



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH
TABLED BY**

**HONOURABLE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MS. B. FANTA**

AT THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

07 AUGUST 2024



*Somlomo Obekekileyo
 Nkulumbuso yephondo ehloniphekileyo
 Amalungu Wendlu yoWiso-Mthetho ahloniphekileyo
 linkokheli zendlu yeenkosi
 Abefundisi beemvaba ngeemvaba
 Zidwesha ne Zidwangube, Uluntu lweMpuma Kapa luphela
 Molweni! Good afternoon! Goeie middag! Dumelang!*

Honourable Speaker, it is a great honour to address this House as we usher in the Seventh Administration, which represents a renewed hope for a better life for the people of the Eastern Cape. As serendipity would have it, the birth of this new administration coincides with a watershed moment of our young democracy. Exactly 30 years ago disenfranchised South Africans cast their votes for the first time and elected a democratic government that would carry a mandate of delivering a better life for all.

The outcomes of the recent general elections are an indication that our people need improved and comprehensive service delivery. Therefore, the Seventh Administration has a mammoth task of continuing to turn the tide. **Ewe ngokusenyanisweni, kumele ukuba zijike izinto.** The department will continue to accelerate in implementing the commitments contained in this Budget and Policy Speech to improve access to social services for communities still faced with prevailing social ills.

Sihlalo wendlu yowiso-mthetho, liyinene elokuba umkhulu umsebenzi osele wenziwe ukuphucula impilo zabantu beli phondo, kodwa kumele siqinise amaphulo okulwa intlupheko, ingakumbi echapazela abantwana, siphinde siqinisekise ukuba abantu bayakwazi ukuzimela ngokwabo.

The Eastern Cape communities are still faced with an overwhelming task to end gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), which has been correctly termed as a second pandemic.

Given the intricacy of challenges facing vulnerable groups, the Department has reconfigured its operations to be better able to address the challenges facing our communities, leaving no one behind.

This policy and budget speech will demonstrate how the Department of Social Development has continuously followed a path that seeks to ensure the provision of comprehensive social services against vulnerability and poverty to as many deserving people as possible. **Sikutsho oku silandela ekhondweni le Nkulu-mbuso, nanjengokuba ebevakalisile mhla ebevula Indlu Yowiso-mthetho kutsha nje eNtabankulu. It's the Eastern Cape's time to thrive.**

Honourable Speaker and Members, we are mindful of the fact that societies thrive when there is a common purpose and shared values. Therefore, we commend the role of our partners who contributed immensely to the realization of our mandate, and we will continue to strengthen our relationship with various role players to mobilize resources for the benefit of society at large.

Before I go into the business of the Department, I must mention that women also played a defining role in dismantling the apartheid regime and continue to play leading roles in building the democratic South Africa we live in today. **Ngoku nje, andikwazi ke ukungatsho ukuba sinenina elixhuzula imikhala kwinkudla yomgaqo-siseko, uJustice Mandisa Muriel Lindelwa Maya, oyinzalelwana yeli phondo.**

As we gather here today, we stand on the cusp of significant anniversaries that hold profound meaning for our nation and the ongoing struggle for equality and justice. This week, we will commemorate 68 years since the remarkable march of 1956, led by our matriarchs and forebears.

This courageous act of defiance and solidarity laid the foundation for the rights and freedoms we enjoy today. It was a pivotal moment that not only highlighted the resilience of women but also paved the way for future generations to challenge oppression and strive for equality in all spheres of life.

Additionally, 2024 marks the 70th anniversary of the Women's Charter, a ground-breaking document that articulated the aspirations, rights, and needs of women across our nation. The charter has served as a guiding principle in our ongoing struggle for gender equality and social justice. It has inspired policies and initiatives aimed at empowering women, addressing gender-based violence, and promoting equal opportunities in education and the workforce.

Initiatives focused on women's economic empowerment have gained momentum, providing women with access to education, training, and resources to start their own businesses. This has contributed to greater financial independence and economic stability for many women and their families.

