

**Minister of Public Works**  
**Ms S Sigcau**  
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## **Visit to CBPWP projects at Ngcuka**

MBAZWANE

As Government, we have committed ourselves to continually improve the lives of all the people in our country - more so when considering the cruel, biased practices of the apartheid era, which spanned many decades and reduced many citizens to total dependency.

To restore the dignity of our people requires a committed and dedicated government, single mindedly focused on improving the quality of life of all South Africans, focusing on the needs of the 40% of South Africans who are living below the poverty line - the disabled, black rural women, the youth and other previously disadvantaged individuals. You and I know that the people from the rural areas have been the worst treated as far as infrastructure provision is concerned, over many decades.

Management and co-ordination by the Department of Public Works, has led to the promotion of Community Based Public Works Programme principles across all government departments, especially those involved in the infrastructure delivery.

The most important principles are the following:

- Maximum use of labour intensive delivery methods subject to maintenance of asset quality.
- Community empowerment via participation in identification, construction and management of assets.
- Human Resource development via incorporation of training and skills augmentation in project design and implementation.
- Maximum use of local resources for project implementation, which has also gained widespread currency amongst the private and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) sectors.

The infrastructure created here gives expression to the successful implementation of the Community Based Public Works Programme that is aimed at:

- Reducing unemployment by creating productive jobs and opportunities for Affirmable Business Enterprises using labour intensive construction methods in the creation, rehabilitation and maintenance of physical assets of an appropriate quality in an economic manner
- Providing education and training to unemployed people, especially women, youth and rural dwellers, to increase their chances of becoming self-employed or entering the formal economy. This training could involve vocational and generic training
- Empowering communities through building their capacity to manage their own affairs. This contributes to building and strengthening local government and other local institutions.

The prime objective of this policy is to maximize the number of productive and sustainable jobs created via government's infrastructure spending.

Your community members who participated in these projects - either during the construction phase or in the management structure of the cluster - not only acquired skills through transfer, but are also engaged in further training regarding operations, management, maintenance and sustainability of the assets created.

An amount of R11,3 million was invested in infrastructure development at the various projects of the Mbazwana CBPWP Cluster. In addition, a multi-purpose community center from where services to the community are provided, has been built for an amount of R1,14 million (R1 142 857).

In the current financial year, the CBPWP has allocated a further R3 457 100 to projects within the uMkhanyakhude District Municipality area as a node of the ISRDS.

At Mbazwane to date, the Public Works projects have provided employment to 1 318 local people, including 458 women and 413 youth. These projects span roads, a business center, community market stalls, cold stores and taxi areas as well as the multi-purpose community center.

These figures indicate a major contribution to stimulation of the local economy, not to mention the alleviation of dire living conditions in an area where the average income per household is scarcely R200 per month.

Based on the external evaluation of the CBPWP, its implementation has proved that it is an effective tool in the alleviation of poverty in South Africa. Within the CBPWP framework, the challenge of development and poverty alleviation is placed largely but not exclusively at the door of the affected communities.

It provides disadvantaged communities access to public funds, subject to some basic conditions, and to maximise their gain from this access the communities begin to develop self-reliance and self-sustainability. Access to public funds also addresses the issue of limited resources as opposed to unlimited needs.

The CBPWP, by design, also relies largely on the community's self-selection of its ordered priorities. As such it incorporates an ongoing cognisance of the changing developmental socio-economic needs of a community.

From the basic infrastructure provided, the neighbouring communities will benefit as well and this development will further promote economic activity in the area, bearing in mind that the roads and taxi ranks have achieved greater access.

I want to press upon you as community members, that the sustainable operation of these facilities is now in your hands - you should nurture it and ensure that it is used, maintained and even extended or adapted to suit your continued development.

I could mention that provision has been made on the MTEF for continued development in this area, within the more than R82 million (R82 228 047) provided for KwaZulu-Natal under the Community Based Public Works Programme in the period 2001 to 2004.

#### ESHANE CLUSTER

The relationship between the Department of Public Works and the Umzinyathi District Municipality (the PIA) began in the 1999-2001 financial year when R 10.7 million worth of projects were implemented. In 2000/2001, an allocation of R 6.1 million was made to the District Municipality for further projects. During the demarcation process before the last local elections, Umzinyathi was cut up into two (the other part being the Majuba District Municipality). On the other hand, however, Umzinyathi received certain areas that previously fell under the then Indlovu Regional Council. Eshane cluster falls under one of the areas recently taken over by Umzinyathi District Council.

