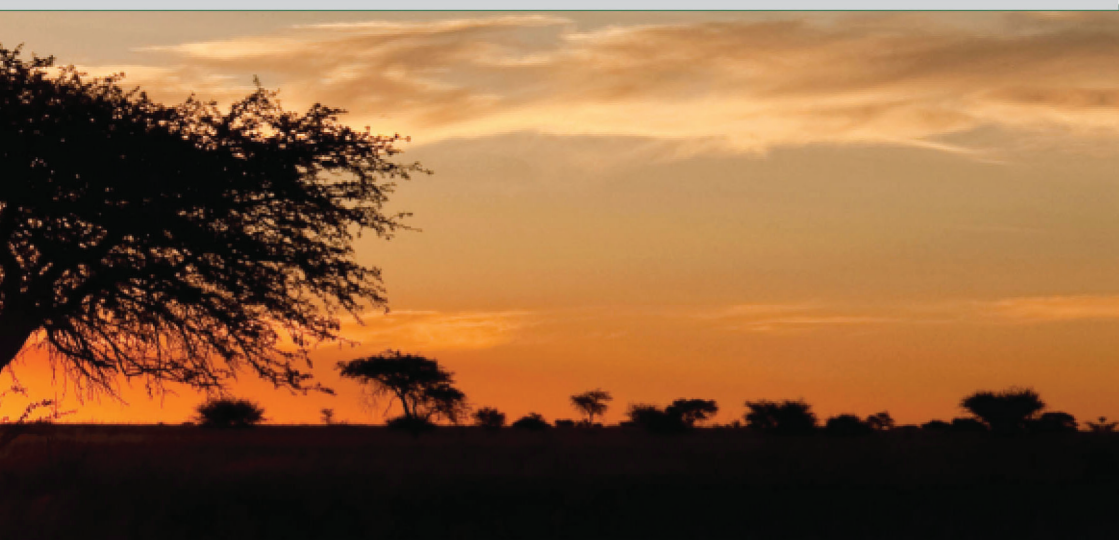




social development

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# 2016/17 Policy & Budget Speech







## MPUMALANGA

Department of Social Development



**Ms N.S. Mtsweni**  
MEC for Social Development

**2016/17**

## Policy & Budget Speech

TABLED AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL  
LEGISLATURE ON TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2016 BY  
THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
MS NS MTSWENI

### DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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**2016/ 2017 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TABLED AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL  
LEGISLATURE ON TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2016 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
- House of Traditional Leaders under the leadership of Kgoshi L Mokoena
- The Deputy Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders Ikosi Sipho Mahlangu
- The Director General, Mr. Thulani Mdakane
- 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
- 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

Good afternoon,

Honourable Speaker, I feel privileged and honoured to be addressing this house and the people of Mpumalanga on the eve of the Freedom Day. The year 2016 marks important milestones of our liberation starting with the 22 years of the Freedom Day; 20th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in May; 40th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Students uprising; the 55th anniversary of the formation of Umkhonto We Sizwe and the 60th anniversary of the Women's march to the Union Buildings in August 1956.

The year 2016 is an important year for which we remember and celebrate the invaluable contributions of these heroes and heroines for the freedom we enjoy today.

Although we are enjoying this freedom, we are still experiencing some challenges of social ills with specific reference to gender based violence against women and children. As you will recall in the 2014 / 15 Policy and Budget Speech, I announced that the 25th of every month is observed as a day to create awareness against the abuse of women and children by wearing orange colours. I want to reiterate the same call for 2016 / 17 that the struggle continues.

Let me hasten to say that we did all that we could to realize our vision of a caring, humane and developed society in line with Outcome 13 which is "An inclusive and responsive social protection system".

Honourable Speaker, in the 2016/ 2017 financial year, in advancing peoples' power in every community, the department will focus its efforts and resources on 7 priority areas namely; (1) Reforming the welfare sector, (2) Expand and accelerate quality services to children including Early Childhood Development (ECD), (3) Coordinate and monitor development interventions including food security through households' profiles, (4) Reduction of Substance Abuse, (5) Provision and strengthening services to families, (6) Enhance capacity, capability and partnerships with all stakeholders and civil society and (7) Strengthening Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) services.

## REFORMING THE WELFARE SECTOR

Honourable Speaker, the Social development sector is faced with enormous social challenges. Mediating effectively within this domain requires dedicated and committed teams of social service professionals who are able to meet service delivery demands and fulfill the department's statutory obligations. In this regard, the National Department of Social Development has partnered with Pact-SA to ensure that professionals are capacitated to render quality services through the Government Capacity Building and Support (GCBS) Programme.

