

**SPEECH BY NORTH WEST PUBLIC WORKS MEC HOWARD
YAWA AT THE HANDOVER AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF
BOITEKONG COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE ON THURSDAY 31
MAY 2007 IN RUSTENBURG**

Programme Director

My Colleague, MEC for Health, Mme Nomonde Rasmeni

The Executive Mayor of Bojanala Platinum District Municipality -Cllr
Raymond Motsepe

The Executive Mayor of Rustenburg Local Municipality -Cllr Matthews
Wolmarans

All Councillors present

Senior Government Officials

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have gathered here today to witness one of the many milestones that our government continues to register in efforts to improve and better the lives of our people. We join the people of Boitekong and surrounding areas to celebrate the hand-over and official opening of Boitekong Community Health Center, which is set to change their lives for the better.

Programme Director, we recognize the statement in the Bill of Rights, which forms an integral part of our country's Constitution, that every single one of us has got a right to health care services. However we

must emphasize that quality health care services would be very difficult to deliver without the physical infrastructure.

With this in mind, the Department of Public Works has ensured that it accelerates delivery in its Clinic Building Programme and the construction of health facilities for the Department of Health.

The ANC government is determined and committed to wipe the legacy of apartheid infrastructure planning by improving access to quality public infrastructure in formerly marginalised and rural communities in order to bring services closer to our people.

For decades, successive apartheid and homeland governments denied the people of Boitekong and surrounding areas including Sondela, Mereting, Paardekraal and Freedompark access to services to improve the quality of their lives.

Today's function is a celebration of the triumph of our people against deprivation, exclusion and marginalisation. It's a celebration of the restoration of dignity to our people and a celebration of the People's Contract for a better life for All. It's a celebration of a partnership that recognises that conflicts delay development in our communities.

We salute the community of Boitekong for believing in us as government. We salute you for recognising that yesterday was worse, today things are much better but tomorrow things would be a lot better.

The ANC government spend R12.8 million for the construction of the centre we are handing over today for official opening. Facilities that were build during construction include a mental health unit, a dentistry unit, a maternal health unit, ward facilities, out patient department, emergency facilities, an administration block and an access road.

A total of two hundred and six (206) people were employed during the construction of the health centre. Skilled and unskilled labour constituted sixty-eight (68) and fifty-nine (59) workers respectively while fifty-five (55) jobs went to women and the remaining twenty-three (23) went to young people.

Three (3) SMMEs were also sub-contracted to electrify, roof and fit aluminium windows to the centre. This demonstrated the sharing of growth in our flourishing economy in line with our government's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA), which seeks to achieve an economic growth rate of no less than six percent by 2010 to help halve poverty and unemployment by 2014.

On that note, we would like to call on the community to own and take care of this facility so that it can continue to serve our people for generations to come. Through this facility and many other infrastructure facilities, government is accelerating infrastructure investment in the underdeveloped urban and rural areas of our country.

Programme Director today's event is my last official function as MEC for Public Works as I will be assuming duties as the MEC for Developmental Local Government and Housing as from tomorrow.

When I joined Public Works in May 2004, there were negative perceptions about the department. Today we can proudly stand before our people whom we are accountable to and boldly proclaim: Public Works is a working department and South Africa works because of Public Works.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank client departments, construction sector partners, communities, the management and employees of the department for all the support which saw us growing from strength to strength as a department.

I also wish the leadership collective of the department and employees of the department well in their determination to implement the People's Contract for a better life for All. Together we denounced business as usual and made a difference .I have no doubt that going forward, the department would ascend to a new height in service delivery.

In conclusion, the support that I received from my colleague, the MEC for Health in the past two and a half years is phenomenal and would always be treasured .I salute the loyal and committed servant of our

people Mme Nomonde Rasmeni and I am honoured to call her forth to receive keys for the facility to officially open the facility.

Ke a leboga.