



Organisations & Communities

BUDGET SPEECH VOTE 11 2024/25

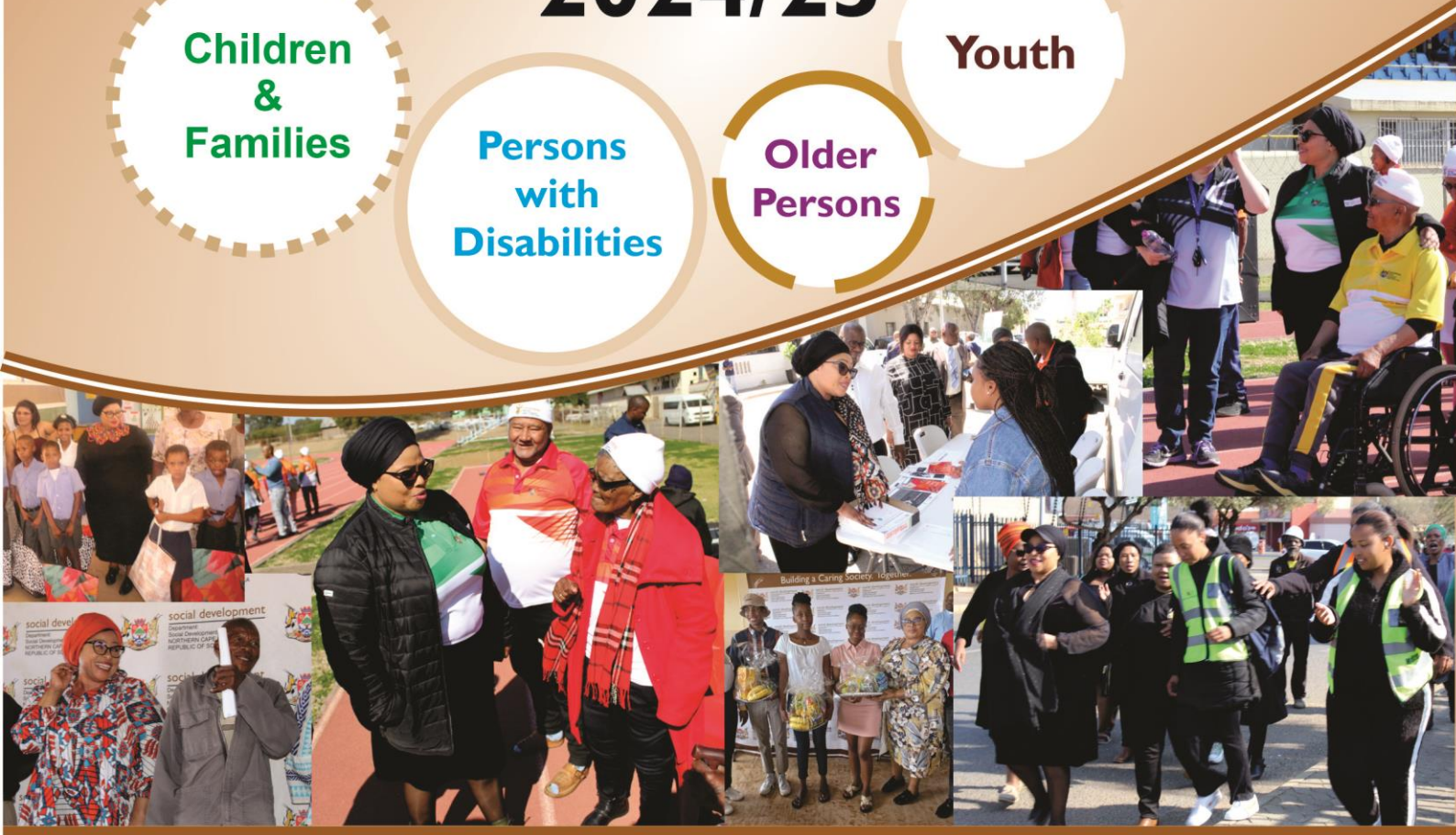
Women

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Youth

Persons with Disabilities

Older Persons



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social development

Department: Social Development NORTHERN CAPE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





