



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**POLICY
SPEECH**
2023/24



BUDGET SPEECH 2023/24 EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

**2023/24 Policy and Budget Vote tabled by Honourable MEC
for Social Development – Ms. B. Fanta
at the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature,**

28 March 2023

Honourable speaker of the provincial legislature,
Inkulumbuso yephondo,
Amalungu Wendlu yoWiso-Mthetho ahloniphekileyo
linkokheli zendlu yeenkosi
Abefundisi beemvaba ngeemvaba
Manene nani manenekazi
Torhwana ndivumeleni ndithi ingqanga neentsiba zayo

Honourable Speaker, it is a great honour to stand in this esteemed house and table the Budget and Policy Speech for the Department of Social Development, which serves as both an accounting tool for the work we have done and what we will deliver in the immediate future.

As a Department we are tasked with the responsibility to respond to the daily social challenges affecting our society's most vulnerable and poor; their challenges compel us to deepen our efforts in pursuit of creating an inclusive and caring society.

And so, to us, this is not a mere routine exercise, but a critical moment where we must review our social contract of giving effect to a developmental state where we transform, reconfigure, re-image and redress to indeed give effect to our creed of "building a caring society".

Somlomo, as champions of social development we are committed through delivering on our mandate to the realization of the goals set in the National Development Plan and the clarion call of not leaving no one behind.

As we gather in this august House, to pronounce on the service delivery outlook, we also take this opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made by the Department and its partners.

KEY INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

I am pleased to announce to the people of the Eastern Cape that the Department is on track in terms of achieving the targets that were set out at the beginning of this administration as per the objectives and targets on Priority 4: *Consolidating the Social Wage through Reliable and Quality Basic Services* of the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030.

We aim to consolidate our social protection programmes to achieve maximum impact in implementing, amongst others, the Children's Act 38 of 2005, Older Persons Act 13 of 2006, Social Assistance Act, 59 of 1992, Prevention and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 70 of 2008; Probation Services Act, 116 of 1991; National Youth Development Agency Act 54 of 2008 and many other pieces of legislations that inform our mandate.

Honourable Speaker, to this end, the Department has ensured the achievement of the following:

- *Psychosocial Support Services*: **241 585** beneficiaries accessed Psychosocial Support Services to enhance the coping mechanisms for people experiencing social distress.
- *Family preservation Programmes*: At the core of our fight against many social ills in our communities is the strengthening of families and as such **93 881** family members from all the eight Districts participated and benefitted in family preservation services to build stable, resilient, sustainable, and well-functioning families.

Sinenkolelo yokuba, ukuba siqinisa iziseko zamakhaya and build the family unit, izinto ezininzi eziyimikhuba kwiindawo esihlala kuzo zaw'kwehla.

- *We are also strengthening the fight against Gender based Violence & Femicide. At the core of the fight, is Prevention.*
- *Child Protection*: **153 208** children in need of care and

protection were reported to be placed in foster care with valid foster care orders in all the 8 Districts and **112 894** children were reached through Community Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes.

- *Persons with Disabilities:* Community Based Rehabilitation services were implemented reaching **71 414** persons including youth and women.
- *Youth Development:* Into esingenakuyibaleka Somlomo Wendlu yowiso mthetho yeyokuba imo yezoqoqosho imbi kakhulu kwaye ithwaxa ngamandla ulutsha, yilonto ke sithe saxhasa abantu abatsha abayi – **9 461** with technical and non-technical skills and other relevant training programmes where 511 youth development structures were supported. Sithe tshitshilili ke urging the private sector to come on board and have a series of skills development programs across the province. Not just skills, but scarce skills to enable young people to earn a living and create employment for many other young people of our province.
- *Women Development:* 24 956 women participated in various empowerment programmes for skills development in partnership with various Stakeholders.
- *Older Persons:* A total of **97 023** Older Persons benefited in funded Community Based Care and support services through service centre programmes.
- *Social Relief of Distress:* A total of **46 313** beneficiaries benefited from DSD Social Relief Programmes and 113 794 learners received sanitary pads.
- *On Food Security:* a total **16 215** people accessed food through DSD Community, Nutrition and Development programmes.

All this could not have been achieved without our extended arm, the Non-Profit Organizations.

