



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

Leaders of Chapter Nine Institutions

Religious Leaders

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations

Executive Management of both SASSA and NDA

Members of the Business Fraternity

Members of the Media

Comrades and Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

Avuxeni! Ndi Matsheloni! Thobela!

Good morning! Goeie more!



Almost eight months ago, I stood before this august house to deliver Budget Vote 12 of the Department of Social Development, at the dawn of a new era for the Department and the Province.

Today we are proud to report on the delivery of our mandate. While we have made great strides our efforts to ensure a better life for all will continue unabated. This budget seeks to respond to the socio-economic challenges as enshrined in the National Development Plan (NDP) vision 2030.

It is geared towards positively impacting on the social welfare of the citizens of Limpopo, by contributing to the creation of much needed jobs and restoration of the dignity of all our people, regardless of race, gender, age or physical and mental abilities.

Allow me to note with sadness that we are gathering here in a time when we are still mourning our fallen comrades and compatriots - the late Minister Collins Chabane, MEC Thembi Nwedamutshwu and Ntate Nelson Diale.



Their selfless contributions to the country and the national democratic revolution will be forever valued.

Their revolutionary legacy will live on in our endeavours to ensure a better life for our people. May their souls rest in peace.

We have also recently witnessed the reburial of the mortal remains of two outstanding revolutionaries and struggle stalwarts, comrades J.B Marks and Moses Kotane. This year further marks the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter and 21 years of democracy and freedom.

Madiba once wisely observed, and I quote:

“I have walked a long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter along the way. But I have discovered the secret that, after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are more hills to climb”

Close quote.



He left us on this long road to complete the journey, knowing very well that South Africa and its people are in the capable hands of the African National Congress.

We shall, all obstacles notwithstanding, not falter on this path of ensuring that we create a caring society by establishing a social safety net for the most vulnerable citizens as well as those living in abject poverty.

Building a capable state is one of the pillars enshrined in the NDP. Therefore, the quality of workforce within the Department is crucial in our ongoing battle against poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, substance abuse, violence against women and children and other scourges rampant in our communities. This means developing and implementing a plausible skills development program to produce a credible cadreship for our Department.

It is quite true, as the honourable Premier said in his State of the Province Address and I quote:



“It is in our hands to build a Limpopo of our dreams. The choices we make or avoid to make today, will certainly determine our tomorrow and our collective destiny. We must today choose to work hard and harder, so that we can all live a better tomorrow.”

Close quote.

To that end, our Department has to strengthen the following critical areas: infrastructure, finance, supply chain management, legal services, labour relations and information technology and in particular, critical skills for social services professionals.

We are currently embarking on an Organisational Functionality Assessment Process. This process seeks to identify systematic, management and organisational challenges with the ultimate aim of enhancing the capacity and functionality of the department. This assignment will assist in repositioning the Department structurally, in line with the NDP’s Vision 2030.



Honourable Speaker

During the year under review, the Department has successfully achieved the target of 52% of women representation in the senior management echelons. This resonates well in this month when we celebrate the tenacity of women as well as their rightful position in society, during International Women's Month Celebrations.

Further, in the year under review, a total of six hundred and twenty one (621) older persons received care and support in the eight (8) residential facilities funded by the Department in the province. We will continue providing funding and support to these facilities, to make sure our elderly citizens receive the care and support they deserve.

In partnership with the Departments of Sport, Arts and Culture; of Health and with the Office of the Premier, healthy lifestyle programmes for older persons are initiated in all communities to increase their life expectancy and wellbeing.



These include activities such as beauty pageants, the centenary celebration, choral events and participation in different sporting codes.

An amount of fifty one million rand [R51m] has been set aside for all services to older persons, in order to ensure that our people can excel in physical activity and mental agility even at an advanced age.

During the 2014/15 financial year, the national cabinet approved a Policy on Social Development Services to People with Disabilities, which advocates for a transformation of social services to this category of our people.

Further in the year under review, the number of Persons with Disabilities accessing community based services in funded protective workshops increased to three thousand one hundred and ninety eight (3 198). In 2015/16 an additional fourteen (14) sites will be supported. We have set aside thirty million rand [R30m] to advance and improve the lives of people with disabilities.



The Department continues to provide psycho-social support to individuals and families affected by HIV and AIDS throughout the province.

