



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

2018/2019 BUDGET SPEECH

VOTE 12
TABLED IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
BY HON M.A. MOKABA-PHUKWANA
ON 12 APRIL 2018



Honourable Speaker;

Re wele mahlong re le South Africa, Africa le lefatshe ka bophara ka lehu la Mmasetshaba wa rena Comrade Winnie Nomzamo Mandela, le mahlwa a di bona Comrade Zola Sidney Themba Skweyiya, the former Minister of Social Development. A moya ya bona e robale ka kgotso!

In his speech to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, one of the most outstanding sons of this soil, Kaizana Oliver Reginald Tambo narrated in Lusaka on the 21st April 1979 about ‘a vision of a future in which we shall no longer experience the haunting spectacle of a child digging through refuse heaps, searching for rotten pieces of food’.

In tandem with that vision, the Department of Social Development in Limpopo envisage and remain committed to the creation of a Caring and Self –Reliant Society. This embodies the constitutionally enshrined obligation to provide for the right to access social assistance and social services to those unable to support themselves and their dependents.

The same sentiments were well articulated by our country’s founding President Nelson Mandela when he said: *“There is nothing I fear more than waking up without a program that will help me bring a little happiness to those with no resources, those who are poor, illiterate and ridden with terminal disease.”*

This budget vote is thus a program aimed at breathing life to our citizens, who are still unable to access appropriate care, basic nutrition, shelter, health care and social services and continue to stare the scourge of poverty in the eye.

Through this budget vote, the African National Congress led government aims to continue restoring the dignity and hope to the poor and the most vulnerable in our society as demanded by mama Nomzamo.



Honourable Deputy Speaker;
His Excellency, the Honourable Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha;
Honourable Members of the Executive Council;
Honourable Members of the Legislature;
The Honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party;
Distinguished Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees;
Honourable Leaders and members of the opposition;
The Executive Mayors and Mayors here present;
Their Excellences Makgoshi a Rena le Mantona;
Respectable Stalwarts and Veterans of our Struggle;
Heads of Our Chapter 9 and 10 Institutions;
Our Director-General, Mr. Nape Nchabeleng;
Head of Department of Social Development, Ms. Daphne Ramokgopa;
Management of SASSA, NDA and Social Development;
Representatives from various faith based organisations;
Representatives of Civic and Non-Governmental Organizations;
Members of the Fourth Estate;
Distinguished Guests, comrades and compatriots,
Members of the media; Ladies and Gentlemen.

As the Department of Social Development in Limpopo we once again express our appreciation for the opportunity to present our Financial Plans for the period 2018/19. This is in line with our quest for transparency, accountability, good governance and being of service to our citizens and communities that sent us to represent them.

Our mandate needs to be understood in the complexity of examining the origins and development of social services which are fraught with



competing narratives. In South Africa, individualist, liberal, colonial, masculine and "white" discourses prevailed over 342 years. This was characterized by paternalism and welfare policies that favoured whites as the welfare elites.

Despite all this controversy, we are proud to dedicate this 2018/19 budget vote to one of the outstanding, revolutionists' social worker uMama Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela-Mandela who died on the 2nd April 2018. Mama Winnie's persuasion and ability to challenge the Apartheid socio economic status of Black South Africans could be traced from the first black South African social worker Charlotte Makgomo (formerly Manya) Maqxeke born on 7 April 1847 at Ga-Ramokgopa in Limpopo, graduated in 1902 and died on 16 October 1939 in Johannesburg.

It is in this regard that as Limpopo, the tabling of this budget vote recognizes among others, Bomma Makgomo and Nomzamo's contributions in the socio-economic development of the previously discriminated South African majority. In their honour, the department in partnership with other stakeholders is to host the launch of the *National Child Protection Week* next month.

This event and others in our social developmental calendar, do not only mark the unparalleled and unequalled journey we began since 1994 as people. These are constant reminders of the commitment we made before and at the beginning of the post-apartheid dispensation.