POLICY OUTLOOK 2023/24

Honourable Speaker, we table this budget as we are concluding the business of the sixth administration. Sibethela ukugoduka ngoku kwaye sihambela phezulu kunakuqala ukuqinisekisa ukuba amaphulo amele ukuphucula ubomi babantu bakuthi ingakumbi abangathathi ntweni, ayingomaphulo nje abawava ngembali, mawatshintshe ubomi babo.

Manditsho somlomo wendlu yowisomthetho ukuba nangona umninzi umsebenzi esesiwenzile silisebe ukutshintsha ubomi babantu bakuthi, isemininzi imingeni esijongene nayo silisebe.

Ayindiphethanga kakuhle imeko kwezinye zeeOfisi zethu. The **Office infrastructure & Accommodation for Districts and Service Offices** for service delivery sites is still a dire need. The current office accommodation in some offices is not conducive to implement social work services.

Due to the increase in the prevailing **social ills** such as crime, substance abuse, gender-based violence, unemployment and poverty, many families are at risk and are vulnerable. This presents a demand for services on the side of Social Development as more people enter into a state of social distress.

In response to the above challenges and as guided by Chapter 11 of the NDP 2030, we remain committed to contribute towards Human Development and help improve the lives of our people.

The following priorities and programmes will be implemented at an accelerated pace:

1. Strengthening the provision of **Child Care and Protection**
2. Strengthening Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes on **Gender Based Violence and Femicide**.
3. Improving Sustainable **Community Development** Interventions.
4. Enhancing the participation, mainstreaming and empowerment of all our **vulnerable groups**, the persons with disabilities, Youth and Women Development.
5. Growing and strengthening of the **NPO Sector** through improving monitoring and management.
6. Reducing the rate of **unemployed Social Workers**.
7. Strengthening **District operations** to be hubs of service delivery and development in line with the District Development Model.
8. Building capable, **ethical, and developmental state** for effective service delivery

PRIORITY 1: ***Strengthening the provision of Child Care and Protection Services***

• **CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES**

Honourable Members, Children are exposed to social ills that are becoming more horrific in nature and this includes child abuse, neglect, abandonment, orphans, and family disintegration.

How we respond to issues affecting children as a collective will determine the efficacy of our democracy both for government and the society at large. Today, I am reminded of the wise words of our former President Nelson Mandela when he said, “*there can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children*”.

The Children’s Act, 38 of 2005, articulates prevention and early intervention as a principle as well as a paradigm shift in managing children’s issues, and has as its foundation on the preservation and strengthening of families.

In an endeavour to strengthen the policy shift from remedial to preventative services, the Department together with Designated Child Protection Organizations will continue implementing Community Based Prevention and Early Intervention Services to families and communities, Family Preservation, Parenting Programmes and Re-unification services reaching those who are in need. These programmes will enable children to be raised in a safe and stable environment with positive support and lifetime relationship.

The budget set aside for Child Care and Protection Service Programme is **R 35,3 million**.



As part of continuous innovations by this Department, the Departmental ICT will be implementing a Foster Care Electronic Management System to curb and manage existing backlog.

- **CHILD POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION**

In response to the challenge of child malnutrition that is prevalent across the Province, the Executive Council assigned the Department of Social Development the responsibility to coordinate the implementation of inter- departmental strategies to address child malnutrition. Since the start of this intervention in 2018, the Department mobilised more than 10 private sector and non-governmental stakeholders to support the strategic intervention.

External partners which include United Nations Internal Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), Mission 5 million, Hope Worldwide, the Old Mutual Foundation made it possible for approximately **450** mothers of affected children to receive micro-nutrient food supplements & food parcels as an immediate intervention. Honourable speaker, as I said earlier, we are moving from social welfare to sustainable social development. This is why we have moved further to equip these mothers with training in technical skills such as sewing, baking, food preparation and vegetable production to support them to be economically empowered and self-reliant. The department will also strengthen planning, implementation and monitoring of anti-child malnutrition interventions across the Province.

