

ISBHUJWA

An enclave bourgeois nation

Epitomising a loose-limbed, jumpy nation with a frenetic edge, iSbhujwa is a South Africa torn by deepening social divides, daily protests and cynical self-interest



NAYI LE WALK

A nation in step with itself

In a precise sequence of steps, this scenario choreographs a vision of a South Africa where growing social cohesion, economic expansion, and a renewed spirit of constitutionalism get the nation going



GWARA GWARA

A floundering false dawn

In a nation torn between immobility and restless energy, Gwara Gwara embodies a demoralised land of disorder and decay



SOUTH AFRICA SCENARIOS 2030

INDLULAMITHI

Indlulamithi South Africa Scenarios 2030 is a multi-stakeholder, research-driven initiative that seeks to reinvigorate our search, as a nation, for ways to create a society where all people experience a sense of belonging and solidarity. A South Africa where all have opportunities to build a better life. A nation where all people can feel they can influence those in positions of power. Indlulamithi seeks to facilitate an open conversation on visions of a South African society that is socially integrated and where communities and institutions aspire to eradicate the social and economic inequalities that cause exclusion and injustice.

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- There is a rapid escalation in the number of social protests, reflecting a growing separation of South Africans by class and income levels.
- Market-led interventions in education, health and the services of state-owned enterprises produce mixed results.
- Faster land reform is rolled out, but under-investment in agriculture sees declines in food production and food security.
- There is further erosion of trust in key societal institutions, even though many institutions improve their capacity and competence.
- Slow but persistent currency depreciation dovetails with increasing government debt risk.
- GDP growth averages 2.2% to 2030. Unemployment is reduced to around 22% in 2030.

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- Early childhood development programmes and the first six years of education are better resourced. This and the promotion of civic values in school starts to pay off.
- TVET colleges are overhauled and produce many more artisans while university education is made more affordable. More young people pursue livelihoods independent of government and big corporations.
- Better recruiting, training and support create a more capable and productive public service – and this increases public trust in key societal institutions.
- Global credit rating agencies upgrade South Africa as foreign investments increase.
- Faster urban and rural land redistribution, and better support for emerging farmers, boost agricultural production, food security and urban integration.
- From 2020, economic growth is more solid and predictable: GDP growth averages 4.5% to 2030.
- The unemployment rate is reduced by about 1% per year, reaching 16% in 2030.

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- Many key institutions are only partially 'liberated' – and some quickly get 'recaptured' by newly emerging elites.
- Destructive battles within most of the major political parties flare up, but opposition parties are able to form a coalition government between 2024 and 2029.
- After the 2024 elections, many public institutions are returned to functionality and, after prolonged and fierce debate, the number of provinces is reduced to six.
- Income inequality exceeds even the high levels of the 2010s.
- The post-2024 coalition government is increasingly controlling and individual freedoms are curtailed.
- GDP growth averages 1.5% over the decade, with some periods of deep recession.
- Unemployment never falls below 25% – and actually increases towards the end of the 2020s.