



## HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCE: HSSC4

### LESSON 18

#### UNIT STANDARD: 115477 SO 2 - 4

#### INTRODUCTION

We hope we are still in the same boat with you as our lessons progress. Our lesson will focus on 115477 that look at social justice, human rights and democracy. We have already covered many topics on this Unit Standard. Note that you still need to add up the information on this lesson with the knowledge you have gained from your own experience. We also hope that you will work on the activities as you did before.

#### Topic: Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)

#### WHAT IS THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP)?

- The RDP is an integrated, coherent (*as one*) socio-economic policy framework. It seeks to mobilise (to organise) all our people and our country's resources toward the final eradication of apartheid and the building of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist future.

#### 1.2 WHY DID WE NEED RDP?

- Poverty and degradation (*shame/humiliation*) as a result of colonialism, racism, apartheid, sexism and repressive labour policies continued side by side with modern cities and a developed mining, industrial and commercial infrastructure.
- Our income distribution is racially distorted.
- The economy was built on systematically (*planned*) enforced racial division.
- Segregation in education, health, welfare, transport and employment left deep scars of inequality and economic inefficiency.
- South Africans are confronted by serious problems. There is no a single sector of South African society OR not a person living in South Africa, untouched by the ravages of apartheid
- Towards the end of apartheid years, there was violence. Thousands and thousands of people have been brutally killed, maimed (*injured*) and forced from their homes.
- South Africans struggled against the apartheid system over decades, to improve their lives, to restore peace, and to bring about a more just society.
- A programme is required that is achievable, sustainable, and meets the objectives of freedom and an improved standard of living and quality of life for all South Africans within a peaceful and stable society.
- Challenges facing South Africa are enormous. Only a comprehensive approach to harnessing (using/controlling) the resources of our country can reverse the crisis created by apartheid.
- A victory for democratic forces in the elections was to lay the basis for effective reconstruction and development, and the restoration of peace.



## THE SIX BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE RDP

- **An integrated and sustainable programme.** The legacy (*long lasting effects*) of apartheid cannot be overcome with piecemeal and uncoordinated policies. The RDP brings together strategies to harness all our resources in a coherent (*oneness*) and purposeful effort that can be sustained into the future. These strategies will be implemented at national, provincial and local levels by government, parastatals and organisations within civil society working within the framework of the RDP.
- **A people-driven process.** Our people, with their aspirations (*aims/desires*) and collective determination are our most important resource. The RDP is focused on our people's most immediate needs, and it relies, in turn, on their energies to drive the process of meeting these needs. Regardless of race or sex, or whether they are rural or urban, rich or poor, the people of South Africa must together shape their own future. Development is not about the delivery of goods to a passive (*not doing anything*) citizenry. It is about active involvement and growing empowerment. In taking this approach we are building on the many forums, peace structures and negotiations that our people are involved in throughout the land.
- **Peace and security for all.** Promoting peace and security must involve all people and must build on and expand the National Peace Initiative. Apartheid placed the security forces, police and judicial system at the service of its racist ideology. The security forces have been unable to stem the tide of violence that has engulfed our people. To begin the process of reconstruction and development we must now establish security forces that reflect the national and gender character of our country. Such forces must be non-partisan (*not favouring any*), professional, and uphold the Constitution and respect human rights. The judicial system must reflect society's racial and gender composition, and provide fairness and equality for all before the law.
- **Nation-building.** Central to the crisis in our country are the massive divisions and inequalities left behind by apartheid. We must not perpetuate the separation of our society into a 'first world' and a 'third world' - another disguised way of preserving apartheid. We must not confine growth strategies to the former, while doing patchwork and piecemeal development in the latter, waiting for trickle-down development. Nation-building is the basis on which to build a South Africa that can support the development of our Southern African region. Nation-building is also the basis on which to ensure that our country takes up an effective role within the world community. Only a programme that develops economic, political and social viability can ensure our national sovereignty.
- **Link reconstruction and development.** The RDP is based on reconstruction and development being parts of an integrated process. This is in contrast (*not agreeing/opposition*) to a commonly held view that growth and development, or growth and redistribution are processes that contradict each other. Growth - the measurable increase in the output of the modern industrial economy - is commonly



seen as the priority that must precede development. Development is portrayed as a marginal effort of redistribution to areas of urban and rural poverty.

