



Policy and Budget Speech 2013/ 14

A caring, humane and developed society



Social Development

Department:
Social Development
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



2013/14 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY MEC FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MRS KC MASHEGO-DLAMINI, 23 MAY 2013

Honourable Speaker
The Honourable Premier: Mr DD Mabuza
Members of the Executive Council
Honourable Members of the House
The Director General
Head of Department Ms NL Mlangeni
Heads of Departments
Management of the Department of Social Development and staff
SASSA Management and staff
National Development Agency Management and staff
Leadership of Organised 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 present here today
Compatriots
Comrades and friends
Ladies and gentlemen

Honourable Speaker, the vision of the Department of Social Development is **to build a humane, developed and caring society**. This vision translates to various departmental programmes including the work done by NPOs that we are funding. We want to reaffirm our commitment to protect, promote the rights of the vulnerable groups and facilitate development in our communities. Honourable Speaker I am tabling my Budget Speech just after the celebration of the International Day of Families and on the eve of Child Protection Week ending with the celebration of the International Children's Day on the 1st June. As we believe that touching the life of a child and impacting positively on families contributes to community building. These two important days are critical to our service delivery agenda.

Honourable Speaker, the mandate for Social Development is to facilitate the development and implementation of integrated strategies to address poverty and other social ills facing our communities. The Department of Social Development supports five (5) of the twelve (12) outcomes. Thus the successful implementation of our mandate calls for an integrated approach, the correct deployment of resources and strategic partnerships with other sector departments, development agencies, NPOs, the private sector and civil society.

OUTCOME 1 Quality of Basic Education

Honourable Speaker and Members, Early Childhood Development (ECD) remains one of the key focus areas of government. It is the foundation on which we can develop responsible citizens. Research has shown that children who have had an opportunity of accessing ECD programmes perform better when they progress to formal schooling. The integrated ECD Strategy of the Province provides a platform for comprehensive intervention in this area of work.

The ANC led government prioritized education as one of the key outcomes for the current administration. It is against this background that funding to increase the budget allocation from R122 million to R188 million has been provided. Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to announce that in the 2013/14 financial year, the Department is funding the ECD centres at R15 per child per day as opposed to R12. Five (5) Non-centre based programmes will be implemented to reach children who cannot access centre based services. These will be implemented at:

- Nkomazi,
- Bushbuckridge,

- Mkhondo,
- Dr JS Moroka and
- Emalahleni

Honourable Speaker and Members, we will as the Premier has indicated in his state of the province address pay particular attention to early childhood development to ensure that we strengthen the foundation phases of our education system, to improve overall learner performance across all grades.

And yes despite this positive development, many qualifying learners do not have access to Early Childhood Development (ECD). According to the 2012/13 baseline survey undertaken by the Department, only 88 933 of 619 693 have access to ECD services.

We will work in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure that children in the 0-4 age cohort are enrolled in these centres to better equip them with learning at an early age.

The NDA remains our key stakeholder in the Province and we have witnessed its increased involvement in most of our programmes. We applaud the commitment of NDA to contribute in the improvement of infrastructure for ECD services in Mkhondo, Thembisile Hani and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme and Bushbuckridge Local Municipalities.

The Department will continuously play an active role in mobilizing communities and all structures to protect children. In the previous financial year 35 280 children in foster care were provided with supervision by social workers. Additional 5645 were placed in foster care. In the 2013/14 financial year, a total number of eight thousand eight hundred and eight (8 808) children will be placed in foster care. Honourable members, our aim is to break the cycle of poverty of this vulnerable group by ensuring that exit plans from the grant system are in place by the time they reach the age of 18 years. We will be observing the Child Protection week from 27 May to 02 June 2013. May I take this opportunity to invite Honourable members to join us as we observe this week.

OUTCOME 2 A long and healthy life for all South Africans

Honourable Speaker, in 2012/13 financial year we have provided services to 10 341 orphans and vulnerable children through community based care services offered by the HIV and AIDS Programme. These children were linked to Drop-in-Centres where they receive cooked meals and support with their school work.