The CBPWP projects that we are launching include market stalls, a multi purpose hall, poultry farming facilities, an access road and stream crossing.

Close on R4.9 million had been budgeted by the Department of Public Works to create this basic development infrastructure at Eshane. It provided employment to 500 local people, including 211 women, 196 youth and 3 disabled.

On the current financial year budget, the CBPWP has provided more than R5 million (R5. 002 425) for projects identified within the ISRDS node of Umzinyathi District Municipality. All these projects fall within the infrastructure grouping and account for mostly classroom upgrading.

Public Works has signed funding contracts with all the District Municipalities for the period ending in 2003/2004. While this represents a commitment to continued working relationship, there are specific responsibilities that municipalities have to carry out. And I will spell out a few responsibilities that, in my view, relate directly to Umzinyathi.

One of these responsibilities is about project management capacity of the communities who will utilise the facilities launched. When the CBPWP was introduced to the Municipality, there was mention of such concept as sustainability planning and ownership, operation, management and maintenance. We are, however, all aware of the paucity of rural finance and lack of institutional capacity which then impinge negatively on community facility sustainability. We look to the Municipality to assist in this regard.

CBPWP places emphasis on the implementation of productive assets as the idea is that communities must be able to generate income. For communities to produce and generate income, markets must be available. Our experience is that communities need assistance with market linkages. We believe that the municipality can play an important role here.

We are also aware that the District Municipalities co-ordinate service providers' fora in their areas. We would like to see certain CBPWP project related issues put on the agenda of your Service Providers' Forum. Our interest in particular relates to the issues of electrification of projects, start-up funding as well as Government Departments' utilisation of the multi-purpose centres on a rental basis.

#### KWAMDAKANE CLUSTER

Majuba as a district municipality has only come to being after the last local elections. With the exception of the 2001/2002 projects, all completed CBPWP projects within this municipality were initiated and implemented by the Umzinyathi Regional Council (now Umzinyathi District Municipality).

KwaMdakane cluster is one of the three clusters (others being Nondweni, R3. 120 367 and Keates Drift, R2. 228 972) implemented by the then Umzinyathi Regional Council in the 1999-2000 financial year. An amount of almost R2.7 million (R2 673 349) was provided for projects that include a community garden, some workshops, market stalls and a taxi rank. More than 400 (405) local people were employed on the projects, of which 100 were women, 2 disabled and 186 youth.

In KwaZulu Natal, after the local elections, we moved from having seven Regional Councils to ten District Municipalities. This has posed a number of challenges, some of which relate directly to Majuba. And I would like to point out a few of these challenges as Public Works is currently implementing R3 004 495 worth of projects.

The implementation of the CBPWP is a highly involved affair that requires dedicated capacity to manage effective systems. Where difficulties in this regard exist, the Department of Public Works continues to provide support and all that is required is co-operation and swift action on the part of the municipalities.

The Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) are critical to the CBPWP planning. The new District Municipalities then need to move quickly in initiating and finalising their IDPs so that future programmes can be conceptualised and planned with relative ease.

Recently at the Lambasi Community Production Centre near Lusikisiki, beans and maize were harvested for selling. I am happy to be told that the harvesting of the same produce has taken place here and that the committee is already selling to the markets.

I have also been told that the KwaMdakane intersection used to be a hub of informal activities before - activities such as women selling fruit and vegetables in the open air. The taxi rank however did not link to longer distance transport which is now provided for. These facilities are a response to your prioritisation of needs; the challenge that now remains is for you to ensure that it is properly taken care of. People will now be protected from the sun and rain and in addition, commuters will have easy access to products sold from here.

I understand that about 120 sustainable jobs will be created once these stalls and taxi rank are fully operational. What is encouraging is that there were 3 local emerging contractors who were involved in this project. It proves that our government policy of empowering our people, creating jobs in the rural area for community members is appropriate.

I also understand that the stalls surrounding this taxi rank will be used not only for selling of fruit and vegetables, but for a variety of activities such as sewing, catering, photocopying, faxing and a hair salon. The Department of Minerals and Energy is now adding another service to what you would be having.

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