

DSD NEWS



A deep look at GBV

NDA: Minister Youth Visits

The Department Honours Top Foster Care Beneficiaries

2022 Budget Vote

Delivered by the Honorable Minister of Finance Mr. Enoch Godongwana

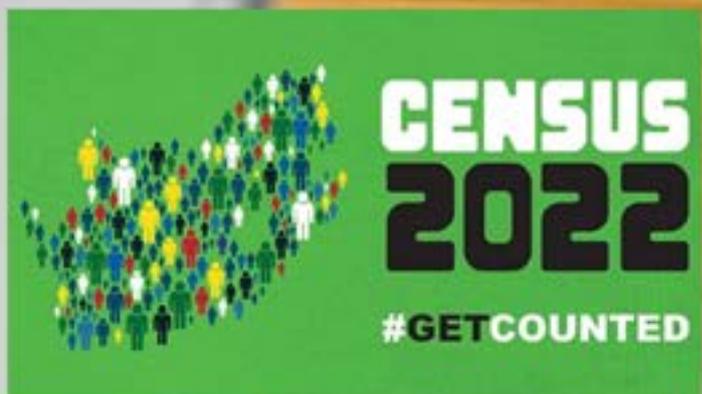
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THE YEAR OF:
**CHARLOTTE
MAXEKE**
THE MEANING OF FREEDOM
UNDER COVID-19





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— FROM THE DESK OF — THE PRESIDENT

A BUDGET FOR GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

Dear Fellow South African,

Last week, Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana presented a Budget that supports and reinforces the programme of action I announced in the State of the Nation Address (SONA) to grow the economy and create jobs.

The Budget provides details on how government plans to raise money and where it is going to spend that money to improve the lives of South Africans. Few South Africans need to be reminded how devastating the COVID-19 pandemic has been for our economy.

Despite the substantial economic and social support package we introduced in 2020, businesses have gone under and as many as two million people have lost their jobs. Many households have been spared from hunger only due to the increases in social grants.

As the pandemic has battered the economy, so it has further worsened the country's financial position. At the height of the pandemic, less revenue was collected and more money had to be spent on strengthening our health response and providing social support. As a result, the country had to borrow more and do so at a greater cost.

The pandemic followed a decade of huge increases in public spending, even as economic growth remained low. One of the most important tasks of this administration has been to restore our public finances to health so that government can perform its role effectively. As I said in SONA, the only way out of this dire situation is to grow the economy. And the most effective way to reduce poverty and hunger in a sustainable way is

to create employment. That is why the pursuit of growth and jobs is at the centre of the programme outlined in both SONA and the Budget.

This programme includes far-reaching economic reforms that promote investment and growth. These reforms will ensure that our country has enough affordable electricity to meet growing demand, that our ports and rail lines are more efficient, that we improve access to faster, cheaper broadband, that homes and businesses have the water they need, and that we can attract the skills and investment we need to create a productive and dynamic economy.

At a time when public resources are constrained, these reforms will enable greater private investment in the vital infrastructure that our economy needs to grow. This takes place alongside a revised framework for public-private partnerships and innovative new ways to blend public and private resources for infrastructure investment.

We will do this in a way that improves the performance and financial position of key state owned enterprises. This will place these enterprises in a far better position to fulfil their developmental mandates, while ensuring that critical national infrastructure remains firmly in state hands.

To support this work, R17.5 billion was allocated in the Budget for catalytic infrastructure projects over the next three years. This will, among others, support the upgrading of roads, bridges, water and sewer, transport, schools, hospitals and clinics.

The Budget supports the efforts announced in SONA to unleash the potential of small, micro and informal businesses.

For example, R15 billion has been set aside for a redesigned loan guarantee scheme that will make it easier for small businesses to access funding to 'bounce back' from the effects of the pandemic.

The Employment Tax Incentive, which has been so successful in giving many young people their first jobs, is being expanded to encourage small businesses to



"No action is too small when it comes to changing the World"

- President Cyril Ramaphosa

hire more people. Recognising the importance of basic services both for quality of life and for investment and business activity, the Budget significantly increases the allocation for service delivery. For example, it adds an extra R30.7 billion to local government allocations for basic municipal services.

All of these measures encourage the growth and expansion of firms and support the establishment of new firms to create new jobs. These efforts will, however, take time to absorb the millions of South Africans looking for work. We have therefore extended the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which has provided work and livelihood opportunities to over 800,000 people in its first 16 months. An additional R18.4 billion has been allocated over the next two years so that the stimulus can continue to provide vital income, skills development and work experience to hundreds of thousands of unemployed, mostly young, people.

The Budget also supports the extension of the R350 Social Relief of Distress Grant for another year. This will provide basic support for around 10 million unemployed beneficiaries as they look for work. This grant significantly broadens the country's social safety net, with around 46% of the population now receiving grants.

In short, this is a Budget that seeks to leave no one behind. Even with our severe fiscal situation, the Budget directs resources to areas with the greatest potential for growth and jobs, specifically structural reform, infrastructure and support for small businesses. At the same time, it supports young people through public and social employment programmes, and extends social protection for the most vulnerable.

While it promotes growth, the Budget also charts a clear path towards sustainable levels of public debt. The interest rate that we pay on our debt is higher than our growth rate, creating a risk that debt could spiral out of control if not managed carefully. Our country now spends more on debt service costs than on health, basic education and policing.

Unsustainable levels of debt are bad for all South Africans, but for the poor in particular. The cost of debt reduces the amount of money that government has to

improve services, provide social protection and invest in social and economic infrastructure.

With this Budget, we are now on track to reduce our budget deficit – and hence our borrowing requirements – while responding to the challenges that South Africans face, now and into the future.

The Budget demonstrates our ability and commitment to strike this balance. It is a difficult balance to achieve, but with more efficient use of resources, ending waste and corruption, and shifting spending from consumption to investment, we can achieve fiscal sustainability while continuing to support growth.