This, together with the strategic shift from a welfarist interventions and rehabilitation to social developmental services, where the latter is underpinned by the objective of reducing dependency and making individuals, families and communities self-reliant, has placed additional responsibilities on the Department. The changed service delivery environment requires accelerated and improved quality services.

These types of services can only be delivered by a capable, skilled and professional workforce. Notably, enhancing social welfare service capacity is now the focus, with the responsibility on rebuilding welfare service capacity and other necessary key competencies to better deliver on core business.

## EXPANSION AND ACCELERATION OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN INCLUDING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Services to children in the 0-4 age cohort continue to be one of the key priorities for the Department. We will therefore intensify the registration of ECD Centres and ensure that they comply with the norms and standards. A total number of sixty five thousand nine hundred and thirty eight (65 938) children will be reached through registered ECD programme. A further four thousand and four hundred and seventeen (4 417) children will be reached through non-centre based ECD

programmes. Madam Speaker, this is our effort to reach children in deep rural areas and farming communities.

In an effort to improve the quality of ECD services in the province, the Department will open six (6) newly built ECD Centres within the next six months which comply with the norms and standards. They are in the following areas; (i) Mananga in Nkomazi, (ii) Oakley in Bushbuckridge, (iii) Emjindini in Umjindi, (iv) Verena in Thembisile Hani, (v) Maphanga in Dr JS Moroka and (vi) Glenmore in Chief Albert Luthuli. Honorable Speaker, ECD infrastructure will remain on our radar until our children receive quality services at the foundation level.

As pronounced by the Honourable Premier during the state of Province Address, we will build seven (7) ECD Centres in the following areas; Ogies in Emalahleni, Standerton in Lekwa, Manzini in Mbombela, Mbuzini in Nkomazi, Tweefontein in Thembisile Hani, Siyabuswa in Dr JS Moroka and Ermelo in Msukaligwa Local Municipalities. We also acknowledge the contribution by other stakeholders including the Department of Human Settlements and the private sector. Over and above these initiatives, Nationally ECD has been elevated to benefit from National Lotteries Commission. It is my pleasure to announce that as Mpumalanga we will benefit massively starting with twenty one (21) ECD centres that will be constructed this financial year. May I take this opportunity and extend the invitation to the launch of this initiative on 10 May 2016 at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

Honourable Speaker, prevention and early intervention services play a critical role in ensuring that children in need of care and protection are identified early and that there is a safety net in terms of the services provided.

In an effort to enhance the social protection system, the following programmes are offered for children, provisioning of psychosocial services, provisioning of residential care facilities and placement of children on foster care.

Two hundred and fifty (250) child and youth care worker trainees will receive accredited training which is aimed at enhancing the psycho social wellbeing and supervision skills of care givers. A total of fourteen thousand four hundred (14 400) children will be reached through ISIBINDI.

## **CO-ORDINATING AND MONITORING DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS INCLUDING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH HOUSEHOLDS' PROFILES**

Food security remains one of the key priorities of government. The Department's role is to ensure that vulnerable households have access to nutritious food and that hunger is eliminated. The Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDs) provide 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.

The department will in partnership with the NDA continue to support the 9 existing centres to improve and sustain the food security services to deserving families.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION**

Honourable Speaker, Substance abuse remains one of the biggest challenges in the Province and more so in the growing and mining towns; namely, Emalahleni, Delmas, Secunda, Barbeton, Kwamhlanga and Balfour. This unfortunately is not a challenge affecting the users only, but also their families, business and society at large. In response to these challenges, the Department established four (4) community based centres in 2015/16 financial year and three (3) more will be established in the 2016/17 financial year. This will ensure that families affected by substance abuse receive the assistance that is needed within their communities.



In collaboration with other stakeholders, we are implementing the Mpumalanga Anti-Drug Master Plan that will respond to the scourge of substance abuse through our programmes on prevention support, treatment and after care.

Through Ke-Moja drug prevention programme fifty thousand (50 000) children under 18 years and twenty five thousand (25 000) youth will be reached.

It is pleasing to announce that Swartfontein Treatment Centre: Phase 1 which is the female residence has been completed and ready for occupation. Construction of Phase 2 for male residence will commence in the current financial year.

To further demonstrate our commitment to fight substance abuse, the department will commence the construction of Nkangala In-patient Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre in Emalahleni in the current financial year as pronounced by the Honourable Premier during the State of the Province Address.