- **Democratisation of South Africa.** Minority control and privilege in every aspect of our society are the main obstruction to developing an integrated programme that unleashes all the resources of our country. Thoroughgoing democratisation of our society is, in other words, absolutely integral to the whole RDP. The RDP requires fundamental (*main*) changes in the way that policy is made and programmes are implemented. Above all, the people affected must participate in decision-making. Democratisation must begin to transform both the state and civil society. Democracy is not confined to periodic elections. It is, rather, an active process enabling everyone to contribute to reconstruction and development.

## THE KEY PROGRAMMES OF THE RDP

The five key programmes are:

- meeting basic needs;
- developing our human resources;
- building the economy;
- democratising the state and society, and
- Implementing the RDP.

### MEETING BASIC NEEDS.

- The first priority is to begin to meet the basic needs of people - jobs, land, housing, water, electricity, telecommunications, and transport, a clean and healthy environment, nutrition, health care and social welfare.
- In this way we can begin to reconstruct family and community life in our society. Achievable programmes are set out for the next five years. These include programmes to redistribute a substantial amount of land to landless people, build over one million houses, provide clean water and sanitation to all, electrify 2, 5 million new homes and provide access for all to affordable health care and telecommunications. The success of these programmes is essential if we are to achieve peace and security for all.

### DEVELOPING OUR HUMAN RESOURCES.

- The RDP takes a broad view of education and training, seeing it not only as something that happens in schools or colleges, but in all areas of our society - homes, workplaces, public works programmes, youth programmes and in rural areas.
- A key focus throughout the RDP is on ensuring a full and equal role for women in every aspect of our economy and society. In training, particular attention is paid to the challenges posed by the restructuring of our industries as we fully re-enter the



World economy. These challenges can only be met through the extensive development of our human resources.

- An arts and culture programme is set out as a crucial component of developing our human resources.
- The RDP wants to ensure that all people have access to recreational facilities. Only in this way can all our peoples have a chance to represent their villages, towns, cities, provinces or country in the arena of sport and to enjoy a rich diversity of recreational activities.
- If we are to develop our human resource potential, then special attention must be paid to the youth.
- Allowing people to participate on the basis of knowledge, skill and creativity will be an important move.

### **BUILDING THE ECONOMY.**

- The economy has strengths and weaknesses. Mining, manufacturing, agriculture, commerce, financial services and infrastructure are well developed.
- At present we have a large surplus of electricity. These are strengths we can build on. But so far they have not benefitted all our people. A process of reconstruction is proposed to ensure that these strengths now benefit all our people.

### **DEMOCRATISING THE STATE AND SOCIETY.**

Democratisation is integral to the RDP. Without thoroughgoing democratisation the resources and potential of our country and people will not be available for a coherent programme of reconstruction and development.

In linking democracy, development and a people-centred approach, we are paving the way for a new democratic order.

### **IMPLEMENTING THE RDP.**

The RDP raises many challenges in its implementation because it involves processes and forms of participation by organisations outside government that are very different to the old apartheid order. To implement and coordinate the RDP will require the establishment of effective RDP structures in government at a national, provincial and local level.



## ACTIVITY

**A**



**B**



- 1.1 The women in the **picture A** are taught how to plant to produce food for themselves to reduce poverty. Which RDP programme is being applied?
- 1.2 Which principle of the RDP promotes the participation of women in what they need rather than forcing the programme to them?
- 1.3 Mention any five basic needs that the government must provide for the people living in area as in **picture B**.
- 1.4 Name any five reasons why the RDP was needed in Black communities.
- 1.5 Name any 3 factors that may disturb the success of the RDP.