

## New responsibilities

# Some changes to Cabinet

After the death of Stella Sigcau, President Thabo Mbeki made the following changes to Cabinet:



■ **Thoko Angela Didiza**, former Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, was appointed Minister of Public Works to fill the vacant position left by Sigcau.



■ **Buyelwa Patience Sonjica**, previously the Minister of Water Affairs, was appointed Minister of Minerals and Energy.



■ **Lulu Xingwana**, previously the Deputy Minister of Minerals and Energy, was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs.



■ **Lindiwe Benedicta Hendricks**, former Minister of Minerals and Energy, was appointed Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry.

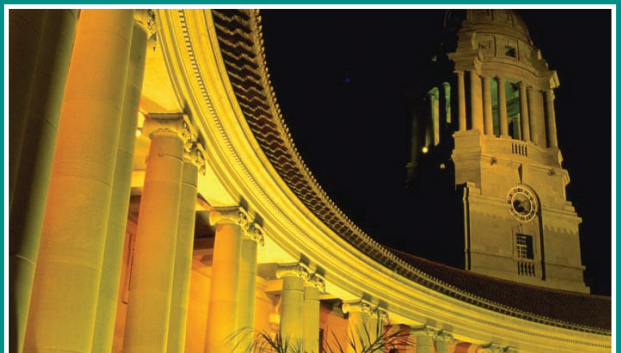
## STELLA SIGCAU - An unselfish spirit

**S**tella Sigcau was a hard worker, teacher, politician and selfless community worker.

These words by President Thabo Mbeki described former Minister of Public Works, Stella Nomzamo Sigcau, who passed away on 7 May 2006. He said she was a heroine with an unselfish spirit.

Sigcau was born to the AmaMpondo Royal House in 1937. She was the eldest daughter of the late King Botha Manzolwandle Sigcau and Getrude Sigcau (nee Sikeneni).

Her siblings are the late Thembeke, King Thandizulu and the late Ntsikayezwe Sigcau. In 1962, she married Ronald Tshabalala. They had three children Nombulelo, Leslie and the late Sibusiso. Sigcau played an important role



in South African politics. She was a member of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, and later became leader of the Transkei. Before 1994, she represented the Cape Traditional Leaders in the Multi-Party Negotiating Process at the World Trade Centre.

In 1994, Sigcau was appointed Public Enterprises Minister under former President Nelson Mandela. In 1999, she became Public Works Minister, the position she held at the time of her death.

During this time, she focused on developing infrastructure like roads in rural areas, promoting women, transforming the construction industry, fighting poverty and improving public service delivery.

At the time of her death, Stella Sigcau was also a member of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, a member of the ANC Women's League's KwaZulu-Natal executive council, and chairperson of the league in the Transkei. - *Justice Mohale*