



social development

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



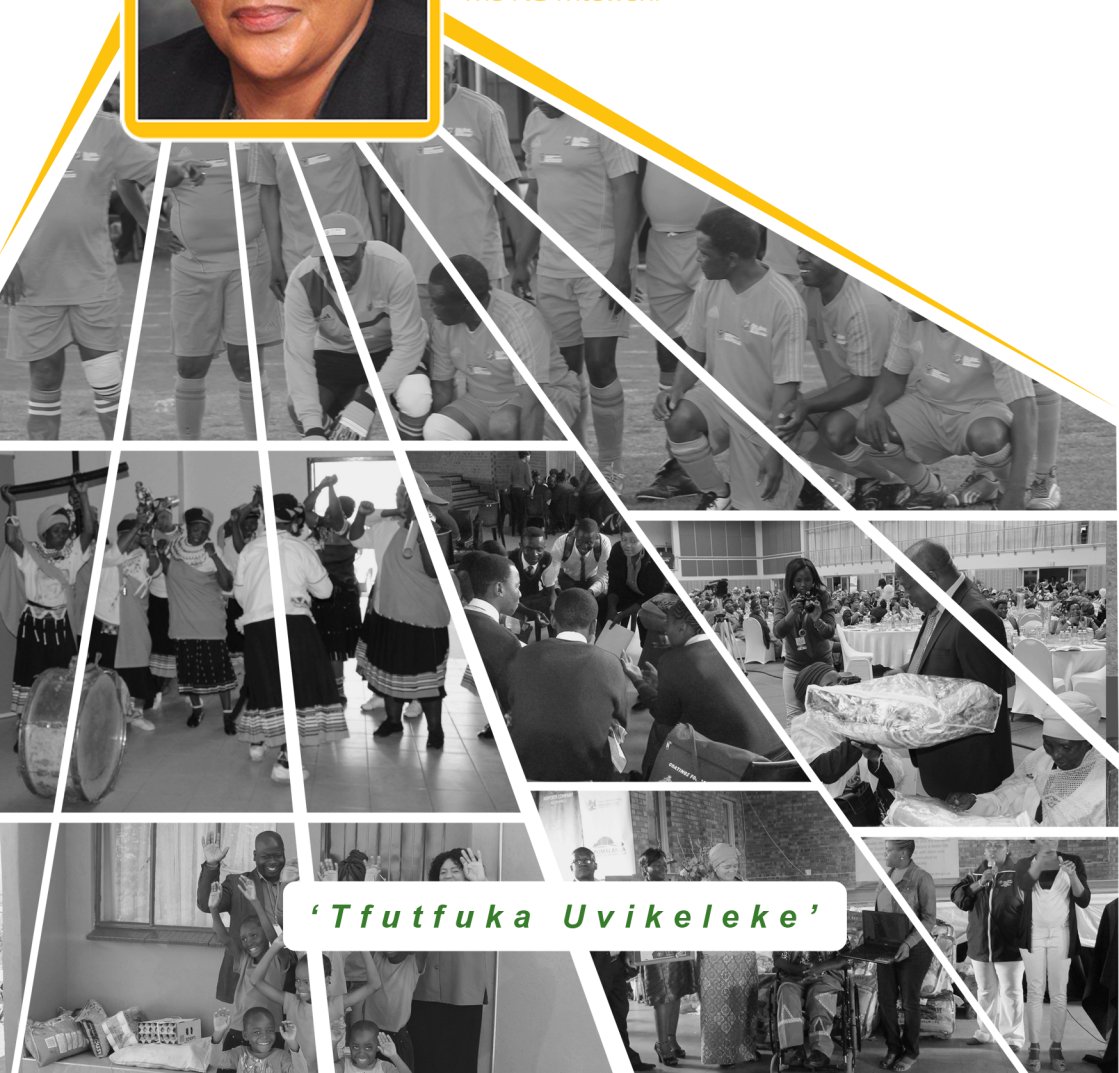
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2015/16
Policy and Budget Speech



'Tfutfuka Uvikeleke'

Member of Executive Council
Department of Social Development
Ms NS Mtsweni



2015/ 2016 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TABLED AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON TUESDAY, 26 MAY 2015 BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MS NS MTSWENI

Honourable Speaker, Ms. BT Shongwe

Honourable Premier, Mr. DD Mabuza

Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the House

The Director General, Dr. Nonhlanhla Mkhize

Head of Department, Ms. Ningi Mlangeni

Heads of Other Departments

Management of the Department of Social Development and staff

SASSA Management and staff

National Development Agency (NDA) Management and staff

Leadership of Organized Labour

House of Traditional Leaders under the leadership of Kgoshi L Mokoena

The Deputy Chairperson of National House of Traditional Leaders Ikosi Sipho
Mahlangu

The NPO sector

The Elderly and People with Disabilities

Children and Youth

Members of the media

Representatives of Business

Distinguished guests and all Dignitaries in our midst

Compatriots

Comrades and friends

Ladies and gentlemen

Honourable Speaker,

I am privileged and humbled by the opportunity to address this august House and the entire province to reflect on our performance and our plans towards the realization of our vision of '**a caring, humane and developed society**'.

