

**Minister of Public Works  
Ms Stella Sigcau  
9 June 2000**

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## Address at the launch of the Tsitsikamma CBPWP Projects

Master of Ceremonies and Chairperson of the Western District Council, Councillor Melvin Manentsa  
Chairperson of the Humansdorp TRC, Mr Neil O'Connell  
His Worship, Mayor of Joubertina, Aubrey Louis  
MEC for Roads and Public Works in the Eastern Cape, Mr Phumulo Masualle  
Pastor Wilson Wogane  
Deputy Minister of Public Works, Buyi Nzimande  
Distinguished guests  
Ladies and gentlemen ...

It is not my first visit to this area. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March this year we celebrated with the community at Coldstream when State land was handed over to the Western District Council to further home ownership and facilities to people who never before had been in a position to own their own homes.

Today, in this beautiful environment, it is a similarly happy occasion, as we officially launch infrastructure projects already in the process of being created through the Department's Community Based Public Works Programme. As a community you have contributed since the inception of these projects to identify, locate, construct and otherwise work on the projects. Your local leadership, mainly in the form of the Western District Council, has actively pursued development in this area, building on the inspiration that you as local inhabitants provided through your own endeavours to improve on living conditions and to create a better life for your children. Your joint efforts are to be applauded.

I know that the people in the Tsitsikamma Cluster, spreading between Humansdorp and Joubertina, of whom almost 70% are living in rural settlements, are using the potential development opportunities offered by the rich arable land and tourist interest to add value to local produce, *albeit* on a small scale. I also believe that basic facilities will assist you to turn your activity to viable business entrepreneurship.

This area has been selected for rural development because of the existing poor socio-economic circumstances of the broader community residing here. Our analysis told us that in the TRC area of Humansdorp, only 11,7% of the people are earning more than R3 500 per month. The employment in the area is primarily seasonal, which means that the income is not evenly spread throughout the year. We also learnt that 50% of the families have female heads of the households and that services are below the RDP standards, mainly in the rural areas, causing people to travel long distances to access infrastructure and facilities in towns.

It is because Government understands your plight, the distance, time and effort involved in accessing services from offices, financial institutions and businesses, that a programme such as the Community Based Public Works Programme is targeting your area to bring relief for the dire poverty by creating infrastructure. Already employment has been provided to 250 people, including 82 women, 143 youth and 10 disabled people.

In this area, where more than half the people have an income of less than R1 000 per month and close on 50% of the rural people are unemployed, each new development and the accompanying new opportunities created, provide improvement of living conditions.

For the current and previous financial years, the Community Based Public Works Programme has provided for 18 infrastructure related projects to be constructed in the Tsitsikamma Cluster. These 18 projects account for almost R5 million of the total allocation of just more than R18,7 million that the Western District Council was allocated from the Community Based Public Works Programme.

Let us reflect on some of these projects:

**The Ravinia Community Hall** in the area of Joubertina. This project is in the implementation stage. To date an amount of R32 439.56 has been spent on labour only. And local labour participation from the community constitutes 44% of this achievement. Thus far, 9 women (35%) and 18 youth (69%) have been working on this project. It is a project aimed at a result of improved social cohesion in the community, providing a facility through which the community could be brought together for social interaction, events, meetings, functions and celebrations as well as any other community need.

The **Joubertina Production Centre**, where implementation is currently at the building stage, provides improved access to market facilities. This means that local community members will be able to sell their produce from an accessible facility. The amount allocated for this project is R547 000.00 of which R191 450.00 will be spent on local labour. This in its own turn, will provide a boost to the local economy. The social indicators on this project are that 38 people will be employed in the construction phase, of whom 10 will be skilled or semi-skilled, one job opportunity will be created for a disabled person and six currently unemployed local youths would find temporary employment. Nineteen currently unemployed local women, five of them heads of households with dependants, will also be employed during construction. At least five permanent jobs will emanate from this project. The primary beneficiaries of this project will be the people who are directly involved in projects, conducting the different businesses from this centre. I am told that a group of women have already started a bakery and confectionery, some others a sewing business and another group are intending to operate a hair salon from these premises. As secondary beneficiaries the dependants of these entrepreneurs will benefit. At present the bakery and confectionery group supports 21 people from their income, sales from the sewing and clothing business support another 25 people and the group from the hair salon is taking care of 33 dependants.

**The Tsitsikamma Sanddrift Production Centre** is being constructed at a projected budget of R430 000.00, with a labour component of R150 000.00. At the moment the work here is at a land and soil excavation stage, to remove clay and ensure proper compacting for the building to stand on. A total number of 38 labourers are envisaged to work on this project, with 10 being skilled or semi-skilled workers, one disabled worker, six local currently unemployed youths and 19 local community women of whom four are heads of their households. This project is set to create 10 permanent sustainable jobs. These facilities will provide mainly for women to produce goods for the market and already a group of women who had started a sewing project, a bakery and an Old Age Facility, intend to make use of it. The income from these initiatives currently supports 43 people from the sewing project, 24 dependants from the bakery and 91 beneficiaries from the Old Age Facility, which could be expanded upon with the better access to infrastructure.

**The Sanddrift Multi-purpose Centre (Phase II)** is also a social cohesion project with the ultimate purpose of drawing the community together and promoting social interaction at all levels. It is currently in soil excavation stage. The projected budget for this project is R420 000.00 and from this the labour component will account for R105 000.00. It is projected that 40 people will be employed on the construction of this project: 12 being skilled or semi-skilled, one disabled and six youth job opportunities are foreseen while 20 women could be employed of whom at least three will be heading households with dependants. This project should result in at least two sustainable, permanent jobs created.

The last project I want to refer to is **the Kareedouw Irrigation Network**. This is a directly productive project which means that it enhances the production of local farming produce by the farming community, which they can market and use at home as well. It is a labour intensive project in its implementation stage, where the piping is being put in. The projected total budget for the irrigation is R130 792.00, earmarking R40 000.00 for local labour. The total number of people employed on this project will be 32, including 13 skilled or semi-skilled workers, one disabled, 12 local youths and 16 women from the community. This project will as such not yield a permanent job, but it will lead to local development and a boost in the local economy – derived not only from the skills training during the installation, but also from the wages received and the improved production on the farm. It is calculated that more than 550 people will benefit from this project in the longer term.

These projects, and the remaining thirteen that we have not spoken about today, will definitely impact on improved conditions for the communities in this area. Along with each project comes training, which improves the skill of participants to put to future use. The facilities created will also contribute to increased local economic activity, which in itself, stimulates further development and opens up new opportunities.

I trust that you will continue to work as hard as you have done up to now, and even find ways of further innovation, to ensure that this area becomes part of a growing economy to the benefit of our country. From the Community Based Public Works Programme we always say: "Planting together, harvesting together", and I wish that your work here will indeed be a plentiful harvest.

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