

**Minister of Public Works  
Ms S Sigcau  
27 February 2003**

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**Opening of the Northern Cape Legislature  
Kimberley  
Northern Cape**

Deputy President, Jacob Zuma  
Premier of the Northern Cape, Manne Dipico  
MECs  
Distinguished guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

The national Public Works Department received a request from the Provincial Government for the acquisition of a suitable site for the construction of the provincial legislature. Numerous sites were identified and among the few identified, it was agreed that Erf 6981, Galashewe, Kimberley, would be the most suitable. The site is close on 30 hectares in extent (29,7112 ha), and valued at R888 400.

After approval by the Provincial State Land Disposal Committee and concurrence for disposal from the Minister of Land Affairs, the land was donated free of charge to the Provincial Government by the National Department of Public Works. All costs incidental to the transfer were also borne by the National Department of Public Works.

The main contractor in this project was Murray & Roberts and Northern Cape Builders Forum with an equity share of 60:40 per cent respectively. Fifty five per cent (55%) of sub-construction was awarded to local historically disadvantaged contractors. I am informed that eight hundred and sixty nine (869) people were employed during the construction of these new legislature premises.

I have also been informed of further plans of the Provincial Government to build a parliamentary village in the vicinity of the new legislature. The legislature is physically built near Galashewe - a low income residential area. Therefore, the construction of the legislature in this province has huge income-multiplying effects since it is physically well placed to promote employment to the adjacent residents of Galashewe. This multiplying economic benefit, the increased employment opportunities, is not incorporated in the numerical cost of building this legislature. This is a good example of how infrastructure development can provide not only jobs but also make a socio-economic impact on the area.

This is not an isolated case of land disposal to other levels of government. As custodian of fixed property assets, my Department continuously engages in the release of land for the purposes of national, provincial and municipal service delivery.

In the past 3 financial years (2000/1; 2001/2 & 2002/3 - to date) a total of **1 192 properties**, with a total extent of **174 971 hectares** and an estimated market value of **R262,8 million**, were disposed of by the Department, which generated an income of R90,98 million for the State.

- **1 003 Properties**, with a total extent of **82 464 hectares** and an estimated market value of **R49,8 million**, were released for **land reform purposes**.
- **70 Properties**, with a total extent of **1 906 hectares** and an estimated market value of **R20,9 million**, were released for the development of **low-cost housing and related infrastructure**, mainly to municipalities.
- **111 Properties**, with a total extent of **90 hectares**, were disposed of for **commercial purposes**, generating an income of **R83,6 million**.

The Department receives numerous applications or requests from the local government for the establishment or extension of community development programmes. Most of these requests are for the development of low cost housing. Examples of such transactions in this Province are:

- Uptington - approximately 50 ha of state land to the Municipality for the establishment of informal settlement. (Still in process)

- Port Nolloth - Several state owned erven have been developed into low cost housing for local fishermen and their families in Port Nolloth. (Still in process)
- Keimoes - approximately 20 ha of state land to the Municipality for the extension of municipal boundaries. (Still in process)
- Van der Kloof - various state owned properties to be transferred to the Municipality. (Still in process)
- Danielskuil - Erf 1 to be transferred to the Municipality for township development. (Still in process)
- Brandvlei - Approximately 115 state owned erven to be transferred to the Municipality for township establishment. (Still in process)
- Sutherland - Erven 99 and 100 - to be transferred to the Municipality for a science activity centre.
- Loeriesfontein - Erf 929 has been donated and transferred to the local government of Loeriesfontein.

At the same time we are doing capital or Major Projects and developments in the Northern Cape, such as:

- Upinton Magistrate's Building - has been erected for an amount of R18 111 368
- Garies - new SAPS station was erected for an amount of R4 859 271
- Port Nolloth - new SAPS station erected for an amount of R7 617 640
- Calvinia - new SAPS (contact point) erected for an amount of R455 552
- Hartswater - new magistrates court erected for an amount of R16 103 000
- De Aar - new magistrates court erected for an amount of R33 501 000
- Griekwastad - new magistrates court erected for an amount of R11 953 000.

For our own Regional Office in this Province, we spent an amount of R8 574 645 on the old magistrates court building in Kimberley. The building had been vacant and even vandalised for a number of years, but is now once again one of our National Monuments to be proud of.

Public Works is currently also busy with new projects within the Northern Cape such as:

- Nakop - the upgrading of the border post at an estimated value of R25 190 767
- Kimberley - Galeshewe Community Safety Centre at an estimated value of R32 947 198
- Kuruman - new SAPS station valued at an amount of R16 347 000
- Colesberg - new SAPS station has been erected for an amount of R433 548.

Within the Northern Cape, Public Works is also planning other new government projects including:

- Danielskuil - new magistrates court to be erected with an estimated value of R1 806 748
- Kuruman - new offices for the department of Labour to be erected, with an estimated value of R11 905 000
- Steinkopf - a new SAPS station to be erected with an estimated value of R5 100 000
- Aggeneys - a new SAPS station to be erected with an estimated value of R5 242 492
- Keimoes - new magistrate court to be erected with an estimated value of R2 986 427.

Projects on which we are working with the Northern Cape Provincial Government are: -

- A dwelling in Warren Street, Kimberley that has been availed as a Place of Safety for Street children.
- A State-owned building in Port Nolloth that has been reserved for the Provincial Department of Economic Affairs for the establishment of a Youth Centre.

Annually, Public Works pays about R56 000 000 on municipal services, rates and taxes in this Province.

A number of land reform initiatives are undertaken in conjunction with the National Department of Land Affairs. All these projects involve state land.

The Northern Cape has for example completed the following community based public works projects for the 2002 and 2003 financial years :

- Building a multipurpose hall, in Pescodia, in Kimberly. The contract was awarded to a joint venture between a local historically disadvantaged company and an established company. 25 people were hired.
- Building of a crèche in Louisvale. Thirty nine local people were employed for five months;
- Paballelo / Louisvale Access Roads in the township amounting to one comma nine million rands. This project is being done in conjunction with the municipality to identify the workforce and also participate in the project management thereof;
- R12 million funded labour-intensive cleaning of the shoulders of provincial roads, as well as the widening of roads. Local people were trained and made to carry out this work themselves. 855 people were employed during the 2002 and 2003 financial year. It is expected that these people will remain employed in the next financial year commencing April 2003.

Since April 2002, the provincial department of Public Works in the Northern Cape has awarded 36 per cent of all projects to women-owned contracting firms. In Rand terms this amounted to just more than R9 million.

In addition, a 30 per cent women-owned company completed two projects totaling R6 million within six months. One of the projects is the one-stop-service-centre in Colesberg and the other is the multi-purpose hall in Kimberley.

Looking at the list of these achievements, I genuinely think that the call by the President and endorsed by Cabinet for an expanded Public Works Programme has already started here in earnest. Attention needs to be given to issues of maintenance of schools, clinics and other government buildings to make sure that a bigger number of people participate with the purpose of creating as many jobs as possible.

Milestones like today's celebration continue to warm our hearts - We know that we are delivering to our people according to the mandate they have given us as Government.

These beautiful Legislature Buildings are indeed proof of success in our approach to deepen democracy and increase development through an integrated corporate governance. This infrastructure that has been delivered to the people of the Northern Cape attests to coordination and cooperation of all three levels of government.

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