



An examination of South Africa's APRM's SED Thematic area implementation outcomes 2003-2013

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DEDICATION

We all have dreams but in order to make those dreams come true, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.

Family is where life begins; people come and go in our lives, but one beauty of life is that our family is always there.

I would like to dedicate this work to the woman who raised me, my grandmother Josephine Masola. I would like to thank her for all the sacrifices and the support she has given me ever since I began with this work until this current juncture. My mother, Gladys Masola, my pillar of strength, she encouraged me to work harder, believed in me even when I had lost hope

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Abstract

The story of socio-economic transformation in Africa generally is not one of satisfactory success, thus in the quest for good governance to remedy this deficiency, the African Peer Review Mechanism was established. The APRM came into existence in 2003 with the central purpose of promoting political, economic and social best practices in public affairs for all its participants. Although South Africa has witnessed the evolution of APRM, there seems to be a missing link between the commitment and implementation of APRM precepts. The study examines South Africa's implementation of the APRM's socio-economic development (SED) theme from 2003 to 2018. It focuses on evaluating the dimension of South Africa's socio-economic development as an outcome of South Africa's adherence to APRM's SED thematic precepts, which continue to pose as a major impediment to overall development, transformation and socio-economic growth efforts of the country. One of its objectives is to analyse the factors that shaped the outcomes of the implementation of the SED thematic area of the APRM in South Africa between 2003 and 2018. The study adopts a qualitative research methodology. Data were collected from interviews as well as journal articles, books, reports and statistics, as well as some documents relating to the study. It found that high unemployment rate, political corruption, poverty, poor healthcare service, dysfunctional education system and abysmal public spending were some predominant consequences of South Africa's SED implementation outcomes in the understudied period. These negative consequences were found to gravely undermine South Africa's socio-economic development efforts between 2003 and 2018. The study's findings indicate that South Africa's implementation of the APRM's SED theme during the period under review showed a low commitment to the APRM SED precepts by South Africa's regimes between 2003 and 2018. Given the aforesaid observation, the study recommends amongst others increased political commitment and sound political leadership to implement the APRM's SED theme; adoption of meritocracy in political appointment in key sectors charged with advancing South Africa's APRM's SED theme; and elimination of corruption.

Keywords: Socio-economic development, African Peer Review Mechanism(APRM), Unemployment, Education, Health and Welfare.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction and background of the study

The development of the socio-economic realm is imperative to every society in order to create a political climate that fosters societal cohesion and eradicate marginalization of the poor. Thus, in order to accelerate socio-economic advancement, fast-track development, and foster political legitimacy that promotes growth in Africa, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was inaugurated. NEPAD was initiated in 2001 and in turn birthed the African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM) in 2003 as one of NEPAD's institutional mechanisms to actualize its ideals.

NEPAD emerged from a new notion of African renaissance of the then President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and other African leaders such as President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria. According to Nmihielle (2004:242), NEPAD constitute calculated strategy framework underpinned by the following objectives: eradicating poverty in Africa; putting African countries on a route of maintainable magnification and advancement and bridging the marginalization of African countries in the globalization processes.

NEPAD aims to foster African solidarity and it aspires to accomplish that through the APRM. The APRM was officially assented to by several African nations in 2003 and 33 countries have domesticated the APRM precepts ten years after its inauguration (Gruzd, 2009:6). APRM is built on four thematic areas: Democracy and Political Governance (DPG), Economic Governance and Management (EGM), Corporate Governance (CG) and Broad-based Sustainable Socio-economic Development (SED).

Based on the reviews, if the regime of the state that is undergoing the review indicate irrefutable willingness to remedy the highlighted defect, member states are necessitated to render their cooperation and to prompt donor states to aid the country. Uncooperative country may be exposed to aggregative punitive measures, only as a last resort after the country has been accorded an opportunity to engage in constructive discourse (Nmehielle, 2004:245).

The fundamental purpose of APRM is to promote governance that is free from corruption, and encourage adoption of policies that promotes sustainable development. Participation in APRM is voluntary and its proceedings are outlined as an African self-monitoring mechanism that

incorporates productive peer-review, debate and coercion on developmental issues (Nmielle, 2004). The performance of member-states of NEPAD that have assented to the APRM are measured through peer-review by fellow member-states in the four thematic areas which are DPG, EGM, CG, and SED.

The APRM vividly affirm that it strives to prompt African states to ruminate about extensive democracy as much more than mere casting of ballots. Good political governance occurs when regimes initiate and promote coherent, accountable apparatus that ameliorate people's lives and entrust citizens to pick their leaders (SAIIA, 2006:17). However, the central focal point of this study will be on the SED thematic aspect of the APRM and it will study South Africa's performance index in the SED arena between 2003 and 2018. South Africa is one of the African nations that committed to the APRM ideal from the inception of the programme in 2003. Despite the country's adoption of the APRM ideals, the country continues to encounter socio-economic challenges akin to the SED thematic area (Turiansky, 2014:3).

Officially, South Africa's APRM process fall under the operation of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), which was overseeing the categorization of consultative structures through which the review mechanism embarked on (Mathekga, 2007). The National APRM secretariat was placed under DPSA. The secretariat is the highest structure in the country dealing with NEPAD's goals and initiatives. The body organized the events leading to the appointment of the APRM National Governing Council (Mathekga, 2007:37).

The review began in 2005 culminating in a peer review report by the APRM committee of participating heads of state and government in January 2007. The review process involved participation of communities and ordinary citizens, as well as civil society organizations, research institution and the academic arena to name a few. This assured that the state's Self-Assessment Report that transpires is a true portrayal of South Africans' perspectives on all aspects (Mathekga, 2007).

Mathekga (2007) is of the opinion that a research commission was established and various stakeholders, inclusive of NGOs, were prompted to request to embody it. A number of institutions applied most notably, research organizations, trade unions, women's and children's institutions. Technical Support Agencies (TSAs) were responsible for collating all the written

submissions made to the APRM secretariat into a single report. The technical report drafted by the TSAs was working towards the final Country Self Assessment Report.

The public release of the Final Country Review Report was in 2007 under Mbeki's presidency. Various assessment report of the APRM's SED impact in South Africa were also present under the Zuma administration, including the third progress report of South Africa, president Zuma's key note address at the APRM focal point held in Durban, 2012 and other documents on this subject (Mathekga, 2007).

It is the dearth of empirical-based studies that interrogate implementation issues of the APRM's SED theme in South Africa from 2003-2018 that prompted this research. This research intends to examine factors and variables that determined the outcomes of South Africa's SED on the throes of the implementation of the country's domestication of the SED-APRM's policy programmes within the period under study, which is 2003-2018. Also, the period between 2003 and 2018 captures South Africa's authorized and implemented programmes, as well as Peer-Review Reports of the nation that constitutes data for the study. The study's analysis will focus on but not be limited to these socio-economic indicators; welfare, gender empowerment, unemployment, health and education. It is also noteworthy that the study's focus from the year 2003 up to 2018 covers the presidency of presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma.

1.2. Problem Statement

Regardless of the fact that South Africa assented to the SED-APRM's precept early enough and has also authorised and implemented domestic programmes in line with the SED principles, socio-economic dislocations, and other social challenges such as a high unemployment rate, rising gender-based violence, an increasing rate of HIV, and political corruption, have been increasing steadily since 2003 (Turiansky, 2014:3). Although- Senzo Mchunu (Minister of Public Service and Administration, who is also the APRM focal point for South Africa) stated in a speech that the South African government is committed to APRM ideals of rapid socio-economic transformation (Gabara, 2019), yet more socio-economic dislocations like poor primary healthcare and a dysfunctional education system, political marginalization/alienation of the rural dwellers are still apparent in South Africa.

These social negations seem to be an unending scourge in South Africa, partly due to poor implementation of the SED precepts. Mangaliso (2013) and Butler (2009) contend that there seems to be no effective resolution to these challenges because of a continuing poor commitment and implementation of the various programmes formulated in line with the SED principles. It is imperative to note that both presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma, whose presidencies the period of the research covers, came up with various policies that were underpinned by the objectives specifically dealing with SED precepts. Yet, South Africa's socio-economic development remain abysmal, social discontent amongst citizens continue to rise, poverty remains endemic, poor healthcare delivery persists, corruption in government remain visible and so forth (Kruger, 2006:212) .

De Jager (2018:232) is of the opinion that South Africa's development contradictions derives from poorly implemented socio-economic advancement policies merely strengthened the economic_base of elites without significantly improving the lives of ordinary people. It is these toxic outcomes and problematic challenges to South Africa's nation-building connected to the implementation of the SED theme of the APRM that this research attempts to unravel.

1.3. Aim

The overarching aim of this study is to examine South Africa's APRM's SED thematic area implementation outcomes between 2003-2018.

1.4 Objectives

The study seeks to achieve the following research objectives

- 1.4.1. To examine South Africa's policies that were implemented in line with the APRM's SED thematic area between 2003 and 2018.
- 1.4.2. To analyse the factors that shaped the outcomes of the implementation of SED thematic area of the APRM in South Africa during the period studied.
- 1.4.3. To propose policy reforms that may enhance positive outcomes from the implementation of the SED theme of the APRM in South Africa.

1.5. Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following questions

- 1.5.1. What policies were implemented in South Africa between 2003 and 2018 in line with the APRM's SED thematic area?
- 1.5.2. What factors shaped the implementation outcomes of the APRM's SED precept of South Africa during the understudied period?
- 1.5.3. Which policy reform proposals are necessary to enhance positive outcomes in the implementation of the SED theme of the APRM in South Africa?

1.6. Significance of the Study

The research examines South Africa's implementation outcomes of APRM's sustainable socio-economic development (SED) thematic area between 2003 and 2018. There is a plethora of scholarly writings on APRM; however, most of the already existing literature has put much emphasis on the origin of APRM and not on the impacts of the four thematic areas. Hence, this research's vitality and value as a resource material for future scholarships is essential in its provision of empirical-based data on the implementation outcomes of the APRM-SED theme in South Africa. The study's focus on the APRM's SED implementation outcomes advances the knowledge economy on this specific subject, as well as being a sound contribution to theory-building on the APRM's SED thematic area and the APRM's contribution to an Africa renaissance. The study contributes to the building of capable African states by critically looking at the factors or variables that militate against the socio-economic wellbeing of South Africans which can be used to generalize for the continent.

The recommendations therefrom this study will help guide policy makers on the policy reforms necessary to actualize positive outcomes from the implementation of the APRM's SED theme. Hence, the study contributes to literature that already exists in this area of scholarly interest and helps to fill the identified gaps from the reviewed literature. Therefore, the analysed data of the study is a contribution to the corpus of good governance and the socio_economic studies on South Africa vis-a-vis the African continent which share similar militating factors or variables to socio-economic development of their own socio-political spaces.

This research is equally helpful to the African Union (AU) and other supranational organization as a resource material for international relations with South Africa. Also, the research stands to enable policy-makers, government officials, scholars and potential investors in South Africa as a

guide to decision making in their various ventures. In the long run, the study helps to shed light on good governance and the socio-economic advancement of South Africans and Africans at large by proposing social engineering stratagems to curtail immanent contradictions to the socio-economic development of South Africa, and expose some challenges that seems to threaten good governance on the African continent at large. Furthermore, the study stands to be a good instigator and promoter of future empirical-based implementation outcomes researches on the other thematic areas of the APRM.

1.7. Chapter Outline

The study is organized in the following manner

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In this chapter, an introduced in the form of background of the study, research objectives and questions, limitation and significance of the study will be explained

Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter will address a review of relevant literature followed by the explication of the good governance theory that is utilized to guide this study

Chapter 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter covers the research design and research method that guided this study. It will include the data collection method and how data will be analyzed.

Chapter 4: DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter provides the analysis of data, interpretation, and discussion of the data.

Chapter 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter has its focus on the conclusion, presentation of the study's findings and recommendations that derive from the analyzed data.

1.8. Summary of the Chapter

This chapter has provided a detailed anatomy of NEPAD which birthed the APRM following the problem that this research has identified. It explained the aim, objectives and research questions

of the study. It discussed the significance of this study and lastly it provided the outline of the study to showcase the organization and how the study's report will be outlined.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

This chapter provides for the literature review section in relation to the subject under examination. Mcmenamin (2006:135) describes literature review as a process of nullification, extraction of broad-spectrum literature to the bottom of a specified research project. The APRM have been engaged from much scholarly writings, and as a result the researcher reviewed works that help to utilize the ones fit for this work.

2.2. Concept of Peer Review

Grimm *et al* (2009:21) contend that peer review is a mechanism of mutual assessment. The mutual appraisal on a non-advisory basis therefore aims to achieve an agreement status and to review the performance of the peer with regard to this goal. For the purpose of enabling the mechanism or the peer review and to make it effective, mutual trust among peers and mutual commitment are prerequisites. The success and effectiveness of the peer review depends on the influence and power of the peers exercised during the peer review process.

The results of country_to_country peer reviews are usually discussed in public. If the results of peer review are debated publicly, these formal and informal responses of peers can build up or even establish pressure at different level, not only among the peers but also within the governments of participating countries. It is also utilized as a chance for robust engagement among the evaluated country between stakeholders and government. Results of the review and obligation of the state in response to these can be utilized by various non state actors in the participating state to put pressure on government (Grimm *et al*, 2009:23).

In light of the peer review mentioned above, Pagani (2002) cited by Netshituni (2018) is also of the opinion that peer review is utilized in democratic governance for purposes such as policy dialogue, where states reciprocate data, attitude and views on strategy resolutions and their applications. Pagani (2002) further states that countries under review showcase and clear up national regulations, implementation and strategies in order to be capacitated as a peer review, which is a mutual learning process in which best practices are exchanged. The APRM involves key non-state actors to prompt reciprocation of knowledge and state debate on good governance and socio-economic development efforts, thereby increasing the transparency of

decision_making proceedings and building trust in search of the evolution of national goals (APRM Guidelines, 2003).

The African Peer Review mechanism aims to promote peer learning and generate political coercion among African leaders and administration. It also gives civil society an opportunity to be heard. Furthermore, it intends to help African states tackle democratic deficiencies and generate the economic liquidity needed to absorb investment and fuel growth. The mechanism has established engagements between states, non-state actors and civil society on areas for advancement and tackling obstacles such as corruption, capital flight and tax avoidance. It has promoted improvement of governance as well (Nagar, 2016:15).

It further necessitate countries that partake in it to include their citizens in evaluating the pros and cons of governance and policies to suggest rectifications. Societal inclusion is aimed at gaining public buy-in, establish and intensify policy debate and accord a voice to traditionally marginalized groups (Gruzd, 2009:13). Peer Review intends to make dialogue, contestation of ideas and robust engagements a norm in African politics. The more citizens come out and request good governance, the higher the chances of it being accorded. If the process is carried out fairly, citizens will be content with governance and feel that they have a stake in the proceedings. Moreover, the proceedings generated by public dialogue has value in themselves and are likely to bring about metamorphosis on the continent and prompt accountability (Gruzd, 2019:13).

2.3. Five stages of APRM

2.3.1. Stage one

The first phase incorporates dissecting the economic, corporate governance and development and political arena in the country undergoing the review (Murithi & Mvumba, 2005). Amid this period, the APR Secretariat forwards the country a questionnaire on the four APRM reviews areas. The state carries out a self-assessment based on the questionnaire and then make a preliminary Programme of Action (POA) to reply to possible obstacles discovered in the already-existing strategies and projects. The self-assessment report and the PoA are sent to the APR secretariat, which, on the basis of the background document on the state, prepares a briefing paper outlining the status quo in political, economic and corporate governance which need to be addressed by the country (Makgalancheche, 2006:215; Murithi & Mvumba, 2005).

