



social development  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2021/22



BY MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**LINDIWE NTSHALINTSHALI**

DELIVERED ON THURSDAY, 10 JUNE 2021

AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE



BUDGET  
VOTE  
12



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Mpumalanga Department of Social Development

**2021/22 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH**  
**Vote 12**

Tabled by: Lindiwe Ntshalintshali  
MEC for Social Development  
Date: Thursday, 10 June 2021  
Venue: Mpumalanga Legislature

## 2021/22 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH

Department of Social Development tabled at the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature  
on Thursday 10 June 2021 by the MEC for Social Development Ms L.L Ntshalintshali

Honourable Speaker Ms MC Masilela

Honourable Premier Ms RM Mtshweni-Tsipane

Honourable Deputy Speaker Mr J J. Skosana

Honourable Chief Whip FV Mlambo

Members of the Executive Council

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Acting Director General Mr P Nyoni

Head of Department Mr SM Mtsweni, Management of the Department of Social Development and all  
its employees

All Heads of Different Government Departments

Trade Union Movements Present Here Today

The Youth of Our Province

National Development Agency (NDA)

The South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA)

Members of the Media and Esteemed Ladies and gentlemen

GOOD AFTERNOON

1. Madam Speaker, our indulgence and engagements takes place just three months' after the launch of the celebration of one of our own, our struggle icon uMama Charlotte Makgomo Maxeke under the theme; "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke; Promoting Human Rights in the age of COVID 19". As the Department, we take queue from her many achievements and dedication into the struggle for the liberation of Africans in general and women in particular.
2. We are certain and convinced that her spirit continues to guide us as we perform our daily tasks of pushing back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and inequality. We dare not fail.
3. Honourable Members, let me hasten to indicate to this house that uMama Charlotte Maxeke becomes the second woman to be memorialized after the celebration of uMama Albertina Sisulu in 2018. Madam Speaker, I intentionally lift these two women of our struggle not forgetting the role others played, but to highlight the significance of following in their footsteps.
4. In the same vein, Madam Speaker, our engagement takes place just 6 days before the celebration of Youth Day, popularly known as June 16 with its painful history. We continue to note with dismay, the continued loss of jobs and unabated increase in the unemployment rate especially that of young people of our country. I am sure that we can all agree that our youth remain agents of change therefore, urgent actions must be taken to ensure they are in the forefront of development.
5. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, when I talk about youth and the challenges facing them, the words of our former **ANC President**,

**President Oliver Reginald Tambo** come to mind when he said: **"The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future"**. Therefore, our conviction is that, if we are to succeed in dealing with the challenges facing young people, more effort should be directed to the needs, the growth and development of young people.

6. Madam Speaker, allow me to raise a serious concern about a question that was raised and continued to raise by the honourable member of the opposition party. The question is about psychiatric patients. I replied and I continue to reply as I hereby do, honourable members, psychiatric patients are not a responsibility of the department, however, the department deals with the provision of psychosocial services which may sound similar to the member, but it is not. Therefore, honourable speaker, I hope that my responds closes the matter and the member is freely advised to refer the matter to the responsible department.
7. Madam, Speaker I have, since my appointment in the Department of Social Development taken a task to ensure that our Department provides and execute its mandate, we have met and engaged with the Senior Management right at the beginning of our appointment, as part of forging a productive and comprehensive action plan for the Department. In the main since then we have hit the ground running. We have visited all our facilities such as the, Restorative Centres across the province in full aim to ensure that we are delivering the on our mandate by ensuring that we are aware of the challenges and needs required for these centres to function optimally

8. Arising from the above Madam Speaker, the departments activities have not been well in the past as indicated by the auditor general findings on our financial expenditure. The role of the department is to provide social protection to the most vulnerable in our society. The integrity and the dignity of the department needs to be restored in order to fulfil the mandate as stipulated by the constitution of South African under section 27 recognising social security as a basic right. We have to ensure that all stakeholders are working towards the sustainability and efficiency of the Department.

9. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, of this House, let me take this opportunity and express my sincerest appreciation of the work done by our social workers, the social auxiliary workers and community development practitioners and indeed all the workers of my department for their selfless commitment despite the threats posed by this COVID 19 pandemic. These Heroes and Heroines have continued selflessly even when they themselves were losing their own but continued to carry the torch of hope in the interest of our people.

10. Madam Speaker, the 6th Administration of the current government adopted 7 key national priorities. The Department of Social Development was then tasked with the responsibility to lead and coordinate Priority 4 which is **“Consolidating the Social Wage through Reliable and Quality Basic Services”** for the new **(Medium Term Strategic Framework) MTSF 2019-2024** whilst at the same time still contributing to most of the other priorities.

11. Madam Speaker, I will be failing in my speech if, by commission or omission I will leave out the fact that the Department will continue to champion **“An Inclusive and Responsive Social Protection System”**, which is designed to give effect to **Chapter 11 of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030**. The Department is committed to eradicating poverty, reducing inequality in communities and improving collaboration and partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

12. Taking cognizance of the issues involved above, the Department has developed a **Strategic Plan 2020-2025** and the **Annual Performance Plan 2020/21** that reflects the important interventions in providing integrated social development services and programmes.

13. These documents seek to realize the department’s **VISION** of being: **“A caring and self-reliant society”** through the promotion and protection of quality and sustainable livelihoods of the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized groups in order to deal with social ills such as Gender-Based Violence, poverty, child abuse, substance abuse, food insecurity, crime, HIV/AIDS and other hostile social disorders.

## POVERTY AND SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS

14. As I have stated from the beginning, Madam Speaker, the COVID 19 pandemic has thrown families and individuals into complete disarray as large numbers of our people have lost their jobs and thus got exposed to the worst and harshest realities of life. At the same time, a lot



of families and individuals are going through a great deal of distress as they lose more of their loved ones to this pandemic. The result is that more and more families, individuals and children in particular are driven into a state of distress.

15. Honourable members will recall that the department had, in the previous financial year planned to provide social relief of distress to a total of **8 000 individual beneficiaries**. However, due to the COVID 19, the demand for Social Relief of distress increased dramatically to a point that the department ended up providing this relief to **86 364 beneficiaries**. Of course, Madam Speaker, it would be important at this stage to take this opportunity and express our gratitude to all those of our people who threw in their lot behind the support to alleviate poverty amongst our communities. The gesture by those "Good Samaritans" has demonstrated how far we can go if we collectively deal with this invisible enemy such as this pandemic.

#### DIGNITY SANITARY TOWELS PROGRAMME

14. Following from the provision of social relief of distress, Madam Speaker, the roll out of the programme on Dignity Sanitary Towels requires that we call on the broader spectrum of individuals and organisations, including faith-based organisations to extend a hand in restoring the dignity of each girl child.
15. Notably, In the last financial year, the department had undertaken to provide dignity

sanitary support to a total of **180 000** girl children through this programme. However, with the extended closure of schools as a result of the hard lockdown, the department was only able to provide this service to a total of **115 919** beneficiaries. We are acutely aware Honourable members, that this can never be sufficient, however the Department will continue providing this service without fail.

16. Furthermore, the Department is planning to provide dignity sanitary towels to a total of **61 948** beneficiaries which we hope it will make a difference whilst looking at what contribution will our grants and our social partners can make.

