

**Minister of Public Works**  
**Mr J Radebe**  
**13 April 1999**

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## **Official Hand-Over of the Nseleni Rural Anti-Poverty Programme(RAPP) Cluster Projects Dondotha**

### Ceremonial Greetings

I am indeed extremely pleased to be with you today in this beautiful province of KwaZulu Natal. I believe our gathering here today is a particularly joyous occasion as we hand-over R8 million projects to the Nseleni communities here at Dondotha. We celebrate the hard-earned fruits of our young democracy. These projects are also a practical demonstration and living proof of the success of our collective efforts to bring back peace and prosperity to this province. Together we have laid the foundations for a better life for all the people of this area, our province of Kwazulu Natal and the country as a whole.

Through working together on this Rural Anti-Poverty Programme(RAPP) we have demonstrated our resolve not to waver in our commitment to uproot poverty and address the plight of rural communities caused by decades of Apartheid rule and centuries of colonialism. We have held high the proud tradition of this great nation, to persist and persevere in our struggle until victory dawns.

Today we celebrate another victory. The victory of hope over despair. We will not stop here at Dondotha, we will not rest until hunger, suffering, deprivation and abject poverty is wiped from every green hill and valley of this province. Every school that we have built is a lesson in the triumph of hope over despair. Every bridge that we have built leads us to new opportunities; opportunities for rebuilding our communities, restoring the historic ties that bind us together as a nation. Every sports field that has been developed provides a new training ground for our youth to play together, to grow together, to triumph together over the many challenges that face young people in the difficult times in which we live. We will triumph over despair because we have taken destiny into our own hands. Every plant that grows in the community gardens that we have cultivated feeds and nourishes the spirit of our nation. It restores the pride and dignity that will give birth to many generations of nation-builders.

We draw inspiration today from gathering here at Dondotha (KwaMthethwa) where our king, nation builder, internationally acclaimed military strategist and founder of the Zulu nation walked the hillocks and crossed the rivers of this beautiful land.

Lapha ngisho  
Isilo sakwa Dukuza:  
uDlungwane ka Ndaba  
Odlunge eManxulumeni  
Kwaze kwasa aManxulume  
Esibikelana  
Ilembe eleqa amanye  
Ngokukhalipha  
Unodumehlezi Ka Menzi

KwaMthethwa is renowned for the hospitality that nurtured the young "Unodum' ehlezi kaMenzi" to be a powerful military strategist and a leader of a disciplined army. It was in these fields that he mastered the art of war. He introduced the short stabbing spear, war games and discarded sandals. He became an assiduous disciplinarian, teaching new evolutions in rapid massing and deployment; he split them into three groups - a central, compact, large group with two smaller ones on each flank, deployed into encircling horns. This was the beginning of the famous central "head" and "chest" formations with the outflung "horns" which became the characteristic Zulu battle array.

Today, we celebrate and reconnect with that proud tradition. The horn formations we make, encircle and drive out poverty and suffering from these hills and plains. We join together in battle against the common enemy of despair and our battle cry is that we will triumph over all the obstacles to development, prosperity, peace and security for all our people.

Dondotha today provides us with opportunities that can be harnessed to fight poverty. The creativity and the discipline, which prevailed among the peers of King Shaka at that tender age, can be marshalled for the war

against poverty today. What we have achieved at Dondotha will become a reality elsewhere tomorrow. Our success here is closely tied to our success in the surrounding areas and other provinces. We are sending out a positive message to all rural communities that we are making a difference to the lives of ordinary citizens.

History provides us with the confidence that integrated rural development based on sustainable programmes and projects can make a difference to the plight of our people. My Department of Public Works has introduced programmes that instil self-esteem, self-help and self-reliance to communities. These programmes encourage partnerships between different spheres of government, partnerships between communities and government and partnerships between local communities and business to develop the potential of local economic development nodes.

Allow me also to acknowledge the continued and valued support of the Provincial government of Kwazulu Natal in ensuring that these projects see the light of day. I also want to address a special word of appreciation to the district councils and tribal authorities for their excellent and outstanding efforts in the implementation of these projects. Your hardwork, dedication and commitment is indeed a shining example and inspiration to other local and tribal authorities throughout South Africa.

