases in the prevalence of orphanhood are expected for the next decade. The extended family has been the predominant social safety net mechanism, these resulting in poorer living arrangements, health, and education.

Orphanhood and Schooling

The implications are that, since progress and completion of schooling is strongly impacted by family support structures and socio-economic conditions, orphanhood sharply increases the likelihood of poor educational attainment. Without education the increase of social inclusion and mobility, negatively affected by the loss of social capital due to orphanhood, threatens long term cohesion.

![Malnurished Children in South Africa](image_url)
Health, Well-being and Mortality:

HIV/AIDS, followed by violence and homicide, is the largest contributor to mortality in South Africa, especially among the older “youth” segment, that makes up more than double the amount of deaths. This has been accentuated in recent years, and given the crucial role that woman play in the social fabric, especially given that many of these deaths are of mothers of young children, mortality remains a strong drain on the social fabric and its’ cohesion.

Health and HIV/AIDS Age Trends:

The burden of disease in South Africa has quadrupled since the 90’s due to; transitional, poverty-related diseases, emerging chronic diseases, high burden of injuries, and HIV/AIDS. For instance, males aged 25 to 45, who are supposed to be at the prime of their productive years, are cut down by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This trend has slowed remarkably, but remains a negative driver.

Infant Mortality:

Infant mortality indicates a different view of the social conditions, the greatest cause of death being “diarroheal disease”, attributable to poor sanitation, and nutrition. Weakened immunne systems making infants vulnerable to infectious respiratory diseases is a strong contributor to infant mortality, as well as general low quality of prenatal and antenatal health care.
c. **Social Mobility**

**Overall Social Structure and Social Mobility**

Social mobility has been seen to increase, especially among the Africans, who now outnumber their White counterparts in the middle strata of the social structure. Women have played a large part in small and micro enterprises, especially among the age group 35 to 54, and in urban centres. The rural population has experienced downward mobility, while the lion’s share of upward mobility has been among urban dwellers.

Social Mobility Through Education (Empowerment):

Education forms a key part of what is required for upward mobility, and by implication, social cohesion. The non-economic benefits seen in educated segments of the population include; longevity, health, less old-age disability, less teenage pregnancies, less incarceration, and lower suicide levels.

**Childhood Education:**

The value and importance of education is especially so for children, who require outside intervention to achieve growth and mobility. One positive is that South Africa has showed a marked improvement in enrolment of children in school. The relationship between education and mobility has been shown to be direction proportional, and while the Africans are likely to benefit less from education than Whites, the necessity of education for mobility is unavoidable. So too, the likelihood of affluence increase markedly with the reduction in family size, especially from 2 children to 1. **The implications are that small families who emphasise education will likely experience the greatest levels of educational attainment.**
d. Social Networking

“New approaches to social transformation must harness the reinforcing nature of innovation, social connectedness, and positive identities... We need to foster a lattice of new connections that begins to bridge the poles of society and create pathways out of poverty” (Naaido, 2012).

Social networking forms and important part of social mobility, and given the inequalities between race, spacial and logistical obstacles, such as poor transportation, networking in South Africa has remained poor. Social and digital media is beginning to find traction with a cellphone penetration of 80%, 20% internet, 10% Facebook, 1.1% Twitter (multiplying by 20 in a year), and LinkedIn standing at 1.1 million. Technology, with its ability to overcome logistical challenges at low cost, offers some hope for improving social networking.

