

**Speech by Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr
Ntopile Kganyago, MP during the opening of Mafube
Police Station on 29 July 2005**

- **Minister of Safety and Security Mr Charles Nqakula**
- **MEC for Safety and Security in the Eastern Cape,
Mr T Mhlahlo**
- **MEC for Safety and Security in KwaZulu Natal, Mr B
H Cele**
- **MEC for Safety and Security in Gauteng, Mr F
Chachalia**
- **MEC for Safety and Security in Limpopo Province,
Mrs M Semanya**
- **MEC for Safety and Security in the North West, Ms
M Modiselle**
- **MEC for Community Safety in the Western Cape, Mr
L Ramatlakane and Mrs M Ramatlakane**
- **MEC for Public Safety, Security and liaison in
Mpumalanga, Ms D D Pule**
- **Deputy National Commissioner of the South African
Police Service, Deputy National Commissioner H M
Hlela**

We have handed over the symbolic key to this great facility as testimony to yet another contribution that my Department is making to democracy.

Brick by brick we have since 1994 been laying the concrete foundations for the future of our children and their children's children. No democracy, however popular, has ever flourished in the history of the universe without the appropriate physical space in which to grow.

This principle holds true in this country today as it did in the ancient Kingdoms of Timbaktu, Zimbabwe and Egypt. This principle, that adequate and appropriate space is one of the first requirements of a democracy, holds true today here, as it does in the United States, the United Kingdom, as it does indeed with the international government of the United Nations.

Public Buildings are key to the propagation of nations as they provide the basis for social cohesion and the creation of national identities.

The Union Buildings, Parliament in Cape Town and buildings such as the one we are handing over today have embedded in them our often contested notions of national identity. As the department of public works we have been privileged to be at the cutting edge of the process of the decolonization and re-appropriation of such buildings. We have moved such buildings from the status of the embarrassing child to that which symbolizes in bold letters a new and deracialising South Africa.

On this project in particular, we have as the Department of Public Works spent about R30 million since awarding the tender to Black Economic Empowerment company Dlamini Projects in 2003.

This structure consists of a double storey administration block with more than 40 offices for various functions necessary for the fulfillment of police duties. There is in addition a family house constructed on site and 6 Bachelor Flats.

It is important that the old structure was in 1999 declared a National Monument and that the new police station is now

situated closer to all communities and is known as Mafube Police Station. Places of terror have today truly become forces for change and the building of a new South African ness.

So here we are today, playing witness to the construction, in our midst, of yet another centre from which our communities will draw the strength to grow closer instead of being apart. From this centre we are yet again using public buildings, particularly how and where they are located, as catalysts for common conversation and centres of community liaison. In this way we are bringing our country closer to becoming a truly deracialised country and one which, for all who live in it, is one they truly and publicly own in increasing amounts.

In 2004/05, the Department earmarked approximately R3 billion to undertake capital works projects including maintenance on national government assets utilised and occupied by national departments and their agencies.

Some of the projects we have successfully delivered to date include the R76 million Kinshasa Diplomatic Village and the R115 million Berlin Embassy on behalf of Foreign Affairs.

During the current financial year, the department commenced the design and construction process of two embassies, one in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and another one in Maseru (Lesotho). The total cost of the two embassies is estimated at R60 million. Plans are at an advanced stage to build an embassy in Abuja, Nigeria.

Also R55, 7 million SAPS and R171 million Justice projects were personally handed over to respective user departments last year.

We have already embarked on an intensive construction programme of four New Generation Prisons in Kimberley (Northern Cape), Klerksdorp (North West), Nigel and Leeuwkop (both in Gauteng). The total programme cost is estimated at R1 billion.

Each of the four prisons will cost more than R350 million and the Department has innovatively split the work into various subcontracts ranging from R1 million to R20 million each to allow emerging contractors to participate based on their capacity and capabilities. Approximately 40% of the value work in these prisons will be executed by the BEE contractors.

Other major capital works will include two construction projects for Correctional Services worth twelve and six million rand at Potchefstroom and Mogwase respectively, as well as two others for SAPS at Jouberton (eighteen million rand) and Amalia (eight million rand) – all in the North West province.

Both SAPS and Correctional Services in the Eastern Cape will benefit from the construction of the forty three million rand police headquarters at Bisho and a twenty one point five million rand piggery at the Middlesdrift correctional facility. A twenty two million rand Nerina Place of Safety is under construction for Justice. We are also upgrading the Forensic Science Laboratory in Tshwane.

In the Free State, we shall undertake, in phases, upgrading and renovation projects worth more than eighty five million rand at The Number Three Military Hospital on behalf of Defence. Others include the sixteen million rand upgrading and renovation project at Goedemoed Prison for Correctional Services and the construction of seven million rand and six million rand police stations at Verkykerskop and Phuthaditjhaba, respectively.

Again this we will do step by step, brick by brick to ensure that this country assumes its place of pride in Africa but also in the world.

THANK YOU