

**2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET VOTE SPEECH TO THE LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

VOTE 12: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**BUDGET SPEECH DELIVERED BY MEC FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, THE HONOURABLE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NKAKARENG CRITIAN RAKGOALE, AT LEBOWOKGOMO
LEGISLATURE.**

26th JULY 2019.

Honourable Speaker;

Honourable Deputy Speaker;

Honourable Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha;

Esteemed Members of the Executive Council;

Honourable Members of the Legislature;

Executive Mayors and Mayors here present;

Our Esteemed Majesties and Royal Highnesses;

Heads of Our Chapter 9 and 10 Institutions;

Leaders of opposition parties;

The Leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress;

Stalwarts and Veterans of our Struggle;

Religious Leaders from various denominations;

The Director-General;

The Head of Department of Social Development, Ms. Daphne Ramokgopa;

**Executive Management of SASSA and NDA and the Department of Social
Development;**

Members of ESKOM, JICA and other donors;

Representatives of Civic and Non-Governmental Organizations;

The Members of the Fourth Estate;

**Distinguished Guests and stakeholders of the Department;
Comrades and friends, Ladies and Gentlemen
Avuxeni! Ndi Matsheloni! Thobela! Good morning! Goeie more!**

Honourable Speaker,

It is a great honour and privilege to be given this opportunity to deliver the Limpopo Department of Social Development Budget Vote 12 to this 6th Democratic Legislature. I do so with pride and enthusiasm, during a month in which we celebrate the birth and the life of our first democratically elected president, Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Had it not been for him and his fellow comrades who vowed to dedicate their lives to the struggle, we would not be talking about the 25 years of democracy and freedom today.

In 1961 Nelson Mandela released a statement from inside South Africa, explaining his decision to carry on his political work underground, where he said, and I quote:

“For my own part I have made my choice. I will not leave South Africa, nor will I surrender. Only through hardship, sacrifice and militant action can freedom be won. The struggle is my life. I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days. What are you going to do?”

Close quote.

It is in this regard that we are still extending our condolences to the family of our struggle veteran, General Ike Maphotho, whom we laid to rest this previous weekend. The contribution of General Ike Maphotho to the liberation of our people will forever remain indelible in our minds.

These are our struggle veterans who vowed to fight the apartheid regime and refused to cooperate with its efforts to suppress the claims and aspirations of our people.

Honourable Speaker,

Today, we have a responsibility to answer the question posed by Nelson Mandela back in 1961 as to what are we are going to do in the context of the issues that we must deal with, to deliver quality and credible services; working side by side with all the citizens of this province. We have to work together inch by inch and mile by mile, to increase the pace of service delivery in all communities where the mandate of the Department must be discharged.

The Mandate of the Department of Social Development is to provide social protection services and to lead government efforts to forge partnerships through which vulnerable individuals, groups and communities become capable and self-reliant participants in their own development.

The key focus for the Department is to provide care and support to the most vulnerable groups and individuals such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities, unemployed youths and women living in poor households and communities.

The bulk of these services are provided in partnership with Non-profit Organizations (NPOs) through the following programmes: Social Welfare Services, Children and Families, Restorative Services, Development and Research. Both Finance and Corporate Services provide the necessary administrative and technical support for the implementation of service delivery programmes.

Honourable Speaker,

Post National and Provincial elections on 08 May 2019, there have been significant changes as a result of the alignment of our focus in line with the ANC Manifesto commitments. The changes necessitated that the Department adjusts its plans in order to give effect to the implementation of the newly configured MTSF Apex Priorities for 2019-2024, as pronounced by the President in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) and emphasized by our Premier in his State of the Province Address (SOPA). The

following seven Apex Priorities will guide the Department of Social Development as it prepares its five (5) Year Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and subsequent to which Annual performance Plans will be developed as a mechanism to operationalise the National Development Plan (NDP), the Five (5) Year Implementation Plan and the Limpopo Development Plan. The seven apex priorities that will guide us are:

- Economic Transformation and Job Creation;
- Education, Skills and Health;
- Consolidating the Social Wage Bill through Reliable and Quality Basic Services
- Spatial Integration, Human Settlements and Local Government;
- Social Cohesion and Safe Communities;
- A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State;
- A Better Africa and World

The Department will also contribute towards achieving the following five (5) fundamental goals for the next decade as pronounced in both the SONA and SOPA:

- No person in South Africa will go hungry;
- Our economy will grow at a much faster rate than our population;
- Two million more young people will be employed;
- Our schools will have better educational outcomes and every 10 year old child will be able to read for meaning and
- Violent crime will be halved.