A strong relationship exists between Social Capital and Household welfare, in that social capital drastically improves, (1-4 times) the effect of human capital, by; causing reductions in the costs of transitions through improved information flow, new opportunities, improving the diffusion of innovation and knowledge about the comparative performance of local government, the promotion of consultative and holistic decision-making processes, the fostering of time-sensitive exchanges for mutual benefit by developing norms of civic behavior, trust, and establishing a working “reputation”. Though social exchanges are sometimes triggered by a crisis, they allow social capital to serve as an informal insurance, which pays out to address vulnerabilities in the social fabric.

e. Human Agency

Another key to mobility is human agency, which affords the individual the personal resources to actively pursue betterment. This is achieved and enhanced through role models and fostering a worldview that emphasises human development and a rational approach to the material world. With a strong emphasis on tradition and custom, coupled with aversions to perceived threats of “Western” and “Colonial” influences, South Africans have until recent years reluctantly accepted shifts from “survival” to “self-expression”, with younger cohorts adopting change more readily.
B. TRENDS IN SOUTH AFRICA’S SOCIAL CLIMATE:

a. Degree of Access

“We need a new political narrative. We need to break out of the tired activist-versus-establishment paradigm” (Naaido, 2012).

The degree of access of citizens to organs of the state and their representatives, access to information, and recourse to the law, all contribute to the social climate.

In light of reducing institutional capacities from national, to provincial, to local government, and unequal distribution of media access between rich and poor, the social climate is easily undermined by local issues, at the expense of national cohesion.
b. **Degree of Sensemaking**

Public Opinion of Race Relations...

Race relations in South Africa remains a hot-button issue, with the public discourse often being coloured by suspicions of racism or racialist undertones. Debate about race-based policies such as Black Economic Empowerment, and historically contentious issues over land distribution and land reform, spark racial polarisation. More recent incidences of xenophobia in poorer areas, in the wake of massive legal and illegal migration from neighbouring Zimbabwe and other African countries have added a further dimension to racial complexity and tensions across the diversity strands of the social fabric. These tension place strain on the level of sensemaking experienced by citizens and negatively affect the social climate at the expense of cohesion. Some of these issues have cropped up due to what has been described as South Africa’s transition to democracy being “...achieved through grudging consensus” (Kaminski, 2009).

Diversity, Ethnic and Cultural Identity:

South Africa is one of the most diverse nations. Among the minorities there is a high identification with the national identity as “South Africans”, with around a quarter of African (24%) referring to “language” for identity compared to only 4% by other racial groups. This is increasingly so among the poor, and the elderly, who identify themselves largely through “language” association. The national identity of being “South Africa”, would have to be notably strengthened to ensure an improvement in the social climate, increase social cohesion.

Formation of Subcultures:

As South Africans come to terms with a globalising world, various sub cultures are prevalent among the young especially. These are reinforced by European and North American music and fashion, while a steep interest in local music and art has also emerged. Of the social construct, the
middle strata, especially among Africans seems to be the most inclined to adopt "Euro-American-centric credos as primary frames of reference. The trend is towards the emergence of a homogenised globalised culture informed by Western values, which, due to an emphasis on individualism and capitalism, import both positive and negative elements into the social climate, leading to both cohesion and fracturing.
c. **Degree of Control**

An important element determining the social climate is the degree of control perceived by citizens over their conditions.

As O’Donovan explains, “Inequality is thought to exacerbate feelings of alienation, deprivation or injustice. These affronts facilitate the de-legitimization of the state, aspirational frustration, and the dissolution of the sense of community.

This, in turn, allows for higher crime rates as the constraints on anti-social and criminal behavior are weakened, the power of the state undermined, and the moral justification for being law-abiding wanes” (O’Donovan, 2011).

High levels of perception of control can however translate into activities toward both cohesion and fracturing. In South Africa the collision between market-based approach and social justice needs has caused a seesaw in terms of degree of control.
d. Perceived Environment

Social Organisation and Religious Beliefs:

While South Africa contains ethnic and cultural diversity aplenty, religious affiliation stands at 85% Christian, the remaining percentages being shared among Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, and African Traditional Beliefs.

The widespread prevalence, and growing trend, of active religious devotion implies that religious leaders have a key role to play in fostering social cohesion in South Africa. So too, faith-based organisations such as non-government, non-profit, and other civil associations have a significant contribution to make in addressing the social ills that prevent undermine the social climate due to undesirable social contours.
e. Self-Efficacy

Self-belief, or the confidence to actively pursue one's ideals, is a key component to achieving the adaptive learning and capacity to engage and contribute positively to the development of the social fabric. Amid all the counter-influences facing the South African society, upward social mobility has begun to feature strongly in the public self-perception. So too "occupation" has begun forming part of the identity-formation paradigm of the populous.