This society was long envisaged by our predecessors in the 1955 Freedom Charter which paved the path towards the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. In its 53rd National Conference, the African National Congress adopted social transformation as one of its key imperatives in pursuit of the ideals envisioned by the **Freedom Charter**.

Honourable members, an article written by **Mzala on the Occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary** of the Freedom Charter reads as follows:

"Everything must be done to enlighten our people,

to equip them with tools to understand the line of march and thereby consolidate our democratic ranks".

It is also sad that we deliver the Policy and Budget Speech when we have just laid to rest one of the gallant fighters of our liberation Comrade Dr Ruth Mompati. She was one of the distinguished members of our glorious movement, whom we have bestowed our highest honours, the OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award and Isithwalandwe/ Seaparankoe.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Social Development is mandated by the Constitution and other legislations to provide comprehensive social development services to the poor and vulnerable members of our society. This in turn is aimed at creating an enabling environment for sustainable development in the province. The Government's National Development Plan (**NDP**) vision 2030 accords a central role to social protection to address the

triple challenges affecting our people which are poverty, inequality and unemployment as contained in the Freedom Charter.

In line with Outcome 13 which is ***“An inclusive and responsive social protection system”***, we have carefully crafted our slogan as a Department which says ***“Tlutfuka Uvikeleke”***. As the sun rises in Mpumalanga, we work hard to have a socially protected and developed society.

To date, comprehensive baseline information on households of the province has been gathered. The information indicates the specific needs, assets and capabilities in each household to inform services and developmental interventions. This enables government and service providers to direct integrated services where they are needed most to break the cycle of poverty and change the standard of living in communities.

Honourable Speaker, in response to our mandate, the Department has adopted a dual strategy which firstly, focuses on the immediate needs such as social relief of distress to households. The second part is on the facilitation of a more transformative and developmental agenda with all our partners.

In the current financial year more emphasis will be given to the following focal areas namely;

- (1) **Services to children including Early Childhood Development (ECD),**
- (2) **Youth Development,**
- (3) **Sustainable Livelihoods,**
- (4) **Reduction of Substance Abuse,** and
- (5) **People Begging and Living on the Streets.**

Children Services including Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Honourable Speaker, one of the greatest artists, a poet and writer **Khalil Gibran** once said:

**"Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry,
the philosophy which does not laugh
and the greatness which does not bow before children"**

Therefore our failure to focus on the development of the child would render whatever greatness we aspire to achieve, meaningless.

It is incumbent on all of us to play a meaningful role in protecting children and creating a safe and secure environment for them. In this regard, the National Minister will officially launch the Child Protection Week on 31 May 2015 to remind us about our responsibility to protect and promote the rights of children. We therefore urge everyone to do likewise under the theme **'Working together to protect children'**.

Honourable Speaker, According to StatsSA, 2011, Mpumalanga Province has approximately one million, four hundred and thirty seven thousand (**1 437 000**) children aged 0 to 17 years.

Some of these children are orphans and amongst them are those who are heading households. **60.3%** of the children in the province are from households with a per capita income of less than **R650** per month.

Our commitment to building human and social capital remains **unshaken**. Pursuant to this commitment, the department will continue to provide and strengthen community based services to children including; Early Childhood Development, ISIBINDI and foster care, amongst others. These services are not

only meant to give children a good start but also contribute to their sustainability as they get better chances of being developed.

Honourable Speaker, Early Childhood Development (ECD) remains one of the key focus areas towards a developmental society. This was further emphasised by the Honourable Premier, Mr DD Mabuza during the State of the Province Address (SOPA) when he said that, government must accelerate this programme and build on progress made in the delivery of ECD services by ensuring quality and accessibility.

