

BUDGET SPEECH VOTE: 12 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MRS HAPPY JOYCE MASHAMBA, AT THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, LEBOWAKGOMO

Thursday, 7th April 2016

Honourable Speaker;

Honourable Deputy Speaker;

Honourable Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha;

Esteemed Members of the Executive Council;

Honourable Members of the Legislature;

Executive Mayors and Mayors present here;

The Acting Director-General;

The HOD for Social Development, Ms. Daisy Mafubelu;

Our esteemed Majesties and Royal Highnesses;

Stalwarts and veterans of our struggle;

Heads of Chapter Nine and Chapter Ten Institutions;

Religious Leaders;

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations;

Executive Management of both SASSA and NDA;

Representatives of Labour and Business respectively;

The Media Contingent;

Distinguished guests, Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Avuxeni! Ndi Matsheloni! Thobela! Good morning! Goeie more!

Thank you for the opportunity to address this house and the citizens of Limpopo as we are gathered here in the month of April, during which we will be celebrating Freedom Day on the 27th, which marks South Africa's first non-racial democratic elections 22 years ago. It is noteworthy because it characterises the end of many

years of oppression and segregation, and the establishment of a democratic dispensation.

The African Union has declared 2016 the African Year of Human Rights, with particular focus on the rights of women.

Let us also be reminded that this year marks the 60 year anniversary of the historic women's march to the Union Buildings, on 9th August 1956.

The tenacity of the thousands of women and the peaceful but powerful way in which they protested against oppressive apartheid laws, proved to be significant in turning the tide against an unjust system.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto students' uprising. So many young people lost their lives, and their fearless efforts that fuelled the fire of the struggle for freedom will be forever etched in our memories. I salute the leaders of these gallant efforts that have proved significant in shaping this country's future.

Speaking at the first anniversary of South Africa's non-racial elections, the former President Mandela said, I quote:

"As dawn ushered in this day, the 27th of April 1995, few of us could suppress the welling of emotion, as we were reminded of the terrible past from which we come as a nation; the great possibilities that we now have; and the bright future that beckons us.

Wherever South Africans are across the globe, our hearts beat as one, as we renew our common loyalty to our country and our commitment to its future".

[Close quote]

Looking back at the first three months of the year 2016, it is easy to be discouraged by the images we have seen and the stories we have read.

Incidents of racism, violence and destruction across our land; the continuing harsh drought that is bringing our people to their knees and the uncertain economic climate experienced nationally and internationally are but some of the terrible realities that have come to characterise our times.

However, like a phoenix out of the ashes, we have seen South Africans of all hues and creeds join hands, take charge of the situation, imbued with the spirit of patriotism and Ubuntu. I am, therefore, convinced that the clouds that have gathered shall, indeed, clear and the sun shall again forever shine on the land of our forebears!

The Department of Social Development is ready to contribute towards this end through integrated and comprehensive service delivery that is responsive to the needs of our people. We therefore appeal to all South Africans of goodwill to join hands in creating a caring, prosperous and inclusive society.

Honourable Speaker,

It is with great pleasure that we present here today our budget allocation, as per our mandate, within the context of an increased service delivery drive to the poor and vulnerable of our society. Hence, 45% of this budget goes to the poor.

It is within this bias towards the poor and vulnerable in our society that, during the year under review, we have made it possible for a total of five hundred and fifty two (552) older persons to access services in the existing residential facilities and sixteen thousand eight hundred and thirty two (16 832) in community based services.

In 2016/17 we will continue providing funding and support to seven (7) residential facilities, to the tune of thirty one million rand [R31m] to enhance service delivery to our senior citizens.

We are gratified to announce that during the 2015/16 financial year, three thousand six hundred and twenty three (3 623) people with disabilities have been reached through protective workshops.

In 2016/17, a total amount of twenty six million rand [R26m] will be spent to fund three (3) residential facilities as well as protective workshops that will benefit three thousand seven hundred (3 700) persons with disabilities.

