

Issue 3 | March 2022

DSD NEWS

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TACKLES YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT**

**DSD HARLEQUINS
OFFICIALS MOVE TO
HSRC BUILDING**

PRESIDENTIAL IMBIZO

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HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2022

**THE YEAR OF UNITY AND RENEWAL:
PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR
HUMAN RIGHTS GAINS**



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INSPIRING A NATION OF WINNERS

Inspiring A Nation Of Winners

Your South Africa, Your Stories



NDSD Stories: 12

SASSA Stories: 1

NDA Stories: 1



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INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS REVEAL A DIVERSE AND TRANSFORMING ECONOMY

Dear Fellow South African,

Last week we held our fourth South Africa Investment Conference as part of our ambitious drive to raise R1.2 trillion in new investment over five years. The value of the investment commitments made at the conference was R332 billion, bringing the total value of commitments to date to R1.14 trillion. With just one year to go, we have now reached 95% of the target we set in 2018.

The Investment Conference was significant for several reasons. Firstly, this was an impressive amount of investment commitments in the midst of a pandemic that has dampened the global investment climate for more than two years. Such is the appetite of global investors for our economy that this year saw pledges from traditional trading partners in the European Union, United States, China and the United Kingdom, but also from Canada, Mauritius, Norway, Turkey and Pakistan. We also had funding pledges from the United Arab Emirates, where we are currently participating in Dubai Expo 2020. Secondly, firms that already have a footprint in South Africa are increasing their existing investment commitments, signifying a renewed vote of confidence in our economy even at this difficult time.

The expansion plans of existing mining operations include an additional R10 billion investment by Anglo American, R11.8 billion by Impala Platinum, and R2.8 billion from Ivanhoe Mines to expand its Platreef mine in Limpopo. In the automotive sector, the Ford Motor Company has committed R16.4 billion to expand the manufacture of the next generation Ford Ranger, and there are commitments of R800 million by BMW and R350 million by Volkswagen. Thirdly, the range of projects represented at this year's conference illustrate the diversity of our economy and that potential investors see far more opportunity across several sectors than they did in previous years. We have secured investment pledges in mainstay sectors like mining, agri-

culture and automotive, but also in renewable energy production, pharmaceuticals, clothing and textiles, infrastructure and logistics, telecoms and the digital economy. Our creative industries have been given a major boost by multimillion rand investments in film and television production by the world's largest media companies like Warner Media and Netflix. After nearly 15 years in the making, the eThekweni Film Studio in KwaZulu-Natal will soon become a reality following a R7.5 billion investment from Videovision Entertainment.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this year's conference was marked by increased domestic investment, most notably from black industrialists. Thanks to a concerted campaign by government, we are continuing to increase the participation of black industrialists in the nation's economy. Over the last five years, some R32 billion has been invested in nearly 800 black industrialists and entrepreneurs through funding initiatives within the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, with close to 120,000 jobs either saved or created. At this year's conference, black industrialists made investment pledges in mining and steel production, automotive, component manufacturing, consumer goods, bulk fuel storage, and ship-building and repair in the Saldanha Industrial Development Zone. Importantly, these investments are not confined to the traditional economic centres. As the commitments turn into projects, they will create jobs and improve livelihoods not only in the cities and metros, but also in small towns and rural areas. This will spur the growth of local economies, leading to more opportunities and to the improvement of people's quality of life.

As one of the CEOs at last week's conference said, the truest measure of the success of these investments lies in the extent to which they give opportunity to every South African to realise their potential. Since the first South Africa Investment conference in 2018, these investments have brought jobs, work and training opportunities all over the

country, from data centres in the Western Cape to e-hailing services in Gauteng, from food and beverage production and pharmaceutical manufacturing plants in the Eastern Cape to mines in the North West and to factories around the country. Delegates to the conference said that our reforms around energy, transport, telecommunications and immigration, and the progress of sectoral master plans, have improved investor confidence, as has government's effort to increase private sector participation in our infrastructure build programme. I am currently on a visit to the United Arab Emirates, where we are making a case for investors in the Gulf and beyond to come invest in South Africa. Our pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020 is showcasing not just our agricultural and tourism offerings, but also what we have to offer in manufacturing, defence, aerospace, e-mobility and many other areas. Several investors in these foreign markets often express surprise at just how diverse the South African economy is and the range of opportunities that exist. In what often appears to be a sea of bad news, we are encouraged by the diversity and extent of the investment commitments made at the 4th South Africa Investment Conference. These investments – like those made at past conferences – are good for employment, good for transformation and good for the country.

With best regards,

Cyril Ramaphosa



To register for your COVID vaccination or for more information, visit sacoronavirus.co.za, call the toll-free line on 0800 029 999, send the word "register" via WhatsApp to 0600 123 456 or dial *134*832# and register via USSD. You can also walk-in to your nearest vaccination site and be registered and vaccinated on the spot.



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Government Avenue
Tshwane, Gt 2001
South Africa

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Vaccinate against COVID-19

To speed up the vaccination process, you can register by:

- Using the online registration platform available on the SA Coronavirus website
- Dialling *134*832# and registering via USSD
- Sending the word “**register**” via WhatsApp to **0600 123 456**
- Calling the national toll-free call centre on **0800 029 999**, where somebody will help you to register and answer any questions about the vaccination rollout

You can also go directly to your nearest vaccination centre.

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**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





ALERT
LEVEL

1


South Africa remains on Alert Level 1

We need to keep up basic precautions to prevent a surge of infections.



Measures to protect yourself and others

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth
- Keep a safe distance from others
- Stay away from closed or crowded spaces
- Wash your hands regularly with soap or sanitiser

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





ALERT
LEVEL

1


South Africa remains on Alert Level 1

With the continued decline in infections, the following measures will be in place from Wednesday, 23 March 2022:



Funerals

- Funerals are restricted to a maximum of 200 people
- There is a two hour limit on funeral services
- No night vigils or post-funeral gatherings are permitted

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VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





ALERT
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With the continued decline in infections, the following measures will be in place from Wednesday, 23 March 2022:



Gatherings

No more than 50% of venue capacity:

- With proof of vaccine or negative COVID test: no upper limit on numbers
- Without proof of vaccine or negative COVID test: upper limit of 1,000 indoors and 2,000 outdoors



Masks

Must be worn in indoor public spaces. Do not need to be worn outdoors.



Funerals

No more than 200 people

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ALERT
LEVEL

1

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With the continued decline in infections, the following measures will be in place from Wednesday, 23 March 2022:



Mandatory mask wearing

- Wearing a cloth mask or similar covering over the nose and mouth is mandatory when in public indoor spaces
- Masks are not required when outdoors

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**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

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ALERT
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South Africa remains on Alert Level 1

With the continued decline in infections, the following measures will be in place from Wednesday, 23 March 2022:



Gatherings

- With proof of vaccine or negative COVID test: no more than 50% of venue capacity and no upper limit on numbers
- With no proof of vaccine or negative COVID test: no more than 50% of venue capacity, with an upper limit of 1,000 indoors and 2,000 outdoors
- Social distance of at least 1 metre between people, except at schools
- Masks must be worn for all indoor gatherings

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VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





TB IS CURABLE AND IT IS PREVENTABLE

By Deputy President David Mabuza

We gather here at Barkley West, in the Frances Baard District Municipality (Northern Cape) to commemorate the World Tuberculosis Day.

It is a day in 1882, when Dr Robert Koch discovered the bacterium that causes Tuberculosis, thus paving a way towards the diagnosis and curing of TB. Since then life has never been the same.

In a similar way we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic when it hit us two years ago as we adopted measures to respond to the pandemic as a new health and socio-economic challenge.

As a society, we have gone through hardships of losing the lives of our loved ones, endured restrictions on our freedoms, and experienced a serious decimation of economic livelihoods in a manner that exacerbates existing challenges of unemployment and poverty.

In the process, we have found a way of how to co-exist with the coronavirus through the observation of newly established primary and secondary health protocols.

Without a doubt, our lives will never be same, as we will continue to live alongside the coronavirus.

Now we know what to do to avoid COVID-19, and appropriate vaccines have been developed to protect humanity from its devastation. By taking COVID-19

vaccines, we would be protected, just as we will be cured from TB by taking medication when infected by the disease.

We therefore commemorate this day to raise awareness about TB itself, in order to reinforce the long-established health protocols as part of intensifying our efforts towards ending this disease as a global health threat.

The World Health Organisation tells us that TB remains among the top ten leading causes of death in the world. For South Africa, the same is true. Even though TB is preventable and curable, in our country it remains one of the leading causes of death.

What an irony that in Frances Baard District Municipality, 140 years later since these bacteria was discovered, the municipality has a high TB rate and is the hardest hit in the Northern Cape Province - even though the population of the province is small and highly dispersed.

It is for this reason that we chose this district in the Province of the Northern Cape as an attempt to raise awareness and mobilise communities in the fight against TB. Frances Baard is not alone, but there are a number of other districts in various provinces with a high burden of TB.

It is precisely for this reason that we resolved to rotate the commemoration of this day to reach all those TB high burdened districts of the country.

By bringing the commemoration to the people of Frances Baard District Municipality, we hope to:

- resuscitate the commitment from leaders to mobilise resources for TB response
- raise awareness about Tuberculosis
- encourage a culture of health-seeking behaviour which then leads to early detection of diseases and timeous initiation on treatment
- help find the missing TB-infected persons
- help find the lost-to-follow-up TB-infected persons
- help combat TB related stigma and discrimination
- remind people that TB is curable

We are pleased to note the continued progress made by South African TB Caucus Secretariat within SANAC for their encouraging efforts in establishing TB Caucuses in all nine provinces of the country.

This forms part of the Global TB Caucus that is made up of over 2 300 members from 130 countries across the globe. This initiative is important in enabling legislators to advocate for the financial resources towards TB response, and to marshal policy reforms necessary in TB programme implementation.

Two weeks ago, Limpopo became the latest province to launch its TB Caucus with Gauteng joining yesterday. On behalf of SANAC and the country, we would like to congratulate them for the progress made.

We also take comfort that as a country, we are united in our fight against TB, HIV and other opportunistic infections. It is through unity of purpose that we can effectively tackle social determinants that fuel the spread of these diseases. With the launch of the SANAC Private Sector Forum last year, our united front to fight TB has been further strengthened as we now all of us speak in one voice to advance the health and human rights of people living with TB and HIV co-infections.

This united action in the fight against TB, HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections, helps us in the sharing of experiences, pulling together of resources and expanding our reach in order to bring everyone who is infected into treatment. It also ensures that we mobilise human and financial resources required to strengthen our health system, thereby improve quality health outcomes especially for the most vulnerable in informal settlements, in rural villages and many other strained parts of our country.

Where previously we may have been working in fragmented manner, such unity of purpose would ensure that we work in a much more coordinated and efficient manner. Our collective and joined-up efforts are further strengthened by the pledge being made by traditional and Khoi-San leaders, inter-faith leaders as well as traditional health practitioners around the country, to work with government in scaling up interventions that would end TB and HIV as public health threats.

In this sector, we have found champions who are willing to raise their hands and ensure that social ills in our communities are confronted and tackled.

Through collaborative partnerships with traditional and Khoi-San leaders, traditional health practitioners, and inter-faith leaders, we have set out a firm path to intensify and accelerate prevention measures against HIV trans-

mission, the prevention of the spread of TB, reduction of Covid-19 infections, as well as strengthening our fight against substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence and femicide.

Let me take this opportunity to thank these leaders for fruitful and constructive engagements in our quest for broad-based mobilisation of communities in the fight against TB, HIV and AIDS, COVID-19, and all social ills that continue to plague our communities. With the leadership of the Premier and SANAC structures in the Province, we have agreed on the process of strengthening the implementation of focused partnership programmes that will ensure that communities present themselves to health facilities for TB screening, HIV testing, COVID-19 vaccination and other notifiable diseases. This will ensure that people are initiated into appropriate treatment and support measures.

We have to go to where the people live, mobilise every village, and ensure that we reach every household with people who need help. These mobilisation efforts should seek to translate into action the theme for this year, which is; **“Invest in Action to End TB NOW!”** Get Screened. End the Stigma. Save Lives.