We therefore find it disgusting that our efforts towards the so-called 'Rainbow Nation' united in diversity is continually undermined by architects of apartheid and their descendants.

Referring to Winnie Mandela as a controversial political revolutionist, defending and supporting the use of K word by Vicki Momberg, mistaking



a twelve-year-old boy Bongumusa Duma for a monkey, coating blacks with white paint in this era is not only confrontational but insulting to our liberation struggle. Making a mockery of our Reconciliation, Equality and Human Rights efforts.

Honourable Members

The need to build a caring and self-reliant society as part of reconstruction and development, call upon all of us to contribute towards this vision. All of us black and white, regardless of political affiliation, left or right of the political spectrum, ruling or in opposition need to unite. The period of vengeance and retribution politics should be over with dawn of democracy and latest the New Dawn. We all need the same determination to fighting poverty, unemployment and inequality as we do with current selective corruption matters.

President Nelson Mandela whom many claim to respect and admire once warned us that:

"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom".

We thus, as a nation, need to walk the talk and practically observe and implement Madiba's and other African leaders' foresights. We should stop being hypocrites and selectively identify with those issues that conceals our true characters.



Honourable Speaker,

In this year's State of The Nation Address, President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, correctly challenged our moral compass, by edging us to positively contribute to "turning *our country around and lending a hand.*"

It is around this common cause that we, as the Department of Social Development seek to lend a hand towards the process of building the type of society we want to be proud of, with all hands on deck.

Within the same understanding of turning our country around and lending a hand. Our Honourable Premier, His Excellency, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, in his State of the Province Address quoted one of the early presidents of the African National Congress, Cde Josia Gumede and said:

"I have seen the new Jerusalem",

The Premier implored all of us to join in the march to this New Dawn, Jerusalem.

This budget vote aims to ensure that children, the orphaned, the sickly, the elderly, and the vulnerable are part of the march to turn around our country towards the New Jerusalem.

Honourable Members

Social Development has prioritized the following as focal areas in the 2018/19 financial year:

- Early Childhood Development
- Youth Development
- Food Security and
- Victim empowerment

Taking these priorities into account and in line with our mandate to build a caring and a self-reliant society, we are committed to emphasizing the need for integrated developmental social welfare services. This can only



be realized through intergovernmental and inter-departmental coordination clusters, which some of us take for granted. Silo approach and negative competitions between national, provincial and local governments must be discouraged.

To effectively address some of our societal ills such as poverty, skewed distribution of land and wealth, support and protection to children and older persons, socio-economic empowerment of persons living with disabilities, HIV & AIDS and others, we need strong and sustainable partnerships with the civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

To respond to emergency needs of communities in distress situations and restore the dignity and respect for the rights of the child, the elderly, and people living with disabilities, the poor and the vulnerable in our society, we need to synchronize our operations.

As an example, Honourable Speaker, the child and youth care centers and the old age homes based in the Social Service Development cannot operate effectively without the cooperation of other departments such as Health, Education, Transport, Safety and Security, Public Works, Sport, Arts and Culture, Agriculture, CoGHSTA, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

We therefore, through the Honourable Premier's office as is annually done, need to review our departmental configurations and tasks allocations in favour of more interdepartmental co-ordination during our strategic sessions.

Services to Older Persons

The budget allocated to programmes destined to provide services to older persons in 2018/19 amounts to **R38 million**. We will continue



supporting the 8 Residential facilities in the Province housing 582 older persons.

We also intend to strengthen our community based care centers where 19 370 older persons are targeted.

National Golden Games

The Department will continue engaging older Persons on active aging programme in the Province, district and municipalities under the *National Golden Games*. The event, themed '*Celebrating Active Ageing*' is held to promote physical activity among older persons. Last year, all provinces have entered teams ranging in age from 60 to more than 90 years old.

We can as well, report to this house that during the previous financial year, the department organized the *Provincial Golden Games*. About 800 older persons participated in different sporting codes.