The works of Murithi and Mvumba (2005) and Makgalancheche (2006) provided a detailed account of processes that take place during the stages of APRM. However, their work is silent on governmental domination during these processes thus Hebert and Gruzd's (2008:260) stance is that amid the first stage in South Africa, the South African administration was not impressed with the level of citizens's scrutiny in making the APRM an equitable and comprehensive proceeding. Abundant groups representing citizens raised questions about the governance arrangement and therefore- proposed implementation plans and tight timelines. "Concerns about government's seeming desire to dominate the process and muffle civil society were also raised. Civil society pressure seemed effective, as the date for a follow-up conference to validate the Country Self- Assessment Report was not even mentioned" (Hebert & Gruzd, 2008:260).

In the workshop, quite a number of NGOs expressed their frustrations that months of making an inquiry regarding the South African proceedings had been dismissed by the government. One of the consultants in charge of governmental affairs contended that citizens would edit the final report, but when pressured in a private space, confirmed that government had the intention of editing the document itself (Hebert & Gruzd, 2008:260). South Africa's APRM report was produced with no significant suggestions from civil society and the media was disregarded (Bond, 2009:599). This shows lack of commitment to APRM ideals by the South African government.

Furthermore, in Ghana, the review came across several hurdles as well. One of the impediment encountered was insufficient incapacitation and information in the initial period. Giving out information about the APRM to wide ranging segment of the populace was a challenge. Publishing institutions were marked by and included in the APR proceedings in the initial phases (Grimm, 2009). Independent media institution is crucial for the functioning of democratic state as freedom of expression lies at the very heart of it. According to Grimm (2009) some publishing institutions received reimbursement from the GC to include APR-related workshops which might have contributed to the tame coverage of the proceedings. The APR report was nationally publicized via national media , the GC chose the extensively broadcasting daily tabloids to publish the whole country report in a series and thus raising questions (Grimm, 2009:55).

2.3.2. Stage two

Amid this phase, the APR Review Team visits the country to be reviewed through the leadership of the Panel. It entails a robust consultation and a debate is carried out which includes state and non-state actors (APRM Guidelines, 2003). The country visit presents an opportune moment for the APR Team to dissect the drafted Programme of Action that the country has developed to strengthen governance and socio-economic advancements, as well as to build concord on how to resolve highlighted challenges (Makgalancheche, 2006:215).

Nonetheless, the work of Makgalancheche (2006) and the APRM Guideline (2003) presented the detailed process of APRM and did not discuss obstacles encountered during these processes hence Bond (2009:601) states that the process of APRM poses a crucial impediment for the African population. It has been noted that those cautiously-chosen NGOs are usually pro-government and are not critical towards governance, those who managed to partake in the whole process are accorded little or no information at all and they are therefore, impotent to play a productive role. In the end, the APRM will persist to be a state-to-state proceeding with no opportunity given to independent non-state actors to issue their constructive criticisms that could positively assist in making the process more conducive, constructive and valid (Bond, 2009:601).

2.3.3. Stage three

This entails drawing up the APR Team's report. The report is drawn up in part from the main findings of the Country Review visit and also on the empirical evidence of the research done by the APR secretariat prior to the visit. The suggestions of the panel's report must consider the obligations made in the preliminary Programme of Action of the country and must distinguish their existing deficiencies and suggest further steps that must be incorporated in the final Programme of Action (APRM Guideline,2003). The preliminary document is initially debated with the government of the country undergoing review to assure the validity of the information and to give the government a chance to both respond to the substance of the preliminary report and to bring forth its own perceptions, ideas and actions to be taken to tackle the weaknesses. These replies are appended to the report (Makgalancheche, 2006:216).

The fundamental weakness of this stage is that it does not account for measures to be taken against countries that fail to implement recommendations made by the panel, thus Bond (2009:601) provides evidence that at the national level, the execution of the APRM Programme

of Action is entirely left to the executive and if the government fails to perform its duties, parliamentarians or civil society have no formal responsibility to hold the government accountable. Additionally, the systems put in place to oversee the execution of national policies have also not been mobilized to engage with execution of the APRM programme of action. For instance, the Kenyan president Kibaki has not reported back to parliament on the APR Forum meeting on the measures he had committed to undertake, nor was the report even tabled for robust engagement (Bond, 2009:602).

2.3.4. Stage four

This incorporates the presentation of the APR Team's country review report and the final Programme of Action to the APR Panel and finally to the APR Forum. The APR Panel sets up a meeting to debate and assess the document in line with its objectives and submits its suggestions on the final report to the APR Forum. The APR Forum considers the report and the suggestions highlighted by the APR Panel and decides on measures to be taken in line with its decree (Makgalancheche, 2006:216).

The limitation of this stage is that it neglects a detailed discussion of monitoring and evaluation of recommendations given to countries and there are also no checks and balances, thus Manby (2008) contends that even though each and every state that has completed the APRM proceedings is required to report its progression to the APR Forum, there are no measures put in place to oversee how effectively this is done, nor any penalty given for failure to act. Moreover, there is no apparatus put in place to assure the obligation the government produces will tackle essential obstacles mentioned in the APR review (Manby, 2008).

2.3.5. Stage five

This incorporates publicizing the APRM reports of the country that has undergone the review. From the initial stage of the process up until to the time when the document is finally submitted to the APR Forum for suggestion, the reappraisal proceeding per state is not supposed to take longer than six months (APRM Base document, 2003). It is only at the final phase of the proceedings where six months for the finalization of the report to be public is provided (Makgalancheche, 2006:217).

2.4. The APRM Review Process

The APRM proceedings entail national self-evaluation and the creation of a Programme of Action (PoA) to address detected weaknesses. The state assessment proceedings are supplemented by an international assessment documents, debate of the document in the APRM conference and the briefing of the report in regional and sub-regional structures such as the Pan-African Parliament and the African Commission on Human and people's rights. There are no vivid instructions as to how to constitute the framework of governing the national process, except that the national framework must be broad-based and inclusive (Killander, 2008:48).

2.4.1. Self Assessment

The country undertakes a self-assessment based on the questionnaire, which serves as the foundation for a preliminary PoA. The Panel has stressed the need for the PoA building on, incorporating, and forming synergies with current programmes, policies, and strategies that meet major APRM doctrines such as poverty reduction, good governance and so forth (Killander, 2008:49).

2.4.2. Country Review Mission

When the APRM Secretariat receives the self-assessment and preliminary Programme of Action, it prepares an issue paper. In collaboration with the country under review, the Secretariat might conduct additional technical assessments if necessary. The Nation Review Mission is the next step in the process. The Mission's major goal is to learn about diverse stakeholders' perspectives on governance in the country, to clarify issues mentioned in the issue paper that are not addressed in the country's preliminary Programme of Action, and to establish accord on how these issues can be addressed (Killander, 2008:50).

2.4.3. Country Review Report

The Panel's Country Review Report is sent to the government, which can comment on it and have it attached to the country's report. Vivid factual mistakes in the review report can be corrected, but no additional changes to the Panel's report, which is submitted to the Forum with the government's comments and the final Programme of Action. The government sends the final PoA along with its response report, which should include the Panel's recommendations from the Country Review Report. The PoA outlines the required actions, indicators, means of verification, existing initiatives, implementing agencies, time frames, projected output, estimated cost,

monitoring and evaluation agencies, all of which are based on the APRM objectives (Killander, 2008:52).

2.5. Institutions of the APRM

2.5.1. Committee of Heads of State and Government (APR Forum)

The APRM's ultimate authority and monitoring body is the Convocation of leaders of State and administration. Peer learning is supposed to take place at this stage. The APR Forum's responsibilities incorporate selecting and appointing members to the APR Panel. Finally, the APR Forum assumes responsibility for nation evaluation reports and makes public recommendations that encourage peer discourse. Country Reports may not be published until the APR Forum has completed its final review. The APR Forum's mandate also includes debate with development partners (Grimm, 2009:26).

2.5.2. Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel).

The APR Forum appoints seven members to the Panel of Eminent Persons, nominated by member of country and appointed by the APR Forum. Members must be Africans of good moral standing, conversant with the APRM, and passionately devoted to Pan-African principles in line with APRM guidelines (Roth, 2009:27). The panel's overall advocates monitoring the proceeding and ensure its integrity, independence, and professionalism. The Panel's job is to provide tools, instruments, codes of conduct and regulations to oversee the country's review process. This Panel is in charge of any support missions that may be required before the review is completed. It evaluates and provides recommendations on state Review Reports before delivering them to the APR Forum (Roth, 2009:27).

2.5.3. APR Secretariat in Midrand South Africa

The APR Panel and national review teams utilizes the Secretariat's support. Its goal is to compile background data and a substantial details on political and economic growth in all member countries (Roth, 2009:28). It is in charge of coordinating the evaluation processes in participating countries on a technical and administrative level. Hereof, the secretariat in collaboration with the APR Panel creates guiding instruments such as the template questionnaire, which spells out precise criteria and indicators for state assessments. Due to significant capacity constraints, it has frequently been chastised for giving insufficient practical direction to national processes (Roth, 2009:28).

2.5.4. The Country Review Team (APR Team)

The national review teams are in charge of monitoring the nations' proceedings and completing the APR reports during the evaluations. The teams are appointed in the country amid duration of the country review visit which is normally two to three weeks. The APR Panel forms the teams. The team is supposed to provide an integrated, balanced, technically competent, and professional assessment of the country under review (Triebel, 2009:29).

2.5.5. The APR Partner institutions

The APRM collaborates with a variety of institutes that specialize in several discipline. These key partners conduct technical assessments to aid in the formulation and subsequent execution of the state's Program of Action (PoA) for the countries that will undergo the review. African staff from these institutions' also partake in the country review teams (Triebel, 2009:29). When having a debate regarding the country report, APR Partner institutions may also participate in sessions of the APR Panel or the APR Forum. A Memorandum of Understanding governs the interaction among APR Partner Institutions and the APR Secretariat. In light of typically low levels of capacity in African states, the potential role of partner institutions is critical. The overall issue of capacity may have major ramifications for effective strategy of the APRM in some states, the undertaking's success will rely to some extent on the cooperation of partners (Triebel, 2009:29).

Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Algeria, and Benin were among the five countries that had completed the APRM procedure by early 2009 (Grimm, 2009:10). Nonetheless, Ghana was the pioneer state to undergo APRM proceeding and promulgate the findings. In October 2002, the government expressed its desire to join the APRM despite the fact that the structure for the review had not yet been clearly defined. In April 2005, Ghana accepted the country review mission and was the first country to be reviewed at the assembly of leaders of States and Government in January 2006 (Grimm, 2009).

A number of achievements have been reported in Ghana's implementation of the APRM, which includes the approval of key legislation. The Domestic Violence Act, the Disability Act, Criminal Code Amendments, and the Human Trafficking Act are among them. The APRM has also resulted in the establishment of important social intervention programs like Maternal Health Care, Livelihood Enhancement, and Empowerment (LEAP). Other successes include the prelude of a ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture to deal with Chieftaincy issues and the elimination of

the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, which tended to cause confusion between the Executive and Legislative branches (Afful, 2011:17).

2.6. South African Review

Hebert and Gruzd (2008) wrote extensively on APRM in South Africa, noting that the country's financial advantages, academic resources and close proximity to the continental APRM Secretariat place it to learn from other countries' assessment reports. Nonetheless, the manner in which the administration of the country addressed the APRM in the beginning revealed that it either did not completely comprehend the obstacles at the fore or opted to circumvent them and not build on best practices from the experiences of other African nations (Hebert & Gruzd, 2008:256).

According to Hebert and Gruzd (2008:256), the the South African government had hoped to complete the self-assessment report in two months, despite the fact that other states took a year or more than that. The minister in charge of the whole proceedings proclaimed that the APRM was not a research project and in the first instance refused to work with experts to aid with the questionnaire's technical parts, as Ghana and Kenya had done (Hebert & Gruzd,2008:256).

Mbelle (2010) also presented a rich study on the APRM process in South Africa. South Africa was one of the first countries to sign the inter-governmental memorandum of understanding (MoU) that formally launched the APRM process in March 2003 under the regime of Thabo Mbeki. South Africa signed a consensus with the APRM continental body a year later, partaking to initiate its own self-evaluations and assessment process in 2005.

South Africa's appeal of the review procedure followed a series of steps that took less than a year to complete. These began with the nomination of a focal point and the creation of structures to monitor the proceedings, which included a variety of efforts to publicize the self-assessment process and the call for submissions, as well as research and information gathering in preparation for submitting reports based on interpretation of the views expressed. The state evaluation document and the alteration to draft the CSAR and PoA made in South Africa in response, their presentation to the APRM Secretariat, the review by the APRM forum and the Country's First Report on its implementation of the PoA (Mbelle, 2010:322).

2.6.1. South Africa's country's self evaluation process

Following the formal launch of the South African APRM exercise, the country's self-assessment program entailed raising public awareness of the process across the entire country, soliciting for submissions, instituting a wide range of robust engagements, conducting research, receiving reports on submissions, assembling the first draft of the Country Self-Assessment report (CSAR), and forwarding it for public and cabinet approval. These measures were taken from November/December 2005 to May 2006, for a period of five months. Amid this juncture, the APRM CSM made preliminary visits to South Africa to monitor and guide the government's preparations, while the South African parliament conducted its own parallel assessment process (Mbelle, 2010:330).

2.6.2. The APRM Country Support Mission

The APRM Country Support Mission (CSM), led by Prof Adebayo Adedeji of the Panel of Eminent Persons, visited South Africa for the first time from the 9th to 11th November 2005. Members of the continental APRM Secretariat, independent technical consultants, politicians, business-people, and academics made up the rest of the team. The CSM's goal was to analyze the mechanisms that had been put in place to take on the country's assessment with various stakeholders; as well as the success of efforts targeted at elevating cognizance of the proceedings in the state. The CSM met with government officials, corporate organizations, and civil society groups during its three-day stay in South Africa. President Mbeki, on behalf of the South African regime and Professor Adedeji, representing the APRM assembly and a Panel of Prominent Persons signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November 2005 that represented South Africa's formal agreement (Mbelle, 2010:334).

2.6.3. Overview of the country self assessment report

Three of the four primary issues of the self-assessment process, democracy and good governance, socio-economic development, and economic governance and management, garnered the most feedback from the public. Exploitation in the public sector is a recurring theme in majority of the submissions on these topics, according to the draft report. According to the CSAR, despite the fact that policies aimed at preserving rights are prevalent in South Africa, their execution is hampered by a variety of factors. Each of the four primary themes is followed by a description of key considerations (Mbelle, 2010:340).

The continental APRM organizations deployed a national review mission to South Africa after receiving the CSAR to perform an independent screening procedure of the CSAR results. Following that, the CRM created a document called the country review report, which was given to both the continental and national secretariats. South Africa made additional reformations to its PoA in response to the CRM's recommendations (Mbelle, 2010:343).

The Country Review Report (CRR) identified that South Africa had made giant strides in terms of legal, policy and institutional frameworks to promote the values of democracy, particularly providing for the rights of the diverse communities, combating corruption, ensuring capabilities and constructiveness of the public service and addressing gender issues, among others (Uzodike & Mtshali, 2015).

The CRR also revealed that there are challenges in the intergovernmental relations process as stakeholders view the local government as subordinates. The South African government was prompted to strengthen the local units to perform their key roles in the country's democracy. Despite the progress made in addressing its national challenges, the CRR identified several persisting challenges in achieving the objectives in this thematic area: constraints of the parliament in performing its oversight functions; poor management of public resources; poverty, unemployment and shortages of skilled personnel, crime, violence, corruption are among the socio-economic challenges in South Africa. There is disconnection in programme formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (Uzodike & Mtshali, 2015).

South Africa has continued to operate dual economies_ one advanced and sophisticated, with first_class infrastructure and competitive industries, while the other one consists of high levels of poverty and unemployment. This is apart from the rampant of the HIV and AIDS pandemic and other socio-economic challenges which have been highlighted before (Uzodike & Mtshali, 2015). Corruption, lack of proper oversight by the parliament, and other related issues such as poor accountability were identified in the report. The APRM encourages formulation of policy where there is none, and effective implementation and monitoring of existing policies. The challenges it faces such as lack of skilled manpower portray that the open economy which the country operates is yet to benefit the majority of the population, and this necessitates a re-look at South Africa's national development and foreign policy objectives (Uzodike & Mtshali, 2015).

