

**REPLY TO THE DEBATE ON VOTE 12 OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY
THE RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE HONOURABLE HJ
MASHAMBA: LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATURE, LEBOWAKGOMO.**

28th August 2014

**“WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A
CARING SOCIETY.”**

**Honourable Speaker of the Provincial
Legislature;**

Honourable Deputy Speaker;

Honourable Premier Chupu Stanley

Mathabatha;

**Honourable Chairperson and Members of the
Portfolio Committee on Social Development;
Honourable Members of the Legislature;
The HOD of the Department of Social
Development, Ms. Daisy Mafubelu;
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media;
Comrades and Friends;
Ladies and Gentlemen;
All protocol observed**

On the occasion of the tabling of Vote 12 of the Department of Social Development we quoted from the wisdom of the late President-General of the African National Congress, Oliver Reginald Tambo. For purposes of emphasis and consistency, I reiterate OR when he said:

“The fight for freedom must go on until it is won; until our country is free and happy and peaceful as of the community of man, we cannot rest.”

In line with this piece of profound wisdom from the late stalwart, we say to the people of Limpopo, we cannot rest until we have reversed the frontiers of poverty, inequality and unemployment. Through our programmes we are confident that we are on the right track to create a better life for all the people of the province.

We have taken cognisance of the frank engagements on Budget Vote 12 and its accompanying Annual Performance Plan in the Portfolio Committee of Social Development.

We acknowledge and appreciate the oversight role of the Honourable Shaida Shaikh and the collective of the portfolio committee. The same openness has found expression during the current debate on the budget speech.

We owe our success in the discharge of our mandate to the millions of the people of Limpopo who trusted us with the mandate to govern the province. I therefore make a commitment on behalf of the Department of Social Development that we will live by the dictates of the Budget Vote and the Annual Performance Plan.

Madam Speaker

We have just emerged from the Social Development MINMEC to give concrete expression and impetus to the mandate of creating a caring South African society. Among the decisions emanating from MINMEC are the following:

- Addressing the long-standing absorption of social worker graduates in a collective strategy. This will include investigating the possibility of internships for all unemployed social workers (including bursary recipients).
- Ensuring that the National Development Agency performs in accordance with its new mandate and the engagement of national and provincial treasuries, on the financial implications of the new mandate of the NDA.

- Harnessing of the resources of Traditional Leaders in dispensing grants to beneficiaries in the province
- Cooperatives to move from SASSA to the Department of Social Development branch, Comprehensive Social Security.
- The convention of a Special MINMEC on taking Early Childhood Development as a public good, with the view of rolling out programmes in a comprehensive manner.

Details on these decisions and others adopted at MINMEC will be given during the course of the financial year as the Department gives concrete expression to its Annual Performance Plan.

As I conclude the response to the debate on Vote 12 of the Department of Social Development, allow me to quote from the preamble of our 2014/2015 Budget Speech as delivered in this August house on 15 July 2014:

“Indeed, we cannot rest until we have achieved the revolutionary ideals of our people: the creation of a just society, based on the will of the people and the sharing of the wealth of our country, by the people as a whole. Guided by the Manifesto and the resolutions of the ruling party with regard to transformation, we shall soldier on until these ideals are realized.”

Working Together We Can Build A Caring Society.

I thank you!

Mayihlome!

Khanimambo!

Ke a leboga!

Ndolivhuwa!

Baie Dankie!