Let us honour the legacy of our matriarchs and forebears by continuing their fight for justice and equality. As we celebrate the milestones of the 1956 march and the Women's Charter, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of empowerment, equity, and solidarity. Together, we can build a future where the dreams and aspirations of all women are realized.

At this point, allow me to highlight key priorities for the 2024/25 financial year which are aligned to the Provincial Integration Areas:

PRIORITY 1: STRENGTHENING PROVISION OF CHILDCARE & PROTECTION SERVICES

Honourable Speaker, families continue to be exposed to various levels of vulnerability leading to dysfunctionality of the family unit and this remains a critical focus area that needs immediate intervention. Dysfunctional families are characterized by conflict, instability, child abuse, absent parents, strained relationships as well as inadequate resources that negatively affect family structures and roles.

FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAMME

Honourable Speaker In this financial year 2024/25, the Department will continue to render a comprehensive basket of services to families, further contributing towards the Ex-Mine Workers Intervention Programme. It will provide Family Preservation Services to twenty-four thousand eight hundred and sixteen **(24 816)** family members to strengthen and prevent vulnerability within families leading to stable and well-functioning families.

In strengthening the capacity of families, twenty thousand three hundred forty-seven **(20 347) family** members will participate in Parenting Programmes to empower parents with parenting skills and to provide support to one another. It will further ensure reunification of three hundred and eighty-nine **(389)** family members that were removed / separated /displaced from their families and communities. These interventions are aimed at enhancing strong family bonds, preventing vulnerability and promoting self-reliance within families.

The budget set aside for this is **R 13, 2 million**.

CARE AND PROTECTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN

The Department will reach twenty-eight four hundred and eighty-two **(28 482)** people through implementation of Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes responding to escalating scourge of child abuse through provision of awareness and therapeutic programmes.

In the current financial year, fifty thousand five hundred fifty-nine **(50 559)** children in need of care and protection will be placed in foster care with court orders. This will ensure that they enjoy their rights to a family as enshrined in the Constitution and are legally protected with access to Foster Care Grant enabling them to meet their financial needs.

In implementing the provisions of the amendments made on both the Social Assistance Act and the Children's Act, the Department will ensure access to the Child Support Grant Top Up for eligible children who may not require going through the court system.

Since the implementation of the Child Support Grant Top Up in July 2022, a total of seventeen thousand seven and six **(17 706)** children have accessed the Child Support Grant Top Up as at end July 2024.

Xa abantwana bephumile phantsi kwenkqubo yokuhoywa ngabazali, abagengobabo i-Foster Care; bafakwa phantsi kwenkqubo kazimele-geqe eqinisekisa amathuba emfundo, ingqesho, noqeqesho lwezakhono. Le nkqubo izakuqiniswa ngakumbi kulo nyaka-mali ukuqinisekisa amalungiselelo apheleleyo kubantwana abaphuma phantsi kwe-Foster Care, ukuze babe ngabantu abakwazi ukuzimela geqe. Ukufezeka kwale nkqubo kuyakungqinwa ngumyinge wabantwana abafumene imfundo, ingqesho, namathuba oqeqesho-zakhono.

We remain committed to protect and care for our children to give effect to the provisions of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 as amended.

The budget set aside for this is **R 66 million**.

COMMUNITY BASED PREVENTION EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

Honourable Members, the department will implement Community-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes as stipulated in Chapter 8 and 14 of the Children's Act that are in RISIHA sites to enhance its efforts of protecting children and providing support to families. RISIHA is a Tsonga word meaning Resilience.

These programmes are intended to transition children from vulnerability to resilience through provision of nutrition and educational support. The Department is funding a total of forty-six **(46)** RISIHA sites. These services protect children while they strengthen families and communities as the first line of response in the child protection system. In promoting resilience in children, during the 2024/25 financial year, twenty thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven **(20 837)** vulnerable children will access Community Based Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes.

The department will continue to build resilience and agility within communities to promote sustainable livelihoods.