We are proud to announce that 200 older persons represented Limpopo in the *National Golden Games* at Richardsbay, KwaZulu-Natal from 26-27 October 2017. Our provincial team took position 3 out of the nine (9) provinces.

On this I want to highlight and acknowledge the collaboration effort with the Office of the Premier, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Municipalities and many other organizations that participated. This is the integrated social services delivery trajectory that we need to continue building going into 2018/2019 financial year.

Ka Sepedi sabo rena rere: "Mahlaku a maswa a ema ka a ma taala"



Hence it is our responsibility to take care and jealously protect our older persons.

Services to People with Disabilities

The Department has allocated **R84 908 million** to provide services to people with disabilities. The department will continue supporting the 3 residential facilities for persons living with disabilities. In the 2018/2019 financial year the department is targeting 294 recipients to reside in our facilities.

Disability Workshop Development Enterprise (DWDE)

The Disability Workshop Development Enterprise was established in 2007 after a research by the Department of Social Development. The findings showed the need to support the protective workshops in the transformation from charity organisations to enterprises which are active in the mainstream society and economy. DWDE supports the workshops in terms of organizational and financial development, product development, marketing and client communication. DWDE also acts as a central point for companies and organisations looking for services and products offered by the workshops and facilitates the connections between the two parties.

Protective workshops were established in South Africa to move away from the automatic institutionalization of people with disabilities and instead focus on the skills of people and how people with disabilities can contribute to society and the overall economy.

The protective workshops provide a safe and disability friendly environment with opportunities for people with disabilities from the local



community to develop and improve their skills and to earn an income through the products that they produce.

To date in Limpopo there are 75 funded protective workshops benefiting 4 460 people with disabilities. The impact of this programme on the livelihoods of our people is showcased in the Lehlaba Protective Workshop at Tubatse Municipality, Sekhukhune district. The Workshop specializes in stimulation programmes for children with disabilities and psychosocial services for adults with disabilities. The Thobela Protective workshop in Mogalakwena Municipality, Waterberg district also specializes in stimulation programme and vocational skills.

Allow me Hounourable Speaker to acknowledge our invited guests T.S. Mabasa from Lehlaba Protective Workshop in Tubatse and Kekana Theresa from Thobela Protective Workshop in Mogalakwena as our special guests who are in the public gallery with us today. Protective workshops as part of our programmes on disabilities shall go a long way into providing sustainable jobs and livelihoods amongst our people living with disabilities.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

JICA is advancing its activities around the pillars of a field-oriented approach, human security, and enhanced effectiveness, efficiency, and speed.

We can as well report to this august house, Honourable Speaker that the JICA project which focuses on disability mainstreaming and empowerment of persons with disabilities, started in 2016/17 in the province and is progressing well. Eleven community members and officials visited Japan to benchmark programmes that are being implemented in that country during November-December 2017.



The team has commenced with training the disability community on Disability Equity Training modules at Thulamela and the Collins Chabane Local Municipalities.

It's our view that this training shall go a long way into ensuring disability mainstreaming in our province.

**Honourable Speaker,
On HIV & Aids Programme**

In the 2018/19 financial year, **R187 604 million** has been set aside to take care and support families and individuals affected and infected by HIV & Aids. In the previous financial year of 2017/18 about 27 100 beneficiaries have been reached out through the *Social and Behaviour Change Programme known as YOLO.*

You Only Live Once

We have during 2017/18 financial year launched the “*You Only Live Once*” (YOLO) programme targeting young people through social, behavioral and mindset change. Through this programme, compared to the previous financial year, the Department is targeting to reach out to 35 200 beneficiaries in the 2018/19 financial year.

