

BUDGET VOTES **2024**



**THURSDAY,
15 AUGUST
2024**

Hon. N.S Leeto
Social Development
(Vote 7)



Fourth Raadsaal, Bloemfontein



social development

Department of
Social Development
FREE STATE PROVINCE



Hon. Speaker

Hon. Deputy Speaker;

Hon. Premier of the Free State Province;

Hon. Members of the Free State Provincial Legislature;

Hon. Members of the Executive Council;

Executive Mayors, Speakers, Councillors,

House of Traditional Leaders,

The Director-General and Heads of Departments and all Senior Managers from all spheres of Government;

Non-Profit Making Organisations and the broader civil society;

Leaders from the African National Congress and other Political parties

Leaders from the Labour Movements

Setjhaba Sa Freistata

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Speaker,

We humble ourselves as we present Budget Vote 7 Speech for 2024/25 financial year, six (6) days after the commemoration of the Women's Day. On the 9th of August 1956 more than 20 000 women of all races marched to Union Buildings to protest the introduction of apartheid pass laws for black women and the presentation to the then Prime minister J.G Strydom.

As the department of Social Development we dedicate our 2024/25 budget vote to the women who played an important role in the liberation of black people in general and Africans in particular, whilst their main focus were women who were confronted by triple oppression then. We salute and honour our stalwarts, Mama Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, Sophia William, Bertha Gxowa, Ivy Matsepe-Casaburi, Motlalepule Chabaku, Beatrice Marshoff, Ouma Tsopo, Jeanette Pereko, Elisa Lande, Kimi Losabe and many more other women not mentioned in my speech.

Honourable Speaker,

As we commemorate the role played by the heroines of our liberation struggle, and celebrate the 68th anniversary of the 1956 march, the 30 years progress made on the emancipation of women we are pained and our tears cannot dry because of the increasing numbers of GBV&FEMICIDE in our country and in our province in particular and in Lejweleputswa and Mangaung respectively. Women are brutally killed in their homes by individuals who are expected to protect them.

In the recent past we experienced the brutal killings of Mpho Moalosi, Thato Tumahole, Fikile Nyila, Disebo Mosupa and others who are victims of GBV&FEMICIDE. During the second quarter of the 2024/25 financial year we received reports that two women at women who were killed by their partners who drove their cars on top of their bodies, such incidents should be a lesson that there are men and boys who has anger issues because there is no normal person who drive a car on top of a human being more than once and we say the person is normal. We need to focus on men and boys without neglecting women and girls when we implement programs of GBV & FEMICIDE.

During the next quarter of the 2024/25 financial year the Department will introduce and implement a "MOLO MAKHELWANE CAMPAIGN" The campaign is aimed to unite communities and families, intensify moral regeneration programs and social cohesion.

We need to engage our communities to know their neighbours. In the morning when they wake up and they don't see their neighbours they must make efforts to know whether their neighbours are okay. Communities must be encouraged to know people who stay in their streets.

'MOLO MAKHELWANE' will be led by Masupatsela pioneers, whilst they do the house profiling work. We will work with ward councillors, ward committees, CDW, and CPF's in the 319 Wards of the Free State Province. This Molo Makhelwane Program will enable us to identify Elderly people who stays alone in their homes, identify families which are in distress, people who are troubled by substance abuse, child-headed households, people with disabilities who need the assistance of the department.

We have already engaged the Premier on our proposal for the establishment of a Premier's **GBV & FEMICIDE COORDINATING COMMITTEE** chaired by the Premier. The role of the Premier's Coordinating Committee on GBV & FEMICIDE will be to monitor the implementation of the 6 priorities of the National Strategic Plan of GBV& FEMICIDE and coordinate reporting on GBV & FEMICIDE by all departments and stakeholders. We will submit our proposals on the terms of reference of the Committee.

Honourable Speaker,

We present the 2025/25 Financial Year Budget Allocations VOTE 7 to the legislature.

For the 2024/25 financial year, the final allocation to the department amounts to **R1.305.194 billion**, an increase of 8% against the second adjusted allocation of R1.209.034 billion for the 2023/24 financial year. The Department managed to spend 99,9% of the budget of 2023/24 (R1.208 billion). As the department we distributed the 2024/25 budget as follows,

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

This Programme provide administrative support to core business Chief Directorates and institutionalise good governance through sound business process and practices in support of effective service delivery.