Working closely with our entity, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), a total of **1 289** Social Grant beneficiaries whose children are affected by malnutrition will be linked to sustainable livelihoods opportunities. Enye into engandilalisi buhlayo kukuba phantse zonke iingingqi apho kukho ukungondleki kwabantwana, kukho ingxaki yoomama abangenazazisi, nto leyo ekhokelela ekubeni abantwana babo bangabinaziqinisekiso zokuzalwa nabo. Sisebenzisana noHome Affairs ke noSASSA ukungena umzi nomzi

siqubisana nalengxaki. Siyafuna somlomo ukubongoza oomama ukuba bayimele ngenyawo into yezazisi khona ukuze abantwana bangavalelwa ngaphandle ekubeni bafumane izibonelelo urhulumente azenzele bona.

- **TEENAGE PREGNANCY & SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAMME**

Somlomo, amanani abantwana abathi bakhulelwe beselula ayaxhalabisa kakhulu, adungadunga ubomi nekamva labantwana bethu.

Young people are exposed to self-destructive, unhealthy, and risky behaviours which prevent them from reaching their potential.

We have introduced Social Behaviour Change (SBC) Programmes as an immediate intervention that enables young people to make more informed choices to reduce HIV infections and the prevention of teenage and unplanned pregnancies. Eliphulo ligxile kanye kulutsha.

An amount of **R10,5 million** has been set aside to support **14** organisations that provide Social Behaviour Change programmes in communities targeting **62 477** beneficiaries. Each of these **14** funded organisations has been compelled by the Department to contract and utilise at least **4** unemployed Social Work Graduates in implementing the SBC Programme.

- **HIV & AIDS PROGRAMME**

Honourable Speaker, the burden of this disease is seen to be prevalent amongst the most vulnerable population of our country which is young people between the ages of 18-35 years. Vulnerability is increased among young people as a result of several factors including behavioral issues which affect young people's decision-making capacity and compromise their ability to consider long term consequences.

As a caring Department, we are committed to ensure effective implementation of Goal 1 & Goal 4 of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan which are geared towards accelerated prevention programmes to reduce new infections and sexually transmitted disease.

To support the strategic interventions on HIV/AIDS prevention, the Department utilises Home Community Based Care (HCBC) and Support Programme as the provision of comprehensive health and social services in order to promote, restore and maintain the quality of life of individuals, families and communities experiencing social distress. This fiscal year, **57 269** people will benefit from the Psychosocial Support Services.

Systemically, we will intensify the implementation of Psycho -Social Support Services with the intended objective of providing care and support to address the social, emotional, spiritual and psychological well-being of a person.

We will reinforce and renew within the cadre of Social Service Practitioners the solemn noble pledge embedded in Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 which stands on the fundamental belief, that all people have the capacity to change, to grow, under stimulating influence of other people, through own life experience, and beneficial living conditions.

We will, with our partners make communities alive to sharing a collective human responsibility for societal well-being.

An amount of **R19,4 million** has been set aside for this programme.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

Honourable Speaker, the high rate of drug abuse in the Eastern Cape manifests its negative effects on children, youth, families, and communities. In responding to the demand for access to treatment and rehabilitation services, the Department will allocate an additional **R3 million** for provision of inpatient treatment services.

In implementing Goal 1 of the Provincial Drug Master Plan, which is “Demand reduction”; an additional **R1 million** will be allocated to Thembelitsha Treatment Centre in OR Tambo. This is to support their in-patient services unit, aimed at servicing the O.R Tambo community and creating more access to treatment for that region.

Eyonanto sigxile kuyo kukunciphisa amanani abantu abaxhaphaza iziyobisi kweliphondo, siqinisa intsebenziswano with other stakeholders to intensify the implementation of the Provincial Drug Master Plan.

During 2023-24, the department will mobilise Local Municipalities to establish Local Drug Action Committees in line with the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70, 2008. The department will continue to use media and social media platforms to raise awareness of the effects of drug abuse.

The Ernest Malgas Treatment Centre in Gqeberha will continue to provide treatment to children with Substance Use Disorders across the Province. The Department is also providing out-patient treatment services through the trained Social Workers, supported by funded NPOs. An amount of **R 13,596 million** is budgeted for

funding NPOs that are supporting DSD with out-patient and community-based services.

SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Malungu abekikileyo endlu yowiso mthetho, in partnership with the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders (NICRO), the Department will provide therapeutic and vocational skills training to children in conflict with the law that are awaiting trial and sentenced in Secure Care Centres. Through this initiative, a total of **466** children in conflict with the law will acquire skills to compete in the open labor market upon release as other alternatives for survival.

