

An Independent View of NSDS III

Ken Duncan – 3 March 2011

Noble Sentiments :

- Vision of “A skilled and capable workforce that shares in, and contributes to, the benefits and opportunities of economic expansion and an inclusive growth path.”
- 8 “pressing challenges”
- 7 “key developmental and transformational issues”
- 7 strategic “pillars”

Sound familiar?

NSDS I (2001):

- “To improve skills in the country so that people and the economy as a whole produce more and better, and to make SA a more equal place for everyone, black and white, women and men, rural and urban, young and old.”
- 9 labour market problems
- 5 objectives
- 12 success indicators

And 8 commitments in NSDS II...

And so on...

5 Lessons that must be applied:

- Skills training happens in industry, not in government
- The purpose of skills training is skilled labour, not a utopian society
- Central planning doesn't work
- First, think *inside* the box
- Government policies must be in harmony

A last word on strategy:

“In war, there is seldom any shortage of promising ideas. The difficulty is to make them work.”

Field Marshal Sir John Dill (CIGS)