

*Home Affairs*

**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
THE HON DR M G BUTHELEZI  
on the  
OCCASION OF THE HANIS PROJECT LAUNCH**

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**THE NAZARETH HOUSE :      PRETORIA      : 31 JANUARY 2000**

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Members of the media; the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Dr L N Sisulu; the Director-General Mr Masetlha and Deputy Director-General; senior officials; distinguished guests; colleagues; ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to launch our unique and high tech identification system, commonly known as HANIS which stands for the *Home Affairs National Identification System*. It has always been my intention to provide our citizens with this multiple application system that will be able to play a vital role in the fight to eliminate fraud and corruption inherent in certain sections of our daily lives.

You may recall that on the first day of the present Government's term of office in June last year, the President urged all of us to pull efforts together to ensure that the entire Nation is at work for a better life for all. My Department is committed to reflect our appreciation of the President's "FARANANI" call. We know that only through coordinated partnerships at all levels of our society can efficient service delivery be attained.

Today ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here to enjoin another route in this direction through which we will be fostering partnerships with the entire citizenry by beginning the process of providing automated identity cards to all of us.

We acknowledge the important role played by our senior citizens in the betterment of the lives of all of us. The much spoken about pension fraud cannot be allowed to continue unabated as it compromises all efforts aimed at ensuring a cooperative effect in realising the President's call. In view of this, it was decided to honour our senior citizens with the privilege of being the first beneficiaries of this world class project. This process will provide benefits to the Department of Welfare by enabling them to produce updated monthly pension runs when necessary, whereas providing our senior citizens with an ability to draw, should they elect to do so, their grants from bank

ATMs using their smart cards. At this juncture, ladies and gentlemen, I feel it will be appropriate to express our gratitude to Sister Elizabeth and the Nazareth House for hosting this event. We hope to filter this important message to our senior citizens through avenues of this nature as well.

The HANIS project will enable the State to produce and issue a unique multi-purpose smart identity card to all citizens. It was conceived to combat some age-old hindrances that always lay scattered on people's way to a better life. The hindrances include a host of crimes and misdeeds, all identity-related perpetrated by the unscrupulous elements who, by one way or another, fraudulently obtain benefits they do not deserve. This practice impacts negatively on key services that the Government is supposed to render to its subjects as undeserving persons cheat and obtain forged identity documents, which they in turn use to claim services. Housing subsidies, health services, welfare grants, to mention but a few, are not always received by genuinely qualifying and properly identifiable individuals.

Unlike the current identity document, this card will be even more tamper proof and easy to carry. The card's user friendliness will be compatible to all other cards which are being used by citizens for normal day-to-day transactions. The added benefit to this card will be that holders will be able to access State subsidies as accordingly programmed in the specific card.

We are pleased to announce that the supplier contract for the HANIS project was signed with MarPless Telecommunications Technologies on the 8th of November 1999. At this stage the finalisation of the process towards procurement of the smart card technology is being concluded. Consequently, it is expected that the first HANIS smart card will be issued during the last quarter of the year 2001. This process is a cooperative inter-departmental achievement by various state departments who are forming the HANIS INTERDEPARTMENTAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you present here today, but more particularly members of the MarPless Consortium, the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of the State Tender Board, the Office of the Public Protector and the members of the Technical Committee for successfully achieving the not so easy result in this project. The signing of the contract was by far the most important achievement of this stage.

I thank you.

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