#### SOCIAL GRANTS

17. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to announce that a total of **1 570 422 million persons** have received various grants through the **South African Social Security Agency (SASSA)**, these include about **1 155 304** individuals for Child Support Grant, **30 578** Grants-in-Aid and **81 479** for Disability Grant. Let me also express my sincerest appreciation to our Agency SASSA for the work they continue to do for our people out there. It was remarkable that beyond the travesty of COVID-19 Pandemic, essential Social Relief Grants were never interrupted. Members have seen the agency going through tough times trying to distribute these grants to a number of individuals whose income were deeply affected by the hard lockdown.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NDA)

18. Madam Speaker, the National Development Agency has done a great deal of work in terms of contributing to the development and support of communities in the province. A Grant Funding budget amounting to **R1,5 million** is available and is meant for small grants for the three districts in the Province. As we speak, the NDA will be building an ECD in **Mgcobaneni** Village (Ehlanzeni) to the tune of **R1,6m** and we are pleased to announce that the briefing of contractors has already taken place on the 01 June 2021.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

19. Honourable Members, during this reporting period the department supported **11 Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDC's)** to provide cooked meals and engage beneficiaries in various development initiatives. These 11 Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) were funded in partnership with the National Department of Social Development and has reached over **3582 beneficiaries**. In addition to that, all the CNDC beneficiaries were trained on the COVID 19 pandemic and further provided with the necessary protective equipment and material.
20. Madam Speaker, as part of our endeavour to alleviate poverty in the province, the department will create job opportunities, targeting an additional **1450 individuals** who

will participate in the Expanded Public Works Programme. To this end, we have seen a sizeable number of individuals participating in this programme bringing food on the table to the most destitute families.

## WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

21. With this in mind, Madam Speaker, women specifically in rural areas remain the most affected sector of our society in relation to poverty, unemployment and other related social challenges. They are the ones who have to deal with bearing children, taking care of those children while relying on their often-reluctant spouses for support. The Gender Role perspective still insight challenges and distress within our society. They are the ones often marginalised, looked down upon and often forgotten. They are the ones who face the most traumatic situations within our communities. Its in such situation we confine to the Words of Mama Albertina Sisulu that **“Women are the people to relieve us from all of this oppression and depression”**
22. The department has a mandate to develop and implement empowerment programmes that seek to improve their lives and create an enabling environment for development. Therefore, our focus has been on ensuring that women have access to relevant information and services through collaboration with relevant stakeholders.



## SERVICES TO FAMILIES

23. Honourable Members, in response to the directive by the President of the Republic that all homeless people should be removed from the streets and placed in shelters during the COVID 19 lockdown period, the department facilitated the establishment of **8 temporary shelters** for homeless people in partnership with municipalities in Gert Sibande, Ehlanzeni and Nkangala. A total of **346 homeless people** were provided with shelter, meals and psychosocial support during the hard lockdown period.
24. Of these, **285 were successfully integrated with their families** while others were referred to the Treatment Centres for substance abuse. These interventions ensured that the homeless were removed from the streets and assisted to re-establish relationships with their families. There were those that sadly chose to go back to the streets as they felt that they are able to make ends meet while in the street. We are continuing to explore best possible ways of ensuring that the homeless are provided with services that will contribute to their wellbeing.
25. Madam Speaker, last month the department acted swiftly in response to the horrific Putco bus accident on Moloto road that left a number of people losing their lives as they were burnt beyond recognition. As a department we deployed our social workers who provided families with social relief of distress including psychosocial intervention. The total number of families affected was 47 and the department assisted was 25 whilst others are still being assessed. The department further acted on

call to assist families in distress in Kajejan, at Dr. JS Moroka local municipality.

26. Madam Speaker, the Department was not able to observe the **International Family Day on the 15th May 2020** and the Marriage week during the first week of September due to COVID 19 lockdown. However, in view of the negative impact that the lockdown had on families in general, the department resolved to hold virtual event to discuss with families the impact that the lockdown had in their lives. The event was attended by a number of stakeholders amongst others including **Moral Regeneration Movement branches, Office of Family Advocate, Legal Aid Board, Department of Home Affairs. A total of 250 family members** were reached through this event and they were empowered with skills that they can use to deal with challenges that families are faced with.
27. This financial year we are planning to reach **3677 families** through the family preservation programme.