2.7. Weakness of the South African APRM process

Setting unreasonable timelines and being inflexible in reaction to the challenges that resulted had an impact on the process and the report's quality. The quality of the work suffered as a result of the time constraints. The Technical Support Agencies were hired in February 2006, and their terms of reference required them to submit their draft technical reports by March 2006, just three weeks later summarizing all pertinent submissions (which ran to hundreds of pages). The proceedings were prolonged for an additional two weeks. This already challenging process was made even more onerous by the fact that applications were late (Hebert & Gruzd, 2008:269). The impact of state's governmental disposition, most notably the connection between the focal point, the National Governing Council and the local Secretariat sparked debate following negative promulgation and complaints from researchers and non-governmental organizations, throughout the proceedings (Hebert & Gruzd, 2008:266).

Significant hurdles with the other two sources of input used, citizen survey and provincial reports, were mitigated by robust written submissions from the public. Despite the fact that APRM-related events were hosted around the country and a considerable money was spent on publicity, this consultation process resulted in just a small amount of public knowledge and participation, pointing to design and management flaws. The quality of South Africa's APRM outputs was harmed by ambiguous redacting and composing quality, extensive modification of publicity certified documents and a hasty process for drafting the POA (Hebert and Gruzd, 2008:266).

Various weaknesses in the South African process were compensated for by checks and balances built into the APRM system as a whole such as the work of the Country Review Mission to extend their analysis beyond the Country Self-Assessment Report, but the country's approach and interactions with the APRM Panel, Secretariat and other APRM countries highlighted key weaknesses that merited further scrutiny (Hebert and Gruzd, 2008:266).

2.8. South Africa's SED precepts

According to Alence (2004) cited by Netshituni, (2018) contends that there is a clear link between the quality of Africa's political institutions and the continent's poor governance and socioeconomic progress. The region's poor economic performance is mostly due to dysfunctional political institutions and governance, which obstructs the proper implementation of any

development strategy. (Alence, 2004:164). It is for these reasons that African Countries continues to encounter lack of socio-economic development.

Crais (2014:16) is of view that poverty is the main reason why clean water and sanitation are not provided, why curative drugs and other treatment are unavailable and why mothers die in childbirth. It is the root cause of shorter lifespans, handicaps, disabilities, and famine. Mental illness, stress suicide, family disintegration and substance misuse are all linked to poverty.

Stifung's (2018:19) study presented a detailed account of the high unemployment rate, poverty and weak primary and secondary education system but overlooked other socio-economic challenges such as lack of access to water, as there are still people who have to walk many kilometers to fetch water. The study also neglected health challenges, most notably in the rural settlements ,where the majority of the population still lack access to health-care facilities, hence Crais (2011:9) provides evidence that in impoverished regions, diseases, malnutrition and infant death remain stubbornly high and some 30 percent of the population is HIV positive but without adequate access to medical care.

Du Toit and Neves (2007:11) also presented a study on socio-economic challenges in the country, with special emphasis on poverty as the main factor undermining socio-economic development. In their study they contend that rural poverty has been worsened by under-investment in agriculture. Gumede's (2016:7) study on socio-economic transformation in South Africa has put much emphasis on education, poverty and the high unemployment rate. Gumede (2016) mentioned that job creation and poverty alleviation are two of the most pressing concerns facing the South African government and society as a whole. Although access to school has improved, education has not been transformed.

Butler (2009) wrote extensively on South Africa's SED precepts. In 2007 there had been a renewed insistence that employment must be at the centre of a new economic strategy. The unemployment problem has deep roots in the apartheid maladministration of access to assets and skills (Butler, 2009:93), and both former president Mbeki and Zuma also alluded to the same thing; that the economy of South Africa and its unemployment challenges are somewhat shaped by the legacy of apartheid and colonialism, therefore they cannot be removed in one decade (Mariotti & Fourie, 2014).

The basic fundamental weakness of those studies is that they are trying to divert the unemployment mishaps to apartheid that happened in the 1960s to early 1990s. It must be noted that the current unemployment conundrum is deeply rooted in corruption, cadre deployment, nepotism and deception by leaders.

2.9. Challenges of the APRM

Jiboku (2016) argues that there is no doubt that popular participation, which is the core principle of the APRM initiative, is limited by the lack of adequate information. Beyond that, some African governments have deliberately put in place measures to curtail the participatory activities of civil society groups whom they deemed to be meddling in governmental affairs, most notably when they focus on issues considered to be the exclusive preserve of the government. These impediments question the participatory and inclusive process associated with the APRM and the reality that the APRM Review Reports are reflective of the views of the people. The APRM as an African Union initiative, therefore, is affected by the leadership problems on the continent (Jiboku, 2016:3).

The APRM report and recommendations are not being effectively implemented by the concerned countries- it is recorded that in 2014, eleven years after the prelude of APRM, nine out of the twenty most corrupt countries in the world were in Africa (Bestoyin, 2019:171). This shows that the APRM has been unable to improve good governance in Africa over the years and this has been affecting every sector of the African economy. Despite the introduction of free trade areas, customs unions and common markets, the level of intra-African trade remains among the world's lowest. Only about 10 percent of African trade is within the continent, compared with 40 percent in North America and 60 percent in Europe. Therefore, the APRM has not had any significant impact on Africa's economic development. Although some African countries have experienced economic growth since the inception of APRM, the growth has not been enough to have a meaningful impact on poverty reduction (Bestoyin, 2019:172).

Furthermore, another example of participating countries ignoring APRM recommendations was encountered in South Africa, where the panel urged for action on crime, racism and xenophobia, as well as a review of South Africa's election system, attempts to strengthen parliament and anti-corruption measures (Bond, 2009:599). Mbeki questioned the findings of a report warning of South Africa's brutality and arrest of foreigners from other African countries some months before

the xenophobic attacks. Its South African nation Report indicated that xenophobia against other Africans is on the rise and needs to be addressed. Mbeki rejected that xenophobic tendencies existed in South Africa, pointing out that the country did not even have refugee camps. However, 62 people were slain in anti-foreigner violence in Alexandra, Johannesburg, a few months later (Bond, 2009:599). The process revealed the Panel's limitations in dealing with a powerful nation that might ignore its advise (Hebert & Gruzd, 2007).

Moreover, Kenya was peer assessed in the APR Forum's fifth summit, which took place in Gambia on June 30, 2006. (Obonye, 2012). Following the issuance of the APRM Country Review Report for that country by the APRM prominent individuals, this review was conducted. Kenya needed to address critical and overarching issues of human rights and governance urgently as mentioned in the report. It stated that the nation needs to heal and that the proceeding of the country's alleviation and reconciliation is unlikely to take place as long as society remains polarized (Obonye, 2012). The role of prominent members of the ruling party and high-ranking government officials in inciting ethnic violence was highlighted by the APRM eminent personalities. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the absence of investigations and convictions of many of the perpetrators, noting that many of the perpetrators have never been probed or convicted, and that others have continued to serve as senior officers (Obonye, 2012:445).

The research suggested leadership transformation which requires not just guiding reformation but also managing it in a way that provides broad ownership, legitimacy, self-directed sustainability and replication of change across the board. When it came to Kenya's evaluation, the APR Forum dismissed the Panel of Eminent individuals' findings (Obonye, 2012). Leaders of State and Government from cooperating countries did not raise these concerns with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki in an attempt to forestall the disaster foreshadowed in the eminent's persons' report. Kenya was plunged into massive post-election tribal violence less than two years after its review, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people. Scholars argued that had Kibaki's peers engaged him candidly about the impending ethnic-based violence, Kenya could have taken calculated measures to avoid this unfortunate outcome. The refusal to critically engage President Kibaki encouraged the public to wonder whether he should be impeached (Obonye, 2012:446).

Obonye (2012:446) contends that following President Kibaki, a number of leaders from Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa and Nigeria addressed. Not even one of them made an enquiry to President Kibaki instead, they all welcomed the report and hailed Kenya for being honest, thorough and open. They promised to assist Kenya in its efforts to find solutions to its constitutional review and diversity issues. Presidents Obasanjo and Mbeki, Prime Minister Meies Zenawi expressed relief and promised to continue the process now that they had realized it was not a life or death crisis (Obonye, 2012:447).

Kenya was hailed as an outpost of civil rights and democracy in East Africa before the 2008 post-election violence. Its membership in the APRM was viewed as a step toward enhancing civil rights insulating apparatus and consolidating its democracy by adopting internationally agreed-upon best standards and practices (Obonye, 2012:447). The Kenya Report also suggested mediation and conciliatory involvement under the auspices of the African Union. However, the APRM made no attempt to mediate or conciliate as the national report urged (Obonye, 2012:447).

Questions regarding the commitment and sincerity of African governments in ensuring the success of the APRM and the integration of its policy frameworks into national policy processes have been raised by experts. The APRM is also confronted with capacity and operational challenges. The issue of funding the APRM is a principal challenge, some member states are handicapped with resources to implement NPoA. It is equally concerning that most of the APRM member countries are not adhering to the specified timelines for reporting on the progress made in implementing their NPoA (Jiboku, 2016:63)

These are areas in which civil society organizations plays crucial role not only in holding governments accountable to keeping their promises and implementing policies which touch on the lives of citizens but also in monitoring objectives of regional programmes such as the APRM. The structures put in place at national and regional levels for engaging with the civil society are weak (Jiboku, 2016:63).

The APRM has been neglected and the quality of the panel of eminent persons has declined, after Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa left office in 2007 and 2008 respectively, the APRM struggled to operate effectively (Nagar, 2016:15). These two presidents were viewed as the main champions of the mechanism. Moreover, the mechanism

is confronted with severe financial difficulties and is currently facing huge budget deficits. At a February 2016 APRM heads of state meeting, its newly appointed CEO expressed his concern over the non payment of annual subscription fees of \$100,000 by member states. The APRM has been mainly relying on funding from South Africa and Nigeria (Nagar, 2016:15-16).

2.10. Achievements of APRM

Up to now, the APRM has managed to convince 36 African states to voluntarily accede to it for peer review (Netshituni, 2013:31). Having more than half of the AU member states acceding to the APRM is indeed an achievement given the fact that it is a voluntary process and no country was coerced to join.

According to Gruzd (2010), Ghana has drafted land usage master plan, initiated a Ministry of Chieftaincy and Cultural Affairs, increased the number of district assemblies from 138 to 166, passed laws on human trafficking, persons with disabilities, and domestic violence, drafted a national policy on the elderly, and established a number of anti-corruption institutions such as tender boards and internal audit agencies. In the World Bank's 2010 Doing Business Survey, Rwanda was singled out for commendation for adopting business reforms and correcting corporate governance flaws indicated by its APRM report (Gruzd, 2010:3).

Since 2003, Kenya has initiated 148 peace committees; passed laws on political parties, maternity and paternity leave, sexual offenses and refugees; developed a master plan for land use- established agencies to combat drugs and tender irregularities and improve ethical conduct and dramatically increased immunization coverage. The APRM's proposals were used to assist draft a new constitution. The APRM has also aided in raising knowledge of African norms and standards, as well as the extent to which they are implemented. As a result, Ghana, Lesotho, and Rwanda have improved their record-keeping systems (Gruzd, 2010:3).

The APRM empowers individuals by requiring member countries to include citizens in the evaluation of governance systems. Both the governed and their governors gain political space as a result of this. The APRM presented a first opportunity for antagonists to collaborate formally on national objectives in several states with a multi-party system, where opposition parties and civil society are generally seen as opponents (Gruzd, 2010:4). The APRM demonstrates that if citizens want better governance, they must demand it. People will support the process if it is fair, if they perceive exclusion and manipulation, they will denounce and criticize it (Gruzd, 2010:4).

2.11. Research gap

The APRM has been the recurrent theme in scholarly writings as there is a plethora of literature on it. However, with regard to South Africa, most of the existing literature has put much emphasis on the processes, challenges and achievements of the APRM, without assessing the forces or variables that shaped the implementation outcomes regarding socio-economic challenges of the SED theme of the APRM. It is this gap, borne out of the absence of much critical survey-based empirical and theoretical works on the subject of the APRM-SED's domestication and implementation in South Africa, which is exactly what this study examines.

2.12. Theoretical Framework

The study is guided by Good Governance theory, as advocated by the works of Stocker (1998), Marsh and Stocker (2002), and Wilson and Game (2011). Stocker (1998) argues that the new Governance Theory emphasizes not the structure of government but the institutionalized process for governing. Proponents of the new Governance Theory, including Goetz and Gaventa (2001), hold that the traditional view of government has become insignificant today. The new emphasis of government should be on the process of governing and on a changed condition of ordered rule or the application of innovative ways to govern and deliver good governance. Good Governance approach is a concept that establishes essential doctrines according to which a good regime must be governed (Rosenau, 1992). Accountability, control, public engagement, efficiency and the economy are illustrations of such precepts. Good Governance incorporates of structured public service, autonomous judicial institutions and a legal framework to extort consensus and accountable regulation of public funds.

Good Governance is predicted by the paradigm of political administration where supremacy is exerted in the administration of social and economic materials with the goal of advancements and the government's ability to establish policies and have them implemented efficiently (Rhodes, 1996). Assuring the rule of law, strengthening the efficiency and accountability of the public sector and combating corruption as a vital element of the framework within which the economy should thrive are all aspects of good governance (Ekundayo, 2017:155).

Economic components of good governance incorporate decision-making proceedings on economic impediments in the state and they should have a serious effect on socio economic

issues for the benefit of all. The economic benefits of the state should be discreetly managed in order to increase the quality of life of all communities to a maintainable extent (Ekedayo, 2017). The theory prompts the capacity to distribute valuables to the stakeholders, which also refers to the eradication of mismanagement and the initiation of good governance through representative government proceedings and social contract so that members of the society do not encounter any impediments, it also means to make the several representative of political institutions to catalyse for the advancement of the population most notably the peripheral and the impoverished citizens (Singh *et al*, 2009).

The theory resonates with the study on the basis that its proponents champion tackling corruption and an improvement in socio-economic development to better the lives of the citizens. Both administrations during the understudied period prioritized anti-corruption work, it has emphasized the need to reinforced the battle against corruption (APRM report, 2007:3). Furthermore, socio-economic development has also been a source of concern over the years; according to Gumede (2016:7), one of the most critical challenges facing the government of South Africa is employment creation and fighting poverty. Access to education has also improved but the education system remains untransformed.

When applying this theory in the political landscape of South Africa it may be inferred that good governance is not practiced in the country, given the current status quo of lack of accountability, perpetuation of socio-economic challenges by the ruling party, the proliferation of corruption and recurrent unfair allocation of resources, to name the few.

APRM encourages the creation of policies in line with the Good Governance theory. As a result of this, various policies were initiated in South Africa between 2003 and 2018 to address socio-economic challenges. Essentially, the Good Governance theory adopted in this study ably interrogates and explains the factors or variables that shape the outcomes of the implementation of policies authorized under the Mbeki and Zuma administrations to address the SED theme of the APRM.

2.13. Summary of the chapter

This chapter has outlined definition of the concepts, literature review and theoretical framework. The existing literature regarding the APRM, its stages, processes, institutions, challenges,

achievements and South Africa's SED precepts were dissected. Good Governance Theory was applied as guiding theory for the study

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH DESIGN

3.1. Research methodology

This chapter provides information on the methodology utilized by this study. It begins by giving a full description of the methodology followed by the research design, data collection methods and techniques, sampling of the population, followed by inclusion and exclusion criteria used to select participants, ethics and limitations of this study.