The budget set aside for this is **R 29 million**.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAMME

Sihlalo wendlu yowiso-mthetho, ekwakheni iintsapho eliziluqilima, nasekusombululeni iingxaki zokungaziphathi kakuhle ezikhokelela ekukhulelweni kwabantwana, isebe limilisela iinkqubo zokuguqula ukuziphatha kolutsha – i-Social Behavior Change (SBC) Programme. Ezi nkqubo zenzelwe ukuba zibeliqonga leengxoxo ngemiba yezentlalo emalunga nesifo sentsholongwane ugawulayo, ukukhulelwa kwabantwana, ukusetyenziswa kwezinyobisi, impatho yabazali, nogonyamelo oludibene nesini. Oku kwenzela ukuziphatha kakuhle, nokufunda ukuqiqa ukuze uphile ubomi obusempilweni.

The department will continue to implement integrated interventions that will contribute towards promotion of healthy, preventive and protective behaviours for children. The commitment to collaborate with the Departments of Education and Health ensures joint responsibility in facilitating the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP), reaching all learners in schools. In addition, we will fund fourteen **(14)** organisations to implement Social Behavior Change Programmes in all eight **(8)** Districts.

In partnership with the Department of Health and United Nations Population Fund, the Department will continue to promote awareness in all **8** districts to improve access, and utilization of reproductive health services by young people. The programme will expand to the following areas that were not covered, which are Ndlambe, Makhandla, Ntabankulu, Mzimvubu, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Emahlahleni, Buffalo City Municipality.

The budget set aside for this is **R 17, 5 million**.

HIV & AIDS PROGRAMME

In line with Goal 1 and 4 of the National Strategic Plan 2023-2028 for HIV, TB, and STI's, the department is accelerating prevention programmes to reduce new infections and sexually transmitted diseases.

Home Community Based Care (HCBC) and psycho-social support programmes will be implemented and are set to benefit fifty-seven one hundred and twenty-four **(57 124)** people to promote optimal quality of life for those infected and affected by HIV&AIDS.

The budget set aside for this is **R 21, 1 million**.

SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS PROGRAMME

Isebe likwanenkqubo yokuhlangula kwimiceli mingeni kumakhaya nakubantu abaphantsi kwenxwaleko– i-Social Relief of Distress Programme,neyinkqubo enezibonelelo zethutyana ukuncedisana nabo abajamelene nenkxwaleko. Le nkqubo incedisana nabo abathwaxwe zizithwakumbe. Ezo zibonelelo ziquka ukutya, iingubo, impahla, nemandlalo yoomatrasi. Izibonelelo ezo zezethutyana ngelixesha imeko isenzima ekhaya, kwaye ingagqithi kwiinyanga ezintathu. Kodwa ezo nyanga zingandiswa kuxhomekeke kubungakanani benkxwaleko leyo.

The department works jointly with SASSA as part of the portfolio approach to ensure coordination of support services including provision of material support to families and individuals in dire need of social relief of distress.

The recent floods have also revealed an increased demand for this programme to meet the needs of our communities in cases of undue hardship.

A total budget of R9 million has been set aside targeting four thousand, five hundred and eighty-two (**4 582**) beneficiaries

We have aggressively implemented a Sanitary Dignity Programme targeting ninety-nine thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine (**99 899**) indigent girl learners in Quantiles 1, 2 & 3, Special Schools for Children with disabilities and Farm schools to improve the level of menstrual health, hygienic practices, and their quality of life in general. This contributes to their economic empowerment and ensures that women take a lead on matters affecting them.

The focus in 2024/25 financial year will give priority to inclusive advocacy programmes that will promote gender equity, eliminate gender stereotypes and other prejudices, whilst ensuring positive education outcomes for girl learners in schools.

The budget set aside for this is **R 43, 1 million**.

PRIORITY 2: STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE, PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

Somlomo, iiziyobisi, notywala zezona ngxaki ezikhokelela ekuqhwaleleni kwentlalo, uqoqosho, nempilo yoluntu. Ukusetyenziswa kweziyobisi kuchaphazela wonke umntu kwintlalo yethu.

The Eastern Cape is faced with social behavioural challenges manifesting in the form of “underage drinking”. The use of alcohol at a young age is not only a problem for some families but it has become a provincial burden particularly amongst school going learners and children.

