



## Report on the Nodal visits that took place on 24 April 2003<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Nodereferencenumberandname:

Node11:CentralKaroo

### 2. Dateofvisit

24April2003

### 3. Purposeofvisit

Todeterminethestatusquoandprogressmadeinthenode

### 4. Listofattendees

**NationalChampions** :MinisterMoosa(EnviromentalAffairsandTourism),  
DeputyMinisterZondi(PublicWorks)

**Provincial**:ProvincialMinisterDowry(LocalGovernment)

**Chairperson**:DeputyMinisterBotha(ProvincialandLocalGovernment)

**Local**:MayorGouws(LaingsburgMunicipality),

MayorRossouw(PrinceAlbertMunicipality),

SpeakerVisser(CKDM)and

SpeakerPiti(BeaufortWestMunicipality)

Attendanceregisterattached

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<sup>1</sup>DPLG -IDTprovincialteamswouldberesponsibleforpreparingindividualministerialvisits'reports.

Thecompositereport,asynthesisofthethirteen(13)individualreports,willbecompiledbythenationalprogrammemanagers/team.



		Action
5.	<p><b><u>Opening&amp;Welcome</u></b></p> <p><b>5.1 Introduction of Political Champions, National and Provincial Departments and Municipalities: Mayor Rossouw</b></p> <p>Mayor Rossouw in his welcome note emphasized the development of the Central Karoo. He noted the challenge of developing the Central Karoo as a district. He also welcomed the NDT, the Mayors, the Municipal Managers, Independent Development Trust (IDT), the national and provincial champions, Minister Valli Moosa, Deputy Minister Zondi, Deputy Minister Botha and Provincial Minister Dowry.</p> <p><b>5.2 Welcome Address: Speaker Visser</b></p> <p>Speaker Visser welcomed everyone in her address, especially the national and provincial ministers. She stressed the importance of the meeting and the rationale of why the Central Karoo was identified as a node as well as the reason why everyone has to buy into this idea. She also pointed out the importance of understanding everyone's roles and that if Central Karoo fails everyone fails. She illustrated how the Central Karoo is a poor area, the geographical distance between the towns, with the furthest being Murraysburg 160 km, Merweville 150km and Matjiesfontein 200km plus from Beaufort West. She thanked all departments and pointed out that the purpose of the meeting is to determine how the node is doing as well as what the node is supposed to do.</p> <p>She urged all the departments to be involved both at national and provincial, pointing out that the pinch is felt locally. She raised the question as to what we can do as a team to make the node go forward.</p>	
	<p><b>5.3 Purpose of the meeting: Provincial Minister Dowry</b></p> <p>Provincial Minister Dowry explained the purpose of the meeting and its significance in addressing poverty. Minister Dowry indicated that the meeting is the first of its nature in the node. He stressed that by the end of the meeting guidance and directions should be given. The integrated approach is to address development</p>	



approach is a way to address development.

This programme in Central Karoo, as one of the 13 nodes is based on co-operation between national, provincial and local government. The focus of the programme in the Central Karoo node is on sustainable rural development. The main goal and purpose of the Western Cape Government is to address poverty in the Central Karoo. Basic Infrastructure is lacking in the node. The programme is part of an overall strategy of Government working in a new integrated way to produce results. The idea of integrated governance is also to put in place systems of accountability and partnership, for the success of the programme is dependent on all stakeholders working together.

He pointed out that the five pillars of the ISRDP are integration, coordination, partnership, decentralization and demand-driven delivery and diversity. It is important to form partnerships with the private sector that can contribute to the conclusion of the anchor projects. He highlighted the need for job creation to combat poverty. Central Karoo is at the forefront of development and this requires a concerted effort.

**5.4 National Development Priorities and the ISRDP : Minister Moosa**

Since 1994 South Africa took tremendous strides in stabilizing the country and to improve the lives of people of the country. In 1994 South Africa's economy was more or less bankrupt. South Africa had a huge overdraft and national debt was out of control. The Government borrowed more money for the business of government and was moving into a debt crisis. Today the South African economy is regarded as one of the most resilient economies in the world. The South African rand is one of the best performing currencies in the world. The most important thing in spite of lots of insecurity, South Africa remained stable. The Government has achieved a great deal in attending to needs of the poor. 34% Of South African households had electricity. Today 72% households have electricity. There was a huge backlog of people without homes. To date 1.3 million RDP houses have been built. It is not very nice and big, but homes have been provided free of charge. The Government is



