

**Minister of Public Works
Ms Stella Sigcau
18 November 2000**

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Launch of Emsthezi Cluster CBPWP Projects

Master of Ceremonies
President Thabo Mbeki
Premier for KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Lionel Mtshali
Chairperson of the Uthukela Regional Council, Councillor BS Dladla
Other leaders and dignitaries
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

We are indeed honoured to have President Mbeki with us today at an official launch of Emtshezi Cluster Projects under Uthukela Regional Council.

Today's occasion is a moment of celebration and reflection. When we cast our minds back we draw the inescapable conclusion that an irreversible break through has been made to overcome the legacy of apartheid and build a better life for all. A firm foundation has been laid to speed up delivery and transformation.

The cluster has six projects that encompass the Hlatikhulu Taxi Rank, Market Stalls and Five Roads. In the construction of this cluster project, 176 women, 280 men, 159 youth and 13 disabled persons were employed. The indirect benefits to the families affected account for more than 3 100 people. Seventeen sustainable job opportunities have been created by the cluster project.

The significance of these projects lies in the improved access and mobility created for the community. Access and links between service points were identified as a stumbling block for development in the area, and through the co-operation of the Regional Council and the Provincial Department of Public Works with the Community Based Public Works Programme, the most urgent needs could be met as well as to build capacity.

This capacity will stand us in good stead for the continued integrated rural development strategy, where more line function departments will co-ordinate service delivery to communities. I am confident, Mr President, that the experiences we are gaining on the ground will inform our unwavering participation in the Integrated Rural Development Strategy which you initiated.

It is my privilege, Mr President, to introduce you at this historic occasion. You have come to your own people, who know who you are and your immeasurable contribution in the leadership of the South African freedom struggle. Under your sterling leadership and guidance the issues of poverty and renaissance of Africa have become pillars of government policy.

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