

**DEPUTY MINISTER NTOPILE KGANYAGO, MP, VISITS  
THE DPW STAND AT THE RAND EASTER SHOW AS  
PART OF STAKEHOLDER MOBILIZATION**

**DATE:** 18 APRIL 2006

**VENUE:** RAND SHOW, NASREC EXHIBITION CENTRE,  
JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

- Our valuable stakeholders
- Senior management from the Department
- Ladies and gentlemen

This year is our second appearance at the Rand Show and it is the hallmark of our public relations campaign as part of our communications to take the Department to the communities. We launched an intensified phase of our communications and marketing campaign in November last year and we aptly called it SOUTH AFRICA WORKS BECAUSE OF PUBLIC WORKS. This pay-offline, we felt, was an assertion of the role and the importance that this Department plays in the social development and economic growth of the country as demonstrated by some of its core programmes on display today.

As one of the key infrastructure development departments of government, Public Works has for a long time negated its centrifugal role in the transformation of South Africa by failing to aggressively market its key functions and their effect on the normalization and democratization of our society. That was until 2000 when the current Minister of Public Works, the Honourable Stella Sigcau made a policy speech wherein she committed her department to stepping up communications and community liaison in line with efforts of this government to use communications as a tool of development and empowerment.

Two years ago we celebrated ten years of democracy and freedom and at the time we boldly stated that since 1994 this Department had spent ten billion rand (R10 billion) to execute nearly eight thousand construction-related projects as part of its core functions of immovable asset management and construction industry development. The figures excluded more than two point five billion rand (R2.5 billion) worth of infrastructure development projects invested in the rural communities as part of government's poverty alleviation drive.

As we make strides to meet government socio-economic objectives of the second decade by 2014, the Department has stepped up its pace to align its programmes to Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGI-SA). We are part of the government team involved knee-high in efforts to halve unemployment and grow the economy by more than six percent.

To demonstrate our resolve, we have among others redefined our structure to compliment our strategic vision to be the world class organization. We have also reformed both our procurement methods and our financial management to bring efficiency and effectiveness to our business. We are putting in place the human resource plan to take care of our scarce skills and we have embraced best practices to improve our competitiveness including infrastructure development and delivery. Internally we have launched a management improvement ZIMISELE –GIVE IT YOUR BEST programme to sustain our reforms.

The awarding of an unqualified audit report to the Department by the Auditor-General in 2004/05 was a testimony to the incipient success of our turn-around strategy. The current successes of our programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme, the Re Kgabisa Tshwane inner city government accommodation improvement programme, the construction and property industries development and transformation programmes, are all early indications of our relentless repositioning strive. Like any milestone, this success signifies the end of one stretch but the beginning of another. We have sworn an oath to continue this trend.

I want to thank all our stakeholders who have joined us this morning and like to encourage this cooperative association well into the future. To Lindie Rasiluma and the marketing team, we applaud you for this wonderful opportunity to highlight the Department. We expect to see this Department and its products, and services showcased at every significant forum locally and beyond our borders. I invite all to partake in our hospitality. I thank you.