Honourable Speaker, In addressing the challenges facing children and their developmental needs in the province, the department has in the previous financial year;

- Reached a total of **55 512** children through registered ECD programmes.
- Implemented non-centre based ECD programmes and reached **2 928** children.
- Put processes and systems in place for the construction of **6** ECD centres in partnership with the National Development Agency (NDA) in Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi, Umjindi, Thembisile Hani, Dr JS Moroka and Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipalities.
- Reached **6 641** children through the ISIBINDI model which provides care and protection of orphaned and vulnerable children in the absence of parental guidance. In addition, a total of **81%** of children under this programme passed their matric in 2014. These services are provided through Child and Youth Care Workers who are trained to work in the life space of a child. The Department's work on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) will be reinforced to protect and support these children and ensure that they live full lives despite their current circumstances.

- Provided developmental social crime prevention services aimed at combating crime as well as integrated victim empowerment services. Through this approach, we managed to reduce the number of children who are found to be in conflict with the law.

Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the foster care backlog has been reduced remarkably. This can be attributed to the following interventions which I pronounced in the 2014/ 15 Policy and Budget Speech, namely;

- facilitating and establishing support groups for foster children and parents,
- ensuring individual development plan for each child, and
- developing and implementing exit plans for each child.

Honourable Speaker, in this financial year, the Department will continue to implement ECD services as a priority of government. We will intensify our interventions of ensuring quality and access to ECD services together with partners such as the Departments of Education, Health and the NDA.

ECD has positive outcomes for health, the development of capabilities, mitigation of vulnerabilities, serves as the building block for future resilience and a good foundation for formal schooling.

It is pleasing to announce that the Provincial ECD guidelines have been finalized. They are developed based on the National Early Learning Development Standards (NELDS) (2009). They will also be distributed widely across the Province. The objectives of the ECD guidelines are to;

- provide guidance on the registration of ECD programmes according to the Children's Act.

- give direction to the service providers on the types of programmes and services to be rendered in ECD Centres.
- ensure that people or organizations providing ECD services comply with the norms and standards prescribed by the Children's Act.
- regulate the establishment of Early Childhood Development Centres.
- ensure that children attend registered Early Childhood programmes in and outside the Centres.
- ensure that there is proper care and protection of children at ECD Centres.
- ensure effective and efficient management of ECD Centres.
- ensure proper management and accountability on services rendered to children between the ages of **0-4** years.
- facilitate the capacitation of management and staff at ECD Centres.

Whilst noting that the processes of constructing the six (6) ECD centres in Oakley in Bushbuckridge, Mananga in Nkomazi, Emjindini in Umjindi, Verena in Thembisile Hani, Lefiso in Dr JS Moroka and Glenmore in Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipalities are well on course, the department is adding another six (6) ECD centres in the following areas; Manzini in Mbombela, Tweefontein in Thembisile Hani, Rooikoppen in Lekwa, Warburton in Msukaligwa, Siyabuswa in Dr JS Moroka and Ogies in Emalahleni Local Municipalities during this financial year.

Honourable Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the country will observe the Child Protection Week from 1 to 7 June. Let me invite Honourable members, media houses, religious and traditional leaders and the community at large in observing the Child Protection Week. In line with our slogan which says **"Tfufuka Uvikeleke"** we will intensify our awareness campaigns on the protection of the children not forgetting their rights and responsibilities during this week.

A series of activities have been lined up to raise awareness on the rights of children as articulated in the Children's Act of 2005 and to mobilise all sectors of society to ensure the care and protection of children.

Youth Development

Honourable Speaker, the life cycle dictates that as time goes by, children grow to become young people. It is a widely known fact that Mpumalanga has a youthful population between the ages of **15 – 34** years. This group of residents faces the impacts of poverty, unemployment and inequality in real terms. The Department's investment in young women and men ensures that opportunities are created, enabling them to embrace and fulfill their roles for their own and their community's development.

The youth development programme exists to amongst others;

- leverage investment in youth development programmes to access decent work and participate in the mainstream economy.
- implement life skills programmes that offer vulnerable youth fundamental skills targeting out-of-school youth in rural areas, farms, informal settlements and those receiving social grants.
- increase capacity of youth organizations to render youth development services and address urgent situations of youth vulnerability

The primary focus of the Youth Development Programme will be on the intensification of interventions that underpin youth vulnerability.

The Youth Development Centres are one channel through which youth services and interventions are provided. The programme will be intensified in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to standardise the services and improve on the quality and effectiveness of

services. The programme creates a youth friendly environment to access social welfare and development information and services.

Honourable Speaker, In the year under review, we are pleased to report that Seventy five (**75**) Youth Development Centres and eighty four thousand two hundred and twenty one (**84 221**) young people were reached against the planned target of sixty eight (**68**) youth development centres and 81 600 young people.