The budget set aside for this programme is **R2. 9 million**.



PRIORITY 2:

Strengthening Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes on Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

Honourable Members, in response to the resolutions of the Provincial Gender Based Violence summit and as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) (2020-2030) and a leader of Pillar 4 (response, care and support), the department will continue to provide sheltering services for victims of GBV&F and Trafficking in Persons through our accredited One Stop Centres and the accredited Khuseleka Centre.

Our Khuseleka One Stop Centre, which is the best in the country will continue providing forensic social work services as part of the Criminal Justice Involvement, working with the National Prosecuting Agency and the South African Police Services.

These services will include ability to testify assessments; victim impact reports; witness preparation and empowerment; court support and expert witnessing services. In addition to the therapeutic services offered in the One Stop Centres, the department will implement skills development Programmes for survivors of crime and violence in partnership with VEP funded organisations, NDA, business and the private sector in five districts (Amatole, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi, OR Tambo and NMM) as an exit plan. Kusemdleni wethu ukuba amaxhoba aphuma kumaziko ethu aphume ephethe into esandleni khona ukuze angabuyeli kubenzi bobubi kuba benexhala yinto esiwa phantsi kwempumlo. The department will also support NPOs partnering with DSD to provide sheltering services across the Province with a budget of **R5,6 million**.

A total of **161** organisations rendering prevention and victim support services will be funded with **R37,2 million**. The Department will intensify implementation of prevention programmes through the 365 days Action Plan in partnership with other stakeholders including

Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Business, Higher Health and government departments. This is inclusive of institutional days such as Orange Day and 16 days of Activism.

In the interest of effectively fighting GBV&F the Department will **develop a mobile App** to promptly assist the affected community members as part of improving access to the Departmental services ngoba ukhukunyezwa akunazi working hours nazi-weekend, le **App** izakunceda amakhoba afumane uncedo nanini na, naxesha liphi na. It will link victims to command centres where there are social workers working 24 hours to assist victims with psychosocial support and any other support they might need at that particular time.

PRIORITY 3:

Strengthening sustainable community development interventions

Honourable Speaker, community development is a strategic approach aimed at mobilising and empowering communities and vulnerable households, Youth and Women to participate actively in their own development for inclusive growth and sustainable well-being.

To achieve this objective, the department will continue to implement community mobilization programmes and reach **29 865** people. About **27 865** households will be profiled and 10% of those (2 788) will be linked to sustainable livelihood programmes) households and **141** community-based plans will be developed to inform planning.



The number of beneficiaries of DSD sustainable livelihoods interventions which assist beneficiaries to migrate from welfare services to developmental and self-driven activities will be increased during 2023/24. Sustainable livelihoods services will benefit **6 227** people and **340** households.

Similarly, beneficiaries of Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) will be increased from **5 544** to **5 979** and **513** of whom will be linked to development programmes. Ngoba asifuni abantu bakuthi bakhongozele naphakade, koko sandisa amaphulo okubakhupha ekukhongozeleni, which is an immediate intervention in their hardships, sibafake kwiinqubo zokuzimela. The budget set aside for this programme is **R14,4 million**.

Implementation of anti-poverty interventions to reduce poverty and accelerate rural development is one of the key priorities of the department during the 2023/24 financial year.

In partnership with various stakeholders, the department has coordinated the successful implementation of the 5 Pillars of the Provincial Integrated Anti-Poverty Strategy in the **39** poorest wards in the province, the majority (90%) of which are in rural areas.

In terms of the 5 Pillars of the strategy, the department contributed to the development of poorest rural communities by coordinating the delivery of a range of services that include infrastructure development, water and sanitation, housing, electricity and energy, safety, access to grants as well as health and human development services which resulted in the movement of some households out of dire poverty and destitution.

8 additional stakeholders will be mobilised to support the implementation of the Provincial Integrated Anti-Poverty Strategy in the **39** poorest wards while others will be mobilised to support delivery of capacity building of NPOs and Coops, skills development and empowerment of Youth and Women beneficiaries.

