

Budget Speech **2023/24**



VOTE 12

**Presented by the Honourable
MEC Nandi Ndalane
in the Limpopo Provincial
Legislature.**

18th April 2023



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



sassa
SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY



NDA
National
Development
Agency

**2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET VOTE SPEECH FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – VOTE 12
DELIVERED BY THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
Ms NANDI NDALANE
TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
18th APRIL 2023**

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Esteemed Members of the Executive Council

The Chief Whip of the ruling party

**Leader of the opposition parties and Chairperson of the House of Traditional
Leaders**

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

Honourable Members of the Legislature

Members of the media,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all

Once again, we meet in this august House which embodies the aspirations and hopes of the masses of our people. I am greatly humbled and filled with a huge sense of privilege to stand before you on behalf of my colleague, Hon. Nandi Ndalani, MEC responsible for Social Development to deliver the budget vote for the Department.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to begin the tabling of this budget vote by honouring and thanking our hardworking Social Workers, who are the lifeblood of our department, it is truly our appreciation for the noble service they are providing to our people.

On daily basis, these unsung heroes confront myriad of social ills such as gender-based violence, substance abuse, neglected children, domestic disputes amongst others, which threatens the social fabric holding our communities together. We therefore believe we are justified when we accord them the recognition they duly deserve.

We indeed are always mindful of the capacity challenges in this sector and as a result, of the 52 posts which were advertised and filled in the previous financial year, 31 were Social Work professionals. We believe this exercise will go a mile in improving our capacity and able us to help more people on time effectively and efficiently.

The ever-changing culture of social work continues to define the heart and soul of what these professionals do. It is against this backdrop that the Social Work Symposium was held in March 2023, to celebrate World Social Work Month, which is commemorated annually in March. The symposium was designed to be a refresher and re-engineering of focus session towards the needs and challenges of social work profession.

Honourable Speaker, one of the key lifelines of the department, in terms of effective rendering of services to our people particularly in the periphery of our province is the existence of Non-Profit Organisations. The department is funding 798 NPOs, of which the majority are Drop-in Centres. The 2022/23 budget for NPO funding was R264 million and it will be increased to R292 million in the 2023/4 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, one of the fundamentals of our department's existence is to create a caring and self-reliant society. A perfect example thereof, is the recent

workshop in which 28 young people between the ages of 18 and 35 years old were enrolled in a Youth Entrepreneurship programme.

This involved accredited training in the repair of cell phones and tablets. They were each also given a new tablet and were assisted in registering their own businesses. These cohort of young people shall hit the ground running and at the end of their training, should be able to create their own income and possibly create jobs for their counterparts. The project was done in partnership with the Vaal University of Technology, Human Capital Learning Solutions, MCITA and was co-funded by BankSeta, through NEMISA.

The welfare of our young people is key to the future of this province and they remain central to our planning and foresight. Therefore, in the 2023/24 financial year, youth development will be funded to the tune of R7,045 million for empowering young people and youth NPOs, as well as creating an environment where they will cease to become part of youth unemployment statistics.

Honourable Speaker, women empowerment programmes were allocated R4 million in the previous financial year, with the intention on funding 6 cooperatives led by women. We are proud to announce that some of these cooperatives are with us today, displaying their produce.

We are therefore happy to announce that a further R5,281 million, is allocated for the funding of women cooperatives, training, and development in this financial year.

Honourable Speaker, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic which halted all activities in 2020, the department supported Golden Boys and Golden Girls from our province in Germiston Stadium, Gauteng province in 2022. Although Team Limpopo did not emerge as the overall victors, we dominated in the track events on the second day of the games. We are truly proud of our team.

Team Limpopo was also applauded for the extraordinary cooperation displayed between the Departments of Social Development, and Sport, Arts and Culture, as well as district and local municipalities, in ensuring participation in the games from the rural areas of the province, all the way to the national games. The Games were preceded by the Older Persons Dialogues, in which Limpopo Older Persons Choir also impressed the stakeholders and delegates.

