

# POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2022/23

## MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Tfufuka Uvikeleke



### SERVICES RENDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

Care and Services to Older Persons  
 Services to Persons with Disabilities  
 Special Needs, HIV and AIDS  
 Support

#### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Care and Services to Families  
 Child Care and Protection  
 Services  
 Child Youth Care Centres

#### RESTORATIVE SERVICES

Social Crime Prevention and  
 Support  
 Victim Empowerment  
 Programme  
 Substance Abuse, Prevention  
 and Rehabilitation

#### DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

Sustainable Livelihood  
 Youth and Women Development  
 Institutional Capacity Building  
 and Support  
 Population Policy Development  
 and Research



social development  
 MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# **2022/23 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TABLED AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON 10TH.JUNE 2022 BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MS L.L NTSHALINTSHALI**

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Honourable Speaker Ms M.C Masilela

Honourable Premier Ms R.M Mtshweni-Tsipane

Honourable Deputy Speaker Ms J.L Thabethe

Honourable Chair of Chairs

Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Members of the Mayoral Committees for Social Services

Leader of the Official Opposition and all political parties represented

House of Traditional Leaders

Provincial Director General: Mr M.N Mampuru

Head of Department Mr S.M Mtsweni, Management of the Department of Social Development and its employees

All Heads of Department

All Mpumalanga Communities

Members of the Media

**Ladies and gentlemen**

***Madam Speaker, I am greatly honored and privileged to address this august house and the people of Mpumalanga on the performance of the Department of Social Development***

*1. This sitting takes place in the month of the Youth, a sector that has been hard hit by the triple challenges which are poverty, unemployment and inequality. This sector really needs special focus particularly in view of the issues of substance abuse, violence and other social crimes in our communities. According to the latest report the unemployment rate stands at 34,5% (Thirty-Four Percent) in the first quarter of 2022 and the majority of which is the Youth.*

*2. The levels of unemployment have since increased over the years and thus has further deepened and compounded one of the greatest threats to the development of communities, which is poverty. This continues to call on all of us both in public and private sector to hold hands in the effort to help our communities out of this situation.*

*3. Madam Speaker, we are witnessing an increase in the number of violent crimes such as the murdering, maiming and killing of women and children in the province. These cruel acts are taking place in communities that have been at peace for quite some time which is an indication of serious demon that seem to be engulfing communities. The crimes statistics as they were presented by Minister Bheki Cele states that there is a 13.7% increase on Sexual Offences and 18.1% on assaults to cause grievous bodily harm. To quote just a few cases:*

- 20 year Nompilo Magagula was gang-raped in December 2021 in Ermelo (Gert Sibande District) by a group of (4) four boys. She was stabbed and left for dead until she managed to crawl to the nearest house where she was helped and taken to hospital. She is reported to have died later.*
- Policeman Mr Mabena, from Phola near Tweefontien, a member of the Police shot and killed his wife and himself on 27th December 2021 and the department is providing psycho-social services to the children.*
- Around June 2021, two Maletsweni siblings were found dead and their bodies mutilated in eMpumalanga village in Kwamhlanga.*
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2022, six-year old Bontle Mashiyane (from Mganduzweni-Ehlanzeni) was reported missing until her body was discovered on 21st May 2022 at Mganduzweni, just outside White River, and reports are that the body was mutilated. There is wide speculation that the killing of this child could be linked to muti-killings.*
- On the 29 April 2022, a 28 year old Hillary Gardee was reportedly missing and was subsequently found to have been raped, murdered and dumped in the bushes.*
- It is also reported that on the 23 May 2022 a woman was allegedly forced into a vehicle at gunpoint in Schoemansdal (Nkomazi). This woman was later freed by her abductors.*

- *87-year-old world known Mam Esther Mahlangu was punched in the face before she was tied with a cable and strangled until she was unconscious during a house robbery on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.*
- *Sergeant Joseph Christopher Kutu who was a member of the tactical Response Team was fatally shot in his house in July 2021, allegedly by his 28 year old wife who worked as an Magistrate Court Interpreter and her 39 year old accomplice.*
- *46 year old Pastor Derrick Xaba brutally raped and robbed a 39 year old woman after giving her a left.*
- *On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, a gruesome act of no mercy befell a Mazibuko Family after the two sisters from the same family were shot dead.*
- *A 16 year old from Bushbuckridge killed and stuffed her 2 Month Old baby, then placed her in her school bag.*

