

**Minister of Public Works
Ms Stella Sigcau
16 March 2001
Coffee Bay**

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Community Based Public Works Programme, Eastern Cape

Master of Ceremonies, Ms S Nduku
King Dalindyebo (Aah! Zwelibanzi!)
Chief Dubulingqanga
Chief Ngwenyathi
MEC E Gondongwana
MEC P Masualle
The Mayor of the O R Tambo District Council, Mrs Capa
Community and municipal representatives
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
Molweni Mzi Ka Tshezi!

I am sharing this happy occasion with you as part of an integrated approach to delivery, of infrastructure creation in our poorest of the poor rural areas.

We know how dire the need is for development of infrastructure in areas where the main source of income is generated by migrant labour away from the resident families. Only by uniting in action to effect change can we really overcome this backlog; together to create opportunities for employment and economic activity within such areas, as you have now done here at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.

The Community Based Public Works Programme has been the delivery programme of government to deliver - in the Eastern Cape - 608 rural infrastructure projects between March 1998 and October 2000. These projects ranged from labour-saving (cr^ches and pre-schools), sports fields, clinics, community centres, taxi ranks, parking and ablution facilities, to (access) roads, bridges, workshops, community produce gardens, market stalls, environmental protection projects, production centres and multipurpose halls and centres - all for local rural communities. In total, the Eastern Cape had an injection of infrastructure development of more than R237 million over this period. In the Kei District alone, more than R38, 8 million was invested in rural infrastructure during this period. This investment provided employment to almost 11 000 thousand people in this district.

The area falls within the Wild Coast Spatial Development Initiative implemented in 1996, and as such had been identified as anchor project areas.

I am glad to reflect that the intervention by the National Public Works Programme (NPWP), and more specifically its application in the Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP), has succeeded to mobilise the local initiative, to train and practically involve the community representatives in the projects. It has also helped to build the community leadership.

I have been told that the community representatives worked together admirably during the implementation of the projects, applying the key principles of the NPWP.

In this area where we are today, more than 1 500 people were employed during the construction stage of these projects, and workers rotated on a fortnightly basis. These projects we are officially handing over today were constructed at a cost of approximately R5, 43 million. It includes the link road between Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall, ablution, toilet and parking facilities, two schools and an art and craft centre.

The distance covered by the link road and bridge is 9,4 km. Some 882 people worked on this project, of which 342 were men, 540 women and 344 youth. My Department, the National Department of Public Works, provided R1, 5 million and the Provincial Department of Public Works around R2 million.

Now that the road is complete, the community rejoices. They no longer have to worry about being trapped on one side of the river by a high tide. They have access to transport to take them to shopping and service centres and they are now able to sell their artefacts next to the road to tourists to generate some income. The two tourist centres Hole in the Wall and Coffee Bay are now directly linked, shortening the trip of approximately one hour via the inland detour to a mere 12 minutes direct.

This beautiful Arts and Craft Centre where we are now, was constructed at a cost of R411 000. It provided

jobs for 74 people, of which 39 were women, during the construction phase. But even more important, on completion of the centre, many people can generate income from it through selling produce, craft or other items in demand by tourists. Also the administration and management of this facility will create permanent employment.

The Coffee Bay Ablution project, constructed at a cost of R1 million, provided employment to 120 community members, including 54 women.

At the Mathokazi School, where just more than R255 thousand was spent, 21 people of whom 10 were women, were given jobs and close on R65 000 was injected into the local economy.

The Ntekelelo School, at a cost of almost R270 thousand, provided jobs for 197 local workers, of which 38 were women and 85 youth. A three-classroom block with ablutions and an office was built.

You are fortunate in the Oliver Tambo District Council to be one of the nodes for the Integrated Rural Development Strategy - A strategy that will focus the ability of government in dealing with upliftment of communities. Communities themselves should play a leading role in pointing out the areas in which they need the most help. Our government's vision is that of communities which are a hub of activity! Fortunately for you, you have a beautiful coastline that should be exploited to the full as a tourist destination - with the help of the District Council, the Provincial and National Governments; you can revive your former status of being one of the prime holiday resorts along the coastline

The success of the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy depends on concentration and integration of resources. Above all our success depends on co-operative governance. The Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall projects show how to work together as National Government, Provincial Government, District Council, Communities and Traditional leaders. Therefore it is our collective responsibility to protect the assets we have created.

In conclusion, allow me to quote President Mbeki in his State of the Nation Address delivered in Parliament on the 9th of February 2001. President Mbeki made the following observation, "By what we do, we will ensure that wars, disease and underdevelopment are no longer seen as being synonymous with Africans. Our government, democratically elected by the people of South Africa, will do its best to live up to these injunctions".

Phambili Nophuhliso Lika Public Works olubandakanya bonke Abantu!

Phambili Nomzabalazo wokulwa indlala nobuhlwempu!

Phambili Nenguqu ekhawulezayo phantsi korulumente kaMbeki!

Ndiyabulela, Enkosi.

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