Informed by evidence-based planning and results-driven management, the department will work closely together with the Social and JCPS Cluster partners, civil society and the business fraternity. Integrated monitoring and evaluation systems will be improved and institutionalised to ensure effective and efficient implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects aimed at reducing incidences of poverty, unemployment and inequalities.

Honourable Speaker,

As we are still in the midst of celebrating Mandela Month, we recall vividly well his passionate love for children when he said, and I quote:

“Education of all of our children must be one of our most urgent priorities. We all know that education, more than anything else, improves our chances of building better lives.”

Close quote.

Therefore, Early Childhood Development remains key to the realisation of this ideal of Tata Madiba. The National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy of 2015 aims to address challenges encountered within the sector, in relation to currently available legislation that is not well coordinated. The policy’s objective is to improve universal access to quality, equitable and appropriate services to children.

Allow me to highlight to this august house, some of the successes in relation to ECD and Partial Care:

ECD AND PARTIAL CARE

The Provincial Department of Social Development and other Departments contributing to the ECD programme, successfully organised a Provincial ECD Colloquium with special focus on reviewing the 2010 ECD Provincial ECD Strategy and align it with the National Integrated ECD Implementation Plan. Also, to give effect to overall implementation, monitoring and reporting as envisaged in the National integrated ECD Policy, approved by Cabinet in 2015.

Since 2014 to date, two hundred and twenty four thousand five hundred and thirty four (224 534) children accessed the ECD Programme in registered ECD Centres and one hundred and eighty one thousand (181 000) have been targeted for 2019/2020. Of the

two hundred and twenty four thousand five hundred and thirty four (224 534) children who accessed the registered ECD Programme, one hundred and fifty three (153) are children with disabilities. Eighty six thousand, eight hundred and one (86 801) children were fully subsidised through the Equitable Share and eighty thousand, three hundred and forty nine (80 349) children have been targeted to benefit for the 2019/2020 financial year.

The ECD Conditional Grant, which was introduced in 2017/2018, has to date benefitted eleven thousand, eight hundred and sixty eight (11 868) children and twelve thousand nine hundred and eleven (12 911) children have been targeted to benefit in 2019/2020.

In the past five (5) years, two hundred and seventy five (275) ECD centres were fully registered, while nine hundred and nineteen (919) were conditionally registered. Five (05) trucks were procured to provide for the Mobile ECD Programme in farming and deep rural areas. The service is rendered in Blouberg, Musina, Mookgophong, Ephraim Mogale, Greater Letaba and Greater Tzaneen Municipalities, reaching one thousand, three hundred and five (1 305) children.

One hundred and seven (107) ECD centres were constructed through partnerships with the Mining Industry, National Lotteries Commission, Blouberg and Aganang Municipalities, including Private Sector Companies.

Two hundred and twelve (212) ECD centres have been upgraded towards full compliance with the Norms and Standards and seventy one (71) ECD centres will be maintained or upgraded in 2019/2020 through the ECD Conditional Grant Maintenance Component.

Two hundred and forty four million rand [R244 million] has been allocated through voted funds for subsidising eligible children within the Province. In addition, sixty eight million, nine hundred and ninety two thousand rand [R68 992 million] was allocated through the ECD Conditional Grant, specifically for expansion of the fifteen rand [R15] subsidy per child and renovations or upgrading of conditionally registered ECD Centres, envisaged to attain full registration.

The department is currently working together with the National Departments of Social Development and Basic Education, in developing a comprehensive plan to migrate children of between four (4) and five (5) years old, which is grade RR and R, so that we are able to exclusively strengthen services to children zero to four (0-4) years of age. Partnerships with all stakeholders will be strengthened to ensure that resources are mobilised to improve quality of services provided in the ECD programme.

JOB CREATION INITIATIVES

Honourable Speaker,

The National Development Plan declares that employment is the best form of Social Protection. In his state of the nation address, the President emphasised the following with regard to Job creation initiatives, I quote:

“Government will continue to provide employment through the Expanded Public Works Programme, especially in labour-intensive areas like maintenance, clearing vegetation, plugging water leaks and constructing roads.”