*These are few of the incidences that are a sign that something has seriously gone morally wrong amongst our communities. It seriously smells like there is some demon that is continuously baying and yelping for the blood of our people out there.*

**Let me take this time and ask the house to observe a Moment of Silence in memory to all those who are victims of crime and violence in our Province.**

**(MOMENT OF SILENCE!!!)**

*4. Madam Speaker, the 6th Administration of the current government adopted 7 key national priorities. The Department of Social Development was then tasked with the responsibility to lead and coordinate Priority 4 which is **“Consolidating the Social Wage through Reliable and Quality Basic Services”** for the new MTSF 2019-2024 whilst at the same time still contributing to most of the other priorities.*

*5. Madam Speaker, we have been entrusted with the responsibility to champion **“An Inclusive and Responsive Social Protection System”**, designed to give effect to Chapter 11 of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.*

*6. This is an unequivocal directive to commit ourselves to the eradication of poverty, reducing inequality and improve collaboration with civil organizations. Undoubtedly this we continue to do despite the limitations often imposed on us by realities on the ground.*

*7. The Department has developed a Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the Annual Performance Plan 2022/23 that reflects the important interventions in providing integrated social development services and programs.*

*These documents seek to realize the department's **VISION** which is:*

- ***A caring and self-reliant society*** through the promotion and protection of quality and sustainable livelihoods of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups in order to deal with social ills such as Gender-Based Violence, poverty, child abuse, substance abuse, food insecurity, crime, HIV/AIDS and other hostile social disorders.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

8. Honourable Members, I wish to announce to this august house that the Department has successfully handed over Early Childhood Development Services to the Department of Basic Education in line with the Pronouncement by the President of the Republic of South Africa in February 2019. The Department's official handover was done on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 where a total of **50 (Fifty)** officials were transferred to the Department of Basic Education with the function. We are pleased to report that the migration has been seamless.

## **POVERTY AND SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS**

9. Honourable Members, Social Relief of Distress (SRD) is the temporary provision of assistance by government, to such individuals and their families. The Social Assistance Act, (Act No 13 of 2004) contains the criteria with which these individuals must comply in order to be considered for the grant.

10. Madam Speaker, the impact of COVID 19 and its implications will still remain with us for some time. We therefore cannot afford to drop the ball at this stage. The reality is that more and more people still continue to be confronted by the aftermath of this pandemic. As more individuals and families go through this situation, more children in particular are getting exposed and suffer more and more. It is an undisputed fact that the Pandemic has shaken society and threatened the very fabric of Society.

11. In the last financial year, a total of **25 505 (Twenty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Five)** individuals have benefitted from the Social Relief of Distress Program.

These interventions have gone a long way in supporting individuals and households who situation would have been worse with the. We acknowledge, however that this may not be enough given the impact of COVID 19 other societal challenges.

We shall continue with these interventions in order to make better the lives of our people.

## **DIGNITY SANITARY TOWELS PROGRAMME**

**12.** Madam Speaker, the Department of Social Development continues and shall continue in the future to ensure that our girl children remain in school, that their dignity is protected and their rights to education is realized. We must indicate though that the supply of Dignity Sanitary Towels to school has not been without hurdles. We are working on these challenges.

**13.** In the last financial year, a total of **57 946** (*Fifty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-Six*) beneficiaries were supported with Sanitary Dignity Packs and we want to be upfront here and indicate that we have had a situation where some service providers had supplied schools with dignity packs that are allegedly not SABS approved which has seriously hampered the provision of this important service.

**14.** Fortunately, our monitoring mechanism was able to pick this up and we are working on improving this situation. We want to make this call to our people out there that this department shall not compromise on the quality of services that we are providing to our communities.

**15.** This financial year department is planning to provide dignity sanitary towels to a total of **95 522** (*Ninety-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-Two*) beneficiaries. We shall leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the dignity of our girl children is restored and that those service providers who happened to compromise the quality are blacklisted and cannot do business with government again.