The ordinary men and women who have shaped and built these projects with their bare hands bear testimony that the greatest strength and wealth of our nation is our people. You have demonstrated that each and every South African can make a difference in shaping the destiny of our beloved country. I want to pay tribute to the spirit of co-operative governance with which you have given living expression to our vision of building together in the spirit of Masakhane.

Collectively we are sending a clear message that the future of this country can only be built on the solid foundations of genuine partnerships. We are also saying seeing the growing importance of developing partnerships in ways that enhance the sense of social responsibility of every woman and man, young and old, abled and disabled, black and white and urban and rural South African. Each one of us can and must make a difference.

I want to pay a special tribute to the partnership that has developed between National, Provincial and local governments, communities and traditional leaders in securing the delivery of these projects. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that communities take ownership of these assets and utilise them to the optimum. Let us also through this partnership ensure that these community assets are cared for. It is only through committing ourselves to this process that we can reverse the horrible legacy of skewed development and social dysfunction that has ravaged the social and moral fabric of our society.

The Department of Public Works through its Community Based Public Works Programme has championed one of government's key RDP initiatives in combating poverty. This programme is aimed at sustainable poverty alleviation in rural areas through the delivery of critical infrastructure within the framework of integrated rural development. I believe that the major achievement of this approach has been the participation of communities in the processes of planning and identification of projects. I am also pleased that there is increased co-operation between the various government departments at various levels in project planning and delivery. Most important of all is that you have all participated in ensuring that our valuable resources are allocated according to the development priorities that we are confronted with.

Through the process of delivering these projects, the many women and men who have participated have had a valuable opportunity to acquire new skills and training. This development of our human capital is a cornerstone of our government's Reconstruction and Development Programme. I am especially happy that so many single-women headed households are benefiting from this programme. I can assure you that it is only through the participation of every able person in our communities that we can enhance the social and economic equity and make a serious impact on poverty in our rural areas.

Steadily we are winning the battle to ensure that the political victory attained in 1994 is also translated into a socio-economic victory. Amongst the most fundamental elements of this socio-economic victory is ensuring social security for all our people through adequate provision of poverty alleviation mechanisms and the creation of opportunities for gainful economic activity. Given the enormous disparities that we have inherited, the challenge of uprooting poverty and creating jobs is by no means an easy task. It is nevertheless a task to which we all have committed ourselves and we will pursue it to its ultimate end.

I want to assure you that Public Works programmes as one of the key poverty alleviation and job creation instruments of government will continue to play the critical role of providing a social safety net for the most vulnerable and the poorest of the poor. It will simultaneously continue to create the infrastructure required for sustainable development.

The Rural Anti-Poverty Programme(RAPP) out of its allocation of R85 million has created more than 14 000 temporary and 3840 sustainable jobs. This is primarily targeted at provinces with the highest concentration of poverty pockets. In Kwa Zulu Natal there are 61 projects worth R23 million will translate into 4 267 jobs in the construction phase and thereafter 1 280 sustainable jobs. The 16 projects worth R8million in the Nseleni area has created work for more than 650 people in the construction phase and created more than 400 sustainable jobs. Almost 4000 families are benefiting in a community comprising approximately 1,3 million people. Projects in Nseleni include 8 schools, 2 multi-purpose centres, a market project, a community spring protection, 2 community gardens, a community centre & crèche and sport centre.

The quality of productive community assets created is highly impressive and should lay a solid foundation for kick-starting the local economies. These projects have also addressed our strategic objectives of strengthening social cohesion through getting communities to work together and overcome the effects of violence and social tension. In this way we are directly contributing to the attainment of government's socio-economic objectives and building a better life for all.

The Community Based Public Works Programme(CBPWP) is succeeding because rural communities here at Nseleni in Kwazulu Natal, In Ha Ramogale in the Northern Province and Malepelepe in the eastern cape are exercising their hard-earned democratic right. They make critical decisions that have a bearing on the success or failure of plans and developments on the local level.

I want to pay tribute to the commitment and dedication of this community. Without you these projects would never have succeeded. Your commitment further encourages our government to intensify the fight to uproot the scourge of poverty.

I want to assure the people of Nseleni that delivery of Public Works projects to rural communities will be intensified through the allocation of the R274 million and future anti-poverty allocations. We will deliver to ensure that the quality of your lives is improved. Together, we are fighting poverty. Together, we are fighting despair. Together, we are building a new future and new hope for all the people of KwaZulu Natal and our beloved country as a whole.

I thank you!

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