

## Provincial Statistics (Part 2) - Eastern Cape

1995

Embargo: 11:00

Date: 20 February 1997

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### **EASTERN CAPE HAS ADULT LITERACY RATE OF ONLY 72,3%**

*According to a Central Statistical Service (CSS) report entitled **Provincial Statistics 1995 (report number 00-90-02)**, the Eastern Cape has the second lowest life expectancy (60,7 years) of all the provinces in the country. The report indicates an adult literacy rate of 72,3% for the Eastern Cape, well below the 94,6% of the Western Cape and the average of 82,2% for the country as a whole.*

The Eastern Cape, the second largest province in the country in terms of surface area, is an area of contrasts. Bordering the warm Indian Ocean, the climate of the sub-tropical coastal belt in the east contrasts sharply with the semi-desert of the Karoo, which forms a large part of the province.

The Eastern Cape comprises 13,9% (169 580 km<sup>2</sup>) of the total area (1 219 090 km<sup>2</sup>) of the country, while 15,7% (6 481 300) of the total population (41 244 430) of South Africa live here. Its population density of 38,2 persons per square kilometre is higher than the average of 33,8 for the RSA.

The Black population in the province forms an overwhelming majority, namely 87,2% of the inhabitants, with isiXhosa the home language of 82,6% of the inhabitants. In fact, 76,6% of all speakers with isiXhosa as home language live in the Eastern Cape.

The population of the Eastern Cape has the second lowest life expectancy (60,7 years) of all the provinces in the country after the North-West (59,7 years), and does not compare favourably with the national average of 62,8 years and the Western Cape's 67,7 years. This fact is reflected by the **Human Development Index (HDI)** which was calculated by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) for the RSA and the provinces for the years 1980 and 1991. This index is a measure of people's ability to live a long and healthy life, to be able to communicate, to participate in the life of the community and to have sufficient means to afford a decent living. On the relative ranking of the HDI, the Eastern Cape compares well with other African countries such as Swaziland and Lesotho.

This index indicates an adult literacy rate of 72,3% for the Eastern Cape, well below the 94,6% of the Western Cape and the average of 82,2% for the country as a whole. **Adult literacy** in this case refers to persons 15 years and older who can read, write and speak their home language.

The **October Household Survey (OHS)**, a country-wide sample survey of approximately 30 000 households conducted by the CSS in 1994, is the source of a number of very interesting indicators of social development:

\* 55,5% of all dwellings occupied by Blacks are fully paid off, while 11,6% are

partly paid off;

\* only 28,6% of all dwellings in the province have running tap water in the dwelling - 8,9% of urban and 81,8% of rural dwellings still have to be supplied with running tap water;

\* most households (41,1%) still use wood as their main energy source for cooking, with paraffin second (28,1%) and electricity third (24,8%);

\* the total unemployment rate (expanded definition) for 1994 was 45,3%, the highest in the country except for the Northern Province at 47,0%. 40,2% of the men and 50,4% of the women were unemployed.

After the Northern Province (R2 569), the per capita annual income in the Eastern Cape for 1993 is the second lowest in the country (R4 151), compared with an average of R8 704 for the country as a whole. The inflation rate of 9,3% for 1995 is the highest of all the provinces and well above the 8,7% average for the RSA.

Although manufacturing is the main contributor to the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) in the Eastern Cape, community, social and personal, general government and other services such as those offered by non-profit institutions and domestic workers are becoming more important contributors to the GGP in the province.

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