



MINISTER
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Speech by the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP
On the occasion of the presentation of Budget Vote 19
of the Department of Social Development**

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

National Council of Provinces

Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Honourable Amos Masondo;
Chairperson of the Select Committee on Health and Social Services, Honourable
Maurencia Gillion;
Honourable Members of the Select Committee on Health and Social Services;
All the MECs for Social Development are present today, and the following among them
will be participating during the debate (Honourable Lusithi, Honourable Qabathe,
Honourable Rakgoale, Honourable Moiloa and Honourable Fernandez);
Distinguished Guests;
Ngiyakubingelela nakuwe ekhaya noma kuphi lapho ulalela ukhona.

I convey the apology of our Deputy Minister, the Honourable Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu
who is attending the 15th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United
Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that is taking place from
today until the 16th of June in New York, USA.

1. Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2022/23 Budget Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development to the National Council of Provinces (NCoP).
2. At the absolute minimum, the diverse constituencies that entrusted us to carry out the responsibilities of being their public representatives and Members of Parliament expect nothing less from all of us than behaving and conducting ourselves in a manner that protects the public's collective interest as well as growing confidence and levels of trust between Parliament and the public. This public demands from each one of us to be the embodiment of respectability, integrity, ethical conduct, and accountable and credible democratic governance. The NCoP helps to bring the provincial nuances to Parliament's role.
3. These expectations are particularly true in view of the need to attend to the needs of the custodians of the spring of vigour, enthusiastic aspirations and South Africa's future essence: that is, our youth. Theirs is the same untiring longing that, dating back to as recent as June 1976, gave birth to the democracy that we live in today. Likewise, as public representatives we are best advised to sharpen our investments in youth-targeting socio-economic interventions.

4. Faced with the novel disasters and shocks the slowing global economic growth, domestic stag-flation, CoVID-19, the July 2021 unrests and the climate change-induced floods in the North-West, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces challenges, we continue to witness South Africans coming together to form defences that protect and improve our collective lives and livelihoods. Working together with our provincial Departments of Social Development, the Department is leading the formation of purposeful and community-targeted people-public-private-civic-academic-multilateral partnerships and social compacts that are attending to the wellbeing of South Africans during natural, economic and social disasters and shocks. I urge us all to strengthen these partnerships and social compacts-in-action into the future.
5. While disasters and shocks may be uncontrollable, our responses to these phenomena should demonstrate people-focused planning. In this regard, I have directed the Department to develop a disaster preparedness and response plan through which our capacity to reliably deliver timely humanitarian relief and assistance will be strengthened. Among others, this plan should be informed by weather services' data as well as geospatial data as proxies for human movement in affected communities.
6. These elements define the backdrop against which the 2022/23 budget vote of the Department of Social Development is being presented to you. Working together with provincial government departments, our 52 district and metropolitan municipalities, non-profit organisations in the social development sector and community members, this budget is the pursuit of socio-economic reconstruction and recovery, people-responsive cooperative governance towards inclusive economic growth and a common prosperity.
7. It therefore stands to reason that this 2022/23 budget should embody the implementation of qualitatively improved and accessible Social Development programmes that are reflective of the aspirations of the different constituencies and communities in our nine provinces. While these programmes are targeted at the betterment of the state of our people and the communities that they live in and represent, it is the intentional and collective implementation of the range of Social Development programmes that will translate into the realisation of meaningful society-wide impact.
8. Informed by the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) and our economic priorities, throughout this financial year, the Department of Social Development will intentionally intensify its contributions towards interventions that purposefully address the constant challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment through:
 - 8.1 pursuing the twin policies of social protection on the one hand, and programmes that are intended at creating economic participation opportunities on the other. Doing so will ensure that while the necessary support is extended to members of society who are able to participate in the economy, no one is left behind and unsupported by virtue of their inability to compete in market systems;