**2024
BUDGET SPEECH**

**Ms. Nontobeko Vilakazi, MPL
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

**THEME: “INCLUSIVE AND *COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL
PROTECTION*”**

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social development
Department:
Social Development
NORTHERN CAPE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Speech by Ms. Nontobeko Vilakazi, Member of the Executive Council responsible
for Social Development on the occasion of the tabling of the Social Development
Budget Vote 11 to the Provincial Legislature**

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Kimberley

- Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislature
- Honourable Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul
- Members of the Executive Council and Members of the Provincial Legislature
- Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development,
Ms. Limakatso Koloji
- Mayors, Speakers and Councillors
- Head of Department of Social Development, Ms. Shouneez Wookey (in
absentia)
- Provincial Manager of the National Development Agency, Mr. Itumeleng
Kwenane
- Acting Regional Executive Manager of the South African Social Security
Agency, Mr Mohodi Tsosane
- Community-Based Organisations and Non-Profit Organisations
- Members of the Media
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentleman

Honourable Speaker, the United Nations Development Programme's, South Africa National Human Development Report (2022) asserts, **“youth employment is a key accelerator of economic growth and essential for fostering human development, therefore making it the cornerstone for achieving South Africa's development”**. The National Development Plan notes that **“employment is the best form of social protection”**. However, unfortunately too few people in South Africa have work, and the levels of poverty and inequality are very high. The high levels of unemployment is exacerbated by the lack of opportunities for skills enhancement tailored to the demands of the 21st century and the future. Consequently, young people suffer economic losses, which in turn deprive South Africa of their creativity and innovative capabilities.

Honourable Speaker, we are aware that for the Northern Cape to be a truly modern, growing, and successful province, we cannot simply tinker at the frills; we must address structural constraints in the labor market that led to widespread income disparities, economic marginalisation, and deep social cleavages. We must establish economic opportunities for all residents of the province and guarantee that the benefits derived from our province's endowment in terms of mineral resources, renewable energy, and the ocean economy are distributed more evenly across the populace of the province. We require accelerated action to restore economic growth, increase employment and address a range of socioeconomic challenges faced by citizens.

Honourable Speaker, hence at the start of the term of Office of the 6th Administration, Premier Saul enjoined all of us to focus all our energy to build a modern, growing, and successful province. **“A province impatient with the high levels of poverty and unemployment”** in which so many of the people of our province find themselves trapped.

In response to that clarion call, we have embarked on a number of interventions to not only ensure comprehensive access to social protection but to ensure that we address the skills challenges faced by our young people because we understand that only a skills revolution will lift our people out of the clutches of poverty.

The Department is currently providing workplace exposure to 110 interns, ranging from Social Workers to Child and Youth Care Workers, and TVET learners at a cost of **nine point two million rand**, therefore providing these young people with not only much-needed experience but an income ranging from **five thousand three hundred and forty five rand** to **seven thousand four hundred and fifty rand**.

Furthermore, working with the Northern Cape Rural TVET College, 152 young people across the province (except Frances Baard District) were trained in a range of technical accredited programmes ranging from light motor mechanics, tiling, carpentry, plumbing, and bricklaying at a cost of **two point five million rand**. An additional 120 students were enrolled in the Northern Cape Urban TVET College (Frances Baard District) in motor mechanics, tiling, carpentry,

plumbing and bricklaying at a cost of **one point seven million rand**. Furthermore, the trainees received a stipend of **one thousand and eight hundred rand**, amounting to **one point six million rand** and those who stayed far from the training venue were either accommodated or transported at an additional cost of **two hundred and seventy four thousand rand**. Honourable Speaker, the total cost of the training programme amounted to **six point one million rand**.

Honourable Speaker, as part of the exit opportunities, in partnership with Moremogolo TVET College, ten of the participants in the abovementioned training programme have already been taken up in other developmental opportunities. Three trainees (Ms. Elmarie Oliphant, Mr. Wilken Boland and Mr. Thoto Selepe) from the plumbing class were taken up in a three year apprenticeship programme and will be receiving a stipend of R 3 000 per month for the duration of the apprenticeship. This will enable the three trainees to be fully certified upon the completion of their apprenticeship in Building and Civil Construction.