This is both problematic, in light of the high unemployment and joblessness, and positive in that it feed positively into the level of self-efficacy needed to see citizens become proactive participants in the social strata.

f. Outcome Expectations

Lastly, the anticipated outcome of one's actions determines, to a large degree, one's willingness to engage in seeking to change one's conditions. The trend in South Africa has been that a battle between the "market-jungle" and the "humanness" of social reform, has resulted in occasional flare-ups of discontent with the status quo. Increasingly, the patience of the poor is being tested, as the rich are seen to become opulently consumeristic and irreverent of the human dignity of their countrymen.

The result has been that the foundational principles of the Constitution, such as; non-racism, non-sexism, unity in diversity, democracy, equality, inclusively and transparency, are weakened. Due to the large and systemic challenges facing the South Africa's society, and the length of time required to address them while maintaining social stability, the "outcome expectations", or mood and hope of the populous forms an intangible, yet powerful force, able to write the closing chapter on social cohesion versus social fragmentation in South Africa.
Current trends indicate that South Africa is failing to adequately address negative driving forces that threaten to erode social cohesion, and lead to social fragmentation. While the state has begun investing actively in infrastructure, the economy has not seen the kind of growth required to address extremely high unemployment rates. Government attempts at creating a social safety net through grants, has succeeded in lowering extreme poverty, but falls short of effectively raising the quality of life of the large poor segment, especially the poorly educated youth. Shortcoming in state capacity and effectiveness, especially in the education sector, coupled with labour policies that hamstring the business sector, are undermining competitiveness and innovation direly needed to create jobs by stimulating foreign direct investment and growth in the economy. Strides made in health care and in HIV/Aids prevention and care fail to counterbalance the negative effects of high crime and murder rates, leaving especially woman and children vulnerable. The absence of as strong and widespread overall national identity among citizens, exasperated by poor connectivity and conspicuously high inequality along racial lines, feed into a mood of discontent and impatience on the part of the disenfranchised. Unless South Africa finds the means and inventive solutions to these problems, it is highly unlikely that the social centre will hold over the coming decades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TREND</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>REQUIRED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL MOBILITY</td>
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<td>Youth Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD VULNERABILITY</td>
<td>Upward: Sharply</td>
<td>Support Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INEQUALITY</td>
<td>Upward: Negative</td>
<td>Wealth Creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>Upward: Negative</td>
<td>Job Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>Downward: Inadequate</td>
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<td>EMPOWERMENT</td>
<td>Downward: Sharply</td>
<td>Skills Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS</td>
<td>Downward: Sharply</td>
<td>Labour Deregulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECONOMIC GROWTH</td>
<td>Downward: Moderate</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Inv.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL PERCEPTION</td>
<td>Downward: Negative</td>
<td>Inter-Group Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELF-EFFICACY</td>
<td>Downward: Mixed</td>
<td>Upliftment Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>OUTCOME EXPECTATIONS</td>
<td>Downward: Mixed</td>
<td>Positive Reenforcement</td>
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<td>Downward: Threatened</td>
<td>Civil Education</td>
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<td>SENSEMAKING &amp; IDENTITY</td>
<td>Downward: Threatened</td>
<td>National Identity</td>
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<td>SAFETY &amp; SECURITY</td>
<td>Downward: Marginally</td>
<td>Policing &amp; Education</td>
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<td>Level: Mixed</td>
<td>Capacity &amp; Infrastructure</td>
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<td>POVERTY</td>
<td>Upward: Moderate</td>
<td>Efficient Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVIL ACCESS</td>
<td>Level: Inadequate</td>
<td>Local Capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLICY EFFECTIVENESS</td>
<td>Upward: Reasonable</td>
<td>Address ‘Gaps’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIXED INVESTMENT</td>
<td>Upward: Positive</td>
<td>Increase and SECure</td>
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PART 3 - FUTURE FORECAST - AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE

FUTURE ALTERNATIVES: DISCONTINUITIES, UNCERTAINTIES, and ALTERNATIVE FUTURES:

This forecast has sought to construct a holistic, systemic, multi-dimensional policy approach, targeted at the greatest points of leverage related to the driving forces underlying the 21 trends identified above, in order to enhance social cohesion in South Africa rapidly and sustainably. Such a policy approach necessitates the strategic integration of thirteen interconnected policy objectives, that would cooperate in a virtuous cycle, to improve social cohesion within the specific context of South Africa.

Notice the following research findings on the topic: “What is required is cheaper, easier, and more flexible access to useful skills training that foster employability. In terms of Higher Education Internationalization, it has been shown that, research by post-graduate students and innovation are closely linked. Europe, China, India, Brazil have been striving to copy the US in their trend-setting engagement of International scholars. In 2010/2011, the US attracted 115 000 international students, 78% for research, and 9% teaching. China, not having historically high numbers of foreign students, has now passed South Africa, attracting 7% of international students globally, the US 20% and SA only 1%.

Pull factors are for such students are; incentives by national policy, subsidized programs, and qualification quality and recognition. The focus therefore of related policies should be on scholar/academic staff mobility, not student mobility alone, since the “knowledge society is now part of the global network society”. Therefore, from a policy point of view, it is recommended that; senior staff capacity be developed, partnerships be formed, the internationalization of institutional brands be sought, and that institutional risks be managed. The challenges facing SA in this regard are; skills and capacity, funding, balancing public private good, stability during development, restructuring vs. re-focussing, and Home Affairs related administrative challenges.

Such a policy approach should, due to the strong proven relationship between innovation and education, target the education and development sector, specifically relating to the empowerment of children, youths, and woman. By increasing South Africa’s global competitiveness, specifically improving the attractiveness of South Africa as a destination for graduate and post-graduate scholarship in the field of empowerment of children, youths, and woman, South Africa would establish a niche in the global economy, that both attracts external investment and interests, and meets a key and critical need in South Africa’s social development context. Furthermore, by structuring and incentivising integration and collaboration between the existing education system, and training industry, at key points, with such internationalised projects, both public and private education and training will be enhanced. So too, exchanges of this kind would lead to important high-level inter-Government interaction on national, regional, and local level, and increase institutional capacity. Not to mention, the cultural and civilian exchange that would emerge in the non-profit and supra-national network levels, and lead to key partnerships for development. Should the educational programs developed for research and fieldwork, as a result of such initiatives locally, be holistically integrative of the social factors that contribute to health, hygiene, and life-skills etc., and be designed to facilitate mass participation, the quality of life of participants would be greatly improved, having a lasting formative impact. Such programs would provide an ideal platform for informal work experience, skills development, and training, as well as education for democracy and citizen development to be disseminated, strengthening the national identity. Additional spinoffs of such programs would include; increased social networking, cross-cultural and cross-racial interaction, vital to the strengthening of the social fabric. It is assumed that economic growth, and as a result, formal job creation, would be key long term results of such programs, resulting from both the local investment in social capital, and the international investment likely to result from greater awareness and interest in South Africa as a destination and doorway to the emerging markets of Africa. It is likely, due to the collaborative nature,
and partnerships with stake-holders of local communities and targeted segments, that the process required to develop and establishing such programs, would serve as a mechanism for dialogue, and result in a deescalation of present levels of discontent and frustration, entrenching a realistic developmental vision for South Africa. Lastly, the immense power of the internet, digital communication technology, and online and computer-based learning, could be utilised to scale related projects across South Africa, using existing school and community infrastructure, at relatively low cost.