In this current financial year, we are targeting to support **90** Youth Development Centres reaching one hundred and six thousand two hundred (**106 200**) young people.

We also linked Four hundred (**400**) young people to economic opportunities against the target of 340. To amplify our efforts in this regard, we will be partnering with a company called **Lulaway** to ensure that young people are profiled and linked to employment opportunities in partnership with our Youth Development Centres.

Honourable Speaker, In partnership with the **ETDP** (Education, Training and Development Practice) **SETA** (Sector Education Training Authority, the department will be implementing two (**2**) Learnership Programmes on Environmental Education and Youth Development. A total of thirty (**30**) young people have been enrolled in Environmental Education and are placed in the five (**5**) YDCs in Bushbuckridge. Another thirty (**30**) Youth have been enrolled in the Youth Development Programme and have been placed in five (**5**) YDCs in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The youth who are participating in these learnerships will receive a monthly stipend of **R2 000** each. They will eventually get accredited National certificate which will increase their opportunity for employability.

To further enhance the capabilities of young people, We will continue to intensify our efforts in ensuring that young people are better prepared and empowered to face life challenges.

Sustainable Livelihoods

Honourable Speaker, Children and Young people are part of family members. The department focuses on the provision of comprehensive child and family care and support services to communities in partnership with stakeholders and civil society organizations. Services to families continue to be a priority for both National and Provincial governments. This is anchored on the belief that strengthening services to families will impact positively on society and address some of the social ills which includes food insecurity.

Honourable Speaker, **njengoba siberegela ukwakha imindeni ethuthukako godi evikelekileko, sizokuragela phambili ukwenza koke okusemandleni wethu ukuqinisa imindeni.**

We will continue to intensify our intervention towards the attainment and realization of inclusive and socially protected families with more emphasis on developmental sustainable livelihoods.

Food security is another priority of government and the Department's responsibility is to ensure that vulnerable households have access to nutritious food and that hunger is eliminated. The long-term goal is to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition. In this financial year, investments are being made in the establishment of Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDs).

The CNDs provide food parcels and nutritious cooked meals to the identified vulnerable groups. These services are a safety net for those who are

severely affected by poverty and food insecurity whilst linking them with sustainable livelihood initiatives.

To this end, five (5) CNDCs were opened in the previous financial year in Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, Dr JS Moroka, Thembisile Hani and Mkhondo Local municipalities. In this financial year, an additional three (3) CNDCs will be opened in Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Dipaleseng and Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipalities.

Anti-Substance Abuse

Honourable Speaker, Substance abuse remains a challenge that state and civil society partners must fight as this has huge implications for the safety and development of our families and communities at large.

We will intensify efforts to implement the Mpumalanga Anti-Drug Master plan together with partners. The Anti-Drug Master Plan is an integrated plan that informs the implementation of programmes aimed at addressing the supply, reducing the demand and harmful effects of substance abuse in the Province. Programmes such as Prevention, Treatment, Skills development and Law enforcement are key in the Mpumalanga Anti-Drug Master Plan. The objectives of the Mpumalanga Anti-Drug Master Plan are;

- Mobilise and educate communities on the dangers of substance abuse
- Reduce bio-socio-economic impact of substance abuse and related illnesses
- Intensify community based services
- Reduce availability of dependence-forming drugs and alcohol
- Fund and implement integrated diagnosis, treatment and aftercare services

- Enforcement of laws and policies to facilitate effective governance of alcohol and drug supply chain

We will fully implement this plan with active involvement of the SAPS, Community Safety Security and Liaison and our communities at Ward level in line with Mpumalanga Development Co-ordinating Model.

People Living and Begging on the Streets

Honourable Speaker, this government is busy laying a solid foundation on which all people will be self-sustainable and ensure that no-one slips below the poverty line.

We are very much concerned about the increasing number of people who are living and begging on the streets. This is evident mostly in the following towns; Nelspruit, Malalane, Standerton, Emalahleni and Ermelo amongst others.

Let me use this platform to discourage community members to **NEVER** give **anything** to the people who are begging in the streets because that incentivises them and thereby exacerbates the challenge and has the potential to increase criminality.

Honourable Members, the government is providing safety net intended to protect the vulnerable groups including people living and begging on the streets.

We have developed an integrated strategy in partnership with various stakeholders which will further be consulted for collective ownership of this programme.

Not-for-Profit Organisations (NPOs)

Honourable Speaker, let me join the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini in expressing the view that this government values its partnerships with civil society in tackling societal challenges. All funding and support given to NPOs by the department must have a primary objective of building the capacity of these organisations to deliver services to poor communities at optimum level.