It is a theme that calls on every South African to invest in various actions to contribute towards the national and global efforts to end TB. The theme is aligned to the Global Theme, Invest to End TB. Save Lives, a call to world leaders in various sectors to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the TB response.

These investments include policy shifts, financial resources and daily actions by individuals in order to end TB. The case for investment goes beyond the monetary aspect as it also speaks to the little actions an individual could do to contribute towards ending TB, such as deciding to get screened or to start and stay on treatment if infected.

The theme also encourages for urgency in prioritising TB prevention, diagnoses, treatment and care. Although we had made much progress towards ending TB, the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergency response

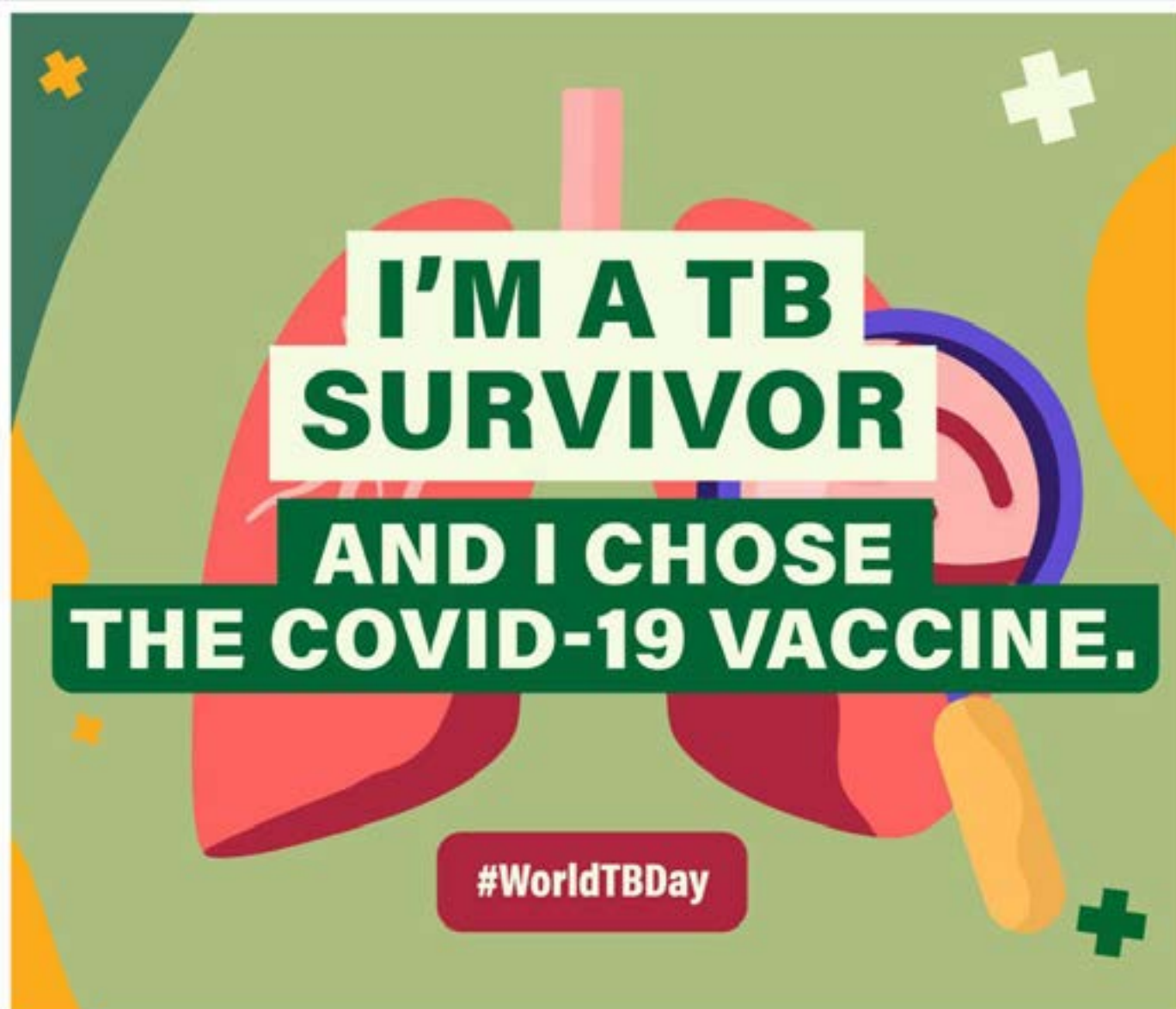
towards it, reversed some of the progress that we had made as a country. That as it may be, is not an excuse for us to decry the situation, but rather it poses an opportunity for us to work harder and with more urgency to catch up and save more lives.

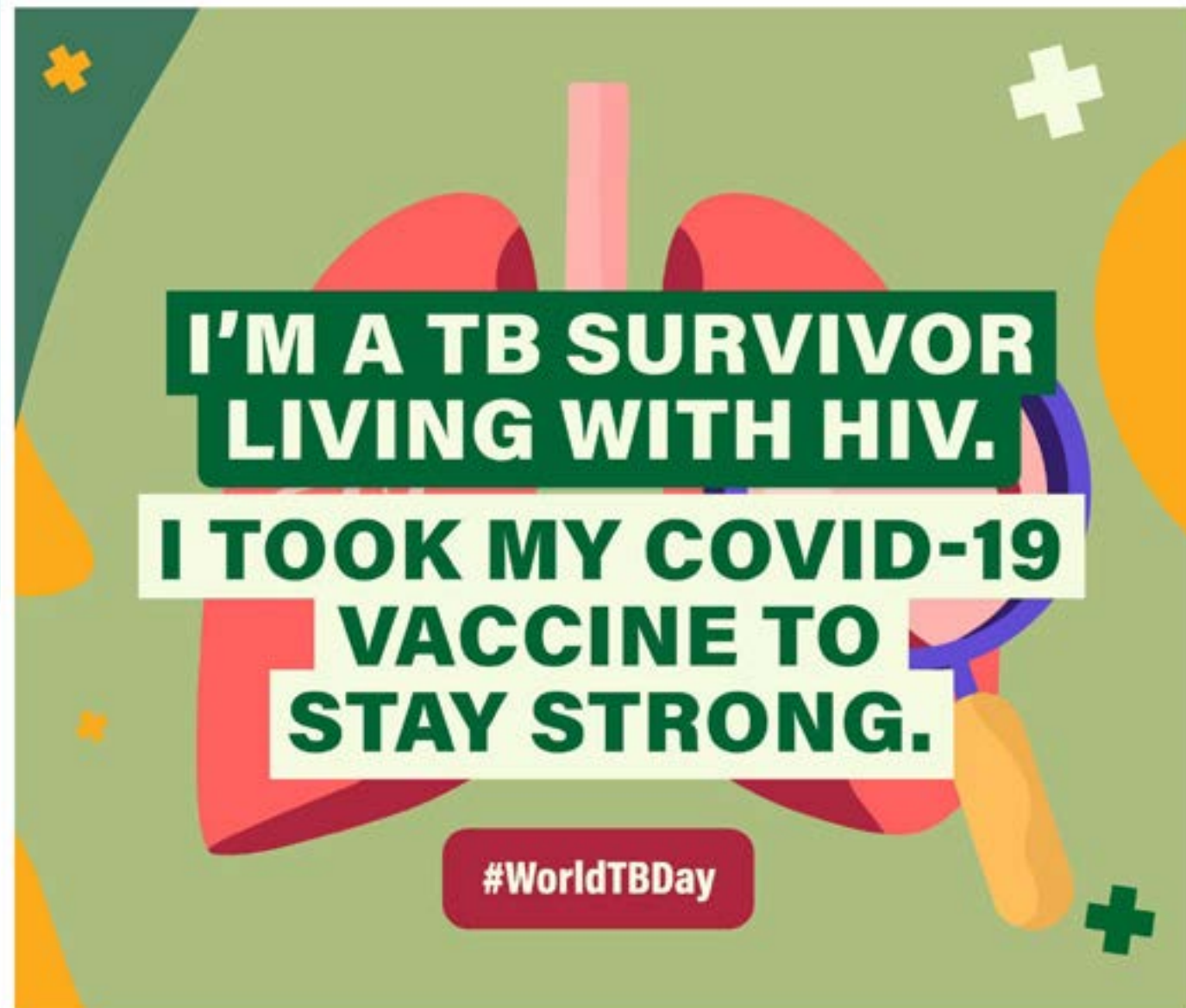
We need all hands-on deck when advancing the TB agenda. To this end, SANAC has established the TB Technical Working Group with representation from key role players inclusive of government, civil society and development partners. Each stakeholder must be counted in the national efforts against TB. At last year's commemoration of World TB Day, we received an impassioned plea from the sector of People living with HIV, for government to declare TB as a national emergency. In response, as government, we have put together a TB Recovery Plan in an effort to address the issues raised by People Living with HIV.

This plan will help us to come closer to eliminating TB as a public health threat. It will also help us address challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and close gaps in the TB care cascade. Finding the missing undiagnosed people with TB and linking them to quality care remains a priority for us.

There are four key areas to the TB Recovery Plan namely:

1. Finding the undiagnosed people with TB in our communities. This includes the health check mobile application for TB that has been recently developed with the aim to mobilise 1 million people in communities to check their symptoms and assist in linking them to health care facilities as needed;
2. Strengthening of linkage to care, by making sure that patients diagnosed in hospitals and primary health care facilities are linked to quality TB care;
3. Strengthening retention in care by ensuring that patients complete the full course of TB treatment. Interruptions in treatment have serious consequences for ongoing transmission and sometimes lead to a resistant form of tuberculosis; and
4. TB Prevention by strengthening infection control measures and treatment of latent tuberculosis, including the use of newer shorter treatment regimens.





We are pleased to announce that some components of the TB Recovery Plan are already being implemented, such as the outreach activities to screen, test and link individuals to care as we have been doing in this Province since 21 March 2022.

Furthermore, this year we will conclude the current National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for the period from 2017 to 2022, and we are in the development of the new Plan for the period 2023 to 2028.

Today also marks the official launch of the new National Strategic Plan development process. The Plan provides a renewed sense of hope for people living with HIV and will be the last one towards Agenda 2030.

We have thus far, made some inroads in this regard, including securing technical and financial support from our development partners like the UNAIDS, World Health Organisation, GIZ, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Global Fund and PEPFAR. We appreciate their continued support.

Although we have had some challenges against efforts for epidemic control, South Africa has managed to meet and surpass the first 90 of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets which is people knowing their HIV status.

We are now working harder and more diligently to meet the other two 90s of those that are diagnosed with HIV being on treatment, and those that are not treatment having a suppressed viral load.

All these are aimed at accelerating our efforts towards the new targets of 95-95-95.

Working together, we can achieve these targets.

This World TB Day Commemoration also marks and celebrates the comparative advantage of the South African National AIDS Council's unique coordination role.

Furthermore, through SANAC, we have ensured robust monitoring and evaluation in line with Goal 8 of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs that calls for the

strengthening of strategic information to drive progress towards the achievement of our goals.

We have established the SANAC Situation Room, which is an innovative data visualisation platform which allows decision makers, programme managers and implementers to analyse and view HIV, TB and STIs data.

The SANAC Situation Room will ensure HIV, TB and STIs data transparency and quality at national, provincial, district and local levels.

At a click of a button, it is now possible to visualise performance nationwide, against set targets for HIV, TB, and STIs programmes for different populations as outlined in the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017 to 2022.

Distinguished guests,

This year's theme for the commemoration of World TB Day also focus on combating stigma and discrimination against those who have contracted Tuberculosis, as one of the most serious hurdles in our HIV and TB response.

We have a responsibility to show care for those who are diagnosed with TB in our communities and encourage them to seek medical care, rather than stigmatise them.

The 2021 Global Tuberculosis report made findings that reduced access to TB diagnosis and treatment in the past two years has resulted in an increase in TB deaths.

This cannot continue.

