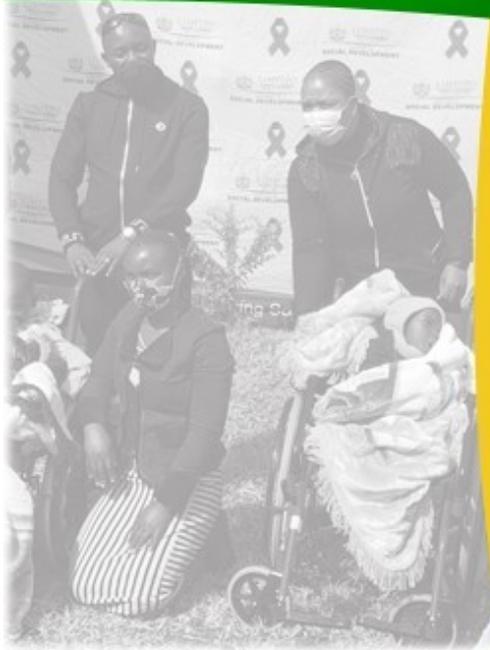




LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Budget Speech 2021/2022



A Caring and Self-Reliant Society



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
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DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Vote 12
Tabled in the Limpopo
Provincial Legislature on
13th April 2021
By the MEC for Social
Development,
Hon. Nkakareng Rakgoale



Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker;

Honourable Premier;

Esteemed Members of the Executive Council;

The Chief Whip of the Ruling Party;

Leaders of the opposition parties and Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders;

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee;

Honourable Members of the Legislature;

It is my privilege to present the 2021/2022 budget speech of the Department of Social Development to this august house. The year 2021 has been declared the year of Charlotte Maxeke. Charlotte Manye Maxeke was among the freedom fighters who wanted to see the total emancipation of women and the realization of a truly democratic South Africa. She wanted to see that our people are serviced irrespective of race, culture and gender.

Mama Maxeke is known as the first black woman in South Africa to hold a graduate degree and for her exceptional contribution to women's and worker's rights as well as her dedication to the struggle for peace and justice. We need to emulate Mama Maxeke, whose every action was aimed at achieving liberation and equality in society and advancing women's rights. In this month of April, we are also celebrating the lives of Solomon Mahlangu, Chris Hani, A.P Mda and Collins Chabane.

Before I go any further Honourable Members, allow me to first highlight that the Department of Social Development's agency – SASSA is this year celebrating 15 years of existence. This is not just a mere celebration of the number of years, but also celebrating the impact made by the social grants to our people and also the fact that SASSA is paying social grants to about 18.5 million people countrywide, of which 2.7 million beneficiaries are in Limpopo Province.

Honourable Speaker, as I present a total budget of two point zero one six billion rand [R2,016 billion] for the 2021/2022 financial year for the Department of Social

Development, we need to always keep it in the back of our minds, who this Department serves on a daily basis.

SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS

Honourable speaker, the NPO sector remains a strategic partner in assisting the Department to deliver services to the people.

The Department has therefore set aside eight point eight million rand [R8.8 million] under the HIV/AIDS programme for the provision of food parcels to families that have been left vulnerable as a result of the effects of the disease. In our efforts to give support to children who are orphaned and those whose families are facing hardships, the Department set aside two point six million rand [R2.6 million] for provision of school uniform for identified vulnerable children. This initiative is intending to benefit orphans and vulnerable children in the five districts.

In an endeavor to contribute to empowerment initiatives, the Department will be adopting a new approach for the provision of school uniform, by utilizing NPOs and Cooperatives. This approach will contribute towards creating job opportunities and also responding to the call by President Ramaphosa of empowering youth, women and persons with disabilities.

SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS

In the year under review, a total of five hundred and seventy nine (579) older persons received care and support in eight residential facilities. Unfortunately, we have lost ten (10) older persons due to COVID-19 in our residential facilities and may their souls rest in peace.

During the new financial year, the Department will subsidise five hundred and sixty eight (568) older persons in our residential facilities and three thousand seven hundred and fifty one (3 751) in Service Centres. To that effect, an amount of twenty eight point six million rand [R28.6 million] has been allocated towards the care and protection of older persons.

SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In our effort to support persons with disabilities, the three residential facilities in our Province being Shiluvani Frail Care Centre in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, the Centenary Home in Polokwane and Epilepsy SA in the Moutse area in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, the Department has set aside eighty point two million rand [R80.2 Million].

Honourable Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of this house that the Department is currently engaging the Department of Health with regards to the management of the Shiluvani Frail Care Centre. This process must be brought to its logical conclusion to avoid unintended consequences, before the current contract expires in September 2021.

ECDS AND PARTIAL CARE SERVICES

Honourable Speaker,

Early Childhood Development remains one the apex priorities of the ANC-led government.

