

**2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET VOTE SPEECH TO THE LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE BY THE HONOURABLE MEC FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT NKAKARENG RAKGOALE.**

7th MAY 2020.

Honourable Deputy Speaker;

Honourable Premier;

Esteemed Members of the Executive Council;

The Chief Whip of the Ruling Party;

Leaders of the opposition parties and Chair of the House of Traditional Leaders

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee;

Honourable Members of the Legislature;

I am presenting the budget and the plans of the Department of Social Development. The Department of Social Development is primarily responsible for the implementation of MTSF priority 4, which is “Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services” and also contribute towards MTSF priority 6, which is “Social cohesion and safer communities”.

I deliver this budget speech whilst our country and province in particular, is engulfed by a number of social ills; chief among them drug abuse, which breeds many number of secondary societal ills, such as sexual molestation, social crime and disintegration of family units, among others.

Honourable members, allow me to indicate that we have seen a significant decrease on cases of substance abuse and incidents of Gender Based Violence in the province for the recent past. During this COVID-19 lockdown, 108 incidents of Gender Based Violence were reported in the province. In response to all these cases, social workers acted swiftly and ensured that they assisted some of the victims in securing restraining orders, against their abusers.

Deputy Speaker, as I present a total budget of **R2.3 billion**, the Department of Social Development, continues to serve the most vulnerable people of this province, as guided and empowered by our core legislations and policy mandates.

It is in this context that we had to stretch and reprioritize our budget in an effort to keep services going to our communities. Our NPO partners, also remain very instrumental in our efforts, however the current economic climate and the reduction of the overall fiscal base, will have a negative consequences on our support to these NPOs. In our bid to give social support to people who are infected and affected with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, we have budgeted **R9.1 million** for the procurement of food parcels to vulnerable families that are being devastated by the effects of the virus.

The Department has set aside **R2.7 million** for procurement of school uniform for vulnerable learners by the beginning of the next academic year.

Services to older persons.

We have plans to ensure that 580 older persons have access to our residential facilities, and that a total of 22 300 older persons, access community-based care and other support services.

Services to persons living with disabilities.

For people living with disabilities, the Department has allocated R106.9 million for the provision of services at our three residential facilities, namely, Centenary Home in Polokwane, Epilepsy SA in Moutse area in Elias Motswaledi Municipality, as well as Shiluvane Frail Care Centre within Greater Tzaneen.

In this financial year we are going to ensure that 294 persons with disabilities do have access to the residential facilities, and that a total of 4 700 persons with disabilities access

these services, at our Protective Workshops Centres across the province. In Limpopo we are currently having 150 Protective Workshops Centre, and 75 of them receive funding from the Department.

ECDs and Partial Care.

In the 2020/2021 financial year, the Department of Social Development has allocated **R13.3 million** of ECD conditional grant, for the maintenance of ECD facilities. An amount of **R350 Million** has also been set aside, for Early Childhood Development, as a subsidy of R17 per child, per day.

This allocation will benefit 88 100 children who have been subsidized through the equitable share, and 13 000 children subsidized through the ECD conditional grant, in all registered ECD Programmes.

In this financial year we have allocated **R26.4 million** for the implementation of NAWONGO Court Judgment, for the funding of child and youth care centers, with 944 targeted beneficiaries. An amount of **R3.1 million** has been set aside to operationalize the Mtsetweni Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC).

On Community-Based Care Centers

In our continued effort of caring for children beyond giving them child support grants, we have set aside **R9.3 million** for the running of Child and Youth Care Centers. These centers are operating as an alternative place for care for children outside their schooling period. **R2.3 million** has been allocated for the management of ISIBINDI program, 16 900 children are accessing services through the **Isibindi model**, with a further 48 400 children accessing services in registered Drop in Centers in the province. 185 Child and Care Workers are currently employed at the CYCCs and they are able to take care of their families.

Crime Prevention and Support

Since we have taken over the running of Mavambe and Polokwane Secure Care Centers from BOSASA as from the 1st of November 2019. The two Secure Care Centers are currently having 159 staff appointed on contract basis, and in order to ensure stability and continuity in these centers, R33 million has been set aside for the filling of the 159 positions on permanent basis.

