



MEC for Social Development  
Ms BP Shiba

# 2017/18 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH

*"Tfufuka Uvikeleke"*



social development  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





# THE 2017/ 2018 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH



**MS BUSISIWE PAULINA SHIBA**  
**MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017**

**VENUE: MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**



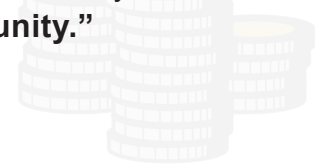
**2017/ 2018 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TABLED AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017 BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MS BUSISIWE PAULINA SHIBA**

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, it feels good and humbling at the same time to address this house and the people of Mpumalanga as I table the 2017/ 2018 Policy and Budget Speech of the Department of Social Development (Vote 12).

We stand here today accompanied by the spirit of caring for children as the country will observe the Child Protection Week from 28 May to 3 June 2017. We also draw inspiration from the fact that the year 2017 has been declared the year of OR Tambo under the theme “**Let us deepen unity.**”





In our approach, unity has to start within families. The ability of families to provide for its dependents is adversely affected by socio-economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequality. It is social challenges such as substance abuse, crime, absent fathers and mothers, child and elder abuse, domestic violence and other factors that weaken and undermine the unity of families, which in return impact negatively on the social fabric of society as a whole.

Our long term vision towards an inclusive and responsive social protection system by 2030 has not changed. This is loosely translated into our slogan that says '**Tfutfuka Uvikeleke**'.

With effect from this financial year, the department will put emphasis on the acceleration and expansion of services to **Children, Youth and Women**. We have consciously taken this decision to break the persistent cycle of poverty which strikes families.

## CHILDREN

Children are a gift from the Lord. This gift is to be treasured and appreciated by all at all times. The icon OR Tambo once said that "a country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future". I have no doubt in my mind that we all want one thing and one thing only - a good future for the Province and our Country. This confirms the reality that looking after children is a societal responsibility. We all have a role to play.

The department has carefully packaged services aimed at developing and protecting children.

### *Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Partial Care.*

We will accelerate and expand services to children in the 0-4 age cohort as one of the key priorities for the Department. Registration of ECD Centres has received special attention. Our work in this regard is to ensure that ECD Centres comply with the norms and standards. We will continue to expand access to quality ECD services through centre and non-centre based ECD programmes.

In an effort to increase access and improve the quality of ECD services in the province, the Department has already opened the following state of the art ECD Centres; Ndzalama under Bushbuckridge local municipality, Umjindi under the City of Mbombela local municipality, Glenmore under the Chief Albert Luthuli local municipality, Mananga under Nkomazi local municipality. Others including those in Emalahleni, Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka local municipalities will follow soon.

We managed to do this work Honourable Speaker through collaboration with our National

Development Agency (NDA) and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for the work well done!

We have also made progress with the delivery of ECDs through the National Lotteries Commission as pronounced in 2016/17. Eleven (**11**) movable ECD Centres are now operational and ten (**10**) are at various stages of construction.

Furthermore in this current financial year we are going to renovate fifty five (**55**) ECD Centres across the Province to ensure that they meet the minimum norms and standards. These renovations will be done by Youth Co-operatives as part of job creation and skills development for our young people.

When launching the sponsorship gathering for children with life-threatening diseases in July 1997, **Former State President, Nelson Mandela** said: “Together as a nation we have the obligation to put sunshine into the hearts of our little ones. They are our precious possession. They deserve the happiness life can offer”. We hence, cannot deviate from Tata’s wish as he will forever be our source of inspiration.

### *Child Protection Services*

Honourable Speaker, as indicated earlier, the country will observe the 2017 Child Protection Week from 28 May to 3 June 2017. During this week, we will intensify our efforts to raise awareness on issues of child abuse, child neglect and child exploitation. Green ribbons will be worn as a sign of support to child protection initiatives. I invite all of you to do the same.

We will continue to provide psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children and link those on the verge of exiting the foster care system to sustainable social protection programmes. This work will be made possible in collaboration with our stakeholders.

### *Child and Youth Care Centres*

In this financial year, the Department will fund twenty five (**25**) Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs) which are managed by Not-for-profit organisations (NPOs). One thousand and twenty six (**1 026**) children in need of care and protection will receive services in those CYCCs.

