

**Deputy Minister of Public Works
Rev KM Zondi
5 July 2001**

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Handing Over of the Security Projects at Groote Schuur Estate

Master of Ceremonies
Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Steve Tshwete
Assistant Commissioner Luke
Senior Superintendent Rhooode
Acting Director-General of Public Works, Denis Mokotedi
Officials
Members of the media
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

This morning, touring the project and looking at the new installations, elicits various responses.

On the one hand it is sad that in our modern world we need to do so much at such a cost to sufficiently protect our people against violence and other forms of crime. We are not alone in South Africa to do this – it has become a world-wide trend. Leaders and their supporting staff, business men and women, sport and other stars, prominent and ordinary people alike, have to take greater care of the safety aspects pertaining to their lives and assets. It is also our responsibility as Government to ensure the safety of our President and Deputy President, our Cabinet Ministers, Directors-General and important support staff, as well as to ensure that the valuable State properties entrusted to our care are properly protected.

You have heard that the security upgrading at Groote Schuur Estate, the Parliamentary Villages and other official residences was now done for the first time since 1994, following evaluations and accelerated after the much publicised uninvited visitor to Genadendal last year.

My further response is one of satisfaction that indeed, as a Department, we have delivered the necessary infrastructure for the VIP Protection Services to perform their task. On their request, according to their specifications and newly available technology, I believe we have done what Public Works should do to support line function Departments in their pursuit of discharging their responsibilities. What is more, I believe that Public Works has done so in a manner true to our objectives:

- To accelerate delivery
- To enhance empowerment
- To promote training
- To ensure employment
- To work closely with our client
- To ensure effective durability and sustainability (Quality).

This security upgrading includes the security measures at Genadendal and Highstead (Project Songololo), fencing and access control in all Ministerial residences and at the Parliamentary Villages. The projected completion cost of the entire initiative is estimated at R34,2 million.

For this amount of money, we will have facilitated security services affecting prominent South Africans, including our President and Deputy President, and I believe also contributed to the safeguarding of valuable properties belonging to the State.

We have also provided work to affirmable business enterprises through our targeting procurement system, where we achieved actual contract participation goal of between 44,6% and 56,8%. This means work done by previously disadvantaged individuals.

One of the successful tenderers on a major component of this initiative won the contract on the adjudication of points for a prime contractor. They were awarded a full 10 points for a contract participation goal of 56% and 20 points for being the lowest tender. Most of the construction and production done by them, approximately 63% of the value of work, was done by an Affirmable Business Enterprise. This entity was also responsible for the procurement of materials, assembling, placing and final delivery of that part of the project. They run an in-house and on-site staff training programme through which an aspirant labourer could become a capable

production unit, able to supervise others and with a knowledge base covering aspects supportive of the actual construction, such as excavation and concrete works.

On the Songololo part of the project, we had plumbing, electrical, tiling, plastering, painting and metalwork done by Affirmable Business Enterprises, while the fencing of the perimeter also was awarded to an ABE.

As I have explained, we have through the infrastructure provided here to support security services, achieved empowerment, ensured that people are trained and have their skills base broadened, we have worked with our client, expedited the execution of the projects and the quality you may see for yourself.

It is my pleasure now, on completion of the work, to officially hand over these projects to the Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Steve Tshwete. Minister Tshwete – I trust that your efforts, the hard and important work of the VIP Protection Services, will have been adequately harnessed by these facilities, and I would like to express also my appreciation for the way in which this Unit co-operated with staff from Public Works and the contractors on this endeavour.

Together we are working for a better life for all – whether we fight crime or whether we build the infrastructure used to fight crime – we are in it together!

That is the spirit in which we like to work and the spirit in which we believe that South Africa will be the winner: United in action for change.

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