

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR NTOPILE KGANYAGO, MP, GIVES
REMARKS AT THE ASSCI – SADC TRADE MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

DATE: 08 OCTOBER 2007

VENUE: DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

**EVENT: TRADE AND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

- The Honourable Prime Minister , Mr Edward Lowasa
- The Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Marketing, Mr Basil Mramba
- The Honourable Minister of Planning, Economy and Empowerment, Mr Juma Ngasongwa
- The Honourable Minister of Finance, Mrs Zakhia Meghji
- Honourable Ministers, Premiers and other members of the Executive Committees from SADC Countries
- All SADC Office bearers
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me take this opportunity to extend my warmest gratitudes to the government and people of Tanzania for the welcome and reception.

As Africans, we are united in our vision to accelerate the reconstruction and development of our continent, so that Africa can take its rightful place alongside other nations of the world. Our diversity, rich heritage, and common historical experiences are a resource from which we draw our inspiration.

Thirteen-years into our democracy and freedom, South Africa is the youngest prospect in the continent as a result it is a country alive with possibilities. Centuries of colonialism and apartheid meant that the biggest challenge facing us today is the imperative to rebuild the political, social, economic and moral institutions to reflect the new age of hope as characterized, among others by the assertion that this is the African Millennium.

Nowhere is the destruction and devastation of apartheid more visible than in the areas of infrastructure. More than half of South Africans live in the economy characterized by poor,

inadequate and underdeveloped infrastructure which is a hindrance to their economic integration and social development.

My Department, the Department of Public Works, is one of the government departments mandated to rebuild the physical infrastructural prowess of the country. In this, the Department joins sister departments such as Housing, Transport, Water Affairs & Forestry, Sports & Recreation as well as Provincial & Local Government.

Currently, South Africa is instrumental working with other SADC members to rebuild the energy supply chain across the sub-region and beyond. Massive water and road projects are another feature on the SADC infrastructure development topography and some of these are integrated within the spatial development frameworks for further growth and sustainability. Initiatives to promote information, communication and technology interconnections are also under implementation and all these efforts are milestones pointing to the infrastructure development goals under NEPAD.

Consequently, South Africa is experiencing a hive of activities in construction and property development sectors as we race to meet the Millennium Development Goals. From public infrastructure such as schools, justice courts, prisons, hospitals and houses, to commercial airports, roads, hospitality industry, ports, rails, and sports stadiums, the country is under construction. Skills, capacity, expertise, materials and project management know-how, are all in great demand. The goal is to halve poverty and increase employment greatly by 2014.

Judging from the extent of our programme at this conference, I remain confident that these aspects and many others will be thoroughly explored and that the interactions will be inspired by the desire to promote trade and industry amongst African economies, within and across geographical spaces. I thank the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry for the invitation.