Our plans for the current financial year are to provide capacity building designed to foster capacity in the NPO sector, especially those in resource-constrained communities. The department believes that capacity building of the sector should receive prominence because it is through the nurturing of grassroots capability, competencies and collective action that we will realize the common goal of sustainable development.

It is worth mentioning that Not-for-Profit organisations are governed by the NPO Act No. 71 of 1997. I therefore call on all people in the NPO sector to please familiarise themselves with this **Act**.

Our Community Development Practitioners, Social Auxiliary Workers and Social Workers will continue to capacitate NPOs on the NPO Act.

We will also continue to conduct NPO roadshows in all Districts to strengthen our collaboration with the NPO sector for integrated and coordinated services to our communities.

NPO help desks have been established in all the local municipalities to assist organisations with online services.

Older Persons

Honourable Speaker, Older persons remain a pillar in society in terms of family support and intergenerational skills transfer amongst others. As government, we will continue to fight any form of abuse directed at older persons.

Government remains committed in its role of maximising the potential of older persons. Active ageing remains one of the key programmes aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles through activities such as Golden Games.

Through the Golden Games we aim to:

- promote Intergenerational bonding,
- embrace active ageing (physical and recreation activities),
- create awareness of the socio-cultural needs of the elderly,
- promote coordination of local activities of the elderly,
- promote sectoral integration, and
- expand horizons for the elderly.

We call on all older persons from all racial groups who are sixty (60) years and above to participate in these games at community based facilities such as service centers.

In the previous financial year you will recall Honourable Speaker that we hosted the 6th National Golden Games in Mbombela from 26-31 October 2014. It was both motivating and inspiring to the young generation to see older persons running and playing.

Honourable Speaker, we are however worried about some service centres for older persons that operate without following the relevant guidelines, norms and standards. This therefore degrades centres of older people and comes with serious challenges.

I call upon all those who look after the elderly to ensure that they do so within the guidelines. It is not at all difficult to achieve this, our social workers are

available to assist and guide in every step of the way. Please ensure that your service centre is registered and that it is compliant.

Improved access and quality of services including infrastructure

Honourable Speaker, in our quest to improve the quality of the services rendered by the department, we have increased Social Work professionals by appointing a total of one hundred and two **(102)** Social Workers and ten **(10)** Community Development Practitioners in the 2014/15 financial year.

We wish to report that the following offices were completed and have already been officially opened;

- Amsterdam Branch Office
- Marite Branch Office

Let me indicate that the following projects are at different stages which further reiterate our commitment towards increasing access to government services:

- Warburton Branch Office.
- Nkangala In-patient Youth Treatment Centre.
- Ehlanzeni Secure Care Centre.
- Glenmore Branch Office.
- Swartfontein Treatment Centre.
- Jerusalem Branch Office.
- Hendrina Branch Office.

We will continue to ensure accountability through our functional good governance structures. The department will continue to ensure prudent financial management and tighten internal controls in line with prescripts.

As I conclude, Honourable Speaker, allow me to quote our own former President, the late **President Nelson Mandela** when he said:

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children”

As we rally around the theme **“working together to protect children”**, let us remember the words by the former president

I am making a request to this House to approve the 2015/ 2016 budget of Social Development Vote 12 which is one billion, two hundred and ninety three million, one hundred and ninety eight thousand rands (**R 1 293 198 000.00**) allocated in five (5) programmes of the Department as follows:

Programme 1: Administration - **R 259 368 000.00**

Programme 2: Social Welfare Services - **R 276 870 000.00**

Programme 3: Children and Families - **R 455 532 000.00**

Programme 4: Restorative Services - **R 159 309 000.00**

Programme 5: Development and Research - **R 142 119 000.00**

Conclusion

Let me now use this platform to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Honourable Members of the Legislature, especially the Members of the Portfolio Committee led by Honourable Patricia Ngobeni for their oversight role.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the sterling leadership and support of our Honourable Premier DD Mabuza and the Executive Council for their support.

I thank all the employees of the Department of Social Development under the leadership of the HOD Ms. Ningi Mlangeni for their commitment and hard work.

I would not have done justice if I were to conclude without appreciating the great commitment and role that is being played by all our key partners especially the SASSA, NDA, NPOs and the private sector, particularly Glencore, Sappi, Banks, TSB, SASOL, Old Mutual, National Lottery Board, MTN and Buscor.

To my whole family, I would not have been able to execute my tasks without their support.

Let us celebrate this year's Child Protection Week by ***“working together to protect our children”***.

I thank you!



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