

upholding of economic and political good governance, respect for human and people rights as well as respecting the right of people to choose their representatives without fear are paramount.

Through NEPAD we have also agreed to invest in our people our most important resource. In this regard, provision of primary health facilities is imperative. Only healthy nations can address the challenges we have set for ourselves. Human Resources Development through education, vocational training and mentoring is important. We look up to Alberta's universities and Canadians to help in these areas.

As we deal with the issues of HRD, it is important that we address communicable diseases, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. With regard to HIV/AIDS, we must move from a premise that there is no cure for AIDS. It is therefore, imperative that we educate our people to prevent this terrible disease from spreading. We must also put many resources into dealing with opportunistic infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis diarrhea, meningitis, throat fungal infection, etc. As the South African Government, we are engaged with pharmaceutical companies on the question of affordability of drugs and infrastructure development to help deal with anti-retroviral drugs.

We also need to improve on our agricultural output. If we cannot feed ourselves, there is no future or hope for the continent. Africa is a predominantly agrarian continent and most of its inhabitants eke out a living from the land; it is important that developed countries work with us to address the absence of the necessary agrarian technology as well as value added agricultural products for export of our agro industry.

We also need a reliable energy supply in order to expand our manufacturing base. We need the development of regional electricity grids. Regionally, we will mobilise necessary resources to deal with our energy needs but we need partners to work with us. Equally important is pulling our resources to deal with the provision of potable water.

The NEPAD's Market Access Initiative deals with market access for the products of African countries. It also deals with the issue of the imbalances of international trade, which favours the developed countries at the expense of the least and developing African countries. For it remains a shame and inexcusable that \$1 billion dollars a day is used to subsidise the farmers of developed countries. It has been established that a \$300 billion annual subsidy is given to European farmers. This is four times more than the money spent on development assistance to all developing countries. This situation must not be allowed to continue.

It has been estimated that Africa now only accounts for a mere 2% of world trade, down from 7.4% in 1948. The human consequences of this development are profound. In the Southern African region alone, 78 million people live in poverty. Opening of markets of developed countries is not an act of charity but this also