- **SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

The Department will work in collaboration with the Department of Education to identify learners from the disadvantaged households for the provision of School Uniforms. The Department will roll out the Sanitary Dignity Programme throughout the province targeting about **83 870** girl learners as envisaged by and in line with our SRD Framework to guarantee a shame free learning environment, focusing on quantile 1-3 schools, farm schools and special schools for children with disabilities.

As part of the Portfolio Approach, silisebe kunye noSASSA sisebenza kunye ukunikezela nge-Uniform yeskolo kubantwana abangathathi ntweni, sikwabakhuthaza ukuba baqhubeke nesikolo imeko yasemva ekhaya ingabathezi amandla.

A total budget of **R43.8 million** is set aside to provide services to individuals and families experiencing undue hardship.

Working with relevant stakeholders, the Department will continue employing the Portfolio Approach to ensure effective and efficient response to disasters and ensure provision of material and continuous psychosocial support services.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Honourable Members, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project constitutes an important government strategy for addressing youth



unemployment and lack of work experience. During the past 4 years, the department has created more than **15 000** work opportunities, 70% of which were created in the NPO sector in the following services: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Home & Community Based Care (HCBC), Disability and Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP). This Programme has had a positive impact in the lives of participants in that it constitutes a reliable source of personal income around which they can plan their lives. It also provides extensive exposure to work experiences that prepare them for successful job hunting and career development. A detailed evaluation study of the EPWP project will be conducted and the results of which will be made available in due course.

In the new financial year, which is 2023/24, the department will restructure in order to beef-up management capacity within the EPWP Unit guided by the 2022 Assessment Report of the Internal Audit Unit. A total of **3 893** work opportunities will be created targeting unemployed youth, **200** of whom will be placed within Community Development and Research services to allow for expansion of coverage to reach more people and communities. The remainder will be deployed in other priority areas of the Department.

The budget set aside for this programme is **R12,8 million**.



PRIORITY 4:

Intensifying the participation, mainstreaming and empowerment of vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities, youth, and women development.

• YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Somlomo obekekileyo, empowerment and development of youth and women through funding of income-generating cooperatives, skills development and support programmes constitute a key strategy to realise social transformation of local communities in the Eastern Cape Province. During the new financial year, the department will continue to implement Youth Development services through mobilisation of **12 910** young people. The Department will support **148** youth structures of which 17 will be funded. Technical and soft skills will be provided to **1 916** young people. In addition, the department will review the Departmental Youth Development Strategy in line with the Provincial Framework supported by the UNFPA. The department will be working with various partners such as the NYDA and the private stakeholders to expand coverage and diversity of youth skills development programme. Sifuna abantu abatsha abazakuza ngaphambili namaqhinga okulwa indlala nentswela ngqesho. Asibafuni nje ngomlomo, sibekela bucala imali engange 10 million ezakujongana nalamaphulo.

• WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

With respect to Women Development services, the department is developing a Provincial Women Empowerment and Gender Equity (WEGE) strategy document to prioritise and provide guidance for the development and empowerment of women in the province. Beyond this, the department will implement empowerment programmes that will benefit **9 400**



women and **21** women-owned cooperatives will also be funded. As part of strengthening anti-child malnutrition interventions, the department will link **1 289** Social Support Grant beneficiaries whose children are affected by malnutrition with sustainable development opportunities. Honourable members, I think you all know just how much I am passionate about women development, andiphathwa ngento edibene nabafazi and trust me honourable speaker, we are going to do everything possible to empower the women of this province.

The budget set aside for this programme is **R3 Million**.

- **SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS**

Speaker, Healthy Ageing is an international agenda and involves physical, emotional, social, environmental, and developmental aspects. The Department is finalising consultative processes on the customised draft Strategy on Ageing: 2022 -2027, and a plan of action on the Decade of Healthy Ageing: 2020 -2030. This strategy will help to maintain the functional ability that enables well-being at old age.

The Department further commits to ensure that Older Persons participate in the Active Ageing Programme as way of ensuring that their health status improves. **R1,5million** has been set aside for this Programme.

Mandated by Chapter 3 of the Older Persons Act no. 13 of 2006, the Department recognizes the role played by families, care givers and communities and commits to increase the life span of Older Persons through the provision of Community Based Care Services. **17 286** Older Persons will benefit from the Programme. This will further be in realization of the transformation agenda as outlined in the sector priorities. Emphasis will be towards the provision of Community Based Care.