Honourable Speaker, our contribution to job creation will be through intensifying the ISIBINDI model for orphans and vulnerable children. Through this programme we will create job opportunities for 170 Child and Youth Care Workers. The Department will fund 17 sites to implement this model. In addition one thousand six and fifty six (1 656) jobs will be created through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

OUTCOME 3 All people in South Africa are and feel safe

Substance Abuse has become a National concern, as families and society continue to suffer in the hands of this scourge. Many dream of individuals and families has been broken. We are also saddened by the fact that the youth are the hardest hit. The Department reached a total of 6 325 Youth between the ages of 19-35 years and 13 908 children below the age 18 through the Ke-Moja programme in the 2012/13 financial year. In collaboration with Departments of Education and Community Safety, Security and Liaison, we will increase the target to reach 32 432 children through integrated school programmes in this financial year.

Honourable members, the prevalence of substance abuse is not confined to poor communities, but is seen across all communities. The Anti-Drug Master Plan provides an integrated path for all stakeholders in the fight against these social ills. We will review the plan to align with the announcement by our National Minister Bathabile Dlamini in her Policy and Budget Speech when she said, "We have appointed new members of the Board of the Central Drug Authority (CDA) to ensure implementation of the National Drug Master plan 2013 - 2017, which will be presented to Cabinet for approval..."

In the 2012/13 financial year 1 190 children in conflict with the law were assessed and 296 children completed the diversion programme. The Department has taken over 3 Child and Youth Care Centres from the Department of Education in line with the Children's Act to improve norms and standards for the residential facilities. In 2013/14 a total of one thousand one hundred and seventy (1 170) children in conflict with the law will be assessed.

Gender based violence is rearing its ugly head in our communities. In most cases violence happens in homes perpetrators being men. In 2012/13 financial year 1855 men and boys participated in the gender based violence prevention programme. The Department will upscale this programme to reach four thousand and thirty five (4 035) men and boys in the 2013/14 financial year.

To improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and encourage their independence, six (6) protective workshops will be transformed into business entities in collaboration with other stakeholders. A total of two thousands and eleven (2 011) persons with disabilities are targeted to access services in sixty one (61) government funded protective workshops managed by NPOs. Seven hundred and eighty five (785) Persons with Disabilities are targeted to access services in eight (8) government funded residential facilities managed by NPOs. One thousand two hundred and ninety three (1 293) children with disabilities are targeted to access services in fifty one (51) partial care centres for children with disabilities.

Older Persons remain pillars of support in our communities. Studies have shown that most Older Persons are taking care of grandchildren. Siyabonga ka khulu kini nonke bogogo na bomkhulu betfhu. The Department will continue to provide financial support to one hundred and six (106) community based care and support centres delivering services to six thousand one hundred and eighty three (6 183) older persons. In response to the increased number of abused cases of older persons, the Department will intensify prevention of elderly abuse programme. A total of two thousand seven hundred and thirty two (2 732) older persons is targeted to participate in active ageing programmes - Golden Games. This work is done in partnership with the Departments of Health and Culture Sports and Recreation.

The purpose of this initiative is to promote social cohesion, African prestige, nation building, cultural tolerance, mass participation, recreation, healthy lifestyle and moral regeneration. The Golden Games are characterized by sporting activities which are both competitive and fun in nature.

OUTCOME 7 Vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all

The Department aims to develop self-sustainable communities – communities that do not depend on the state perpetually, but communities that will strive to be self-reliant. I want to echo the words of the Honourable Premier Mr. DD Mabuza in his state of the province address when he said "Together, we agreed that unless we address these challenges head-on, our envisaged future society will be nothing but a mirage. It is in this context that we entered into a social contract wherein we committed ourselves to walk together to our destiny."