This research adopted a qualitative methodology. Research methodology is an approach by which researchers tackle their assignment of delineating, deciphering and also anticipating a phenomenon (Almalki, 2016: 290). A methodology describes the concept behind a piece of research, as well as norms and presupposition that drive the rationale for the investigation and the quality that will be utilized to analyze data and develop conclusions (Bailey, 1994). The qualitative approach provides the focus for the study and is the process through which the researcher pinpoints the various methods that will be utilized so as to inscribe the specific issues of the study. The method applies to this study on the basis that the nature of the research title is such that it is only by perception of people's views and comments that one can really answer and address research questions and objectives.

3.2. Research orientation

The study was based on a descriptive research design. In the opinion of Kerlinger (2007:279), a research design is an inquiry goal, composition and technique devised to find answers to research inquiries or problems. Farthing (2015) denotes that a research design is widely comprehended in the literature to be constructed in the advance of the phase when one gets to the bottom of regulating the research and it is about organizing how the study will be guided. The design usually features graphs and charts to aid the reader in comprehending the data distribution which is applicable to this study on the basis that the researcher is going to utilize graphs and charts to analyse data that is already in the public domain.

The goal of the study's adopted descriptive research design was to examine the factors that influence the outcomes of the implementation of South Africa's domestication and implementation of programmes in line with the APRM-SED thematic area. Hence, under this

research design, the study's data were collected qualitatively. Data in a descriptive research design is often qualitatively analysed and not analysed using percentages or statistical instruments to determine causal relationships (Nassaji, 2015). This design was applicable to this research on the basis that the study data gathering, collection and analysis of the study are related to the qualitative epistemology.

3.3. Research Method

The study was guided by the qualitative method on the basis that the researcher gathered primary data through interviews to answer the formulated research questions. Qualitative research places prominence upon examining, describing and exploring the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a socio-human problem (Almalki, 2016:291). The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes and the researcher making interpretations of meaning of the data (Cresswell, 2009: 22). Qualitative research focuses on drawing meaning from the experiences and opinions of participants or interviewees, or library sources. Taylor *et al* (2016:7) study examines the qualitative method as a research tool and note that it analyzes people's own written or spoken words. The adopted qualitative research assisted the study to gain in-depth details of the research problem and the views the interviewees and secondary data sources provide to answer the research questions.

3.4 Method of Data collection

3.4.1. Secondary data

The researcher utilized secondary data, which was advantageous on the basis that it was already analysed and interpreted, which saved the researcher plenty of time and cost. Secondary data were the ones which were not specifically collected on the subject by researchers and yet they still manage to use them in their research (Rahman, 2021). Secondary data was collected from the following: books, journal articles, internet sources, and other desk research materials such as newspaper reports and government gazette documents.

3.4.2. Strength of secondary data

It is usually convenient on the basis that it is usually carried out in a comfortable place. It is affordable, as it usually cheaper than primary research as the research is usually carried out indoors, there is abundant online documents and information that are freely available, which saves the researcher time (Rahman, 2021). Availability of information; due to the advancement

of technology, information is readily available online, researchers can download many documents very quickly with minimal effort. Therefore, research can be conducted instantly as there is almost every topic that has been researched well enough.

3.4.3. Weaknesses of secondary data

Secondary research may sometimes include information which is no longer valid and the researcher might waste her time going through it. It may not be specific at times, given the fact that in many cases it is not presented in a way that would exactly address the researcher's needs which might sometimes frustrate the researcher (Rahman, 2021).

3.4.4. Primary Data

Because research requires originality on a specific topic, it is therefore imperative for a researcher to collect primary data so that she/he can be able to get answers that are not biased on the subject matter, which will enhance reliability. Primary data is regarded as data that is collected from units of analysis by the researcher. The researcher collected primary data in the form of mail and telephone interviews. These methods of interview were informed by the current lockdown induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, as they are convenient to collect the responses of the interview participants. Besides, the telephone and mail interview approach would also be convenient for the would-be interviewees who are academics, international relations practitioners, policymakers, seasoned politicians, government employees charged with the implementation of APRM-SED precepts in South Africa, NGO scribes in advocacy on the subject-matter being interrogated, and others considered to be experts on this matter.

3.4.5. Strength of primary data

Primary research link certain requirements of the researcher due to the fact that it is based on the compilation of authentic data. The researchers can be specific about aims and objectives, it provides recent information and produce more elaborated perceptions as well. There is greater control, as researchers might determine whom the participants are, how they are hired, the magnitude of the sample and the sampling techniques. Lastly, data accumulated belongs to the researcher and the institution or organization sponsoring the research and therefore, others may not have access to it (Rahman, 2021).

3.4.6 Weaknesses of primary data

It is time-consuming and difficult at times, most notably if the participants are reluctant to participate. It is costly, as the researcher is required to travel around different provinces or

countries to meet participants. The researcher might come across misleading information, particularly if the sample is not big enough then the results of the research may be misleading. As a result, the researcher has to select a good research sample and bias may occur raising concern about validity of the research (Rahman, 2021).

3.5. Mail and telephonic interviews

The mail and telephonic interviews are methodological forms that suit the present social distancing and lockdown requirements during this corona virus lockdown. They are very useful when collecting data geographically, because there is no travelling involved and they are cost and time effective when juxtaposed with the in-person interview approach (Bolderston, 2012:68). All research participants were interviewed questions that were easily answered by them and those questions derived from the formulated research questions.

3.5.1. Strengths and Weaknesses of mail and telephonic interviews

They are less to administer. A researcher can request participation of wide range or environmentally disseminated fragment of people by forwarding them email messages individually rather than travelling to the region of participants which can be costly, the use of email also decreases the cost of transcribing (Meho, 2006:1285). However, one of the potential limitations of using these methods is that the interviewer will not be able to read facial expressions, body language and make eye contact or hear voice tones of participants. Therefore, it is possible that some important visual or non-verbal cues are missed online that would have been observed during face-to-face interviews (Meho, 2006:129).

3.6. Sampling and Population

Sampling is regarded as the process through which a sample is extracted from the population for investigation purposes (Alvi, 2016:11). In research, it is impossible to assess every single element of the population, so a group of people, which is normally smaller in number than the population is selected for the assessment. Because it was impossible to interview every single member of the population the researcher chose to engage such category of people from the unit of analysis who are well-informed about this subject matter.

3.7. Inclusion and Exclusion criteria

The researcher proposed to interview 10 participants. However, due to unavailability of some participants, the researcher had to narrow down the number to 6. The researcher interviewed one government official whom is also a parliamentarian. One international relations practitioner was

interviewed as well. One female cum diplomat that served under the presidency of Mbeki also made up the interviewee category. Three other academics, all holders of PhD degree who have published on the topic of APRM were also participants, but those who had a PhD but had not published on this subject matter were excluded. One of the academics belong to research entity and is a political analyst, while the other two are full time lecturers (one in the North West University, Mafikeng Campus and the other from university of the Witswatersrand. Of the three interviewed academics, all of them are males.

3.8. Sampling Technique

The sampling technique that was utilized by the researcher was non-probability sampling. Non-probability sampling is a sampling procedure that enables the researcher to deliberately select items to be a sample suitable for his/her study (Bala & Etikan, 2017:49). As it was earlier mentioned, the researcher only chose those who were highly knowledgeable of the subject matter under review, that have knowledge of the SED implementations between 2003 and 2018.

3.9. Sampling Method

The researcher employed judgmental-purposive sampling. In this method the sampling design is based on the judgement of the researcher as to who will provide the best information to answer the formulated research questions and address the study's formulated objectives (Bala & Etikan, 2017:49). The researcher is well aware that not everyone is well informed about the implementation of the APRM's SED in South Africa. Thus, the judgmental-purposive sampling is deployed to select interviewees with in-depth understanding of the subject-matter within the understudied period.

3.10. Data Analysis

Data analysis is the procedure of deliberately applying facts and assessing them. It is through analysis and exposition that one can reason significant bits of knowledge from the data gathered. The method of analysis that has been utilized here is content analysis. Content analysis is a research approach for inferring reproducible and well-founded conclusion from data to their context, with the purpose of providing knowledge, new insights, a representation of facts and a practical guide to action (Elo, 2007:108). Content analysis also allows the researcher to interpret data through coding and themes. This method of analysis is applicable to this study because the researcher presented data using themes that derived from research questions, that allowed the researcher to answer research questions and achieve the study's aim and objectives.

3.10.1. Advantages of data analysis

- It has a high level of credibility as it acts in accordance with set of measures that can be duplicated (Phil, 2013).
- It is an important source of study and can be based on words, images or sounds. Text's meaning is quantified.
- Can reveal words and the frequency of occurrence in various texts.
- It is not costly.

3.10.2. Disadvantages of data analysis

- The findings are erroneous if the coding is incorrect.
- The researcher can circumvent the framework in which the words are employed.
- Not contemplated as an accurate technique due to its nature of complicated textual analysis (Phil, 2013).

3.11. Ethical Consideration

Because qualitative research requires human participation, it is imperative that a general agreement between the researcher and interviewees is reached. Wiles (2013:4) defines ethics in research as the principles of right and wrong in doing research and gathering data. This study adhered to the following ethical issues:

Dignity - The researcher has conducted this research in a humble and dignified manner, and did not omit or rather withhold any vital information from the interviewees.

Privacy/confidentiality - Each and every individual participating in this research was accorded privacy and their identity was protected.

Avoidance of harm - This researcher holds it as a duty to accord the interviewees protection from misuse of the information they provides and save them from the harm they might experience by providing data.

3.12. Limitation of the Study

Due to lack of easy accessibility to high officials in government and in line with abiding by the ethical requirements in an interview survey, the researcher will interview academics/scholars, who are well-informed about this subject matter and engage in mail interviews with the sampled top government officials, parliamentarians and NGO scribes. This strategy will help the researcher to save costs by not travelling the entire country to look for primary sources and also

help to ensure that the interview data produce very credible information. It is a known fact that a faceless interview process allows for deep and insightful responses more than the face-to-face approach, especially on a sensitive topic like this one with political and socio-economic implications for top government officials and parliamentarians. Due to financial constraints and limited time to conduct this study leading to writing the report, library study data will be highly utilized. Information from the Mo Ibrahim Index, Statistics South Africa, the various APRM reports within the period under review would be useful.

3.13. Summary of the Chapter

This chapter has provided techniques that this research utilized to gather data, the strengths and weaknesses of those instruments, the inclusion and exclusion criteria. It further discussed ethics procedures, followed by justification of why ethics adherence is imperative for the study of this nature. Lastly, it unpacked the limitation to this research.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS

4.1. Presentation of data and data analysis

This chapter provides empirical and analysis of findings. Data was collected from both primary sources through telephonic interviews and secondary sources including from the Mo Ibrahim Index. The fundamental purpose of employing secondary data is to back_up the primary data with the data that is already in the public domain so that the researcher can come to a reliable conclusion. The researcher planned to interview 10 participants, but unfortunately some were reluctant to participate. Consequently a 100% response rate could not be reached. However, the study of Serame (2011:32) asserts that a valid and reliable conclusion can be drawn by a researcher if a 70% response rate is obtained.

4.2. Characteristics of Research Sample-Frame

The researcher adhered to ethical procedures and as a result all interviewees are referred to as P (participants) followed by a number.

Table 4.1: Characteristics of participants

Participants' _ Code Names	Gender	Institution	Current position
Participant 1 (P1)	Male	University of Witwatersrand	Head of African Governance and Diplomacy programme/Researcher
Participant 2 (P2)	Male	University of the Western Cape	Political Analyst/ Senior researcher
Participant 3 (P3)	Female	DIRCO	Diplomat
Participant 4 (P4)	Female	Luthuli House	Government official/Parliamentarian
Participant 5 (P5)	Female	DIRCO	International Relations practitioner
Participant 6 (P6)	Male	North West University	Lecturer

4.3. Data analysis and presentation

After the conclusion of interviews, the researcher began by going through what was noted down during interviews to comprehend the responses of participants. Recurrent responses were broken down into themes, data was classified and placed according to each and every theme they fell under. Each classification of findings was examined for validity and reliability. Moreover, the researcher presented graphs from the secondary data to assess the accuracy of data that was collected as primary data and to avoid bias as well.

4.4. Presentation of themes and categories of findings

This section presents findings that were obtained from interviews that were conducted through telephone, and also from the secondary sources. The data that was collected from telephonic interviews were transcribed and classified according to research questions. The interviews were coded into themes. Gibbs (2007) states that coding is how you define what the data you are analyzing is about, searching and identifying concepts and finding relations between them. The researcher utilized the descriptive format to unpack and narrate findings.

4.5. Themes

- **4.5.1. Policies implemented**
- **4.5.2. Factors that shaped implementation outcomes**
- **4.5.3. Policy reform proposal**
- **4.5.4. SED Precepts**

4.6. RQ. What policies were implemented in South Africa between 2003 and 2018 in line with the APRM's SED thematic area?

IQ. Would you kindly discuss some of the policies you are familiar with in line with South Africa's implementation of its APRM's socio-economic development theme under the Mbeki and Zuma regimes between 2003 and 2018?

Below are the responses from participants

PI. Ever since South Africa joined APRM, various policies were initiated under both administrations such as the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA) in 2005. The policy conceded the obstacles that existed such as continuation of poverty driven by high unemployment rate and the jobless nature of economic growth. The main objectives of the policy was to curtail poverty and high unemployment rate. Nonetheless, AsgiSA was short-lived

due to presidential change. Two policies were initiated under the leadership of Zuma. The first being New Growth Path which also had its major focus on employment creation. NGP prioritized creating sustainable jobs for South Africans and the creation of a new policy framework that favoured labour-intensive mode of production. NGP believed that investment in infrastructural development will accelerate the process of job creation. It pointed out five major focus that will boost employment creation such as transport, energy, communication, water and housing.

The second policy being National Development Plan was adopted in 2012 to offer a long-term vision of South Africa up to 2030 and its goal was to ensure that South Africans acquire a sufficient quality of livelihood through extinguishing poverty by creating employment. The policy was underpinned by the following objectives; building a capable and developmental state, raising economic growth, promoting exports and make the economy more labour absorbing and reduction of number of people living in low-income households from 39 percent to zero by 2030.

P2. *The APRM was at the centre of government's agenda on the continent, a shift towards peer influence when it comes to good governance and building effective states on the continent. The idea of African renaissance was also at the centre of this initiative, led by Mbeki and Obasanjo. Under Zuma's regime. However, not much was said about the APRM, and it became a low-key activity on the continent.*

P4. *The regime of Mbeki saw the birth of Broad Base Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) which focused solely on uplifting black people by prompting economic transformation and enabling them to participate in the economy of the country. The policy seeks equality in terms of wealth and revamp the livelihoods of black population.*

P5. *Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) introduced in 2003 to 2008. Its main objective was to create a developmental state where the government had to be in partnership with businesses in order to reduce poverty and move foreign direct investments by the private sector in underprivileged areas. New Growth Path (NGP) which has a number of objectives including reduction of income inequality, faster economic growth and the development of green economy. National Development Plan (NDP) which planned out economic growth to be realized in 2030. It has placed much emphasis on employment creation and economic growth. It targets*

annual employment growth of at least 3.3 percent to 2030, GDP growth and growth in investment of 15 percent a year up until 2030.

IQ. Do you feel the two regimes' policies towards enhancing the Socio-Economic Development of South Africa's were impactful on the people? if so, kindly elaborate on these impacts from your view?

