

**Deputy Minister of Public Works
Rev KM Zondi
20 September 2002**

[Back](#)

Official handover of the Khutsong Community Safety Centre

The Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Charles Nqakula
Provincial Commissioner Perumal Naidoo
The Chairperson of the West Rand Community Forum, Mr G Ratcliffe
Senior officials from Government Departments
Ladies and Gentlemen

The concept of Community Safety Centres arose as a response by the Government to two critical challenges, namely, the need to ensure the safety of our communities and the social reconstruction development and moral regeneration of our people following the demise of apartheid in 1994.

Deficient infrastructure and lack of equitable social planning deprived millions of people of a right to improve their lives by accessing essential government and other important services. This was the hallmark of the apartheid town planning policies, which deliberately and with cruel intentions denied people any decent standard of living.

The breakdown of our physical environment owing to racially-motivated and politically short-sighted planning for the provision of public amenities became a breeding ground for the moral decay and social disintegration which among other things manifested itself in an upsurge of criminal activities that undermined the gains of our struggle for freedom and which threatened our fledgling democracy.

One of the most important functions of government is to make laws that protect people and their property as well as enhance their well-being. The official opening of the Khutsong Community Safety Centre is a testimony to that commitment of the Government.

Being led by the SAPS this Center will provide a much-anticipated offensive against the criminals and their heinous activities. It will be a springboard from which the police assisted by the community will launch intensified campaigns against crime and its perpetrators.

Equally important, the Government creates an environment within which both our economy and our societies can grow. And the infrastructure such as this facility we are handing over here today signifies investment not only in the economy of this area, but also an investment for the improvement of our moral characters as well.

In response to the needs of its client departments, the Department of Public Works invested a total of R16, 2 million in the construction of this one stop multi-purpose centre for the people of Khutsong and the surrounding communities in Carletonville.

Although the South African Police Services is the leader user of the premises, the centre consists of other client departments such as:

- Consulting rooms for Correctional Services and Health
- Offices for Home Affairs and Social Development
- Courtroom, cash hall and consulting rooms for Justice
- Multi-Purpose Hall for Community meetings as well as for Arts and Culture
- Public Library complete with children's library
- Police service point, crime investigation section, four cells and an identity parade room for the police services.

During construction an amount of R9, 2 million was spent on local enterprises, sourcing materials, goods and other services as part of local economic stimulation and community empowerment. To spread economic opportunities even further, almost half a million rand (R454 200) was paid out in wages for local labour.

To ensure sustainability of our projects, the Department believes in, and insists on the creation of necessary skills that will be needed in the future to maintain and keep these structures in their pristine conditions.

This is because the Department has identified human resources development as inherent to its public works programmes including construction. This is part of the government's national skills development drive aimed at regenerating our skills base while creating mobility for workers and people in general within the economy. At Khutsong, 11 people received training (and successfully completed courses) in painting, carpentry, brick-laying and safety management.

By their very nature, public works programmes contribute to economic growth and social development by building necessary infrastructure, creating jobs, developing human resources skills and generally alleviating poverty to create a better life for all and push back the frontiers of poverty.

Central to the success of any public works programmes is a willing and able construction industry, always ready to dispense its expertise in creating a conducive built-environment and developing an expansive network of infrastructure, a key economic development indicator in any economy.

Government is the main consumer of construction industry output in South Africa. More than 50% of this industry that is estimated to be worth R37 billion a year comes from government orders including tenders and other contracts. Inevitably, government has identified the construction industry as an indispensable vehicle for creating empowerment and other economic opportunities for the people of South Africa.

In 2001/2002, the Department of Public Works allocated nearly one billion rand (R908 million) on capital works to black contractors, using reformed and targeted procurement policies to target small, black and women contractors. Today the Department awards 100% of its construction and maintenance projects within the framework of targeted procurement as per policy of the Department. This demonstrates our commitment to Black Economic Empowerment and the transformation of the construction industry.

We have come a long way since the first official opening of a Community Safety Centre at Thembaletu near George in the Western Cape on 18 October 2000. Today we have other Centres at Tshidilamolomo (North West), Galeshewe (Northern Cape), Nsimbini (KwaZulu-Natal), Centane (Eastern Cape) and Leboweng (Mpumalanga).

In addition, the Department is currently busy with the construction of the following major projects in Gauteng and North West:

- R65 million upgrading of Klerksdorp Prison (North West)
- R29,8 million upgrading of Benoni Magistrate Offices (Gauteng)
- R29 million upgrade of Pretoria North Magistrate Court (Gauteng)

The Department will soon award the following major projects for which tender has been issued:

- R61,2 million (estimated) Randburg magistrate Office (Gauteng)
- R37 million Thembisa Magistrate Court (Gauteng)

Discussions are at an advanced stage to build the following police stations in the near future:

- R5 million (Duduza)
- R13 million (Thokoza)
- R24 million (Soweto)
- R8 million (Diepsloot)

This list is by no means exhaustive.

On behalf of the Minister of Public Works, Ms Stella Sigcau we wish well all the Government Departments who will be occupying these buildings. We do trust that these facilities will be well used by the Khutsong Community and that service will indeed be the operative word.

Thank you.

[top](#)