

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

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Launch of Ndwedwe Cluster CBPWP Projects in Kwazulu-Natal

Master of Ceremonies
President Thabo Mbeki
The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Lionel Mtshali
Chairperson of the Ilembe Regional Council, Mr S Mfayela
Chairperson of the Ndwedwe Standing Committee, Inkosi TF Gwala
Other leaders and dignitaries present
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Together as community and participants in the Community Based Public Works Projects here at Ndwedwe, we appreciate the interest of our President, Mr Mbeki. It is our privilege today to share with him a celebration of what has already been achieved and a dedication to make our future a better life for all.

The Ndwedwe Community Based Public Works Programme's cluster projects were identified as the economic growth point for the village. The Ilembe Regional Council has developed an integrated development plan as well as a housing plan for this village. These plans encompass the existing projects by the Department of Public Works.

The integrated development plan will contribute towards the growth of this village - Ndwedwe should attain the status of a town within the next two years. This has been made possible because of the development initiatives undertaken through the Public Works Community Based Programme in partnership with the Ilembe Regional Council.

This project cluster consists of five projects: A taxi rank and market stalls, a new business centre, an access road, two schools and a community garden. The total cost of the projects is just over R3,9 million and 103 people have been employed during construction, of whom 51 were youth and 25 women.

The policies of the Community Based Public Works Programme, emphasising the inclusion of women and the youth have been adhered to. Sustainability plans have been collated by the cluster management and social facilitators. These will ensure that the projects are managed and maintained accordingly by the community.

During construction of these projects, training forms an integral part of the engagement to better equip participants for future employment and for the sustainable maintenance, management and operation of the infrastructure delivered.

Taxi owners as well as community members form part of the steering committee managing the taxi rank, while at the market stalls, 20 women have already registered. They will trade from this conveniently situated location in the hub of economic activities.

The new business centre provides opportunities for more than 50 people to establish small businesses of various natures. Training will be a focal activity at this centre and skills as diverse as carpentry, motor mechanics, sewing, security and computer literacy could be extended from here. A waiting list of tenants has been established and allocations will shortly be made.

The two schools are already in operation, with attending pupils. Each of the schools has three classrooms and toilets and both are registered with the Department of Education.

The access road provides an essential link for the community to the central business centre and between the different new community assets created, in particular the community garden where transport is imperative.

Quite a number of women are involved in the community garden. Currently the project steering committee is managing this project. On site training will be provided by the Institute of National Resources.

It is but a drop in the ocean, but the impact of these developments on the local community has a large effect on the actual reality of their day-to-day lives. We indeed have committed ourselves to fight poverty together and to speed up change.

Mr President, thank you for recognising the efforts by your people on the ground - it is these people who will

ensure that Africa rises in response to the challenges of the new millennium.

As South African citizens we are pledging our support and dedication to the high ideals you have mapped out for us; we are embracing the transformation and are committed to improved socio-economic delivery - with your guidance we know that neither insight or action will be lacking. We know that we will succeed!

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