

**Minister of Public Works
Ms Stella Sigcau
21 October 2000**

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Community Based Public Works Projects at Nkandla, KZN

Master of Ceremonies
Deputy President
Premier for KwaZulu-Natal
MECs
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

This visit to Nkandla is one that I have been looking forward to for some time. The occasion has arisen today, and we are very pleased that our Deputy President, Mr Jacob Zuma, who is no stranger to the area, could find time in his busy schedule to join us and do the hand over of these projects.

The Community Based Public Works Programme promotes rural infrastructure delivery to address and reduce poverty, create useful community assets and assets which are directly productive resulting in permanent employment opportunities for community members while at the same time empowering the communities to take charge of their development challenges.

Rural poverty and underdevelopment have been acute and distressing elements for the economic growth and social upliftment of the people at Nkandla. Inkandla cluster was one of the four CBPWP clusters implemented by the Uthungulu Regional Council, and the first cluster to be completed. Together with the leadership and the community, Public Works is proud of the response and co-operation that led to the delivery of the market stalls and taxi rank, the community garden and multi-purpose hall, the creche or pre-school facility, the two schools and access roads. The overall budget for this cluster was just more than R7,2 million. The projects at Nkandla created employment for 709 people, of whom 275 were women, 153 youth and 18 disabled.

The Inkandla Cluster Community Based Public Works projects form a first base of infrastructure development, almost a micro development corridor, linking various points of attraction from a community hub to the external world.

Deputy President, I am sure that you are aware that the Uthungulu Regional Council has already taken the initiative, apparent with the access road and linkage of the taxi rank as well as the opportunities afforded by renting out the multi-purpose hall, to develop tourist chalets that will ensure further generation of income and employment. It also opens up the rich tourism potential of the area.

This is a clear example of how the provision of basic infrastructure to rural areas - such as the Community Based Public Works Programme does - opens up further opportunities for growth and development. It is also an indication of the quality of leadership that now embarks on ventures from within their communities, based on new possibilities to start the chain of local economic growth and employment stimulation. Therein lies the most valuable asset brought to the community by the CBPWP: Creating capacity to take ownership of and dynamic intervention in their own development challenges.

As I said, we are proud of the infrastructure delivered. Of the way in which it was done, and of the subsequent future opportunities stemming from it.

In line with the Integrated Rural Development Strategy, the Community Based Public Works Programme has brought further refinement in its application. With the greater co-ordination at national level, the CBPWP is geared to deliver infrastructure that will serve greater numbers of people, providing accommodation to a number of public services from one multi-purpose centre and revitalising deserted or under-utilised infrastructure as Community Production Centres. The long term sustainability and management of the provided infrastructure is of the utmost importance. As has happened here at Nkandla, it is essential that money earned from the infrastructure, should be reinvested in the maintenance, extension and operational management thereof.

I do believe that the Nkandla community has participated in the creation of their basis for development. Now I am looking forward to see and hear of further achievements, and I am sure that the leadership here will meet the expectations.

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