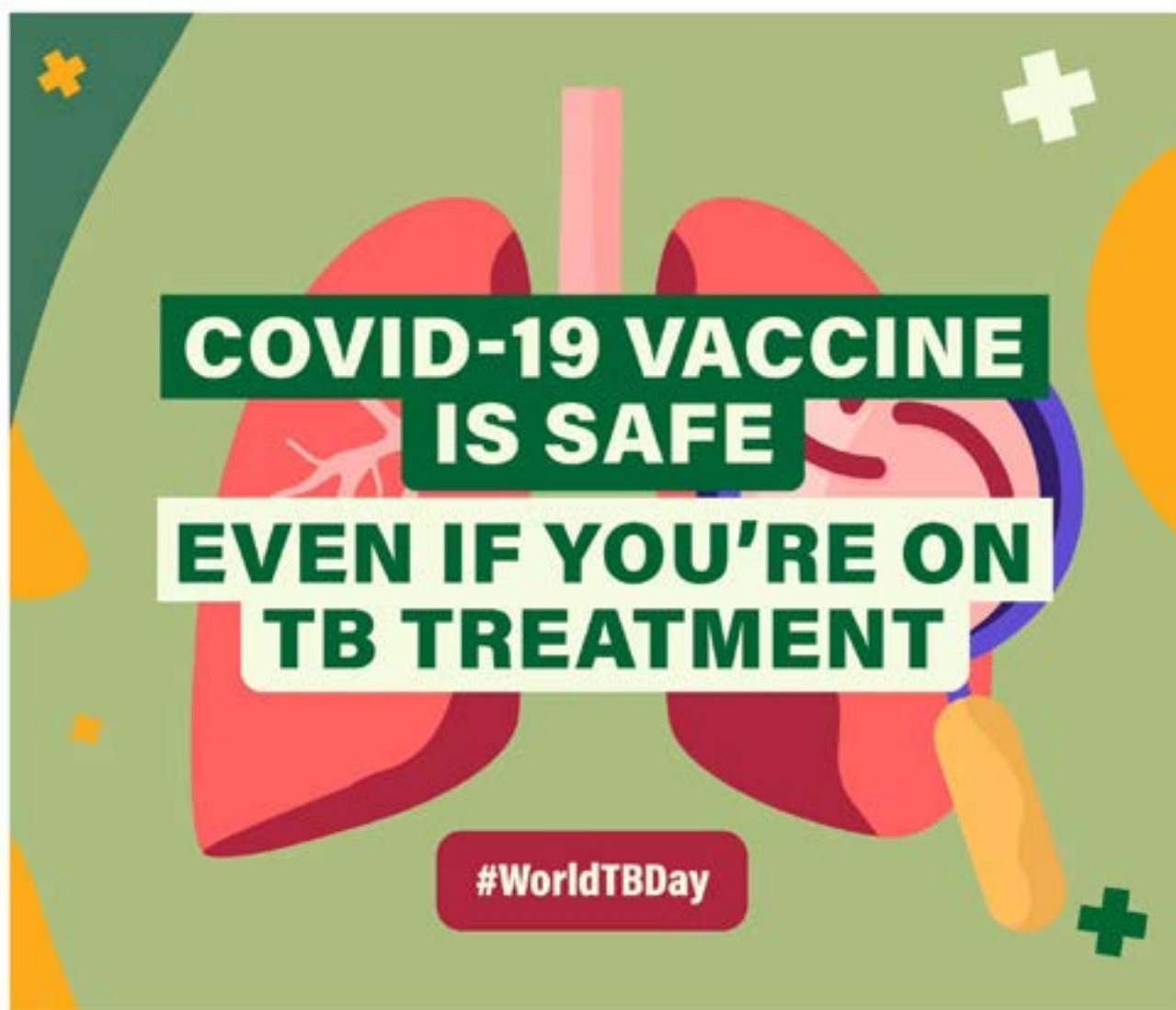
It is important to note that the year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the development of the 'AIDS Consortium Charter for Human Rights for People Living with AIDS'.

We are currently updating the charter with the process having started in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape Provinces. In the next six months, consultations will be done in all provinces.

We are expecting to launch the updated 'Human rights Charter on HIV and TB for key and Vulnerable Populations' later this year during the commemoration of World AIDS on the 1st of December.

Our fight against TB remains strong. We are encouraged by the courage of all of us in SANAC to win this battle. Let us today further commit ourselves to making the required investment to end stigma and save lives!

It is through such united approach that we will be able to end to end TB-related deaths by 2030.





**I HAVE TB AND IT'S
IMPORTANT FOR
ME TO FINISH MY
TREATMENT**

**ESPECIALLY
DURING COVID-19**

#WorldTBDay



**FREE TB SERVICES
ARE AVAILABLE
AT YOUR NEAREST
CLINIC EVEN DURING
COVID-19**

#WorldTBDay



**GET SCREENED
FOR TB.**

**GET VACCINATED
FOR COVID-19!**

#WorldTBDay



**I HAVE TB SO IT'S
REALLY IMPORTANT
FOR ME TO GET THE
COVID JAB**

**AND KEEP TAKING
MY TB TREATMENT**

#WorldTBDay

It's time

to ensure access to fully-oral treatment for people with drug-resistant TB

Only 1 in 3 people with drug-resistant TB access care. WHO recommends fully-oral treatment regimens to replace injectables. This will improve treatment outcomes and save lives.



World Health
Organization

UN High-Level Meeting target:
1.5 million people with MDR-TB access care

2022



MESSAGE FROM MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU

Dear DSD Family,

This month we commemorate Human Rights Month, which reminds all South Africans that many gave up their lives and made countless sacrifices in the fight for freedom and democracy in South Africa. We remember these brave individuals, including the 69 people killed in the Sharpeville Massacre, as we continue to provide care and support for the most vulnerable in the DSD portfolio.

In the build-up to the Post-SONA Presidential Imbizo and Oversight Visit in Ngaka Modiri Molema District, I joined North West MEC of Social Development Ms Boitumelo Moiloa, for an outreach programme aimed at monitoring National Development Funded projects in the local community.

We visited the Bogela Bontle Beadwork, a cooperative, founded by five unemployed women to create economic empowerment opportunities for rural women. The NDA has supported the cooperative by

providing much-needed funding to purchase specialised embroidery machines, materials and has provided skills training.

On an international front, I am deeply honoured to accept the role of a SheDecides Champion on International Women's Day, a global day that celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

SheDecides is a global political movement driving change for bodily autonomy, fuelled by actions in communities, with young people at its heart. SheDecides Champions are individuals, some representing countries and organizations, who take action to help create a world where every woman and girl has power over her own body.

As a SheDecides Champion, I will ensure that South Africa's voice is added to the global network and further empower young women as the country continues to wage war on the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide pandemic that has claimed the lives of innocent women and children.

I also wish to acknowledge the role and commitment of the country's social workers on World Social Work Day, which is observed on 15 March globally. Our social workers, including auxiliary workers, provide care and support to many citizens who are challenged by the country's social ills. We wish them strength and we will continue to support their efforts as they serve the country's most vulnerable.

This month, we marked two years of living, and working, under the COVID-19 pandemic which has changed our lives forever. This pandemic is far from over so I urge you to continue practising Covid protocols.

Thank you and Stay Safe.

Minister Lindiwe Zulu



We wish Deputy Minister
**Hendrietta
Bogopane-Zulu**
a speedy recovery.



MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

This month has been declared as Human Rights Month which will be officially commemorated on the 21st of March, under the theme "The Year of Unity and Renewal: Protecting and Preserving our Human Rights Gains."

In line with our democratic constitution as adopted in 1996, fundamental rights include the right to life, human dignity, expression, freedom, privacy, and security. These are well documented and championed by this supreme law of our country. It is upon all of us to uphold social cohesion, nation-building, and a shared national identity as we strive for an inclusive socio-economic development and unite against racism, racial discrimination and all related intolerances.

However, our celebrations are mired in mixed emotions as the entire country has been battling multiple socio-economic challenges. These challenges manifest in an ailing economy that is tough on both the employed and the unemployed. Faced with these deplorable conditions, our people are in desperate need of social services.

The question for Social Development and its key partners is this: what message is the current situation communicating? The message is simple enough: more people now depend on services from the Social Development portfolio more than ever before. The implication is that as Social Development, together with our strategic partners such as the Non-Profit Sector, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Faith-Based Sector, we have a huge responsibility to do all we can to carefully render services for all.

The poor and vulnerable communities will never forgive us for undermining the mandate they consciously gave us to move this country forward. This they did by putting their faith and hopes in us in six successive national elections. Twenty-eight years since the dawn of democracy, we cannot afford to drop the ball or create any doubts to our fellow countrymen and women that we care less about their needs.

Pertaining to service delivery, we should acknowledge that we are now reaching 46 percent of the country's population via the social safety net as recipients of social grants, an effort made possible in line with a legislative directive from the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004. As we continue to liberate poor South Africans from the shackles of poverty, let us also appreciate the role of our social workers who often spend sleepless nights to make a difference in many lives. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we applaud all officials who responded positively to the call to return to work in full capacity. Let us continue to apply COVID-19 precautionary safety measures in our conduct without compromising the lives of any South Africans whose survival rests upon the allocation of social services.

As per a recent statement from Cabinet, we also acknowledge the country's efforts in the fight against COVID-19 and call for vigilance to curb the spread of this deadly virus as the battle is not yet over.

We also reiterate that booster shots are freely accessible for most people, and we encourage those who are eligible to get boosted to do so, as we continue wearing masks covering both the mouth and the nose, wash or sanitise our hands frequently, as we keep a safe social distance and ensure adequate ventilation by opening windows.

"PLAY YOUR PART AND SAVE MORE LIVES"

**Mr. Linton Mchunu,
Acting Director-General**





**The goal of early childhood development
should be to activate the child's own
natural desire to learn.**

- Maria Montessori



Editor's Note

This is our last edition of DSD News as we conclude the 2021/22 financial year. Firstly, I want to appreciate all the people who made this monthly publication a success. The colleagues who take the time to contribute and appreciate the delivery of the newsletter.

We introduced quite a few things this year on the look of the newsletter. We tried to make it more accessible by trying to make sure that not only is it delivered on our computers but read on our phones too and made it more personal.

We will forever be grateful to the opportunities that were brought about by Covid 19. We had to be creative and try to be innovative so that the publication could be delivered on time. We had to make sure that we keep each other informed by collecting everything that was happening in Provinces and our entities. We brought you creatively discussions at Manco and Exco. March in the country is human rights month and the theme for the publication is centred around this theme. March is the social development sector is social work month and we wish to extend a word of appreciation to our social work colleagues who work tirelessly to make sure that South Africa is a better country.

Your job is an important and difficult job which most of the time does not receive the recognition it deserves. It is always you

dear colleagues who are always at the forefront of every challenge and mending everything that shows even the slightest thing that is broken. It is you dear colleagues who have to look after the most vulnerable of the country picking up all the broken pieces of our lives. May you know that yours is an important job. May you keep on being the everything that you are to us and have all the strength to look after yourselves and your loved ones.

By the time, you read this edition of DSD News, the Early Childhood Development programme may I either be at the Department of Basic Education or a few hours from the handover. We know some of our colleagues will be moving with the function and naturally saying goodbye to what you are accustomed to may not be easy. Starting in a new environment may be both exciting and scary at the same time.

To the colleagues going to the new Department, we would like to wish you well and trust that you will be successful in the execution of your duties. May you see this as new start and a new chapter in the book of your lives and careers.

All of the very best!

Lumka Oliphant

Promoting Ethical Standards at DSD

By Precious Gumedé

The issue of ethics remains a topical issue in government circles. Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state is among the sixth administration's key priorities for the government. This priority underpins other key priorities in the current Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF). Within this context, the process of building a new public service cadre forms part of the major tasks for creating an ethical state.

The government is committed to producing public service cadres to be soldiers against maladministration, fraud, corruption, and unethical behaviour. As South Africa grapples with the triple-challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, the COVID-19 pandemic has also contributed to the challenges of poor service delivery.

In line with this, the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) as a department responsible for establishing norms and standards relating to ethics, integrity, conduct and anticorruption in the public service, adopted the Public Service Integrity Management Framework and the Minimum Anti-Corruption Capacity Requirements (MACC) to ensure that ethics as an intervention becomes a law.

The absence of effective information management compounds the challenges faced by the country. As such, it is now more necessary than ever before for public servants to recognise their higher calling and to understand the importance of adherence to section 195 of the Constitution and Public Service Act, 1994 which requires a high standard of professional ethics to be promoted and maintained.

