



‘New realism’ or a turning point? Prospects for realizing targets in delivery

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Social science that makes a difference



Outline

- The politics of delivery
- Achievement or under-achievement?
- Slipping delivery: the impact on schools and children
- The legacy of GEAR
- 'New realism' or a turning point?
- Conclusions

Overview

The paper examines the political economy of delivery and the effect of the limits of public expenditure brought about by changes in economic policy associated with GEAR. The research concludes that inadequate funding of social objectives has had the effect of the backlog in services not declining as anticipated or even growing. Increasingly planners in line departments are identifying these lags, quantifying additional funding needed, and their projections anticipate that targets will not be met. The difficulties in meeting targets are increasingly reflected in speeches and in public forums such as izimbizo.

There is a turning point being reached in the planning and budgeting of service delivery. Will the growing awareness of lags in service delivery bring 'new realism' with the downscaling of targets, or will this lead to additional funding and renewed initiatives in public participation in service delivery?

The age of hope: Targets and goals

- 1) **Apart from the Millennium Development Goals, the minimum of social objectives to be met by the poorest countries by 2015, fairly far-reaching promises on these fronts have been made by the Presidency such as halving unemployment by 2014.**
- 2) **These coupled with economic growth and rising business confidence, has led the President to declare: "Our people are firmly convinced that our country has entered its age of hope" (Mbeki, 2006)**

Evaluation and uncertainty

- This confidence has had an influence on professionals and academics who have reviewed the period and concluded that the ship of state has forged ahead. In a book which has just appeared, for instance, an urban expert concludes that the promises of the RDP have been met.
- Most of these targets have now been met and, indeed, exceeded, although this did not happen in the first five years (van Ryneveld, 2006: 171).

The promise of social solidarity

- A new urgency has been given to implementation in the face of growing inequalities. The President has said that in the escape from poverty the message being put out by liberated South Africa is: “at all costs, get rich!” In his concern for the goals of social cohesion and human solidarity he argued that the “revolution of 1994” should not lead to the message that wealth defines the “worthy citizens” of the “liberated South Africa” (Mbeki, 2006b) Most of these targets have now been met and, indeed, exceeded, although this did not happen in the first five years (van Ryneveld, 2006: 171).

Achievement or under-achievement?

- Three difficulties in answering this simple question; firstly the right data, secondly demographic change and thirdly somewhat different sets of commitments.
- Firstly while there are extensive reviews the appropriate statistics are not always to hand e.g. stats on actual houses completed.
- Secondly, one of the greatest controversies relates to the growth of households which is increasing at a faster pace than population. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of African households, for instance, increased by 32% from 6,5m to 8,6m over the period, an increase of over 2 million households.
- Thirdly commitments are made in different texts: the Reconstruction and Development Program, the State of the Nation, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Exceptional commitment by Minister of Housing Lindiwe Sisulu to end slums by 2010.

Delivery: Speeding or slowing?

- Pro-poor delivery: Taken by percentages there is evidence of considerable increase in service delivery to the poor; in the case of electricity by 578%.by the poorest and by lesser figures in water.
- Despite this there is growing evidence of service delivery slowing.
- Also true that “household services grew at a much faster rate between 1993 to 1999 and then slowed down in the period 1999 to 2004.

- **Bhorat, Haroon, Pranushka Naidoo, and Carlene van der Westhuizen. 2006. Shifts in Non-Income Welfare in South Africa:1993-2004. Development Policy Research Unit. May 2006, Working Paper 06/108.**

Delivery by two periods

Rate of annual change in delivery

	1995-99	1999-05
W.Cape	5%	2%
E.Cape	4%	5%
N.West	6%	1%
F.State	7%	2%
Kzn	12%	4%
N.Cape	7%	2%
Gauteng	4%	3%
Mpm	15%	0%
Limp	11%	2%
Nationally	8%	2%

