

**THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, MS THOKO DIDIZA, MP,**  
**WISHES ALL THE PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANTS A HAPPY**  
**SECRETARY'S DAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2008**

The first Wednesday of September in South Africa has been designated, in line with the international trend, as the day to recognize the invaluable contribution made by the administrative professionals and (other support staff) in the smooth-running of organizations and companies they serve.

Be it in the private and public sectors or in other civil society organizations, it is an accepted fact that secretaries, office administrators, personal and professional assistants are certainly the main elements in the creation (and addition) of value to the business of the organization.

On behalf of the leadership and management of the Department of Public Works, I wish all administrative professionals a happy and fulfilling secretaries' day. I encourage you all to continuously improve yourselves by seizing the opportunities available in the Department (and in government).

As the Department continues to grow and transform, there is an urgency to build a strong and competitive layer of administrative professionals, drawn from both skilled men and women. It is my wish to see many secretaries, particularly women, graduate from being just

personal assistants to also becoming part of the management team entrusted with taking critical decisions to create a better life for South Africans.