The Department values the partnership with the NPO sector. During the 2012/13 financial year, the department engaged in a vigorous process to dialogue with NPOs at all levels culminating to a National NPO Summit. The aim was to understand challenges and share government policies and priorities. The commitments made during these interactions will be realized in this current financial year through additional funding allocated to different categories of the NPO sector.

In April 2013 we conducted NPO Road Shows. We did this to emphasize the importance of partnership with these organizations within our communities. We applaud the good work done by these organizations and we would like to re-emphasize that their existence is much appreciated by government.

In the current reporting period a total of four hundred and twenty three (423) NPOs were registered in accordance with the NPO Act. One thousand, three hundred and forty (1 340) NPOs were capacitated on relevant skills including financial and basic general management to ensure their accountability, reporting and delivery of quality services. Monitoring mechanisms were intensified with each Community Development Practitioner (CDP) attached to an NPO to strengthen regular monitoring and support. A total of one thousand and eighty five (1 085) NPOs were monitored for compliance and supported to adhere to the NPO act.

The Department will continue to strengthen the collaboration with civil society organisations in providing services to communities. The registration of NPOs in accordance with NPO Act will be enhanced and five hundred and eighteen (518) NPOs will be assisted by Community Development Practitioners (CDPs) in all municipalities for registration. One thousand, four hundred and ninety two (1 492) NPOs will receive on-site capacity building on governance and management skills.

Honourable Speaker, it is indeed part of our responsibility as a Department to focus on facilitation in the reduction of unemployment, inequalities, and the eradication of abject poverty.

The Department has done much to reach people in the remote rural areas and farms in line with our collective decision to intensify services in the Comprehensive Rural Development (CRDP) sites. I am encouraged by the progress made to date with the contribution that the department has made towards changing our people's lives for the better in these areas.

To improve rural community livelihoods, twenty nine (29) Community Initiatives were supported during 2012/13 financial year. The projects benefitted a total of six hundred and twenty (621) people in the communities.

For this financial year, we will complete the profiling of households in all the wards. We will utilize the profiles to inform planning and interventions in the most deprived areas by all stakeholders. The department will complete the profiling of six hundred and seventy eight thousand, five hundred and eighty six (678 586) households in all the municipalities and a target of one hundred and sixty (160) communities to inform interventions and integrated services. Sixty six (66) livelihoods initiatives benefiting a total of three hundred and thirty (330) people for sustainable development will receive financial support.

The target set for funding of Youth Development centres was exceeded and fifty two (52) Youth Development Centres were funded reaching eleven thousand, two hundred and ten (11 210) youth. These centres benefitted the youth with life skills and services including; access to internet, compilation of business proposals, career guidance, and linkages with job opportunities, basic computer and entrepreneurial skills.

The youth remain a critical category of the future of our society. We will put more effort and strengthen the facilitation of social change and activation of young people through a basket of services in the youth centres, by linking them with relevant stakeholders.

Together with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) we will continue to support these centres across the province. This will enhance the capacity of youth workers and improve on the quality of services they provide to the youth. Our special focus is on youth heading households, youth in conflict with the law as well as those affected by substance abuse.

One hundred and eight (108) youth workers will be capacitated through NYDA on youth development services to improve and standardise programmes and services rendered in the Youth Development centres.

The Department will support a total of sixty (60) Youth development centres, which will create work opportunities for three hundred (300) youth. A total of nine thousand (9 000) youth will be reached through these services. The most deprived municipalities will be prioritised to reach out to the most affected young people where access to services and information is a challenge.

A total of ninety three (93) life skills workshops will be conducted for youth out of school to capacitate and empower them for adulthood and job preparedness. Thirty six (36) inter-generational dialogues to bridge the gap between the older and younger generation in relation to social challenges will be facilitated in all the local municipalities.

OUTCOME 12 An efficient, effective and development oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

I want Honourable Speaker, to highlight that essential to the achievement of the support strategies to the five outcomes, is the availability of adequate social service professionals and suitable infrastructure.