This has often led to an increase in aggressive and risky behaviours such as driving while impaired, having unprotected sex, fighting, damage to property, injuries, violence, skipping school and sometimes deaths that resulted from underage drinking.

The department is engaging various stakeholders that are participating in the Provincial Substance Abuse Forum to develop a range of mechanisms and strategic interventions to address the challenges of underage and binge drinking realistically.

In line with the Provincial Drug Master Plan, the department working with other stakeholders, implements integrated prevention programmes on substance abuse targeting schools and institutions of higher learning. The focus of prevention programmes is to raise awareness on the effects of drug misuse.

School based campaigns are conducted in partnership with the Department of Education, Institutions of Higher Learning, Department of Health, and other partners.

Ernest Malgas treatment Centre which is a state-of-the-art institution in Nelson Mandela Metro provides treatment to children with substance use disorders. Since its opening in 2016, a total of **nine hundred and fifteen (915)** children (Boys - 693 & 222 Girls) accessed substance use disorders treatment service at the facility.

The department has funded three (3) Private Treatment Centres (Thembelitsha in O.R. Tambo District. SANCA, Koinonia in Buffalo City Metro) and a total of **thirty-five (35)** community-based organizations providing in and out- patient treatment services.

During 204/25 financial year, the department will partner with private treatment centres to improve access to treatment services by indigent services users. The department remains steadfast in our commitment to eliminate the scourge of substance abuse in our communities.

The budget set aside is **R12,4 million**

CRIME PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

Honourable Members, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is vigorously implemented to systematically address crime and violence in the province. In this sense, law enforcement efforts must be supported by strategies that address the drivers of crime and violence towards achievement of effective and sustainable results.

In the past five years, we have collaborated and joined efforts with South African Police Services and other stakeholders to intensify implementation of integrated social crime prevention programmes in crime hot spot areas targeting children at risk and their families. In addition, the department will continue with innovative measures in encouraging children in conflict with the law to be accountable for the crime they have committed and to prevent recidivism by improving access to diversion services through the implementation of block diversion programmes (overnight and away-from-home for period of five days) during school holidays.

The department is committed to provide social reintegration and vocational skills training to children in conflict with the law, awaiting trial and sentenced in Child and Youth Care Centre (Secure Care Centres in partnership with National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders (NICRO). The programme provides alternatives for survival for the participants than to be involved in crime as a means of living.

The budget set aside for this is **R 2, 9 million**.

VICTIM EMPOWERMENT

Somlomo Obekekileyo,Urhulumente wenze konke okusemandleni akhe ukulwa umkhuba wogonyamelo ngokwesini. Kodwa nangona kunjalo iziganeko zalo mkhuba zithe gqolo! ukufunquka. Ukususela kunyaka u-1994 ukuzakutsho ku-2022, ubungqina bubonisa ukuzinza kwamabakala athile olwaphulo-mthetho afana nobusela bokuqhekeza izindlu, nasezivenkileni. Nangona kunjalo, amatyala olwaphulo-mthetho oluhamba nesondo afunquke ngomyinge we-17 percent kule minyaka ingamaShumi amaThathu igqithileyo.

The Department of Social Development leads and coordinates the mandate for Victim Empowerment which strives to promote the provision of integrated victim - centered services to victims of crime and violence. Most victims of these heinous crimes rely on the Department for victim empowerment services.

As the active leader of the NSP (GBV&F) Pillar 4 the Department will ensure that all victims of crime and violence who are reported to the department and partners, receive support service to restore their dignity and empower them while preventing secondary victimization. Those in need of alternative care will be provided with shelter, therapeutic services, and skills development to ensure that they are able to stand on their own instead of depending on abusive partners.

In promoting economic viability and self-reliance of gender-based violence survivors the department will strengthen skills development programmes and link survivors to economic opportunities through establishment of co -operatives. In the 2024/25 financial year a total of **fifty (50)** vulnerable women are targeted for empowerment at shelters and one - stop - centers.

The Department remains committed to the social contract with the **hundred and sixty 160** funded NPOs to ensure continuous provision of human- centered services to address the scourge of gender – based violence within our communities, fourteen **(14)** of which will provide shelter services.