	<p>big, but homes has been provided free of charge. The Government is making huge progress. South Africa is the most popular tourist destination. South Africa is exporting Mercedes Benz to Japan that has been manufactured in East London.</p> <p>South Africa is however still in the situation where people are poor and unemployed and many challenges are faced, like, crime, family violence, and drug abuse. The Government raised questions about the rural people of South Africa. Central Karoo was identified by Government as a place to come to in order to concentrate as hard as we can to improve the lives of people. It cannot happen everywhere at once. The Government had to start somewhere. It started off as a pilot project in the Municipalities of Beaufort West and Prince Albert. A decision was taken that other areas should form part of the node. This program is one of the best ways to get all government departments to agree on a common programme. There has been reasonable progress. There was a need for a critical mass of government intervention which will result in social upliftment.</p> <p>The Department of Education does what it has to do in its area, Safety and Security has to bring crime down, Department of Social Services is to play an important role to address the social dimension. Tourism will do something about the tourism potential in this underdeveloped paradise. The Minister expressed his concern on what the strategy is. A collection of projects doesn't constitute a strategy. Need to go beyond that. What has to be done to create jobs and opportunities for people, especially young people? Will the environment be changed? Should all efforts be placed on tourism or something else like agricultural activities? He urged all to think about an economic strategy for the region. Champions should get the message about what the departments are not doing or what they should be doing and each department must explain its presence. They can go to their respective ministers to address these issues.</p>	<p>Minister Moosa</p>
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The champions will go to the departments to make them do what they are supposed to do. The champions need direction from the implementers. The Champions can get government departments to do lots of things.

**5.5 Provincial Growth and Development Strategy and the SRDP:**

**Mr. Shaun Byneveldt (Member of Provincial Parliament)**

Mr. Byneveldt apologized for Provincial Minister Rasool who was attending a long planned conference. The vision of the Cape as a growing Cape and is contained in a strategy for growth and development.

**iKapa elihlumayo: Hope, Delivery and Dignity for the Next Decade** is driven by the president's call to reduce the number of people on social grants. The state budget should be used to improve the quality of life, especially those of the poor. The Province is reacting on the President's call. Key elements in cooperation between ANC and NNP is building a deracialized society; developing a unity of purpose to confront the challenges of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, crime and disease; working together to change the mindsets of South Africans; develop the country and the continent.

The Strategic Objectives of the Western Cape Provincial Government is believing in caring and representative government, ensuring basic services, coordinating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, deracialise and integrate all state financial institutions, develop the capacity of local government, stimulate economic growth, focus on agriculture and tourism toward rural development, promote policies which will maintain a healthy balance between protecting the environment and the developing economy, containing and eradicating crime through good intergovernmental cooperation, nurtured diversity,

**Key political imperatives**

Broad front for reconstruction and development, Economic growth and equity, Comprehensive social security, Deliver Service. Mr. Byneveldt elaborated on the Province's short, medium and long term strategies



### **5.6 Development Challenges, Opportunities and Interventions in the Central Karoo: Speaker Piti**

The Karoo is rich with the potential for growth and prosperity, but is challenged by different faces of poverty and economic stagnation, for example;

- 1) Closure of Government Departments in Beaufort West
- 2) Visible beggars and street children
- 3) The dependency of traffic on the N1
- 4) Distances and few resources that is offered
- 5) Limited water resources
- 6) Youth crime
- 7) Substance related problems
- 8) HIV/AIDS
- 9) Large dependency on grants

These were highlighted as economic obstacles of the region. However Speaker Piti also came up with strategies of how this economic decline can be reversed. These he identified as:

- 1) government's ability to decentralize and bring back offices to the region,
- 2) improved usage of the N1 to attract more tourists,
- 3) finding ways of utilizing local resources and recycling of scarce resources,
- 4) development of large institutions,
- 5) marketing Beaufort West as a gateway to the Western Cape,
- 6) integration between relevant departments,
- 7) improvement of corrective facilities,
- 8) improved education and skills development.

By promoting alternative activities, he believed, this would increase opportunities for the region.