Furthermore, from the motor mechanic programme, two trainees (Mr. Shannon Nero and Mr. Jayvan Bostander), and one trainee (Mr. Boichoko Soul) from the plastering class are now enrolled in a four months gas welding programme. Three trainees (Ms. Relebogile Maope, Ms. Boipelo Marumo and Mr. Lebopo Molefe) from the plastering class and Ms. Kelebogile Tshaibile from the tiling class are now enrolled for a four months programme in motor mechanic. These trainees were identified based on the outstanding performance in the

initial training programme and therefore enrolled in these skills programmes as part of a plan to ensure that they are able to further their studies beyond the four months to a full qualification. All these trainees will be receiving a stipend of R 2 500 per month for the duration of the training. The total cost of the stipends will amount to **three hundred and ninety four thousand rand** at no cost to the Department. To this end, I'd like to thank Mr. Tabatso Maapola, Assistant Director: Partnerships and Linkage at Northern Cape Urban TVET College, and Mr. Dunston Lecholo, Campus Manager at Moremogolo College, for their collaboration, which we hope to expand to benefit even more young people.

Mr. Randal Waterboer who formed part of the welding programme has now secured a permanent job at Copper 360 mine (in Nababeep). In addition, Honourable Speaker, in partnership with Kimberley Toyota, we are in the process to enrol 5 young people in a 12 month programme as part of the youth employment programme to ensure practical exposure in terms of workplace experience. These 5 young people will be receiving a stipend of R 5000 per month for the duration of the programme. I also wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Jaco van Wyk, Service Manager from Toyota Kimberley who is also joining us here today in the gallery. Honourable Speaker, during our outreach programmes and household profiling, we discovered a young man named Jaimee Walters from Mier who passed his matric with distinctions, however had no prospects for the future. I am happy to announce that we were able to link Mr. Walters to the South African / Cuba Medical Scholarship

Programme and he is now in Cuba as we speak trying to become a doctor. Mr. Walters will be the very first doctor emerging from Mier.

Honourable Speaker, this goes to show that education and skills development are key to youth employment and an accelerator of economic growth, and essential for fostering human development, therefore making it the cornerstone for achieving South Africa's development.

Honourable Speaker, at a cost of **one point eight million rand**, we trained 218 women in a variety of skill programmes, including but not limited to records and bookkeeping, tiling and plumbing, and security training, in collaboration with the Departments of Sport, Arts, and Culture, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the Small Enterprise Development Agency. We will be training an additional 150 women in occupational health and safety, and as BobCat Operators, Tour Guides, Fork Lifters and a range of other skills to improve their employability and livelihoods.

For this purpose, we have set aside one point five million rand for the said training. Honourable Speaker, to this end, 370 young people are already benefitting from our accredited training and skills programmes and an additional 150 will be enrolled in the next month or two at a total cost of **five point eight million rand**. Honourable Speaker, these are the quantifiable interventions we are implementing to extricate our people out of the clutches of poverty and deprivation through the provision of skills and workplace exposure. We are

currently exploring possible partnerships in trying to link the young people who participated in these skills programmes to exit opportunities.

Honourable Speaker, we are joined today by some of the participants in the gallery who have benefited from the many skill development courses I mentioned. These young people not only got technical training, but we also paid them a stipend of two thousand five hundred rands for the duration of the programme because we are mindful of the difficulties our people experience as a result of poverty and underdevelopment.

Honourable Speaker, though youth employment is a key accelerator of economic growth and essential for fostering human development, we have an obligation to provide social protection to the entirety of the populace, especially those unable to provide for themselves. To this end, the Expanded Public Works Programme remains a key catalyst intervention as it provides work opportunities and income support to poor and unemployed people through the labour-intensive delivery of public and community assets and services, thereby contributing to development.

Therefore for this financial year, we have set aside **twenty million rand** from the departmental equitable share allocation to augment the **three point four million rand** we qualified for through the EPWP Social Sector Incentive Conditional Grant for the creation of 1 082 work opportunities for our unemployed and vulnerable people. We will therefore be spending **twenty three point four million**

rand to create much needed employment opportunities in an effort to contribute in the lowering of our unemployment rate in the province.