The budget set aside for this programme is **R39, 2 million**.

PRIORITY 3: STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

Isebe likwanecandelo leenkqubo zokulwa intlupheko. Eli candelo liququzelela onke amanye amasebe karhulumente nezinye ii-arhente, ekumiseleni isicwangciso esihlangeneyo sephondo sokulwa intlupheko i-Provincial Integrated Anti-Poverty Strategy. Esi sicwangciso siphangeleleyo singqale ngakumbi kwiibhakana ezinentlupheko eqatha, nakubantu abasemngciphekweni apha ephondweni.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVINCIAL ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY INTEGRATED

The Provincial Anti -Poverty Strategy remains a viable tool and government machinery to co-ordinate poverty alleviation initiatives aimed at providing access to food, social services, development interventions, basic services and sustainable livelihoods to the poor and most vulnerable communities.

Poverty alleviation interventions will continue to focus on the thirty-nine **(39)** poorest wards to achieve government and multi-stakeholder outcomes through fostering community participation at a local level.

In the 2024/25 financial year, an integrated Implementation plan has been developed to strengthen joint targeting, planning and reporting at a household and community level to reduce the impact of poverty to children, women, youth and persons with disabilities.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY REGISTRATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME (ICROP)

Honourable Speaker, the Constitution compels all of us in government to make sure that we provide opportunities for everyone to have access to social security.

It is for this noble cause that the department has partnered with the South African Social Security Agency and the Department of Home Affairs to consciously drive the Integrated Community Registration Out-Reach programme to socially excluded, isolated people and communities. The programme aims to ensure accessibility, availability, adequacy, affordability, and acceptability of social services and benefits to those who are most poor and vulnerable.

In this financial year, the Department will together with other stakeholders inclusive of Local Municipalities and traditional Leaders Roll out ICROP in all eight **(8)** Districts to deliver one stop services to citizens. These services include training of beneficiaries, Psychosocial support services, Child Protection Services, Family preservation services, Social relief of distress, Breakfast Packs, SASSA Grants and services rendered by DRDAR (farming), Home Affairs (ID and Birth Certificates Applications) and the Department of Health (Health Screening).

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

Honourable Members, as the Department we are mindful of the fact that in order to implement effective development programmes, communities are the central locus for understanding and developing sustainable livelihood strategies.

We are therefore mandated to prepare targeted communities through mobilization and compilation of detailed profiles of

households and communities to ensure that interventions are responsive, and evidence based.

In this regard, the department will mobilise thirty- four thousand and seven (**34 007**) communities' members in all 8 Districts and profile twenty- nine and thirteen (**29 013**) households across the province to promote participatory development. The households profiled will be linked to sustainable livelihoods programmes through collaborations with other government departments and stakeholders

COMMUNITY NUTRITION DEVELOPMENT CENTRES PROGRAMME

The significant role of the department in food security cannot be underestimated. Our developmental approach to food security is implemented through Community Nutrition Development Centres which are designed by nature and outlook to serve a dual or two-pronged mandate of becoming stopgaps and emergency avenues to address the immediate challenge of hunger.

Over and above this, Community Nutrition Development Centers are also aimed at designing avenues to address poverty in a sustainable manner through linking beneficiaries to sustainable livelihoods and skills development programmes.

We have successfully supported individuals, families and communities province-wide through our Centre based feeding programme reaching five thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine (**5 979**) in the last financial year.

During the 2024/25 financial year, the department will continue to prioritize social transformation through funding of thirty-eight (**38**) Community Nutrition Development Centres located in all the 8 Districts.

The department will work very closely with Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) and other partners to expand coverage of anti-poverty food production initiatives to reach poorest communities located far from towns and shopping centres who spend their meagre income to access government services.

HOUSEHOLD FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PROGRAMME

We successfully supported in the last financial year, **three hundred and thirty-eight (338)** households to access food and establish household gardens to promote food security and reduce malnutrition. In this financial, we will continue to support three hundred and two **(302)** households to access food through DSD food service programmes

As part of our commitment to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, the department leads the development and implementation of the Household Food and Nutrition Security Programme to address food shortage and hunger in communities across the province.