## **SASSA SOCIAL GRANTS**

**16.** Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to announce that a total of **1 567 122** persons have received various grants through the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), which includes **23 207** (*Twenty Three Thousand, Two Hundred and Seven*) Grant-in Aid, **1 166 210** (*Over One Point One Million*) Child Support Grant, **23 013** (*Twenty Three Thousand and Thirteen*) Foster Care Grant, **772 540** (*Seven Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty*) Disability Grant and **266 090** (*Two Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand and Ninety*) for Old Age Grant

**17.** A total of **1 187 814** (*Over a Million*) applications were received for the payment of the Special SRD Grant to which a total **766 414** (*Seven Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Fourteen*) were approved and a total of **331 155** (*Three Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-Five*) were declined for various reasons.

**18.** These figures Madam Speaker can only tell us of the challenges facing our people out there. It should instruct the whole of government of the situation out there, the degree of poverty and amount of intervention that is still required.

*We are of course mindful of the fact that as Social Development and indeed as government we are operating on shoe-string budget but has to ensure that we do as much with each rand we have.*

*19. May I take this opportunity to thank all the SASSA employees and their management for the work they are doing and urge them to continue working hard as they do to provide the services they are mandated for.*

## **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NDA)**

**20.** The National Development Agency has recorded the following success stories in the past Financial Year and these are indeed worth celebrating:

- The completion of the construction of three ECD centers in Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi that are compliant to educational needs. These are in Metz, Mkhuhlu (in Bushbuckridge) and the other one is in Mawewe Nkomazi. The cost of the construction is to the tune of **R700 000** (*Seven Hundred Thousand Rands*).
- Grant funding of projects majority of which are located in the Ehlanzeni district to the tune of **R1,1 million** (One Point One Million) in the following areas:
  - Sukumani Sente in the game area for just over **R300 0000** (*Three Hundred Thousand Rands*).
  - Xilaveko Day Centre for **R336 000** (*Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Rands*) for additional ECD classrooms in Acornhoek.
  - Intandeko Primary Cooperative for young farmers in Amsterdam for **R260 000** (*Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Rands*)
  - Mthunzini Day Care Centre for **R50 000** (*Fifty Thousand Rands*) for tools of the children at the crèche.
  - Kunene Multilingual for **R50 000** (*Fifty Thousand Rands*) the construction of the toilets for the children in Nkomazi – Mbuzini area close to the Mozambican border.
  - Hati Endlela Primary Cooperative in Marite – Bushbuckridge for just over **R160 000** (*One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Rands*) for input products like JOJO tanks and piping for the farm producing.

**21.** May I take this opportunity to commend the work done by the agency and also indicate that the agency has had its own fair share of challenges which includes Fiscal reduction for the funding of Civil Society Organisations and the closure of its District Offices due to the pandemic. We look forward to more contribution by this agency.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

**22.** The department will coordinate Social Facilitation and Poverty alleviation programmes for Sustainable Livelihoods. Intervention programmes and services will include among others the Food for All (DSD feeding programmes included e.g. food parcels; soup kitchens; Drop-in-Centres, Social Cooperatives, Income generating projects, community education and awareness, providing support to vulnerable groups, promoting local food production and consumption of healthy foods as well as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

**23.** The essence of this programme is to empower individuals, households and communities to pursue different livelihoods strategies by building on the material, social, tangible and intangible assets which people have within the community or a household. Livelihood diversification provides a holistic and integrated mechanism through which people can improve their livelihoods. It is envisaged that the programme will facilitate, coordinate and support various programmes, services and interventions and livelihood strategies for individuals, households and communities.

**24.** Madam Speaker, as part of our endeavour to alleviate poverty in the province, the department will create job opportunities, targeting a total number of **1 485** (*One Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty-Five*) individuals who will participate in the Expanded Public Works Programme.

**25.** To this end, we have seen a sizeable number of individuals participating in this programme bringing food on the table to the most destitute families, while improving the socio economic status in the respective households.

**26.** Furthermore, the department plans to provide support to more than **1 400** (*One Thousand Four Hundred*) individuals benefiting from **300** (*Three Hundred*) poverty reduction initiatives through the sustainable livelihood programme to enhance their socio economic situation.

**27.** This entails the provision of business machines and equipment, Food production implements and equipment, and a variety of tools, materials and equipment through which the targeted individuals and households can able to enhance and strengthen their livelihoods.

**28.** Again this financial year, the existing **11** (*Eleven*) Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDC) in the province will be supported to ensure that the most vulnerable and poverty stricken individuals are food-secured. To this end, the plans to reach and feed more than **2 7500** (*Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty*) poor, vulnerable and food insecure individuals.

## WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

**29.** Honorable Members, the department will continue to create an environment to women to develop constructive, affirmative and sustainable relationships while concurrently providing opportunities for them to build their competencies and needed skills to engage as partners in their own development and that of their communities. The interventions and services will be implemented through leadership and life skills programmes as well as support to socio-economic initiatives.



**30.** In this case the Department shall prioritize the strengthening of the capabilities and capacities of the indigenous civil society and the training and advocacy on the empowerment programmes

**31.** With this in mind, Madam Speaker, women specifically in rural areas remain the most affected sector of society in relation to poverty, unemployment and other related social challenges.

They are the ones who have to deal with bearing children, taking care of those children while relying on their often reluctant spouses for support. They are the ones that are often marginalized, looked down upon and often forgotten. They are the ones who face the most traumatic situations within our communities.

**32.** Working hand-in-glove with the various NPOs in the Province, we are indeed making much progress in this regard. As a matter of commitment in the current financial year, the Department has planned to fund and support a total Number of Four women NPOs and to reach out more than (4 000) Four Thousand women participating in empowerment programmes

## **SERVICES TO FAMILIES**

**33.** Honorable Members, the department also has a responsibility to focus on building resilience for families, through family preservation services. As the anchor programmes within DSD and a critical provincial deliverable, all programmatic interventions are contextualized within the family oriented focus. Thus the services or indicators for family preservation services (including family counselling) are closely linked to the social pathologies, i.e. substance abuse, violence and families facing crisis situations.

**34.** These indicators are linked to parenting support programmes for at risk families, most notably single parent families. A core focus is on young parents and the associated risk for children born to mothers under **18** (*Eighteen years*).

**35.** The vulnerability of young mothers and single parents calls for innovative approaches and programmes to equip them with knowledge, skills and options to assist them in making informed choices and decisions.

**36.** Madam Speaker. Mbombela, Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi are reported to have the highest birth rate to teenage mothers; appropriate targeted support and preventative programmes will be implemented. However, we want to assure you that the scope will not be limited to these areas only.

**37. Madam Speaker, in the last financial year,** we celebrated International Day of Families under the Theme: “**Families and New Technology**”. This theme is critical given the fact that technology is having a bigger impact in our families. We were able to reach a number of family members through virtual sessions where we highlighted the benefits that technology brings to families.

**38.** Honorable Speaker, marriages continue to face a serious threat in our societies. Research has shown that four in ten marriages end in divorce, irrespective of the population group, the highest proportion of divorces were found among couples who had been married for **5 to 9** (*five to nine*) years.

**39.** We also held a celebrated the National Marriage Week under the theme: “**Taking off your mask**” because we hold the view that in most marriages, there is often no openness and freedom.

**40.** We also held a Mother & Daughter Conference in Nkhohlakalo, just outside Ngodini in highlighting the plight of the girl child. These were successful events and they provided us with a great deal of an opportunity to interact with communities and some of our other stakeholders.

**41.** In the last financial year, the department reached out to a total of **8 077** (*Eight Thousand and Seventy-Seven*) for family preservation programme and a total of **1 762** (*One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-Two*) family members who participated in the parenting programme.

**42.** This financial year, the department is planning to reach **5 450** (*Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty*) families through the family preservation programme.

#### **CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION SERVICES**

**43.** Madam Speaker, the Constitutional Rights of Children remain an important priority for the department and indeed the Province. The Children’s Act compels us to develop evidence based programmes and services to afford all children these inalienable rights and to ensure that quality services are provided to children in need of care and protection and implements the Provincial Child Protection registers system.

**44.** We continue to commit ourselves to ensure those working with our children in the Child and Youth Care Centres are properly screened to prevent people who could have committed offenses against children from working there.

**45.** We are also planning to reach **1 048** (*One Thousand and Forty-Eight*) children in need of care and protection through the services provided in our funded Child and Youth Care Centres. We acknowledge that although we would like to keep all children in their families and communities but circumstances do warrant that we make use of those facilities for children who cannot be kept to their families. Those children are the responsibility of government as they are placed in these facilities through a court order.