P1. *No, both the administrations of Mbeki and Zuma saw the commencement of various policies that aimed at diminishing high level of unemployment, poverty and yet they still persist, the impoverished and marginalized societies are still living in overcrowded townships where there is lack of access to health care facilities, poor electricity coverage and walking kilometres to fetch water. The economy has grown so slowly with massive inequality between the rich and poor. Thus far, those policies have remained just documents.*

P2. *No, in the context of ANC regimes, their main difference was the focus when it comes to policy implementation, which also reflected capacity. Mbeki focused much on the bureaucracy and also the idea of Pan-Africanism, Zuma focused much on his internal survival. Both leaders however, and their respective administrations, should be seen as different phases or episodes of the long story of the ANC, as the party struggles to position South Africa in relation to the continent in the post-apartheid dispensation. The problem goes beyond the individual leaders, has much to with the ANC as an organisation.*

P3. *Not necessarily, Mbeki was a Pan-Africanist and put much emphasis on African renaissance with initiation of neo-liberal policies and little attention was accorded to domestic politics. Amid his regime, South Africa got a seat in the United Nations and he demanded for the cancellation of debts for poor African countries through International Monetary Fund and World Bank. It was also under Mbeki's leadership where billions of money was poured into Zimbabwe while the country had socio-economic obstacles. Under the regime of Zuma there was no further improvement with regards to socio-economic development.*

P4. *No, they have only perpetuated economic disparities and deepened inequality. The policy favours and enrich few individuals whom are politically connected to leaders.*

P5. *Yes, the government did deliver on some of its promises including housing, access to electricity and water, curtailing high level of poverty by means of providing grants and creation*

of employment. Improvement in the education system was also felt among others, most primary and high schools are now free with provision of healthy meals through food schemes. There is also funding from government for students who want to further their studies and go to universities.

In the opinion of P5 (2021), the government's policies are successful in its socio-economic development efforts. De Jager (2018) and the Presidency (2018) assented to that as well by stating that during both administrations, a majority of people gained access to safe water and the percentage of households with electricity also increased and about 4.5 million people were awarded houses between 2009 and 2017. Paradoxically, Brooks (2019) noted that the majority of people were never awarded houses thus the recurrent service delivery protests.

P1, P2 and P4 (2021) are of view that government is ineffective in providing socio-economic development. Bernstein (2014) also noted that the relationship between economic growth and employment growth in the country continue to weaken over time. There is a plethora of young people who are unemployed and still located in domains of multigenerational unemployment. Young people bear the brunt of remaining unemployed for a long period of time and are striped of acquiring skills resulting in skill deficiency that ample of them will be unable to remedy (Bernstein, 2014). Employers are reluctant to hire young and unskilled workers due to rising wages and increased labour market regulations.

4.7. RQ. What factors shaped the implementation outcomes of the APRM's SED precept of South Africa during the understudied period?

IQ. Ever since South Africa give its assent to the APRM, what changes have you noticed with regards to the country's socio-economic development up until 2018?

PI. Ample of households have access to funnel water and electricity. Creation of job opportunities was seen even though it was met with high level of unemployment and as a result, those efforts were undermined. Mud schools were wiped out, access to free education and health has increased as well. Many impoverished people were granted free houses.

P2. I don't think the APRM has succeed in bringing changes. I think it has not been in pursuit with the honest and deep self-reflection it requires. CEO became more defensive towards critical reviews

P3. There has not been much changes so far, instead things got worse ever since the country became a part of APRM. Unemployment and corruption keeps rising which exacerbate poverty, followed by constant load shedding and poor health-care facilities.

P5. The Growth Domestic Product (GDP) per capita has grown significantly which brought investors, economic growth exceeded about 4% yearly from 2003-2005. A quite number of jobs have been created with an increment in education participation most evidently in primary schools. The country is close to achieving universal basic education with 96 percent enrolment of 7-15 year pupils with almost all children entering school and majority of them reaching grade 9. Health services have been systematically restructured with a strong emphasis on universal and free access to comprehensive primary care to improve health conditions of the poor. There are social grants which play a paramount role in poverty reduction by assisting elderly, disabled and needy children. Lastly, there are improved water and sanitation which has risen tremendously, particularly in the rural areas.

P6. Socio-economic status changed from better to worse, most municipalities have proved to lack the capacity to adequate people with basic needs such as housing and water. Many South Africans still don't enjoy access to portable water and the rural roads are in a deplorable condition. Generally, there is still large gap in meeting the socio-economic development needs of rural South Africans.

According to P1 and P5 (2021) the evolution from the employment, welfare, education and health sector has been witnessed. However, the study by Mangaliso and Mangaliso (2013) noted that inequality is still evident and for some, the circumstances have become worse than prior with consequent implications on poverty. As a result, the level of crime mounted and most people who fell victims to those predicaments have been females and children with rape and physical abuse. The most grievous human rights violations and serious public health issues. Police records indicates that about 54 000 rapes per day are usually reported and one deplorable

public health effect of rape is the possibility of HIV infection (Mangaliso & Mangaliso, 2013:538). The assertions of P3 and P6 aligns with the above empirical evidence.

IQ. Would you kindly elaborate on how the APRM has advanced governance and democracy in South Africa?

P1. Firstly, South Africa did not take APRM that serious. Under the leadership of Mbeki the country was very sensitive on policy issues, reluctant to want to be embarrassed with an attitude that everything can be done quickly and civil society were pushed back. During the meeting of APRM in South Africa Mbeki was so defensive to a point whereby he got angry and threw out partners at that meeting. With regards to the leadership of Zuma, no changes was seen as well, reports were very poor with no independent verification.

P2. South Africa did not do too well in implementing the APRM, and as time went on since Mbeki's administration, things became worse and the capacity of government to address the challenges declined.

P3. South Africa was not devoted to APRM's objectives. It has been noted that during APRM process in the country, when the National Governing Council was announced there were no nomination or election proceeding open to the public. as names of the representatives were decided behind closed doors. Public hearings and submissions would be held by Parliament. At some point it would create and submit its own independent APRM assessment to the continental secretariat. Civil society was also discontent about the whole process.

P5. It has created a room for non-governmental organizations to engage with government and point out issues that affect societies on a daily basis and accorded them with data that enabled the populace to detect and hold government accountable. It has put system in place to prompt civil society participation in government programmes through platforms such as green and white papers, petitions and budget vote, where representatives from civil society organizations are invited to participate. It has further encouraged policy reformation most particularly with regards to poverty alleviation.

P6. South Africa does not take APRM as a significant apparatus that could reform its governance, it does not even execute early warnings from the APRM. I think the internal politics,

especially against the ruling party and the main opposition are not allowing the ruling party to focus on implementing the precepts for South Africa by the APRM organs.

P1, P2 , P3 and P6 (2021) are of the opinion that South Africa is not devoted to APRM, while P5 is of view that the APRM has created a room for engagement between government and the people. Hebert and Gruzd (2008:260), asserts that South African government did not seem to appreciate the extent of public interest in making the APRM a fair and inclusive process. Representatives and some NGOs expressed frustrations that months of inquiries about the process had been rebuffed by government. A consultant representing government mentioned that the government intended to edit documents themselves, which excluded public opinion. The conduct of the government throughout the whole process indicated that it wanted to ensure particular outcomes and avoid criticism (Hebert & Gruzd, 2008:260) . The assertions of P1, P2, P3 and P6 (2021) align directly with the work of the above-mentioned scholars, South Africa is ineffective in managing APRM proceedings.

4.8. RQ.Which policy reform proposals are desirable to enhance positive outcomes in the implementation of the SED theme of the APRM in South Africa?

IQ. Please kindly assist this research to explain some of the factors you consider that helped to enhance or undermine the outcomes of Mbeki and Zuma’s policies towards the socio-economic development advancement of the country under them?

P1. South Africa has never been short of policies, from RDP, GEAR, AsgiSA, NDP and so forth. However, implementation of those policies is hardly encountered. Both administrations did well on housing, abundant people managed to get houses as promised even though that has put much pressure on electricity. High level of poverty was also curtailed. There is massive reliance on social grant that is not sustainable, most notably because the economy is growing at a slower rate. Moreover, the enormous population growth with moderate level of employment also undermined outcomes of policies.

P2. It has a lot to do with the decline in capacity of the state institutions, and the spread of corruption, which further undermined policy prerogatives.

P3. The regime of Mbeki was undermined by his AIDS denialism theory which led to the mortality of thousands of people while that of Zuma was undermined by corruption and his alliance with the Gupta brothers.

P4. Corruption and factions undermined their governance, most notably that of Zuma..

P5. During the presidency of Mbeki, the country had seen enormous economic transformation, which led to the prelude of economic growth and certainty which attracted investors. Many jobs were created, while under the era of Zuma there was a tremendous improvement in terms of health; most people had access to medication, particularly ARVs which brought halt to HIV and AIDS related mortality. Lack of investment in rural areas, villages are still experiencing lack of economic infrastructure, transportation and poor access to markets. The rising gap between the black middle class and their lower income counterparts. Global financial crisis of 2008 where South African banks and other financial apparatus were damaged. Corruption and lack of accountability also undermined the outcomes of both president's policies.

In the opinion of P1 and P5 (2021), the slow rate of employment undermined the outcomes of both leaders. The report by APRM (2009) asserted that in order to reduce the high rate of unemployment the government initiated the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) aimed at providing hands_on experience and create employment, which has thus far reached its target goal and provided millions of job opportunities to the needy. Anyhow, the National Minimum Wage for South Africa (2016) stated that the EPWP distribute low pay and is filled with large number of the working poor; their wages do not meet the needs of families and are not sufficient to raise families above the poverty line.

P3 (2021) contended that Mbeki's governance was centred around his denialism of AIDS existence. Heywood (2010) stated that AIDS denialism was a privately-held conviction by the then-President Mbeki who did not keep his belief private and appeared to have campaigned in the ANC and government to promote it. His failures to respect and promote the official policy on AIDS meant that he elevated his private views above the public interest. The promotion of his personal convictions led to unlawful conduct whereby governmental power was deployed to deny people life-saving medicines (Heywood, 2010).

Zuma's alliance with the Gupta brothers and corruption was the centre of his regime as well (P3 & P4, 2021). According to Report of the Public Protector (2016), the Gupta brothers broadened their businesses into mining services, Shiva uranium and Tegeta exploration and resources and Optium coal mine. In 2016 alone, it was estimated that total revenues from the Gupta business activities amounted to R2,6 billion and of that amount, R235 million came from government contracts (Report of the Public Protector, 2016).

P5 (2021) further noted the issue of wage disparities which is also a critical impediment. According to the National Minimum Wage for South Africa (2016:7), it is women who are most vulnerable to unemployment, earn the lowest wages in the most vulnerable sectors and who also dominate the care work and unpaid sectors. These realities create power imbalance in the households. As a result, women-headed households are more likely to experience poverty than households with men.

IQ. Would you kindly discuss some measures you consider coming successive administrations after the Mbeki and Zuma regimes to implement to advance the socio-economic realities of South Africa?

P1. Work and be devoted to the people and not the party, work with international communities and innovate. Create employment for the youth that does not require experience at entry level. Put much emphasis on rural growth and invest in agriculture and technology.

P2. Focus should be on capacitating institutions, including the public service, building a capable public service which is not hampered by corruption.

P3. Select leaders based on their credentials, merit and capabilities, not on popularity. Priority should also be given to adaptation of good governance.

P4. Emphasis economic growth in order to absorb investments

P5. Massive investment in deep rural areas most particularly infrastructure and transport sector so that highly skilled people can be attracted to rural areas to give rural people the same quality of life and diminish urbanization and the high existing inequality between rural and urban lifestyle. Transform the whole education system and introduce entrepreneurship courses and provide the non-skilled with skills required to participate in labour. Lastly, give life

imprisonment to each and every government official involved in corruption, cadre deployment and nepotism including elites with no fear or favour.

***P6.** Empower graduates with skills demanded by employers. The need to address gender-based violence and casualties is necessary so that more women will feel safe and capable to join the productive work force. There is also the need to address qualitative education and healthcare issues in South Africa. By addressing these social areas, the moral rectitude of many South Africans will improve and their health status will be better. Ultimately, South Africa is bound to experience less gender-based violence and more productive and happy living by so.*

According to P1 and P5 (2021), there is a pressing need to further invest in the deep rural areas. A study by the World Bank (2018) noted that there is poverty disparities in the country, with a high poverty rate found more in the rural than urban areas. Harris *et al* (2011) further stated that within the health sector, tertiary hospitals are largely concentrated in the urban and wealthier provinces such as Gauteng and Western Cape. Urban hospitals are also better resourced and specialized than township facilities, while in the rural areas facilities are situated kilometers away from low-income groups, who usually ignore illness because the cost of accessing services can be crippling for them and this raises equity concerns (Harris *et al*, 2011). Paradoxically, the report of APRM (2010:35) is of view that government has prioritized the revitalization and development in the rural areas with much emphasis on land as being central to poverty alleviation, job creation, food security and entrepreneurship. Nonetheless, it is evident that there is still more that needs to be done for economic reformation in rural areas.

IQ. Why do you consider the measures you suggest will pay-off for the socio-economic advancement of South Africans?

***P1.** Unemployment is a serious concern in the country particularly among the youth, hence the country experience forever rising crime rate and constants uprisings which results in lootings. Therefore, the only way those conundrums could cease is by growing the economy and giving people jobs. Investing in the agricultural sector would create jobs as well and curtail youth dependency on social grants.*

***P2.** Its obviously a matter of good governance.*

P3. On the basis that South Africa has never really had good governance that holds leaders accountable. Leaders who are at the helm have always prioritized their interest and used the states money for their own personal agendas while citizens continue to suffer the consequences of such things.

P5. First and foremost, rural areas are filled with dilapidated buildings that usually looks like they might fall anytime, posing danger to the people residing near them. There is lack of transportation as people usually wait hours and hours to get public transport so investing in these sectors will provide improvement of rural lifestyle and will create job opportunities as well. The education system is currently providing some subjects that are of no use to pupils, so if courses like entrepreneurship are offered then schools will produce a generations of students that creates jobs and not look for jobs after their completion.

P6. On the basis that graduate unemployment is becoming a critical issue that needs to be accorded urgent attention. Graduate production and training should be tied to needs-basis of the industrialization drive of the government for the nation. Emphasis should be placed on technology, engineering and social science graduate production. These sectors are grossly lacking in the socio-economic development drive of the South African governments as their contributions to this goal are not quantifiable..

Empirical findings from all participants suggest that good governance is paramount. Good governance has proven to be a critical challenge in the face of socio-economic impediments in South Africa. The lack of attuned leadership, which is leadership that is committed to the common good of society as a whole rather than self (Khoza, 2012), is still undermining economic growth efforts. There is no shared political and social economy where the welfare of the society is imperative. Added to this is the fact that South Africa fails to fashion its socio-economic development efforts in line with APRM doctrines, which explains some of the key challenges such as corruption and the rising unemployment rate to name few.

IQ. Would you kindly evaluate the factors you consider that may hamper the realization of the measures you suggest for advancing the socio-economic development of South Africa?

