



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Noxubee County Community Work Center Assisting MEMA in Cleanup Effort**

Jackson – The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) is assisting the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in cleaning up 80- 90 vacant lots in Columbus, Miss. Inmates from the Noxubee County Community Work Center in Macon, Miss., will be transported to Columbus beginning today to assist officials in cleaning up the vacant and unoccupied land owned by the city and county. The clean-up effort is considered as part of the public assistance disaster situation, declared as a result of the tornadoes that recently swept through Columbus.

“MEMA called MDOC last week and asked for our help,” said MDOC Commissioner Chris Epps. “We are always ready to assist in a situation such as this, and we are glad to assist other state agencies when we are able to. We have a good relationship with MEMA and MDOC is glad to help out with this project.”

MDOC will send approximately 40 – 50 Noxubee County Community Work Center inmates every day until Feb. 1, 2003, to assist in this clean-up project. MDOC Community Work Center inmates completed 2,447,847 hours of community labor statewide in fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001, - June 30, 2002) for cities, counties, state agencies, non-profit organizations, etc., which equates to an estimated value of \$12.6 million.

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MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photographs of this clean-up project, please contact Claire Papizan at (601) 359.5689 or send an e-mail to [cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us](mailto:cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us) .