The Department of Social Development as a service delivery driven department is committed to instilling a culture of ethical behaviour and increasing knowledge about workplace ethics to fast-track service delivery. Employees need to familiarise themselves with directives and guidelines pertaining to the Code of Conduct. Chapter 10 of the constitution prohibits public servants from conducting business with organs of state, and encourages them to disclose any gifts received in the course and scope of their employment.

Unpacking the stance of the department in the context of its contribution to the broader ethical culture of the public service, Mr. Deven Chinappan, Chief Director: Human Capital Management, highlighted that the department has implemented the following:

- **Conducted an Ethics and Culture survey**
- **Developed a policy on Ethics for DSD**
- **Developed an Ethics Strategy**
- **Conducts regular information sessions on the code of Conduct**
- **Circulars on Ethics and Disclosures are communicated**

In addition to the above, the Department manages the disclosure of financial interests annually for SMS members and other designated categories.

"As we approach the disclosure period 'April 2022' for SMS members, Chief Directorate: Human Capital Management, would like to encourage all SMS members to disclose timeously and most importantly disclose all interests. As a rule of thumb, if in doubt disclose and add a comment to the disclosure," said Chinappan.

Regarding constitutional obligations, it is important to build confidence in the competence of public officials to serve the citizens, according to the principles articulated in Chapter 10 of the Constitution, which among others includes promoting and maintaining a high standard of professional ethics.



ETHICS



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TACKLES YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

By Nande Fayo

The Eastern Cape Department of Social Development is working with great effort to unleash the economic potential of young people in rural and urban communities by ensuring that they have access to skills, assets, and opportunities.

According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), the burden of unemployment is concentrated amongst the youth (aged 15–34 years) as they account for 63.4% of the total number of unemployed persons. Almost 4 in every 10 young people eligible for work did not have a job.

The National Youth Policy highlights a comprehensive approach that provides space, opportunities and support for young people to maximise their individual and collective creative energies for personal development as well as the development of the broader society of which they are

an integral part. It is against this background that the department organised and funded a three (3) months training programme on carpentry through its National Youth Service programme (NYS) which is expected to endow ten (10) unemployed youth from various districts with carpentry skills.

Also through its Youth Development programme, the department organised and funded an Automotive Repairs and Maintenance training course for fifteen (15) unemployed youth from Buffalo City Municipality. This training is facilitated by FURNTECH and Border Training Centre, and is aimed at engaging the youth in community service activities to strengthen service delivery, build patriotism, promote national building, foster social cohesion and to assist the youth to acquire occupational skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Abigail Willemse, a 19-year-old from Sarah Baartman District, who is getting training in carpentry says the



programme will assist her in finding a job or opening her own business.

Bonke Mhlawuli from Reeston in Buffalo City says the Automotive Repairs training is something that he wanted to do but due to financial constraints, he couldn't.

“I have been longing to do this kind of training, Social Development helped me a lot in providing it. My aim is to open my own business and maybe, when it expands, I will provide these skills to others who are underprivileged like me,” said Mhlawuli.





Under One Roof DSD Joins Hands with Civil Society

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane

In 2021, the Department of Social Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Collen Mashawana Foundation which focuses on providing decent shelter for older persons, child-headed households and persons with disabilities.

To date, the Collen Mashawana Foundation, in partnership with Afribiz Invest, has built and handed over 205 new houses across the country.

“The building of a capable, and responsive, government-envisioned approach as expressed in the National Development Plan, is a responsibility that cannot be carried by the government alone. It is a national task that demands a whole-of-society approach,”

said Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

Gogo Nqolwana joins Mkhulu Sello and his wife, Gogo Mavis, in the list of recipients from the MoU after being homeless for many years.



A number of the homes, built by the foundation, were handed over by Minister Zulu as the custodian of the Older Persons Act of 2005 which is [available here](#).



DESPERATE GOGO USES AN OLD CAR FOR SHELTER

By Jaconia Kobue

Seventy-four-year-old Gogo Nonkululeko Nqulwane has been using an abandoned car in Orange Farm for shelter since the 17th of December, 2021.

"I pay R250 rent to sleep outside in this yard. I only get to sleep in this abandoned car when it is raining. On the 17th of December 2021, I moved here because I could not afford the rent anymore. I had to move without most of my belongings. I lost a lot of my belongings. People who rent here and neighbours have helped with food and groceries," said Gogo. According to Gogo Nonkululeko, she was renting an RDP house for R900 per month. However, the landlord told her that the rent would increase to R1000. That was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. The old lady was left with no option but to move out and ended up living in an old car.

"I have been on the waiting list of an RDP house since 1996," said Gogo. The grandmother revealed that she left the Eastern Cape a long time ago to seek employment opportunities in Gauteng as a domestic worker.

The Minister for the Department of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu, said older persons should not be subjected to such conditions. "It is not only her, but there is also an old woman here who is renting a room for R600 a month." The Minister explained that the exorbitant amount worries the officials because the social grants that are given to the poorest of the poor are supposed to assist them to

buy food, toiletries, and other essentials. However, they end up spending most of their money on accommodation. Minister Zulu reiterated that they had come to take action.

Minister Zulu was accompanied by the head of Social Development in the Gauteng province, Ms. Thembeni Mhlongo, and the chairperson of the Colleen Mashawana foundation. "The reality is that there are many elderly people in our communities who do not have access to homes. For some it is due to not having family members to assist them, they struggle on their own. Some are staying in dilapidated shacks and others in old cars like we saw today," said Colleen Mashawana.

"The challenge is access to land to restore people's dignity by building them decent homes. We are pleading with the government that, where there are delays to build houses for people, they must make available empty stands, especially for NGOs who can assist by building houses for desperate people," added Colleen.

The Department of Social Development, along with the Colleen Mashawana Foundation, is planning to build a temporary structure for Gogo while a permanent home is being built for her. The Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Colleen Mashawana Foundation, which focuses on providing decent shelters for older persons, child-headed households and persons with disabilities.



**Where there is a will,
there is a way.**

By Lesego Ranchu

Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu and Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, Founder and Chairperson of Gift of the Givers met recently in Johannesburg to discuss collaborative ways in which the DSD portfolio can cooperate with non-profit organisations to strengthen disaster response measures.

"We would like to get to a point where we are able to work efficiently together with NGOs to find preventative ways to react urgently and decisively in times of disaster, which are now recurrent. I would like to appreciate the contribution made by small and big organisations such as Gift of the Givers, that provide humanitarian relief services in affected communities during times of need - especially when we as a government are not able to respond speedily due to our internal control systems," says Minister Zulu.

"Partnership with the government is a major factor in the management of our programmes. We see this partnership as critical- we avail ourselves to assist when disasters are declared, but we are aware that the government is represented in communities on a daily basis. During a disaster, communities want to get back on their feet as soon as possible, they will set up accommodation on the same water plain, and rebuild in the same way that caused a fire. Here, is where the government can put stringent measures in place, to ensure disaster preparedness and response to prevent disasters recurring in the same area," says Dr Sooliman.





The Minister and Chairperson agreed on how disaster preparedness and response need to be structured to improve coordination of efforts, agility to react and capacity building of communities to be able to recover from disasters.

As a way forward, Minister Zulu concurs that the government can make a greater effort to fix the system. She acknowledges that the government is eager for partnerships with organisations like Gift of the Givers to guide the process. The Department of Social Development is in talks with Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) on how in particular the system may affect disaster response for the department, South African Social Security Agency and the National Development Agency.

"We have learnt many lessons in the last few years on effective prevention and response in the event of disaster management – we know that communities are capable of putting forward their own creative solutions and they are eager to be part of our solutions. All we need to do is create enabling environments," says Minister Zulu.

A task team has been set up to work on a cooperation agreement between DSD and Gift of the Givers. In meetings going forward, the government and non-profit systems will be jointly reviewed, partnerships will be strengthened and a way will be paved for better disaster management going forward.



DSD HARLEQUINS OFFICIALS MOVE TO HSRC BUILDING

By Precious Gumede and Evans Molimi

Our colleagues from the Social Security Branch who are currently housed at the Harlequins Office Park will be moving to the HSRC building in May, 2022. They were previously moved to Harlequins in Groenkloof due to space constraints. In June 2019, the Department of Social Development (DSD) requested the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to facilitate the extension of the HSRC lease and relocation of Harlequins staff.

Chief Director: Auxiliary Services Ms. Neliswa Ndabankulu, who is leading the project said the new HSRC lease was signed in June 2020 and an extension of the contract to accommodate Harlequins officials was signed in November 2021.

"It is good news indeed that the project is soon to be concluded. This will not only cut the expenses for the department in terms of rent, but it will also be convenient for officials who are accommodated in Harlequins. The Harlequins Office Park is seven kilometres away from HSRC and the staff has to make daily trips to the HSRC building to access full departmental services," said Ndabankulu.

She said the 9th floor of the HSRC building was identified as the ideal space to accommodate the staff from Harlequins.

"The refurbishment of office space and tenant installation has begun and the occupation date is envisaged to be May 2022," she said.

She added that there are discussions with the National Treasury regarding a process to build a new office campus that will accommodate the headquarters of the DSD, South African Social Security Agency, and the National Development Agency. The Salvokop Precinct was approved by Cabinet for the building of government offices.

This long-term sustainable accommodation plan is to house the entire DSD family. This process is facilitated by the National Treasury through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in line with Regulation 16 of the Public Finance Management Act. "The PPP is not new in government; the government has in past years procured office accommodation projects through PPP agreements," Ndabankulu said such partnerships enable the private sector to provide the needed financial and technical capability required to successfully complete the building project. It assumes the operational risks of the project on the condition that the government will occupy the completed building and assume, over the long term, responsibility for its total cost.

Ms. Johanna Sekele

Johanna Sekele is a Deputy Director, Disability Grant and she thinks that the move to Head Office is a blessing. She however mentions that at times, the staff from the Head Office made them feel somehow out of place, like adopted children. According to her, despite all that, she is ready for the move to the Head Office.

She is excited about the anticipated relocation to the Head Office, as the personnel at the Harlequins office have been experiencing numerous challenges. They have challenges that include, among others, out of service phones, challenges with access to important Directorates such as the Finance, Human resources and Information Technology Directorates. Previously, accessing these Directorates meant that they needed to make the necessary drive to the Head Office in cases of emergencies. They furthermore experienced delayed response time, due to technical challenges. As an example, she related that she had logged a call with IT Technicians in the previous week and is yet to receive a response.

"I do not anticipate experiencing any individual challenges after relocating. We will be one big family with the rest of the Department, and the response time to challenges will be quicker as everyone will be affected. We were promised to move to Head Office three years ago, and it seems we will eventually be moving. One major challenge of working at Harlequins has been that we were always viewed as working in the Provincial or Local Office by our colleagues. Our lot, was to adjust to the noise and bustle of the town rather than the tranquility of working in Groenkloof," said Sekele.



How staff feel about the move...



Ms. Paula Batista

Paula Batista thinks moving back to the National Office gives her great joy because she feels as if they were working on an island. She strongly believes that there won't be any challenges when they are working at the Head Office. All they want is to be back at head office as quickly as possible.

"Being happy with the move is an understatement, I am thrilled. But my only concern at the moment is overcrowding at the National Office. I think it will be of great importance to adhere to COVID-19 Health protocols and regulations because the pandemic is still in our midst," she said. Furthermore, Batista wishes to encourage personnel not to engage in social gatherings like going to malls unnecessarily. She thinks this might be the highest risk, as it might contribute to the high rate of new COVID-19 infections in office space.

"I hope we are going to be treated fairly as employees and not made to feel like outsiders at the Head Office. Let the rules and regulations of the Department apply to all personnel for fair treatment. This will allow us all to do our work with diligence to serve the vulnerable citizens of our country adequately," said Batista.

Mr. Siyanda Seti

Siyanda Seti is an Admin Assistant: Social Insurance and he is excited about the Social Security Branch's move from Harlequins offices to the Social Development Head Office in the Human Scientific Research Council building. One of his reasons is that they will easily access Human Resource, Supply Chain Management, finance, Ministry and the Director General's office services.

He says Harlequins offices are too far and it takes more time on the road to arrive at work. As a result, they need to dig deep into their pockets for extra costs for transport. Siyanda is happy to be relocating to the head office, but he reflects that his concern is the parking space. Other than that, he is confident that there will be more benefits to be derived by the move, such as arriving at work on time and saving on travelling costs.