Slipping targets

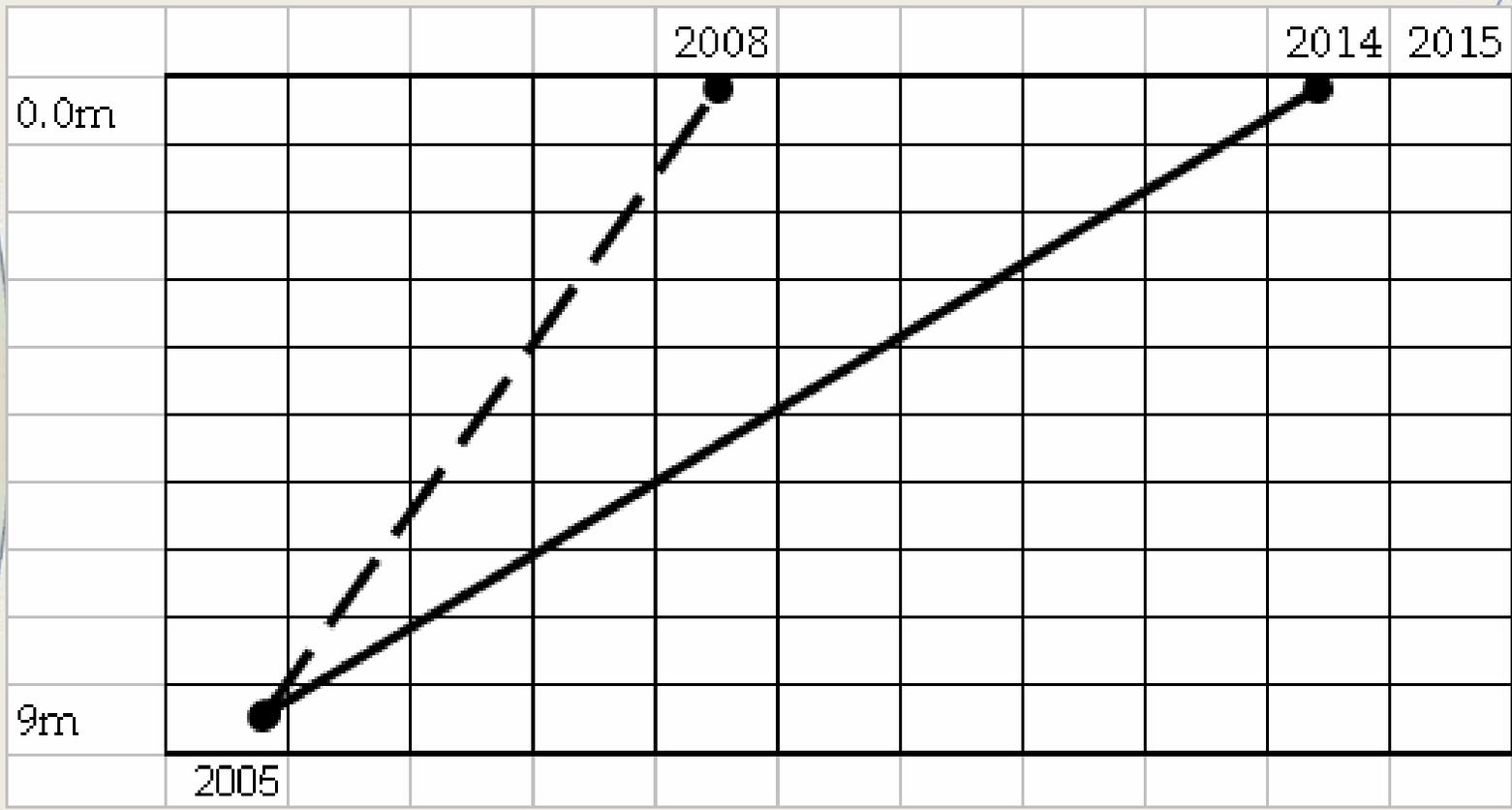
- The following of these are dated:
- All schools have adequate and safe water supply and sanitation services by 2005
 - *March 2006, 2 688 schools were identified as having no water facilities and 2 238 schools had no sanitation; not in POA.*
- Hygiene education and wise use of water taught in all schools by 2005
 - *No data available, not in POA.*
- All clinics have adequate and safe water supply and sanitation services by 2007.
 - *No data available, not in POA.*