The Staff complement for the Department of Social Development is 1 968 employees. Compensation expenditure is **R862.013 million** and translate to 66% of equitable share. As we are a people-driven department, the percentage of compensation expenditure is consistent with other Provincial Departments of Social Development.

GOVERNANCE

We are pleased that through the dedicated and committed employees, the department has maintained an unqualified audit opinion for three consecutive years. For the past financial year, there were no material findings identified. The efforts of the department directed at improving the outcomes were noted by AGSA, however, more work needs to be done to ensure achievement of the desired outcomes. We need to ensure that we strengthen our good governance efforts and achieve a clean audit report.

The department is confronted by a high rate of vacancies, there are many employees on acting positions, we will advertise the funded posts so that we create stability in the department.

In her State of the Province Address, Honourable Premier committed to roll out a skills audit programme in the province. During 2024/25 financial year, the department will undertake the process of Skills Audit as part of the provincial initiative to implement the Public Service Skills Audit Methodology Framework and ensure right horses for right courses.

During the previous financial year, the department commenced internal consultations to develop a draft organizational structure.

In 2024/25 we will endeavour to finalize the Purpose-built organisational structure that will take into consideration our budget allocation throughout the MTEF.

DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Honourable Speaker,

The Department of Social Development remains a lead department in terms of diversity management and has the highest female SMS representation. Female representativity on senior management level comprise of 65% Women. Persons with disability representation is at 5.3% which is above national norm of 2%.

APPOINTMENT OF COVID-19 CONTRACT SOCIAL WORKERS.

Honourable Speaker,

We have previously committed to appoint Social Work Graduates who were beneficiaries of government's bursary programme. We are proud to report that the Department appointed eighty-three (83) Social Workers on a permanent capacity as from 1 June 2024. These appointments increased the number of Social Workers in the department to 495 Social Workers, excluding thirty-eight social work graduates who are serving graduate internship. With this number of social workers, the Province is well on track to comply with the norms and standards for Social Workers especially in rural areas. The department will continue in recruiting Social Service Professionals to strengthen its capacity.

Speaker,

The department will embark on a head count to ensure that all employees on the department's payroll are entitled to payment, this will eliminate ghost workers and ensure gainful employment of public servants because we cannot afford to pay salaries to people who are not reporting for work. The department will put systems in place to finalise labour disputes timeously. We will strengthen the performance management system of the department so as to reward good performance and apply consequence management for failure to meet targets set by the department.

The total budget allocated for Program 1 is **R329.435 million.**

PROGRAMME 2: SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

CARE SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS

Speaker,

The Older Persons Act 13 of 2006 is intended to protect, promote and maintain the status, rights, well-being and security of older persons. It is an Act that aims at combating the abuse of older persons, the amended Act gives us a responsibility to ensure that older persons are provided with quality services and are afforded the necessary protection by society, including community-based organisations.

An increase of elderly abuse has been observed in our communities and to mitigate this scourge, the department will undertake different preventative programmes while incorporating the “Molo Makhelwane” programme to strengthen the protection of vulnerable older persons, conflict management and family values.

Elderly people deserves to stay at their homes without being forced to stay at Old Age Homes. We call upon our communities to look after elderly people at their neighbourhood because if we create a culture of taking care of elderly people we will also be taken care of when we have aged.

The department partnered with 188 NPOs to provide Community Based Support Services, Social Services and Residential Care Services to older persons. A total amount of **R58.803 million** is allocated for this purpose in the current Financial Year.

The Free State province has government-owned Elderly People Homes in Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and in QwaQwa. We will maximise the government owned homes for the elderly people to ensure that elderly people who needs to be accommodate find space. We will have to upgrade these facilities to ensure compliance with the norms and standards because we cannot close NPO's which are not compliant when we are not compliant ourselves.

We will engage treasury to consider the increase of our infrastructure budget because most of the time non-compliance is as a result of infrastructure deficiencies. We will collaborate with Public Works for them to provide the technical skills they have.

The department continues to drive the Active Ageing and Golden Games for the elders with the estimated total budget allocation of **R3.4 million** for both Provincial and National Games. The success of these events strongly relies on the partnership with the Office of the Premier, Department of Health, and the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation.

SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Honourable Speaker,

On the 02 May 2023, the National Assembly approved that Section 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 be amended to include South African Sign Language (SASL) as an official language to promote the rights of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. It is for this reason that the department in partnership with its

stakeholders, will popularise sign language during the Disability Right Awareness Month (DRAM) in November 2024. The department will also appoint a Sign Language Interpreter on full time basis.