Families in Distress

In 2017/2018 financial year, 13 746 families in distress were supported and provided with among others the material assistance. The department will continue to provide support to families in distress during the difficult times. To that extent, 13 800 families are targeted as beneficiaries in the 2018/19 financial year. The budget allocation to this programme is estimated at **R1,1 million.**



On Early Childhood Development (ECD)

In his 2018 SONA, President Ramaphosa, highlighted the symbiotic relationship between poverty and education by eloquently pointing out that:

“We know, however, that if we are to break the cycle of poverty, we need to educate the children of the poor. We have insisted that this should start in early childhood. Today we have nearly a million children in early childhood development facilities”

The 2016 STATS SA Community Survey midyear population estimates, reveals that children aged between 0yrs – 4yrs and 5 – 9yrs are estimated at 1,383,730 and the majority of whom are not accessing registered ECD and that poses serious risk in the holistic development of the child.

In response to these facts, our Honourable Premier indicated that to support early childhood learning, 211 Early Childhood Development facilities across the Province at a value of R20 million will be maintained.

It is for these reasons, that as Department of Social Development we have allocated a total budget of **R308 million** to Early Childhood Development Programmes in the 2018/19 financial year.

Out of this amount R49.816 million has been allocated to Early Childhood Development Conditional grants to benefit 8 830 children while our equitable share allocation stand to benefit 80 000 children .

The ECD conditional grant which we introduced in 2017/2018 budget speech has been increased by R8 816 million to R 49 816 million. These allocations are to focus on increasing children benefitting from the subsidy and ensure compliance to minimum requirements for registered ECD sites.



Allow me once more Honourable Speaker, to acknowledge one of our guests today, Mme S.J. Pitsi from Boledi ECD centre in Mahwelereng, Mogalakwena Local Municipality. The Boledi ECD has been one of the best run ECDs to have benefitted from this programme

We have in 2017/2018 financial year also commenced with a push to have massive registration drive for unregistered ECDs in communities, to increase the number of children accessing registered ECD programmes.

To that effect, we can report to this august house that out of that commitment, the Provincial ECD Summit was held on the 23 – 24 May 2017. In attendance was 310 delegates representing NPOs, FBOs, Government Departments, ECD Forums and ECD Practitioners. Out of this summit, a Provincial Action Plan was developed.

Today we can report that the province has 189 fully registered and 3 273 conditionally registered ECD sites. The **R16.745 million** conditional grant allocated in this budget is intent to upgrade the 199 conditionally registered ECD centres. The upgrade will assist these operators to meet all the compliance requirements and become fully registered in order to increase their 2018/19 intake. Presently we have 200 793 children enrolled with the ECDS'S.

Honourable Members

On Child Care and Protection

To protect our children and put sunshine into their hearts, the Department has budgeted **R127 394 million** for Child Care and Protection programmes in the 2018/2019 financial year. The Department will continue to place children in alternative care. The number targeted for 2018/19 is 2490. During the previous financial year, 3 171 children were on foster care.



During the 2017/18 financial year we committed to this house to train more Child and Youth Care Workers. Indeed 334 Child and Youth Care Workers completed training at the end of last month. This development increases the total number of Child and Youth Care workers trained within the MTSF to 720 who are placed in 54 *Isibindi* sites.

In the 2018/2019 financial year 61 650 vulnerable children intake is targeted.

In 2017/2018 financial year 19 Child and Youth Care centres, accommodating 983 children were provided with care and protection. The allocation to the programme for 2018/2019 is **R33 million**. We will through this allocation continue to provide support to our children, in 19 child and youth care centers.

As part of the Child Care and Protection Programme, the Department will be hosting the **National Child Protection Week in May**, in Thulamela Local Municipality, Vhembe District. Through this campaign we want to send a clear message that offences against our women, children and the disabled will not be tolerated.

Honourable Speaker

On Social Crime Prevention and Victim Empowerment

The Department of Social Development as part of its mandate is charged with the responsibility to provide integrated developmental social crime prevention and anti-substance abuse services to the most vulnerable.

The Department provides restorative services aimed focusing on social crime prevention and victim empowerment programmes. Through the



Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy of the Justice Crime Prevention Cluster, the Department ensured that the number of children and youth in conflict with the law decreases in the province.