Seti says working at Harlequins office park is depressing. I am very happy and am looking forward to the relocation. For me it is a positive move. This move will save the Department a lot of money in rental money and usage of government cars which are used daily to access Supply Chain Management, Finance, Human Resources services.

Seti thinks he will be able to do his job timeously without spending time driving from Harlequins to head office daily.



Ms. Khubhudzo Mabirimisa

Khumbhudzo Mabirimisa is overjoyed with the move to the Head Office. She said that she does not see many challenges since the National Office is the one place where they have access to the resources needed without a hustle and stress.

"I am satisfied. Without any doubt, the move will be convenient for me. I have been to the National Office many times and in her opinion, there is no need to panic pertaining to COVID-19 new infections," said Mabirimisa. She further added that there is no need to complain about overcrowding, personnel need to strictly follow the COVID-19 protocols since the pandemic will be around for a while. "I think now we need to just adhere to Covid-19 regulations to avoid infections," she said.

Additionally, Mabirimisa also said it is best for DSD personnel to be working in one building with resources in place to get work done on time.

"The move will cut costs on the government fleet movement from Harlequins to the Head Office. I am aware that it might look like it is not perfect to others, but it will be very advantageous for all staff to get work to be done on time. My expectation is to have a peaceful place, without any discrimination, no toxic work environments, where we will be treated equally and fairly guided by Departmental policies. I think the move will be a big boost to the staff morale," she said.

HCM EXPLAINS WHAT "BACK TO WORK" MEANS

By Precious Gumedé

South Africa's lockdown adjusted Level 1 regulations and decreasing COVID-19 infection rates give hope that we have navigated the complexities of the "new normal".

The Department of Social Development (DSD) issued Circular 2 of 2022 which highlighted the importance of a safe work environment that is compliant with Covid-19 protocols.

The Circular goes further to explain the measures put in place to ensure a safe work environment for all its employees. These measures include, amongst others, screening of all staff and visitors to the DSD offices, the regular sanitation of all workspaces and maintaining social distance.

Whilst there is currently no policy for mandatory vaccinations, employees are encouraged to get vaccinated. Vaccination remains the best defense against severe symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.

Chief Director: Human Capital Management, Mr Deven Chinappan, stated that a plan has been put in place to ensure the safety of all staff.

He also said that part of the plan is the procurement and installation of 110 automated sanitizer dispensers that will be mounted on the walls and high-density areas. This is to increase the provision of sanitizers in the building.

"As the Department welcomes the staff back to the office after more than a year of remote working (due to lockdown restrictions), the Department has worked tirelessly to ensure that the workplace is safe. The pandemic is still amongst us, therefore let us protect our colleagues and families," said Chinappan.

The Department is acutely aware that the pandemic has contributed to the increase in mental health related conditions such as stress, depression, anxiety and lifestyle changes. To address this, the Department encourages employees who need assistance to deal with COVID-19 to contact PHS Counseling Services on **0800 017 178** who are available 24/7. PHS Counseling Services are appointed by the DSD to assist staff with health and wellness. Staff are also encouraged to contact the Employee Health Wellness Unit and Professional Nurses for support, advice and guidance.



Physical presence at the workplace encourages quick and natural idea-sharing aimed at service delivery

By Evans Molimi

Some of the Departmental personnel think that when working in the office, it is much easier for supervisors to see one's true potential, productivity, and dedication. Here are some of our colleagues' thoughts regarding physically working alongside your co-worker. They believe that colleagues are readily available to offer assistance in an office space.



Boipelo Mothoa

Boipelo Mothoa personally prefers working from home because, for her, it promotes a better work environment and life balance. She explains that working from home taught her to be much more self-controlled than before.

"I have learnt how to equally manage my time regarding work and house chores management. Working from home has taught me how to manage and save money. The working environment was much more conducive than in the office. There are lots of distractions in the office because we spend more time engaging on topical issues than focusing on work," she said.

She also highlighted the disadvantages of working from home, which involves a lot of technical glitches - especially network connectivity.

"I think lack of well-functioning tools of trade contributed to the decision of us coming back to work in the office on a full-time basis. Even our systems are not well placed to be digitally favourable. I think I worked well at home and my productivity was great. Even though there are a lot of distractions at home, it teaches one to be self-disciplined to ensure productivity on tasks given," said Mothoa.

Mothoa personally prefers working from home because for her it promotes a better work environment and life balance. She explains that working from home taught her to be much more self-controlled than before.



Krushenthen Pillay

Krushenthen Pillay is working under the Non-Profit-Organisation Directorate as a Data Capturer. He says that it is challenging to work under the new normal, with daily responsibilities that include interaction with NPO registration applicants. Krushenthen said he does not mind working from the office on a rotational basis, but his main challenge is returning to work in a building that is COVID-19 non-compliant.

"It is encouraging that gradually things are going back to normal. I don't mind coming back to work, but my concern is my health because the pandemic is still in our midst. One of my major challenges is our workspace. More improvements need to be done. Our working station is not conducive at all, as it is not well ventilated. This makes our working conditions tough. But the pandemic on its own has taught us to be extra cautious," he said.

Furthermore, Pillay said he thinks working from the office is better-provided everyone's health is taken into consideration.

"Working from home is disadvantageous because there are many distractions, especially when children come back from school. Health is more important than numbers at work. I think there is a need for new policies to be put in place to protect the workforce. If health conditions are met, I don't see anything stopping us from working in the office, because productivity is more important," concluded Pillay.



Wanda Ntsoane

Wanda Ntsoane is a Senior Administration officer who prefers working from the office instead of working from home. He said working from home can be worthwhile if personnel have all the needed tools of the trade, but his major challenge is after hours meetings which deprive him of attending to other family chores and responsibilities. He reflected that working from home can be difficult sticking to a routine and that is why he prefers working from the office.

"The order you do things at work is rarely the same. The disadvantage of working from home is that you might miss important meetings due to poor internet connectivity. One of the major complications is working slower while attending to other household responsibilities. I think the office has an energy that pushes one to do their work while the home environment does not," said Ntsoane. Furthermore, he said working from the office boosts teamwork that lifts creativity, as well as develops collaborative social skills. "Working from the office allows us to interact and collaborate with other colleagues to increase productivity. Office space allows us to conduct face-to-face meetings. Working from the office makes it easier to offer a helping hand to resolve issues that other team members are struggling with. It also allows managers to keep tabs on their team's progress," he concluded.

His main worry about working from the office is, however, the COVID-19 compliance because the pandemic is still in our midst. He also said working from home can sometimes be advantageous because there is no office distraction.

David Chabalala

David Chabalala says the scourge of the Coronavirus affected everyone globally, and it was a scary situation for him. He recalls being afraid to travel to Mpumalanga Province in March 2020 to fulfil his social welfare mandate. "I was excited when we were told to work remotely. In my mind, working from home would save me travelling costs and the frustration of contending with traffic congestions to and from work. Not knowing that working from home is more disruptive. The most frustrating part when working from home was online meetings for him. In many instances, the network connection was a problem," he said.

Chabalala further explains that he does not mind being available when needed. His worry is after hours Teams' meetings that continue until late evenings. He thinks these late meetings deny a lot of people quality family time and they are unable to attend to family responsibilities. David thinks working from the office is better than working from home. "I resorted to coming to the office, even during the rotational days as I realised that I am more productive when I am in the office than at home. There are many distractions at home. This COVID-19 pandemic changed our working environment tremendously. We were used to holding physical in-person meetings, bilaterally or in a group with all the colleagues within the unit. That is one aspect that I miss" said David. He further explains that as much as he appreciates the digital environment as the new normal, he, however, misses that personal touch with colleagues. "I wish this COVID-19 pandemic would end soon but I continue to encourage all staff to continue complying with the COVID-19 regulations," he concluded.



Dimakatso Mathabatha

Dimakatso Mathabatha thinks working from home has both advantages and disadvantages. She said working from home is more comfortable for some. It is, for this reason, many employees feel that they save time and money on commuting. She thinks one of the best reasons is that there is less travelling to and from the office. This reduces traffic jams and contributes to a cleaner environment as fewer cars are burning fossil fuels.

According to Mathabatha some people believe that they are more productive when working from the comfort of their own space.

"Working from home allows one time to attend to their work appointments and other errands. Although working from home might have some benefits, I do not think that it is ideal. We use more of our home resources, such as water and electricity, and this affects our home budget," she said.

She also thinks that there are numerous negatives when working from home. She explains that there is an increased isolation because employees lose the social touch and workplace connection.

"I also believe there are many distractions when working from home. One runs the risk of not being productive, there is a lack of monitored performance and motivation by supervisors and management. I think working from the office is ideal. Employees would not lose touch with one another," said Mathabatha.





SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES WITH MULTI-SECTORAL ENGAGEMENT ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN ULUNDI

By Evans Molimi

On 16 March 2022, the Department of Social Development in collaboration with stakeholders in the child protection system including the Department of Health, Traditional Leaders, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Zululand District Municipality, continued with the roundtable discussions on teenage pregnancy in Ulundi, KZN Province.

The roundtable discussions are a build-up to this year's Child Protection Week campaign and started in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape.

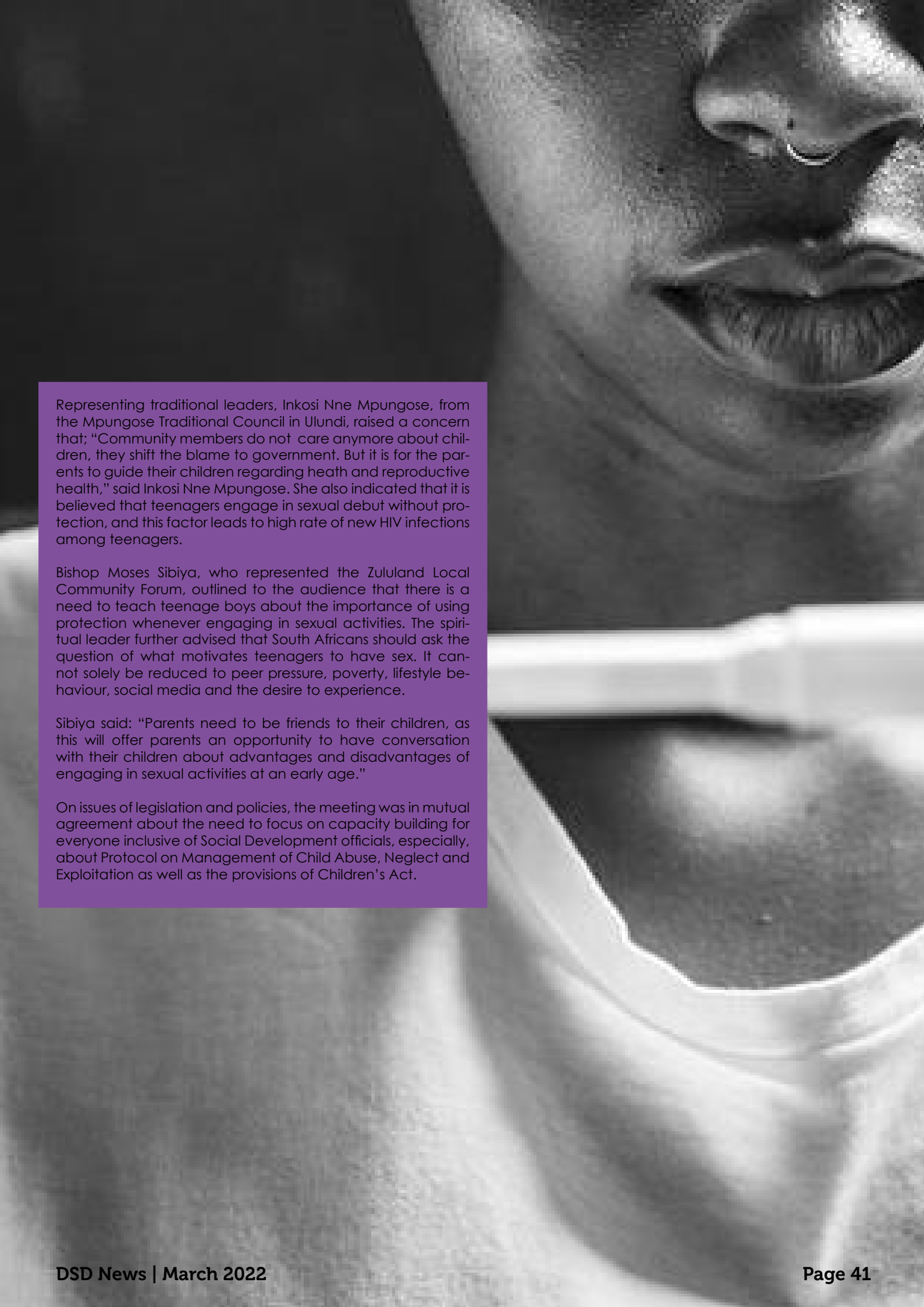
The Department is focusing on the four provinces that registered the most deliveries by teenage mothers namely KZN, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Limpopo.