## CHILD PROTECTION

28. The sitting comes at a time when we mark the 24th Anniversary of the Commemoration of the Child Protection Week campaign since its launch in 1997 to raise awareness. Through this campaign, we are noting that violence remains a challenge to the extent that the country has been described as having one of the highest prevalence of violence and violence related injury in the world. Child protection and care is the key form of Government to ensure the delivering of quality health, education and protection.

Our department supports the utilization of the Child Protection Register (CPR) where we keep information about abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. Government has also come up with a theme for the next five years which is "Let us all protect children during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond"

29. A month ago, the department has officially launched Child Protection Week and came up with a Program of Action where we will engage with Children Virtually; March against Bullying, Conduct Awareness Campaign, Child Abuse, Teenage Pregnancy and Cyber Bullying. The department is hosting a child protection event to take place at Ehlanzeni District as part of intensifying the child protection week awareness campaign.

30. Madam Speaker, children still remain our focus area in the programmes of the Department. In the past financial year, the department was able to rollout the training of **300 caregivers** in the Health and Welfare SETA Accredited Training in Child and Youth Care. These included **150 caregivers** employed in the Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs) funded by the department. The training was to ensure that the CYCCs comply with the Norms and Standards for CYCCs which require that the staff employed in CYCCs should have the requisite qualifications and skills.

31. Madam Speaker, these Child and Youth Care workers will contribute in ensuring that the department is able to achieve its target of

reaching **17 000 children** through community based prevention and early intervention services. We are also planning to ensure that **966 children** in need of care and protection in funded CYCC'S are reached. These children are the responsibility of government as they are placed in these facilities through a court order.

32. This year, we are planning to place **736 children in foster care**. This will ensure that the children are living in ensured environments under the care of families that love them. We are continuing to provide foster parents with life-skills that will ensure that they are able to provide the best care to these children while they are in their care.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

33. Madam Speaker, the current government has placed emphasis on the first **100 days of a child's life**. In this regard the strengthening of ECD services becomes one of the key priorities for the Department. Through the ECD conditional grant the department has been able to increase ECD access for children in deep rural areas and the farming communities. In an effort to ensure that all ECD's comply with COVID 19 regulations, the department assessed all ECD centres for compliance before they reopened following their closure during the hard lockdown. The department issued them with PPE to registered and unregistered centres that submitted forms indicating their needs. A stimulus Relief

Package was made available to employees in the ECD centres to alleviate the challenges of salaries as some closed due to lack of finances. A total of **1 481 ECD practitioners** from **309 ECD programmes** benefitted from this initiative at the end of the financial.

34. The department will continue with the disbursement of the Presidential Stimulus Relief Package in the current financial year **2021/22**. A total of **44249 Children** will benefit through early childhood development registered programmes. **46831 children** will be funded through the equitable share funding while **11201** will be funded through the ECD Conditional Grant in the current financial year.
35. Madam Speaker, we are doing this knowing fully well that the Department is at an advanced stage in the process of transferring the ECD function to the Department of Education as per the pronouncement of both the Honourable President and Premier. Further to that Madam Speaker, we are also fully cognisant of the impact this would have on the workforce since our province is grappling with the shortage of this category of employees.
36. As we will be transferring the function including officials, we are cognisance of the fact that there we have challenges of under staffing particularly on social workers. The department has presented the matter to cabinet and cabinet noted challenges on under staffing and cabinet has directed the matter will be served in the next budget and finance committee.

## OLDER PERSONS

37. The main goal of the Department's Older Persons Program is to facilitate services to older persons that are accessible, equitable and affordable, that conform to prescribed norms and standards and improve the quality of life. This enables older persons to enjoy active, healthy and independent lives, create an enabling and supportive environment to older persons and provide continuous care to those that are in need. The Department reached **1130 Older Persons** who accessed services in Residential Facilities and a total of **2897 Older Persons** accessed Community Based Care and Support Services.
38. In collaboration with the department of health, the department is prioritizing Centre's for older persons for the vaccination roll-out. Names of older persons in our Centre's have already been submitted with the. department of health.
39. During COVID-19 the department has visited almost all residential facilities operating on a 24hours basis, conducting awareness on the prevention and management of COVID-19. Having recognized that older persons are one of the vulnerable groups in our society, the department has ensured that they are safe and cared for.
40. Part of our work is to provide social welfare services and design programmes such as age in action to keep them healthy and strong because we subscribe to the notion that a healthy mind stays in a healthy body.