Victim Empowerment Centers

Currently we have allocated R10.9 million to Victim Empowerment Centers for the prevention of Gender Based Violence.

Substance Abuse, Prevention and Rehabilitation

An amount of R300 000 has been set aside to maximize the functionality of Seshego Treatment Centre for substance abuse, prevention and rehabilitation.

Integrated Community Development Support Services.

A total of R27.8 million is allocated for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihood initiatives, such as income generating projects and food production.

An amount of R6.6 million has been allocated for food relief as part of a function shift, from National DSD to Provincial DSD, to ensure provision of food and nutrition security. In our quest to contribute towards job creation we have allocated R9.9 million for EPWP, to create 3 000 job opportunities within various Social Development Programmes, particularly the youth, women, and persons with disabilities. An additional R2 million for EPWP Integrated Grant is set aside for cleaning and maintenance of Social Development facilities.

Youth and Women Development

An amount of R4.5 million to be transferred to youth NPOs dealing with entrepreneurship, vocational and life skills programmes. Three million rand is set aside for 23 000 women participating in empowerment programmes, such as Women in cooperatives, SMMEs, and other income generating activities. The Department has developed an audit plan to address the negative findings by the Auditor General and SCOPA resolutions.

The Department regressed to a qualified audit opinion by the Auditor General during the 2018/2019 financial year. As a result an audit action plan has been developed to address all findings raised by the Auditor General and SCOPA resolutions. These include matters relating to irregular expenditure and fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Progress on the implementation of the audit action plan is monitored on a monthly basis and quarterly through provincial treasury and the audit committee. We believe that it is through the implementation of these remedial actions that the department will progress to an unqualified audit opinion.

Deputy Speaker, let me give a total summary of our budget for the 2020/2021 financial year.

SUMMMARY OF THE BUDGET 2020/21 MTEF

PROGRAMME	BUDGET R'000	% of total
Programme 1: Administration	388 468	16.4%
Programme 2: Social Welfare Services	443 350	18.6%
Programme 3: Children & Families	1 021 882	43.5%
Programme 4: Restorative Services	270 420	11.5%
Programme 5: Development & Research	235 907	10%
TOTAL	2 360 027	100%

Honourable Deputy Speaker

Allow me to indicate that due to the outbreak of COVID-19 there was a directive to reprioritize the budget towards funding the socio-economic stimulus package. This unavoidable adjustment on budget and targets will be tabled during the budget adjustment appropriation.

The Department is contributing towards minimizing the impact of the Coronavirus through the following intervention measures.

- Provision of food relief to food insecure individuals and households who have become vulnerable subsequent to lockdown period;
- Provision of psychosocial services to infected and affected individuals and families;

- In order to increase the capacity of social workers to provide psychosocial services to infected and affected individuals and families during COVID-19, an additional 116 unemployed social workers will be appointed on a three months contract basis. This is an intervention from national Department of Social Development.

Provision of necessary support to homeless people in 12 temporary shelters that have been established across the Province. These support services include reintegrating homeless people into society and reuniting them with their families.

A number of donors, mostly from the business fraternity, have come forward to assist communities during this trying times. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts and we urge more good Samaritans to do the same, as we try to flatten the curve but also to ensure that our people are safe and cared for.

Honourable premier we remain resolute and determined to carry out our responsibilities without any excuse and we therefore would like to appreciate your strategic guidance and leadership in ensuring that we continue to service our people in taking forward the department to attain its mandate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Portfolio Committee Chairperson and together with the other portfolio members for the guidance they continue to give in the Department of Social Development.

Lastly, let me express by profound appreciation to the Acting HOD Ntate Desmond Mahopo and the entire staff collective for the sterling work that you are continuing to do in the betterment of the delivery of services in the province.

Deputy Speaker, it gives me a great pleasure to table Budget Vote 12 for the Department of Social Development.

I thank you, Kealeboga, Ndzakhensa, Ndolivhua, Baie dankie.