# A Qualitative Analysis of the Workings of Public-Private Partnerships in the Democratic South Africa since 1994: A Socio-economic and Infrastructural Development Perspective

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**ABSTRACT** The main objective of this paper was to analyse the functionality and performance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the new democratic South Africa. The study identified four characteristics of a functional and performing PPP, namely, (a) commitment; (b) hard- work; (c) clear intentions and expectations; and (d) honesty and trust and used them as a basis for analysis. The analysis adopted a qualitative exploratory approach and used qualitative data collection methods such as participant observation; in-depth interviewing; qualitative document study; qualitative case study, as well as qualitative data analysis techniques such as qualitative content analysis and qualitative case study analysis, to collect and analyse data. Purposive non-probability sample extracted from the population of participating government departments and was used for the purpose of this study. The analysis established that the functionality and performance of PPPs in South Africa could not be ascertained precisely due to the lack of commitment and hard-work; clear intentions and expectations; and dishonesty and mistrust from the part of both partners alike. On the basis of the findings, the study suggested the *commitment and hardwork; the clear intentions and expectations ; and the honesty or trust PPPs* model, that it is believed, if properly implemented, could lead to the improvement of the functionality and performance of PPPs in the country.