41. Amongst other things, the department would continue with the work of encouraging them to register for vaccination. We will continue and monitor abuse and exploitation of older persons and we will leave no stone unturned to deal harshly with individuals found abusing older persons.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

42. Madam Speaker, the challenge of substance abuses in South Africa and Mpumalanga Province in particular, is rising every year which has become uncontrollable in some areas of the province. The scourge is affecting all age groups but the rate amongst the youth is spiraling out of control. These can be attributed to severe levels of poverty, unemployment, porous borders, peer pressure, apathy and traumatized societies due to social crime and community unrests.
43. It is important to point out that the most abused types of drugs in the Province is **Dagga at 37%, heroin at 19%, alcohol at 16%, Nyaope 11 %, crack/cocaine, mandrax, LSD, Tik at 4% and over the counter drugs**. In response to the above mentioned challenges the province, through the department of Social Development is operating two public treatment Centre's, Swartfontein and Nkangala Inpatient Treatment Centre's that are providing the much needed treatment and rehabilitation services. In total the two facilities provide a bed capacity of **150 combined (100 beds for males and 50 beds for females)**
44. The Department is also funding 5 Community Based Care services (SANCA Lowveld, SANCA Thembisile, SANCA Witbank, Laapeng foundation, Greater Nkangala Rehabilitation Centre) and MARC. We are also funding 2 privately owned inpatient treatment Centre's)

45. A total number of **1978 persons** have accessed treatment and rehabilitation services and the Department is planning to provide treatment and rehabilitation services to **1300 persons** with Substance Use Disorder

## VICTIM EMPOWERMENT

46. Madam Speaker, South Africa is currently experiencing a serious challenge with the increasing number of young women and girls who are violently raped, killed, murdered, burned and buried. The high prevalence of violence and crime has become a National crisis and the media has played a very active role in bringing this crisis to the fore and making people aware of the high rate of violence against women and children.
47. We locate our conviction on violence in Isithwalandwe, Tata Andrew Mlangeni's words that **"People across the world want peace, to live in harmony, to have dignity, to enjoy the respect of human rights and non-discrimination. This is the better life that Nelson Mandela together with the ANC envisioned for the people of South Africa"** Mpumalanga Province is no exception to the high incidents of gender based violence.
48. Recently in our province, madam speaker, a young woman in Secunda was murdered by her boyfriend, and another young woman in Ogies/Phola was murdered and burnt by her boyfriend in Delmas. This Honourable speaker indicates the true extent of violence against women and children.
49. On the issue that was recently on media Thando Mahlangu was victimized based on his cultural attire in the Mall of Africa, the department intervened with psychosocial support to the

victim. The matter was even attended to by the Human Rights Commission.

50. The department continues to provide the support and protection to victims of crime and violence through the psychosocial services, vocational skills and shelter that aims to enable them to function optimally in communities. We continue to create awareness on the scourge of Human trafficking due to number of reported cases from the Lebombo and Oshoek border posts.

51. In this financial year the department is planning to provide psychosocial support to **1800 victims**.

### SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION

52. Madam Speaker and Honourable members, the Department of Social Development is mandated by among other legislative framework, the Probation Services Act, and the Child Justice Act provides services to children, youth and adults at risk and in conflict with the law. Services are also provided to victims of crime and violence as mandated by the Restorative Justice system.