During 2017/2018 financial year only 1596 children were assessed, 720 placed on diversion programme and 27 sentenced to secure care centres. The programme will continue in 2018/2019 to provide rehabilitation programmes to children in conflict with the law and the targeted number is 1 230. The allocated budget for the programme is **R42 million**.

Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP)

Violence against women, children, people with disabilities and older persons as indicated, is still a thorny issue in our society and like all other crimes needs concerted attention.

Lately, the province is also experiencing increased cases of human trafficking involving in the main our neighbouring SADC and Asian countries. Women and children retrieved within our borders as the result of this crime are accommodated in our Provincial Shelters. Most of these victims stay for more than the permissible and budgeted three months whilst the cases are being investigated.

During the 2017/18, the department provided psychosocial services to 16 038 victims of crime and violence through the 81 Victim Empowerment sites placing strain on budget allocations.

Considering these trends, **R29,022 million** has been allocated for the 2018/19 financial year and 16 320 victims could be protected. Similarly, outreach programmes will be intensified and mentoring services strengthened to improve the quality of services in VEP sites.



Honourable Speaker

On Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation

Alcohol and Substance abuse remain critical challenges against our vision to building a caring and self-reliant society. Ladies and gentlemen and fellow compatriot, you will agree with me that substance abuse is a highly worrying social ill that has taken a matter of national priority.

During 2017/18 financial year, 236 959 children under the age of 18 were reached through substance abuse prevention programmes. During the same period, 170 024 people over the age of 18 were also reached and 775 people accessed the outpatient substance abuse treatment programmes.

The allocation for 2018/2019 is increased to **R19 million** and the Department plans to reach out to 206 000 children under the age of 18 and 136 500 people over the age of eighteen. The Department will further provide 700 people with access to outpatient treatment in partnership with South African National Council on Alcoholism (SANCA). Additional 105 people will access inpatient treatment services from public treatment centre in Seshego.

Let me report to this house as well, that the *Seshego Treatment Centre* has been handed over to the department after construction by the Infrastructure Development Agency (IDA). Recruitment and selection processes is almost done and outstanding equipment procured. The centre is currently being registered and approval for occupation is awaited from Polokwane Municipality.

We are confident that the centre would come into operation soon during the 2018/19 financial year.



Honourable Members

Poverty alleviation and Sustainable livelihoods

The department has in 2017/18 funded 23 poverty alleviation projects, focusing on youth, women and sustainable projects for households. It is however worth mentioning that our Projects and Cooperatives find it difficult to sustain their operations and compete in markets due to high running costs, with electricity mentioned as central.

It is within this context of extending a helping hand to our community projects and Cooperatives that we welcome the commitment made by the President in his State of the Nation Address to set aside at least 30% of public procurement to SMMEs, cooperatives and rural enterprises.

Engagements with the Electricity Regulator via Eskom is underway to review the costs. We are confident that this measure shall go a long way in creating sustainable business and markets for Cooperatives and community projects.

We have in 2018/2019 financial year set aside **R12 908 million** to support additional 20 Poverty alleviation community projects and Cooperatives. The allocation will support the Department in the efforts directed at creating the much needed jobs in our communities as instructed by the National Development Plan and the Limpopo Development Plan.

Honourable Speaker

Since the introduction of the *Household Food and Nutrition Security Programme* in 2014/15, the Provincial Department, together with our National counterpart, funded the *Provincial Food Distribution Centre* and nineteen Community Nutrition Development Centers (CNDCs) which were established throughout the province.



Through this programme we can report that 107 job opportunities for Cooks have been created and 100 Cooperatives have been linked to these centres for the procurement of vegetables, beef and chicken.

This programme has since inception to date, benefitted more than 364 753 people through Feeding Programs by providing cooked nutritious food to Early Childhood Development Centers, Drop in Centers and Community Development nutrition centres.

In 2018/2019 financial an amount of **R20.165 million** has been allocated to Household Food and Nutrition Security Programme to reach out to 190 000 people and 4 600 households.