Honourable Speaker,

The effects of substance abuse on the socio-economic being of individuals, families and communities and especially the youth, is a cause for serious concern. It is also common cause that the use of drugs leads to risky sexual behaviour which, among others, include contracting infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

More often than not, violent crimes also occur when the perpetrators are under the influence of a substance. However, we are confident that the collaboration of all stakeholders can go a long way in reducing the level of substance abuse in our province.

As a department, we have reached three hundred and nineteen thousand, four hundred and thirty four (319 434) beneficiaries, which include children, youth and adults, through prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

During Anti-Substance Abuse Day commemorated in Bela-Bela last year, we witnessed the miracle of young people standing up and declaring that they wished to turn their lives around and that they seek help in fighting their drug addiction.

Honourable Speaker,

We ask these young people, if they are in the house today, to stand up without fear so that their brave efforts may be recognised by this House!

We are truly proud of them and hope that they will carry the message of hope to others in their communities that drug abuse and substance dependency can be beaten. May the House give them a round of applause!! Thank you very much.

Honourable Speaker, we commit ourselves to intensifying our struggle against substance abuse and the budget allocated for this service this financial year, is seven million rand [R7m].

Honourable Speaker,

It is our considered view that a caring society begins with strong families and vibrant communities. Our programmes are therefore geared towards responding to the life cycle needs of all South Africans, as part of families and communities, from childhood to old age.

The Department will, therefore, continue to provide home community based services to infected and affected families, including psycho-social services, social behavioural change programmes and provision of school uniform to needy learners. We have allocated eighteen million rand [R18m] in 2016/17, for this purpose.

The Department has also set aside sixteen million rand [R16m] in support of eighteen (18) NPO's in the province that provide family care services, with a view of enhancing parenting skills within families.

A budget of one million rand [R1m] has also been allocated for social relief of distress.

Further, plans for the implementation of the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy are being developed. The policy objective is to improve universal access to quality, equitable and appropriate services to children.

We are proud to announce that the number of registered ECD sites in the Province has increased from two thousand eight hundred and fifteen (2 815) in 2014/15, to three thousand and forty four (3 044) sites in 2015/16, with just over one hundred and sixty eight thousand (168 000) children benefitting from this programme.

To that end, the budget allocation has increased from two hundred and thirty four million rand [R234m] to two hundred and fifty million rand [R250m] for the financial year 2016/17.

We also offer community based services for vulnerable children and orphans in the province. The Isibindi project is being rolled out in fifty three (53) sites and two hundred and ninety eight (298) drop-in Centres were funded, providing services to fifty eight thousand and sixty four (58 064) vulnerable children. The budget allocated in this respect, is one hundred and thirteen million rand [R113m].

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker,

Once more as a caring government, we believe in joining hands with civil society and the business community, in our efforts to create a better life for all.

We wish to thank the Cipla Foundation for their support with regard to the Early Childhood Development Programme, initiated by the Deputy President, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa, to facilitate the construction of ECD Centres in needy communities in selected provinces, through Public Private Partnerships.

The Cipla Foundation is facilitating the erection of an ECD Centre in Mookgophong which will benefit one hundred and twenty (120) children and will be handed over to the community during this financial year. It is worth noting here too, that the ECD

Programme is regarded as one of the apex priorities of the South African government and is integral to the National Development Plan.

Honourable Speaker,

It is our great pleasure to announce in this House that the Government's agreement with the German Development Bank to develop services for orphans and vulnerable children through the construction of Community Care Centres and provision of skills development programmes for youth-headed households, has also commenced.

In this regard we are also happy to announce that the construction of five (5) Community Care Centres in areas most affected by HIV and AIDS in our province has commenced. The handing over of these centres to communities will also take place this financial year.

To the German Development Bank we say, on behalf of the people of Limpopo: "Danke schön!"

Ka vula Rintiho rin'we ari nusi Hove. I Ndlopfu ya hina, ahi khomisaneni. Intiyiso, munhu I munhu hi van'wana vanhu!