### *Community Based Care Services for Children*



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. A total of thirteen thousand and thirty five (**13 035**) children will be reached through services provided through ISIBINDI model.

To further improve quality of services in the Isibindi programme **325** Child and Youth Care Workers were trained to improve the quality of care offered to the vulnerable children in their care. They received their certificates on 18 March 2017 and they are fully registered with the Counsel for Social Services Professions.

In the current financial year **250** Child and Youth Care Workers will undergo their training for a period of eighteen (**18**) months through the National Association for Child Care Workers (NACCW).

With ISIBINDI programme Honourable Speaker, we do not only provide quality services to our vulnerable children but we also skill our youth (Child and Youth Care Workers) and create jobs for them.

### *Care and Support services to persons with disabilities*

The ANC led government took a conscious decision to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities across the development and service delivery spectrum. The White Paper on an Integrated National Disability Strategy, released in 1997, provided strategic guidance for this process to unfold in the post-apartheid era.

Honourable Speaker, it is a concern that there are some sections of our population affected by some forms of disabilities that are still not fully catered for. To respond to this gap, Mpumalanga Disability Strategy will be developed in collaboration with all key role players in the disability sector during the current financial year.

In the previous financial year the Department funded **7** residential facilities for persons with disabilities benefiting 697 people. One thousand, seven hundred and one (**1 701**) children with disabilities who accessed the service. Twelve thousand, four and sixty (**12 460**) persons were reached through advocacy programmes focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities.

We are targeting to reach a total of one thousand eight hundred and eight (**1 808**) persons with disabilities in our (**62**) protective workshops which are financially supported by the Department. As part of expanding services to persons with disabilities, we will continue to conduct awareness programmes on children and youth with Dyslexia and Autism (learning disabilities) and persons

with Albinism. Awareness campaigns will be conducted in all local municipalities.

## YOUTH

Honourable Speaker, our youth is hardest hit by the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. This sector of people continues to seek ways of equipping and preparing themselves for employment and self-employment opportunities. Some of these young people are heads of households. As a direct response to the day to day difficulties faced by young people 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 previous financial year, ninety (**90**) Youth Development Centres were supported reaching more than one hundred and forty four thousand, nine hundred and fifty seven (**144 957**) young people.

These centres among other services create work opportunities for the youth; provide entrepreneurial skills, free access to internet services and basic computer skills as well as general life skills workshops. We will continue to fund these centres this year and through them, four hundred and fifty (**450**) job opportunities will be created.

The Job Centre Initiative implemented through Lulaway programme in the Youth Development centres was able to create more than four hundred (**400**) permanent job opportunities for youth in the year 2016/ 2017.

To further demonstrate our resolve to fight unemployment and giving young people experience which other companies are looking for, the department in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) placed fifty six (**56**) young people on an Internship programme in the three districts. They were placed in the Youth Development Centres across the province for practical work and they acquired valuable work experience and received accredited certificates.

Honourable Speaker, we have prioritised young people through our various interventions together with our stakeholders. We will continue to facilitate Entrepreneurial Development Programme through NYDA and SEDA to capacitate youths out of school and those accessing services in the YDCs to increase their economic empowerment skills for self-reliance.

The Department will also strengthen Career and Skills Development programmes in all the YDCs, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in providing guidance and support to young people.

Furthermore, working with Red Cross SA, we will also implement a Learnership programme for



fifty (50) youth on Project Management in the Youth Development centres. The young people who participated through the life skills and youth camp programmes will be prioritized and linked to this programme as their exit opportunities.

Our working relationship with the private sector, particularly Sasol has benefitted various YDCs over years. In the current financial year, we will continue to partner with them and other private companies to improve YDCs and provide more equipment for efficient delivery of youth development services.

Honourable Speaker, the department will continue to encourage and support youth and community members who stand and take responsibility of their own development in communities.

It is against this reason therefore that the department fully supports Ntirhisano Cooperative in Bushbuckridge for the distribution of dignity packs to vulnerable young people as a pilot for cooperative development.

### *Substance Abuse*

Honourable Speaker, it is sad to note that most family and societal problems are somehow caused by alcohol and substance abuse. The impact of alcohol and substance abuse continue to destabilise families in many ways. Users are also exposed to violent crime, either as perpetrators or victims.