Close quote

Since the inception of the Scholarship Programme, the Department has employed one thousand, one hundred and twelve (1112) Social Work bursary holders on a permanent basis out of two thousand and fifty eight (2058) who completed training.

One thousand one hundred and eleven (1 111) interns were placed in different programmes and eight thousand five hundred (8 500) job opportunities were created through two thousand eight hundred and eighty three (2 883) funded NPOs.

Since 2014 to date, fourteen thousand one hundred and sixty nine (14 169) employment opportunities have been created through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which benefitted women, youth and persons with disabilities; the ISIBINDI

project; Early Childhood Development; the Victim Empowerment Programme; Community Nutrition Development Centres; disability centres; Community Based Care Services for Older Persons and Community Based Services for children and youth. An additional three thousand (3 000) employment opportunities will be created in the 2019/2020 financial year. The main target shall be youth from poorer households and young women in particular, as indicated in the State of the Nation Address.

CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION

Honourable Speaker,

The Department has, in partnership with the Office of the Premier, conducted foster care evaluation in 2017, as part of the Provincial Evaluation Plan. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess whether the foster care programme is leading towards achievement of sustained impacts to the general well-being of targeted beneficiaries.

The study findings state that, and I quote:

“A full ninety eight per cent (98%) of surveyed children said that they like their foster families, suggesting a subjective positive experience of their home circumstances. Children are generally experiencing stability of care over an extended period of time, and are not moving from one home to another”.

Close quote.

In terms of children’s health, the study also found that the majority of foster parents considered their children to be physically well when they first took over the responsibility of caring for them.

However, the evaluation concluded that institutional arrangements are not optimally supporting the effective and efficient implementation of foster care. Key challenges are

the inability of institutional arrangements to resolve the challenges raise, and insufficient monitoring systems, inclusive of case management.

It was therefore recommended that the National Department of Social Development should take the evaluation findings into consideration in the current reform of the policy framework on foster care, with the Children's amendment Act being in the process of being submitted to Parliament for tabling.

Since 2014 to date, fourteen thousand eight hundred and fourteen (14 814) children were placed in foster care and an additional three thousand six hundred and eighty (3 680) children will be placed in foster care in the 2019/2020 financial year. In the past five (5) years, one hundred and sixty nine thousand nine hundred and fourteen (169 914) orphans and vulnerable children received psycho-social support services, while an additional thirty five thousand, eight hundred and eighty five (35 885) vulnerable children will be receiving services in 2019/2020. The budget allocated for Child Protection Services is one hundred and ninety six million rand [R196m] for the 2019/20 Financial Year.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

The National Department of Social Development appointed an independent service provider to evaluate the effectiveness and impact concerning the implementation of the Household Food and Nutrition Security Programme. We are now happy to announce that, stemming from the evaluation, Limpopo was hailed as the best province in terms of coordination and developmental initiatives.

The National Portfolio Committee on Social Development also commended Limpopo for the job well done in the fight against hunger and malnutrition amongst the most vulnerable households and food insecure citizens. The Portfolio committee has urged the province to increase the number of Community Nutrition Development Centres or CNDCs, given the magnitude of poverty in the province.

The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy identifies four pillars of food security in South Africa namely:

- Adequate availability of food,
- Accessibility of food
- Utilization and quality of food and
- Stability of food supply.

During the State of the nation address, the president pronounced his determination that within the next decade, no person in South Africa shall go hungry and that it is fundamental to efforts of eradicating poverty and reducing inequality.

To date, seven hundred and thirty thousand, four hundred and thirty six (730 436) people have benefitted from feeding programmes in the form of nutritious cooked meals served in Drop In Centres, Early Childhood Development Centres, Community Nutrition Development Centres, residential facilities for older persons and persons with disabilities. One hundred and ninety one thousand (191 000) people are targeted to access food through DSD food security programmes for 2019/2020, while twenty one thousand, seven hundred and thirty four (21 734) vulnerable households benefitted from DSD food security programmes such as backyard gardens. The allocated budget for the coming financial year for funding of other sustainable livelihood projects is thirteen point six million rand [R13.6 million] for funding of other sustainable livelihood projects.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Honourable Speaker,

The unemployment rate among young South Africans is more than fifty per cent (50%). Once again, in his SONA address, the President called this a national crisis that demands urgent, innovative and coordinated solutions. Since 2014 to date, one hundred and fifteen thousand, three hundred and seventy two (115 372) young people have participated in

skills development programmes such as carpentry, hospitality, sewing, computer and entrepreneurship development programmes, focusing mainly on business development and financial management.