The budget set aside for this programme is **R14, 9 million**.

JOB CREATION THROUGH EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

The Expanded Public Works Programme remains a critical policy and strategic instrument for driving social transformation ensuring inclusion of marginalised youth and women in the mainstream economy through access to skills and a regular income.

The department also contributes to job creation for women and young people, in general, using the Social Sector Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

For the 2024/25 financial year, the department will continue to support employment of youth and women by creating three thousand six hundred and forty-six **(3 646)** work opportunities through the EPWP project across the social sector to augment its capacity to deliver services.

PRIORITY 4: INTENSIFYING THE PARTICIPATION, MAINSTREAMING AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, YOUTH AND WOMEN DEVELOPMENT.

Honourable Speaker, we are seized with the responsibility to accelerate the promotion, development, participation youth, women and persons with disabilities in the mainstream of the economy.

In this regard, the department is scaling up targeted interventions to youth, women and persons with disabilities in addressing barriers to access, participation and economic empowerment.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth unemployment is now an insurmountable reality that continues to threaten the future of our province. To respond to this challenge, the department will provide access to funding for 15 youth- owned initiatives, two seven hundred and five **(2705)** skills development programmes and continue to support one hundred and fifty-eight **(158)** youth development structures across the province. All these interventions will ensure our young people are empowered to participate in their own development.

Provincial DSD Youth Development Strategy has been finalised to guide and inform all Youth Development Interventions.

The budget set aside for Youth Development R6, 9 million

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

Women development remains a key indicator in realizing the achievement of a progressive and developmental agenda of our government. We have made significant strides in finalizing the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy which will serve as yard stick towards women empowerment and promoting gender equality in the province.

In advancing the provision of access to socio-economic opportunities twenty-six **(26)** will be provided with funding support, eleven thousand six hundred and forty-eight **(11 648)** will participate in skills development and empowerment programmes for sustainable development.

With unreserved certainty, women continue to play a progressive and a developmental role in alleviating poverty and food insecurity in our communities. The Integrated Mother - Child Development and Support Programme (IMCDSP) has successfully empowered women to acquire skills on nurturing, nutrition education and caring for their children to prevent the onset of malnutrition.

In the last financial year, eight hundred **(800)** women have been supported and are receiving income assistance for sustainability. In addition, fifteen thousand **(15 000)** breakfast packs were distributed by the National Development Agency benefiting approximately two thousand five hundred **(2500)** children across the province.

In the 2024/25 financial year we will intensify the implementation of the Integrated Mother to Child Integrated Development and Support Programme in the identified local areas that more prone to child malnutrition in response to the recent findings of the South African Human Rights Commission, November 2023 whilst working towards building a long-term sustainable strategy.

The budget set aside for funding of Women Development initiatives is **R3,5 million**.

SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The department is funding thirty-four **(34)** NPOs rendering Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes, twenty-eight **(28)** Protective workshops and twenty **(20)** residential facilities. This is in line with the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with disabilities for mainstreaming in society.

In the last financial year, the department implemented Community Based Rehabilitation services reaching benefitting twenty-five thousand four hundred and thirty-four **(25 434)** people in the poorest municipalities. In the 2024/25, the department will continue to provide these services to twenty-two thousand four hundred and nine **(24 409)** in all the 8 Districts.

We remain steadfast in ensuring that persons with disabilities are empowered to contribute to the economy of the province. In this regard, the department is funding twenty-six **(26)** Protective workshops in all 8 Districts providing skills development focusing on capacitation of Persons with disabilities on crafts [necklaces, bracelets, painting, drawing, weaving], beadwork, leatherwork, pottery, sewing, psychosocial support and life skills.

This is an endeavour to enhance the independence and create socio-economic opportunities that contributes to Psycho-social services and empowerment of Persons with disabilities.

The budget set aside for this financial year **R33, 2 million**.

SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS

Isebe likwanikezela ngenkxaso ekhethekileyo yokulondoloza kweenkonde ngawo onke amaxesha. Oku kulondoloza kwenzeka phantsi kokhuseleko lwamaziko angamaShumi amaNe anesiBini afumana inkxaso-mali kwisebe.

