THE CONCEPTUALISATION OF AN AGRI-VILLAGE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOCAL AND COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT.

BY

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Introduction

- Grand Apartheid segregated South Africa into three kinds of social, economic and politico-administrative spaces: the major urban areas, which were a preserve of white people; fertile commercial farming regions and associated small rural towns, also a preserve of white South Africans; and, barren, economically unviable so-called homelands, reserved for South Africa’s black majority population.

- The result is enduring underdevelopment with its social, economic, and cultural manifestations: poverty, gross income inequality compared to urban areas, chronic unemployment, and cultural backwardness.
Unfortunately, the status quo continued unabated in the post 1994 democratic dispensation. Massive waves of African urbanisation from rural areas to towns and cities, often accompanied by unbearable inhuman social-ills, became one of the political burning issues.

Many once close-knit families were torn apart. The once high rural morality was, subsequently, superseded by unprecedented high levels of crime often characterised by lack of respect for human life.

Indeed, such given status quo became a potential threat to our democracy. Drastic positive action was needed to intervene in the market place so as to identify the essence of the problem and come out with appropriate strategies of remedy.

(CONT.)
It is, therefore, against this backdrop of a deep organic crisis of lack of rural service delivery that in 2009, the government conceptualised the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, solely designed to reinstil the agrarian culture to the historically marginalised communities, especially the black Africans. This is one of the keys to emancipation.
The major focus of the CRDP is on the following:

- An Integrated Programme of Rural Development;
- Land Reform; and,
- Agrarian change.
AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION SYSTEM: VALUE CHAIN

1. MANDATE
Rural Development, Land Reform and Agrarian Change (52nd Conference: ANC)

2. VISION
Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities

3. MISSION
To initiate, facilitate, co-ordinate, catalyse and implement an integrated rural development programme.

4. PRINCIPLES
- Deracialization of the rural economy
- Democracy and equity
- Production discipline

5. BROAD APPROACH
CRD PLAN
• Cross-cutting: CRDP costed norms and standards

6. STRATEGY
Agrarian Transformation
Fundamental change in the relations (patterns of ownership and control) of land, livestock, cropping and community.

7. TACTIC
• Execution to be sequential and simultaneous

8. INSTITUTION
Office of the Land Valuer – General
Land Management Commission
Land Rights Management Board with localised committees
Rural Development Agency

9. GOAL
Social cohesion and development: the ultimate state
National unity, democracy, non-racialism, non-sexism, relative income equality, shared growth and prosperity, full employment and cultural progress.
SUSTAINABLE RURAL SETTLEMENTS

The Draft Land Reform Green Paper and the Draft Land Tenure Security Bill (LTSB) referred to these human settlements as Agri-villages.

However, it is clear that this is only one of many possible variants of sustainable human settlements.

Other forms being considered:

- SMART Villages (Sustainable, managed assets, resources and technology);
- Agri-parks
SUSTAINABLE RURAL SETTLEMENTS

The proposal is to establish new forms of rural settlements, and transform, or improve some of the existing ones, under the rubric Sustainable Rural Communities (SRM).

The United Nations (UN) ascribes effectiveness of “sustainability” to the following conditions:

- Socio-cultural development: health, education, recreation
- Economic development
- Environmental development
- Institutional/ political
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT CRDP

Revitalisation of Small Rural Towns

Vital for rural-urban networking and linkages;
Active player and contributor to regional economies;
and
Integrated planning

CRDP Costed Norms and Standards

Will help to establish efficiency and effectiveness in planning as well as equitable resource allocation
Quantification of backlogs
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT CRDP

National Rural Youth Service Corps
Rural youth based skills development and job creation programme.
Emphasis is on character building, community service, discipline and artisan skills.
Youth provided with skills related to needs of rural communities identified through household profiling.
Current priorities are construction, disaster management and records management.
A total of 7,956 youth have been enrolled into the programme.
Construction training of 6,000 youth that began in July 2011.
Institutions to Support CRDP

- **Rural Development Agency**
  - Rationalisation of existing entities with experience in rural development
  - Coordination; resource mobilisation; monitoring and evaluation

- **Funding Institutions to Support CRDP** eg Construction Bank (support local contractor development)

- **Councils of Stakeholders**
  - stakeholder participation model has been developed with the CoS functioning as the planning, implementation and monitoring body established to support social cohesion and development, effectively introducing a “parliament at village level”.

- **Land Rights Management Board**
  - Dealt with in the Land Reform Policy document

- **CPA’s and Trusts**
  - Review process underway

- **Communal Land Tenure System**
  - Dealt with separately under land Reform
SCOPE

The Scope of the presentation is as follows:

1. Tri-partite Council of Stakeholders;
2. The Concept of Sustainable Rural Settlements;
3. The Farming Methods;
4. The Expected Outcomes; and
5. Conclusion
1. **THE TRI-PARTITE COUNCIL OF STAKEHOLDERS**

a) **3 SPHERES OF GOVERNMENT:**
- Provincial; and
- Local

b) **Civil society/Social/Movements/community:**
- Political parties;
- NGOs;
- Pressure/Interest Groups
- Traditional leaders

(c) **Business Community:**
- Mining Houses;
- BEEs;
- White Capital; and
- International Solidarity
- Development Financial Institutions (IDC, DBSA, IDT etc)
- Retail Financial Institutions

(CONT.)
Social Compact: Agreement among stakeholders (CONT.)
Driving Force: Based on the concept of Systems Approach - working all together; each unit is part of the whole, Interdependency.

Silo Approach: disaster; create destructive individual empire.
EXAMPLE OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL SETTLEMENTS
NUCLEUS OF SUSTAINABLE AGRI-VILLAGE
VERMI-CULTURE: ADDED ELEMENT TO FOOD VALUE CHAIN

FOOD SECURITY

- Agri-processing unit provides seedlings & worms to the four schools.
- All four schools & processing unit plant to farm.
- The scholars get to partake in the wormery process both at school & at home.
- The process is environmentally friendly in the disposal of organic matter and will also be an educational activity for the kids.
- The wormery process produces vermicompost which will benefit both the processing unit & schools farming activities.

JOB CREATION

4X schools

1X PROCESSING UNIT
The settlement could be based mainly on two farming methods

- Collective farming methods with control administration.

- Individual home.

(CONT.)
AGRI-VILLAGE FAMILY UNIT
Management and Control

Will be carried out by professional team at the initial stages. Gradual transfer of skills programme to the locals with time frames shall be part of the management and control.
Agri-Villages – Application in Land Reform

Community Streets

Housing

Agri - Processing

Community Spaces
  Parks
  Schools
  Clinics
Rural Housing

• 1000sq/m Plots
• 60sq/m House
• Backyard Food Garden
• Rainwater Harvesting
• Solar Panels
Agri-Villages – Private Public Partnership – Crossways Farm, EC

1. Working & integrated learning milking parlour
2. Agricultural land
3. University satellite campus (NARYSEC and Texas A&M)
4. NARYSEC student accommodation
5. Texas A&M lecturers and student accommodation
6. Agro-industry processing facility
7. High school with sport fields & gardens
8. Relocate existing world-famous cricket bat factory

CROSSWAYS FARM VILLAGE
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

(The Basic Building Blocks)

- Motivated Individuals
- Productive Families
- Thriving Communities
- Supportive Governments
- Know-how international support solidarity
- Emergence of local Socio-political and economic community structures and leadership
CONCLUSION

Deducing from the above expanded Comprehensive Rural Development Plan, the department is of the view that a strong, united, self-sufficient, and hence sustainable rural settlement shall be achieved: the ultimate solution to our vision and mission.
THANK YOU