- 8.2 attending to priority concerns such as tackling gangsterism, fighting substance abuse, and supporting families and communities who are affected by disasters, shocks and emergencies in our communities;
 - 8.3 expanding our support for food- and nutrition-provision interventions and partnerships in pursuit of ending the pain of hunger (especially among children) while undoing the adverse long-term effects of malnutrition on human development and economic productivity;
 - 8.4 continuing to implement and strengthen the socio-economic value of the CoVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant among those who receive it, and thereby affording these beneficiaries a dignified life;
 - 8.5 easing programme coordination, budgeting and implementation within the Social Development sector across the three spheres of government through the Cabinet-adopted District Development Model; and
 - 5.7 stabilising and strengthening governance and implementation capacity throughout the Social Development portfolio with the view to ensure that our programmes are the embodiment of protecting the dignity of our people.
9. While these are the non-negotiables that underlie Budget Vote 19 for the 2022/23 financial year, this Budget Vote is being presented to you at the mid-term point of the Sixth Administration's electoral mandate. Therefore, this is the opportunity to intensify the implementation of Social Development programmes in the communities where all South Africans live. To this end, during the State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa challenged us that [L quote] There are moments in the life of a nation when old certainties are unsettled and new possibilities emerge [Unquote]. Guided by, among other, the SoNA priorities, the *Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan*, the *Putting South Africa to Work* proposals and the need to found and sustain social compacts that will bring all of us, especially communities, together, this Budget Vote enables us to be the midwives of new possibilities upon which our people's aspirations and recovery will be realised.

2022/23 Budget Vote

- 10. Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development constitutes 13.1% of government's overall estimated budget of R1.957 trillion. Our budget allocation for the 2022/23 financial year is a total of R257 billion, of which R248 billion is allocated as cash transfers to more than 18 million social grants beneficiaries every month. These include the old age, child support, care dependency, grant-in-aid and foster care grants. This investment constitutes 99.6% of the Department's total budget allocation in every community throughout the country the current financial year.

Provincial Allocations

11. In terms of the provincial breakdown from the overall fiscus, an amount of the R63,287 billion has been allocated to provincial departments of social development over the 2022 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period as part of the Provincial Equitable Share as follows:

R 8.4 billion rands for the Eastern Cape;

R 3.5 billion rands for the Free State;

R16.5 billion rands for Gauteng;

R 9.7 billion rands for Kwazulu-Natal;

R 4.7 billion rands for Mpumalanga;

R5.4 billion rands for Limpopo;

R2.8 billion rands for Northern Cape;

R4.9 billion rands for North West; and

R6.9 billion rands Western Cape.

SASSA

12. An amount of R7 499 billion is allocated towards SASSA's operations and grant payment fees. Part of improving SASSA's operational efficiency is to ensure that 95% of all face-to-face grant applications are processed within 5 days, while the target for new online applications is 10 days. In the previous financial year, we piloted the queue management system in local SASSA offices. Our plan is to incrementally roll out this system nationally in the coming years.
13. Added to this is an amount of R44 billion for the extension of the Special CoVID-19 SRD grant. The grant will be distributed to 10.5 million eligible persons monthly until the end of March 2023. Honourable Chair, yesterday SASSA began to make the first payments after working tirelessly with our partners in the banks. While 321 819 people were paid yesterday, more than 700 000 beneficiaries will be paid by the end of this week. We truly do understand the pain and hardships that our people are going through, and it is our intention to ensure that each of the 10.5 million eligible beneficiaries are in receipt of their payment. The payments we are processing over the next few weeks include the payment of appeals dating back to August 2021. These payment backlogs will be cleared and paid.

National Development Agency

14. During this financial year, the National Development Agency (NDA) receives a transfer of R219 million to its budget as a contribution towards the fulfilment of its mandate, which includes grant funding and capacity building for civil society organisations. An amount of R15 million has been set aside for this purpose. A dynamic civil society is a fundamental building block for the emergence of resilient communities and a vibrant democratic society.
15. In addition, while practicalising the Cabinet-adopted District Development Model, the NDA will pilot the new business model by targeting its implementation in one district per province. Some of the targeted districts

include, to name a few, OR Tambo (in the Eastern Cape province), Ngaka Modiri Molema (in North West province), Lejweleputswa (in the Free State province), Waterberg (in Limpopo province) and Amajuba (in KwaZulu-Natal province).

16. Hon. Chair, I am pleased to announce to this Honourable House that we are at the final stages of appointing the Board of the NDA that will serve a three-year term as per the provision of the NDA Act.

South African Council for Social Service Professions

17. The South African Council for Social Service Professions is a statutory body, established in terms of section 2 of the Social Services Professions Act. The mandate of the Council is to regulate, professionalise the social service profession and conduct investigations into allegations of professional/ethical misconduct in order to protect the public.
18. The Council is funded mainly by annual and registration fees it receives from registered social service professionals. We have allocated R7.016 to augment the Council's budget over the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF).