Our country's path to recovery is steep and will be extremely challenging. But with the measures we set out in SONA, with the Budget that has been presented, and with the cooperation and involvement of all South Africans, we will succeed.

With best regards,



Cyril Ramaphosa



Message from the

Minister

Dear DSD Family,

The year is in full swing and February was full of exciting outreach programmes in the build-up to this year's State of the Nation Address. As a sector, we are pleased that President Ramaphosa extended the Special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress until March 2023. This will go a long way to provide the much-needed relief for individuals adversely affected by the devastating impact as our country embarks on the economic reconstruction and recovery programme.

As we cross the length and breadth of this beautiful country as a portfolio tasked with providing care and support for the most vulnerable, we meet the most incredible individuals who are determined to improve their lives.

During a skills development dialogue in Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape, I had the privilege to engage with a group of vibrant, young women in a robust discussion on female empowerment, social ills and other challenges they face on a daily basis. Mfesane, a youth development and empowerment organisation funded by the National Development

Agency (NDA), supports these young women. Through grant funding, the NDA has established a number of start-up businesses for youth entrepreneurs within the Saldanha Bay area.

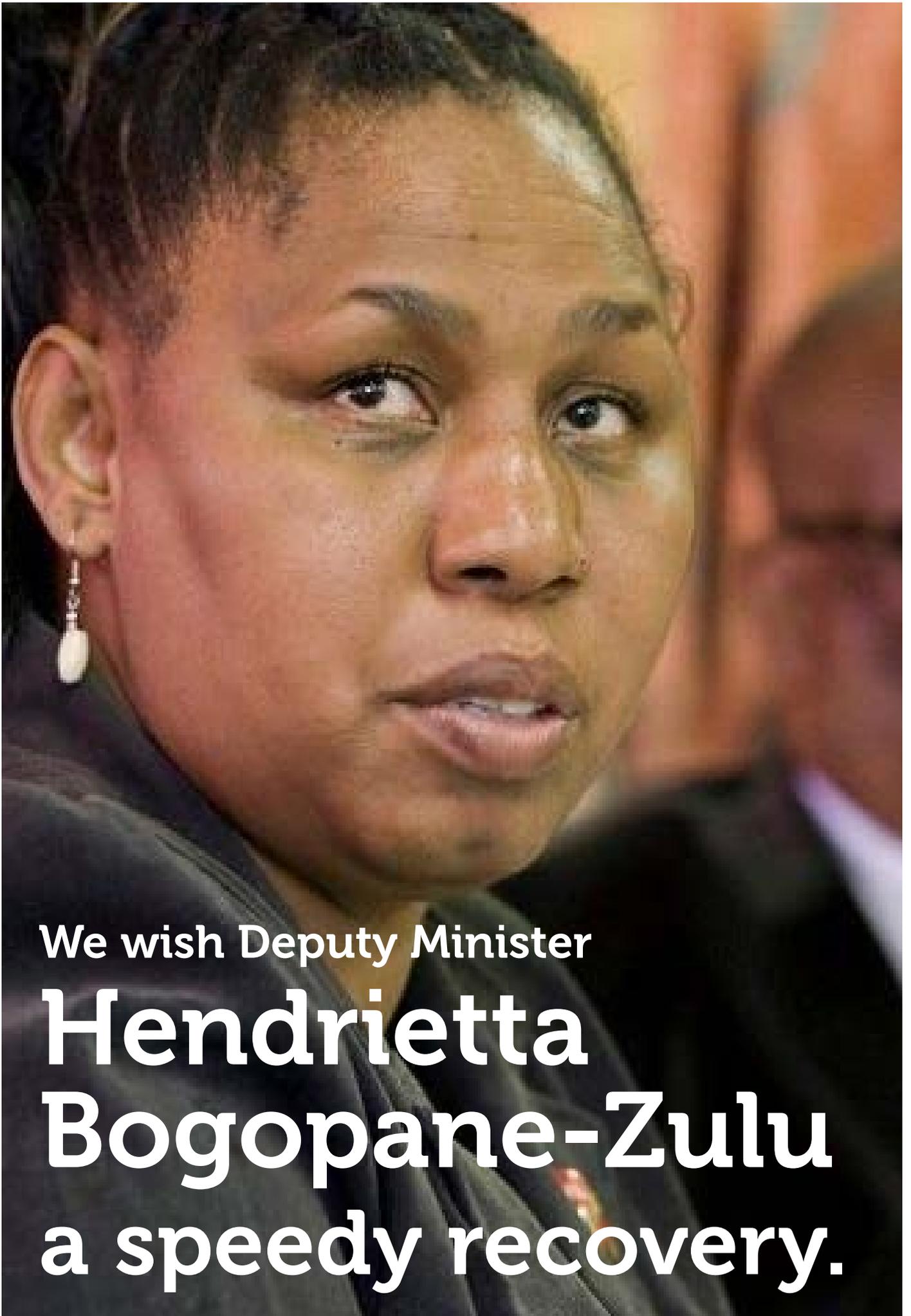
Ilse Maasdorp, is one of the female entrepreneurs, who received funding and business assistance from Mfesane, and this has helped her business get off the ground. I was pleased to hear that the mother of two has given back to the community by creating employment opportunities for other young women like herself.

This month also saw the launch of the inaugural Social Security Review publication, themed "Evolution of Social Security in South Africa: An Agenda Action" which is a call to the active participation of all stakeholders in the development of our country. The launch of this Review came at a time when we have been confronted by the global Covid-19 pandemic, which compounded the domestic triple challenges of high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

We hope to tackle these triple threats with the government's allocation of R3.33 trillion to the social wage to support vulnerable and low-income households. We further welcome the R44 billion allocation for the 12-month extension of the R350 social relief of distress (SRD) grant.