The policy has been tested, using the International Futures Model, by investigating the causal impact resulting from the adjustment of the following key variables:

1. Alternatives aimed at **Global Competitiveness and Innovation** Improvement

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Education, tertiary, intake rate, annual growth”, “edterintgr”, from 0 to 5, over gradually over a 10 year period, and then remaining at five for another 10 years, in order to demonstrate the increasing improvement in attractiveness to international graduate and postgraduate scholars in the filed of the development of children, youth, and woman.

2. Alternatives aimed at **Education and Development of Children, Youth, and Woman**

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Education, quanitity-quality multiplier (higher emphasises quality)”, “edqtqltm”, from 1 to 1.5 gradually over a 20 year period, in order to demonstrate the overall positive effects on education quality that would result from increased interest and investment in the field.

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Education, primary, survival rate, annual growth rate”, “edpriisurgr”, from 0 to 5 gradually over a 20 year period, in order to demonstrate the enhanced support for child students that would result from improvements across the education system, as well as the presence of additional child development programs.

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Multifactor productivity growth, responsiveness to increase in years of education of adult population (+15)”, “mfpedyrs”, from 0.2 to 1 gradually over a 10 year period, and then remaining high, in order to account for the relative lag in education among adults relative to South Africa’s other national development indicators, and the effectiveness of addressing education shortages would have on development in general.

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Gender emphasis (towards female) in education by level, multiplier”, “gndredm”, for secondary school in particular, from 1 to 1.99 radically over a 5 year period, and then remaining high, in order to demonstrate the enhanced support female students in particular across the education sector.

3. Alternatives aimed at **Foreign Investment and Interests** Attraction

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “FDI Foreign Direct Investment, stock, annual growth rate”, “xfdistockr”, from 3 to 5 over a 5 year period, and then remaining at that level, to demonstrate the positive effect of the policy on South Africa’s image as a investment destination.

4. Alternatives aimed at **Education System** Enhancement

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Education, primary, Pupil Teacher Ratio”, “edpriptr”, from 35.6 to 30 over a 20 year period, and then remaining at that level, to demonstrate the increase in educational capacity that would result from the policy.

5. Alternatives aimed at **State Capacity** Enhancement

   Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Government Effectiveness, (quality), multiplier”, “goveffectm”, from 1 to 1.5 over a 15 year period, and then remaining at that level, to demonstrate the positive reciprocal effects of exchanges in relation to the policy.

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6. Alternatives aimed at **Quality of life Improvement**

Our scenario adjusts the variable: "Responsiveness to years of education, (age 15) in Multi-Factor Properties calculation to extra years of life expectancy", "mfpedlifexp", from 0.035 to 0.3 over a 20 year period, and then remaining at that level, to demonstrate the positive effect of health, hi-gene and life-skills dimension of the policy related projects, to the life expectancy of youths.

7. Alternatives aimed at **Employment and Job Creation Increases**

Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Labour Participation rate multiplier”, “lapoprm”, from 1 to 1.1 (1% increase)over a 15 year period, and then remaining at that level, to account for the inclusion, through informal and formal education opportunities arising from programs related to the policy.

8. Alternatives aimed at **Labour Regulation Enhancement**

Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Economic Freedom multiplier”, “econfreem”, marginally from 1 to 1.5 over a 10 year period, and then remaining at that level, to account adjustments in labour regulation, related to informal learnerships, and the business sector’s engagement in the opportunities the offer, stemming from projects arising from the policy.

9. Alternatives aimed at **National Identity Enhancement**

Our scenario adjusts the variables: “Materialism/Modernism-“, “Survival/Self-Expression-“, and “Traditional/Secular-Rational-” value index addition”, “matpostradd”, “servseadd”, and “tradsratadd”, each from 0 to 1 over a 20 year period, and then remaining at that level, to integrate the acceleration of value change that would result in the targeted engagement of the projects with the developmental progress of three key segments of the population.

10. Alternatives aimed at **Social Networking Improvement**

Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Number of Networked Persons, growth rate multiplier”, “numnwpgrm”, from 1 to 2.5 over a 20 year period, and then remaining at that level, to account for the facilitation networking that would occur as a result of the projects resulting from the policy.