- *P1. Ruling Party that is at war with itself.*
- *Pouring billions into parastatals such as Prasa, Eskom which are not well governed.*

- *Weak ministry.*
- *The issue of land without compensation on the basis that it will scare investors off.*
- *The issue of two economies in the country.*
- **P2. Corruption.**
- **P3. ANC factions and political killings.**
- *Abuse of power*
- **P4. Older people reluctant to step down and give youth an opportunity to lead, particularly in ministerial positions**
- *Political appointments and corruption*
- **P5. Corruption - both administrations established anti-corruption apparatus but thus far it still persists and no arrest is being made to those who have been found guilty of it.**
- *Nepotism - tenders will be given to family members without accessing the quality of materials their companies uses and whether they will do the job that is required from them, the next thing billions will be poured into those companies and the work will not be completed.*
- *Political deployment – many people have been appointed in positions which they do not qualify due to the fact that they have been loyal to the ruling party, as a result most of them are incapable of doing satisfying jobs.*
- **P6. Unequal distribution of resources**
- *Corruption*

The weight of the evidence indicate that corruption is the predominant factor that undermined socio-economic development efforts amid the epoch of both Mbeki and Zuma’s presidencies (P2 & P5, 2021). Mangaliso and Mangaliso (2013) further states that one of the impediment encountered in the South African government is corruption; there was an optimistic expectation that government would bring halt to this trend given its vivid mandate of public servants being governed by democratic values and principles that include ethics, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

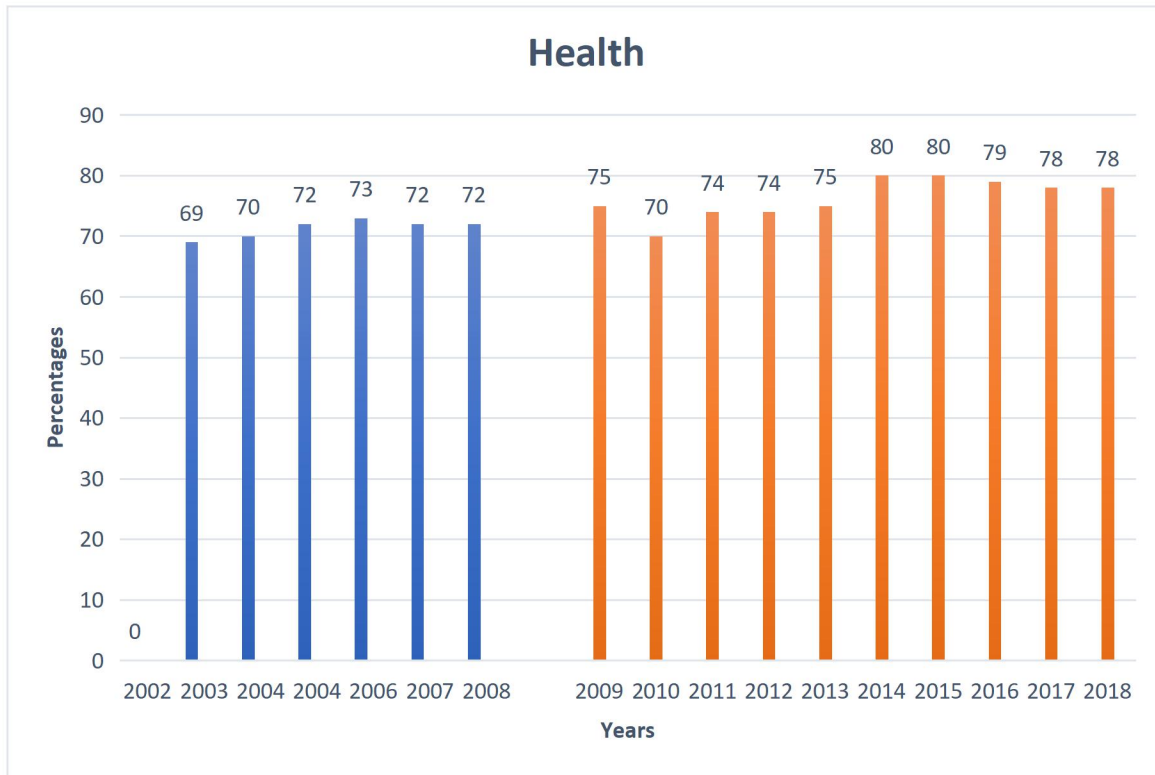
It soon became apparent that those guidelines were not being being followed, on the basis that leaders were using their positions for personal gains. It has also been noted that there were incidents of retention/appointments of unsatisfactory performing and incapable executives of

public state entities based on their connection to the country's top leaders (Mangaliso & Mangaliso, 2013:537). Regrettably, the steady rise of corruption negatively affected the society with consequent economic implications on the socio-economic advancement.

4.9. SECONDARY DATA

Figure 4.9.1: Health

The following bar graph represents Mbeki and Zuma's performance regarding health



(Source: Mo Ibrahim Index)

The graph presents health trends between 2003_2018. The years 2003_2008 represent the presidency of Thabo Mbeki while from 2009_2018 represent that of Jacob Zuma. The health rates rose marginally from 2003 to 2006, followed by a notable decline from 2006 to 2008. A very large metamorphosis was seen when Zuma came into power on the basis that there is a substantial rise in 2009, followed by enormous reduction in 2010; the rates increased again from 2011 to 2015, while between 2016_2018 there was a slight decline. Overall, Mbeki's health performance was slightly poorer when compared to that of Zuma. One of the reasons may well be explained by the high HIV and AIDS mortality rate encountered during his administration due to his denialism.

The number of people who had HIV increased from 5.2 million in 2005 to 6.1 million in 2012. The rising number of persons living with HIV is due to improved access to Anti-Retroviral therapy, which has resulted in longer life expectancy. Since 2004, the Eastern Cape has

accounted for more than half of the total number of individuals living with HIV. Nevertheless, all provinces have seen an increase in the number of persons living with HIV. Males aged 35 to 39 years had a frequency of 24.2 percent, while females aged 30 to 34 years had a prevalence of 36.8% (APRM report, 2014:76).

More than 20 million South Africans knew their HIV status and had received counseling as of January 2013, and 2 million people were on Anti-Retroviral treatment by mid-2012. This tremendous rise in ARV medication coverage in the country has had a significant influence on HIV patient longevity, particularly among the older age groups. This was accomplished by expanding the ARV delivery of sites from 490 in February 2010 to 3000 in April 2012 (APRM report, 2014:74-75).

Diminish has been witnessed in HIV rampant between the youth aged 15 to 24 years, from 10.3 percent in 2005 to 8.7% in 2008 and 7.3% in 2012 is a significant developmental success. Prevention of mother_to_child transmission and youth prevention programs appear to have had the desired effect of lowering HIV prevalence in this age group. However, the endemic persist to be feminized, with HIV prevalence of 23.3 percent among females and 13.3 percent among males in the key age group of adults aged 15 to 49 years (APRM report, 2014:76). The report presented by APRM did not dissect any challenges prevalent in the health sector, thus Maphumulo and Bhengu (2019) provide evidence that, despite the government's meritorious objectives for enhanced service quality in healthcare services, it was noted that in 2008, the public healthcare institutions were still unable to reach fundamental quality of care and patient expectancy.

Uneven dispensation of health professionals across the public and private sectors, as well as uneven distributions of public sector health professionals within provinces has exacerbated health hurdles in South Africa. It was asserted that health personnel's deficiency and inadequacy resulted in physical and mental fatigue and therefore, exacerbated medical state of patients (Bhengu & Maphumulo, 2019).

There are also instrument insufficiency that causes catastrophic retard in critical surgeries. The insufficiency of oncology experts and equipment, as well as a long waiting list for surgery or diagnosis causes substantial retard for some patients seeking treatment such as cancer patients

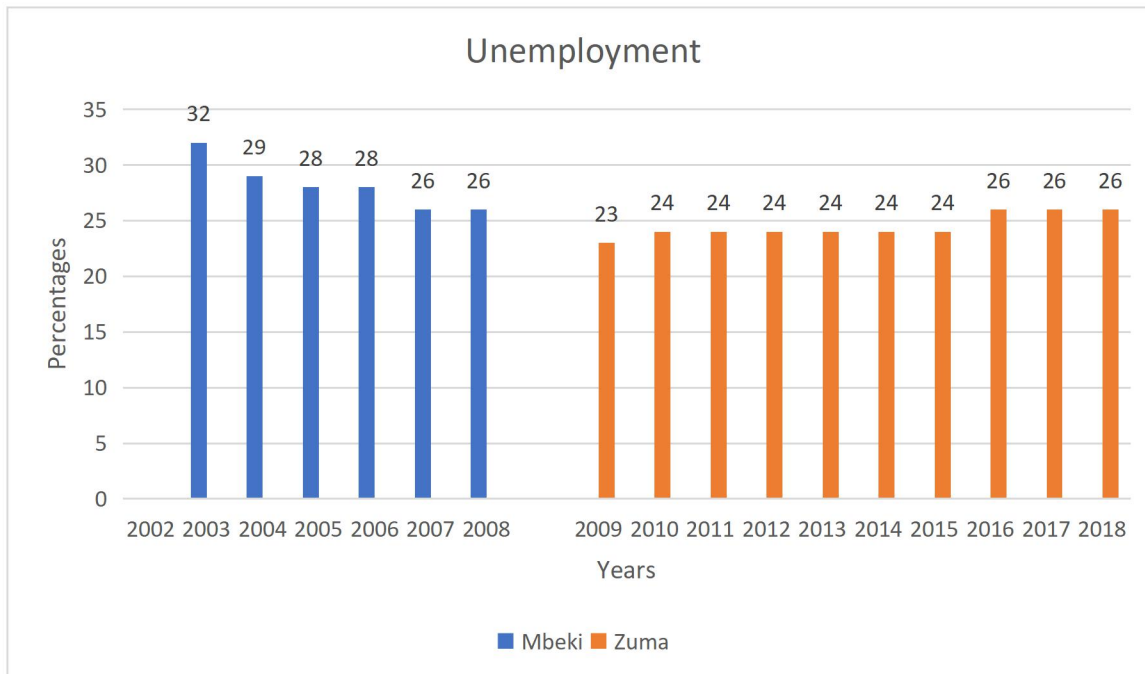
(Bhengu & Mangaliso, 2019). Patients are exposed to complications or possibly death as a result of the protracted wait for medical help. Hospitals have turned into a "death trap for the poor". Scanning equipment are rarely in appropriate conditions and patients are frequently referred to other hospitals for medical assistance or forced to wait for machines to be repaired with consequent retard in treatment. In addition, insufficiency of administrative instruments and skilled professionals results in negative impact on the quality of care provided in health institutions (Bhengu & Mangaliso, 2019).

Nonetheless, Whiteside (2014:181) further notes that the non-communicable diseases are a leading causes of mortality, Stroke, diabetes, and heart diseases would be the leading causes of mortality and disability in South Africa, if HIV could be managed. These prospects are influenced by a person's settings and the domain they are located in.

4.9.2. Unemployment

It is evident that unemployment is subdued by people who have never worked before rather than those who have worked and then lost their jobs (Kingdom & Knight, 2003). Unemployment rates varies significantly by area, gender, educational credentials and race. Rural unemployment rates are greater than urban unemployment rates, which could be because there are less work prospects in rural areas than in metropolitan areas, and the intensity of job search is lower in the countryside due to its remoteness from employment centers (Kingdon & Knight, 2000:3-4).

Figure 4.9.2.1: Mbeki and Zuma's performance on unemployment.



(Source:StatsSA)

The above graph presents unemployment trends between 2003 and 2018. The unemployment rate was extremely high in 2003, followed by a substantial decline from 2004 to 2006. The rates remained constant between 2007 and 2008. The year 2009 saw a notable decline, and from 2010 to 2015, the unemployment rate remained steady, followed by a minimal increase in 2016, which remained steady up until 2018.

Unemployment remains one of the fundamental factors undermining the socio-economic evolution of South Africa. In the opinion of Herbst (2005:97), the economy has grown but unemployment has increased by more than 3 million ever since multiracial democracy was adopted. However, a report by the Presidency (2009:25) stated that the years 2003 to 2005 signal feasible economic growth and meteoric job creation. The graph presented above also shows that there was a slight decline in unemployment between 2003 and 2005.

Hamill (2010:25) contends that, despite the fact that the era of Mbeki delivered the longest economic growth the country has ever observed, there was no growth in terms of job creation, and the number of unemployment figure mounted constantly to 23 percent. It is estimated that unemployment increased from 4.2 million to 8 million. Job creation in the country has become

weak and the too_quick re_engagement of the South African economy into global capitalism also proved to be job destroying (Terreblanche, 2018:7).

The official unemployment rate in 2010 was 24 percent, which includes shortages of skills. Between the first and second quarter of 2010, the employed class of populace climbed from 31-35 million to 31-40 which equals to a rise of 49 000 people, equivalent to a rise of 0-2 percent over the period (APRM report, 2010:31). However, the APRM report did not discuss unemployment among the youth, which is currently a critical challenge for South Africa, as Bernestein (2014:25) stated. South Africa is filled with young people, with half of the population under the age of 25 and two-thirds under the age of 35, which could be a source of potential destabilization in the face of high youth unemployment. The unemployment rate for those under the age of 25 looking for work is around 50% (Bernestein, 2014). This steady momentum of employment creation in South Africa is the root cause of widespread youth unemployment.

The main rationale behind the wide degree of youth unemployment is the gradual rate of employment invention in the country. National Minimum Wage for South Africa (2016:52) asserts that the youth in South Africa are seen as notably at risk in the labour markets. Young people are disproportionately affected by youth unemployment. Unemployment rates among the youth are more than double the rates of adults. Youth unemployment rate was 35,8 percent while for adults was 16,3 percent in 2015 (National Minimum Wage For South Africa, 2016:52).

Another fundamental factor that is given less attention by scholars who write extensively on the problem of youth unemployment is the issue of skills. There is a high demand for skills in the labour market. Each and every post currently requires disproportionate skills in order for one to qualify for that job. Bernstein (2014:34) noted that South Africa has a critical conundrum of insufficiency of skills. The unemployment level for skilled workers is very low, which shows that South African employers are desperate for skills. The weight of empirical evidence indicates that provision of South African graduates is deficient to meet the country's present skills requirement. According to the World Bank (2018:10) the unskilled unemployed endure the strain of remaining unemployed as employers demand skilled workers. However, it is impossible for one to acquire those skills if not accorded an opportunity.

Skills discrepancy has further exacerbated South Africa's current skill deficiencies, affecting tertiary educated individuals' employability and subsequent labour market prospects more than any other educational cohort. The skills that graduate entrants possess varies from the skills that employers seek in the labour market, resulting in an apparent rise in graduate unemployment (Broekhuizen, 2016:1).

Broekhuizen (2016:2) states that graduate unemployment is likely to become a major conundrum in the country if not tackled. Amid rising overall unemployment rates, the wide unemployment rate for tertiary educated individuals climbed by 139 percent, which is the substantial rise in unemployment for the educational cohort. This tremendous increase in unemployment rates seems to be largest among people with degrees and post-graduate education, which is quite worrying.

Nonetheless, South Africa had a working-age population of 33 million people in 2013, with 18 million of them employed or actively looking for work. Since 2001, employment has climbed reaching crest of 13.7 million in 2008 and now hovering around 13.4 million. In 2013, the overall unemployment rate including those seeking work was closer to 35%. The increase in unemployment reflects the rapid loss of jobs during the global recession (Bernstein, 2014:25).

About 589 000 laborers entered the labour force yearly from 2011 up until 2015 with at least 424 000 people finding employment, 165 000 lost their jobs and about 20 000 deserted labour field due to the fact that they were not able to find unemployment and they lost hope. As a result, notwithstanding tremendous employment initiation, the rate employment advancement was insufficient to match up with substantial unemployed workers and the new entrants to the labour field. The first quarter of 2017 saw a peak of 14-years high of 26 percent. The substantial rise of unemployment is putting a strain on the country's social contract, as employment is the fundamental factor that lifts people out of poverty (World Bank, 2018:30).

There is widespread concord that the state must urgently seek measures of establishing stable jobs and reimburse adequate wages that will assist and elevate people out of impoverishment. According to the World Bank (2018), the work force is constructively divided into two hierarchic job disparities. At one rank is a slight number of people with exceedingly paid jobs in

largely formal industries and larger enterprises, at the other rank is majority of the population, who work in jobs that are usually informal and pay insufficient wages.