Department

19. The Department's specific allocation is R944 million, and the priorities that this will be directed towards are as follows:

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

20. Fellow South Africans, we are indeed a very violent society. The recent quarterly crime statistics data shows that the first three months of this year were especially brutal for our country's women and children in that the recorded number of murders, attempted murders and assault of women increased by double-digits. The likelihood is that for every reported case of gender-based violence, an unknown number of GBV incidents go unreported.
21. The fact that an estimated one in six South African women is being abused while others are brutally killed by their male partners cannot and should not be tolerated by our society. In partnership with all of society, we oppose this destructive culture of patriarchy and gender inequalities because these undermine our developmental efforts and inclusive economic growth. Our communities are still reeling at the horror and brutal killings of Hillary Gardee, Bontle Mashiyane, Tshegofatso Pule, Namhla Mtwana and too many others whose names I may not mention in the time allocated. Our resolve to join efforts in people-public-private-civic-academic-multilateral partnerships against this evil and menacing brutality should be strengthened.
22. Guided by Pillar 4 of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (2019 — 2024), we will intensify the implementation of awareness and advocacy programmes with specific attention to areas that the Minister of Police has declared gender-based violence. In this regard, our programmatic

interventions include the deployment of GBVF Ambassadors in hotspot areas such as Lusikisiki (in the Eastern Cape province), Inanda (in KwaZulu-Natal province) and Delft (in the Western Cape province). These initiatives are being complemented by the expansion of shelters for survivors of gender-based violence. Our target is to ensure that by 2024 each of the 52 district and metropolitan municipalities of our country has a shelter (this increases the number from 42 municipalities).

23. This approach will help us to localise our fight against gender-based violence and femicide in the communities where these atrocities are carried out against women and children. In particular, we are going to do this by strengthening the implementation of pillar 4 of the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide whose key intervention is to strengthen existing response, care and support services by the state and civil society in communities in ways that are victim-centred, and survivor-focused and trauma-informed to facilitate recovery and healing.

Extended Child Support Grant

24. We are turning the corner in our quest to find a comprehensive legal solution to the foster care challenges which have been plaguing the sector for many years. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that an amount of R687 million in 2023/24, and R871 million in 2024/25 has been allocated for the implementation of the long-awaited extended child support grant (otherwise known as the top-up child support grant) for orphans who are in the care of relatives. Funds will be reprioritised within the current allocation of R248 billion for social grants expenditure to provide for the top-up child support grant in the current financial year. The regulations which gives effect to this grant were gazetted on 31 May 2022.
25. To date, SASSA has received over one thousand applications from eligible caregivers. Once approved through the effortless process that we have put in place (unlike the lengthy foster care system that was applicable before), the eligible caregivers will receive an amount of R720 per child per month. This financial year alone, the grant is expected to benefit over 191 000 relatives/caregivers. To reach this number, we count on the support of Honourable Members of this House to inform those who are eligible in your constituencies to apply for this grant.
26. Still on matters related to children, I am pleased to inform this House that we have transferred the function of early childhood development to the Department of Basic Education with effect from April 2022. The Honourable Minister Angie Motshekga and I have agreed that the Department of Social Development will continue supporting the transition process to ensure that there is seamless provision of services. In line with the principle of form follows function, the total amount that will be transferred to the Department of Basic Education for the 2022/23 financial year is R4.5 billion.

Substance Abuse

27. One of the issues that concerns us is the twin challenges of illicit drug use and gangsterism. The combined impact of these challenges on individuals, families and neighbours is profound and the need for urgent, collective and consistent action could not be clearer.
28. The task of tackling this national emergency cannot be undertaken by any one Department alone. A collective effort is required, which is why we have set up the Central Drug Authority (CDA) to lead national efforts to implement the National Drug Master Plan (2019-2024) through Provincial Substance Abuse Forums and Local Drug Action Committees. We have allocated an amount of R 7 069 million to the CDA in the current financial year to support its operations. Together, we will continue to wage a relentless campaign against the illicit drugs through the implementation of the anti-gangsterism strategy, targeting nine high-risk communities and schools in districts such as Nkangala, Mpumalanga, Dr Ruth Mompati, North West, Mopani and Vhembe in Limpopo and Kliptown, Gauteng.
29. Equally, we will ensure that those affected get the help that they need through the public treatment centres that we have established in each of the nine provinces. Our policy stance is clear that addiction is a chronic condition and that when someone has been drawn into drug dependency, they should be supported to recover.