As we continue to live and work in the pandemic, I want to urge you to continue with Covid-19 protocols like handwashing, sanitizing, wearing of masks and social distancing.

Thank you and Stay Safe.
Minister Lindiwe Zulu



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

Message from the Acting Director-General of Social Development

The fourth and last leg of our reporting cycle is on its final lap, as we run against time to reach the finishing line of our service delivery targets that we embarked on since April last year. From a strategic point of view, we had an opportunity to meet as the EXCO to mirror ourselves against what we envisaged to deliver, in the interest of the poor and vulnerable South Africans, and the road ahead appears to be promising.

The latest unemployment rate of more than 34 per cent as revealed by Statistics South Africa, is not something we should be proud of as a Social Development Sector. Indeed, we have encountered numerous hurdles, some of which were brought by the global COVID-19 pandemic, but we cannot use that as a scapegoat for delivering inefficient services to poor and rural communities.

One of the key highlights for poor unemployed South Africans, as announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the State of the Nation Address (SoNA), is the extension of the R350 Social Relief Distress (SRD) Grant up until the end of March 2023. We encourage all eligible South Africans to apply for this grant as high-level deliberations are underway for the introduction of a Basic Income Grant (BIG) to address the scourge of poverty and inequalities caused by the 34 percent unemployment rate in the country.

Amongst the positives for the recent budget speech, is the largest allocation of the Social Development budget as pronounced by the Minister of Finance. This entails the



“As the Social Development portfolio, we echo a similar sentiment that vaccination remains the best form of protection against the COVID-19 pandemic.”

introduction of a new extended Child Support Grant for double orphans, to support the care of orphans within families, provision for inflationary increases to permanent social grants, as well as an increase for Old Age, War Veterans, Disability and Care Dependency, Foster Care and Child Support grants. Having said that, we need to get our priorities right, because it is one thing to receive a budget, however its implementation in terms of spending comes with more dedication and focus.

As the Social Development portfolio, we echo a similar sentiment that vaccination remains the best form of protection against the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines remain effective at reducing the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Vaccination also protects against mild to moderate disease, in particular, as the emergence of more dangerous variants decreases over time. Those who are already vaccinated, are encouraged to take Pfizer and J & J booster doses which are available for all persons over 18 years and older.

We also support the official launch of #KeReady, a Youth Vaccination Campaign which calls upon young persons between 18 and 34 years, to vaccinate against coronavirus as the youth comprises the largest targeted, but the least vaccinated population in the country. It is therefore

our plea that all sectors including Parents, Religious Leaders, Traditional Leaders, Business Community, and other social stakeholders play their part in encouraging the youth to vaccinate as we believe that Public-Private Partnerships are essential in our lifetime if we are determined to defeat this common enemy.

In closing, we appreciate all persons from within the Social Sector for adhering to COVID-19 protocols of social distancing, regular washing of hands, sanitizing and wearing of masks as this saves lives and diminishes the spread of coronavirus. On that note, let us continue to unite and work side by side in pursuit of one goal of building better and resilient communities, which can one day outshine the hardships and toxic social ills of teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and poverty.

PLAY YOUR PART AND SAVE MORE LIVES

MR L MCHUNU
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"OLDER PERSONS SHOULD BE TREASURED"



By Lawrence Mashabela

Gauteng Social Development MEC Morakane Mosupyo calls on all South Africans, young and old, to protect, promote and respect the rights of older persons as articulated in the Constitution.

Mosupyo reminded everyone that older persons are the pillars of many families and still have a meaningful role to play in society.

The MEC was speaking during a special lunch with older persons at the Emerald Resort and Casino in Vanderbijlpark, Sedibeng. The lunch was aimed at honouring and acknowledging the contributions made by senior citizens to society as well as their invaluable contributions made towards the development of the province. She said older persons are a treasure to any self-loving nation and therefore any society that cannot take care of its elderly is not a society that should take itself seriously.

"Our purpose as the government is to give you support, upliftment and protection because indeed you are considered as the source of informa-

tion, you are mediators and embodiment of sound moral values that should be appraised by our society", said MEC to senior citizens.

"No one should tell you that you are useless, we are where we are today because of sacrifices that you made. For us who are not as old and wise as you are, our focus should be how we can draw inspiration and learn from your experiences. You still have a big role to play in our society" she added.

The MEC further encouraged senior citizens to protect and look after each other. She used the day to acknowledge and highlight older person's valuable contribution to society, she also encouraged the public to care for elderly people and advocate for their protection, support and dignity.

"We all have a legal duty and a moral obligation to treat Older Persons as human beings with full rights", she added.

"Older people increasingly play a critical role in society through trans-

mitting experience and knowledge, helping their families with caring responsibilities and increasing their participation in activities that promote healthy living". The MEC further encouraged elderly people to vaccinate so that they could soon reclaim their lives and resume their usual activities.

More than 91 older persons, including a centenarian Martha Lunga who is 101 years old, received one thousand rands (R1000) Shoprite gift vouchers, toiletries, blankets and electric bulbs as a token of appreciation from the Gauteng Provincial Government.

Sedibeng Older person's secretary, Emily Mokheli, said while they are grateful for the government's good gesture, although the cost of living continues its astronomical rise She added that the elderly want to get back to their exercise programs. They appreciate all the support they received from the government during the hard lockdown when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the entire globe.



The Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre Special

By Tshepo Lesole

Through the eyes of the service user

Tshepo Lesole is a Multimedia Journalist who has worked at different mainstream newsrooms including Eyewitness News and eNCA since 2008. As a Freelancer, Lesole has also worked with the famous French Daily Newspaper, Le Monde, between February and April in 2021.

Lesole also covered the 2009 and 2019 General Elections as a radio and online reporter, among many other stories of national significance. He narrates stories in audio, text, video and photography. He contributed to the Department of Social Development newsletter in his capacity as a Service User at the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre.



FUN DAY IN THE KITCHEN

Management at the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre chose an interesting activity for the skills development program held on the holiday of the 26th of December 2021.