In the 2020/21 financial year, one hundred and eighty seven thousand, eight hundred and ninety four (187 894) children accessed ECD services. As part of adhering to the norms and standards, the Department was able to register 125 ECDs through the Vangasali Campaign to ensure that, like the phrase says, no one is left behind. The Department has managed to deliver two thousand five hundred and fifty nine (2 559) PPEs and two hundred and ninety three (293) water tanks to ECDs which enabled the centres to reopen and adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

Since the pronouncement by the President that the ECD function will shift from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education, eight (8) work streams have been established, proclamations have been finalized

and a function shift action plan was developed. We are now only awaiting the signing of the proclamations.

The total budget allocated to the programme stands at three hundred and ninety two million rand [R392 million]. Included in the allocation is one hundred and twenty six million rand [R126 million] from the Conditional Grant and two hundred and sixty six million rand [R266 million] from the Equitable share. The Department has also set aside sixteen point eight million rand [R16.8 million] for the maintenance of ECD infrastructure. A total of fifty one (51) ECDs are targeted for maintenance in all five districts.

The Presidential Stimulus Package for COVID-19 also includes assistance for the ECD sector.

The Department is currently implementing the Stimulus Packages, with the remuneration of the ECD work force at these Centres, for which an amount of fifty eight point two million rand [R58.2 million] was allocated during 2020/21 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, it is my pleasure to inform the house that all qualifying ECDs will receive the once-off payment of four thousand one hundred and eighty six rand [R4 186] per staff member. It is hoped that Treasury, working with the National Department of Social Development, will consider rolling over the unspent funds to the 2021/22 financial year.

The Department continues to encourage parents in all communities we visit, to take their children back to ECDs. This upon realising that parents are still reluctant to re-enroll their children in the ECD programme due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

VICTIM EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Honourable Speaker, let me appreciate the efforts made by our Honoura-

ble Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in constituting a GBVF technical committee to coordinate the implementation of the National Strategic plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

Since the start of the lockdown period our social workers attended to one thousand four hundred and twenty two (1 422) incidents of Gender Based Violence in the Province.

In response to all these cases, social workers acted swiftly and ensured that the victims were assisted with psychosocial support and in obtaining restraining orders against their abusers.

In addition, three thousand six hundred and forty nine (3 649) victims of crime and violence accessed services from funded Victim Empowerment Programme centres.

The department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works identified two buildings in the Thabazimbi and Thulamela Municipalities, which will be used as shelters for victims of violence and we are currently in the process of identifying other buildings.

The social ills that I have mentioned above, have prompted the Department to prioritise and set aside eleven point five million rand [R11.5 million] for the prevention of domestic violence and another allocation of fourteen point nine million rand [R14.9 million] for Gender Based Violence, whereas thirteen point five million rand [R13.5 million] is earmarked for victim empowerment programmes.

This will assist the Department in moving with speed in the curbing of GBVF and giving all the necessary support to the victims as we all know that President Ramaphosa has declared Gender Based Violence a second pandemic to COVID-19.

Honourable Speaker

Allow me to appreciate the effort by individual community members and civil society for having joined government in the fight against the scourge of GBV and other social ills. I recently attended a ceremony hosted by television personality and artist Joyce Ledwaba, affectionately known as MaJoy.

MaJoy conferred certificates to about one thousand (1000) learners from various schools in the Mogalakwena Municipal area after they completed their after-school programme. They have been imparted with musical and artistic skills. This programme also features plays with story lines aimed at creating awareness against Gender Based Violence, substance abuse as well as teenage pregnancy.

These are some of the social ills that many of our communities are faced with. As the Department we really appreciate this initiative as extramural activities help to keep children off the streets where they are exposed to some of these evil deeds while they are still at a younger age.

In Sepedi we say: **Le kobjwa le sa le meetse, la oma le a hlaba**. By so doing we will be able to raise young men who will be able to stand and say “Not in my name”.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE, PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

The alarming rate of substance abuse in the province remains a cause for concern, necessitating that we intensify prevention and awareness programmes. To that effect, the Department in collaboration with other stakeholders is implementing the Provincial Drug Master Plan, aimed at fighting substance abuse, particularly amongst young people.

During the financial year 2020/21, the Department, through the Seshego Treatment Centre, admitted and treated ninety one (91) service users.

In partnership with the South African National Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SANCA), the department continued to render outpatient services to people who are assisted while they are at home. The budget allocated for substance abuse is

thirty million rand [R30 Million]. The Seshego Treatment Centre is continuing to do its great work of assisting people who are having challenges with the abuse of substances.

It is important to also highlight that such services are accessed by people from all walks of life, who managed to accept their problem and are seeking treatment. We have admitted even medical professionals who are need of the Centre's services.

Substance abuse is directly and indirectly affecting everyone irrespective of the position they hold in society. It does not only affect the young men and women we sometimes see on some street corners.

We are therefore continuing to make a clarion call to all our people to make use of these services to enable us to save lives and build strong family units.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The National Department of Social Development has allocated six point six million rand [R6.6 million] as part of a function shift to Provincial DSD during 2020/21. This was to ensure provision of food and nutrition security to the most vulnerable citizens of the Province. An additional five million rand [R5 million] was allocated by the Provincial Government to provide an additional 14 250 food hampers as part of food relief.