Teenage Pregnancy

30. Data published by the Department of Health's National Adolescent and Youth Health Services in 2021 show that South Africa experienced a spike in the rate of teenage pregnancy, with reports suggesting an increase of over 60% in the provinces of Gauteng, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. According to the Department of Basic Education, of every three learners that fall pregnant, only two return to school. This is a serious challenge as it jeopardises the health and educational outcomes for the girl child and perpetuates intergenerational poverty.
31. The DSD Portfolio acknowledges its central role in the social sector's collective response to this challenge as set out in the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Strategy and the National Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools. Accordingly, the focus of this year's Child Protection Week Campaign was on teenage pregnancy, with emphasis on:
 - 31.1 education about sex and relationships in schools;
 - 31.2 improving access to sexual and reproductive health rights services;
 - 31.3 enhanced efforts targeting the most at-risk schools and communities; and
 - 31.4 support for pregnant teenagers and teenage parents to ensure they complete education.

Employment of Social Service Professionals

32. We will continue with our efforts to find long lasting solution to the issue of unemployed social service professionals in the sector. Building on the successes of the last two financial years, we are currently finalising a Joint Sector Bid to the National Treasury to source additional funding for the employment of social service professionals.
33. The Department has made positive strides to employ social work graduates, despite the unfavourable fiscal position. In 2020/21, the Department contracted 1037 social work graduates. In the last financial year, we were allocated an amount of R120 million from the Presidential Employment Stimulus Package through which we employed an additional 3 473 social workers
34. Consultations are ongoing with departments such as Basic Education, SAPS, Correctional Services, Defence and Home Affairs to establish how many graduates they have absorbed to date, and the potential to absorb more social workers going forward. Part of the plan is to engage other key sectors of our society to determine how they can utilise social workers within their portfolios and to realise their mandates.
35. We remain hopeful that these measures will enable us to significantly reduce the number of unemployed social service professionals while also exploring opportunities for social entrepreneurship in the sector.

Non-Profit Organisations

36. Honourable Chair, there is significant urgency to capacitate organisations in the sector for them to comply with the NPO Act, as well as acting as the extension of State capacity in servicing our communities where social ills and development programmes are concerned. To date, the Department has issued non-compliance notices to over 150 thousand non-compliant NPOs, with some dating as far back as 1998 when the Act first came into effect. Capacity building is a desirable course of action than the de-registration of NPOs. It is for this reason that we are investing in capacitating our NPOs.

Legislative Programme

37. On the legislative front, we will be processing and tabling the following legislation for consideration by this House:
 - 37.1 Older Persons Amendment Bill;
 - 37.2 Non-Profit Organisation Amendment Bill; and
 - 37.3 Social Service Professionals Bill
 - 37.4 The Children's Amendment Bill is currently before Parliament and we hope that it will be finalised in this year's parliamentary programmed. The Bill seeks to amend the Children's Act by addressing weaknesses in the broader child protection and the foster care system. It provides a basis for a comprehensive legal solution as per the North Gauteng High Court of November 2017.

Closing

38. Honourable Chairperson. As I draw towards the conclusion, please allow me to remark that: In view of the reconstruction and recovery path that we have chosen for our society and economy, Budget Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development for the 2022/23 financial year is a meaningful contribution to the emergence of the South Africa that we all want as well as the South African whom we want to inhabit it.
39. I take this moment to acknowledge and thank the many social partners (including embassies, multilateral institutions, NPOs and private sector partners that we work with). A few among these are: the Embassy of the People's Republic of China; the Embassy of Hungary; the Embassy of Nepal; the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency; the National Lotteries Commission; the Old Mutual Foundation; the Motsepe Foundation; the Collen Mashawana Foundation; the Church of Christ of the Latter Day Saints; AVBOB; Pernod Richard; and Procter and Gamble.
40. A special thank you to my family with whose understanding and unconditional blessings I continue to serve South Africans. I am grateful to the African National Congress for the continued confidence in me to serve all our people.
41. Honourable Chair and Members. I hereby table Budget Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development together with the priorities for the 2022/23 financial year.

I thank you.