11. Alternatives aimed at **Racial Equality Improvement**

Our scenario adjusts the variable: “Poverty Gap based on $1.25/day income”, “povgap”, incrementally from 6.17 to 5, and then remaining at that level, to reflect the long term effect of empowerment of the largest segments of poor in majority racial groups, and reductions in the income gap resulting from the policy’s long term effect.

12. Alternatives aimed at **Economic Growth Achievement**

Our scenario does not adjust variables relating to the economy, but allows the causal effects of the policy to affect economic growth systemically.

13. Alternatives aimed at **Discontent and Frustration Alleviation**

Our scenario adjusts the variable: “State failure through Instability” and “through Internal War”, “sfinstaball”, and “sfinstlwarall”, from 0.001 to 0, and 0.3 to 0.1 respectively, and then remaining at that level, to reflect the positive effects of widespread consensus being foster over the developmental path of South Africa’s populous as a result from the policy implementation process.
PART 4 - ANALYSIS - POLICY EFFECTS

The model containing the adjusted variables was run to 2022, modelling a 20 year period, and indicated the following key changes in driving forces that affect social cohesion:

### Changes in the Social Contours:

**Social Inclusion - GDP per capita Annual Growth**

![Graph of GDP Annual Growth Rates in South Africa](Image)

**Social Mobility - Household per capita Income**

![Graph of Household per capita Income](Image)

**Social Capital: Education Levels, (<15), (15-24), (>25)**

![Graph of Education Levels](Image)

### Changes in the Social Climate:

**Civil Access & Participation: Democracy Measure**

![Graph of Democracy Measure](Image)

**Life Satisfaction: Quality of Life**

![Graph of Quality of Life](Image)

**Labour Force Enhancement: Human Capital**

![Graph of Human Capital](Image)

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CONCLUSION:

As per the graphic projections above, the recommended policy greatly improves the conditions likely of producing social cohesion. Both the Social Contours, and Social Climate are improved within a period as short as 20 years, and indicate trends towards greatly enhanced social cohesion in the long run.

The effect of the policy are seen to be as follows:

1. **Social Inclusion** is seen to improve markedly as GDP per capita Annual Growth increases from a negative downward trend, to 2.1% by 2019, recovering to 2.4% by 2022, the impact of the policy is that GDP per capita growth is prevented from decreasing below 2.8% and ultimately pushed up to over 4% by 2022.

2. **Social Mobility** is accelerated as Household per capita Income is shown to increase at a more rapid rate, and eventually accelerate. While immediate social mobility is not achieved through the policy, the compounding effect of the policy on the long term, far outperforms current trends in mobility.

3. **Social Capital** is improved as Education Levels at all levels, (under 15), (15-24), and (above 25) show accelerated improvement. The 15-24 age group, in danger of forming a "unemployed, poorly educated youth bulge", that threatens cohesion, is seen to improve the most. Where current trends indicate a education attainment of a mere 4.5 years, the policy is likely to lift the average by to full years by 2022, resulting in significant improvements in literacy, numeracy, and life skill levels. The effects of these raised levels in later adulthood would compound to improve social conditions above the board.

4. **Civil Access & Participation**: The Democracy Measure is seen to improve notably, along the same curve as its' current path, yet slightly faster.

5. **Life Satisfaction**: Quality of Life is improves across the indicators necessary for higher levels of life satisfaction to be experienced.

6. **Labour Force Enhancement**: The Human Capital of the nation is improved remarkably by the policy. Where present trends show human capital to stagnate below the 0.6 level on the index for the entire 20 year period, the policy accelerates the improvement in social capital, setting a steep upward trend for decades to come.

The combination of these improvement, according to our emergent model of social cohesion, are likely to contribute to creating a positive social condition in South Africa. Due to the enormity of the challenges facing the nation, many more policies, exhibiting innovative and inventive approaches to solving problems on a national scale with limited resources, will be required to ensure that a sustainable, cohesive is created out of the infant democracy that is South Africa today.