The legacy of GEAR

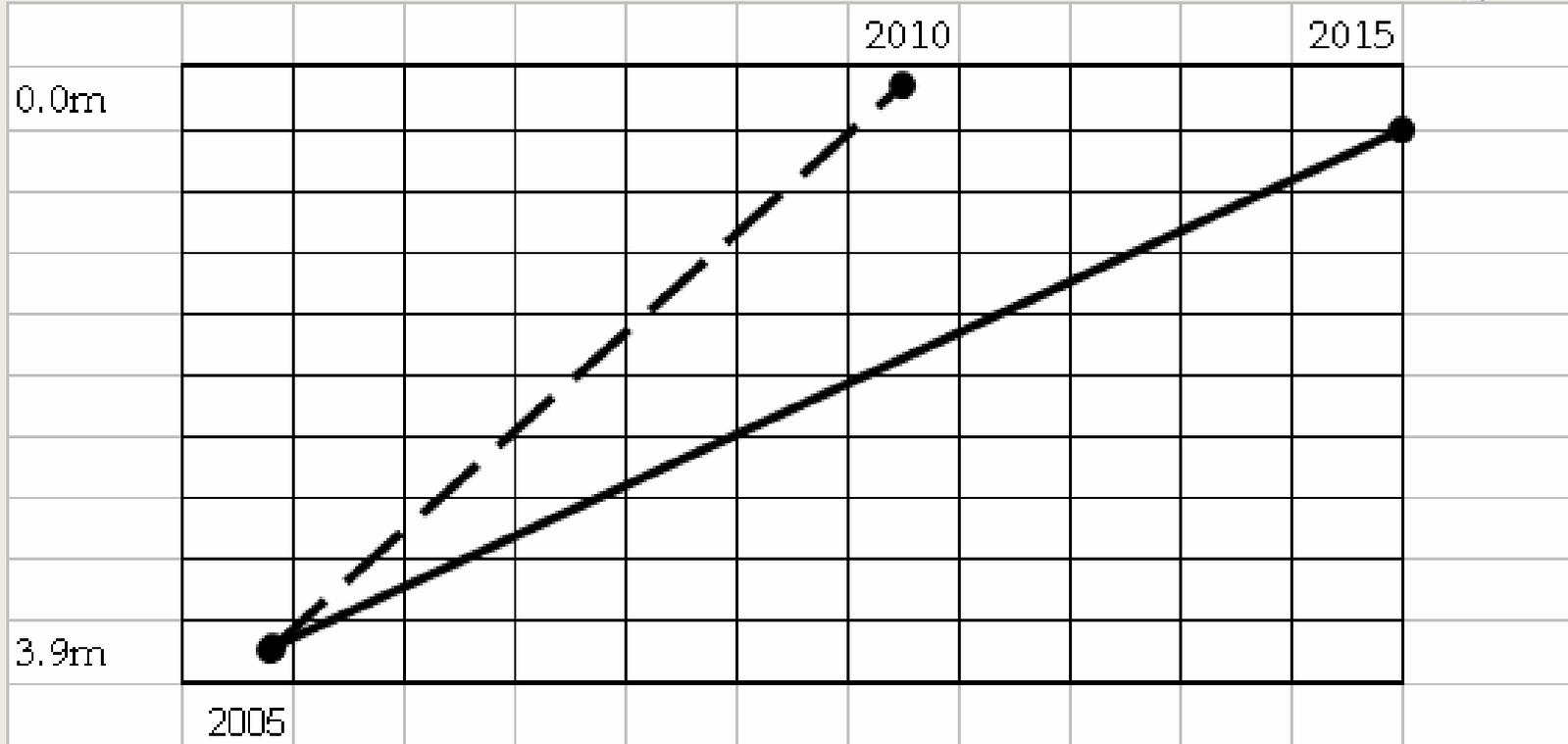
- There is evidence from research and from government statements in an earlier period that the cuts in public expenditure slowed down delivery and have left a legacy which has been difficult to turn around.
- Firstly from the research into the question it appears that there has been a slowing down of delivery in the period 1999-2004 which has allowed backlogs to accumulate.
- Secondly conservative policies, tended to disrupt the momentum of delivery.

'Water for all by 2008'

Urban, Rural and Economic
Development



'Sanitation for all by 2010'



Urban, Rural and Economic
Development

'New realism' or a turning point?

- Two perspectives:
- The first is that the systems of accountability are just beginning to start to work – and face difficulties in making detailed assessment from the Department which is, in a sense, an interested party. There may be a turning point in the sense that more facts will be demanded and a more thorough examination made promise and achievements.
- The second is that urging 'new targets' before thoroughly examining the reasons why targets were not met indicates an opposite tendency; towards blurring responsibility for the delivery. This approach tends also to be accompanied by 'new realism', that is an argument that the original targets to overcome the apartheid legacy were too ambitious.

Conclusions

- Insufficient political oversight has meant there has not been an adequate review of where the difficulties were in the past; a lack of sufficient funding, commitment within those directing administrative systems, adequate local capacity, or a lack of public participation.
- The limits to public expenditure in the past have focused on working within the broad medium term expenditure framework and not on socially necessary expenditure in the basic service delivery.
- These limits and the financing problems as evidenced by the 'stop-start' nature of budgeting within financial years rather than in completed projects, point to just some of the answers to the question of unrealized targets.