	<p><b>5.7 Overview of the Central Karoo IDP and Update on Progress in the Node: Councilor Jonas</b></p> <p>Shortfall of +/- R17 million is highlighted as well as the linkages between the IDP and ISRD. It is stressed that SANRA, DPLG, CMIP, Social Service, Health and the NGO Score has contributed towards the anchor projects in the node.</p> <p><b>5.8 National Government Commitments: Mr. E. Africa, Deputy Director General of Provincial and Local Government</b></p> <p>Mr. Elroy Africa pointed out that a national work plan has been prepared that will be shared with the nodes by the week of 27<sup>th</sup> April 03 – 1<sup>st</sup> May 03. He noted that the President has endorsed 4 key development priorities at the January 2003 Cabinet Meeting. He also told the nodal meeting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Development Workers</b> will be appointed in each node – the DPLG is finalizing a work plan on how to put these people in place.</li> <li>• Implementing <b>National Skill Development Programme</b>, driven by National Department of Labour.</li> <li>• Getting departments to work closely on <b>anchor projects</b> and 10 cluster areas has been identified with departments identified to coordinate these clusters: These are:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transport and roads: Dept. of Transport</li> <li>2. Land reform and municipal infrastructure: DLA</li> <li>3. Capacity Building: DPLG</li> <li>4. Food security: Agriculture</li> <li>5. Basic service: DPLG</li> <li>6. Job creation and LED: Public Works and Trade and Industry</li> <li>7. Basic health care and HIV/AIDS: Health</li> <li>8. Education and culture: Education and Culture</li> <li>9. Safety and security: Social Development and SAPS</li> <li>10. Environmental issues: DEAT</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>DPLG</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He also pointed out that DPLG wants to provide structured support and will thus be visiting the nodes. Work has to be done with provinces and local municipalities to <b>align IDP's and Provincial Growth and Development Strategies</b>. R5million from the allocated Equitable Share has been increased for the nodes. He also noted that DEAT has agreed to support the Flood Hiking Route (Laingsburg) and the Recycling projects (Beaufort West). DEAT committed R 1,5million towards these projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.9 Provincial Government Commitments: Ms. Marina vander Merwe (Director Local Government: Development)</b></p> <p>Ms. Vander Merwe pointed out that the biggest problems of the province are to align IDP's with budgets and planning cycles. The province has taken Central Karoo as a pilot to see how to unlock the IDP with Provincial Departments. A shift to <b>socio-economic development projects</b> in the node is essential for creating jobs and adding to the human capacity and making them players within their communities. Province will draft an economic profile that will identify the niche market. The Dept of Education is already active in training of adults and using school facilities for this. The IDP then, should be used as a tool to bring core provincial departments on board. PDLG will have a <b>breakdown of funds</b> from departments to the node that will include the anchor and priority projects. The challenge at institutional level is to ensure sufficient capacity coordination to bring department's on board of the process. More capacity should be created.</p> <p><b>5.10 DISCUSSIONS:</b></p> <p>Question raised by Dep. Min. Botha:</p> <p>a) What are the institutional arrangements in using the IDP as a tool for alignment with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy. Is there a team that is dealing with the coordination and IDP alignment?</p> <p>The response was that there is a Provincial IDP Assessment Committee in place. At provincial level all municipal managers from the node have</p>	<p>DEAT</p>
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been brought into participate in the assessment of their IDP's. There is a need to take it higher in the province.

Another question was around the Land reformation with long term and sustainable objectives, and how budget is hampering the process because more money is needed to let this project proceed.

Minister Moosa asked the group to provide him with a report for him to take this matter up.

Each department was asked to comment/commit

### **Social Services**

Social Services are of the opinion that activities should be coordinated at local level and that all departments be called in to plan and work together. The NDT can support this as district level. A coordination structure should be established where all programmes can be discussed. Social Services are funding a number of projects in the area, multi-purpose centers, Food security and flagship number of projects funded at provincial level. The HOD for Social Services pointed out the lack of support from departments and took the responsibility upon her to inform the social cluster. The issue of coordination at provincial level could be resolved through cabinet and the departmental clusters. She therefore proposed that the ISRDP should be an item on the agenda of the Provincial Cabinet and the Local Council.

### **SAPS**

SAPS have a concern around the IDP process and assessment that is only done at provincial level and departments are not involved at local level. The Department has Two hundred thousand Rand (R200000) that is available to train farm workers in farm water hes and taking the youth on youth camps.



### **The Department of Health**

The Department of Health expressed that their department is never represented on forums like these. The local representatives are compiling a report which they wish to hand into the Minister.

