



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET VOTE SPEECH FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – VOTE 12
DELIVERED BY THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
Ms FLORENCE RADZILANI
TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
15 AUGUST 2024**

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba

Esteemed Members of the Executive Council

The Chief Whip of the governing party

Leaders 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

It is my pleasure and great honour to debate the budget vote on Social Development in this august house on behalf of the African National Congress (ANC) in its quest to transform the lives of the Limpopo general populace for the better.

I stand before you during a significant moment in our journey as a nation and a province, reflecting on the promise of a new dawn heralded by the Seventh Administration. This is a pivotal time for us, as we embrace the importance of change that is not only necessary but inevitable, as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Despite the significant gains we made since the democratic breakthrough, we are still sitting with challenges where our people struggle to provide for their families, inequality is wider and joblessness continue to haunt our people particularly the youth, women, children, elderly and people living with disability.

These challenges are at the centre of the priorities we set ourselves as the ANC, informed by the priorities outlined in our election manifesto, key and central to this vote, includes but not limited to;

- Strengthening our comprehensive social security system to reduce poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion and inequality through social assistance.
- Invest in our people through strengthening the role of families in supporting both young and older citizens, giving special attention to the responsibilities of the family in raising children.

- Strengthen the quality of services provided to older persons, including community based and residential care facilities, and afford them the necessary consideration and respect by society.

Honourable Speaker

As we gather here during August, a month dedicated to celebrating the strength and resilience of women, we would like to extend our heartfelt acknowledgment to the energetic and inspiring Premier of our province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba. Her elevation to the high position of Premier will be written in the annals of history as she became the first woman to hold this esteemed position in Limpopo. Her leadership symbolizes a significant milestone in our province's journey towards equality and empowerment.

Honourable Speaker

On Older Persons

The concerning incidents of abuse and sexual attack of older persons fortifies the need to strengthen our capacity in caring for these vulnerable members of our society. We appreciate the importance of providing appropriate conditions for our older persons.

Consequently, a total of five hundred and forty-two (542) older persons will access residential facilities while thirteen thousand nine hundred (13 900) older persons will access community-based care and support services for the 2024/2025 financial year. We believe that through these facilities they will enjoy safety, care and support which are in line with the preservation of their Human Rights.

From the 28 of October to the 1st of November 2024 our province will participate in the National Active Aging games popularly known as the golden games in the Northwest province. As Limpopo we consistently participate in these games as we

acknowledge their importance in the promotion of active aging and improving quality of life to older persons.

Honourable Speaker

Regarding Persons with Disabilities

A total of two hundred and ninety-four (294) people living with disabilities will be provided with access to residential facilities while three thousand, five hundred and ten (3510) will access protective workshops in the 2024/2025 financial year. The newly appointed service provider at Shiluvani Frail Care Centre continues to render services to our frail patients bringing stability and comfort to frail patients in the province.

Honourable Speaker

In relation to services to families

A few weeks after I assumed my responsibility as Member of Executive Council responsible for Social Development, I observed a concerning hike of social ills. Social ills ranging from domestic violence, gender based violence, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and attack of older persons among others, which in my view were unacceptably escalating. We consequently resolved to launch a family revitalization programme whose objective is to revitalize dysfunctional families while striving for the stable families and communities.

Through this programme we will visit identified dysfunctional families through our social work services and provide support and advisory services. Through this programme we believe many social ills will be eradicated because a village filled with functional families is a village free of negative social ills. We call on the people

of Limpopo to welcome us into their families so that we can restore the family as the basic unit of society.

Honourable Speaker

On Child Care and Protection Services

The subsidy amount for children in Child and Youth Care Centres has increased from R3 500 to R4 000 per child per month. Currently eight hundred and twenty-four-children (824) are placed in Child and Youth Care Centres. There are fifteen (15) Child and Youth Care Centres of which five are run by government.

Honourable Speaker

Our Focus on Social Crime

During her maiden speech, the Premier issued a directive that our Department, the Department of Transport and Community Safety, the Department of Health, the Police, National Prosecution Authority and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development must convene a consultative forum to fight crime which she correctly described as a pandemic.

We will start in earnest the preparations of this forum which we concede is long overdue. The forum is certainly destined to make a definite impact in the fight against crime. We will take this consultative forum to all districts in order to give a voice to our people so that together we can wage war against crime. We have no doubt that - A crime free Limpopo is achievable!