To that effect, nine thousand eight hundred (9 800) young people are targeted for 2019/2020. One Thousand (1 000) more employment opportunities are planned for 2019/2020, targeting young people of especially 19 to 35 years of age, in National Youth Service, Youth in Cooperatives, Funded NPOs and SMMEs. Six million rand [R6 million] has been budgeted for 2019/20 for Youth Mobilisation, provision of Youth Camps, district Youth Dialogues, Entrepreneurship Development workshops and other training programmes for the youth. An amount of four point eight million rand [R4.8 million] will fund Youth NPOs for the management of youth development programmes.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

To date, eighty six thousand, five hundred and three (86 503) women have participated in empowerment programmes such as Cooperative Development Support; Entrepreneurship and Capacity Building on Governance; Conflict Management and Fundraising. A further twenty two thousand (22 000) will benefit in 2019/2020 and an amount of three point one million rand [R3.1 million] has been set aside for this programme.

SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS

Mahatma Gandhi once said, and I quote:

“The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members”

Close quote.

The Limpopo Older Persons Team participated in the National Golden Games from the 21st to the 27th of October 2018, in Mangaung, Free State Province. About two hundred (200) older persons took part in seventeen (17) sporting codes including athletics, soccer and other sporting codes. The Games also include a non-competitive choir competition. Today we are very proud to pronounce that Team Limpopo scooped position one in the National Golden Games 2018.

It remains a wonderful sight to observe senior citizens of an advanced age – even 80 year-olds - running the 100 meter sprint and I would like to invite this august house to attend this year's Provincial Golden Games, to experience Age in Action and support our golden boys and girls.

To date, twenty thousand six hundred and twenty six (20 626) Older Persons accessed services in Community-Based Care and Support Services and another twenty one thousand, one hundred and ninety eight (21 198) will access these services in 2019/2020. We are very thankful for our Municipalities, Office of the Premier and the Departments of Health and Sport, Arts and Culture, for ensuring that the Active Aging programme is alive and running smoothly in the Province through a collective partnership in driving the activities and sharing of resources.

The Department has been in partnership with the South African Defence Force since the 2018/19 financial year to upgrade the infrastructure of the Sekutupu Old Age home in order for our older persons to live in a suitable environment.

The Department will continue providing funding support to the eight (8) old age homes in the province and one hundred and three (103) Community Based Service Centre for older persons. The amount allocated for the programme in 2019/20 is thirty two point nine million rand [R32.9 million].

In addition, the Older Persons Bill has already been approved by National Cabinet and is ready for tabling in Parliament.

The review of the Act seeks to strengthen the protection of older persons from violence and abuse perpetrated against them.

SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Honourable Speaker,

Four thousand eight hundred and sixty nine (4 869) Persons with Disabilities accessed services in funded protective workshops to date and a further planned four thousand eight hundred and twelve (4 812) will access these services in 2019/2020.

A bilateral agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for disability mainstreaming and empowerment of persons with disabilities, successfully reached the following number of persons in the Vhembe District, Collins Chabane Municipality:

- Six hundred (600) parents of children with disabilities were empowered through support groups;
- One hundred (100) persons with disabilities were capacitated on disability equality and mainstreaming;
- One hundred and fifty (150) persons with disabilities received peer counselling;
- Eleven (11) officials including persons with disabilities received training on self-help groups in Japan;
- Sixteen (16) self-help groups have been established to empower persons with disabilities and promote mainstreaming.

Further to this, a total of seventy three point three million rand [R73.3 million] has been budgeted for management of frail care and community based care to Persons with Disabilities.

INSTITUTIONAL HIV AND AIDS

The Policy Framework on Orphaned and Vulnerable Children provides for a common agenda for mounting an effective response towards addressing the challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It outlines key actions that must be taken urgently, including the prioritisation of support for orphans, vulnerable children and their families in the national policies, actions and plans.