In addition, five hundred and nine **(509)** service centres are funded to provide Community Based Care and Support Services ensuring that Older Persons remain in their communities of origin for as long as possible in line with the Older Persons Act No. 13 of 2006. Community Based Care and Support Services promote recreation, social cohesion and Active Ageing.

The department has managed to reach fifteen thousand three hundred and two **(15 302)** older persons through the community-based services, providing services which includes psychosocial support, active ageing leading to participating in golden games and stimulation.

The emphasis is on improvement of social wellbeing, prolonged life span, care and protection of Older Persons against any form of abuse through establishment of support structures. The benefit of Older Persons participating in community-based care programmes is to keep them active and eliminate loneliness as well as chances of being exposed to various forms of abuse.

In valuing and recognising significant contributions and experiences of older persons as a reservoir of knowledge in our society, in commemoration of the Alzheimers month and Grand Parents Week Department will hold a colloquium to commemorate the Alzheimer's month and Grand Parents Week in September 2024/25 financial year.

The allocated budget for Older Persons 2024/25 is **R101, 5 million**.

Honourable Members, access to government services by Ex-Mine Workers and Military Veterans remains a thorny issue that must be urgently addressed to make sure no one is left behind. Most of these vulnerable groups experienced undue hardships, health problems and gross injustice which affected their livelihoods as well as the functionality of their families.

As the department our auxiliary role is premised on the need to ensure that Ex-Mine Workers and their families gain the necessary access to government services.

In the 2024/25 financial year we are committing our existing resources to prioritise through our profiling and awareness campaign programmes the tracking and tracing of Ex-Mine workers, provision of Psycho-social support, family -re-unification services as well putting in place a referral system to other government services.

STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN THE EASTERN CAPE

The need to strengthen social work professional practice in the Eastern Cape is becoming more and more critical in view of the innumerable social ills. This is aimed at enhancing the promotion of social change, development, enrichment of social relations and the empowerment as well as improvement of people's lives within local communities.

Challenges of mental illness, emotional and behavioural disturbances have compelled the Department to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the contributing factors to mental and

emotional wellbeing leading to enhanced social functioning among people in various communities.

Amongst the prioritised vulnerable groups special focus will be on challenges experienced by Widows and Widowers. Psychosocial Support Services will be provided as a pilot in the KSD Local Municipality during the current financial year

The department has approached Higher Education Institutions in the Eastern Cape for the reorientation of social workers on new models of counselling.

PRIORITY 5: GROWING AND STRENGTHENING THE NPO SECTOR THROUGH IMPROVING MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT.

Somlomo, ukuguqulwa kwemibutho yasekuhlaleni ukuze yenze indima ephambili kuphuhliso lwephondo, kuzakufuna kubekho ukuxhotyiswa ngokufezakeleyo, nobuchule obukhethekileyo ukuze le mibutho isebenze ngempumelelo.

Our mandate is to provide an environment that is conducive to the functionality of NPOs through the development of policies and enactment of legislation that promotes and protects NPOs. Specifically, we facilitate registration, provide funding and capacity building of NPOs to promote compliance and accountability including training on financial management, costing, reporting and contract management.

Currently we are tightening our monitoring interventions to foster a culture of performance and compliance amongst our funded organisations. This is to ensure funds disbursed are utilised for the intended purposes to achieve targets and outcomes for service delivery.

In the 2024/25 financial year, we will initiate an electronic monitoring and evaluation module aimed at strengthening systems of accountability for the funds transferred to Non-Profit Organisations. In improving access to our services and information, the Department will automate NPO inquiry system for applications and payments.

As part of our transformative and developmental agenda, we support emerging Non-Profit Organisations through ensuring that they are adequately equipped to participate in development programmes and deliver services. In the 2024/25 financial year five hundred and eighty-three (**583**) organizations that sought our assistance

with registration will be supported in terms of the NPO Act, No 71, 1997.