On Women Development

Since 1994, we have witnessed progressive measures undertaken by the ANC led government to redress issues of gender disparity in our society. As part of women empowerment trajectory, about 23 768 women have benefitted from the Departmental empowerment programs, including the funding of women led cooperatives since 2014.

In 2017/2018 alone six community based organizations specifically managed by women were supported. We have invited Honourable Speaker, Mme Mogale Grace and Mme Makgopa Mokgadi from Thushanang Molaudi Poultry Project from Ga-Sekororo as our special quests to join us in the public gallery to showcase our unwavering commitment to the empowerment of women. Thushanang Molaudi Poultry Project is cooperative funded by the Department of Social Development and run by 6 women. The cooperative owns 3 chicken houses and sells its outputs to the local community as well as supplying to ECDs, DICs and schools and in the process sustaining its operations through finances raised beyond the funding received from the Department.



In the 2018/2019 financial year, the Department has set aside **R4 289 million**, to capacitate 21 000 women on socio-economic activities such as Cooperative Development, SMME Development, Local economic Development, Project Management and Community Development initiatives.

Honourable Speaker

On Youth Development

In his State of the Nation Address, President of the Republic, Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa declared that:

“At the centre of our national agenda in 2018 is the creation of jobs, especially for the youth. We are going to embark on a number of measures to address the unemployment challenge”

Since 2014 to date, about 28 349 young person between the age 18-35 years benefitted from the Departmental Skills Development and Entrepreneurship Programmes.

In 2018/19 financial year about ten (10) NPOs managed by Youth and additional 24 050 youth will be reached on life skills, entrepreneurship, mobilization and empowerment programmes. The amount budgeted for these purposes amounts to **R10 120 million**.

The Premier has announced in his State of the Province Address, that the Province has developed a *Provincial Youth Development Strategy*. His Excellency, further directed that Departments and municipalities, must develop clear and workable implementation plans to support the Strategy.



On Institutional Capacity Building and Support (Funded and Trained NPOs)

Our partnership and cooperation with Non Profit Organizations remains paramount. In 2017/2018, two thousands eight hundred and thirty five (2 835) Not for Profit Organizations were funded. In addition the National Treasury has introduced new guideline for the management of transfers to these organisations, which will be implemented during the 2018/19 financial year.

It should however be noted that the Department will focus mainly on the NPOs that are currently compliant. I must indicate **Honourable Speaker and Members**, that this support work and the investment that goes with it, are both enormous and very critical. To that extent, the Department is intending in 2018/2019 financial year to exercise stricter accounting and monitoring measures for all funds transferred to NPOs.

Capacity building remains a cornerstone of successful management and effective running of any organization. Given the high lack of appropriate knowledge in the NPO sector, the Department has partnered with National Development Agency (NDA) to provide training on governance, book keeping and conflict management.

Let us forgive and not forget that the previous ineffective educational system ensured that the illiteracy in black communities was widespread to effectively render them incompetent and reserve for cheap labour.

During 2017/18 financial year, 300 NPOs were trained on above stated modules and 3 850 NPOs were capacitated on-online registration and compliance with NPO Act. In 2018/2019 we are destined through this partnership to train a further 300 and capacitate 3 800 NPOs at a cost of **R4.2 million**.



Honourable Speaker

On Job creation and EPWP

We can report to the people of Limpopo, that since the beginning of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) to date, the Department has facilitated 8 032 work opportunities through *Social Sector Expanded Public Works Programme*.

In the third quarter of 2017/2018 , the Department managed to create 2 579 jobs through *Early Childhood Development, ISIBINDI, Community Nutrition Development Centers, Victim Empowerment Programmes, Drop-In Centers and YOUTH Programmes*.

In this financial year the Department has set aside **R8 008 million** as incentive grant to create additional 3 100 jobs opportunities. Through funding of NPOs, 8 394 jobs will be created and this will contribute towards reducing the existing rate of unemployment in the province.

