

The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr. Ntopile Kganyago, hands over a symbolic key on the occasion of the official opening of the Kuruman Police Station

Date: Friday 04 May 2007

Venue: Kuruman, Northern Cape

- The Minister of Safety and Security, Mr. Charles Nqakula
- The Premier of the Northern Cape, Ms Dipuo Peters
- The MEC for Safety and Liaison, Ms Themsi Madikane
- All the MEC's present today
- Members of the Provincial Legislature
- The Executive Mayor of Kgalagadi District Municipality – Ms Bs Mereeotlhe
- All other Mayors here today
- The Provincial Commissioner, Ms Mirriam Mbombo
- All senior government officials
- Our distinguished guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Recently the country celebrated Freedom Day to mark thirteen years of government's efforts to free our people from

poverty brought by apartheid. As government we recommitted ourselves to a pledge to work with the communities to build a prosperous and safer South Africa.

The official opening of this Police Station signifies another milestone in the improvement of our people's lives through tangible public service delivery. To us at the Department of Public Works, this building is more than bricks and mortar. Instead, with it, we have built a community asset that will increase the asset net value of the municipality while contributing to a fight against crime.

An infrastructure such as this one is also necessary for many other reasons. The government has committed more than R400 **billion** to improve infrastructure development as a way to activate economic growth and create jobs. Today we are delivering one such a structure. Also as part of our functions, the Department of Public Works uses the construction of such assets to promote job-creation programmes of government such as the National Youth Service.

Together with the Deputy President, Phumzile-Mlambo Nqcuca, the Minister of Public Works, Ms Thoko Didiza,

launched the Public Works National Youth Service on 14 April 2007 as a contribution to youth employment under the banner of Expanded Public Works Programme. Under this initiative, the Department of Public Works is committing to increase the figure of 20 000 youth already benefiting under the National Youth Service. We shall be recruiting 10 000 additional youth to come and work and acquire artisan skills during the construction of projects such as this one.

All the Departments of Public Works including the Northern Cape Department of Public Works, have committed themselves. Each province has undertaken to recruit, train and develop skills of no less than 500 youths. We at National Level have pledged to a number of 5 000 youths, altogether this gives a figure of 10 000 youths`. They will be given an opportunity to learn skills such as bricklaying, carpentry, plumbing, electrical wiring and others. They will also be paid a nominal salary during training. Many of them will be retained by the departments on full time basis at the end of their training.

On the occasion to officially open this police station, we want to congratulate the people of Kuruman, the people of Ga-

Segonyana Municipality for the acquisition of this R25 million structure which created job opportunities for more than 90 people during its construction period, many of whom came from the local community.

We want to thank our clients, the South African Police Service, for their continued faith in us to bring them essential goods such as this police station. I have been present with the Minister of Safety and Security, Mr. Charles Nqakula, on many instances to hand over similar projects to the communities like in Batho near Bloemfontein, Namahadi in Frankfort, Meloding outside Virginia. Less than two years ago we handed over a R42 million Community Safety Centre to SAPS at Galeshewe, Kimberly. We work frantically together because we believe that our people deserves the best services we can offer.

I shall now hand over the keys to Premier Peters, in time for Minister Nqakula to officially open this precinct.

I thank you.