The 2023 Golden Games will be hosted by the Mpumalanga province, and we look forward to Team Limpopo's performance at this year's edition. We also wish to thank the members of the portfolio committee for their support during the Germiston Games. It most definitely gave our older persons a boost in their performance.

Apart from Active Ageing, the Department will also facilitate access to both residential facilities and community-based care for older persons. 542 older persons will access residential facilities, while 13 400 older persons will access community-based care and support services for the 2023/24 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, promoting the rights and the dignity of persons with disabilities, remains one of the Department's top priorities. We therefore facilitated a disability fun day event in Giyani during the financial year under review. The event saw persons with disabilities participate in several games, with the highlight certainly being the crowning of Mister and Miss Disability Pride.

With these types of events, we aim to convey the message that persons with disabilities are basically just differently abled and are more than capable of fulfilling their roles in society as any other citizen in the country.

The Department will therefore continue to fund and support 3 residential facilities for Persons with Disabilities and 58 protective workshops, which allow for the participation of 3 524 people with disabilities.

Our department has been assigned a specific role in the national strategic plan on HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and TB 2022-2025, which is mainly to contribute towards the prevention of new HIV, STI and TB infections.

To this effect the Department will train 645 implementers on social, and behavioural change, to further reach 145 000 beneficiaries. A total of 10 327 beneficiaries will be provided with psycho-social support, which includes school uniforms and food parcels during the 2023/2024 financial year. The Department will further strengthen coordination of structures through the signing of memorandum of understandings with various partners.

Honourable Speaker, early this year we launched Chommy, a social behavioural change programme which aims to help children between the ages of 10 and 14 in order for them to be able to make informed choices to reduce HIV infections, substance abuse and teenage pregnancies amongst others.

As the name “Chommy” is colloquial for a friend the programme encourages team building and collaboration among children, allowing them to develop strong supporting networks to minimize involvement in risky behaviour. Children who participated in the launch were very impressive in displaying their level of awareness and development which is greatly welcomed in this regard.

I'm calling on parents to encourage their children to participate in programmes such as Chommy or related behavioural change programmes which in my view will go a long way in reducing the unfortunate high levels of substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, and HIV infections.

Given the current circumstances in which our children find themselves, as a department we commit to strengthen developmental programmes such as Chommy, YOLO, Men Championing Change, Boys Championing Change, Families Matter and Traditional Leaders Programmes in our communities, so that we prevent our children from going astray.

Honourable Speaker, the restoration of the functional family unit remains key in creating caring, safe and progressive communities. The Department therefore has facilitated the participation of 26 018 family members in Family Preservation Services and 11 248 have already participated in parenting skills, and 145 people were reunited with their families. We aim to reach 30 000 citizens through Family Preservation Services in the current financial year, with a further 8 900 through our Parenting Skills programmes.

Honourable Speaker, for the financial year 2022/23, 2083 children were placed in foster care and currently, the province has a total of 36 984 children that need to be legally placed in foster care. These children continue to receive psychosocial services and supervision from social workers.

We are still awaiting for the proclamation on the changes to the Children's Act. This will be a huge step towards addressing the foster care backlogs. Further to this, there are currently 817 children who are placed in Child and Youth Care Centres or CYCCs.

Following the National Association of Welfare Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations, or NAWONGO court judgement, which provided a national model for funding of NPOs tasked with the care of children, the subsidy amount for children in

CYCCs has increased from R2500 to R4000 per child. This is a three-year funding cycle that started in 2021 and will end in March 2024.

There are 15 CYCCs in Limpopo, of which 5 are government run. R30.7 million of the budget will be spent on Child Care and Protection Services.

Honourable Speaker, community based prevention and early intervention services serve as a response mechanism that seeks to address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. A total of 31 900 children accessed these services in the past financial year and we project that 33 000 children will access these services in 2023/2024 financial year.

The department will also strengthen the RISIHA (formerly iSibindi) programme in all registered Drop-in centres. We will further support 341 drop-in centres benefiting 23 563 beneficiaries. R20 million has been set aside for the RISIHA programme, while Drop-in Centres will now receive R35 million, an increase from the previous financial year's R22 million.