The Department will provide funding to One -thousand two hundred. and fifty-one **(1 251)** Non-Profit Organisations to deliver services that are in line with its mandate. An investment of **Three hundred and fifty-seven million, two hundred and two, ninety-six rand (R357 202 96)** has been set aside to achieve this priority.

In recognising the current skills deficit in the NPOs sector in relation to governance, financial management, performance management, marketing, report writing, communication, the department will intensify capacity building to funded and non-funded Non-Profit Organisations.

Our success in delivering services has been anchored on the strong partnership with the Non-Profit Organisations Forum in District and Provincial level. This, we are going to leverage on even in this financial year.

The budget set aside for capacity building of NPOs **total R1, 8 million.**

PRIORITY 6: REDUCING THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYED SOCIAL WORKERS

The Department recognizes the role that is played by social workers in facilitating social change, empowerment and development of individuals, families and communities who are poor, vulnerable and marginalized.

The Department is committed to continue subsidising Social Work posts in the funded Non- Profit Organizations. This financial year three hundred and fifty-five **(355)** posts have been funded. Despite shrinking fiscus, the Department is committed to recruit two hundred **(200)** Social Workers this financial year. Through Social Behaviour Change and GBV Interventions Eighty - eight **(88)** Social Workers have been appointed and One hundred and twenty two **(122)** will be reprioritised. Vigorous recruitment of additional Social Workers will be done through collaboration with other relevant Departments.

PRIORITY 7: STRENGTHENING OF DISTRICT OPERATIONS AS HUBS FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

Honourable Speaker, the introduction of the District Development Model in 2017 introduced a major milestone in shaping the service delivery mode of our democracy. Being at the coal face has ensured that the Department we leave no one behind.

Our approach will focus on improve capacity of Local Service and District offices to deliver services quality services to the beneficiaries of our service within the norms and standards regulating the delivery of developmental social welfare services.

PRIORITY 8: BUILDING CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

Honourable Speaker in building an ethical, capable and developmental state, the department is committed to prevent fraud, corruption and improve its capacity to deliver quality services that are customer centred.

Working with law enforcement agencies, the department is working hard to prevent incidences of fraud and misuse of public funds by employees and funded institutions.

We will focus on Capacity building and Empowerment of employees by providing skills, training and workshops to enhance productivity and performance. These will include Sign language interpretation for employees, as well as training on Reasonable Accommodation policy for persons with disabilities.

We are also committed to provide a conducive customer-centric office accommodation where our officials will deliver services in accessible and conducive environment. Our target is to complete by the end of the financial year two renovations in Mngoma and Emalahleni LSO's will be completed this financial year.

Wellness programmes remain a key priority in the department as most of our social service Practitioners deal with traumatic situations that may cause them to experience post-traumatic stress and burn -outs. **We have set aside 1,6 million** for Employee Health and Wellness programmes to support well - being and provision of psychosocial services.

As means of capacitating and developing our employees, and effectively equipping them to respond to the ever-changing social

ills, eleven million three hundred and eighty-one thousand **R11 381 000** has been committed.

Additionally, **R3 million** has been awarded as bursaries to employees to broaden their knowledge and skills for improved performance.

In our endeavour to promote Local Economic Development within the Eastern Cape, the department is committed to supporting and prioritizing the historically disadvantaged groups - Youth, Women, and persons with disabilities.

CONCLUSION

Honourable Members, this government owes its legitimacy from the popular mandate it received from many ordinary people since 1994. We have come so far, we have seen so much. But there is so much more to do in moving this province forward. Let us double our efforts in the quest to fulfil the commitment we have made to our people, that of improving their lives for the better. This is our moment to fulfil that commitment.

As we march to the seventh administration, the Department is determined to take forward the transformation process towards a developmental approach leaving no one behind.

Enkosi, ndiyabulela!!!

BUDGET VOTE 4: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programmes	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Administration	560,764	583,162	603,998
Social Welfare Services	918,078	961,942	992,493
Children and Families	686,196	717,454	743,281
Restorative Services	502,783	525,720	544,976
Development and Research	304,351	312,269	323,819
Sub-Total	2, 972,172	3,100,547	3, 208,567