



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inmate Work Crews from Mississippi's Three State Prisons Provide Valuable Free Public Service Labor

Jackson....A recently completed report on external public service work provided by inmates assigned to the State's three public institutions reveals that prisoners completed a combined total 188,643 man-hours of public service work off institutional grounds during FY 2000. The institutions involved were the Mississippi State Penitentiary, the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, and the South Mississippi Correctional Institution.

According to the report's findings, a major portion of the free inmate labor was attributed to the prisons' *Mobile Work Crews (MWC)*, which are comprised of minimum-security inmates. In addition, inmates sentenced to the prison system's *Regimented Inmate Discipline (RID)* program accounted for over one-fourth of the total free public service labor during this time period.

"We are extremely proud of the public service work that these state inmates provided to local and state governmental entities," said Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner Robert Johnson. "Work plays a very integral role in an offender's rehabilitation and provides significant assistance to local communities. The total value of the free inmate labor reached nearly one million dollars."

Some of the work projects included: maintenance work on county court houses and police departments; painting public buildings; road work drainage projects; cutting grass around public buildings; and maintenance work on state parks facilities.