Care Workers took 23 service users to the catering block for baking lessons. Divided into three groups, the service users were to learn how to bake bread pudding, banana bread, and muffins.

The fun, yet demanding activity involved lessons on patience, teamwork and collective responsibility. It turned out to be a true skill-developing task as most among the 23 service users had never baked before.

The bread pudding team had to slice bread into workable portions, carefully melt the butter, operate the top-end kitchen appliances at the centre, and fill the pan with the bread before adding eggs, a bit of milk and a touch of flavour to send the mixture in the oven.

The kitchen staff supervised and engaged them throughout the session. It came out perfectly. The banana bread crew had to mix baking powder, powdered custard, sugar, buttermilk, and bananas in an attempt for a decent loaf. All in all it wasn't bad at all.

The muffins group laughed loudly at themselves when their product came out, they may have miscalculated the measurements and/or heat pressure in the process.

"We could've missed a step in the recipe (laughing) but now we know. We wrote all of it down and when we get home it will be worth the correction. It is definitely something one must try again, especially because without the substance abuse the appetite will surely be back to normal", conceded one of the team members.

The afternoon was time for sobriety-friendly beverage manufacturing. The service users were taken through the steps of making alcohol free-cocktails and all teams generally did well.



CHRISTMAS ON A SOBER DECEMBER

2021 was the first sober December for most service users at the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Center in Botshabelo, Free State. It was also the first time many of them spent Christmas away from home. An eventuality that came from a decision to reclaim their lives by choosing sobriety. The Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre management team, aware of the above, made an effort to turn Christmas into a memorable occasion for service users. Under

normal circumstances, social calls are only allowed once a week at the centre but on the 25th of December, the service users were allowed to contact their loved ones in the morning to convey their all-important "Merry Christmas" messages. For lunch, the 23 users on rigorous treatment at the centre were treated to a quality meal prepared by the kitchen staff. Their spirits were jolly and the service users shared funny anecdotes of their past festive seasons as they struggled with alcohol and substance abuse. The ambiance was cheerful as the hours passed by swiftly.

"It was a different Christmas because I was away from home, but it was fun because of the humility from both my fellow service users and the staff" said one service user. The kitchen staff received positive feedback on the meal they had prepared and they too seemed delighted despite the fact that they spent Christmas working.

Rebecca Tsomela, of Kathabo Home Based Trading, the entity that runs the kitchen at the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre, says the kitchen deliberately cooked a meal that matched the occasion. "It was warmly prepared food, something to remind them of home or make them feel at home", said Tsomela proudly.

'CJ' GETS HIS SECOND CHANCE

When Cornelius van der Berg was growing up in rural Bethuile, south of the Free State, not once did he think he would find himself in a rehabilitation program for substance abuse in Botshabelo. Also known as 'CJ', the 28-year-old was admitted to the newly opened Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre in October 2021, for dependency on a combination of narcotics. "I was on crystal meth, mandrax, cocaine and I gambled a lot", says the charismatic former Rugby player.

In one of the binging chapters that van der Berg estimates to have lasted for about a year before his admission at the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre, 'CJ' lost his marriage and other important relationships, he lost his self-confidence and a general sense of purpose. He effectively lost himself.

Towards his final weeks of the three months at The Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre, the refreshed Cornelius was meditative about his journey, the past and the present. He was pleased that the recovery had been going particularly well and the future looked positive when he contemplated eventually arriving back home. At the time of the interview, 'CJ' had put in a lot of work to take charge of his wellbeing as a service user at the centre. The hard laughing farm boy actively participated in programs dealing with subjects such as nutritious food, Social Work Services, Occupational Therapy, and Psychology. "The nursing department has also been strong and supportive since I arrived here," he adds. CJ was discharged in January 2022 with an option to go back to school through the assistance of the Center or get back to his old job, after his employer had been convinced that the softhearted Cornelius had indeed been rehabilitated.

A conversation with Cornelius van der Berg (CJ)

Q: When did you start experimenting with drugs?

CJ: I was 21 years old. It was with weed and it was nothing serious at the time.

Q: What could have been the one thing that enabled the habit?

CJ: Peer pressure.

Q: Out of everything you may have done or lost, which one do you regret the most?

CJ: The marriage. My wife and I ended up consistently in disagreements because of my habit and it ended in a divorce. I only realised after I lost her that it is over.

Q: How many times have you been admitted for substance abuse rehabilitation before?

CJ: Twice.

Q: How is the previous rehab experience different from the program at the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre?

CJ: I find the programs here to be more substance-abuse focused.

Q: If you were to recommend the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre to anyone struggling with addiction disorder, which aspect of the centre would you appraise most?

CJ: The three-month period is long enough for one to find himself. The relationship between the centre and local social workers is good for after care and at Charlotte Maxeke they always look into discharging you back into a productive life like school or work.



Minister launches the Social Security Review Publication: An agenda for action - WORKING TOWARDS A SOCIAL COMPACT".

CAPE TOWN: The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, launched the inaugural Social Security Review publication on 8 February 2022 in Cape Town.

The inaugural Social Security Review publication themed "Evolution of Social Security in South Africa: An Agenda Action" is a call to the active participation of all stakeholders in the development of our country.

Although the Department commissioned this Review, it contains ten (10) peer-reviewed chapters authored by different authors who are experts in their own right. There are unique synergies and continuity as the reader is taken through a journey that unpacks the historical context and provokes debates on various social security policy areas in the context of our Constitution and the developmental agenda envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It goes further to highlight the agenda for action, including the importance of establishing social protection floors below which no citizens should live.

