

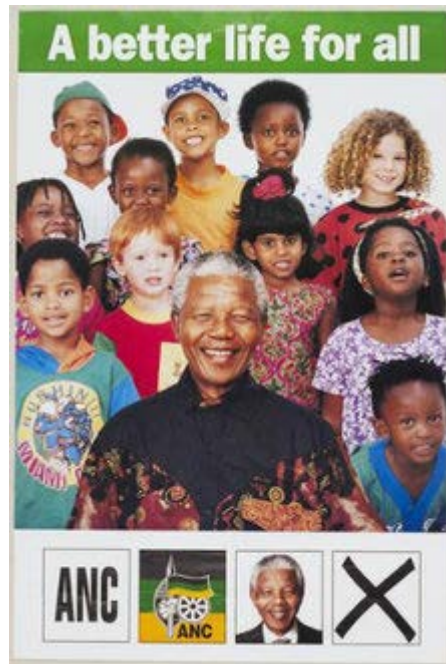
# The ANC and Social Security: The Good, The Bad and The Unacknowledged

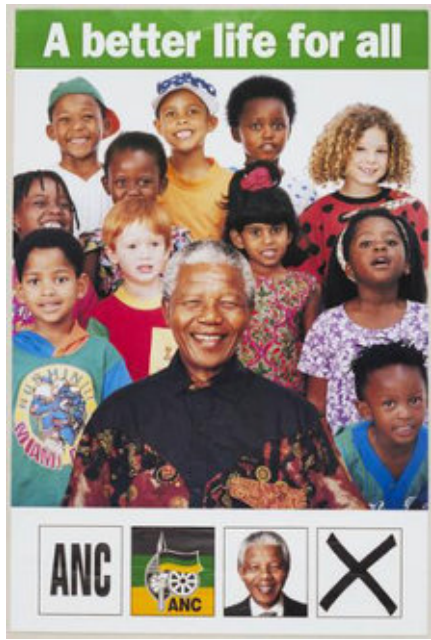
Social Protection in South Africa: the evolution of welfare policies and  
practices

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR**

**JOBS  
PEACE  
FREEDOM**







[from] *A Better Life for All*

- *“Pensions and grants due to people will be assured and allocated through post offices, banks, building societies or other outlets which are easy for rural people to use”*

# RDP ambivalence

*'**Social safety net.** Social assistance in the form of cash or in-kind benefits should be given to those most at risk.'*

*'Although a much strong welfare system is needed to support all the vulnerable, the old, the disabled and the sick who currently live in poverty, a system of "handouts" for the unemployed should be avoided.'*

# Outline of lecture

1. Evolution of social protection policies from the 1920s to 1993
2. Evolution of social protection policies since 1994
  - expansion
  - technology
  - architecture
  - impact
  - shortcomings
  - ideology
3. A 'new politics of distribution'

# 'the basis of a remarkable welfare state'

- 1928 Old Age Pensions Act
- 1931 Old Age Pensions Amendment Act
- 1935 *Social Welfare section created in Department of Labour*
- 1936 Blind Persons Act
- 1937 *New separate Department of Social Welfare established*
- 1937 Invalidity Pensions Scheme implemented
- 1937 Childrens Act
- 1937 Unemployment Benefits Act



# Use of fiscus for redistribution 1975-93

- 1975 per cap Africans received 12% of social spending on whites
- 1993 per cap Africans received 69% of social spending on whites

1975 whites received 50% of total social expenditure

1990 whites received 32% of total social expenditure

1993 whites received 17% of total social expenditure

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# Social policy formulation in the 1990s

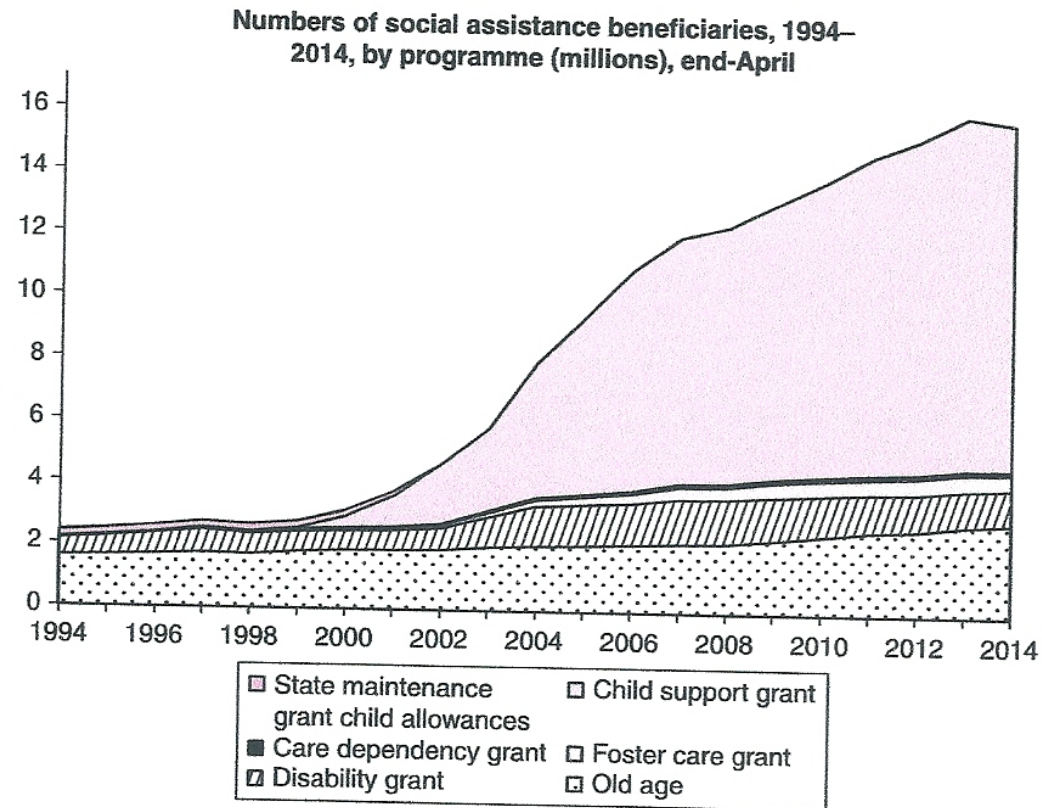
- 1996 (Chikane) *Committee for Restructuring of Social Security*
- 1996 (Lund) *Committee for Child and Family Support*
- 1997 PSC's *Investigation into the Delivery of Social Services*
- 1997 Department's *White Paper for Social Welfare*

# Evolution of social welfare policy since 1994

Key aspects of the evolution of social protection policies since 1994:

- expansion
- technology
- architecture
- impact
- shortcomings
- ideology

# Expansion of social assistance provision



# Expansion of coverage and costs

2000/1	spending on social assistance R18 bn = 2% of GDP
2009/10	spending on social assistance R94 bn = 3.5% of GDP
1994	2.6 million people received pensions & grants
2015	18.9 million people receive pensions & grants
2015	44% of all households receive grant or pension In Eastern Cape & Limpopo, 60% of households receive grant or pension

# A new politics of distribution

The 'rise and rise of social protection'

A politics that is pro-poor *and* neoliberal

The case for a basic income grant, variously:

- pragmatic
- humane
- radical