According to Statistics South Africa's report titled: "Recorded Live Birth" 4 013 birth registrations were recorded for young mothers aged between 10 and 14 years in 2020. In addition, the Adolescent and Youth Health Policy, revealed that during the financial year 2020/21, 182 children were pregnant in KZN Province and 17 of them were from Zululand District Municipality.

During the discussion, participants agreed teenage pregnancy is major challenge in the Zululand District Municipality which affects the lives of many adolescent young girls by limiting their personal growth, pursuit of rewarding careers and ambitions.

Proposing solutions Ms Nelisiwe Mthethwa, Deputy Director: Child Care and Protection, at Social Development District Office in KZN, highlighted that to address the challenge of teenage pregnancy, there is a need for a 365 Days Programme of Action. "The 365 Days Programme of Action will serve as an integrated plan to address social ills including teenage pregnancy which impact negatively on children, families and communities," said Mthethwa.

As part of the interventions against teenage pregnancy, the Department of Social Development also proposed Prevention Programmes through public education and awareness. This, the Department said, can be realized by instilling an integrated rendering of services which combines prevention and early intervention programmes. This would include programmes such as Social and Behaviour Programs, Chommy and YOLO, Parenting Programs, Sinovuyo Teen Parenting, Man Care as well as Boys and Men Championing Change Programmes.



Representing traditional leaders, Inkosi Nne Mpungose, from the Mpungose Traditional Council in Ulundi, raised a concern that; "Community members do not care anymore about children, they shift the blame to government. But it is for the parents to guide their children regarding health and reproductive health," said Inkosi Nne Mpungose. She also indicated that it is believed that teenagers engage in sexual debut without protection, and this factor leads to high rate of new HIV infections among teenagers.

Bishop Moses Sibiya, who represented the Zululand Local Community Forum, outlined to the audience that there is a need to teach teenage boys about the importance of using protection whenever engaging in sexual activities. The spiritual leader further advised that South Africans should ask the question of what motivates teenagers to have sex. It cannot solely be reduced to peer pressure, poverty, lifestyle behaviour, social media and the desire to experience.

Sibiya said: "Parents need to be friends to their children, as this will offer parents an opportunity to have conversation with their children about advantages and disadvantages of engaging in sexual activities at an early age."

On issues of legislation and policies, the meeting was in mutual agreement about the need to focus on capacity building for everyone inclusive of Social Development officials, especially, about Protocol on Management of Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation as well as the provisions of Children's Act.



We have a Procedure Manual on the Social Relief of Distress Grant!

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane

On 22 February of this year, the draft regulations on the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant were published in Government Gazette No R 117. The purpose was to ensure that the South African public was given the opportunity to make inputs as mandated in the Constitution of South Africa.

On March 14, the Social Security Branch held a consultation with the nation wherein a discussion of the inputs by society were discussed. Stakeholders and civil society joined in on the conversation seeking clarity on how the grant would be rolled out, the qualification criteria and the affordability of the South African Government to sustain the payment of this grant for another year as announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

"As many of you may know, our budgets have increased quite dramatically from R400 million to about R12 billion, then to R20 billion and in the coming year, we will need roughly R44 billion," said Mr Brenton Van Vrede – the Chief Director: Social Assistance - Department of Social



Development adding that the COVID-19 pandemic has seen an increase in the number of beneficiaries.

"Where we normally service a couple of hundreds of thousands of people per annum, we've seen numbers grow to as much as 10 and a half million," he expressed during the consultation.

The SRD grant is targeting persons aged between 18 and 59 years old, who are without any source of income support, and those facing undue financial hardships due to unemployment as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The amendments are also aligned to the Government's decision to increase the Child Support Grant (CSG), the Care Dependency Grant and the Foster Child Grant (FCG) which will be focusing mainly on protection of children, as announced by the National Treasury in February. The second consultation with stakeholders and the

public took place on 22 March wherein the SRD Procedure Manual was tabled by Mr Fanie Sethokga, the General Manager: Grants Operations. "The manual has a number of objectives but key to these is to:

- Introduce the implementation framework relating to Social Relief of Distress;
- Bring consistency in the interpretation and administration process;
- Ensure that controls introduced promote efficiency and accuracy regarding all forms of social relief of distress;
- Provide guidance on the application for requirements for the different categories for SRD;

- Prevent errors, fraud and corruption regarding social relief of distress;
- Ensure accountability when social relief of distress is handled;
- Ensure that the payment of social relief of distress is carried out in a reasonable, transparent and fair manner; and to Provide for an efficient and effective administration system within existing resource constraints," he explained.

To further respond to the concerns by South Africans on the pace of the appeals for the SRD grant, the Department has also advertised for suitable members to be part of the appeals tribunal when their applications are rejected by SASSA.

INVITATION TO BE PLACED ON THE PANEL FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE APPEALS

The Minister of Social Development, Ms L. Zulu, MP, seeks to appoint suitably qualified South African citizens, as members of the Independent Tribunal for Social Assistance Appeals to consider applications relating to Social Relief of Distress. Section 18 of the Social Assistance Act, 13 of 2004, makes provision for the Minister of Social Development to appoint an Independent Tribunal to consider appeals lodged by social grant applicants who are dissatisfied with the decision of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

Applications are hereby invited for consideration and appointment to serve as a member of the Independent Tribunal at the National Office in Pretoria, Gauteng. Applicants should possess the necessary technical skills and experience. The term and deployment of the Tribunal Members will be determined from time to time by the Minister or her duly authorized delegate. Remuneration is as determined by the Minister of Finance in line with the Service Benefit Packages for Office-Bearers of Certain Statutory and Other Institutions (Category Level A1).

Please take note that appointment is for a period of 24 months and on assignment basis and does not guarantee automatic assignment of work. The period may be extended by the Minister.

Category: Technically Skilled Member of Civil Society

Technically Skilled Member of Civil Society:

Requirements: Duly qualified and skilled persons with:

- (i) Relevant degree/diploma qualification in IT and/or Financial Audit;
- (ii) Java and SQL skills and experience in the development of databases, data scripting and bulk data analysis; and /

or

- (ii) Financial audit experience.

in the evaluation of medical impairment will be an added advantage.

It should be noted that the persons to be appointed should be persons who are in good standing in the community and whose appointment will not give rise to a conflict of interest. Applicants must be in possession of at least 5 years post qualification experience as set out above and must not be in the full-time employ of the public service or an Organ of State (including SASSA).

Enquiries: Mr John Mokoale (012) 741 6868 or per e-mail: johnmo@dsd.gov.za

Applications: All applications should be submitted with a covering letter, clearly indicating the professional category and must be accompanied by a detailed Curriculum Vitae together with the certified copies of the relevant qualification(s).

Applications should be forwarded to: The Independent Tribunal for Social Assistance Appeals, Department of Social Development by email for attention of Mr John Mokoale at the following email address: johnmo@dsd.gov.za

The closing date for applications is 04 April 2022.

The Minister reserves the right not to appoint any applicant.

Building a Caring Society. Together.

www.dsd.gov.za



What is Social Relief of Distress?

- SRD is a temporary means of social assistance and may be issued in the form of cash, vouchers or other non-financial items such as blankets, hot meals, dignity packs, etc. in the case of a disaster.
- It is both an immediate response to a crisis situation in respect of an individual, a family or a community in the case of a disaster; or temporary relief to an individual in the case of Insufficient means.
- The primary purpose of SRD is to ensure that vulnerable people have a means of subsistence.

Forms of Social Relief of Distress

- Social Relief of Distress in the form of a temporary grant to provide relief to individuals with insufficient means (SRD-IMG).
- Assistance in case of a Disaster, which may include non-financial support, vouchers or cash (SRD-D).
- Social Relief of Distress while awaiting for approval of a social grant and recovered once the grant is paid (SRD-ASG).



SASSA'S RESPONSE TO A DISASTER/ INCIDENT AFFECTING MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY

- Single bed blanket at an amount not exceeding R 300 per blanket per person;
- Single thick foam mattress at an amount not exceeding R 400 per single mattress per person;
- Baby Pack per infant containing - 30 disposable nappies, 100g baby soap, 100g Vaseline, face cloth, pack of 40 baby wipes, 250g baby cereal and 900g baby formula at an amount not exceeding the value of a child support grant;
- Vanity Pack per person containing – 1 toothbrush, 100ml toothpaste, 20 x sanitary pads for the female vanity packs, 1 roll toilet paper, face cloth, roll-on deodorant, 1 bar of soap and 100g Vaseline at an amount not exceeding R 250 for men and R300 for women;
- School uniform at an amount not exceeding R2 500 will only be supplied when a child's school uniform was lost in the disaster;
- In a situation where people have been displaced from their homes SASSA will provide baby packs, vanity packs or financial support once the affected members are able to return to their homes as determined by the Joint Operation Committee (JOC)

QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS

- Awaiting payment of an approved grant; and will be provided with SRD-ASG
- Person is affected by a disaster; and will be provided with SRD-D
- A person who is unemployed and declares that he/she has insufficient means to support him or herself.



Special conditions

- Continued payment of the SRD- IMG will be subject to the person meeting the requirement of the eligibility criteria on a monthly basis
- A person can receive a social grant or SRD-IMG and SRD-D simultaneously in the case of a disaster
- SRD-IMG may be suspended where evidence emerges that the individual may no longer have insufficient means
- SASSA's response to a disaster should not duplicate the assistance which has already being provided by the municipal disaster management tea or NGO's.

SASSA'S RESPONSE TO A DISASTER/ INCIDENT AFFECTING MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY

- Cash: The value should equal the amount of a Grant for Older Persons, which will also apply where the affected family is a child headed household,
- Voucher: The value should equal the amount as specified for SRD from time to time;
- Where the disaster / incident has resulted in the loss of life, the affected family may be assisted with SRD in the form of cash, to the value of 2 x the amount of the grant for older persons

Cancellation of SRD

- A beneficiary may request a cancellation of SRD for unpaid months through the available channels
- SASSA may cancel or decline SRD if;
 - Funding for the grant is depleted,
 - Suspected fraud,
 - The person is no longer residing in South Africa
 - The beneficiary no longer meets the qualifying criteria
- A beneficiary may request that their SRD be re-instated through the designated channels, and such re-instatement is payable from the month requested.



Social grants beneficiaries **do not have to withdraw all their funds** in one day or the first day of the month.

Funds can be withdrawn on different days throughout the month in accordance to the beneficiaries needs.



For more information contact, Customer Care: 012 400 2022 / Toll free: 0800 60 10 11

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#KeepSouthAfricaSafe

*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. NJALO!*



We are not our backgrounds

By James Moche

Mechanical Engineering student Thato Tlotlo (20) is an example of how the Abram Kriel Child and Youth Care Centre (AKCYCC) in Potchefstroom, North West, is changing the lives of children and young people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Tlotlo is from Khuma township near Stilfontein in the North West.

He lost his father when he was only five years old. Then tragedy struck again! Three short years later, at only eight years of age, he lost his mother. Tlotlo, together with his 16-year-old sister and five-year-old brother were left to fend for themselves, his sister thrust into a premature motherly role.

After the passing of the parents, Tlotlo and his siblings became beneficiaries of the AKCYCC.

The passing of Tlotlo's mother meant that social workers had to take the siblings to a safe house because of the circumstances that the children were faced with. In 2011 Thato was housed at the AKCYCC.

