

**Minister of Public Works
Ms S Sigcau
19 June 2003**

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Handover of the Blue Downs Magistrate Court

Programme Director, Advocate H Mohamed
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Dr Penuell Maduna
MEC for Finance and Economic Development in the Western Cape, Mr Ebrahim Rasool
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Delivery, both of services to our communities and of the infrastructure from where these services are rendered, has been one of the most important drivers of government in our young democracy.

This beautiful building bears testimony to the turning of the tide in South Africa - Justice and associated services are brought to the doorstep of many people who could before only access these services with extreme difficulty, time wasted and cost expended on traveling far from their residential areas. The building of this court will also bring relief to the court rolls at Kuilsriver Magistrate's Court, while the residents of Blue Downs, Blackheath, Happy Valley and the Mfuleni area have easy access to the services provided.

Situated here in Eersterivier Road, this R22,23 million court building is a desirable service centre. The general approach was to design the buildings as user-friendly as possible as is reflected by the functional lay-out as well as the materials and methods used in this project.

The structure itself spans 5 500 square metres and has an unique floating roof feature, the design of which considered the strong wind in this area to which a normal trussed roof would be much more vulnerable.

The main entrance of the building, in particular the façade and forecourt, provides a framework of reference for the future development of a public square.

Accommodation is provided for five pre-trial interview rooms, six magistrate's courts, two civil courts, two regional courts as well as a small childrens' court. Suites are available to the prosecutors as well as offices for general and administrative services, including a cash hall and marriage room.

The vulnerability of victims, mainly women and children, have been taken into consideration as well - the design of this building providing for one-way glass at the two regional courts and intermediary rooms to protect also witnesses from intimidation. A kiosk and tearoom have also been provided for and the court is fenced by a palisade around the back and sides.

During construction, 31 Affirmable Business Enterprises were involved in the brickwork, plasterwork, plumbing, steel, groundworks, ceiling, roof sheeting, flooring, fencing, burglar bars and material test laboratories. In terms of local labour, 50 people were employed for general work and 15 women for finishing and cleaning.

Again, as is the case in all the contracts from my Department, Public Works has achieved the socio-economic objectives of government through specifying participation goals from the outset.

Colleague Maduna, I am proud to hand you the key to this building - may you also reap great success in providing the intended services from these premises.

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