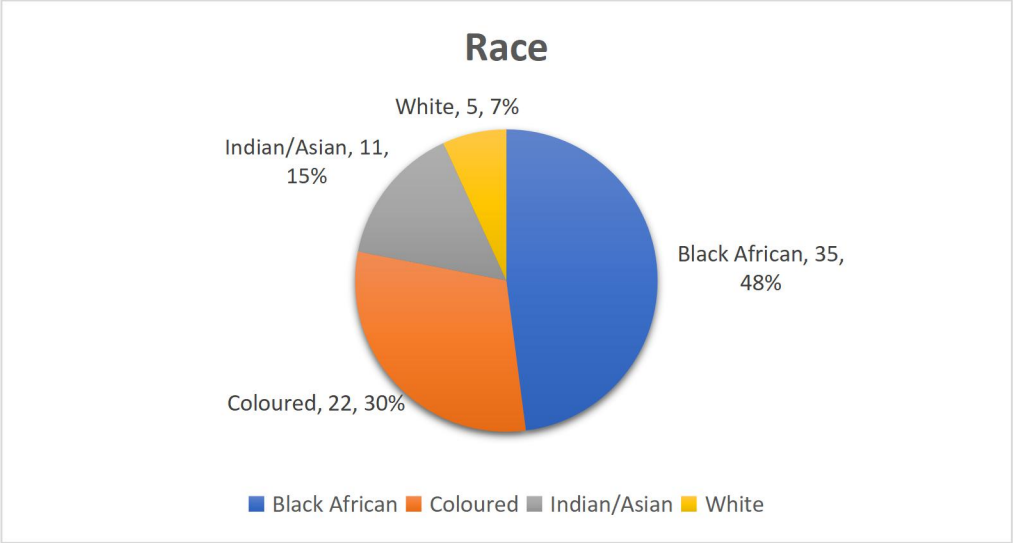
The exceptionally paying jobs are extremely tacky, the moment people get the opportunity for these kind of jobs they are reluctant to retire and accord other people the same opportunity, which worsens an already existing high unemployment rate. The less paying jobs are more fluid. The wages among the two classes are extremely uneven, those with exceedingly paying jobs earn nearly five times the median wage in low skilled jobs, yet they constitute less than a fifth of the total working population (World Bank, 2018:18).

About 36 percent of the impoverished household have acquired employment opportunities. Nonetheless, even those who managed to get employment receive insufficient wages that are impuissant to assist their jobless and family members that solely depend on them (National Minimum Wage for South Africa, 2016:7). Over half of South Africa's workforce earns less than R2,500 per month, with over 6.7 million people earning less than R4000 per month (National Minimum Wage for South Africa, 2016:7). That stipend would barely be enough to meet one's basic needs.

Domain has an impact on travel costs, which is also a common obstacle in finding employment. People who are unemployed, most notably young people, often encounter insufficient funds and locomotion obligatory for seeking jobs or the capacity to migrate because employment are often concentrated in far places. In some circumstances, poor transportation, high commute costs and crime make searching for employment quite strenuous, raising associated costs and limiting wages (World Bank, 2018:15). Consequently, unemployment rates in the rural areas are frequently greater than urban unemployment rates.

Notwithstanding, in 2012 overall employment proliferated and reached 13,7 million people. The labour force is characterized by several challenges, including racial discrepancy which are still prevailing in South Africa's labour force. Race continues to influence the capability of obtaining employment and wages earned after being employed. The rate of unemployed black communities is substantial when collated with that of white (APRM report, 2014:56).

Figure 4.9.2.2: The following pie chart represents unemployment between races.



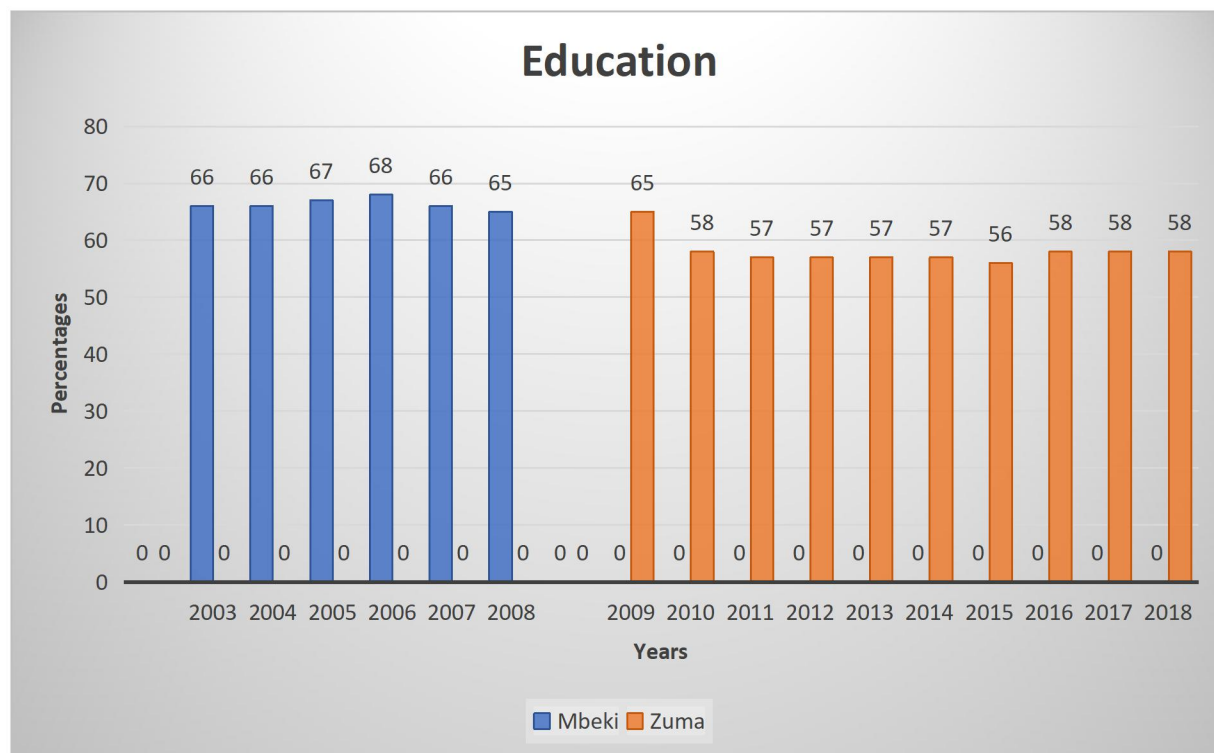
(Source:Stats SA, Census)

The perpetuation of racial segmentation in the labour market is still apparent. The above pie chart shows the impact of race on the prospect of unemployment, the rates are higher amongst black people when compared to that of the other races. During the apartheid era, the African communities were substantially restricted to tribal homelands. This resulted in segregated domain labor market and this legacy can still be felt in unemployment sector (Leibbrandt *et al*, 2016:11).

In the opinion of Nattrass and seekings (2001:52), the racial discrimination in employment is now explained primarily by factors such as education, skills, location and employment sector. Black workers with good education qualifications are particularly better employed and well-placed to obtain highly-paid jobs. Ironically, Leibbrandt *et al* (2016) asserts that Africans are more likely to be unemployed than their white, coloured and Indians counterparts even after changing location, demographics and having the credentials required.

Figure 4.9.3: Education

The following columns represent Mbeki and Zuma’s performance on education.



(Source: Mo Ibrahim index).

The graph vividly shows that Mbeki’s performance between 2003-2004 remained constant. However, a percentage increase was seen from the years 2005-2006 followed by a decline in 2007 and 2009. A substantial decline was seen in 2010 up until 2015, followed by a slight increase in 2016, which remained steady up until 2018.

Even in the epoch of democracy, in spite of government's gradual eloquence, the commitment of empowerment and liberation has not yet transpired for abundant South Africans, who persist to encounter inadequate education system. High student-to-teacher ratios, inadequately qualified instructors, insufficient resources required to execute reformation and government bureaucracy underpinning or disregarding the reality on the ground in South African schools have all been indicated as root causes for the failure of the current education system (Mangaliso & Mangaliso, 2013:536).

The first APRM report’s (2007:16) stance is that during the Mbeki years, access to education strengthened in all sectors, with most rise seen in the school sector itself. There was also an increase in the number of children attending school. The proclamation of ‘no-fee schools’ which are meant to relieve impoverished parents of the burden of school tuition has improved access

During 2008, 40% of both primary and secondary schools were declared as no fees schools (APRM report, 2007:16). The fundamental weakness of this report is that it failed to acknowledge challenges encountered in the education sector. Butler (2009:104) points out that Mbeki's administration spent a lot on education and yet education outcomes were unsatisfactory. Black learners in township and rural schools were rarely receiving an adequate education. Section 27 (2016) professed that 41 000 schools lacked toilets and had shortages of classrooms; furthermore, there were complaints that many schools had textbook deficiencies.

South Africa has made tremendous progress in expanding educational opportunities. The most critical impediment is the standard of education, most notably among impoverished students and South Africa is ineffective in this aspect (Bernstein, 2014). The dismal assessment of South Africa's educational system is well acknowledged, with pupils performing towards the bottom of all international metrics. Despite the possibility that math and science has ameliorated between 2002 and 2011, the overall post-improvement results for all participating middle-income countries remain the worst (Bernstein, 2014:37).

In mathematics, the typical South African grade 9 pupil is two years beyond the median grade 8 pupil from 21 other middle-income countries and in science the middle South African grade 9 pupil is 2.8 years behind. More peculiar, is that South African students perform worse on these international tests than students from several low-income African countries such as Mozambique and Tanzania for instance (Bernstein, 2014:37). The basic weakness of this study is that with regards to education, it has placed much emphasis on only mathematics and science as key challenges encountered by the education sector, the study is silent on the issue of inequalities seen in the education system, thus Spull (2013:6) mentions that in South Africa, there are two major public school systems in operation. The smaller, higher-performing system caters for the wealthiest 20% to 25% of students, who attains significantly higher results than the larger system which accommodates the impoverished 75-80% of students. These disparities in the education system is felt when fracturing students by language, domain, opulence and economic hierarchy.

Grade 3 students from previous white schools performed better on the same test than grade 5 students from previous black schools, demonstrating that huge disparities in educational attainment exist even at the age of eight (Mouton, 2013). In 2010, the results in several grades in Eastern Cape Province were dismal. Only half of grade one students progressed to the next class

and only half of grade seven students advanced to secondary school. South Africa's educational system is incompetent considering that the country has nearly 100% enrolment in grade one. Another aspect that influences the standard of teaching is the teacher morale in South Africa's educational system which has a negative effect on the quality of education. A majority of educators are uncertain about their future in teaching and some of their fears include unsafe school environment and unsatisfactory working conditions (Mouton, 2013:35).

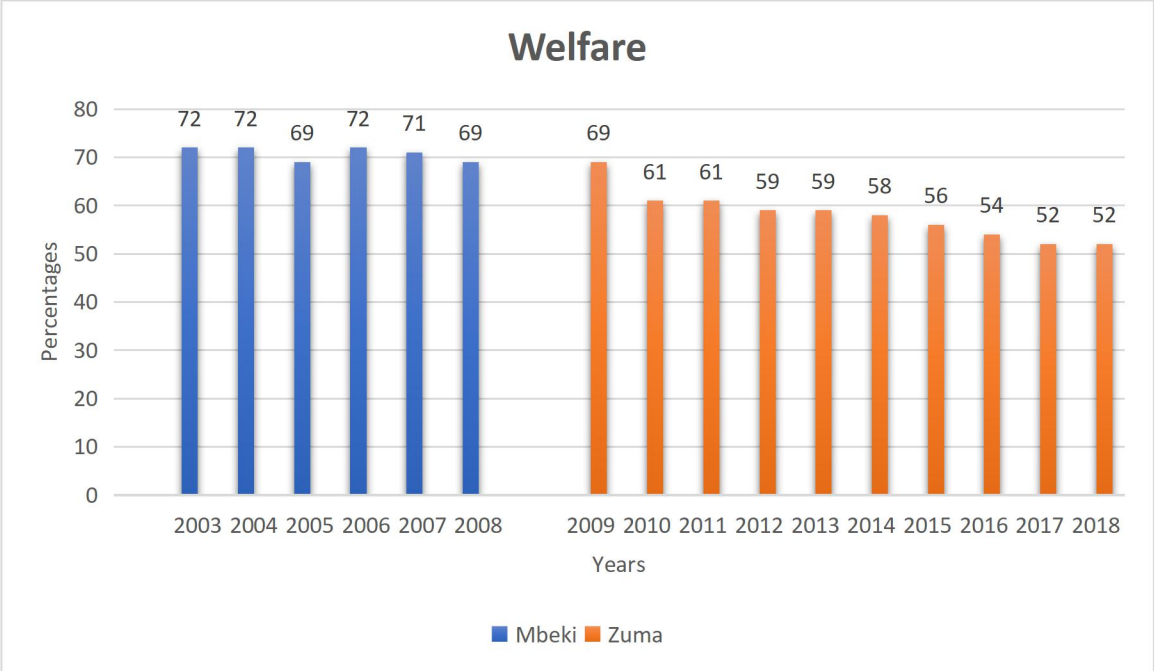
Spaull (2013:6) further provided evidence that the median grade 9 pupil in Kwa-Zulu-Natal was 2.5 years' worth of learning beyond the median grade 9 pupil in the Western Cape for science and that the average grade 9 pupil in the Eastern Cape is 1.8 years' worth of learning beyond the median pupil in Gauteng. Grade 4 pupils from rural areas and townships are two to two and a half years behind urban children in reading. The work of Spaull (2013), Mouton (2013), and Bernstein (2014) neglected the fact that abundant South African schools still encounter insufficient learning material which might be the reason behind poor outcomes hence; Modisaotsile (2012:70) asserts that in many instances, the South African government is unable not only to supply equipment such as libraries and laboratory resources but also critical learning materials such as books.

In the opinion of Modisaotsile (2012), due to deficiency of learning resources, school standards continue to deteriorate. Majority of teachers choose not to teach at schools with little or outdated material as it inhibits their accomplishment and that of students. Classrooms are still overpopulated; with teacher-to-learner ratio of 1:32 in public schools. Dropout rates are at peak, numeracy and literacy levels are extremely low. But, Modisaotsile (2012) further provided evidence indicating that some under-resourced schools accomplish excellent ramifications as a result of strong leadership provided by principal who insist that teachers come to school punctually and never miss class attendance.

Nonetheless, in order to boost innovation and knowledge creation in the economic sector the government has expanded expenditure in both basic and higher education. The government has concentrated on expanding the number of honours, masters, and doctoral graduates in higher education as critical drivers for socio-economic development (APRM Report, 2014:27).

Figure 4.9.4: Welfare

The following graph represents the presidencies of Mbeki and Zuma on welfare.



(Source: Mo Ibrahim Index)

The above graph shows welfare trends between the administration of Mbeki and that of Zuma. The rates were steady between 2003 and 2004, followed by substantial decline in 2005. A rise was again seen in 2006 accompanied by a slight decline from 2007 up to 2008. The year 2010 saw an enormous decline; the rates kept on dropping up until 2018. It may be inferred that the administration of Zuma performed poorly in terms of welfare when compared to the administration of Mbeki.

Butler (2009:99) contended that population’s health is still threatened by indoor coal burning. Death and diseases from paraffin fires continue, air quality still suffers from coal and wood fire emissions. Women continue to shoulder the brunt of wood collection. Electricity has failed to deliver the promise of economic advancement due to low amperage and expensive pricing, which prevent refrigerators and power tools from being used, and expensive electricity also brings extra user cost.

In the years following democratic government, the quantity of citizens living in absolute poverty in the country does not seem to have reformed considerably. Instead, impoverished household appears to have plunged further into impoverished life and the wealth gap between rich and poor has exacerbated. The fact that the disparity gap has widened faster than the economy suggests

that poor households have not reaped the benefits of economic expansion (Mangaliso & Mangaliso, 2013:532).

410. DATA INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION.

The report by World Bank (2018) stated that the quantity of the populace with access to improved water sources and improved sanitation facilities climbed steadily from 2003 to 2015. In 2015, 93 percent of the population had access to an improved water source and electricity was available to 87 percent of the population in 2014 and in 2016, 66 percent of the population had access to improved sanitation facilities (World Bank, 2018).

According to Jacobs (2010:9) the poverty line fell from 58 percent in 2001 to 48 percent in 2005. Ironically, Daniel and Southall (2009:10) provided contrasting views, as they argued that it was estimated that in 2005, over 22 million people were living in absolute poverty. Crais (2011:9) holds that the years of Mbeki saw a rise in poverty, and that there were still people who were living in filthy huts patched together with scraps of tin and old sacks and many of them were afflicted with horrible ailments.