Today, Tlotlo is studying towards a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering with Vuselela TVET college in Potchefstroom.

Every year the North West Department of Social Development (DSD), allocates about R11 million to AKCYCC. This money is used by social workers and DSD staff to change the lives of young people and children like Tlotlo. Some of the assistance that Thato received included care, development, therapeutic, health and educational programmes.



From left to right: Thato Tlotlo, AKCYCC social worker - Caro Schoen, Sindiswa Vuyi, and Elmary Oosthuizen

Tlotlo believes that if it was not for the AKCYCC programme, he would not have passed his matric in 2021. Tlotlo says that he is thankful for the role played by all social development sector stakeholders in his life's progress.

Other beneficiaries of the AKCYCC programme are Elmary Oosthuizen (19) and Sindiswa Vuyi (19), who also grew up under difficult situations and commended DSD for the positive impact on their lives. They are both studying towards a teaching degree at the University of North West in Potchefstroom.

"Sometimes the staff are hard on us, but it is a good thing because people should learn things that will make their lives progress," said Oosthuizen.

The DSD subsidises ten privately run child and youth care centres to the tune of more than thirty one million rand (R31 000 000) per annum.

"At the centre I had all the support which pulled me through," said Vuyi.

The three students were thankful for the impact of government and recognised how service delivery has improved their lives.

The DSD also subsidises ten privately run child and youth care centres to the tune of more than R31 million per annum.

DSD North West, Social Policy Developer, Kate Mokoena says the purpose of the subsidies is to help children in need of care and protection, as a way of providing them with opportunities to brighten their future.

In 2021 AKCYCC had eight children doing matric and seven of them passed.

'We cannot pride ourselves of many Thuthuzela Centres'

By Evans Molimi

The Social Development Minister, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, cautioned the citizenry against complacency in the fight against gender-based violence. She warned that the Thuthuzela Centres should not be viewed as institutions of national pride, instead they should be considered an indictment on our society's ability to protect the vulnerable among us. If anything, the Thuthuzela Centres should be appreciated for what they are: a bulwark against the scourge of Gender-Based-Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

While visiting the Thuthuzela Care Centre which provides medical and therapeutic services to victims of rape and other forms of sexual assault, Minister Zulu declared that this scourge of GBV needed a multi-pronged approach that involved both perpetrators and victims. She turned the centre into a temporary plenary venue in preparation for the Presidential visit to the province.

"There is a lot of work to do. We cannot allow GBVF to continue dividing our society. The government, civil society, activists and the private sector need to adopt a confrontational attitude towards this pandemic. We cannot permit violence against women and children hence we are working closely with the police to deal with GBVF," said Minister Zulu.

Minister Zulu had strong words for perpetrators (and would-be perpetrators) for their cowardly acts against the defenceless. She proposed that society needs stronger measures to deal a decisive blow against this pandemic. "We cannot allow GBVF to run like wildfire. There is a greater need to engage men, especially offenders on what prompted them to commit GBVF. My wish is to see women and their children living in comfort under the care of men," she said.

Minister Zulu also made a stop at the National Development Agency (NDA) funded Bogela Bontle Beadwork Cooperative to see their work. The Cooperative received embroidery machinery and materials to the value of R75 543 from the NDA.

The Chairperson of the Cooperative, Gogo Johanna Otukile said they strive towards contributing towards the economic empowerment of unemployed rural women. "We currently have four women in our employ. They all



have technical beadwork and sewing skills coupled with some years of experience. We are currently in partnership with schools in Mahikeng where we supply school uniforms to over two hundred learners," she said. Furthermore, Gogo Otukile said they have exhibited their work locally and internationally with the assistance of the Department of Trade and Industry.

"We had the opportunity to display our work internationally, in countries like Italy, India, Canada and Australia before the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has held us back, but we have also partnered with the South African Social Security Agency to supply school uniforms to needy children," Gogo Otukile said.

Gogo Otukile concluded by saying that regardless of the COVID-19 national lockdown, the cooperative secured a lucrative deal to supply different Provincial government departments with face masks and that assisted the cooperative to stay afloat and survive.

The Department of Social Development finalises the State Party Report on the Rights of Children

By Evans Molimi

South Africa is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This convention is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion, or abilities. As a signatory to the Convention, South Africa has an obligation to submit a progress report in terms of binding articles of this instrument to the United Nations (UN).

The State Party report covers efforts by the entire government, meaning all sectors (social, economic, civil, justice, political and cultural) and spheres of government to ensure the realisation of children's rights.

Khethani Hlongwa, Researcher at the National Department of Social Development said due to the magnitude of this work, the Department hosts the National Office on the Rights of the Child and it is responsible for coordinating, drafting and submitting this report to the UN.

"The report presents coverage of progress that the country has made in terms of adoption and reform laws, policies, and programmes aimed at protecting the rights of children. Key from this are the policies on teenage pregnancies, National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and policy on marriages. This policy on marriages is important in fighting against forced and early child marriages," he said.

Furthermore, Hlongwa said the report aims to advise the committee on the implementation of the optional protocol on the rights of the child regarding the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.

He explained that the report comes at a time when the country is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and it outlines the country's efforts in the protection of the rights of children.

"South Africa has a comprehensive policy in the form of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024, as well as a National Plan of Action for Children. These strategic documents present the implementation side of how the State has prioritised children's rights. The report documents commitments by the South African government on children's rights and advocacy. However, the lack of a responsive budgeting framework makes it difficult to ensure adequate financial resources for the successful implementation of these plans," Hlongwa said.

He explained that in the previous report to the UN, the country had shown that it was not doing well in terms of information dissemination. In this report, the State presents an update on improvements around awareness-raising programmes for children and parents, as well as systematic training of all professional groups working on children's rights.

Furthermore, according to Hlongwa the country has made great strides on the legislative measures in ensuring the minimum age for marriage. The minimum age is established at 18 years for both boys and girls. These legislative



Mr. Khethani Hlongwa, Researcher, National Department of Social Development

measures also include the eradication of harmful cultural practices. Regarding unaccompanied and separated children from their parents, Khethani explains that the UN is concluding observations on the State Party Report in treating foreign children.

"The UN is worried that these children, in most cases, are undocumented and therefore struggle to access social services. This report thus appraises the committee on the investments that the country has made, including the fact that migrant children may apply to access social security services such as child support grants. They can also be admitted to schools without providing birth certificates while in the process of applying for one, and they are also eligible to receive free primary health care," he said.

After the finalisation of the report and subsequent consultations with the relevant stakeholders, the Minister for Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu will present the report to her Cabinet colleagues for approval. She will further table it to the National Assembly in Parliament to seek agreement with Cabinet's approval before handing it over to the UN.

The report will be submitted to the UN in June 2022. Copies of this report will be made public on the website of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights as well as on the Departmental website.

A portrait of Mrs. Langi Malamba, a woman with short grey hair, wearing glasses and a patterned top, smiling. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and flowers.

World Social Work Day: There is no us without you!

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane

It is a busy day in the streets of Marlboro (Gauteng Province) when we visit Mrs Langi Malamba, who was appointed in August 2017, and serves as the fifth Registrar of the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP).

"I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all Social Workers to look at global values that we can all embrace and utilise in enhancing our profession. It is not an easy profession and we need to rekindle the spark that made us to choose to be part of this profession," she says as she takes calls of help from various members of the community who seek psychosocial support.

It is a few days before World Social Work Day which is celebrated, annually, on every third Tuesday in March as launched by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) - a global organisation striving for social justice, human rights and social development through the promotion of social work best-practice models and the facilitation of international cooperation.

The IFSW marked the month of March as World Social Work Month and other social work organisations, including the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) joined the call.

"During the 2019/20 financial year the department introduced the implementation of social work practice seminars in provinces, where social workers are encouraged to develop academic articles from their day-to-day workloads.

"These seminars play a crucial role in facilitating integration of the knowledge base of the profession with social work theories, social work models and policy imperatives demonstrated in delivery of developmental social welfare services hence the resuscitation of these seminars during commemoration of Social Work Month and Social Work Day March 2022," said Ms Civil Legodu – the Chief Director: Professional Social Services and Older Persons at the National Department of Social Development.

"The inclusion of both social work veteran programme and social work practice seminars during this period is critical as these are main in strengthening the social work profession, practice and enhancing the professional image of social workers," she added.

Held under the theme: "Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind", this year's Social Work Day aimed to present a vision and action plan to create new global values, policies and practices that develop trust, security and confidence for all people.

"Social Work is a noble profession that has its values embedded on Ubuntu. Social Work is an academic discipline and practice - based profession that concerns itself with individuals, families, groups and communities. The Social Work practice is informed by theoretical frameworks as a guide in the process of servicing beneficiaries. The philosophy of Social Work is based on a principle of helping people - both in their individual situations and in their collective circumstances," said the Acting Director General, Mr Linton Mchunu.

Resonating with the message from the Acting Director General, Minister Lindiwe Zulu said: "It is all about care, support and helping others to overcome their difficulties across all spheres of life in every family and in every community. During COVID-19, Social Workers have been particularly critical in helping communities and individuals to cope with the challenges posed by the pandemic."

She added words of gratitude for the Social Work Practitioners who have devoted their time to service the people of South Africa. "I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, Siya-bonga, Re a Leboga, Ndo livhuwa Ro livhuwa Ndo livhuwa nga maanda to all the Social Workers who continue to serve our people ever so tirelessly," concluded Minister Zulu.



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Early Childhood Development Function moves to the Department of Basic Education

By Precious Gumede

On 01 April 2022, the Department of Social Development (DSD) will be officially handing over the Early Childhood Development (ECD) roles and responsibilities to the Department of Basic Education (DBE). This followed a decision taken by cabinet and announced by the President during the February 2019 State of the Nation Address (SONA). This process is purely an administrative process where functions or roles and responsibilities, are transferred from one Minister to another.

The move will allow for a standardised ECD function, to ensure structured learning in the education sector, including a managed curriculum. Additionally, the shifting of the function will allow the DBE to manage the educational journey of young children, from play-based learning to Grade 12. Both departments have been working hard to ensure a smooth transition process with minimal disruption to service delivery.

However, the DSD will remain responsible for the functions related to social support and care and will provide support to ECD programmes similar to the support that they are currently providing to learners in schools.

Furthermore, the DSD will remain responsible for Non-Profit Organisation



(NPO) registration and the function shift will not influence this process in any way. The DBE will be responsible to support, subsidise and regulate the ECD programmes according to the specifications in Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of the Children's Act.

This move is also in line with international evidence that has proved that investing in high-quality early childhood development programmes can have significant economic and social benefits. The official hybrid handover ceremony is scheduled to take place on the 01st of April 2022 at Freedom Park in Pretoria under strict Covid-19 regulations. Both Ministers, Hon. Lindiwe Zulu and Hon. Angie Motshekga and other critical stakeholders will be present.



MOFULATSHEPE EDUCARE CENTRE READY FOR ECD Function Shift

By Vinolia Motshabi

Mofulatshepe Educare Centre is based in Smithfield, in the Mohokare Municipality, Xhariep District. It was established in January 1989 by a group of four women, including the current matron, Mme Lucy Sefako. She is the only remaining founder and also serves as the Provincial Vice-Chairperson of the South African Congress for Early Childhood Development (SACECD).

The Educare Centre was established to assist working parents and it accommodated between eighteen (18) to twenty (20) children at the time. Its main mission has always been to protect the wellbeing and interest of children as well as to promote the rights of children to adequate physical, emotional and intellectual care and development. The centre prides itself in developing and maintaining acceptable standards for the care and education of children at preschool age. The ECD was located at a nearby building in Mofulatshepe but moved to the current building in 2013 when the Mohokare Municipality, as well as the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure availed the land that the ECD currently occupies.

The relocation was made possible by the cooperation of various stakeholders, including the Department of Social Development and the National Lottery Commission. This joint stakeholder collaboration assisted in the promotion, understanding and cooperation of parents concerning their role in the ECD process.

As of the 2021/2022 financial year, the centre had a total number of 138 children aged between 2 and 5 years old. The children are still on a rotational schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mme Lucy Sefako explained that she is looking forward to the ECD shift from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education because her Educare centre is already utilising the National Curriculum Framework to nurture the minds of the young children. The centre has five practitioners, one cook, one cleaner and one gardener.