1 485 Older Persons have been targeted to receive a 24-hour care (non-medical) services in funded residential facilities.

In recognising the plight of Older Persons in the Province partnerships with the Older Persons Forum will be strengthened, giving them an effective voice in decisions that directly affect them.

Furthermore, the Department intends to promote solidarity among generations and inter-generational partnerships, passing on of positive values, promoting moral regeneration, keeping in mind the needs of older and young ones and encouraging mutually responsive relationships between generations. Sicinga ukuba oku kuzakusincedisisa ukulwa nokuxhatshazwa, ukubulawa ngokungenalusini nokudlwengulwa koomakhulu bethu ingakumbi ezilalini nalapho uninzi luhlala lodwa. U-Social Development ke lisebe elinenkathalo, yiyo lonto kwezinyanga ziphelileyo besibhiyoza nezisele zenyathi ebezigqiba iminyaka elikhulu, sikhuthaza nolutsha ukuba lubathande lubakhusele abantu abadala.

To this regard, an amount of **R91,4 million** is set aside to provide care and support services to older persons in the Eastern Cape.

- **SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Somlomo wendlu yowiso mthetho, the Department focuses on promoting the social well-being and the socio-economic empowerment of Persons with disabilities and advancing their integration into the mainstream society.

There are about **34** Community Based Rehabilitation projects and 09 Social Service organizations for the provision of Community Based Rehabilitation Services targeting **21 984** family members set to benefit.

For Persons with disabilities in need of care and protection, the Department will support **20** Residential Facilities targeting **839**

beneficiaries.

In ensuring the Persons with disabilities are capacitated for self-sustainability and economic development, the Department will support **28** Protective Workshops for the implementation of skills development programmes and provision of Psycho-social support targeting **845** Persons with disabilities.

A total budget of **R31,9 million** is set aside to provide services to Persons with disabilities in the Eastern Cape.



PRIORITY 5: ***Growing and strengthening the NPO Sector through improving monitoring and management***

Honourable Speaker, in line with the Non-Profit Organization Act 1997, one of the key mandates of the department is to promote sustainability and development of the NPO sector in the Province to realize the strategy of civil society participation in the creation of a vibrant, capable, responsive and developmental state. The department will strengthen the NPO sector through providing a comprehensive and integrated Capacity Building and Support service that will benefit **407** NPOs and **152** Cooperatives during the 2023/24 financial year. Partnerships will be strengthened with the Eastern Cape NPO Forum to improve communication and coordinated implementation and monitoring of support interventions for NPOs.

Social Development has a statutory obligation to fund certain categories of programmes. In this regard the Department is currently funding NPOs in the communities as an extended arm of service delivery to the most destitute in our communities. The **1 254** funded institutions will find expression in the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of Districts and Local Municipalities.



PRIORITY 6:

Reducing the rate of unemployed Social Workers

Honourable members, I have been having sleepless nights thinking about the many social workers that are unemployed in the province. I have engaged various government departments and the private sector to help us employ some, if not all. Isikhalo sabo besisoloko sinkenteza apha kum ezindlebeni and I am happy to report that in this financial year, we will be employing **200** social workers (56 of those will be on contractual basis through the Social Behavioural Change (SBC) Programme that we are funding). I know this is a drop in the ocean, but it is definitely a step in the right direction while we work on employing more.

Priority 7:

DDM Model and Strengthening of District Operations

Honourable Speaker, since I took office in August 2022, we have built capacity within to give effect to the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM). The department has vigorously accelerated the institutionalization of the District Development Model by ensuring that departmental programmes and projects find expression in the second-generation of DDM One plans of Local Government.

Strengthening district operations and transforming them to hubs of service delivery remains one of the key priorities of the department. Local Service offices are the frontline and are at the coalface of service delivery linking government and the communities.

In this regard, DSD has since adopted a DDM approach in the



delivery of services to ensure integration and maximization of the departmental footprint by forging strong partnerships with sector partners and relevant institutions including the private sector. This has been expressly practicalized in the fight against the scourge of GBVF and dealing with foster care backlogs in the Province.

The Department has developed a DDM Portfolio Guiding Framework to streamline and integrate the provision of services by the DSD and its two entities and this also finds expression in the departmental planning documents (Annual Performance Plan and Annual Operational Plan) for effective implementation.

