

**Minister of Public Works  
Ms Stella Sigcau  
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## **GCIS Media Briefing**

### **THE INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY "TARGETING THE POOREST OF THE POOR"**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP), is a poverty alleviation programme focusing on job creation and infrastructure development as part of government's focus on rural development and fighting poverty.

#### **THE COMMUNITY BASED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (CBPWP)**

By design it targets the poorest of the poor in rural areas changing the lives of people by creating assets that stimulate local economic and social development. This results in mainly temporary employment opportunities being created for those who were systematically pushed to the fringes of society.

Through this programme millions of people are empowered to take charge of their own destiny by freeing their potential. This programme therefore complements and supports government's Integrated and Sustainable Rural Development Strategy. Since 1998 we have delivered and are attending to 713 CBPWP projects in the identified development nodes, illustrating the role to be played in the ISRDS.

Having been voted by the ILO and CASE as the best poverty relief programme in Southern Africa, the CBPWP has been improved to ensure maximum impact where it is implemented.

While the programme has created a number of temporary jobs, the programme has now incorporated, in addition, creation of sustainable, self-reliant and viable community projects. Together with the Department of Agriculture we have embarked on reviving irrigation schemes that have become defunct in a number of provinces. In the revived schemes, communities will eventually be in charge of decision-making, will determine whether proceeds should be used for development of health facilities, upgrading of roads, etc. We are quite convinced the Community Production Centres will play an important role in the ISRDS. For the coming financial year we have set aside R15 million towards the further development of the CPCs.

Twenty-three multi-purpose community centres have been provided for in the Public Works' budget, to provide a 'one stop' service centre within rural areas for government services to communities.

The 2000/2001 financial year has been a watershed year for Public Works. The media criticised a number of government departments, including my own, for not spending funds destined for the poorest of the poor. We responded and explained the reasons at the time, but we also committed ourselves positively to ensure that we spend the funds during this financial year.

It must be remembered that the funds we refer to go as far back as 1998/99, 1999/2000. In addition, we had to spend funds allocated for 2000/2001 financial year. This means we had to spend budgets spanning three financial years. So, while the annual budget for CBPWP is R374 million, this financial year, we had to spend about R1 billion. The good news is that we will spend the whole amount in the current financial year.

From the expenditure of this money in the current financial year alone, we have created more than 20 000 jobs in rural areas, mainly in the three poorest provinces. Of these jobs, 46% went to women; 43% to the youth. As a result of the infrastructure that we have developed, Ndwedwe, a small little known village now qualifies for town status. This will attract local investment and create local jobs.

We also anticipate that with the demonstrable success of the CBPWP, we will be allocated, as we will request, more funds to focus on development of rural roads from the funds that are available for expenditure in infrastructure development, to further support ISRDS.

For years now, provinces and local authorities have been making requests to upgrade rural roads. Expanding investment in rural roads will provide the basis of local economic development in many parts of our rural areas.

Ladies and gentlemen, my department now stands ready to deliver on our infrastructure budget. No longer will

you hear of under-expenditure in funds earmarked for poverty relief.

Let me share with you:

### SOME CBPWP ACHIEVEMENTS

#### \* Rural infrastructure created

In the three years, 1998, 1999 and 2000, the CBPWP implemented a total of 1 507 projects that delivered various infrastructure to rural communities. Broad breakdowns of these are:

Bridges and roadwork : 307  
 Water and sanitation: 246  
 Agriculture related: 196  
 Markets and taxi ranks, cr^ches and schools: 112  
 Classrooms and sport facilities: 506  
 Community halls and centres: 101  
 Other (refurbishment, etc): 39

#### \* Job creation

By the end of December 2000, job creation progress according to budget for the previous three years were:

1998/99  
 29 360 people employed  
 37% women  
 39% youth

1999/00  
 11 356 people employed  
 44% women  
 45% youth

2000/01  
 19 230 people employed  
 46% women  
 43% youth.

In terms of gender targeting, this programme has outperformed the public sector in women participation.

#### \* Rapid delivery/land rehabilitation projects

Projects for immediate impact on needy areas such as those hit by the floods were introduced. This generated immediate income to some of the poorest communities as well as created a subsistence skills base and acceleration of expenditure.

### EXPENDITURE

Using cash flow based expenditure management; expenditure on the CBPWP was accelerated to address previous backlogs during 2000. At the end of December 2000, expenditure on the current budget stood at R246 million (70,5%).

Public Works has demonstrated that the delivery mechanisms and financial management on the CBPWP is now effectively geared to successfully expend at a rate of R1 billion per annum (caught up on backlogs of previous two financial years). Should this rate of expenditure be continued, it is anticipated that the CBPWP will:

- \* Create approximately 60 000 temporary jobs through labour intensive delivery methods
- \* Yield a further 4 500 permanent jobs generated by the productive assets created
- \* Result in accredited technical training of about 3 000 people (5% of total number of people employed)
- \* Stimulate indirect employment opportunities.

### BROAD OVERVIEW OF PLAN FOR 2001/2002

The 2001-2002 financial year programme is underway with the following already having been done, being done or planned.

- \* Business Plan that goes up to year 2004 submitted to Treasury
- \* Multi-year funded projects already under implementation
- \* Rest of the budget allocated to District Municipalities
- \* Induction workshop with the entire CBPWP fraternity held
- \* Capacity assessment of District Municipalities, especially new ones, underway.
- \* Capacity building programme planned
- \* Planned interactions with the ISRDS fraternity
- \* Planned co-operation with the Department of Sports and other Departments
- \* Detailed Achievements Management Schedule completed and discussed with the CBPWP fraternity.
- \* Process to make Provincial Departments of Public Works play a role of secretariat to the Provincial Co-ordinating Committees has been started.

In terms of the nodal points for rural development announced by the President in his State of the Nation address on 9 February 2001, the CBPWP is already running projects in all but the Kgalagadi Cross Boundary District Municipality and the Central Karoo District Municipality within the he identified nodes.

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