

## chairman's statement

*needs exports-led growth in order to strengthen financially and create the large number of jobs required to lower our alarming unemployment. In turn, such growth and job creation will help to alleviate many of our social problems caused by poverty, which our esteemed former president Nelson Mandela recently described as 'the greatest attack on human dignity'.*

*As examples, the social and physical maladies associated with overcrowded squatter camps and, of course, the scourge of persisting crime would surely ease.*

*As a result, we believe that the SARB should consider focusing more on the achievement of the upper-end of its inflation target-range of 3% to 6%, in order to facilitate the achievement of these other goals. Furthermore, it should structure interest rates taking cognisance of our very high real (interest) rates relative to many other countries. Doing so should result in a rand rate of exchange that will be more supportive of much needed exports-led growth, with concomitant benefits to the macro South African economy, our people and investors.*

*The situation with respect to persisting crime is both disturbing and distressing. The savagery of crimes and the related disdain showed particularly against women and children represent an alarming form of national degradation. In civilised society the frequency and ferocity of our murders, rapes, heists and robberies would surely result in a populist outcry and the marshalling of all our resources to combat them.*

*And yet, vast amounts of money are spent preparing for improbable future invasions from external enemies, rather than on fighting internal forces of evil that today are creating mayhem and heartbreak for all South Africans. We at Sasol join our fellow South Africans in appealing to the authorities for heightened focus on and increased resources for our law enforcement agencies, so that security and safety can be a part of the South African way of life for all citizens and visitors to our country.*

### **HIV/Aids pandemic**

*We compliment the Government on its long-awaited decision taken recently to provide antiretroviral drugs to South Africa's HIV/Aids sufferers. While various businesses, including Sasol, had preceded this decision with similar initiatives of their own, a state-sponsored programme is the correct way forward.*

*In the light of Sasol's ongoing pursuit of best practices in advancing new social, economic and environmental initiatives in support of sustainable development, we are further strengthening our response in the workplace and some of our host communities to the HIV/Aids pandemic. After completing a process of extensive research and consultation during the year, we launched a pilot programme of the Sasol HIV/Aids Response Programme (SHARP) in May 2003.*

*The intention, in time, is to fully implement SHARP at all our South African operations and into the wider communities in areas such as Sasolburg, Secunda and Phalaborwa. Through the SHARP initiative (detailed in 'Living our*