

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

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Clydesdale Community Based Public Works Programme Projects

Master of Ceremonies
Members of Parliament
MECs
Members of the Provincial Legislature
Leaders and Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

The handing over of these projects at Clydesdale today once again demonstrates our ANC led government's commitment to improving the quality of life for all our people. Through these projects we have shown that ordinary women and men can make a difference in shaping the destiny of our society. In particular, I want to pay tribute to the manner in which local communities have worked in partnership with government at the local, provincial and national levels. I believe that it is only in strengthening such partnerships of co-operative governance that we can begin to address the stark legacy of skewed development inherited from the Apartheid era.

The Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) aims to contribute towards sustainable poverty alleviation in rural areas through integrated rural development. I do want to believe that it is essential for communities to participate in the processes of planning and identification of projects. They should always be involved in the construction phase as well as the utilisation and management phases of the infrastructure created, to ensure sustainable operation. As government, we should ensure increased co-operation between various government departments at different levels in project planning and delivery and also that resources are allocated according to integrated development priorities.

The Community Based Public Works Programme also aims at enhancing social and economic equity by focusing on human development, particularly that of rural women.

In order to achieve this, the CBPWP creates jobs in rural areas through the delivery of much needed productive community assets. The main focus of these assets is to kick-start the local economy by providing opportunities for sustained income generation. Experience has shown that the technical and managerial skills which are transferred during project delivery will enable those who participated to engage in other projects of a similar nature.

We, as Public Works, continue to intensify through our programmes, the creation of work and productive assets in the rural areas of our country. It is our devote undertaking to ensure that allocations for poverty alleviation is spent in full, particularly where it affects the infrastructure delivery direly needed for rural communities neglected in development over some decades.

This is one of our primary responsibilities, working in partnership with both national and provincial departments to ensure the realisation of an integrated rural development strategy.

In the planning and co-ordination of public works policy and programmes we remain committed to the task of creating a better life for all. In our interaction with the various spheres of government, we are ensuring that these policies and programmes are implemented in a manner that contributes to the attainment of government's socio-economic, development and empowerment objectives.

A single programme will not achieve all the desired results on its own. We need to combine our efforts to have maximum impact on this scourge called poverty.

At Malenge, for instance, Public Works has allocated R2,5 million under special projects for upgrading of the T10 proclaimed road (6km), St Augustine access road (5km) and fencing of the St Augustine Junior Secondary School. As a rapid delivery programme, we are working with the community to upgrade the Malenge Junior Secondary School, providing 4 classrooms, toilets and fencing to the value of R902 785. The Umzimkulu feedlot scheme has been allocated R500 000 for the renovation of livestock facilities, the development of kikuyu pasture infrastructure and the establishment of the feedlot infrastructure. Discussions are underway on the rehabilitation of the irrigation scheme at Highlands. These provisions are co-ordinated with the departments responsible to ensure continued sustainability of operation and management.

As an entry point to the Eastern Cape, from KwaZulu-Natal, the Umzimkulu area is seen as a strategic node

in terms of economic and development potential. Dilapidated infrastructure and neglected environmental awareness contribute to the urgency of the need for attention to future development.

The Umzimkulu district was allocated a sum of R5 686 347 million on the Community Based Public Works Programme to address various infrastructure shortfalls in the area.

This allocation provides for projects at Mfulamhle, Clydesdale, Hopewell and Kromhoek. These projects deal mainly with access roads, a community garden, multi-purpose community facilities and social cohesion infrastructure.

The Clydesdale projects comprise an access road, a community garden, multi-purpose centre and market stalls at the bus and taxi rank. The cost of the Clydesdale projects are almost R2,8 million.

These projects individually and collectively as a cluster have more value than merely in bricks and mortar. It has instilled in this community a sense of achieving together and has given you the opportunity to improve the future lives of children in all the surrounding areas.

In the Umzimkulu district, excluding the special projects, 501 people have been employed during construction of the infrastructure. Of these, 195 were women and 78 youth. At Mfulamhle and Clydesdale, 40 people were already trained in management, with more trainees scheduled.

Let us ensure that we continue to build on this important dimension in our war against poverty. Our greatest weapon in our struggle against the scourge of poverty is the resilience of our people. We have triumphed over the scourge of Apartheid, let us now continue our collective efforts to eradicate the scourge of poverty.

On behalf of government, and Public Works in particular, I wish to assure you that we remain your willing partners and we remain committed to the task of Reconstruction and Development of South Africa which you have entrusted us with.

I also want to appeal to all the local communities here who have benefited through the creation of these assets to take ownership of it and ensure that it is put to maximum use. Let us in the true spirit of Masakhane, all build together, by caring for these community assets and contributing to the development of our local economy.

I hope that when we come back here we will be coming to celebrate your success and sustained economic growth. It is my wish that you will extend on business activities and related operations from these assets, that you will maintain and enjoy the greater mobility through the roads and encourage the children to further their education. Doing all this, you will safeguard the community from lingering on the brink of poverty. Let us work together to improve our quality of life and take charge of our own destiny.

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