Key highlights from the chapters indicate that:

- A.** Since 1994, our system has become more inclusive, with coverage now extended to more than 18 million beneficiaries.
- B.** Social security in South Africa is entrenched in the Constitution, which obligates the State to implement measures to ensure the progressive realisation of this right.
- C.** South Africa has also aligned itself to international instru-



CHAPTER 1

“ These public policy instruments, which seek to **address deprivations and vulnerabilities** of the poor arising from shocks and life-cycle events and **provide security** to non-poor, are generally referred to as **“social protection”**.



ments that promote the right to social security, such as the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation Convention 102 and Recommendation 202, and the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UNCESCR).

D. Globally, there has been a remarkable expansion of social protection policy adoption by both developing and developed countries, informed largely by an understanding of social protection’s contribution to inclusive development and equitable growth.

Empirical evidence suggests that inequality negatively affects economic growth and well-designed redistributive schemes reverse the trajectory.



E. Policy considerations that determine equity, efficiency and developmental impact influence the balance between targeting and universalism in social protection. Inclusion and exclusion errors, stigma, dignity, misconceptions, and social tensions are key factors in any programme design in terms of targeted and universal provision.

F. In the face of the triple challenges of deepening poverty and worsening levels of inequalities and unemployment, a social protection floor must be premised on social justice, social solidarity and cross subsidiarity to achieve a decent standard of living of life and progressive realisation of the constitutional rights.

G. Comprehensive social protection systems require solid institutional capacity to formulate appropriate policies and deliver at the required scale.

H. Digital innovation and partnerships are critical in the Social Development Sector, particularly in the financial inclusion of our social grant beneficiaries.

I. Quantitative Models are critical in policy development. For instance, the South African tax-benefit-Microsimulation Model (SAMOD), is a tool that allows policy analysis around the impact of the current tax and benefits regime on poverty and inequality

J. Understanding how and why an institution was established is critical. SASSA is a typical example. While authors focused on the first 10 years, it helps to understand the context under which the Agency was established for grant administration. The agency plays a central role in the realisation of access to social security rights in South Africa. Over the years, there have been notable improvements in quality-of-service delivery and business processes.

The Department commissioned the peer-reviewed Social Security Review publication to contribute to knowledge generation and provide thought leadership in the social security policy and legislative environment, by institutionalising a regular publication that can act as a reference resource for use by social policy practitioners, researchers, journalists, ordinary citizens and other stakeholders. This is critical for awareness and appreciation of our social security system and helps facilitate public participation in the national policy and legislation discourse. South Africa's policy approaches continue to seek ways to engage all stakeholders in the country to develop a shared agenda to address deprivations and vulnerabilities of the poor, while promoting strong systems to prevent those who have incomes from falling into poverty.

The launch of this Review came at a time when we have been confronted by the global Covid-19 pandemic which exacerbated the domestic triple challenges of high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality. This has brought into sharp focus the importance of social security and social protection measures in times of a crisis.

Noting the dire situation of those unemployed adults, the government intervened by providing the Social Relief of Distress R350 grant. The number of applicants demonstrates the levels of need and how this grant has provided a lifeline for those who received it. From the DSD's Rapid Assessment Study on the utilisation of the R350 grant, some young women have used this grant as start-up capital for their businesses and they are sustaining their families.

Social security plays an instrumental role in alleviating and preventing poverty, and social assistance has to date been one of the most extensive and effective poverty alleviation programmes of the South African government.

The Department will be calling for the submission of chapters shortly for the **Social Security Review Volume 2**.

The publication can be accessed on the website of the Department on www.dsd.gov.za [here](#).



TWENTY BUDGET 2022 TWENTY TWO

**2022/23 BUDGET SPEECH BY MINISTER OF FINANCE
ENOCH GODONGWANA
23 February 2022**

It is my honour and privilege to table
before this House the 2022 National
Budget.

Today, I am tabling the following
documents:

- The 2022 Division of Revenue Bill;
- The 2022 Appropriation Bill;
- The Second Adjustments
Appropriation (2021/22 Financial
Year) Bill;
- The Estimates of National
Expenditure;
- The 2022 Budget Review; and
- The Budget Speech.



Madam Speaker, we stand here galvanised by the State of the Nation Address delivered by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The President reminded us that even as we face steep and daunting challenges, like we have done in the past, we will overcome.

To do so, we need to strike a critical balance between saving lives and livelihoods, while supporting inclusive growth. This budget presents this balance.

Our economic recovery has been un-even and risks remain high. We must proceed with caution.

In the 2021 MTBPS we committed ourselves to charting a course towards growth and fiscal sustainability. This budget reasserts this commitment. It narrows the budget deficit and stabilizes debt.

It also extends income and employment support to the most vulnerable, , addresses service delivery shortcomings and provides tax relief.

However, these interventions cannot replace the structural changes our economy needs. Difficult and necessary trade-offs are required.

2022 Budget Vote Speech
[click here to download](#)



SRD EXTENSION

- **R44 billion** allocated to the extension of the Social Relief of Distress grant.
- The grant is only extended to **March 2023**.
- The money is sourced from **larger-than-expected** revenue collections.
- National Treasury cannot commit to a new, permanent expenditure without a **matching permanent increase to revenue**.





INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS FOR GRANTS

- An amount **R14.7 billion** is allocated to increase social grants in line with inflation over the MTEF period – next two years.
- Funds are also made available for a **new extended child support grant** for double orphans.
- Minister of Finance and National Treasury is committed to cushioning livelihoods **against the impact of COVID-19** and rising prices.



TAX BRACKET RELIEF

- **Personal income tax brackets** and rebates will be adjusted higher to be in-line with inflation.
- The **annual tax-free threshold** for a person under the age of 65 will increase.
- Those earning **R250 000** will also see their personal income tax reduced.





MONEY FOR JOBS

- Additional funding is made available for the **Presidential Employment Programme**.
- Since 2020 when the coronavirus struck, **millions have lost employment** and many of these jobs have not been recovered.



