

**Minister of Public Works
Ms S Sigcau
23 February 2002**

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Launch of the KwaMadlala Cluster

Master of Ceremonies
Inkosi Prince M Madlala
Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr LPHM Mtshali
MEC for Public Works, Rev CJ Mtetwa
MEC for Education, Prof LBG Ndabandaba
Deputy Minister of Public Works, Rev Musa Zondi
Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms N Madlala-Routledge
His Worship, Ugu District Mayor, Mr MB Khawula
Mayor of the Hibiscus Coast, CLLr NF Shusha
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

The President, in his recent State of the Nation Address, spoke to each of us as citizens about our collective approach to growth and development in our beloved country. He indicated that we should all lend a hand; that we should become part of the solution in lifting " ... from the shoulders of our people, the intolerable burden of poverty and underdevelopment".

I am happy to say that the communities within the Ugu District Municipality and the Hibiscus Coast Municipality have been working hand in hand - not only with the national Department of Public Works, but from within the communities themselves, their respective leaderships, the various institutions, local and provincial government. They have consistently been doing this over the previous number of years and this has led to the Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP), or Ilima/Letsema, allocating around R50 million to this area since 1998.

This means that not only have more than 100 infrastructure creation projects been attended to in this area, but also that more than 3 000 households received income for members employed, participating in the construction related jobs. These people were simultaneously trained to develop their future employability - both technical and institutionally. On average over this four year period, almost 40% of the workforce on the CBPWP projects were women, close on 44% were youth and 2,4% were disabled. The infrastructure created during this period, directly brings 136 permanent jobs, sustainable employment opportunities, to the households in this area.

We know that the people from this area also benefitted from the electrification programme and the water scheme, as these open up further development potential and even contributed to the successful implementation of the CBPWP projects.

Today we are handing over four more completed projects to the communities. These projects, falling within the development nodes of the ISRDS are:

- The KwaMadlala Community Hall, accommodating \pm 500 people, that was built for just under R1 million. Thirty one people were employed during construction and one permanent job has been created.
- At the Sozabe High School with 430 currently enrolled pupils, operational since 1976 and one of the icons of the community, four new classrooms and eight VIP pit latrines have been built through the CBPWP projects. These additional classrooms have relieved the problem of overcrowding from average 70 pupils per classroom to about 50. I do want to believe that the extra space also contributed to an increased matric pass rate of 21% in 2000 to 55% in 2001.
- At the Mashaba Primary School, four new classrooms, toilets and fencing was done through the CBPWP. This enabled the addition of tutoring grades 3 to 6 at the school, which now has 280 enrolled pupils were only 90 pupils could be accommodated before.
- Where we are now, at the Magog Junior Primary School with 505 pupils, the intervention via the CBPWP reduced the overcrowding from 86 to 34/37 pupils per classroom. The renovation of the entire

school plus the additional three classrooms and an administration block brought back the smile and pride of the community regarding this facility that is regarded as the foundation of education to the KwaMadlala community. We have listened to the Deputy Minister of Defence - herself a graduate from this school with its long history.

An important feature in these projects is the fact that collective effort by community members, parents and authorities, already contributed to the initiation and existence of the facilities. At the Sozabe High School, parents had built two classrooms out of their own pockets and at the Mashaba Primary School two classrooms and a kitchen were built through donations by parents.

This means that the call from our President is well heeded by your community - the concept of working together, of vuk'uzenzele (Arise and Act), has already yielded results in ensuring a better life for all in this beautiful part of South Africa.

Let us continue in this vein - let us develop a proud and dignified environment in which our children can prosper and grow; let us ensure that opportunities are indeed grasped and utilised to their full potential.

Today, I believe, we can stand proud together. Viva CBPWP! Viva South Africa!

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