Honourable Speaker,

It is a disturbing reality that South Africa is a source; transit and destination country for trafficked men, women and children. South African girls are also trafficked within their own country for the purposes of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

The Department has, therefore, established a One-Stop and Child and Youth Care Centre in Polokwane, where victims are provided with shelter and other basic needs. We further provide services to victims of crime through Victim Empowerment Centres.

The number of victims of crime and violence provided with services was eighteen thousand five hundred and ninety four (18 594) in the previous financial year. In 2016/17, the Department will continue supporting victims of crime and violence in the established sites, at an amount of sixteen million rand [R16m].

In the 2015/16 financial year, two thousand and sixty one (2 061) children in conflict with the law were assessed. One thousand and ninety two (1 092) were referred for diversion services; those awaiting trial amounted to four hundred and ninety (490) and were provided with rehabilitation services in secure care centres and thirty one (31) were sentenced. Overall there has been a discernible decline of children committing serious crimes in the province.

For the financial year 2016/17, an amount of thirty four million rand [R34m] has been allocated for social crime prevention.

Further in the 2015/16 financial year, there were two thousand six hundred and sixty seven (2 667) children placed in foster care. For the 2016/17 financial year, we have budgeted two million rand [R2m] to continue with our advocacy for the care and protection of children.

Honourable Speaker,

It is a fact that where there is persistence of poverty, people experience concurrent deprivation including insufficient income, illiteracy, inadequate nutrition and disease. In response to this situation, the Department funded twenty five (25) sustainable livelihood projects in 2015/16.

Government support in procuring from cooperatives is still a challenge we seek to address to ensure the production of quality products and a link to the market through state agencies such as LEDA.

We therefore welcome the Premier's commitment in the State of the Province Address that at least 10% of government procurement should go towards SMME's and Cooperatives, and I quote:

"All major projects must have a localisation procurement thrust to ensure that SMME's and Cooperatives are developed into credible suppliers.....

An emphasis should be on biasness to co-operatives in our villages and vast farmlands of Limpopo to stimulate the rural economy."

[Close quotes]

We have initiated income-generating and food security projects, ranging from poultry, vegetables, bakery and egg production, to benefit rural women, youth and people with disabilities in our communities. For the 2016/17 financial year, we have set aside nine million rand [R9m] to fund twenty (20) more projects which will benefit nine hundred (900) people.

Honourable Speaker,

More than two thousand five hundred (2 500) households accessed food through food security programmes at an amount of two point six million rand [R2.6m] in the past financial year.

We will also continue to mobilize communities to initiate other developmental projects that have the potential to create jobs to unemployed youth, women and people with disability. Some of the food-security related projects will be linked to Provincial Food Distribution Centre for sustainability.

Thanks to the establishment of Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDC's), no individuals or families need to go to bed on an empty stomach. This step has

necessitated us to expand our food security programme, to reach many more vulnerable and poor families and individuals.

Seven million rand [R7m] will be spent to fund two (2) more CNDC's in the 2016/17 financial year and to sustain the existing ones.

This brings the total number of CNDC's to nineteen (19) across the province, including eight (8) funded by the National Department of Social Development. This initiative will be benefitting more than three thousand eight hundred (3 800) individuals.

Honourable Speaker,

Job creation remains a challenge to both the public and the private sectors. During the year under review our department created two thousand three hundred and one (2 301) jobs to the tune of forty eight million rand [R48m]. This benefited mainly women, youth and people with disabilities in rural areas.

In the 2016/17 financial year, the department will endeavour to create three thousand (3 000) jobs through the EPWP programme, to the amount of fifty six million rand [R56m]. Further to that, we are targeting two hundred (200) youths to participate in skills development programmes and a further three thousand (3 000) to participate in entrepreneurship development programmes. An amount of seven million rand [R7m] will be spent on this programme.

Women today still face enormous challenges and yet they have the ability to participate in changing society for the better. In the past financial year ten thousand three hundred and seventy (10 370) women participated in socio-economic empowerment programmes.

In the 2016/17 financial year, four million rand [R4m] has been set aside to benefit twenty thousand seven hundred and sixty nine (20 769) women in socio-economic empowerment programmes.