DEBT AND DEFICIT STABILISATION ONE-YEAR SOONER THAN EXPECTED

- **Gross loan debt** will stabilise one year earlier than projected in November.
- The **consolidated budget deficit also narrows** faster than previously estimated.
- We now **expect to achieve a primary fiscal surplus** – where revenue exceeds non-interest expenditure – by 2023/24.
- A **fiscal framework** that prioritises lowering debt and the budget deficit is a pre-condition for long-term, sustained, and inclusive economic growth.





President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law legislation that will strengthen efforts to end gender-based violence.

“I signed into law three pieces of legislation that honour our promises to strengthen the criminal justice system, promote accountability across the state and put support for survivors at the centre of all our efforts.”

https://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/acts/acts_full.html



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





The Domestic Violence Amendment Act
protects women, children and the elderly
from all forms of domestic violence, and
also permits complainants to apply for
protection orders online, saving them time
and travel costs.

Report Gender-Based Violence:

Toll-Free Number: 0800 428 428 • Please Call Me: *120*7867#

Skype for members of the deaf community: @HelpmeGBV

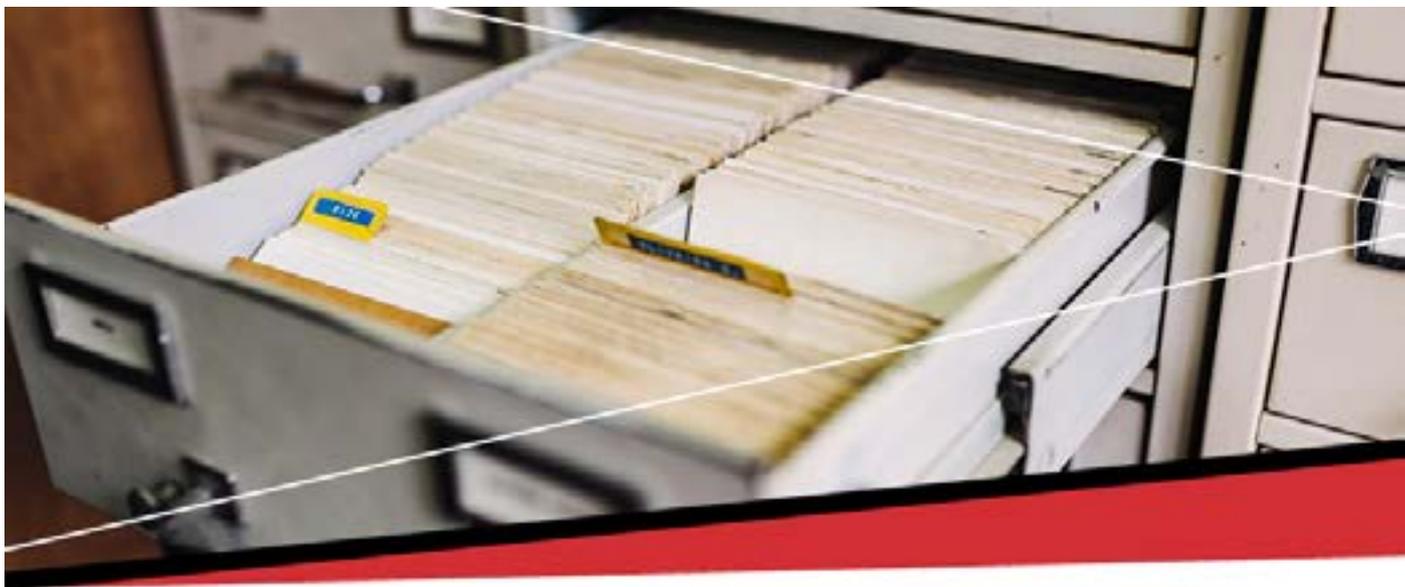
SMS: 31531 • GBV Command Centre: <https://gbv.org.za/about-us/>

<https://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/acts/2021-014.pd>



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act

outlaws sexual exploitation and grooming of persons with mental disabilities, and provides that sexual offences against persons who are mentally disabled must be recorded in the National Register of Sex Offenders.

<https://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/acts/2021-013.pdf>



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Criminal and Related Matters

Amendment Act protects the vulnerable from secondary victimisation by allowing courts to appoint intermediaries through which a minor, a disabled person or an elderly person can be examined in proceedings.

It also allows for the extended use of evidence by means of an audio-visual link.

Report Gender-Based Violence:

Toll-Free Number: 0800 428 428 • **Please Call Me:** *120*7867#

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SMS: 31531 • **GBV Command Centre:** <https://gbv.org.za/about-us/>

<https://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/acts/2021-012.pdf>