Honourable Speaker, as long as there is criminal activity, there will be victims. A total of 8 791 victims of crime and violence accessed social services and the victims of gender-based violence and femicide received shelter services. In the 2022/23 financial year, the Department trained 44 victims of crime and violence, on sewing and garment making. They were also given starter packs for their own businesses. This brilliant project was done in partnership with the NPO Nyamukara and funded by first National Bank.

Furthermore, on the subject of gender-based violence, we conducted GBVF dialogues in all five districts of the province from July to October 2022, targeting various stakeholders including the Police, non-profit organisations and pressure groups. These workshops are a culmination of provincial GBVF summit which was hosted in October 2022 and ultimately the second Presidential national summit on GBVF.

Through the Victim Empowerment Programme, the Department will be funding 67 VEP centres and one shelter during the 2023/2024 financial year, and the budget set aside is R20m.

The Department has increased the subsidy from R167 000 to R250 000 for all funded VEP centres. We believe that this increase will reduce the burden under which our VEPs were operating under and trust that this increment will provide much needed relief and capacity.

Honourable Speaker, the effects of substance abuse on the socio-economic welfare of the people of Limpopo, is a cause for serious concern. The department is therefore coordinating the implementation of the National Drug Action Plan. The Provincial Substance Abuse Forum comprising of a group of competent individuals was launched in the financial year 2022/2023. To date, 7 local Drug Action Committees have been established in the Capricorn and Waterberg districts and we eagerly await more formations in other municipalities. The fight against substance abuse and human trafficking needs a multi-sectoral approach and collaboration at all levels. It will therefore be beneficial for all concerned, including institutions of higher learning and research institutions who can join the fray by commissioning studies on the subject matter that will assist the department greatly.

Further to this, the subsidy for substance abuse related NPOs will increase from R80 000 to R100 000 in the coming 2023/24 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, the Department has donated 30 families with gardening equipments and seeds, which would help them produce food for themselves. During the event which was hosted at Ga-Mmalebogo in the Blouberg Local Municipality, recipients were overjoyed with government's gesture and vowed to put to good use the donations they received, and as department, we will continue with this important food security programmes.

The Department does regular community-based research and planning to establish areas of service delivery for the department and other stakeholders. In the current financial year, the research unit will be conducting a study entitled: ***“Factors associated with the rising incidence of gender-based violence and femicide”***. For this purpose, 30 research assistance will be employed on a year’s contract at a cost of R2 million

Honourable Speaker, I therefore present the 2023/2024 budget allocations as follows:

PROGRAMME	BUDGET	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
Programme 1 : Administration	R328.588 million	16.89%
Programme 2: Social Welfare Services	R468.941 million	24.10%
Programme 3: Children and Families	R669.107 million	34.39%
Programme 4: Restorative Services	R261.712 million	13.45%
Programme 5: Development Research	R217.207 million	11.16%
TOTAL	R1.945.555 billion	100%

Honourable Speaker, the journey to total emancipation by the masses of our people continues. During this year of decisive action to advance people’s interest, we will spare no effort in discharging our responsibilities. The sufferings of our people are a constant reminder that as public representatives we carry the responsibility to provide hope and further to confront difficulties on behalf of our masses. We shall never relent.

We need to lead with compassion and love as we forge ahead in confronting the many challenges in our midst.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Premier for his compassionate leadership and support as well as fellow members of the executive.

I will be making a cardinal mistake if I do not thank and appreciate members of the Portfolio Committee for their guidance and always keeping us on our toes. This is good for our democracy and accountability.

Our people deserve nothing but the best of our potential. Honourable speaker let me also acknowledge and express gratitude to the Head of the Department, Mr. Desmond Mahopo, and his Executive Management who run and monitor the programmes of our department daily, in service of the people of Limpopo.

In the same breath I would like to also appreciate the great teamwork we have with our agencies SASSA and NDA, who play a critical role in the lives of the vulnerable and poor members of our society.

I thank you.