Honaurable Speaker

Regarding the Victim Empowerment Programme

The Department has planned to reach eleven thousand two hundred and thirty (11230) victims of violence and crime during the 2024/2025 financial year. To make this a reality our department together with our national counterparts as well

as the European Union have partnered with three Non-Profit Organizations in Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Waterberg districts in order to renovate three Victim empowerment houses that will be used as shelters. These initiatives will provide comfort to victims of gender-based violence as well as providing hope for them that government cares and that tomorrow will be better.

Honourable Speaker

Substance Abuse requires our full attention.

The abuse of drugs particularly by young men and women is escalating at a concerning rate. This compels us to act with agility in rescuing our youth from this scourge. In the 2024/2025 financial year we will reach forty-nine thousand two hundred and eighty people (49 280) through our campaigns, and we remain hopeful that we will make the desired impact.

We are in a process of finalising a partnership agreement with Northam mines for building a new treatment centre in Sekhukhune to cater largely for young people addicted to drugs. The Provincial Substance Abuse forum which is constituted by stakeholders from different departments, NPOs and members of the Central Drug Authority (CDA) continue to add value in our efforts to fight this pandemic.

Honourable Speaker

Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development remain our focus areas.

During the opening of the legislature address Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba declared poverty and hunger as enemy number one. The Premier's declaration forms part of our commitment that no money will be surrendered to Treasury for as long as throngs of our people continue to be trapped in the sea of poverty.

In line with the Premier's directive we will increase the number of vulnerable households accessing food from the current 4550 to 7200 through the department's food security programmes. We will leave no one behind. No child must go to bed on an empty stomach under our government.

During this financial year under review, the department is planning to create 2 500 EPWP work opportunities as one of the government's key programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and providing income relief through temporary work for the poor and unemployed.

Honourable Speaker

Our efforts on Institutional Capacity Building and Support for NPOs are on course.

Non-Profit Organizations continue to play a pivotal role in the execution of social services to communities. We deliver a major part of our mandate as a department through NPOs who get funding and support from us. We have, therefore planned to capacitate **(3 200)** NPOs to ensure that they become compliant and thereby able to receive the much needed funding.

We will be implementing the monitoring and evaluation drive to all the NPOs to ensure that there is value for money we spent as the department; capacitate those struggling and deregistering those that are not compliant. We are grateful by the pronouncement made by the Minister of Social Development during the tabling of the departmental vote on the 17th of July 2024, to collaborate with provincial department to deal with the capacity building of Non-Profit Organizations.

She asserted that, **“Non-Profit Organisations are also negatively impacted due to significant reduction in funding. I will be engaging with the MECs in all provinces to determine how best we can resolve these two challenges. As mandated by the NPO Act, we will commence with the de-registration of non-compliant NPOs and further briefings on this will be held to advise on the details on how the phased-in-approach will be managed. We will do this, not turning a blind eye on the critical role many of these NPOs play as a service delivery partner of government”**.

Honourable Speaker

On Youth Development and Skills Development

The Department will afford 600 youth the opportunity to participate in skills development programs in collaboration with Vaal University of Technology as well as Human Capital Learning Solution and other training partners. This is an endeavour to fight the high levels of youth unemployment.

Honourable Speaker

The Development and Empowerment of Women is a non-negotiable

We continue to be deliberate in the course to empower women and attain equity without procrastination. During 2024/2025 financial year the department is planning to continue empowering seventeen thousand women (**17 000**) on programmes such as, Women in Agriculture, Business Management, Business Start-up, Emerging young women in Agriculture and Parenting programmes. We believe this intervention will propel women to their desired heights and aspirations.

Honourable Speaker

Regarding Equity Targets and Job Creation

One of the disconcerting realities of our department which immediately caught my attention when I assumed this responsibility was the fact that we are operating at a staff compliment of 48 percent. This immediately tells you that our capacity is highly compromised and therefore service delivery negatively impacted. I have immediately instructed that all funded vacant posts be advertised in order to increase our capacity to enhance service delivery and create much needed jobs.

Honourable Speaker

On Population and Policy Promotion

The department is planning to conduct one research project on Teenage Pregnancy. The objective of the research is to measure the level of teenage

pregnancy in the province which will in future help us better understand how to prevent it and rescue our teenagers from this social ill.

Honourable Speaker

In a significant move to enhance service delivery and strengthen community engagement, the Premier has instructed all MECs to leave their offices and immerse themselves in the areas where service delivery takes place.

This directive emphasizes the importance of direct interaction with the public, ensuring that government services are accessible and effectively meet the needs of the community. To facilitate this initiative, the Department will collaborate with its agencies, including the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the National Development Agency (NDA).

By bringing these agencies along, the Department aims to provide people with immediate access to essential services, fostering a more responsive and accountable government that prioritizes the well-being of its citizens. This hands-on approach not only denotes a commitment to service excellence but also encourages greater transparency and trust within the communities served.