**46.** honorable Members, Foster care services continue to provide a safety net for children who are orphaned and vulnerable. The foster families provide a stable environment for children who are without families or whose families are not able to provide adequate care for them.

47. This financial year, the department is planning to place **850** (*Eight Hundred and Fifty*) children in foster care. This will ensure that the children are living in ensured environments under the care of families that love them. We are continuing to provide foster parents with life-skills that will ensure that they are able to provide the best care to these children while they are in their care.

48. Madam Speaker, Over the past two years, we have been reporting that we are training Child and Youth Care Workers (CYCWs) who are based in the communities as a first point of entry towards the protection of children.

49. I am happy to report that there are **300** (*Three Hundred*) Child and Youth Care Workers who were undergoing training and have completed their studies and are fully implementing the Community Based Prevention Programme. In the last financial year, we had planned to reach **17 000** (*Seventeen Thousand*) beneficiaries through this programme. I am proud to report that we were able to reach **22 468** (*Twenty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-Eight*) orphaned vulnerable children through this programme. In the current financial year, we are planning to reach **20 450** (*Twenty Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty*) beneficiaries through this programme.

## **OLDER PERSONS**

50. Madam Speaker, the Older Persons Programme has a developmental approach to ageing which also seeks to keep older persons in their families and communities for as long as possible. The main performance areas would be to care, support and protect older persons with a strong focus on the poor and vulnerable within communities.

51. There remains a need for residential care facilities for frail older persons, despite the relative high costs. In order to provide for remaining needs in communities where these services do not exist, alternative care and support models will continue to be supported and gradually expanded on.

52. In the last financial year, the department was able to reach a total of **1 121** (*One Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-One*) Older Persons who accessed services in Residential Facilities, a total of **4 363** (*Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Three*) Older Persons accessed Community Based Care and Support Services which is **1 466** (*One Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-Six*) more than the last financial year.

## **SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

53. Madam Speaker, the department will also continue with its key priority in collaboration with the Department of Health and facilitate interventions and programmes targeting children with disabilities from infancy. The department will further expand community responsive programmes through developing and implementing day care services /programmes for persons with disabilities above the age of **18** (*Eighteen*) years as an alternative to institutionalization in an attempt to address the growing demand for residential care services.

**54.** We shall continue strengthening working relations with all major service providers and disabled people organizations with the purpose to improve provision of social services to persons with disabilities.

**55.** Without any doubt the well-being and the socio economic empowerment of persons with disabilities remains our key priority.

**56.** A total number of **1 889** (*One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Nine*) persons with disabilities have in the last financial year accessed services in funded protective workshops.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**57.** Substance abuse continues to affect individuals, families, communities as a whole. Children and youth are at risk and they are easily influenced for abusing and trafficking of drugs. The Department has intensified their awareness campaigns through door-to-door, presentations, community dialogues and blitz campaigns targeting the hotspot areas such as Vosman and Ackerville at Emalaheni, KwaMhlanga and Kwaggafointein at Thembisile Hani, Embalenhle at Govan Mbeki, Carolina at Albert Luthuli, Ermelo at Msukaligwa, the entire Mbombela, Lydenburg in Thabachweu to name but a few.

**58.** A total number of **1 060** (*One Thousand and Sixty*) awareness campaigns were conducted reaching **53 553** (*Fifty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty-Three*) community members. The department will officially open the state of the art Nkangala Public treatment centre in 2022 marking a milestone in the delivery of the much needed inpatient treatment centres managed by government.

**59.** The two public treatment centres provided treatment services to a total number of **2 314** (*Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Fourteen*) service users in the last financial year, giving hope and sobriety to young people. There is a functional Provincial Substance Abuse Forum established in term of the Prevention and treatment of Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008.

**60.** The department has also developed a provincial Mpumalanga Anti-Drug Master Plan 2021-2025 and its due for approval by Cabinet. The Anti- Drug Master Plan will inform the implementation of prevention programmes, treatment /rehabilitation, reintegration and aftercare services to deal with the scourge of substance abuse in the Province.

### **VICTIM EMPOWERMENT**

**61.** Madam Speaker, in my last address to this honorable Assembly we pointed out the country was experiencing a serious challenge with the increasing number of young women and girls who are was violently being raped, killed, murdered, burned and buried. These acts of brutality should be clarion call to all us to open our eyes on the amount of cruelty and the need to provide shelter to all those who are confronted with the potential of being victims.