Madam Speaker,

The important role of Non-Profit Organisations in extending the rendering of social development services cannot be underestimated. Therefore, supporting and capacitating NPO's is one of the primary tasks of the Department.

We have, accordingly, through the National Development Agency and the National Department of Social Development, empowered two thousand one hundred and twenty (2 120) NPO's on institutional strengthening, including governance, financial management, conflict management, registration and compliance to enable them to render their work effectively and efficiently. Four million rand [R4m] was spent on this programme.

In the next financial year the department will be training three thousand five hundred (3 500) NPO's that render social development services.

The Department would, hereby, like to commend the selfless and dedicated contribution of our NPO's that continue to render invaluable services to our people. We since have received a number of appeals raised by NPO's.

To address this, we have appointed the NPO Funding Appeals Committee who will be scrutinising all appeals lodged by NPO's with regards to non-funding and report back on their findings. The Committee consists of knowledgeable and experienced individuals who will definitely add great value to the process. Allow me to acknowledge them and wish them well in the mammoth task ahead..... Thank you!

Honourable speaker and Honourable members,

The Department of Social Development is committed to cutting down on procurement of unnecessary goods and services on catering, travel and subsistence.

The savings in this regard will be passed on to our programmes to ensure that our scarce financial resources are spent on service delivery.

The Department is in discussion with SALGA to rebuild the issues facing service delivery, through the establishment of Social Development Committees in all districts municipalities. The key issues to be looked into include moral decay, family disintegration and the abuse of children and women. The discussion is expected to bear positive results.

In the 2015/16 budget speech, we made a commitment to complete the Vukuzenzele Community Rehabilitation Centre in Mopani, we are, therefore, delighted to announce that indeed the centre has been completed and will be in use during the 2016/17 financial year.

We can further confirm with great pride that the following three (3) multi-year infrastructure facilities are completed and currently provide access to social services for our people, namely the Mafefe Drop-In Centre in Capricorn; the Iris House Children's Home in Mopani and the Thohoyandou Children's Home in Vhembe.

Honourable Speaker

Sincere gratitude to the Members of the Provincial Legislature and the Portfolio Committee on Social Development. Honourable Shaikh and members, we value and appreciate your support and time, constructive criticism and constant interest in the Department's programmes, which is proof that, together we can build a caring society.

"Na mindzuku a swi ve tano, ku dya hi ku engeta".

We also take this opportunity to thank HOD Daisy Mafubelu, management, all members of the DSD family and our service delivery partners, for their commitment and hard work.

Best wishes to the outgoing CEO of the NDA in Limpopo, Prof. Zach Chuenyane we are confident that he will not be lost to the Province after having served the people with dedication and great distinction.

Honourable Speaker,

In the 2015/16 financial year, the department received a budget of one billion five hundred and thirty eight million rand [R1 538b].

In this, the 2016/17 financial year, the department's budget grows to one billion six hundred and thirty four million rand [R1 634b] to pursue our medium term strategic priorities that will focus on strengthening social welfare services and facilitating community development.

It is against this backdrop that we hereby, present the budget that is allocated as follows:

Programme 1: Administration – Two hundred and eighty million rand [R280m].

Programme 2: Social Welfare Services – Two hundred and twenty two million rand [R222m].

Programme 3: Children and Families – Seven hundred and four million rand [R704m].

Programme 4: Restorative Services – Two hundred and forty seven million rand [R247m].

Programme 5: Development and Support Services - One hundred and eighty million rand [R180m].

We are confident that this budget will go far in our efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty; heal the nation and restore the dignity of our people. We need to join hands and keep finding ways of fighting the scourge of societal ills.

The enemy is no longer the apartheid system, but rather the effects thereof on our people; as well as a modern era and lifestyles that threaten good moral and family values. We need to take charge and not lose focus. As Walter Sisulu said, and I quote:

“It is a law of life that problems arise when conditions are there for their solution.”

[Close quotes]

Let us therefore continue looking for solutions. We must believe that together, we can build a caring and progressive society.

I thank you! Ke a leboga! Ndo livhuwa! Baie dankie! Khanimambo!