Honourable Speaker

As government, we are obliged to effectively and efficiently execute our service delivery mandate through intergovernmental platforms which encourage us to work with other spheres of government and involved social forces through stakeholders relations and collaboration.

I have therefore designed a special project that I will lead in the coming three months to assist the department in expediting its core mandate and engender conversations on topical issues within the purview of the department.

The Kha ri Ambe Social Dialogue - named Project Nyambedzano, is a special project driven and led by the MEC to start meaningful conversations with communities served by the department. Whilst the department has solid and

specific plans to execute its mandate and provide services, a need has arisen to take a different approach with a deliberate project that will keep the province talking while highlighting and dealing with key issues confronting members of society particularly the most vulnerable.

Honorable Speaker, this is a behavioral modification crusade aimed at reducing the violence and abuse meted to the elderly, persons with disabilities, the youth and children. It is irrefutable that in most cases, such mayhems are often perpetrated by those known to the victims.

Nyambedzano will also focus on the following priorities collaborating with key stakeholders to attain the following objectives:

- To inform, educate and actively engage departmental internal and external stakeholders
- To Market and promote the department's key programmes
- To positively influence public opinion about the department and position it as a caring organization to improve reputation
- To elevate identified topics and have meaningful conversations with communities
- To profile specific priority areas within the department with particular focus on the elderly, children, youth and persons with disabilities.

The introduction of the MEC's Social Dialogues is premised on the need to continuously engage with various stakeholders who are served by the department of social development in the province and address particular topical issues.

Furthermore, the approach takes its cue from the broader Departmental Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which clearly outlines its priorities and as well as priorities encapsulated in the Limpopo Development Plan

As a point of departure, at the provincial level, I will be inviting the MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture to collaborate on some of the key plans of the project especially on issues of social cohesion, nation building and elimination of the social ills including the juvenile delinquency which are the cross-cutting departmental functions which we can easily collaborate, together with the respective districts and other stakeholders.

Honourable Speaker, I therefore present the 2024/2025 budget allocations as follows:

Programme 1: **Administration** is allocated, **Three hundred and ninety-two million, four hundred and seventy-five thousand rand**. The expenditure to date is at 30.3 percent.

Programme 2: **Social Welfare Services** is allocated **Five hundred and twenty-two million six hundred and seventy-one thousand rand**. The expenditure to date is at 30.8 percent

Programme 3: **Children and Families** is allocated **Six hundred eighty-seven million one hundred sixty-five thousand rand**. The expenditure to date is at 30.8 percent.

Programme 4: **Restorative Services** is allocated **Two hundred and thirty-three million four hundred and thirty-six thousand rand**. The expenditure to date is at 32.6 percent.

Programme 5: **Development Research** is allocated **two hundred and thirty-seven million nine hundred and thirty-four thousand rand**. The expenditure to date is at 26.9 percent. The expenditure to date is at 26.9 percent.

These allocations therefore make the total budget of our department, **two billion and seventy-six million six hundred and eighty-one thousand rand**. The expenditure is at 30.5 percent.

| PROGRAMME | BUDGET | % OF TOTAL BUDGET | EXPENDITURE AS END JULY 2024 | % SPENT |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Programme 1: Administration | R392.475 million | 18.90% | R118.933 million | 30.3% |
| Programme 2: Social Welfare Services | R522.671 million | 25.31% | R162.036 million | 30.8% |
| Programme 3: Children and Families | R687.165 million | 33.09% | R211.934 million | 30.8% |
| Programme 4: Restorative Services | R233.436 million | 11.24% | R76.134 million | 32.6% |
| Programme 5: Development Research | R237.934 million | 11.46% | R64.077 million | 26.9% |
| TOTAL | R2.076.681 billion | 100.00 | R633.114 million | 30.5 |

Honourable Speaker

As we stand together in the spirit of unity and determination, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to confront the harsh realities of poverty and hunger, recognizing them as our enemy number one. Our government pledges to enhance efficient service delivery, ensuring that every initiative launched is executed with diligence and purpose. I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to our Premier for providing exemplary leadership infused with high energy and enthusiasm. We will follow on your path and drink from your well of wisdom in the service of our people.

Many thanks to the Acting Head of the Department, Ms Dudu Setlatjile for holding the fort and maintaining high level of corporate governance in the administration of our Department. We owe the people of Limpopo nothing but the best from each one of us sparing no effort. Together, let us forge ahead, united in our fight against the adversities that besiege us, and committed to a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Thank you