This was to complement the 122 000 food parcels donated by the private sector, civil society, faith based organisations and individual good Samaritans particularly during hard lockdown alert level 5 and 4 when people were urged to stay at home as an attempt to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the budget reprioritisation in July 2020, Provincial Treasury allocated an additional R10.3 million to boost the efforts of COVID-19 job creation initiatives. The Department then recruited fifty (50) social workers on contract basis to pro-

vide psychosocial support services to those infected and affected by the pandemic.

In addition, in partnerships with NPOs and community stakeholders the Department further recruited three hundred and sixty two (362) volunteers to assist in the identification and verification of beneficiaries as well as the packaging and distribution of food hampers. Fifty (50) cleaners were also recruited and placed in different DSD facilities as part of compliance to COVID-19 health protocols.

During budget adjustment, an additional fifty seven point eight million rand [R57.8 million] was allocated by Treasury to boost the COVID-19 food relief programme.

This allocation provided seventy four thousand five hundred and seventy seven (74 577) food parcels to benefit about two hundred and twenty three thousand, seven hundred and twenty eight (223 728) food insecure individuals within thirty seven thousand two hundred and eighty eight (37 288) poor households. An additional five hundred (500) community volunteers were also recruited as part of the programme.

The Department has recently launched a second cluster of the Provincial Food Distribution Centre in Malamulele under Collins Chabane Municipality to add to the one located in Seshego, Polokwane Municipality. We have therefore set aside seven point one million rand [R7.1 million] for the National Food Relief function shift and six million rand [R6 million] for the Food and Nutrition Programme, as well as for supporting the two Provincial Food Distribution Centres.

The two clusters of the Food Distribution Centres will distribute food parcels to an estimated forty two thousand (42 000) households and benefit two hundred and fifty thousand (250 000) people in the new financial year.

An amount of R5 million is set aside for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods including funding of income generating and food security initiatives for the benefit of poor households.

In addition to this, the Department has set aside R5.4 million for Youth Development and a further R3.5 million for Women Development Empowerment Programmes.

Fourteen point one million rand [R14.1million] is earmarked for work opportunities targeting four hundred and twenty three (423) young people, under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Honourable Speaker, allow me to present a total summary of our budget for the 2021/2022 financial year.

SUMMMARY OF THE BUDGET 2021/22

PROGRAMME	BUDGET	% of total
Programme 1: Administration	R329.4 million	16.3 %
Programme 2: Social Welfare Services	R396.3 million	19.6%
Programme 3: Children & Families	R876.3 million	43.4%
Programme 4: Restorative Services	R211.1 million	10.4 %
Programme 5: Development & Research	R203.4 million	10.0%
TOTAL	R2,016 billion	

As I draw towards conclusion, let me indicate that the Limpopo Province has been recently hit by a natural disaster other than the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein we had to activate our Social Relief of Distress aid in the Vhembe, Mopani and some parts of Capricorn Districts.

Heavy rains and flooding brought about by Cyclone Eloise created havoc in the Collins Chabane, Thulamela and Musina Municipalities in Vhembe District and in the Greater-Giyani, Maruleng and Tzaneen municipalities in Mopani District.

The Lepelle-Nkumpi and Blouberg municipalities in the Capricorn District also received heavy but damaging rains. Houses were damaged or destroyed and other household essentials such as food, toiletries and bedding were affected.

The Department in collaboration with Municipal Disaster Management Centres conducted a rapid assessment to determine the extent of the damage for possible disaster relief support. In partnership with civil society organisations, SASSA, the South African National Defence Force and municipalities, the following support was provided to the victims of disasters: Nine hundred and seventy one (971) food parcels, two hundred and eighty eight (288) blankets and psychosocial support services to all those affected.

In conclusion, allow me Honourable Speaker, to appreciate the unwavering support given by the Honourable Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. Allow me to also thank the Portfolio Committee for Social Development led by Honourable Sarah Monyamane and all oversight bodies, for their guidance and leadership.

In the same breath, allow me to thank the management of the Department, led by Ntate Desmond Mahopo, for their dedication and assistance in the delivery of services to our people.

I also wish to thank our agencies SASSA and NDA for their hard work and dedication during this past financial year. It was especially during the arrival of COVID-19 to our shores that they stepped up and assisted in servicing our people in dire need.

Let me once again convey my condolences to all of our colleagues, families and friends who lost loved ones in this past year – most of whom due to the devastating pandemic.

May their souls rest in eternal peace and may God grant us the wisdom and the power to overcome this devastating time in the history of humanity. Let us heed the call of keeping safe by properly wearing masks in public and sanitizing or washing hands.

Honourable Speaker

It now gives me great pleasure to table Budget Vote 12 for the Department of Social Development.

**I thank you,
Ke a leboga, N
dza khensa,
Ndo livhuwa,
Baie dankie.**