Honourable Members, at the beginning of the current electoral cycle, the ruling party pointed out in its manifesto that South Africa has 15 000 social workers as opposed to 50 000 social services workers needed to meet the social services needs of our people.

The ANC committed itself that over a period of five years, from 2014 up to 2019 it would have increased the number of social services workers inclusive of social workers. As from 2014 to date, 1 091 Social Work Students graduated from various universities in our country. As a Department we have been providing bursaries to social work students and also contributing in creating job and placement opportunities for these graduates.



We have in 2017/2018 financial year employed a total of two hundred and twelve (212) social work graduates while a further one hundred (100) and further eight hundred (180) of our graduates were placed on contract basis by the Department of Education as Learner Support Agents.

In addition fifty (50) new students were awarded bursaries towards Social Work stream during the 2017 academic year. The ANC delivers on its electoral mandates and commitments to our people. We should also acknowledge the contribution of the opposition parties in reminding the ruling party towards these commitments. Yes, Honourable Speaker,

African National Congress, E YA SHUMA!!!

In 2018/2019 an additional 194 Social Work students are anticipated to graduate. We are calling on all our social sector partners to join us in ensuring that our social services professionals secure decent employment and placements in all sectors.

The Department of Social Development on its own without partnerships with role players within the sector, cannot do much, we are in this together and we need to witness success together.

Infrastructure Development and Support services

One of the teething problems encountered by the Department has been poor or lack of adequate office accommodation for both professional personnel and clients. We do acknowledge that we have for some time now been aware of the working conditions of our social services professionals.

To remedy the situation and to improve service delivery on our mandates, the Department has set aside **R37 705 million** for the financial year in



favour of infrastructure development. In partnership with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, the following office accommodation projects will be completed during the 2018/19 financial year; Gawula, Mookgophong, Saselemani and Mankweng.

In addition, we have during 2017/2018 financial year accelerated the provision of working tools to our social services professionals. With the limited budget, the department was able to procure office furnisher, vehicles, telephones, photocopiers and computers to the offices in the municipalities. We admit, that there is still a lot to be done to improve the working conditions of our social services professionals and workers in general.

We welcome the National Treasury, Government *Technical Assistance Unit* aimed at providing technical support to the departmental infrastructure unit over a period of three years. The intervention will capacitate our infrastructure unit enabling the department to fast track infrastructure identification, acquiring and development.

Within the same breath we would like to thank as we did last year, the Cipla S.A Pharmaceutical Company, the National Lotteries Commission, and the Blouberg Local Municipality for the construction of twenty three (23) ECD centres though the province that were completed in the 2017/18 financial year.

We say to you *Ha Khensa, Re a leboga, baie dankie*, your support is appreciated and our doors are open for intergovernmental cooperation, Public, Private Partnerships and any form of collaboration aimed at improving the lives of the vulnerable and destitute.



Honourable Speaker

Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and words of appreciations to our Premier, His Excellency Honourable Stanley Chupu Mathabatha for the continuous support and guidance, colleagues in the Executive Council and fellow Honourable members.

Our special thanks and appreciations are extended to Members of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development for the wonderful oversight work undertaken on behalf of the department and citizens of this beautiful province.

We appreciate as well the contribution by our dedicated NDA and SASSA, who continue to contributing towards ensuring that our vision to create a Caring and Self-Reliant Society is realised.

Let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment by the Management and every staff member of the Department of Social Development under the capable leadership of the Head of Department Mme M.D. Ramokgopa. To them I say, continue to strive for excellence as our people deserve the best.

To our partners in NPOs and other civil society organizations your efforts towards joining hands with us in repositioning the poor, the marginalized and vulnerable to reclaim their rightful place in our society are highly appreciated.

Honourable Speaker

I therefore wish to present to this august house the budget allocated to the Department of Social Development. The budget vote affirms the programmes of activities set out in the Strategic Plan and the Annual Performance Plan to address and improve the plight of our people.

