



Press Release

A New Life for the Village of Sebastia

Jerusalem, 15th April 2003 - Mr. Jose' Maria Ferre', the Consul General of Spain, Dr. Sa'eb Erekat, the Minister of Local Government, and Mr. Timothy Rothermel, the Special Representative of the UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) plan to mark the completion of Sebastia Rehabilitation Project on Tuesday, April 15, 2003. In addition to laying the cornerstone for a The Ibn Sina Health Clinic, which will benefit 7 villages, the ceremony will include a visit to the affected sites in Sebastia, and a road connecting the villages of Sebastia and Al-Naqoora, currently under construction. The event will also be attended by the local village mayors and village council members.

Thanks to generous funds from the Government of Spain, and UNDP/PAPP's strong partnership with the Ministry of Local government, and a deep commitment to local and rural development, the village of Sebastia was infused with a new sense of life through the completion of the Sebastia Rehabilitation Project. In addition to the rehabilitation of the village's main square, café, and the Roman Royal Tombs, the project carried-out the paving of 80% of the village's internal roads, especially those leading to the Archeological sites, and the construction of 350m of retaining walls.

The Support to Local Authorities Project aims at strengthening the institutions of selected rural areas in the West Bank through the implementation of infrastructure projects. This phase (Phase III) of the project is mainly targeted at the north-west villages of the Nablus Governorate and includes three projects: The Sebastia Rehabilitation Project (US\$250,000), the Rehabilitation, Expansion, and Paving Project of the Sebastia – Al-Naqoora Road (US\$60,000), and The Ibn Sina Health Clinic Construction Project (US\$270,000), which will benefit a group of seven villages in the northwest of Nablus Governorate.

Since its inception in 1999, the Project has worked in three phases in over 20 villages in the Jenin, Hebron, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nablus and Ramallah districts and has disbursed close to \$1 million.

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United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

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