### **The National Development Agency**

The NDA Regional Manager emphasized that there should be more on social and economic development. Attempts to work towards a clustered approach should also include the community. The NDA is concerned about a novel strategy and is willing to part of this strategy.

### **Department of Water Affairs and Forestry :**

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry supports the municipalities in the nodew with their water services plan.

### **COMMENTS BY THE CHAMPIONS AND SPEAKERS**

#### **Speaker Piti**

The biggest problem in the Central Karoo is the availability of water. Wool manufacturing needs water, agriculture needs water, and establishing factories need water.

#### **Speaker Visser**

Speaker Visser indicated that water research has been done on transferring water from the Gariiep dam in the Northern Cape to the Central Karoo.



### **Deputy Minister Zondi**

Deputy Minister Zondi raised the following questions

1. what will be done about the lack of coordination
2. and what is going to happen after this meeting
3. Which departments did not come on board to fund the 17 million shortfall?

### **Minister Moosa**

The land reform programme should be given higher priority in to the node. The reports from the district are encouraging, practical and show a great deal of progress. The situation in the Central Karoo is much better than what was expected. Closure of government Departments will be taken up by the Ministers. He could not pick up the relation between the provincial strategy and that of the node.

On tourism, the N1 should attract more travelers. Western Cape most is the most successful region for tourism in the South Africa. Why this success is not also funneled to the Central Karoo. Research in this area is necessary and should include: **Branding of the Central Karoo**. The province should be in position to provide immediate leverage to the node. Nothing has been said on agriculture. What is the potential?

### **Deputy Minister Botha**

The Deputy Minister responded to the **SAPS** first. She stressed that Departments cannot bring in their own projects in nodes if they are not aligned to the IDP. Whatever is done in the nodes should be linked to the IDP and should be linked to what is going on the node.



***Water Affairs and Forestry***

Water Affairs stated that Section 13 of the Water Services Act was being operationalized in order to align provincial plans to nodal IDP's. They support the Region with their Water services Plan. The Dep. Minister requested that the department work with the node on what they will do in the node and that this work should be linked to the IDP of the district and requested a full report on this matter.

***Coordination and Integration***

Deputy Minister Botha reminded everyone that the purpose of the meeting that it is about learning to work together, about coordination and integration. She urged participants to be creative and think about how resources can be used. She also stressed that coordination is the problem: who are doing what in relation to the node. It is important to know who is the other Stakeholders who is doing work in the node. Municipalities should know what they have budgeted, and should work on their IDP's and Province should align these IDPs to their strategies. Province should also be responsible for pulling Provincial Departments together. National should do the same.

***Stakeholders***

The Deputy Minister stressed that all departments and stakeholders are requested to submit reports to DPLG to determine who is doing what in the node. A follow-up meeting will be held to determine a strategy for the node. What the ISRDP wants to achieve is to push back the frontiers of poverty. Structures should be put in place at all levels. A political structure should be put in place with the Central Karoo Mayor heading the political structure and the technical structure chaired by the Central Karoo Municipal Manager. Coordination will be done by DPLG.



**6. Summary and Way Forward**

Deputy Minister Botha in summarising the deliberations stated that:

1. Co-ordination has been identified as a major challenge.
2. Therefore we needed to identify activities of various entities in the node.
3. In order to identify these activities an efficient reporting system on National, Provincial and Nodal government plans must be put in place.
4. Reporting System must indicate progress on plans and Socio-economic impact.
5. Mobilisation of Stakeholders is a key challenge. What role for farmers Unions.
6. Assessment of the extent to which local economic development priorities are catered in the municipal budgets is important and carefully required.
7. Clear outline of nodal development strategy.
8. Clearly spelt out departmental interventions and progress on these.
9. A structure that includes governmental officials and political champions headed by the mayor and the municipal manager respectively is necessary.
10. Such structures must make recommendations to the National Departments.

It was agreed that a follow-up meeting be held on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2003. Minister Moosa, Deputy Minister Zondi and Deputy Minister Botha and Minister Dowry are available for this meeting.

**7. Vote of Thanks: Mayor Gouws**

The Mayor of Laingsburg, Councilor Gouws thanked everyone for attending the meeting and a special word of thanks to the national politicians.

**Other Issues:**

- There being no further issues, the meeting adjourned at 14h00.