ECD Function shift

Early Childhood Development

Play your part in planning your
children's future



Basic Education
Social Development



ECD Function shift

What is the function shift?

A function shift is a purely administrative process where functions, or roles and responsibilities, are transferred from one Minister to another.

What is a Proclamation and what does it mean for ECD?

A proclamation is a legal document that the President or Premier signs. A Proclamation cannot change any contents in an Act, but only changes the reference from one Minister to another. In the case of ECD, it will mean that every time Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of the Children's Act mentions the Minister or MEC of Social Development, it will now refer to the Minister or MEC of Basic Education. This will mean that the DBE will become responsible for everything that DSD was responsible for in terms of delivering, funding, registering, monitoring and supporting the ECD sector.

Where does the function shift originate from?

During the February 2019 State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Cyril Ramaphosa directed that "the responsibility for ECD centres will be migrated from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education". This statement of commitment by the President has created an opportunity to accelerate provisioning and redesign the systems for state monitoring and support for ECD.

The President's mandate is derived from a variety of sources, namely the Bill of Rights as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the resolutions of the 52nd, 53rd and 54th National Conferences of the African National Congress, the pronouncements of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 on ECD institutional architecture, and the commitments made by the Governing Party in its 2019 Election Manifesto. Indeed, this is in line with many other countries that have moved from viewing ECD less as a child protection function and more as an early learning function that is led and coordinated by national ministries of education. Further, consolidating early learning within the DBE would streamline the continuum of education, and create positive pressure for greater resource allocation to ECD as a mechanism for preventing the educational disparities we currently see in the Foundation Phase grades and beyond.



What will change?

The DBE will become responsible for ensuring the universal availability and adequate quality of, and equitable access to, inclusive learning opportunities for children aged birth to until the year before they enter formal school. The DBE will fulfil this responsibility through the development, delivery, regulation, registration, quality monitoring, improvement and evaluation of early childhood development programmes.

The DBE will, however, **remain** responsible for the functions that they originally had, and will also become responsible for some of the functions that DSD had about overall leadership and coordination, delivery, regulation, registration, monitoring and support.

Historically the DBE has been responsible for the early learning component of ECD. The National Curriculum Framework from birth to four (NCF) has been developed and practitioners are being trained and supported in delivering the NCF. The DBE is also training ECD Practitioners in various NQF levels for the purpose of improvement in qualifications and will continue with these functions and strengthen the monitoring and support aspects of these functions.

DSD will remain responsible for the functions related to social support and care, and will provide support to ECD programmes similar to the support that they are currently providing to learners in schools.

	DSD	DBE
New functions		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring universal availability and adequate quality of, and equitable access to, inclusive learning opportunities; and• Development, delivery, regulation, registration, quality monitoring, improvement and evaluation of ECD programmes.
Functions remaining	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child protection;• Psycho-social services;• Child support grant;• Access to social services to prevent and address risk factors; and• Partial care facilities that relate to afterschool services, private hostels and temporary respite care centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of early learning curriculum;• Continuity and synergy between early learning and Grade R;• Integration of key health messages in the school curriculum;• Training, implementation and monitoring relating to curriculum implementation for birth to four-year-olds.

In terms of the new functions, the DBE will take 2021/22 as a planning and preparation year. During this year, the different branches will be preparing to deliver these function, as well as prepare and develop the systems that are required for delivering the ECD function. An implementation plan is currently being developed and we will be workshopping these plans with the sector throughout the year.



Will the ECD Integrated Policy of 2015 remain applicable and in force?

The ECD Integrated Policy of 2015 will remain applicable and in force until the DBE, through thorough consultative processes, has reviewed the policy to ensure that the function shift is reflected in the policy. This will entail ensuring that the roles, responsibilities and functions reflected in the policy are aligned to the shift. What this will mean is that the DBE will need to become the lead Department in the Policy. The roles and responsibility shift between the DBE and DSD will also need to be reflected in the Policy. All changes that will be made to the Policy will follow the correct procedure and the sector will be thoroughly engaged on these changes.

What will happen with ECD practitioners' current employment arrangements?

ECD practitioners are currently employed by ECD programmes and this will remain the case come 1 April 2022. The DBE will not become responsible for paying the salaries of ECD practitioners, this will still be the responsibility of the ECD programmes. ECD programmes will remain the employers of ECD practitioners after the ECD function shift. DBE will engage with providers to determine the options for supporting them to ensure quality outcomes for children.

What will the implications be for training and qualifications?

The DBE is not expecting ECD practitioners to upskill themselves before 1 April 2022. We will be developing an ECD Human Resource Strategic Workforce Plan that will build onto the existing workforce. This plan will outline the qualifications that are available for ECD practitioners; the expectations in terms of competencies, skills and qualifications at different levels; flexible opportunities for training and development including recognition of prior learning; clear career paths and conditions of service. This plan will only come into effect in 2023 and will be thoroughly workshopped with the sector before it is adopted. This means that the ECD Qualifications of NQF Level 4 and NQF Level 5 are still relevant, and the Department would like to encourage those who are ECD practitioners to continue with their studies towards these qualifications.

What will this mean for the ownership of ECD programmes?

Since the largest majority of ECD programmes are owned by non-governmental organisations, communities and private institution rather than the Department of Social Development, they will not be affected by the function shift. Rather, the DBE will become responsible to support, subsidise and regulate the programmes according to the specifications in Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of the Children's Act.



What will this mean for the registration of ECD programmes?

In 2021, the legal teams in the provinces will work on the transfer of the Service Level Agreements between the Provincial Departments of Social Development and the ECD programmes. With this, they will determine the best way to transfer the registration status of currently registered programmes to ensure that ECD programmes that are currently registered with the DSD will remain registered with the DBE.

Nevertheless, the DBE recognises the complexities around the registration process in the ECD sector. The registration of ECD facilities and programmes is regulated by the Children's Act and DBE will therefore need to implement these regulations until we have had the opportunity to make the required changes. The DBE is committed to investigating improvements to both the registration process and the registration regulations to ensure that there is a single-streamlined process that is standardised across the provinces.

Will NPO registration be done through the DBE or DSD?

The Department of Social Development will remain responsible for NPO registration and the function shift will not influence this process in any way.

What will this mean for the subsidies that ECD programmes have been receiving?

Come 1 April 2022, the DBE will become responsible for paying the subsidies exactly the same as how the DSD has been doing. Over the next two years, the DBE will, however, be reviewing the subsidy model to see whether it is the best way to be supporting ECD programmes. We recognise that the sector has been under-funded and we will be doing a baseline assessment this year to better understand how we can further increase support to the sector. Once we have a proposed funding model, we will be workshopping it extensively with the sector before rolling it out. This will likely only be in 2023.



What are the implications regarding the Curriculum?

The 2015 National Integrated ECD policy already specifies that the DBE is primarily responsible for the implementation of curriculum development, support and training, and the roll-out of the Reception Year (Grade R). The function shift will therefore not change our responsibility.

We want to strive to provide all children in South Africa with access to quality ECD programmes and this will rely particularly on the implementation of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF); National Early Learning and Development Standards (NELDS); the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (ECD Policy) and The Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Early Childhood Development Educators.

In line with international best practice, the DBE is investigating the implementation of a quality assurance system that will support and guide practitioners with the delivery of quality early learning and care.



ECD Function shift

Early Childhood Development



#WAY I DIDN'T REPORT



Break the SILENCE

The Gender Based Violence Command Centre

operates an Emergency Line number – 0800 428 428.

This is supported by a USSD, "please call me" facility: *120*7867#.

A Skype Line 'Helpme GBV' for members of the deaf community also exists. (Add 'Helpme GBV' to your Skype contacts).

An SMS Based Line 31531 for persons with disabilities (SMS 'help' to 31531) also exists.

The Centre is able to refer calls directly to SAPS (10111) and field Social Workers who respond to victims of GBV.

New Faces to Improve Service Delivery for Poor and Vulnerable South Africans

By Evans Molimi

Diversity in the workplace brings more ideas and creativity to the table. To achieve the goal, the Department of Social Development has harnessed the talent of men and women who excel in their field of expertise. All employees featured here are empowered with the necessary knowledge and skills as well as well-articulated values and measures needed by Social development.

Ms. Precious Gumede

Gumede holds an Honours degree in Integrated Organisational Communication and will soon complete her Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration. She joined the DSD on the 01st of March 2022 as Deputy Director: Internal Communication under the Directorate of Media Relations and Corporate Content. Her duties include managing internal communication and intergovernmental communication, managing the sector newsletter, and managing media buying. She also manages and oversees exhibitions and displays in the frontline areas of the department.

Gumede describes herself as a dedicated public service cadre who is committed to the public good and capable of consistently delivering high-quality services to all South Africans.

"I am very excited to join the department and to be an addition to the already existing strong communications team. I am confident that the work environment will allow me to grow, learn and serve. I understand my role in terms of contributing to the mandate of the department," said Gumede.



Mr. Kgomotso Kgole

Kgole recently joined the Department as a State Accountant under Financial Monitoring of Funded Organizations. He joined the Social Development family on the 7th of February 2022. He studied Financial Accounting at the University of Johannesburg and he is currently planning to study post graduate studies through correspondence.

Since he joined the Department, Kgole has settled well into his role with great ease because of the continuous support he receives from his superiors and mentors. He said this was what makes the environment conducive to daily excellence.

"I fit perfectly into this role. I spent a number of years of my training preparing for this state accountant role. I believe I'm the right person for the job because I can perform my tasks naturally. I feel motivated to contribute my skills to the government's efforts to provide social protection services. And I enjoy contributing towards community upliftment through service delivery," he said.

New Faces to Improve Service Delivery for Poor and Vulnerable South Africans

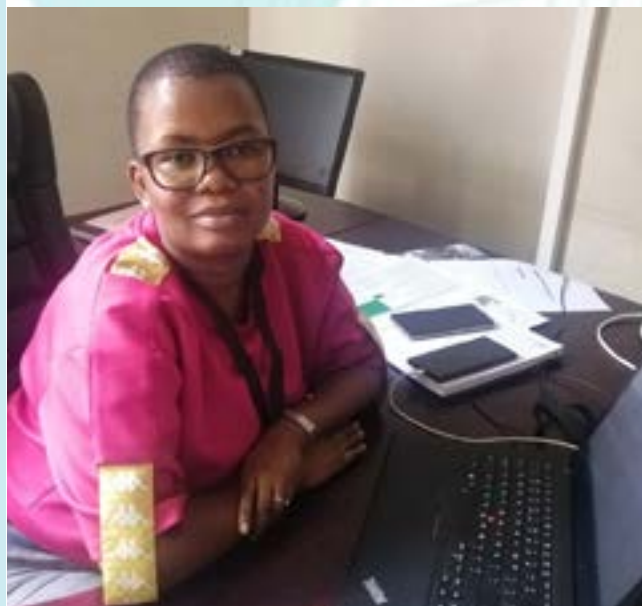
Ms. Mamashege Lebotsa

Mamashege Gladys Lebotsa has nine years of experience, 4 years working in the semi-private sector and 5 years in the public sector. She has acquired skills in designing, implementing, and managing infrastructure projects in the agricultural sector.

With a Bachelor of Science Degree (BSc Ag Eng) from the University of KwaZulu Natal, Mamashege has been tasked to assess the maintenance work executed on the infrastructure of Early Childhood Development centres (ECDs). Her duties include inspecting if ECDs are compliant with the Departmental norms and standards. She joined the Department on the 1st of February, 2022.

Lebotsa said she enjoys working on projects which improve the livelihood of people. She is appointed as a project coordinator under Infrastructure for ECD and she thinks she is the right person for the job.

"Yes, I am the appropriate person for the occupation with the relevant experience and qualifications. I would like to see my managerial skills improve as I see myself occupying a senior management position in the next 3 years. I also would like to enrol for project and construction management courses. With the experience I have I will ensure that the Departmental vision and mission are achieved. I always strive to achieve and improve on everyday tasks given to me," she said.

A graphic for Human Rights Month 2022. It features a close-up of four hands of different skin tones (light, medium, and dark brown) stacked on top of each other in a supportive grip. The background is a blurred South African flag with its characteristic green, white, and blue colors.

Human
Rights
Month
2022

DSD in pictures







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