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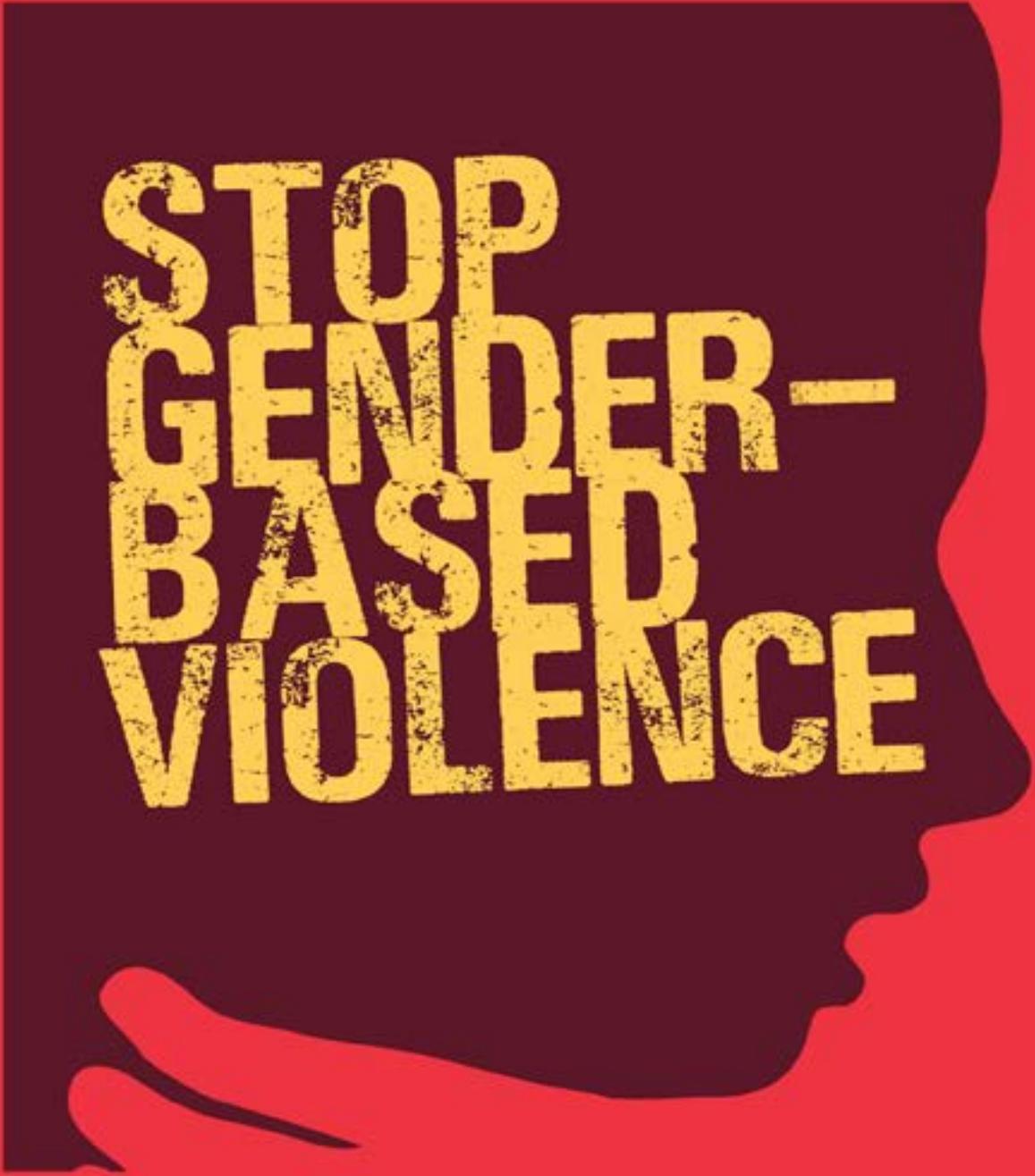
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Social Development Minister conducts oversight visit targeting youth in the City of Cape Town and the West Coast District Municipality

By Lesego Ranchu

The Minister of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu, conducted a series of oversight visits in the West Coast and the City of Cape Town districts ahead of President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address (SONA), which took place on 10 February 2022. The visits focused on public participation programmes, primarily with the youth, where the Minister continues to monitor the implementation of social services and engagements with communities on interventions that would improve their livelihoods.

The Minister visited Mfesane, a National Development Agency (NDA) funded youth development organisation that delivers training in various fields such as: personal development, skills development, creative arts, economic and work readiness for the youth between the ages of 14 and 25 years. This training is delivered through Youth Cafés located in Velddrif and Saldanha Bay. Using a grant of R156 817 the NDA and Mfesane have established 10 mobile beauty start-up businesses for 10 youth entrepreneurs within Saldanha Bay and Bergriver. The funds were used to professionally train and purchase fully equipped start-up business kits for 10 hairdressers and nail technicians. The NDA is a government agency that reports to Parliament through the Department of Social Development. It provides grants for development programmes and capacity building for registered civil society organisations (CSOs).

Vredenburg-based NGO Mfesane, in partnership with the National Development Agency, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and provincial Department of Social Development (DSD) coordinated youth focus groups and interviews with critical stakeholders that represent the youth sector including youth forums, parents, schools, community policing forums and the municipality to find ways of improving the livelihoods of the youth within the Saldanha Bay Municipality. The Minister will personally engage the youth and respond with interventions available to the youth from NDA, DSD and SASSA.

The issues raised by the youth in Velddrif include unemployment, substance abuse, school dropouts, lack of public ablution facilities and teenage pregnancy. The youth request the Minister's intervention in the creation of more jobs, access to education, life-changing opportunities, after school programmes, building of public toilets and that the government avails contraceptives at schools.

Similarly, Saldanha Bay youth expressed their livelihood challenges to be unemployment, safety, teenage pregnancy, lack of access to education, corruption and fraud. **They have prioritised five (5) areas of interventions that they will pose to the Minister:**

- 1. Education:** more technical High Schools and lower requirements to obtain bursaries
- 2. Employment:** creation of more job opportunities and learnerships
- 3. Health:** assist to equip health care facilities with staff to administer mental health as well as a school for persons living with disabilities
- 4. GBV and teenage pregnancies:** more awareness campaigns
- 5. Substance abuse:** expansion of youth programmes to include sports and sporting fields, parks and youth development programmes.

"I am encouraged by young people that I engage with who are making the changes and taking up opportunities to change their own lives and making a way to employ others and feed their families. The President will tomorrow in his SONA delivery make pronouncements, not only to unite as a nation, but also to outline what the country's marching orders are to eradicate the threats of poverty and other challenges presented to the South African population and specifically young people. Accordingly,



the Department of Social Development and its Agencies will partner with other stakeholders to respond to issues raised here by young people. We will be back and youth development services will be delivered," said Minister.

The dialogue also included officials from SEDA, SEFA, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment and the Chairperson of NYDA, Ms Asanda Lucawa, who all imparted information and programmes that the youth can access to improve their livelihoods. The Minister understands that her Department alone will not make all the changes, this way she adopts a multi-stakeholder approach that allows for integrated solutions for communities.