Speaker, The department will continue to fund 24 Protective Workshops with an allocated budget of **R3.470 million**. These Protective Workshops are meant to equip persons with disabilities with skills to become economically active and provide them with social support services. We will continue to protect the rights of persons with disabilities from any form of abuse because their rights are enshrined in the constitution. We will partner with the department of Sport Arts and Culture on programs meant to promote talent amongst people with disabilities.

The budget for Program 2 is **R263.920 million**.

PROGRAMME 3: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Speaker, The department remains the custodian of The Children's Act. We are mandated to provide prevention, early intervention and statutory services to vulnerable children in communities as well as in Child and Youth Care Centres.

Child abuse, neglect, and exploitation are deeply concerning problems that require collective action to protect our children. Ntate Mandela once said ***“Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people”***.

Remember, addressing child abuse requires a multifaceted approach involving education, awareness, and collaboration across sectors including funded NPOs.

A budget of **R150.958 million** is allocated for services to children which includes adoptions, services to children living and working on the streets, drop-in centres, child and youth care centres and overall integrated social work services that are legislated.

The Department spends a significant amount on statutory services, it is crucial that we strengthen prevention and early intervention services hence we partnered with Setshabelo Family Care Services to implement the RISIHA program which basically aims to build resilient communities especially children.

Speaker,

We took notice of the Parliamentary Question recently directed to the Minister of Social Development regarding placement of Social Workers in schools, we would like to reaffirm our support to the Department of Education in the provision of Psychosocial Support Services when children are referred to the department of Social Development by educators and by any community members because it is difficult to place social workers employed by our department in all the schools of the province due to financial constraints facing the department. However, the department of Education does employ social workers at schools but statutory responsibilities are different from the ones employed by Social Development due to their area of speciality.

The Department has two Child and Youth Care Centres for children in need of care and protection, namely: Leratong in Qwa-Qwa and Tshireletsong in Bloemfontein.

In this financial year, 44 Day Care Centres for children with Disabilities will be funded to the tune of **R10.8 million**, we will also increase the unit cost for children with disabilities in residential care facilities to **R5 400 per child and** for children in Child and Youth Care Centres to **R5 200 per child**.

The budget for Program 3 is **R333.808 million**.

PROGRAMME 4: RESTORATIVE SERVICES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE, PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION

Honourable Speaker,

Today, we are confronted with a crisis that threatens the social and moral fabric of our communities, families and thus causing a strain on our social services. Substance abuse is a scourge that knows no bounds, affecting individuals from all walks of life and perpetuating cycles of addiction, violence, poverty and despair.

To intensify the fight against Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the Province, **33** NPOs are funded to the value of **R8.445 million** to ensure that people receive information through awareness programmes and get access to treatment for substance use disorder (SUD) and aftercare services.

In addition, **R28.779 million** is availed for operations of Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre in Botshabelo to provide treatment to people who cannot afford private rehabilitation centres and **R10.092 million** for operations of Dr. Beyers Naude' Halfway House in Clarens.

CRIME PREVENTION

Honourable Speaker,

There is an urgent need to intensify interventions and innovative mechanisms to address the rising social ills. In this regard, for 2024/25, nine (9) Organisations are funded for the amount of **R 3.471 million**.

In strengthening the programme of crime prevention, we will implement awareness programmes at schools and in our secure care centres in partnership with Departments of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Health, Basic Education and Community Safety, Roads and Transport amongst others. The Department will also create a conducive work environment for professional nurses in our secure care centres by providing adequate and appropriate tools of trade. The Department will also undertake the integration of social crime awareness campaigns with Institutions of Higher Learning to enhance our reach to students.

The department will collaborate with stakeholders such as SAPS, Department of Basic Education and Local Municipality in implementation of an Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy in Xhariep District. We will strengthen security and skills development at our secure care centres.

VICTIM EMPOWERMENT

The department continues to support NPO's which provides shelter to victims of GBV & FEMICIDE. The Department amongst other strategies, will continue to strengthen and improve the capacity of all gender-based violence shelters. In 2023/24, the department established a shelter in Xhariep and Safe House in Botshabelo. **R1.681 million** has been allocated under equitable share for 6 GBV shelters and 1 Safe House. In order to avoid second victimisation by perpetrators, the security systems at the shelter in Bethlehem (Tshepo Ya Rona) will be upgraded and **R702 569** has been budgeted for this purpose. An amount of **R7.895 million** has been allocated for 35 Community Based Victim Support organisations.

