



Parkmore Matters!

PCA | Parkmore Community Association Incorporated under Section 21 Reg. No.1999/025688/08 PO Box 650508 Benmore 2010
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DINOKENG SCENARIOS - for your further information

At the 2009 PCA AGM meeting, we were privileged to hear about the Dinokeng Scenarios.

We learnt that 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, academics and the media - gathered to probe our country's present, and to consider possible futures. They discussed the current political, social and economic realities facing South Africa.

These scenarios were developed to create a space and language to open, reflective and reasoned strategic conversation among the broad community of South Africa, about possible futures for the country, and the opportunities, risks, and choices these futures present

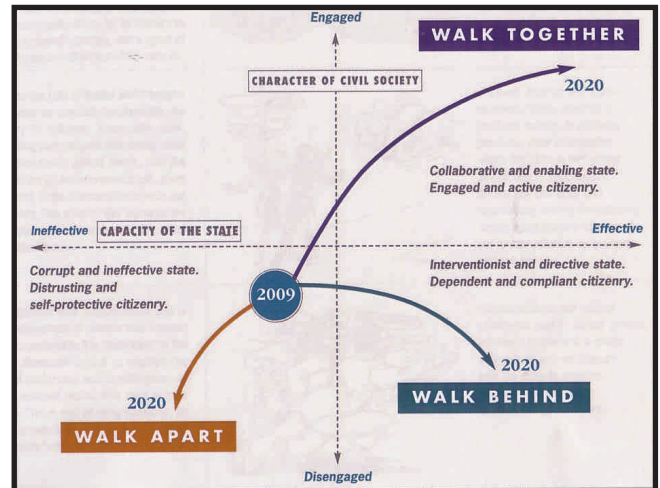
To summarise the scenarios, we will look at each :-

WALK APART

This is a scenario of "musical chairs" or "reshuffled elite". It is triggered by the failure of leaders across all sectors to deal with our critical challengers. 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 citizen's demands and expectations, responds brutally, and a spiral of resistance and repression is unleashed. Decay and disintegration sets in.

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 country 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 accentuates unsustainable debt; the other is that the state becomes increasingly authoritarian.



WALK TOGETHER

This 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.

ETV News broadcasts every Wednesday at 21:00 a programme entitled the "BIG DEBATE". **Why should we watch it?** Because it brings a new exciting opportunity of a discussion forum of issues relevant to us, South African, with major role players involved.

Can we change South Africa? Probably not on our own! But we can start with Parkmore if we start to walk together

PARKMORE

HOW? Come on people of Parkmore, let us:-

- ❖ get excited about being in Parkmore
- ❖ more involved with the community
- ❖ join the PCA and its security initiative
- ❖ care about what happens in your suburb
- ❖ notice and report the things that are not right
- ❖ see and report suspicious and unusual people
- ❖ meet, chat and get to know our neighbours ...

Let Us Walk Together in 2010