## **PROVISION AND STRENGTHENING OF SERVICES TO FAMILIES**

Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that families are cornerstones of our society. The first school to a child is the family; however some families have neglected their responsibilities due to a number of socio-economic reasons. In strengthening our families we will continue with the family preservation programmes. Twelve thousand and five hundred and ninety five (12 595) families will be provided with counselling and marriage preparation services. Young mothers and single parents will be provided with parenting skills training in order to help them cope better with the responsibility of being a parent. We will ensure that disintegrated families are reunited so that they can provide support to one another. In line with this, a strategy has been developed to deal with people who are begging and living on the streets.

## SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS

Older Persons remain true custodians of values, heritage and culture. We should not view the elderly as only vulnerable people but we need to promote active ageing which makes them live meaningful lives. In the current financial year we are targeting to reach many older persons through the active ageing programme in collaboration with the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation.

Through the campaign "Operation Vikela abakhulile" - we want to encourage communities especially young people in churches, NPOs and other formations to adopt older persons and help them to establish social clubs. We will intensify our prevention services to reach more older persons.

We will further provide community based and support services including day care and assisted living to four thousand six hundred and forty three (4643) older persons.

## HIV AND AIDS

The impact of HIV and AIDS on children, youth, families and communities calls for a co-ordinated effort from all sectors, government, non-government organisations and other civil society organisations.

Our intervention as a department is on social behaviour change which aims at influencing positive behaviour targeting young people to avoid engaging in risky behaviour which expose them to risk of being infected by HIV.

The department has developed a basket of services that are currently being rolled out in the province, these include amongst others the following;

You only live once (YOLO): focuses mainly on young people between the ages of 15-24 years. YOLO aims at building young people's resilience towards life challenging experiences which expose them to

the risk of being infected by HIV & AIDS.

Impintshi: a peer driven programme in which the Department partnered with New LoveLife Trust to implement the programme in the province targeting boys between the ages of 12 and 24 years.

Out of school youth are recruited to participate in the programme. They are trained to become ambassadors of the Social Gender Based Violence in their own community.

## **SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS**

Social assistance has been proven to be one of the cushions of the poor and vulnerable against poverty. The ANC-led Government will continue to support families facing undue hardships including disasters through our social relief programmes. Working with SASSA, our agency, we managed to provide School Uniform and food parcels to needy learners and families. This contributes in building cohesive, caring and sustainable communities. The social relief services are not provided in isolation, but are supported by other programmes such as sustainable livelihood, family preservation; as well as foster care and support.

Featured on our awareness campaigns will be Grant in Aid which seeks to provide assistance to those who are assisting the frail and persons with disabilities at home.

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

In addressing challenges faced by young people who are in the majority in Mpumalanga Province, the Department among other services; creates opportunities that would protect and empower young people for their own development and that of their communities.

Honourable Speaker, in the year under review, ninety (90) Youth Development Centres were supported reaching more than one hundred and six thousand (106 000) young people. These centres will continue to receive support in this financial year while they render services to young

people in their communities.

In his State of the Province Address, the Honourable Premier Mr DD Mabuza announced that government will construct two (2) Government owned Youth Development Centres in Msogwaba and Daantjie under Mbombela Local Municipality in the current financial year to render comprehensive and integrated youth services. These two centres have found expression in our plans for this financial year. It is envisaged that these two projects will be completed in this financial year. These will be replicated to other municipalities who also have a high population of vulnerable young people. This will be informed by assessment which will be concluded within the first quarter.

In this financial year we will partner with National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to place fifty six (56) young people on an internship programme across the Province.

A total of four hundred and fifty (450) young people will be linked to employment opportunities through Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

## **CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

The department has completed a research on the Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities in Mpumalanga.

The research findings confirms that service delivery gaps still exist in areas related to health, education, employment, housing and psycho-social support. A strategy outlining roles and responsibilities which will be informed by the research findings will be developed and implemented.

We will continue to provide services to persons with disabilities through the protective workshops, residential care facilities and stimulation centres focusing on children with disabilities.

As part of expanding services to persons with disabilities, we will continue to conduct awareness programmes on children and youth with Autism (learning disabilities) and persons with Albinism.

## **ENHANCING CAPACITY, CAPABILITY AND PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

Honourable Speaker, we continue to value the partnership that we have with the NPO sector. We appreciate the role of NPOs in rendering services to the communities but we are equally concerned about the mushrooming of non –compliant NPOs who provide sub – standard services.

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.

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.

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.