The Social and Behavioural Programme which was introduced in 2013/14, is eliciting a positive response from communities which has helped to create a better understanding and the sharing of ideas in relation to HIV and AIDS.

In total, we will be spending fifty four million rand [R54m] for Non Institutional HIV and AIDS in the 2015/16 financial year.

As a special intervention, the Department has provided school uniforms to affected orphans and vulnerable children in various communities. Two thousand one hundred and seventy (2 170) Children have benefited from this programme.

As a Department, we also continue to provide services to families in distress or trapped in conflict and societal ills, through counselling and material assistance.



More families will be reached in 2015/16, through family services programmes such as parenting skills, mediation and counselling. The budget allocated for these services, is sixteen million rand [R16m].

Further, new children placed in foster care in 2014/15 came to a total number of one thousand and eight (1 008).

The major challenge experienced, is the review of foster care cases due to prolonged processes that precede final extensions. The Minister for Social Development, Ms. Bathabile Dlamini, has made provision that the application is done in the High Court to make sure children continue to receive benefits whilst dealing with these challenges.

We are making a clarion call to our communities to guard against heartless individuals who abuse foster care grants. Such conduct should be reported immediately to the South African Police Service (SAPS).



The Department will continue advocating for the care and protection of children as stipulated by the Constitution and the Children's Act. The alarming number of reported cases of abuse, abandonment and neglect of children, is a grave cause for concern. We once more make an earnest plea to parents and communities to take charge of their children's safety and welfare at all times.

Honourable Speaker

The Department of Social Development has set out to ensure that we increase the number of children aged 0 – 5 years, that access the ECD programme. The target for 2014/15 was to reach one hundred and fifty thousand (150 000) children.

We are very pleased to announce that, by the third quarter of 2014/15, one hundred and fifty four thousand, six hundred and thirty seven (154 637) children were accessing ECD services in the province, thereby exceeding the target.



Sixty six thousand five hundred and fifty six (66 556) children in total were subsidised by the Department of Social Development. Registered ECD sites have increased to two thousand seven hundred and seventy three (2 773) in the 2014/15 financial year. Mobile services will be supported to ensure the provision of services even on the periphery of the province.

We will diligently scrutinize compliance to norms and standards of these facilities through impromptu and unannounced visits at various ECD's. We have a huge responsibility in this regard and we will not hesitate to act against non-compliant ECD's.

The budget allocated to the service in 2015/16 is two hundred and thirty seven million rand [R237m].

Currently, many facilities don't meet the minimum requirements to register as ECD sites. However, partnerships have been developed with the National Lotteries Board and other non-governmental organisations to increase and improve ECD infrastructure in the Province.



In this regard, we once more want to thank Eskom for their generous gesture of donating goods and services to various ECD's in the Province in the 2014/15 financial year, as part of their corporate social responsibility. We hope that this token of goodwill and ploughing back into the community, becomes a regular feature of Eskom's activities.

The National Development Agency has launched an "Adopt an ECD" Campaign which seeks to source sponsorships of all kinds for ECD's that need additional support. To the business fraternity present here today we say: you are more than welcome to approach the NDA in this regard.

Honourable Speaker

Four hundred (400) Child and Youth care workers are being trained through the ISIBINDI project. Upon completion of their training, they are able to track vulnerable children in communities and make sure they are supported and provided with various services.



An additional one hundred (100) Child and Youth Care Workers will be recruited and trained in the 2015/16 Financial Year. The Department will continue to provide this service, as well as support other Community Based Services.

We have allocated one hundred million rand [R100m] for this purpose.

South Africa, through the National Department of Social Development, has entered into an 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.

To this end, six (6) Community Care Centres will be built in the five districts of the Province, in areas most affected by HIV and AIDS. This project is planned to commence in May 2015.



We are very pleased to announce to this House that the total number of assessed children in conflict with the law declined from two thousand one hundred and sixty three (2 163) during the 2013/14 financial year, to one thousand six hundred and twenty nine (1 629) in 2014/15.

Honourable Speaker

Violence against Women and Children continues to be an obstacle to the achievement of gender equity, development and peace as stipulated in our constitution and enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

As the lead Department in Victim Empowerment, we will continue to respond to this societal ill in an integrated and coordinated manner, by ensuring a comprehensive package of services to affected women and children.

We will further provide short to long term-care, support and empowerment of survivors of violence.