In the Past five (5) years, the Department has provided four thousand nine hundred and forty two (4 942) sets of school uniform to orphans and vulnerable children and two hundred and eighty four thousand and sixty (284 060) beneficiaries were reached through social behaviour change programmes and received psychosocial support services.

In 2019/202, a planned seventy four thousand, four hundred and eighty (74 480) beneficiaries will be targeted. Thirteen point eight million rand [R13.8 million] will be earmarked for NPOs providing services to people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS and towards vulnerable families. Thirteen point six million rand [R13.6 million] has been set aside for the procurement of school uniform and other material needs, for orphans and vulnerable children.

SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS

Honourable Speaker,

Since 2014 to date, fifty thousand nine hundred and seventy five (50 975) vulnerable people were provided with social relief of distress in the form of food parcels, blankets, clothing and paupers' burials, and provision is made for support of fourteen thousand and seventy two (14 072) during the 2019-2020 Financial Year. The budget allocated for the purpose is one point two million rand [R1.2million].

CARE AND SERVICES TO FAMILIES

In the past five years, three hundred and seventy eight thousand, five hundred and twelve (378 512) families participated in family preservation and parenting skills programmes;

estranged members of families were reunited with their next of kin, and fifty four thousand two hundred (54 200) families will benefit in 2019/2020.

The department is also funding nineteen (19) Child Protection Organizations throughout the province, which are also providing accessible services to the most vulnerable communities. The budget allocated towards Care and Services to Families is nineteen point five million rand [R19.5million].

The Department also actively participated in the launch of Provincial Men's Parliament which was held on the 18th of October 2018 at Lebowakgomo Legislature, where five hundred (500) men gathered to discuss issues that affect them. This was facilitated by the Office of the Premier.

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTRES

From 2014 to date, one thousand one hundred and thirty three (1 133) children in need of care and protection were placed in Child and Youth Care Centres. Provision is made for nine hundred and forty four (944) in the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

An amount of twenty five point one million rand [R25.1 million] allocated through NAWONGO Court Judgement seeks to improve conditions of children in Child and Youth Care Centres. From the current financial year, funding for children in Child and Youth Care Centres increased from two thousand five hundred rand [R2500] to four thousand rand [R4000] per child per month. The funding will go a long way in professionalising services in these centres. The total budget allocated to the seventeen (17) Child and Youth Care Centres is one hundred point seven million rand [R100.7 million] for 2019/2020.

COMMUNITY-BASED CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

The Department will be expanding training of Child and Youth Care Workers so that they can be deployed in communities to strengthen child protection services to children in need

of care. Since 2014 to date, two hundred and eighty four thousand and sixty (284 060) orphans and vulnerable children accessed services through the ISIBINDI and Drop in Centres programmes and sixty three thousand, two hundred and ninety (63 290) will access these services 2019/2020.

An amount of one hundred million rand [R100 million] has been set aside for Community Based Care Services for Children which will be transferred to NPOs rendering these services.

SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

During the State of the nation address, the president pronounced that, quote:

“Violence against women and children has reached epidemic proportions. Every day, South African women are faced with discrimination, abuse, violence and even death, often by those they are closest to. Over the last year, we have started to address this scourge in a more serious and coordinated way”

Close quote.

He further committed that violent crime will be halved in the next ten (10) years.

Since 2014 to date, eight thousand five hundred and twenty nine (8 529) Children in Conflict with the Law accessed diversion programmes for rehabilitation and a further one thousand, one hundred and fifty (1 150) is planned for 2019/2020. The budget allocated to NPOs who providing these services and to the two Secure Care centres Mavambe and Polokwane, is sixty two point one million rand [R62.1million].

VICTIM EMPOWERMENT

Honourable Speaker,

Our Province is experiencing a high rate of gender based violence in many of our communities. The department is also working closely with other departments and stakeholders to strengthen awareness and support of victims of crime and violence. In the past five (5) years, seventy three thousand and five (73 005) victims of crime and violence accessed services provided by social workers in seventy five (75) Victim Empowerment centres.

The Victim Support Service Bill is ready for tabling in Cabinet and Gazetting in the current financial year, by the Social sector. The Bill will regulate victim support programmes and allocation of dedicated practitioners, to render victim support services. This will increase accessibility, protection and safety of victims.