One of the most important aspects of improving environmental sanitation is proper sanitation. Between the years 2003 to 2009 the percentage of household without a toilet who utilized bucket toilets diminished in all nine provinces. Eastern Cape is one of the provinces with the greatest percentage of people without access to toilets with 18.9 percent, followed by Limpopo with 8.8 percent, Northern Cape with 8.7 percent and Free State with 7.5 percent (Abrahams, 2011:78)

In 2006, 63.4 percent of women-headed households were impoverished when compared to 41.5 percent of households headed by men. In 2015, 51.2 percent of female-headed households were impoverished when compared to 31.4 percent of male-headed households. Butler (2009:100) mentioned that many poor women continue to expend time and energy carrying water substantial distances from communal taps to dwellings. The disparity between the poverty rates of two categories has remained constant over time, hovering around 20% in each decade. Moreover, 47 percent of households headed by black population are still poor when compared to only 23 percent of menages headed by a person of mixed race (World Bank, 2018:40).

The World Bank (2018) further stated that poverty is normally on the rise among South Africans who are located in the townships than those living in the cities. In 2006, 60.3 percent of the poor

were in rural areas. Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu-Natal, and Limpopo were consistently the three poorest provinces between 2006 and 2015. At 59.1 percent, Eastern Cape had the highest poverty rate in 2015. However, the World Bank (2018) did not provide balanced work, hence the study conducted by Blackwell (2016) provided a different view from that of the World Bank. According to Blackwell (2016:158), the poverty level increased in cities partly due to the fact that rural inhabitants migrated to cities in search of paid work.

Government social projects have enhanced the advantage base of the poor through housing. From 2000 to 2008, a government outlay of R48.5 billion upheld 3.1 million endorsed housing subsidies, and the accomplishment of R2.6 million housing units. This brought housing to 13 million individuals, of which 53 percent went to female-headed households. By 2008 there were more African householders (Presidency, 2009:17). The work of the presidency did not provide a balanced study simply on the basis that, according to De Jager (2018:212), a study conducted between 2006 and 2010 found that about one hundred to two hundred thousand people were homeless in South Africa.

The World Bank presented a rich study on poverty in South Africa. Between 2011 to 2015, poverty increased from 36.4 percent to 40 percent (World Bank, 2018:10). This means that over 3.1 million more South Africans slipped into poverty between 2011 and 2015. The increase in the poverty levels is associated with a combination of international and domestic factors, such as low and anemic economic growth, continuing high unemployment levels, lower commodity prices, higher consumer prices, lower investment levels, greater household dependency on credit, and policy uncertainty (World Bank, 2018: 38).

Welsh (2018:217) is of view that social grants, which is capital given to citizens of the country by the country if citizens are financially vulnerable, is riddled in corruption. Social grants are the single most paramount driver of diminishing poverty. The social grant apparatus is the broad form of government maintenance for the impoverished and is generally regarded as one of the country's most important poverty alleviation mechanisms (Welsh, 2018:217). Even though the value of grant is small, it plays a paramount role in diminishing income poverty among the very poor, notably in female-headed households (Welsh, 2018:218).

Similarly, the Presidency (2009) also conducted a study regarding social grants, and there was a colossal improvement regarding individuals who received social grants. Social grants increased from 2.5 recipients in 1999 to 13 million in 2008. Child support grant expanded from 34 000 recipients in 1999 to 9.1 million in 2008. The age of men receiving pensions is progressively decreased to age 60 and the same applies to women. The fundamental weakness of that study is that it lacked details about people living in absolute poverty and yet not having anyone from the family receiving a grant.

A 2018 study by the South African Presidency on service delivery shows that under the leadership of Jacob Zuma, South Africa became number one in the world in terms of service delivery. It further mentioned that poor people were awarded houses and about 4.5 million houses were delivered to the poor. Paradoxically, studies by Welsh (2018:194) and Blackwell (2016:168) show that the tenure of Zuma was met with widespread service delivery protest emanating from service delivery discontent among citizens, due to their needs not being fulfilled as promised. Many service delivery protests were usually seen in rural areas on the basis that people in these poorer provinces are impartially confronted by lack of materials, infrastructure and skills across all municipalities in their areas. A calculating predicament is caused resources deficiencies both locally and at a provincial level. Better service delivery has been provided in more industrialized provinces such as Gauteng and the Western Cape (Sartorius, 2016).

Another apparent issue that persists to undermine socio-economic development is load-shedding, as energy is a basic necessity of life. According to Agnieszka and Nowakowska (2015:103-104) load-shedding is when there is insufficient power available to meet the demand from all Eskom customers, and it could then be necessary to interrupt supply to certain areas. It is a last resort to balance electricity supply and demand, which is a constructive way to circumvent total collapse of the electricity supply. The first shortages began in 2007; in the first quarter of 2008, blackouts all over the country became common, with damaging impacts on the economy, and as a result about R50 billion was lost (Agnieszka & Nowakowska, 2015:103). In 2014 load-shedding was experienced by the whole country.

Notwithstanding, the Presidency (2016:10) noted that in response to the electricity general crisis, which peaked in 2014 that resulted in outages and load shedding, the presidency launched a government-wide energy saving campaign in March 2015 to assist to stabilize the country's

energy grid. Energy interventions implemented the past year include the installation of solar panels for electricity generation, and fitting of sensors to office lights to ensure efficient use of lighting. Utility meters which measure electricity usage, were monitored regularly and have shown that, since implementation of the comprehensive strategy in 2013 the country has saved R2.5 million every year.

Both administration during the understudied period prioritized anti-corruption work. They adopted it as a priority need to intensify the fight against corruption (APRM Report, 2009:3). According to Blackwell (2016:166), in the Mbeki years, corruption within government circles became a major cause of concern. Mbeki responded by launching an anti-corruption campaign and setting up a special unit called the Scorpions to drive it. It should be noted that even after campaigns to fight corruption emerged, corruption is still apparent and was mostly felt during the administration of Zuma, which shows lack of accountability.

In his study, Stiftung (2018:13) also mentioned corruption perpetuated by the government of Zuma which led to state capture. During the first quarter of 2016, the constitutional court found out the then president Zuma had forsaken his oath of office by using public funds for upgrading his private home in the Kwa-Zulu-Natal town of Nkandla. The court ordered him to repay the cost (BTI country report, 2018:6). Corruption was a source of concern among scholars during Zuma's tenure, most notably when the Gupta brothers started to influence government decisions.

The Gupta brothers' influence stretched as far as proposing cabinet senior bureaucrat appointments to the president Zuma, some ministers, and Guptas tried unsuccessfully to stop publication of the report of a Public Protector that proved interference in state governance (BTI country report, 2018:9). The basic weakness of this study is that it failed to address how corruption actually impacted on the economy and how that impact affected the socio-economic transformation of the country. Thus Martin (2016:25) stated that this corruption had a terrible impact on the economy, the rand had a rapid fall against the dollar and European currencies. GDP fell and credit rating agencies downgraded South Africa's economy to junk status (Kruger & Macfarlane, 2017). Consequently, the formal sector lost about 140 000 jobs while the informal sector lost 100 000 jobs (Brynard, 2011:68).

P3 (2021) is of the opinion that the regime of Mbeki was dominated by his perspective regarding the issue of HIV and AIDS. Ndlovu and Strydom (2016:2) are of view that HIV and AIDS treatment barrier encountered amid the era of Mbeki was due to financial insufficiency and not political intransigence, as many people believed. However, the study by Heywood (2010) provided a different perspective by stating that in 2003, slides from a presentation of government's own cost of ARV treatment plans were leaked to the Treatment Action Campaign, demonstrating that government could afford them.

Ndlovu and Strydom (2010) further argued that Anti-Retroviral therapy did not begin under Zuma's presidency but rather in that of Mbeki's in 2004, and that it was the product of Mbeki's vision, for which he should be credited. The work overlooked the fact that 330 000 lives were lost due to the fact that he availed the treatment at a later stage. It's worth noting that Ndlovu and Strydom's excellent work is pro-Mbeki, as they endorsed his policies.

Furthermore, Ndlovu and Strydom's work (2016) is quite mute on the fact that the then president Mbeki publicly stated that AIDS was a western disease, that alarmist reports reflected racist stereotypes about African sexuality and that Retro-viral drugs were potentially toxic (Blackwell, 2016:161). He advocated for his then Minister of Health to advance medical practices of traditional healers as the best treatment for AIDS. The minister insisted that a homemade concoction of olive oil, beets and garlic was the legitimate treatment for the disease (Herbst, 2005:104). His administration had to be taken to court by The treatment Action Campaign on the basis of infringement of Act number 108 section 27 of the Constitution, which states that everyone has the right to healthcare services and that no citizen may be refused medical treatment (Constitution of South Africa, 1996:1255). It was only after the court ruling that his administration availed retrovirals to the people.

4.11. Summary of the Chapter

This chapter has dissected data that was collected through interviews, literature and statistics. The data was analysed through content analysis. Themes were generated through the process of coding. The empirical evidence has shown correlation from the research aim and objectives, literature review and theoretical framework. The following chapter presents summary of findings, recommendations and conclusion.

Chapter 5: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1. Research findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.2. Introduction

This chapter entails a summary of empirical research findings, recommendations for further studies and a conclusion. Summary of findings derives from the identified problem, the study's aim and objectives to assure that the researcher recommends a solution to the identified problem in relation to the study's aim and objectives.

5.3. Research Findings

The aim of the study was to examine South Africa's APRM's SED Thematic Area Implementation Outcomes between 2003-2018. The study evaluated the relative importance of APRM in South Africa's socio-economic development. The researcher utilized both primary and secondary data to assess if there has been a positive impact in the socio-economic development sector ever since South Africa gave its assent to APRM.

The first objective was to examine South Africa's policies that were implemented in line with the APRM's SED thematic area between 2003 and 2018. Empirical findings and literature revealed that there were abundant socio-economic policies that were pioneered to improve the economic status of citizens in line with aprm's precepts. However, it was shown that those policies were not properly executed, given the ongoing socio-economic hurdles.

The second objective was to analyse the factors that shaped the outcomes of the implementation of the SED thematic area of the APRM in South Africa during the period under the study. Findings have shown that unemployment is one of the fundamental factors that seems to undermine socio-economic development in the country. Unemployment varies by location, skills, race, wage inequality and gender. People who are located in the rural areas are mostly the ones who bear the brunt of remaining unemployed. It has also been observed that the issue of race is still predominant in the labour sector, on the basis that many Africans are still facing high unemployment rates when compared to their white, coloured and Indian counterparts.

Regardless of the growing economy under Mbeki, there was still rising unemployment, amplified by privatization that led to many job losses. Little attention was also paid to reducing South

Africa's unemployment ratio under President Zuma. During his presidency unemployment the rate increased and that increment was also met with a high number of job losses which further exacerbated an already existing high unemployment rate.

It has also been noted that access to education has improved, but education remains untransformed. Success is seen in school attendance. However, the quality of education offered is still poor. It is also apparent that the education that is being offered varies according to an economic hierarchy; there is a substantial difference between the quality of education provided among the pupils coming from marginalized, impoverished societies and the elites class. The elites are better-performing and usually achieve higher scores, while the marginalized are still behind and produce poor scores.

There are plenty of schools, most notably in townships, that still face the ordeal of overcrowding due to insufficient classrooms, lack vital learning resources such as books and libraries and as a result, teachers opt not to teach in those types of schools on the basis that it negatively affects their performance and that of learners.

The newly re-organized further education institutions are finding it quite difficult to produce graduates with the skills demanded by the employers, which perpetuates youth unemployment. Young people are unable to acquire the necessary skills or experience needed to drive the economy forward.

It has been proven by various sources that poverty is still predominant, particularly in the townships, even after the establishment of several initiatives such as social grants which are given to the elderly and children to curtail it. Both administrations did well on housing, but there are still people who are currently living in mud houses. The disparity gap has grown faster than the economy, which indicates that poor households have not shared in the benefits of economic growth. A majority of people gained access to safe water and the percentage of households with electricity also increased. However, recurrent load shedding seems to undermine the efforts of access to electricity.

Health care facilities still encounter challenges such as poor waste management, lack of cleanliness and poor maintenance on the ground and of equipment. Some departments had an unacceptable physical environment, such as dirty toilets for delivery of quality health care.

People usually stand in very long queues at the clinics, only to be told that there is no medication available. Access barriers include vast distances and high travel cost, particularly in rural areas and overcrowding. In addition, for instance, one special doctor serves fewer than 500 people in the private sector but around 11 000 in the public sector.

Researchers alleged that during Mbeki's reign there was a high number of HIV and AIDS-related mortalities that could have been prevented, on the basis that he delayed to make ARV treatment accessible to the public. On the other hand, scholars note that Zuma's reign encountered a high level of corruption, which debilitated the economy of the country. Consequently, many jobs were lost, which led to recurrent service delivery protest. These aforementioned outcomes portend a lack of effective implementation of the domesticated programmes, and low commitment under both presidents to the APRM's SED thematic precept meant to bring about good governance outcomes in line with the socio-economic development of South Africa.

The third objective sought to propose policy reforms that may enhance positive outcomes from the implementation of the SED theme of the APRM in South Africa. The study suggests that there should be an annual evaluation of policies to assess if the policy has achieved its set targets and its objectives. It was further discussed that there should be massive investment in the deep rural areas so that there can be employment creation and attract highly skilled people to the townships in order to diminish the inequality of rural and urban lifestyle. The recommendation section below proffers more policy reform proposals.

5.4. Recommendations

Political commitment is needed, as the APRM itself necessitate strong political leadership and commitment. It is therefore imperative that the APRM adopts and implements accountability as their number one principle to restore the confidence in APRM as a sustainable and legitimate organization. States that limits the ability of ordinary citizens to participate meaningfully in the APRM process must be held accountable due to the fact that the APRM calls for broad participation of citizens in its proceedings.

The study recommends that government must formulate and ensure the process of an annual evaluation of policies that have been implemented in line with the Socio-economic development. This is imperative so as to be able to assure that policies implemented has achieved their set goals, and to be able to identify deficit that can be carried over to the next operating year for the

policy itself to achieve its full potential of the South Africa's socio-economic advancement in line with APRM doctrines.

Tackle the issue of political favouritism in appointments and adopt the system of meritocracy. This is to ensure that leaders selected have the capacity and credentials to lead so as to circumvent the issue of incapable leaders who are ineffective in providing economic evolution and proliferation of mediocre governance performance.

The study also recommends the adoption attuned leadership. This is necessary in order to curtail selfish leadership, that is leadership that uses states resources to benefit themselves and those close to them. Attuned leadership will thus, in turn breed good governance and eliminate corruption

Get rid of tender system and employ individuals directly to do the work, instead of pouring billions into tenders that sustains the nature of nepotism, corruption and killings. This is paramount on the basis that the tender system perpetuate the apparent economic disparities as it creates few elites class that enslaves the impoverished.

Government must also engage with chancellors of higher education and propose reformation of education offered. This is to assure that courses provided align directly with the demand of employers in order to diminish the rise of graduate unemployment

The education system must also assist pupils to identify their strengths by exploring their talents from young age instead of allowing them to follow the same routine and entrepreneurship must also be taught at all levels of education.

5.5. Conclusion

South Africa continues to lag behind its target of executing socio-economic development in line with APRM's objectives despite several mechanisms put in place to curtail economic impediments. The study dissected South Africa's APRM's socio-economic development thematic area implementation outcomes from 2003 to 2018. From this analysis the study inferred that South Africa is not committed to APRM's ideals, given the ongoing government deficiencies of political commitment and socio-economic advancements.

The study unpacked APRM in detail. The first chapter of the study provided the background of the APRM, which was derived from the AU. Chapter 2 deals with literature review. The

literature that were reviewed were those in line with the focus of the study. The empirical findings revealed that, despite the government's efforts of redesigning and redirecting economic development strategies, good governance is still a critical challenge.

Nonetheless, the conclusion of this research is that, regardless of the measures put in place to bring about economic transformation, South Africa continues to suffer constant setbacks in its socio-economic advancement efforts which impede the realization of APRM's ideals.

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