The Department will therefore increase the total number of funded VEP sites to seventy seven (77), in order to reach more individuals in our communities. Social Crime Prevention will receive a total amount of twenty four million rand [R24m] and VEP support will receive twenty seven million rand [R27m] for the 2015/16 financial year.

It remains the responsibility of this department to provide prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services to people dependent on substances and to provide additional support to their families.

In pursuance of its mandate to mobilise communities to take an active stand against the abuse of substances, the Department, in partnership with other stakeholders, has conducted dialogues to educate and sensitise citizens about the negative effects of substance abuse. The Department intends reaching more children and youth through our substance abuse prevention programmes, namely, POPPETS and “KE-MOJA”, in the coming financial year.



Through partnership with the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse or SANCA, in Limpopo, three hundred and twenty nine (329) service users accessed outpatient services for substance abuse.

This partnership will see further outpatient treatment services in the coming financial year. The Substance Abuse programme will be funded with eight million rand [R8m].

Social Welfare Services in the province are rendered through a partnership between the Department and Non-Profit; Non-Governmental and Community Based Organisations.

In the past financial year, the Department provided financial support to two thousand and fifty eight (2 058) of these organisations, utilizing an amount of four hundred and ten million rand [R410m].

Further, we have, together with the National Department of Social Development and the National Development Agency, built capacity of two thousand six hundred and eighty three (2 683) NPO's in governance and financial management.



In the next financial year, the Department will be training one thousand nine hundred (1 900) NPO's that render social development services. An amount of four million rand [R4m] is set aside for this purpose.

One of the fundamental issues confronting the ANC-led government as espoused in the National Development Plan is the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality. As a result of this, many rural areas and households are still trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty.

During the year under review, the Department increased the funding of Community Based Projects and Cooperatives, which sought to empower and develop communities to become self-reliant. The increase in funding was done to ensure that projects have the capacity to create quality sustainable jobs.

Twenty one (21) sustainable livelihood projects across the province were funded to the tune of thirteen million rand [R13m], in line with the national household food and nutrition security strategy.



The projects include poultry farming, vegetable gardens, bakery, sewing and egg production. It is worth mentioning that procurement of goods and services from these cooperatives by government should be strongly encouraged.

In collaboration with government agencies, such as LEDA, the Department is capacitating cooperatives to produce quality products as well as linking them to the market.

Fourteen million rand [R14m] will be spent to fund an additional twenty (20) projects in the 2015/16 financial year. The majority of the projects will be food security related; led by women, unemployed youth and people with disabilities.

Honourable Speaker

In our endeavour to achieve a Zero Hunger Society, the Department of Social Development, both National and Provincial, have introduced Provincial Food Distribution Centres. Community Development Nutrition Centres, in turn, complement the Provincial Centres.



To that effect, Makotse Women's Club NPO, situated in Makotse Village was appointed to manage Household Food and Nutrition Services for the financial year 2014/15 up to 2015/16.

In 2014/15 we have spent one million five hundred thousand rand [R1.5m] to complement operational costs of the four (4) Community Nutrition Development Centres, whilst the other eight (8) were funded to the tune of three million six hundred thousand [R3.6m] by the National Department.

Household poverty has further necessitated us to expand our food security programme to reach many more vulnerable and poor people.

We will be adding another five million rand [R5m] for the establishment of one more Provincial Food Distribution Centre and five (5) more Community Nutrition Development Centres.



In the 2015/16 financial year, an amount of four million rand [R4m] will be set aside to ensure that sixty thousand (60 000) people access food through the Department's Centre-based Food Programmes and two thousand (2 000) households are assisted through Food Security Programmes.

Honourable Speaker

Women empowerment and development remains at the top of the agenda of the ANC led government.

During the 2014/15 Financial Year, an amount of two million rand [R2m] was spent to capacitate five thousand four hundred and ninety four (5 494) women in socio-economic empowerment programmes.

In 2015/16, one million four hundred thousand rand [R1.4m] has been set aside for women to participate in the socio-economic empowerment programmes of the Department. The plight of the youth – the future of South Africa - cannot be ignored.



Therefore, during the 2014/15 financial year, one hundred and ninety eight (198) youth were trained on skills such as professional cookery, hospitality, building and civil engineering, life skills, entrepreneurship and new venture creations. An amount of four million six hundred rand [R4.6m] was spent for this purpose.

In the 2015/16 financial year, we are targeting two hundred (200) youth to participate in skills development programmes.

