

Minister of Public Works
Ms S Sigcau
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[Back](#)

Handing over of the Ndaya Community Production Centre

The MEC for Works, KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Mike Mabuyakhulu
The Executive Mayor of Ugu District Council, Councillor Mntomuhle Khawula
The Mayor of Vulamehlo Municipality, Councillor M Mbele
Inkosi Mkhize of Isimahla Traditional Authority
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

On 17 October 2003, South Africa joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty as declared by the United Nations in 1983. Poverty manifests itself in many ways. Significantly poverty is characterized by:

- Lack of choices
- Lack of access to essential services
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of resources including skills
- Lack of access to means of production including employment

When the government of national unity led by the ANC took over in 1994, poverty was the major challenge confronting us. Since we had both the will power and the business plan to govern, today we are turning the tide against poverty and pushing back the frontiers of poverty that seemed to captivate our people in perpetual bondage.

Rural poverty is more apparent because of many decades of colonial and apartheid neglect. Our response was to launch the Community Based Public Works (CBPWP) programme as part of rural development strategy with a bias towards infrastructure creation. The programme i.e. (CBPWP) goes into the heartland of South African most impoverished rural areas to build basic but essential infrastructure, create much needed jobs meanwhile dispensing critical skills for people development.

Since 1999, the Department of Public Works through CBPWP has invested more than R1, 5 billion nationally and constructed nearly 3000 (i.e. 2825) infrastructure projects. The implication of this in terms of poverty alleviation is that infrastructure was built where none existed before. In the process, about 117 553 jobs were created of which 46,1% (54 250) and 44,4% (52163) went to women and youth, respectively. About 2,2% (2550) of these jobs were carried out by people with disability. It is important to emphasize these numbers because we want to reflect the magnitude of a task at hand, but also to demonstrate the progress we have made as this government.

In the same period (since 1999), the KwaZulu-Natal Province benefited substantially from our investment and other efforts. In total, more than R303 million was allocated to the province for the creation of 880 physical projects (infrastructure). This managed to open up job opportunities for 36 888 people including 16 957 women, 15 824 youth and 843 disabled people. These figures exclude R70, 1 million invested in 2003/2004 alone that is currently under implementation. We expect more jobs and projects to be built as a result. The projects we build fall in different categories. Labour saving projects include crèches and water irrigation schemes so that communities can spend valuable time doing other productive work. Social cohesive projects such as schools, community halls and sport fields bring various groups together and reinforce a sense of community. Access promotion projects consists mainly of rural access roads that link villages to the outside world filled with commercial opportunities. Now and again we provide environment saving infrastructure such as storm water drainage and donga rehabilitation to prevent the scars of soil erosion. The most important category is the so-called directly productive projects, which ensure immediate access to productive opportunities and commercial prospects. The Community Production Centres fall under this category.

In order to address the issue of sustainability the department piloted the concept of Community Production Centres, which on the 25 November 2000 were officially opened by our President at Lambasi in Lusikisiki. The Centres are mainly agricultural in orientation and involve communal ownership and commercial activities. Following an investment of R50 million, 14 of these have been opened in the country including the Ndaya Community Production Centre that we are handing over to the communities of this area today. Through these

CPC's, many once-poor rural communities are now trading their way to commercial success, including international marketing and exports. Profits are reinvested in the business ventures for further growth and community development.

BACKGROUND OF INDAYA COMMUNIY PRODUCTION CENTRE

The Ndaya Community Production Centre was implemented in 1999/2000 with the budget from the Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW). The garden was developed under the Indaya Cluster, which also included market stalls, crèche, and installation of irrigation infrastructure (engine and engine house, pipes sprinklers reservoirs and fencing). An allocation of R795 000.00 (Phase 1) was made available for facilities in the garden alone. The garden was a communal entity available to community members who were interested in food crop production.

In the year 2000/2001, Ndaya community gardens were chosen as a pilot project for the Community Production Centre (CPC) concept, which was developed by the National Department of Public Works (NDPW). Under the CPC Programme, the main aim of the CPC was to develop community gardens into large-scale economic farming for communities. An allocation of R2.5 million was going to augment the implementation done in phase 1.

Both the IDT and the National Department of Public Works came into agreement that a start up fund of R250 000 allocated as part of the 2001/2002 budget be utilized for farm production. As a result the start up funding was used as follows:

- Land Preparation
- Purchasing of inputs, which include chemicals, fertilizers, seeds garden tools transportation of inputs, diesel garden tools.

The community has planted the following:

- Butternut
- Tomatoes
- Green Pepper
- Beans

For the 2002/2003 financial year, the National Department of Public Works has made available further funding of R400, 000.00. This funding is mainly meant to provide support to the community for activities that will lead to the sustainability of this 18-hectare farm. Already the following has been achieved and completed:

- 2 Reservoir Covers for the two tanks.
 - Fencing for the pathway.
 - Fencing for the reservoir.
 - Irrigation and water reticulation for the food storage facility.
 - Business plan production.
 - Technical Designer Fees.
 - Technical and Business Management Training.
 - Farm Manager (Salary)
 - Seeds
 - Labour for pipe irrigation and erection of razor wire.
- All the above assets have been constructed and the activities are complete.

Any profits made I am told, are divided amongst the (80) members and another amount invested in a fixed deposit account for further reinvestment into the project. All the profits generated will be used as a revolving credit to purchase seeds, fertilizers and chemicals and further be shared amongst the members as an income.

Given the investment that has gone into the project, it is gratifying to learn that business opportunities as opposed to mere jobs have been created for about 80 people of whom 71 are women and 7 are youth. Many have received both technical training and Business Management Training in fields as diverse as record keeping, marketing and business planning as part of the sustainability plan to empower the community to be

able to manage the programme effectively.

Building on the seeds that government programmes such as CBPWP planted, the President, Mr Thabo Mbeki unveiled a massive job creation drive called Expanded Public Works Programme on 14 February 2003. Concerned with a economy that was growing but not able to build correspondingly enough jobs, the President wants to see all government poverty alleviation programmes including infrastructure development ones, being centrally coordinated to maximize social impact. More than R100 billion will be invested in the next three years to create a million or more jobs, build necessary infrastructure and develop skills.

In the last ten years that this government has been in power, we have undoubtedly seen an increased urgency and sensitivity to deal with causes of, and eliminate effects of poverty among our people. We believe that we are on course to succeed.

[top](#)