Substance abuse remains the single biggest challenge in some of our local municipalities, namely, Emalahleni, Victor Khanye, Govan Mbeki, City of Mbombela, Thembisile Hani and Bushbuckridge. This unfortunately is not a challenge affecting the user only, but also their families, business, and society at large.

In the previous financial year Phase one of Swartfontein Treatment Centre was completed and we are currently busy with Phase two as well as Nkangala Treatment Centre which will be completed in the current financial year. These Centres will definitely assist us to deal with the scourge of substance abuse.

In the current financial year we will be more radical in our approach by involving young people themselves including ex-users in creating awareness on the dangers of substance abuse. Working with the departments of Education, Health and Community Safety Security and Liaison we will intensify the Ke-Moja drug prevention programme targeting seventy two thousand (72 000) children under 18 years and thirty thousand (30 000) youth out of school.

Honourable Speaker, we will intensify our collaboration with all other stakeholders as we implement the Mpumalanga Anti-Drug Master Plan that responds to the scourge of substance abuse through programmes on prevention, support, treatment and after care.

### *HIV and AIDS*

Honourable Speaker, we will continue with our interventions in mitigating the effects of the HIV and AIDS pandemic. In order to achieve this, the department has prioritised strengthening education, awareness, prevention and universal precaution of the disease. The expansion of community based care and provision of material and psychosocial support to people affected and infected by HIV and AIDS will continue in the current financial year reaching **(8 000)** people

The impact of HIV and AIDS on children, youth, families and communities calls for a co-ordinated effort from all sectors. Fifteen **(15)** organizations will be trained on social behaviour change programme which aims at influencing positive behaviour targeting young people. Twelve **(12 000)** people will be reached through social behaviour change services focusing on vulnerable individuals who are mostly at risk of being infected by HIV. Those who are already affected will be provided with psychosocial support services.

### **WOMEN**

Honourable Speaker, two weeks ago, we celebrated mother's day in appreciation of the tireless work that women do for their children and families. Whilst celebrating these women, we are aware of the hardships still faced by women of today. The triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty are experienced by most women in real terms. Sadly, women are at the core of managing households, looking after children and participating in critical community structures.

As the ANC-led government, we have structured our services and programmes to respond comprehensively to issues affecting women. Specifically, the Department of Social Development is mandated to serve and empower the poor and vulnerable which include women. We have programmes aimed at uplifting women in cooperatives, widows, victims of violence and abuse as well as other vulnerable women – both young and old. In partnership with the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, we have trained one hundred and fifty **(150)** women in cooperatives. Certificates were handed over to those women who completed the accredited training on Co-operative Governance, Financial Management and Marketing. It is believed that this is a skill that will enhance their daily work and also open opportunities for them for development of their cooperatives.

Honourable Speaker, we reaffirm our steadfast, continuous commitment and support to local

women Co-operatives that are already making a difference in their communities. These Co-operatives are run by women and I had the honour of visiting some of them in Nkomazi in August 2016. We recognise and appreciate what women are doing and that is why our commitment and support for women remains unshaken.

Together with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) we will continue to support these women by procuring school uniform for our vulnerable children directly from them. We want to make a difference to women knowing very well that indirectly we will be reaching more people as we know that women have influence in their households.

In the current financial year we will increase the number from **150** to two hundred (**200**) women in Co-operatives who will receive accredited training in order to enhance the good work that they are doing in communities.

We will also financially support twelve (**12**) women cooperatives through poverty alleviation programmes to improve their capacity. We will also partner with NPOs rendering empowerment services and programmes to women. A total of two thousand one hundred and ten (**2 110**) women will be reached.

We will continue to collaborate with Human Rights Commission and other organisations that stand for the rights of women, in facilitating awareness campaigns, seminars and workshops in all local municipalities to empower women on their rights and services available for them. We want to say to all women “**Tfutfuka Uvikeleke**” make.

### *Victim Empowerment Programme*

Honourable Speaker, sexual violence is a gross violation of human rights and dignity. It is complex and has a wide impact on society, and victims experience many problems. Sexual violence, commonly referred to as rape is a serious public health and human right problem. It comes with short and long term consequences on women’s physical, mental and reproductive health. Whether it occurs in the context of an intimate partnership, within the larger family or community structure or during times of conflict, it is a deeply violating and painful experience for the survivor. Rape and killings are becoming common in our society and a week does not pass by without media reporting these horrendous incidences.