Two thousand (2 000) youth will participate in entrepreneurship development programmes and an amount of seven million rand [R7m] will be spent on this programme. These programmes will enable the youth to participate in the mainstream economy through absorption in the labour market, while some of them will have an opportunity to start their own businesses.

A formidable partnership with both the public and private sector is needed, to ensure that the youth is introduced to employment opportunities and that young people are motivated to market their skills and initiate small businesses.



In order to upscale opportunities for our youth, the Department is working tirelessly with non-governmental organisations to ensure that the needs of the youth are addressed, inclusive of their health, education and skills.

Through the National Department of Social Development, we continue to offer bursaries to deserving students. For the 2015 academic year, three hundred (300) new bursary holders will be added to the existing five hundred and seventy nine (579) students currently being funded to study Social Work. This will go a long way in addressing the shortage of social services professionals in the Province as well as contribute towards job creation - especially among the youth.

A total of five hundred and sixty five (565) graduates have, in the past two financial years, been absorbed in the department as part of our recruitment and retention strategy.

Job creation remains a priority to all government entities and the private sector.



It is up to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) strategy to scale up public employment as emphasised by the NDP. During the year under review, two thousand three hundred and one (2 301) jobs were created. This benefited mainly women, youth and people with disabilities in rural areas.

In the 2015/16 financial year, the Department has set a target of increasing this number through the EPWP and other programmes such as Drop-In Centres, ISIBINDI and VEP Centres, to name but a few.

Honourable Speaker

I am elated to announce that the following projects are completed and awaiting handover: the Mafefe Drop-In Centre in Capricorn at a contract cost of nine million rand [R9m] and Irish House Children's Home in Mopani, at a cost of forty one million rand [R41m].



The following projects are nearing completion: Seshego Treatment Centre in Capricorn, at a cost of ninety six million rand [R96m], Mtsetweni Children's Home in Vhembe, forty million rand [R40m] and Thohoyandou Children's Home, forty six million rand [R46m]. These facilities will provide access to social amenities for our people.

We are confident that we will live up to the commitment to complete Vukuzenzele Community Rehabilitation Centre in Mopani during 2015/16 financial year at a cost of twelve million rand [R12m].

We will shy away from blowing our own trumpet, as they say "Mintirho ya Vulavula". We therefore extend an invitation to this august House to join us and witness these historic occasions, when we officially open these facilities. We are not doubtful when we confirm that we are on course. Indeed we have a good story to tell.



Honourable Speaker

I herewith take this opportunity to once again thank the management and staff of the Department of Social Development, for their sterling job of advancing the department's vision of "A Caring and Self-reliant Society" to all people of Limpopo.

It is especially during the trying and emotional time of families having lost their family members in the Nigerian Church Collapse Tragedy, that a caring spirit and willingness to go the extra mile, was displayed by especially our Social Workers.

I request this House to give them a special round of applause in appreciation of their selfless work, to assist these families with their compassion, their knowledge and their time.

To the Members of the Provincial Legislature and the Portfolio Committee on Social Development:



Honourable Shaikh and members, we appreciate your robust engagement and constructive criticism, which is proof that, together, we can do a lot more to improve the lives of the people of Limpopo.

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

This presentation of the one billion five hundred and thirty eight million rand **[R1 538 billion]** allocation to the Department, is proof of our efforts to renew the pledges we have made with our people, as I alluded to earlier and also to create partnerships that will assist us in fulfilling our mandate.

It is against this backdrop that I hereby present the Department of Social Development Budget for the 2015/16 financial year, which is distributed among the various programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Administration – Two hundred and ninety six million rand [R296m].

Programme 2: Social Welfare Services – Two hundred and twenty three million rand [R223m].



Programme 3: Children and Families – Six hundred and fifty four million rand [R654m].

Programme 4: Restorative Services – Two hundred and seven million rand [R207m].

Programme 5: Development and Support Services - One hundred and fifty eight million rand [R158m].

We are confident that this budget will go a long way towards responding positively to the challenges plaguing our society, to heal the divisions of the past; restore the dignity of our people; free their potential to participate in the economy and build a just society based on democratic values and fundamental human rights.

We know that all our people will join hands with the Department in the coming financial year, to building a caring society.

I thank you!

Khanimambo!

Ke a leboga!

Ndo livhuwa!

Baie dankie!