Honourable Speaker, unfortunately, despite these efforts, there are children whose parents are unable to cater for their basic needs, there are elderly people who are unable to work due to age and health status, there are people with disabilities who are unfit to work. For these people, social grants are the only form of intervention to ensure that they sustain their livelihoods. There is general consensus that social grants reduce inequality and decrease the prevalence, depth and severity of poverty in affected households. Social grants have a considerable impact on poverty, and this impact increases as the poverty measure being used becomes more sensitive to the severity of poverty.

To this end, Honourable Speaker, we are spending **five hundred and fifty nine million rand** in cash transfers in the form of social grants to **five hundred, forty-six thousand, two hundred and forty eight** people across the province. Furthermore, the high level of unemployment has, as a consequence, resulted in the need for income support for the poor and vulnerable, unable to find employment due to the structural challenges in the labour market. To this end, we continue to provide income support (Covid-19 grant) to **three hundred forty four thousand one hundred and fifty five** people across the province at a cost of **hundred and twenty seven million rand** per month. Honourable Speaker, Section 27 of the Constitution is clear in its assertion that “everyone has the right to have access to social protection, including appropriate social assistance for those unable to support themselves and their dependents.” And in its

dictates that “the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of these rights.”

Since children continue to be the most vulnerable, honourable Speaker, we have made the deliberate choice to focus all of our interventions on them, making them the focal point of our efforts. This is because children are dependent on others – their parents and families, or the state when these fail – for care and protection. As a result, the drafters of our Constitution have made children's rights a priority – and have stated that the best interests of a child are the overriding concern when it comes to any matter affecting children.

Honourable Speaker, during last year's Budget Speech, we committed to improve our coordination efforts, especially focusing on the plight of the child with a renewed focus on child care and protection. We adopted a three-pronged approach focussing on:

1. Commissioning research on the status of vulnerable children in the Province;
2. The establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of all Departments to strengthen interdepartmental collaboration focusing on children; and
3. The establishment of Children's Drop-in Centres across the province.

We are pleased to announce that that work has started in earnest. We have chosen locations for the drop-in centre pilot programme and initiated the assessment process to make sure the Children's Act is being followed. Ten 23 seater panel vans have been procured at a cost of **eight million rand**, and the conversion process of these vans has begun at a cost of **two million rand**. These vans will be donated to the drop-in centres. These drop-in centres will guarantee the protection of vulnerable children in addition to offering basic services targeted at addressing their emotional, physical, and social development requirements.

Working with the Department of Education, we have identified 63 problematic schools in terms of schools plagued with social ills and behavioural challenges, and we are in the process of assigning social workers and auxiliary social workers to work with those schools to address the challenges in a comprehensive and targeted manner. We also intend to work with the Department of Education together with the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture to ensure the continuation of the school feeding programme during school holidays by ensuring that we engage children in sports, arts, and cultural activities during school holidays so as to ensure they continue to benefit from the school nutrition programme and are at the same time kept safe and active, therefore promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Somlomo oBekekileyo, ukukhulelwa kolutsha ngumba obalulekileyo eMzantsi Afrika, amazinga okukhulelwa kolutsha asahleli ephezulu. Ngokweenkcukacha zeWorld Health Organisation (WHO), uMzantsi Afrika ukwelona zinga liphezulu lokukhulelwa kwabafikisayo kwihlabathi jikelele, phantse intombazana enye kwamane ikhulelwa phambi kweminyaka engama-shumi amabini (20).