Priority 8:

Building capable, ethical, and developmental state for effective service delivery

Honourable Members, as part of implementing an effective Employment Life Cycle package, the Department shall implement strategies and programmes that seek to establish DSD an employer of choice through dynamic attraction and retention, effective employee engagement, career management and creation of a conducive working environment for employees to thrive.

As part of the Department's efforts to ensure that service beneficiaries receive effective and quality service delivery, the Department will continue to conduct developmental quality assurance assessments to organisations and strengthen capacity building of Social Service Practitioners through programmes guidelines and legislative frameworks relevant to the sub - programmes. **R1,2 million** has been set aside for training and re-orientation of social workers and community development practitioners on current models of



trauma support and grief counselling, FBO/CBO and caregivers on basic trauma support and bereavement / grief support/ counselling for effective support interventions in social ills facing our communities in this era.

In contributing to building a capable state, the department has set aside **R748 000** to regularize physical wellness through sports and Spiritual days capacitating the Wellness Unit to effectively provide:

1. Professional Support Line Service which is a 24/7/365 Call Centre;
2. Conduct employer satisfaction surveys to check employee satisfaction in working in the department and to check what areas of improvement they will recommend to the employer; and
3. Critical Incident service offering prompt and professional trauma debriefing and counseling services to employees exposed to incidents of trauma

The Department has contributed to professionalizing the Community Development Practice by facilitating Recognition of Prior Learning program to **107** Practitioners who do not have a formal qualification.

Already, accredited training with (CPD points) for SSP's have been identified to improve our professional's responsiveness to the ever-changing social ills.

Departmental Gender Action Plan tool will be developed to measure the achievement of women's empowerment and gender equality.

This will be premised on the promotion of the Department of Public Service and Administration's (DPSA) Eight principles on Gender Mainstreaming commitments.

On beneficiation of designated groups, we are determined to achieve 50% appointment of Women at Senior Management Service (SMS) level and strengthen prospects of permanent employment of youth in the middle management services.

Currently the Department is sitting at 1.98% of people with disabilities and we are intent on exceeding the current minimum target of 2%.

• LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In order to support small and emerging local enterprises timeous payment of suppliers is critical. The Department has since approved its own Preferential Procurement Policy, which is aimed at integrating, in an equitable manner, Provincial Government procurement targets with regard to locality, women, people with disabilities and the youth.

• INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department will go back to the basics, be innovative and creative in ensuring that the state of office accommodation especially at Local Service Offices changes for the better. We will move in a phased-in approach to graduate worse-off offices into habitable workplaces and an amount of **R 21,5 million** has been set aside for Capital projects for the renovations.

The renovation construction projects that are planned for completion in 2023/2024 financial year are:

- Molteno Service Office, Butterworth Service Office and Middelrift Service Office. The planning stage for the following projects is targeted for 2023/2024 financial year.
- Humansdorp service office, Engcobo service office, Seymour service office and Middleburg service office



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, my office has an open-door policy and I'd like to call upon anyone ofuna ukusebenzisana nathi ngeenjongo zokuphuhlisa uluntu lwakuthi and make sure we move from social welfare to sustainable social development, aze ngaphambili.

We know that the success of our social development agenda which seeks to facilitate social processes that empowers the poor and the vulnerable to regain control over their lives would depend on how well we work together as a collective. In this regard I would like to call upon public and private partners, citizens, business, trade unions and non-profit organisations to walk hand in hand with us in this journey of restoring the dignity of the poor and vulnerable people of the Province.

Okokugqibela, ndithanda ukubulela kwii-foot soldiers of the department ii-officials nezikhokelwe yintloko yesebe noomanejala bakhe ngokuzinikela kwabo emsebenzini wokuphuhlisa nokuphucula ubomi babantu beliphondo.

BUDGET VOTE 4: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

I now table Budget for the Department of Social Development of the Province of the Eastern Cape.

Programmes	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Administration	534 210	556 777	581 927
Social Welfare Services	875 187	921 239	963 156
Children and Families	651 261	680 535	711 216
Restorative Services	481 044	501 787	524 374
Development and Research	292 002	291 119	304 199
Sub-Total	2 833 704	2 951 457	3 084 872

Sithi maz' enethole. Nangamsol!