Lately, we hear of girls who are raped and brutally killed. This is seriously disturbing. I call on all men to join hands in the fight against the abuse of women and girls. Women – young and old please be extra careful as we hear that there are people who are desperate to kill women. In the same vein, we trust that the SA Police Service and law enforcement agencies will continue to do everything in their power to put an end to these demonic acts.

Men's involvement in the fight against rape is very critical. In the current financial year seventeen thousand (**17 000**) people will be reached with awareness and prevention programmes focusing on reduction of gender based violence. Three thousand five hundred (**3 500**) victims of crime and violence will be provided with counselling services and support in twenty two (**22**) funded VEP service centres. A total of one thousand (**1 000**) victims of crime and violence will receive psychosocial support.

Human trafficking is another ugly phenomenon that is raising its ugly head. To combat this challenge, together with our stakeholders we will intensify anti-human trafficking awareness campaigns especially around farming communities and areas closer to the ports of entry.

### *Social Relief*

Honourable Speaker, Mpumalanga being a rural province has a high unemployment rate. This increases the number of families that rely on social relief of distress for survival. It is however worth mentioning that this service is not just any service but one which is activated under abnormal circumstances.

The Department with its agency, SASSA, intervene as a provisional measure to assist individuals and households facing undue hardships. In this regard the Department will provide support to five thousand (**5 000**) individuals and families in need to ensure stability to families in distress. 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 and foster care and support.

### *Services to Older Persons*

Honourable Speaker, the key areas that serve as the foundation of service delivery to older persons include maintaining and promoting the status, well-being, safety and security of older persons.

The Older Persons Act seeks to advocate for the rights of older persons to participate in developmental, political, social, cultural and economic activities of their country and not be regarded as mere beneficiaries. It also seeks to give them access to knowledge, education and training. It is against this background that Provincial Golden Games are hosted on an annual basis to encourage older persons to participate in active ageing programmes. It is pleasing to see the increasing involvement of older persons in sports and this will undoubtedly make them healthy. In the current financial year we are targeting four thousand four hundred and ninety

(4 490) older persons to participate in the active ageing programme. Five thousand and ninety two (5 092) will access community based and support services including day care and assisted living services.

In our quest to improve the community based care services for older persons we will conduct an assessment of services per ward. This will indicate the status and spread of services in the Province. It is anticipated that this will assist the Department to intervene in areas where there are no services for older persons. We encourage communities especially young people in churches, NPOs and many other structures to adopt older persons and help them to establish social clubs. We want to encourage all municipalities to develop a database of older persons per ward, so that all stakeholders can be in a position to provide them with services.

It should be noted that ageing also makes some older persons to be frail and need 24 hour care. It is against this background that the Department will continue to fund twenty three (23) residential care facilities for older persons benefitting one thousand and sixty seven older persons (1 067).

All these, Honourable Speaker, are consistent with the Freedom Charter under the clause; there shall be houses, security and comfort, where it states that: “the aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the State”. This honourable Speaker is in line with our slogan of **Tfutfuka Uvikeleke!**

Having outlined all our plans for the current financial year, we know that our work is labour intensive. For us to render a service Honourable Speaker, there must be interaction between our social development professionals and individuals, groups or communities. It is therefore pleasing to announce that forty six (46) social work graduates will be reinforcing the current team as we intensify our programmes to deal with social ills and develop our communities.

## CONCLUSION

In my conclusion, Honourable Speaker, it is my request that this House approves the 2017/2018 budget of Social Development (Vote 12) which is one billion, four hundred and fifty six million and nine thousand rands (**R 1 456 009 000.00**) allocated in five (5) programmes of the Department as follows:

**Programme 1 : Administration – R 280 099 000**

**Programme 2 : Social Welfare Services – R 229 787 000**

**Programme 3 : Children and Families – R 558 089 000**

**Programme 4 : Restorative Services – R 212 237 000**

**Programme 5 : Development and Research – R 175 797 000**





I am 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 am also 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 stewardship 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 SASOL, RCL foods, Vodacom, Liberty Life, Protea Hotel – Witbank, Dana Agency and Forever Resorts amongst others, for their support in various ways.

*My family, you remain my pillar and source of strength as I carry out my responsibilities.*

Tfutfuka Uvikeleke Mpumalanga

**I thank you!**







**MPUMALANGA**  
Department of Social Development

toll free number  
0800 20 40 98

DSD Agencies