Imiba eyahlukeneyo efana nokungafikeleli kwimfundo yezesondo kunye noqingqo-nzala, isimo sengqondo senkcubeko kunye nentlalo malunga nesondo, intlupheko, kunye nokungabikho kokufikelela kukhathalelo lwezempilo kwandisa izinga lokukhulelwa kolutsha. Iinkcukacha zamva nje zokukhulelwa kolutsha oluphuma kwiStatistics South Africa zibonisa ukuba amantombazana alishumi elinesthoba lamawaka, namashumi amathathu anesixhenxe (19 037) aneminyaka elishumi (10) ukuya kwishumi elinesithoba (19) leminyaka) abeleke ukusuka kweYoKwindla ka-2021 ukuya kuTshazimpunzi ka-2022 kuwo onke amaphondo. Ngoko ke, ukujongana nokukhulelwa kolutsha eMzantsi Afrika nakwiphondo laseMntla Koloni kufuna indlela eneenkalo ezininzi elungisa le miba, isisiseko nokuxhasa ulutsha olukhulelweyo nolukhulisa abantwana.

Honourable Speaker, in order to address issues with child care and safety, we have put aside **one hundred thirty million seven hundred and forty-one thousand rand**. But this is insufficient for the scale and scope of the challenge we are faced with; therefore, we urge the business community and civil society to step up as well, since it is not just the government but society as a whole that must take responsibility for our children's care and protection.

Honourable Speaker, during last year's Budget Speech, I reported that the Department was in the process of establishing three additional Victim Support Shelters for the 2023/24 financial year. I am therefore pleased to announce that we have successfully established three facilities:

1. One Shelter in Nababeep, Namakwa District in partnership with the Namakwa District Municipality;
2. One Shelter in Ritchie, Frances Baard District, in partnership with the Department of Public Works; and
3. One in Postmasburg, Zwelintlanga Fatman Mgcawu District in partnership with Kolomela Mine.

This brings the total number of shelters in the province to nine. Furthermore, we have improved and upgraded the security features at all shelters to ensure the safety and protection of women and children. We now have a footprint in all five districts in terms of the provision of sheltering services for women and children in need of such a service. We have also improved our services to ensure that our shelters are more child-friendly. Honourable Speaker, we will pilot a skills centre in Namakwa that is linked to the shelter, ensuring that our survivors have access to skills. Economic dependency remains a major challenge for victims of GBV, and unless we provide them with training that will improve their employability, they will remain trapped in abusive relationships because they rely on their abusers for a living.

Somlomo oHloniphekileyo, esi ayisosixa sisonke samangenelelo ethu, kodwa ngamagqabantshintshi ambalwa esinawo nesisaqhubeka sikwenza ukulungisa ingxaki yabantu bethu, siqinisekisa ukuba asishiyi mntu ngasemva.

Honourable Speaker, The budget for the Department for the 2024/25 financial year is **nine hundred, seventy seven million rand**, inclusive in this allocation is a **three-point four million rand** EPWP Conditional Grant. The allocation is as follows, Social Welfare Services **one hundred and sixty-seven million rand**; Children and families **two hundred and thirty four million rand**; Restorative Services **two hundred and twenty seven million rand**; Research and Development **one hundred and fifty two million rand**; and lastly, Administration one **hundred and eighty five million rand**.

Honourable Speaker, we must understand the complexity of the challenges we face and the country we live in. And let's work together as government, business, and civil society to meet our challenges, because only through joint action and strategic collaboration can we eradicate poverty and create a better life for all.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to express my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to the officials of the Department of Social Development under the capable leadership of the Head of Department, Ms. Shouneez Wookey. I also wish to express my gratitude to our Agencies and social partners for their

support. To the officials in my office, under the stewardship of Mr. Mbuyiselo Madyo, it is through your support and commitment that I am propelled forward.

Honourable Speaker, I am grateful to my spouse and kids for their love, support, and tolerance. Thank you to the Honourable Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul, and my colleagues in the Executive and the Legislature for your vision and guidance in overseeing the process of the development of our province, which can only be accomplished through teamwork, dedication and a clear and coherent vision.

Honourable Speaker, to paraphrase the quote from former President Mandela when he said "We have walked the long walk to freedom. We have tried not to falter, but we have made mistakes along the road. But we have learned a secret: after ascending a tremendous hill, you realise there are many more hills to climb. Therefore, I have stopped here to relax, to soak in the breathtaking scenery around me, and to reflect on how far we have come. But we can only relax for a while since with freedom comes responsibility, and we dare not linger because our journey to realise a better life for all is far from over."

I thank you, Camagu!