**62.** The department continues to provide the support and protection to victims of crime and violence in line with Pillar Four of the National strategic plan on Gender based violence and Femicide. The services provided to victims are the psychosocial services that addresses trauma and depression, family reintegration services, prevention services where communities are educated on the scourge of GBV and body mutilation for multi purposes. These services are aimed at enabling the survivors to function optimally in communities.

**63.** In an effort to fight the scourge of human trafficking, the department has joined forces with other stakeholders including Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the South African Police Services, Special investigation Unit(*HAWKS*), the Department of Health and Home Affairs (*Immigration*).

**64.** Collectively with these stakeholders in this effort, we intend to unravel and defeat the scourge. The departmental will be playing a critical role in the structure in providing protection and reintegration of the victims with their families.

**65.** In the last financial year, we had promised this house that the department was planning to provide psychosocial support to victims and a total of **2 668** (*Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-Eight*) victims of crime accessed these services from both our local DSD offices and victim support centres funded by the department. We wish to announce to the honorable members that a total number of **2 245**(*Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-Five*) will be provided in this 2022/23 financial year.

## **SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION**

**66.** Madam Speaker and honorable members, the Department of Social Development is mandated by among other legislative frameworks, the Probation Services Act, and the Child Justice Act provides services to children, youth and adults at risk and in conflict with the law. Services are also provided to victims of crime and violence as mandated by the Restorative Justice system.

**67.** The Department will continue to develop and implement social crime prevention programmes and probation services targeting children, youth and adult offenders and victims in the criminal justice process. We shall focus on the Implementation of the anti-Gangsterism strategy and the Integrated crime prevention strategy.

**68.** The department in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development are in the process of expunging criminal records of all children who served their sentences either through compulsory sentences served in Secure care centres such as Ethokomala or through diversion services. Currently there about **358** (*Three Hundred and Fifty-Eight*) children in Mpumalanga province whose records must be expunged in 2022/23 financial year.

## HIV and AIDS

69. Madam Speaker, the burden of diseases, particularly HIV and AIDS continues to affect the ability of families, persons with disabilities and older persons. The department has committed itself to raising awareness on social behavioral and structural drivers of HIV by integrating its services with other sector departments, private sector and NPO's psychosocial support services. Community conversations are implemented and conducted to ensure stability to families in distress in emergency situations largely by disasters that are often seasonal and any other social conditions resulting in undue hardship.

70. A total number of **18 488** (*Eighteen thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty-Eight*) beneficiaries were reached through behavioral change programmes in the last financial year.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

71. Madam Speaker, the youth population in the province has grown. Unemployment has risen and poverty has walked in through the doors of every community. The need to address this has even become even more urgent especially with the amount of drugs being splashed around the streets of every township and village.

72. Indeed, the future leaders of our country and our province are under siege and we cannot continue to fold our arms as if its business as usual, more resources are needed to prevent this explosive situation.

73. Madam Speaker, The Department had planned to establish a DSD Youth Development Centre in Ka-Dantjie around Pienaar Area and the structure is almost complete. Plans to operationalize the YDC are in place and to be completed by end of financial year.

74. The Department of Social Development has forged partnership in the past 5 (Five) years to date. SASOL has provided mobile units to enhance the physical infrastructure of the YDCs, equipment and furniture to all the YDCs in Gert Sibande and now is focusing in eMalahleni and Nkomazi municipalities. The partnership with SASOL on the YDCS will spread to the other municipalities within Nkangala and Ehlanzeni Districts in following financial years.

## CONCLUSION

**75. Madam Speaker, it is my request that this House approves the 2022/23 budget for Social Development, Vote 12, which is R1 840 989 (1 billion, 840 million, and 989 thousand Rands).**

*The budget is allocated amongst the **five** (5) programmes:*

**Programme 1: Administration**

**R422 492 000**  
*(R422 million 492 thousand rand)*

**Programme 2: Social Welfare Services**

**R 289 291**  
*(R289 million 291 thousand)*

**Programme 3: Children and Families**

**R738 630 000**  
*(R738 million 630 thousand)*

**Programme 4: Restorative Services**

**R217 391 000**  
*(R217 million 391 thousand)*

**Programme 5: Development and Research**

**R171 185 000**  
*(171 million and 185 thousand)*



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