

**Minister of Public Works  
Ms S Sigcau  
17 May 2002**

[Back](#)

## **Launch of the Rural Development Month for KwaZulu-Natal Port Dunford**

Master of Ceremonies, Mr BW Mthethwa  
The MEC for Education, Prof NGB Ndabandaba  
The MEC for Public Works, Rev CJ Mthethwa  
Rev Mbatha  
Inkosi JM Mkhwanazi  
Mrs FS Gasa  
Mr M Zibani  
Distinguished guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Three centuries ago colonialists interfered with the nation building efforts of the great Zulu warrior King Shaka. The wars of resistance that ensued were waged throughout South Africa for a period of about three hundred years. The last chapter of the wars of resistance was the Bambata rebellion in 1906.

The consequences of colonial conquest and decades of apartheid reduced rural areas to enclaves of underdevelopment and poverty. The legacy of underdevelopment and poverty confronting us is the inevitable consequence of colonial domination.

We have already celebrated the 8th anniversary of South Africa Freedom Day. The people of Umlalazi know from their experience that gradually we are moving away from our painful past. Our democratic government through the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme is pushing back the frontiers of poverty.

President Mbeki has designated May as a rural, urban renewal and community development month to focus on rural, urban renewal and community development. During this month we are not only celebrating our achievements, but more importantly, we want to focus the entire nation on the challenge of advancing the growth of freedom to the rural hinterlands of our country. The launch of these Umlalazi integrated projects vindicates our commitment to a better life for all.

The National department of Public Works is on course in lending a hand to lift from the shoulders of our people the intolerable burden of poverty and underdevelopment. As I reported to Parliament on 9 May 2002, last week, for the first time, the Department of Public Works has spent just about 100% of the one billion and seven hundred and thirty six million Rand (R1, 736 billion) budget allocated in 2001/2002 for capital works and planned maintenance.

The good news includes that for two consecutive financial years, my Department has fully expended their poverty relief allocations for the benefit of the poorest of the poor in our rural areas.

Since 1996 the Department of Public Works, through its Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP), has invested more than R1,4 billion in building community-owned assets and creating employment opportunities.

Through the Community Based Public Works Programme, in the previous financial year that ended on 31 March 2002, the Department succeeded in creating 25 124 short-term employment opportunities with 10 627 of those taken by women, 10 300 by youth and 527 by people with disabilities.

In the words of President Mbeki the success of the ISRDP requires the spirit of Vukuzenzele. He said: "Today, millions of our people ask themselves the question - how can I lend a hand in the national effort to build a better life for all." Public Works, through its Ilima Programmes is championing the spirit of volunteers, the spirit of Vukuzenzele.

Today, by launching the Umlalazi projects we are inculcating Vukuzenzele in the psyche of our people.

The Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme harnesses government, business and community resources in an integrated fashion. The resultant synergy ensures coordination and effective use of

resources. In the spirit of cooperative governance my Department works with other departments, provinces, district municipalities, traditional leaders and communities in a united front against poverty.

In the true spirit of cooperative governance the Department of Public Works, the Uthungulu District Municipality and the Traditional Authority together delivered 15 projects at Umlalazi. This is the result of the implementing process being undertaken by uThungulu District Municipality as the Programme Implementing Agent (PIA), the local leadership and the participation of the community. All community members from all the five villages were involved in the construction of the projects. Emphasis was on the use of women, the youth and the disabled. All these community groups were represented.

The Project Steering Committees that were involved in the projects were capacitated to take over operations, management and ownership of the projects through training that was undertaken by independent trainers. These service providers provided institutional social development training that was tailor-made for the specific types of projects implemented.

The completion of the projects saw the private/public partnerships being cemented with different stakeholders. A private businessman who is also providing entrepreneurship capacity for the local people is running the Zulu Theme Park for a period of three years. The South African Sugar Association (SASA) has also supported the projects, increasing the popularity of the project by holding their Diabetes Awareness Week at the Port Durnford multi-purpose hall. The SASA also donated furniture and other equipment to the centre.

The Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) implemented the following projects in the Umlalazi area.

- An Umlalazi estuary access road to the beach
- The Port Durnford multi-purpose community hall
- The Port Durnford creche construction
- The Umlalazi Sports field facility
- The Port Durnford skills training centre
- The Port Durnford Community complex
- The Port Durnford Community agricultural project
- The Port Durnford Zulu Theme Park (Uthunzi Lodge)
- The Umlalazi Market Stalls construction
- The Port Durnford poultry farming
- The Port Durnford taxi rank and parking bay
- The Sports facility for Qantayi and KwaMhlanga schools
- An ablution block at the Qantayi school
- An ablution block at KwaMhlanga school
- KwaMhlanga, Qantayi and Mthokoza Schools.

The total budget for these projects was R9 432 853.00.

In the process of construction on these projects, 431 jobs were created on which 154 women, 181 youth and a few disabled people were employed. Most of these people had never worked in their entire lives before this project.

The Uthunzi Lodge alone has created 10 permanent jobs and 10 temporary jobs. The women of Umlalazi have also been presented with an opportunity to ply their trade at the lodge by selling fruit and craft.

The projects have to a great extent improved the lives of the impoverished people of Port Durnford. Temporary as well as permanent jobs have been created for the local people. The projects have opened economic opportunities for the people of Umlalazi and surrounding areas. Sport opportunities have been improved for the local schools and clubs that use the sportsfield. Participants also contribute a nominal fee that is saved for the maintenance of the project. All the projects that were implemented have addressed different areas of need for the local people.

The highlight of the projects is the Zulu Theme Park Uthunzi lodge that has attracted outside tourists to the area through the provision of bed and breakfast facilities. The Uthunzi Lodge at Port Durnford near Empangeni is a theme-park complete with sea-facing tourist accommodation in beautiful thatched chalets as well as modern-day brick chalets - all facing a pristine beach just to the south of Richards Bay. Part of the Umlalazi Poverty Alleviation cluster, this accommodation is constantly sold-out, particularly in peak season, despite a lack of telephone and fax lines. The marketing is all done purely by word of mouth and referrals.

The community garden has been linked to the extension programme of the Department of Agriculture for inputs that are to add value to the project like research, markets and training. Vegetable requirements for the Zulu Theme Park are being grown in this garden. This project has indeed alleviated poverty and hunger for the community members who participate in the project.

Currently there are six people permanently employed at the community garden.

The market stalls have provided four local people with entrepreneurial opportunity where they sell their wares to passing trade. The adjacent taxi rank is expected to enhance trade once it has become fully operational.

At the multi-purpose centre other activities are taking place, such as the sewing project where 4 local women are producing traditional attire for sale to locals and the surrounding areas. A clinic which saved the community a 10km trip for medical attention has since been established at the hall with the assistance of the Department of Health. Five local women are taking care of the children at the crèche operating from the centre.

I trust that from these projects we are launching today, even more opportunity will be generated, even more sustainable jobs and future developments grow to serve the community around the Umlalazi cluster. I trust also that you, the community here, will be proud of these developments and take good care of it and of the opportunity it brings.

[top](#)