## **STRENGTHENING VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (VEP) SERVICES**

Human trafficking is another ugly phenomenon that is raising its ugly head. To combat this challenge, we will intensify anti-human trafficking awareness campaigns in collaboration with other stakeholders focusing on areas around farming communities and areas closer to the ports of entry (border gates). We will continue to provide psycho – social support services to victims of human trafficking.

Improved access and quality of services including infrastructure

Honourable Speaker, improving access to social development services includes having offices where people live. This cuts the distance that people have to travel to access these services. Infrastructure projects are well on course and they can be summarized as follows;

Amsterdam Branch office was opened on 14 April 2015

Jerusalem Branch Office was opened on 13 November 2015.

Glenmore Branch Office was officially opened on 23 February 2016.

Hendrina Branch Office: Completed and is scheduled for official opening during the month of June 2016.

In order to improve the pay point conditions in the province, SASSA will, in this financial year, put up fixed steel structures to be used as pay points in the following areas:- Sulphursprings, Wonderfontein, Ga-Maria, Ga-Makola, Phake Ratlhagane, Phake Thabeng, Goederede, Matshipe, Tweefontein F, Katjibane, Waterval B, Mmametlhake, Jongilanga, Moletele and Bergen.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I request this House to approve the 2016/ 2017 budget of Social Development Vote 12 which is one billion, four hundred and fifty four million, seven hundred and sixteen thousand rands (R 1 454 716 000.00) allocated in five (5) programmes of the Department as follows:

Programme 1: Administration – R 271 198 000

Programme 2: Social Welfare Services – R 284 642 000

Programme 3: Children and Families – R 543 628 000

Programme 4: Restorative Services – R 158 913 000

Programme 5: Development and Research – R 196 335 000

I am sincerely grateful and appreciative of the oversight role provided by the Honourable Members of the Legislature, specifically

the Members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development led by Honourable Patricia Ngobeni.

I remain humbled and grateful of the guidance and leadership of our Honourable Premier Mr. DD Mabuza and the Executive Council as a whole.

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.

Alone as a department, we would not have achieved so much and for this reason I consider the department blessed to have had SASSA, NDA, NPOs and the private sector, particularly RCL Foods, Liberty Life, SASOL, Old Mutual Savannah Trust and National Lotteries Commission for their support in various ways.

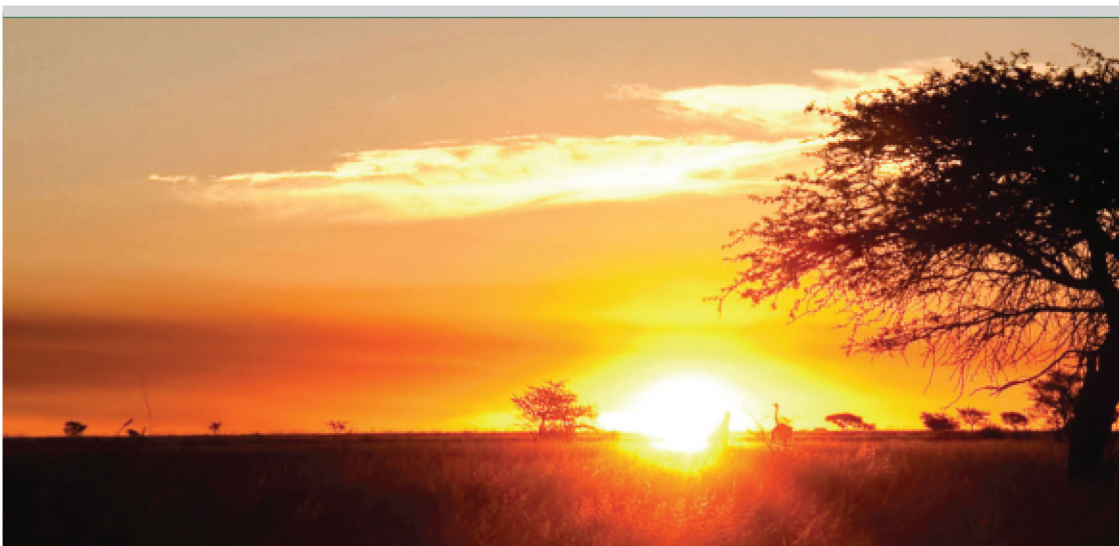
My family, you remain my pillar and source of encouragement in forging ahead each day of life, for that I thank you.

I wish you all a happy Freedom Day tomorrow.

God bless Mpumalanga.

I thank you!

***“Tfutfuka Uvikeleke”***



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**Toll Free Number: 0800 20 40 98**

WORKING HOURS  
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

07:45 - 16:15

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