



UNITED DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

12 February 2008

His Excellency President TM Mbeki
Private Bag x 1000
Pretoria
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Your Excellency

TRANSKEI STATE OF DISREPAIR: INFRASTRUCTURE

You will recall that subsequent to my letter dated 10 January 2008 addressed to you, the Premier of the Eastern Cape responded through the *Daily Dispatch*, that she needs to conduct an in loco inspection of the Transkei infrastructure with a view to highlighting areas that she has covered. This was suggestive of the fact that she does not agree with me.

In accepting her proposed invitation for an in loco inspection I felt it is necessary for me to consult all the affected stakeholders in the Transkei region.

A meeting was held on 24 January 2008 at the Mthatha City Hall with all stakeholders ranging from Political Parties, Business Community, Civil Servants, Traditional Leaders, NGOs, Civil Society, Youth Organisations, etc in which a plethora of complaints was submitted.

It came out very clearly from deliberations in the said meeting that people have for too long been suffering from the pangs of neglect and oppression from those who were trusted with the duties of service delivery since the days of apartheid to present, who could not do so for a number of reasons varying from inefficiency to baseless lethargy which benefited only the chosen few (tender fiasco).

Gleaning from their submissions it is clear that the area is completely neglected and needs a perfect intervention of National Government in monitoring the Provincial and Local Government constitutional activities.

I have therefore, tried to streamline the complaints according to the functional terrains of the three spheres of government so as to be able to immediately commission the relevant functionaries to go and alleviate the pains suffered by the people of the Transkei Region.

Honourable President, you will notice in the attached schedule that there are schools that are completely dilapidated and pose a threat to children's and teacher's lives. These are old mud schools which according to the Minister of Education should be completely eradicated. It is my sincere request that these schools, built of mud, be given priority number one. This off course should be tied up with access roads leading to such schools, water, electricity, fencing and security and Teacher's quarters in all schools.

It is also my fervent wish and submission, noting the extent of shortage of water and electricity coverage in this region, that you give very specific directives on these two basic requirements of life so that it is not just undertaken as a window-dressing exercise in areas close to public roads just to attract the eyes of tourists, but give a perfect meaning to life requirements in deep rural areas.

Having mentioned the requirement for State intervention in the economy on a number of occasions, the hue and cry about the high crime rate which is, to a great extent, attributed to lack of jobs especially for the youth, it is my plea to you, Sir, to take cognisance of this factor which drastically affects the economy and stability of our country. A growing economy must, of necessity be able to create jobs.

You will also note that although the original complaints were on infrastructural deficiencies, people have gone further than that and submitted other thorny issues. We felt very much obliged to take them for your attention.

The attached schedules reflect the area of complaints according to Magisterial Districts, the description of problems and the level at which it must be solved. This does not mean that National Government cannot directly intervene especially in cases of emergency like the bleeding sewerage pipes, water and electricity, impassable roads and the non-existence of bridges which cut out people from basic necessities of life like getting to the doctors and children going to schools, let alone the complete neglect of rural roads which have become death traps in the respective areas.

It pleases me, sir, to present to you this consolidated report of complaints from the people of the Transkei Region.

As I have suggested that a team of SANDF Engineers, as against the costly exercise of appointing Consulting Engineers, should be commissioned to try and quantify the problems so submitted, it will be advisable that this approach be co-ordinated and monitored at National level and frequent reporting, on progress made, is a sine qua non.

Attached herewith please find schedules of complaints from the Transkei region for your information and attention.

Yours in Nation Building



HB Holomisa

President United Democratic Movement