53. The department also provides diversion services in collaboration with NPOs who receive government subsidy to provide such services to the children. The department is also responsible to conduct awareness campaigns to empower the youth and the community about the consequences of crime and alternatives to make better choices in life. A total number of **398 children** in conflict with the law were diverted from the Criminal Justice system to serve their sentences at home. The department will continue to provide the rehabilitation to children serving their compulsory sentence in Secure Care facilities.

### HIV and AIDS

54. Madam Speaker, the burden of diseases, particularly HIV and AIDS continues to affect the ability of families, persons with disabilities and older persons. The department has committed itself to raising awareness on social behavioural and structural drivers of HIV by integrating its services with other sector departments, private sector and NPO's psychosocial support services.

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

55. Madam Speaker, as we in the Historic Month of June which has been declared Youth Month where we pay homage to the Class of 1976. The increasing youth population in the province and their needs for skills development, employment, including the levels of substance abuse, sexual reproductive health and related services makes it imperative that the department positions itself in order to effectively deal with these challenges. These Social realities are amongst the embattled challenges that need an urgent response.

56. In the annals of this COVID-19 pandemic, the department had planned to provide support to **87 youth centres** across the province and indeed has been able to provide such to a total of **85 youth centres**. The funding for the other two youth centres had to be stopped due to various reasons including the financial mismanagement.

57. The Department has forged partnership in the past 5 years with the private sector, as a result SASOL has provided mobile units to enhance the physical infrastructure of the YDCs in all the three districts. Madam Speaker, let me announce that on the **18<sup>th</sup> June 2021** there will be an official handover of 3 YDCs in the Nkangala District (Emalahleni Municipality). These centres are fully equipped



with resources such as furniture and equipment to allow them to be fully functional. Madam Speaker, this would not have been achieved without the partnership with SASOL. Let me take this opportunity to thank SASOL for their contribution.

## CONCLUSION

Honourable Speaker, as I conclude taking from the words of the 1<sup>st</sup> Democratic President Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, I quote **“I learned to have the patience to listen when people put forward their views, even if I think those views are wrong”** This is the Patriotic Attitude that we must enshrine to Build and Grow Mpumalanga Together.

Honourable speaker, let me express my sincere gratitude to Honourable Premier, Ms RM Mtsweni-Tsipane for her sterling leadership at all times

Furthermore, many thanks goes to my colleagues in the Executive Council and to the Portfolio Committee Chairperson and the entire members;

Madam Speaker, allow me to also acknowledge the work done by the Head of Department and the entire workforce in the department, including NPO's, NDA, SASSA and all our social partners.

Let me thank my family, (my husband and children) for allowing me time to serve the people of Mpumalanga.

**Ngiyathokoza NoMlomo.**

## BUDGET VOTE 12

Madam Speaker, it is my request that this House approves the 2021/22 budget for Social Development (Vote 12), which is

**1 billion, 840 million, and 989 thousand Rand**  
(R1 840 989).

The budget is allocated amongst the **five** (5) programmes:

