Outline of Presentation

1. Introduction
2. Contemporary Capitalism
3. Technology, the Economy & Innovation
4. South African Context
5. Concluding Challenges
Introduction

- Creative Destruction
  - “One cannot embrace creation (that is, the emergence of innovative young firms) without accepting destruction (letting uncompetitive incumbents go to the wall)”
- Innovation-led Development and Growth
- Objective Constraints
  - “The world is currently going through the turning point. The future is now being defined globally and in each country” (Perez: 2011)
- Subjective limitations

Contemporary Capitalism

- Concurrent crisis's all emanate from the current mode of production and consumption, waste, and environmental degradation
  - Accelerated distribution through neo-liberal globalisation
  - Hegemonic World System, Unilateralism & State violence
  - Neo-liberalism, Corruption and the ‘hollow’ state
  - Monopolies, Oligopolies and Cartels
Technology, the Economy & Innovation

- “Technological change is, in its development and application, a social process, not an event & should be viewed not in static, but in dynamic terms” (OECD: 1998)

SA Context

- Persistence of Poverty, Inequality and Ecological Destruction
- Over-financialised Minerals-Energy Complex
- Neo-liberal Public Policy Position
  - Macro-economic fundamentalism
  - Tyranny of Neo-classical Orthodoxies
Domestic Economic Diagnosis

- The economy does not serve the interests of all South Africans
- Poverty levels are high and inequality is extremely high and persistent
- The economy is shaped by its history as a commodity producer operating in an environment of abundant resources, and is highly resource intensive
- Apartheid distorted the economy in ways that undermine both South Africa’s competitiveness and the potential of its people
- Power relations in the economy are highly unequal and this gives rise to outcomes that are highly unequal by international standards
- While there are pockets of excellence, major parts of the economy are uncompetitive, with high rates of concentration, high margins and high cost structures in both the private sector and state-owned enterprises
- The democratic government has failed to significantly alter the pattern of growth and development

Sources: NPC (2011)

NSI in SA: Normative Periodisation

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Source: Adapted from Maharajh (2011)
Table 2: NSI Performance Indicators

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- As a percentage of GDP
- As a percentage of GERD
- Headcount
- Expressed as a percentage of Total Researchers

Concluding challenges

- Increase focus on enterprises: Private, Public and Cooperative
- Localised assessments, Smart Interventions
- Open Innovation & Democracy
- Evidence-biased Policy Framing: Foresight, Audits, Competency Reviews and Public Oversight
References


Thank you, ...r

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