

FACTSHEET

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THE DINKENG SCENARIOS

PURPOSE

To create a space and language for open, reflective and reasoned strategic conversation among the broad community of South Africans, about possible futures for the country, and the opportunities, risks, and choices these futures present.

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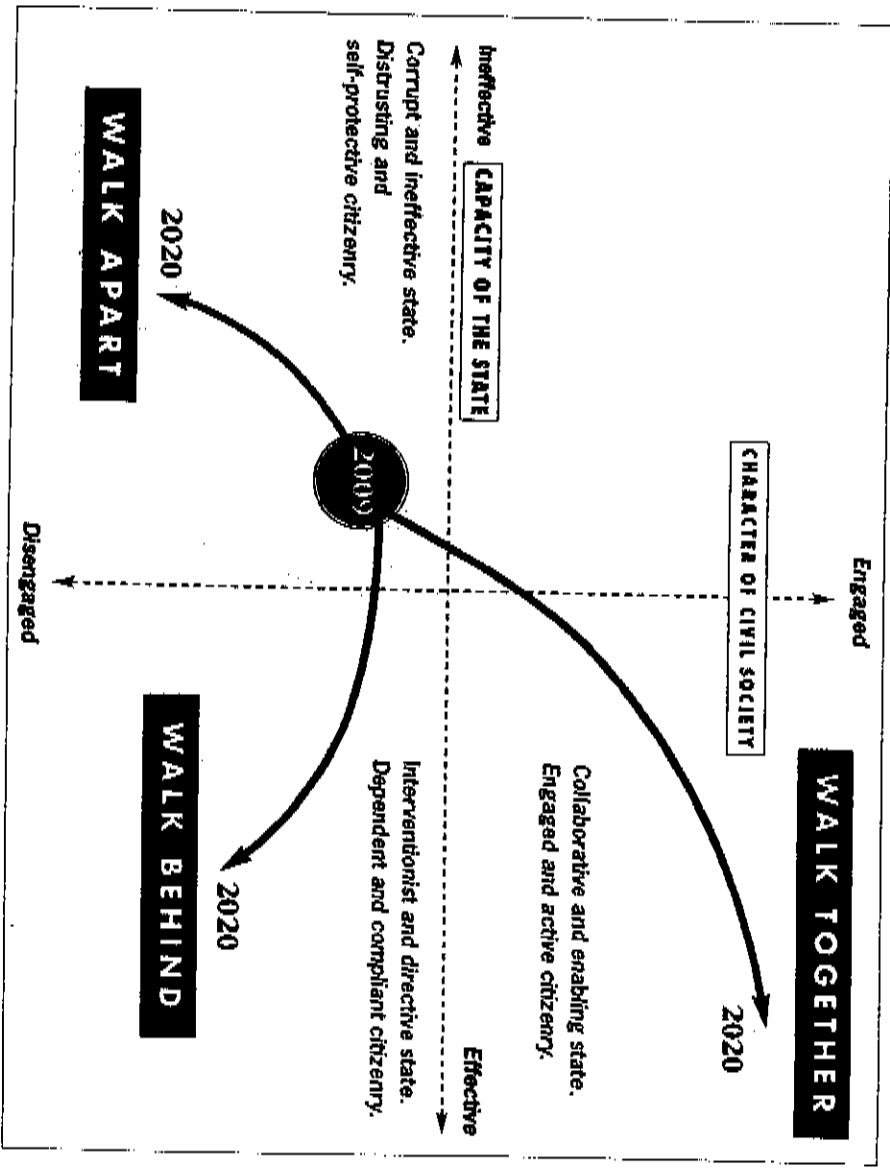
In response to critical challenges facing South Africa today, a group of 35 South Africans from a wide spectrum of our society – civil society and government, political parties, business, public administration, trade unions, religious groups, academia and the media – gathered to probe our country's present, and to consider possible futures. They were brought together by six convenors, all of whom are actively engaged in our national issues.

THE PROCESS

- 1 **Step One:** 35 leaders representing different sectors of society come together to discuss the current political, social and economic realities facing South Africa.
- 2 **Step Two:** Scenario stories on possible futures for South Africa are developed and the messages of the Dinkeng Scenarios are shared with various stakeholders.
- 3 **Step Three:** A media and engagement campaign is launched to extend the reach of the Dinkeng Scenarios to organisations, groups and communities across the country.

THE DINKENG SCENARIOS

The scenarios suggest three possible futures for South Africa. These stories are intended to stimulate action-oriented conversations among citizens as to their options and choices.



SCENARIO TEAM

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THE DINOKEENG SCENARIOS

SUMMARY OF DINOKEENG SCENARIOS

KEY DINOKEENG SCENARIO MESSAGES

FIRST SCENARIO WALK APART



This is a scenario of "musical chairs" or "reshuffled elites". It is triggered by the failure of leaders across all sectors to deal with our critical challenges. This failure is the result of political factionalism and weak, unaccountable leadership, weak capacity in government departments, and tightening economic constraints that are not dealt with realistically or inclusively. Civil society increasingly disengages as public trust in public institutions diminishes. The state is increasingly bypassed by citizens, resulting in unaccountable groupings assuming power over parts of society. The gap between the leaders and the led widens. Citizens eventually lose patience and erupt into protest and unrest. The government, driven by its inability to meet citizens' demands and expectations, responds brutally, and a spiral of resistance and repression is unleashed. Decay and disintegrations sets in.

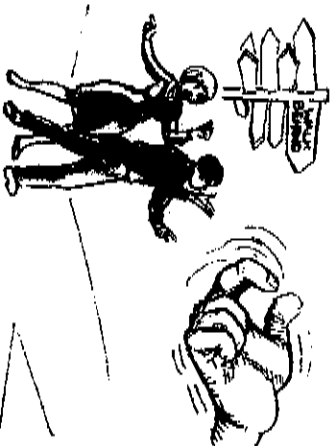


South Africa faces critical social and economic challenges especially related to unemployment and poverty, safety and security, education, and health. These challenges are now exacerbated by a global economic crisis. If we fail to recognize the severity of our challenges, and if we fail to address them, we will experience rapid disintegration and decline.

SECOND SCENARIO WALK BEHIND



This is a scenario where the state assumes the role of leader and manager. State planning and co-ordination are seen as central mechanisms for accelerating development and delivery to citizens, especially poor, unemployed and vulnerable people. The ruling party argues that strong state intervention in the economy is in accordance with global trends, and the electorate, concerned about the impacts of the global economic crisis, gives the ruling party a powerful mandate. Strong state intervention crowds out private initiative by business and civil society. The risks of this scenario are twofold: one is that the country accumulates unsustainable debt, the other is that the state becomes increasingly authoritarian.



State-led development cannot succeed if state capacity is seriously lacking. In addition, pervasive state intervention, where the state is everything and all else is subordinate, breeds complacency and dependency among the citizenry. Strong state intervention crowds out private initiative by business and civil society.

THIRD SCENARIO WALK TOGETHER



This is a scenario of active citizen engagement with a government that is effective and that listens. It requires the engagement of citizens who demand better service delivery and government accountability. It is dependent on the will and ability of citizens to organise themselves and to engage the authorities, and on the quality of political leadership and its willingness to engage citizens. It entails a common national vision that cuts across economic self-interest in the short-term. This is not an easy scenario. Its path is uneven – there is robust contestation over many issues and it requires strong leadership from all sectors, especially from citizens.



We can address our critical challenges only if citizens' groups, business, labour and broader civil society actively engage with the state to improve delivery and enforce an accountable government.