### Programme 1: Administration

**R422 Million 492 Thousand**  
\*R422 492 000

### Programme 2: Social Welfare Services

**R289 Million 291 Thousand**  
\*R289 291 000

### Programme 3: Children and Families

**R738 Million 630 Thousand**  
\*R738 630 000

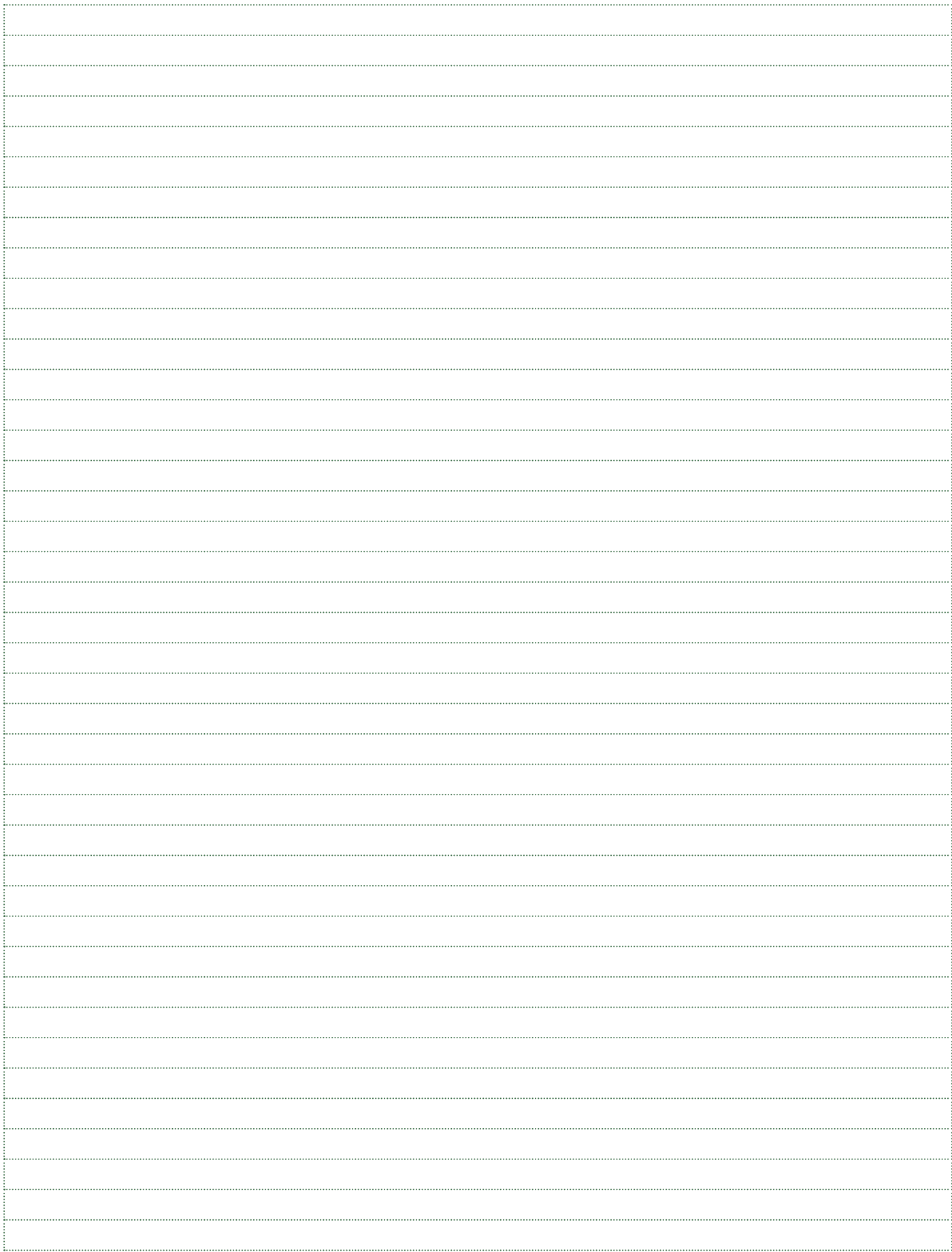
### Programme 4: Restorative Services

**R217 Million 391 Thousand**  
\*R217 391 000

### Programme 5: Development and Research

**R171 Million And 185 Thousand**  
\*R171 185 000





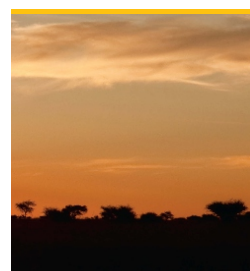
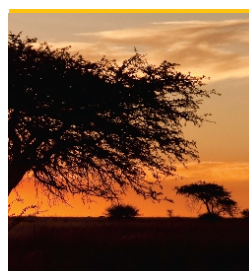
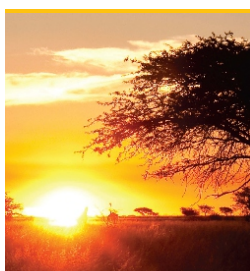
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