Provision is made for the support of fourteen thousand and forty (14 040) victims in 2019/2020, and seventy four (74) Victim Empowerment Programme service centres will be funded for the prevention of domestic violence and victim empowerment programmes, counselling services and provision of shelter for abused women.

One million rand [R1 million] is set aside for computer services under the Victim Empowerment Programme to implement an electronic case management system. The overall total budget allocated for the programme is twenty point four million rand [R20.4 million].

SUBSTANCE ABUSE, PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION

In his State of the Province address the Honourable Premier expressed the need to rid our communities of all forms of crime, drugs, gangsterism and violence against women and children.

Since 2014 to date, one million seven hundred and thirty two thousand, seven hundred and fifty (1 732 750) children under the age of 18 and persons 18 and older, were reached

through substance abuse prevention programmes and service users accessed outpatient based treatment services. About three hundred and ninety three thousand, nine hundred and fifty two (393 952) will be provided with prevention programmes, treatment and rehabilitation in 2019/2020.

Allow me to take this opportunity to report to this house that the long awaited Seshego Treatment Centre was officially opened on the 23rd of October 2018 and started with admissions in November 2018. So far, forty seven (47) service users have been admitted to the Centre. Thirty three (33) were discharged after being on rehabilitation programmes for three (3) months.

Here is a good story to tell. Of the two (2) service users admitted in December 2018, one is already back in school completing Grade 11 in Fetakgomo and the second one is currently managing a family business in Mankweng. Up to so far no case of relapse has been reported to the centre amongst all cases discharged and a follow up programme has started in July 2019, to visit all the discharged service users, to monitor the impact of after care services.

In partnership with The South African National Council on Alcoholism or SANCA, seven hundred and seven users (707) were provided with outpatient treatment services. Nineteen million rand [R19 million] has been set aside for management and the smooth operation of the Seshego Treatment Centre. I take this opportunity to thank all the staff and management of the Centre and the Seshego Hospital, through the efforts and dedication of Dr. Hopane, who helped make it possible for the Province to operate its first government run treatment centre.

We urge all families and youth of the Province to utilise the services of the Treatment Centre and to make sure that they support and provide care to their loved ones after discharge from the rehabilitation programme.

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH AND PLANNING

During the Provincial commemoration of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in Botshabelo Village, Maruleng Municipality in October 2018, twelve (12) profiled households were provided with gardening tools and water tanks for the purpose of establishing backyard vegetable gardens for food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods.

Since 2014 to date, one hundred and thirty one thousand, one hundred and ninety three (131 193) vulnerable households were profiled to determine the nature of interventions to be provided and one hundred and sixteen thousand seven hundred and eighty three (116 783) people were mobilised. The Department aims to profile twenty thousand (20 000) households for 2019/2020, with the aim of addressing poverty and food insecurity and ensuring active participation of community stakeholders. The Department will intensify community mobilisation, dialogues, community based planning and stakeholder engagement and one million rand [R1 million] has been set aside for this purpose in 2019/2020.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT FOR NPOs

Honourable Speaker,

Government cannot alone address all the social ills that are pervading and ravaging our society. It is important for the Department to ensure the involvement and participation of all sectors if it is to achieve its constitutional and legislative mandate.

The Department of Social Development is therefore rendering social services in partnership with Civil Society Organisations in order to realize its vision of creating a caring and self-reliant society. To that effect, the department supports NPOs which render social services to the poor and vulnerable groups, especially children, youth, older persons, people with disabilities, women, victims of violence and abuse, persons affected by substance abuse and those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

It is within this context that the Department, in collaboration with the Office of the Premier recently convened a provincial social sector dialogue which was attended by more than four hundred (400) Community Service Organisations. The dialogues served as a build up to the National Social Sector Summit to be held during the second quarter of the financial year.

Our agency, the National Development Agency or NDA, has made great strides in capacitating and training community groups and individuals. Two thousand five hundred (2500) Non-Profit Organisations and cooperatives were trained in good governance, financial management, conflict resolution and resource mobilisation. Two hundred (200) ECD practitioners were trained on NQ level 4 and 5. Three thousand (3000) Civil Society Organizations were formalised through community engagements. A further sixty (60) women and traditional leaders were trained on governance and financial management in support of the role played by traditional leadership. To extend these services, three million rand [R3 million] has been allocated to the NDA for training purposes in 2019/2020.

POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

The Department is implementing the Population Policy for South Africa which needs us to avail credible data for planning and population interventions. We are currently confronted by population concerns on issues such as age structure change – that is older men and women engaging in sexual activities with younger men and women – gender equity; migration and sexual reproductive health and rights.

The Department has also recently conducted research projects that established gender identity and sexual orientation of Limpopo's LGBTI community. Results show that we continue to discriminate against persons based on their gender or sexual orientation.

We also evaluated the ISIBINDI program that emulates and reinstates the family set-up of children and youths. Results informed us that the ISIBINDI program is the solution to preserving the family structure, provided we intervene together in an integrated way.

In the 2019/20 Financial year, the final evaluation on value for money in the implementation of the ISIBINDI programme will inform future planning and decision making related to this program. Four point eight million rand [R4.8 million] has been allocated for the total Population Development Programme for 2019/20.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

In partnership with the National Department of Social Development and German KFW Bank, the Ndindani and Bonn Centres for orphans, vulnerable children and youth, were completed and officially opened. Elandsdoorn, Tauyatswala and Mamvuka Centres for orphans, vulnerable children and youth are still under construction and will be completed during the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

Honourable Speaker,

To attract and retain our social workers and community development practitioners who work in deep rural areas, the department is committed to provide office accommodation for these employees and bring services closer to the people.

With this in mind, the following projects have been completed and officially opened in May 2019: Mankweng Offices in Capricorn District and Gawula in Mopani District. The Mookgopong offices in Waterberg will be completed in September 2019 and Saselemanani in Vhembe District, will be completed in March 2020. An additional five (5) office accommodation projects will commence in October 2019 in the following areas, Dzumeri in Mopani, Tshilwavhusiku in Vhembe, Bela-Bela in Waterberg District and two (2) projects in Sekhukhune, namely Moutse and Mecklenburg.

Forty two million rand [R42 million] has been set aside in the 2019/2020 Financial Year for these projects.

An amount of six million rand [R6 million] has been centralised for procurement of tools of trade such as vehicles, laptops and Wi-Fi connectivity to identified service points, in an attempt to improve service delivery in particularly rural areas.

In summation, Honourable Speaker,

The 2019/2020 budget of the Department of Social Development is allocated as follows:

Programme 1: Administration

Three hundred and fifty eight point seven million rand [R358.7 million]

Programme 2: Social Welfare Services

Four hundred and twenty four point four million rand [R424.4 million]

Programme 3: Children & Families

Nine hundred and forty five point eight million rand [R945.8 million]

Programme 4: Restorative Services

Two hundred and twenty six point three million rand [R226.3 million]

Programme 5: Development and Research

Two hundred and twenty five point seven million rand [R225.7 million].

And the total budget allocation for Vote 12 is two billion one hundred and eighty one million one hundred and twenty nine thousand rand. [R2 181 129 Billion].

As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders of the Department who are available at all times to join hands with us in our quest to deliver quality services and better the lives of our people.

The Department would like to appreciate the work of the Portfolio Committee that served in the fifth administration. You have been there for the Department in good times and hard times. Your wise and critical counsel has strengthened the Department and we welcome the Portfolio Committee that will be working with the Department in this Sixth Administration in their oversight responsibilities.

Furthermore, we appreciate the leadership provided by the Head of Department, the senior management and indeed the entire staff compliment. Let us soldier on and make a success of the coming five years as we help to create a caring society.

Premier, we remain resolute and determined to carry our responsibilities without any excuses and we accordingly appreciate and thank you for expressing your confidence in me to take this Department forward in terms of its mandate.

To my predecessor former MEC Mokaba-Phukwana, please be assured that we will take this Department to new levels of success, because of the solid foundation that you have laid. I appreciate you for the work that you have done in the Department. Much appreciated and well done comrade!

I would like to also take this opportunity to heartily and mightily thank my family led by my mother, my pillar of strength, in everything that I do and my Spiritual parents whose guidance and support is unwavering. Let our Living God richly bless you in all your spiritual endeavours.

Honourable Speaker,

I hereby table the 2019/20 MTEF Budget for the Limpopo Department of Social Development.

God Bless and I thank you.