Restorative Services Programme dealing with victim empowerment has been allocated an amount of **R3.286 million** for 7 organisations dealing with Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC).

Our commitment is clear: we will not rest until every woman and girl can live free from fear, free from violence and free to reach their full potential.

HIV AND AIDS INTERVENTIONS

Honourable Speaker,

In 2024/25 financial year the Department plans to commemorate the International Men's Day through the Men Championing Change Programme in November 2024, as way of sensitizing men to the fact that their input for the prevention of HIV and GBV is needed.

The Department will continue to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS in the communities by rendering Prevention as well as Care and Support Programmes. An amount of **R15.472 million** will be allocated to 29 NPOs during this financial year.

The Department will strengthen and intensify partnerships with stakeholders such as the USAID through the Government to Government (G2G) Programme in Lejweleputswa and Thabo Mofutsanyana Districts. This project aims to ensure heightened implementation of the Social and Behaviour Change Programmes.

The budget for Program 4 is **R225.066 million**.

PROGRAMME 5: DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Speaker,

In order to break the cycle of poverty and build sustainable livelihoods, **R21.521 million** budget will be spent on enhancing support and directing more resources towards developmental services. We will reprioritise an amount of **R10 million** to Community Nutrition Development Centres, so that we capacitate the beneficiaries to have necessary skills for them not to remain as beneficiaries of CNSC's. We will employ the services of professional service provider to provide gateway skills to CNDC's and their

beneficiaries. A clear exit strategy will be developed. We will partner with our stakeholder to realise the developmental goal at CNDC's.

The goal is to empower communities by supporting Women and Youth Development initiatives, through the sustenance and establishment of partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) and Cooperatives.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD AND CLOTHING BANKS

Honourable Speaker,

To further enhance our efforts following the launch of the Provincial Food and Clothing Bank (PFCB) in Hamilton in Bloemfontein in partnership with Red Cross, the department will focus on the establishment of District Food and Clothing Banks (DFCB) in partnership with relevant Provincial departments and NPOs. This strategic approach aims to enhance our ability to address emerging challenges and ensure that effective, real-time support reaches those in need and distress.

We will incorporate non-perishable food and clothing donations in our Molo Makhelwane door to door campaign to request our communities to donate to our food and clothing banks because there is a lot of communities who have excess clothes and who can donate to food and clothing banks. We will also request public servants and members of the legislature to voluntarily donate. We will popularise our food and clothing banks so that communities knows where to donate.

REDUCTION OF MALNUTRITION

Speaker, hunger and malnutrition among children and women in the country in general, and in the Free State in particular, remains a significant public social issue, influenced by factors such as poverty, inadequate food security, and high rates of infectious diseases. Despite economic progress, disparities in wealth and access to resources persist, contributing to high levels of malnutrition.

In addressing malnutrition, the Department will closely collaborate with the Departments of Health, Education as well as Agriculture and Rural Development to align our processes and coordinate the implementation of programmes and services aimed at improving Food

and Nutrition Security in households and communities experiencing severe hardships, focusing on Children, elderly citizens, Pregnant Mothers, people living with HIV/AIDS and TB, as well as Families severely affected by Food Insecurity. The department of Social Development has a role to play when patients are released from hospital to home. We will intervene through the provision of healthy supplements and nutrition to households working together with our partners. We will reprioritise our budget to reduce malnutrition.

GENERATING BETTER LIVELIHOODS: A PILOT PROJECT

Speaker,

We are proud to announce our partnership with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the National Development Agency (NDA) on a Generating Better Livelihood (GBL) pilot project in Lejweleputswa (Saaiplaas) and Xhariep (Oppermansgronde). The initiative is currently focusing on Child Support Grant (CSG) beneficiaries, aiming to link them with relevant stakeholders for additional economic opportunities, subsequently enhancing their social protection and livelihoods.

It is our intention as the department to roll-out the programme to other districts in the next financial year.

POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Honourable Speaker,

Addressing the persistent challenges of poverty, especially with high unemployment rates, remains a significant focus for our department. We are committed to supporting the 51, currently funded Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) to provide nutritious food and developmental programmes, acknowledging the reality that too many households live below the poverty line.