Underlying these essential capabilities is strengthening the strategic leadership at provincial, district and local level in order to respond appropriately to the core mandate of the department. Equally important is the continuous management of performance, thus the Department will emphasise individual and team performance.

Honourable Speaker, the national norm for Social Workers is 1:3000 population sizes. The provincial norm is 1:9483; however, with additional allocation for the absorption of Social Work graduates this situation will gradually improve.

The Department is pleased to announce that the construction Gert Sibande District office and Mbombela sub-district is complete. Delmas sub-district is 65% complete. Daggakraal branch office stands at 85% completion. Amsterdam branch office is at procurement stage. The contractor is on site at Marite branch office. Nkangala In-Patient-Youth Treatment Centre and Ehlanzeni Secure Care Centre are at planning stage.

SASSA

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) remains the key intervention strategy in poverty eradication as most households depend on this support for their livelihoods.

Honourable Members, we are in no way promoting dependence on the state, we however highlight the harsh realities that the recipients of social grants are vulnerable and cannot participate in the economic activities because they are under age, older persons and people with disabilities. The protection and care of these vulnerable groups is in line with the mandate of Social Development.

We will continue to work closely with SASSA to ensure that those eligible to access the grants do receive what is due to them. We congratulate the agency for successfully completing the re-registration of beneficiaries, primary care givers and their children as well as all procurators through the biometric system. This process will assist in the identification of fraudulent beneficiaries and in updating the national database of all beneficiaries on social grants.

As I conclude, Honourable Speaker, I wish to appeal to this House to approve the 2013/14 budget allocation of R 1 154 294 which is allocated in three programmes of the Department:

Programme 1: Administration, an amount of **R 248, 530 million**

Programme 2: Social Welfare Services an amount of **R 781, 205 million**

Programme 3: Development and Research an amount of **R 124, 559 million**

CONCLUSION

Allow me Honourable Speaker to take this opportunity to thank Honourable Members of the Legislature, especially the Members of the Portfolio Committee for their oversight role, and the Executive Council for their continued support.

I thank all the personnel of the Department of Social Development under the leadership of the HOD Ms Ningi Mlangeni for their hard work, dedication and commitment. My appreciation also goes to all the stakeholders that continue to support us in our activities to achieve our mandate.

I pass my sincerest appreciation to the sterling leadership and support of our Honourable Premier DD Mabuza. Last but not least, allow me to thank my family for the continued support and allowing me the time and space to respond to the call of duty.

Together, we continue to strive in creating a more cohesive society through programmes that seek to protect the vulnerable.

I THANK YOU!



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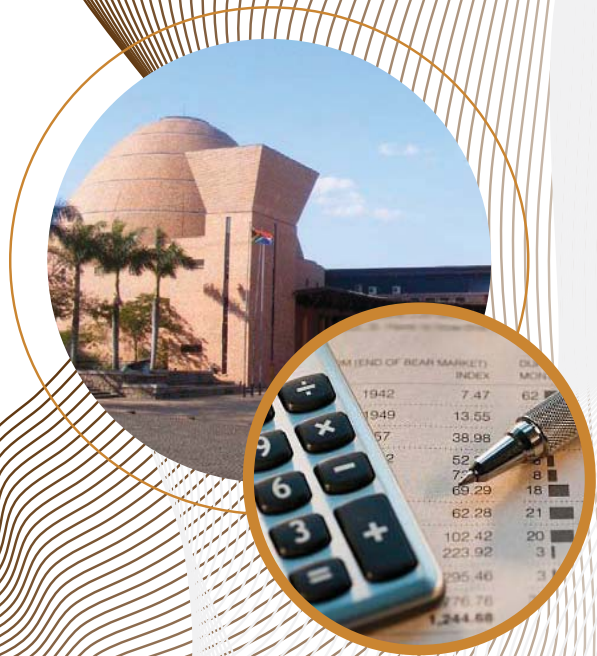
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