

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. NTOPILE KGANYAGO, MP, HANDS OVER THE NERINA YOUTH PLACE OF SAFETY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**Date: Friday 25 May 2007**

**Venue: Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape**

- The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Adv Johan de Lange
- Speaker of the Nelson Mandela Metro, Ms Charmaine Williams
- The Chief Magistrate Mr. Rothman
- Programme Director Adv Lungi Mahlati
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

At the Department of Public Works, we have coined and adopted a slogan that says: SOUTH AFRICA WORKS BECAUSE OF PUBLIC WORKS.

At first this might sound as a self-praise or at worst, we may be accused of arrogance. The slogan instead represents our many years of experience which taught us that unless we do

our work properly, other government departments that depend on us for infrastructure, will not be able to do theirs effectively.

Therefore the slogan is a constant reminder that we are an important link in a chain to deliver value and services to our people. Our clients, namely Justice, SAPS, Defence and Correctional Services perform some of the intricate operations to ensure our safety and security and as a result, they require (and deserve) appropriate buildings and other infrastructure of good quality that only Public Works can procure timeously, on specifications and within budgets.

Today as we hand over this structure to the Department of Justice, we want to believe that it is indeed a good product, responding to the specifications of our client. The event today marks a relationship we have developed with the Department of Justice. This relationship has, over the years, been punctuated by glorious moments characterized by sterling delivery.

To improve the lives of our people, Public Works delivered a number of magistrate facilities on behalf of Justice to most of

our rural areas including Eastern Cape, using the Rapid Procurement method in the very early years of our democracy. We have also handed over pristine projects back to Justice including the Magistrate Courts at Khayelitsha (Western Cape), Tembisa (Gauteng), Kroonstad (Free State) and Madadeni (KwaZulu-Natal)

In the same period, we undertook the major upgrading of the Port Elizabeth Magistrate offices for more than one hundred million rand (R109 million) and completed the construction of the Motherwell Community Safety Center. The Nerina Place of Youth Safety Centre is another feather on our cap and stands as a testimony to the efforts of government departments to cooperate and work together in a seamless fashion in order to bring essential services to our communities and improve the lives of our people. We are proud.

I am struck by the beauty of the project but am not amazed. Almost two years later since work commenced in April 2005, the R38 million structure will stand as a beacon of hope to the people (and especially youth) of the area, thanks to the

dedication of men and women from Public Works and their contractors.

I shall now hand-over the building to my counter part from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

I thank you.