The conditions of some of the CNDCs in the province leaves much to be desired in terms of structures, management and quality of services. We will continue with our efforts to address these challenges, with a special focus on developmental aspects that are meant to serve as exit strategies from these centres, in partnership with our sister agencies- NDA & SASSA, provincial departments such Agriculture, DESTEA, NPOs, Cooperatives and the Private Sector.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Speaker,

The Department, in collaboration with the National Department of Social Department and partners such as the NDA, will continue support the NPO's funded by the department. The department currently fund **487 NPO's** at **R305 152 million**, these are the NPO's which has signed the MOU with the department.

During the current financial year, we will advertise to call for proposals for funding to NPO's which are at areas were social ills which are not sufficiently covered by the currently funded NPO's, the call for proposals will also consider the transformation of the funded NPO's landscape.

The department will strengthen our NPO monitoring to ensure support and compliance of the NPOs, as it remains our responsibility to ensure that they get the necessary support to ensure that they continue providing the much-needed services to our Free State communities. Because NPO's are a strategic partner of the department.

We will continue to facilitate the registration of provincial NPOs and provide the necessary support to ensure that they retain their registration status where possible. Through a partnership with a transformed, improved Social Sector, we can target and address the social ills that are crippling the province, paying particular attention to areas

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP)

Speaker,

As a Department, we had to deal with a drastic reduction of the EPWP Incentive Grant allocation, as undesirable as this is, it was to be expected following the migration of the ECD programme and the associated work opportunities to the Department of Basic Education. In this financial year, we will use the Incentive Grant allocation of **R3.116 million** to create 1 000 work opportunities, supplementing it with Equitable Share.

The budget for Program 5 is **R152 965 million**.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH SOCIAL GRANTS (SASSA)

SASSA plays a critical role in providing safety net for people who live below breadline. In the Free State 53% of the population which is 1.584 million people are dependent on grants. The total amount of social grants paid in the Free State amounts to **R1,23 billion per month** inclusive of Social Relief of Distress (SRD). This totals **R14,7 billion per annum**.

Speaker, it has come to our attention that among different grants, many beneficiaries were not adequately informed about the Grant-In-Aid, during the first quarter of 2024/25 financial year, SASSA Free State issued only 1% of grant in aid. Honourable Premier and myself working with SASSA and all other stakeholders undertook an outreach program to Thabong in Welkom to raise awareness to eligible beneficiaries on this important intervention. Communities were given an opportunity to make applications for Grant In AID. We will roll out the program to all the towns of the Free State. We will ensure that every stakeholder relevant to the grant application is present including doctors which are supposed to examine applicants so that our people are not taken back and for in order for them to access grants and pensions provided by government.

BUDGET SPENT BY SASSA IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE

PER District	Nr Beneficiaries	per month	%
Xhariep	42 396	R43 741 307	4%
Mangaung	296 769	R306 189 153	28%
Lejweleputswa	243 774	R251 512 518	23%
Thabo Mofutsanyane	286 170	R295 253 826	27%
Fezile Dabi	190 780	R196 835 884	18%
FS Total	1 059 889	R1 093 532 690	100%

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

Our role is to serve our people, we must always be available to serve. The department serves the most vulnerable communities who need our services for 24 hrs. The department will strengthen its communication and accessibility to establish a Call Centre which will be available to communities who needs help from the department for 24 hours. The modalities of the Call Centre will be announced in due course.

As I conclude Hon. Speaker

Allow me to thank and appreciate the support of our Hon. Premier and wish her well in her tenure as the Premier of the Province and the leader of the Executive Council. Mosadi o tshwara thipa ka bohaleng.

I want to heartily thank my colleagues in the Executive

Members of the Legislature led by Honourable Premier Mxolisi Dukwana

Let us appreciate with gratitude the work and support of the Portfolio Committee on Education, Health and Social Services and the Provincial Public Accounts Committee **(PROPAC) for keeping us on our toes to serve our people**

I wish to thank the Acting HOD Madam Nelisiwe Ntombela and the former Head of Department Adv Phahlo and the entire Senior Management Team of the Department, all the employees of the department and labour unions.

Most importantly, special thanks to my family and friends for their continued support at all times. **Thanks very much to my boys, Siphon, Thabo, Papa and Junior. Thanks very much to my daughter Zanele who always conduct a bible study for us at home, you are such an inspiration to our souls**

A ya bulela A Madlomo

Athi Ma kube Cosi kube Hele

Camagu, Makudede Ubumnyama Ku velu khanyo

Ke ne ke sena ho hana le ha di mpolaya!

SPEAKER, WE HEREBY TABLE THE BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR.

ENKOSI!