Minister Zulu gifted protective and sanitary wear to Mfesane. The CEO of Mfesane, Mrs. Yolandi Afrika, has invited other NGOs within the Saldanha Bay Municipality to contact Mfesane at their offices in Vredenburg if they need these supplies.

Minister Zulu also visited and interacted with the Salesian Institute Youth Project and hosted a community dialogue in Lavender Hills.

Rural unemployed youth used their R350 grants to start a Poultry Project

By Nande Fayo



According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, the drop in the employment rate resulted in the shrinkage of the labour force from 7.8 million to 7.6 million. This reduction of the labour force compelled the government to introduce the Social Relief of Distress grant when the country was beset by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant intended to support more than 10 million unemployed people who were adversely affected by the pandemic.

A group of five young people from KwaNobumba Village in Peddie, Eastern Cape, have defied the odds by using their grants to start the Bayeni Poultry Project. The project manager is Phumlisa Ngabase (26), a human resource graduate. She is joined by her four cousins Zukile Ngabese (30), IT graduate, Asiphephe Ngabase (28), matric graduate, and Sesona Ngabase (24), matric graduate. Phumlisa says the escalating rate of unemployment among the youth in the Eastern Cape is what motivated them to come up with ways of making a living.

These youth have all lost their parents, some to the Covid-19 pandemic. "After much consideration, without having any support, we decided to save the R350 grant we are getting from the government for two months. We started by building a mud structure for our project and in the third month we bought our first bulk of chicks, and we have never looked back since," said Phumlisa.

She says that the support they are getting from the community is overwhelming. "We have been getting support from individuals within our small rural community, some buy in bulk and some in smaller quantities. Our aim is to expand our reach to access a bigger market and thus we will also create employment for others. We would also like to urge the government to assist us in making this initiative a success."

One of the community members, Nolitha Njuku, said that the project is a huge motivation to young people.

"What these young people are doing is enormous. It clearly shows that when you want to start something, you start small and expand," said Njuku.

According to Stats SA, the poultry industry is a modern, efficient and internationally competitive business and a major employer with about 110 000 direct and indirect workers. A further 20 000 jobs in the grain industry depend on feed supplies to poultry producers.

Recently, during the tabling of The State of the Nation Address (SoNA) President Cyril Ramaphosa congratulated Thando Makhubu from Soweto and Lindokuhle Msomi from KwaMashu, who also started their businesses using the R350 grant.



Thank you for stringing me along...

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane

In 1982, when Mme Alice Mohlala began sewing, she did not anticipate being one of the go-to seamstresses in her hometown of Bushbuckridge - Mpumalanga.

"I used to sew by hand when I started as a teenager 40 years ago. I would sew for people who wanted fancy clothes for gatherings but it was never anything stable – I was young anyway," says the 55-year-old mother of five.

As the years progressed, Mme Alice was able to purchase a sewing machine but this was not sufficient for her customers' orders. "Due to budget constraints, I could only buy a small machine from a local franchise but it had limited functionality. I could only sew on thin material which automatically meant I could not expand to school tunics and the likes," she explains.

In 2021, Mme Alice, was identified by the Department of Social Development through one of the 9 DSD-funded Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) in Mpumalanga. There is a total of 212 of these centres countrywide.

"I used to go to the AMASS CNDC which is not far from here and get a meal there. One day a DSD official heard me talking about my work and the fact that I had started sewing church and school uniform but was struggling because my machine was too small and unreliable.

That is when they offered me assistance as part of the Women Empowerment Framework (WEF)," says Mme Alice who is now





able to send her children to school because business is booming. Launched in August 2018 by Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu in Mawewe (Mpumalanga), the WEF aims to empower and to secure the livelihoods of women living in rural areas through ensuring that they are self-sustainable.

"The high-quality sewing machine that the DSD afforded me is the reason why my children can have food on the table and lunch for school today. My first born was out of school for two years because I just could not make ends meet. I had orders but no capacity to deliver. Now I have stability and my children can be like other children. I am grateful for that day in 2021. It is the one positive occurrence from this COVID-19 pandemic," Mme Alice says with a smile as her youngest son walks in to hug his mother.

Although household access to food has improved since 2002, it has remained static since 2011. The Household Food Insecurity Access Scale, which is aimed at determining households' access to food, showed that the percentage of South African households with inadequate or severely inadequate access to food decreased from 23,9% in 2010 to 22,3% in 2016. During this time, the percentage of individuals that were at risk decreased from 28,6% to 24,9%. Between 2002 and 2016, the percentage of households that experienced hunger decreased from 23,8% to 11,8% while the percentage of individuals who experienced hunger decreased from 29,3% to 13,4%. In 2012, the government re-affirmed its commitment to

household food and nutrition security. On the 11 September 2013, Cabinet approved the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security, together with the Food and Nutrition Security Strategy. The main focus of the strategy is to address household-level hunger and nutrition insecurity. The strategy proposes immediate steps to establish a robust network of Food Distribution Centres backed by a substantially larger financial commitment from the fiscus.





'It's within my powers to pave my own way up'

By Evans Molimi

Her name is synonymous with everything stylish and fabulous, with powers to pave her way to victory. She is a highly valued beautician in Vredenburg and surrounding towns in the West Coast District of the Western Cape Province. She is not afraid of working hard.

The beautician queen said South Africa is alive with opportunities, and young people need to grab each opportunity with both hands.

Allison Leigh Smit is quite excited about the Department of Social Development's National Development Agency (NDA) financial support to Mfesane NPC to implement a youth entrepreneurship project.

Mfesane program received a grant of R156 817 from NDA to implement a youth entrepreneurship program aimed at providing opportunities to twenty-seven unemployed youth in the district. With all that on her plate, it is not surprising that 25-year-old Allison's daily routine is jam-packed. Her time is split between taking care of her studies and family responsibility, especially her sickly father, as well as her Endless Beaute Salon.

Her salon focuses mainly on hair, manicure and beauty treatment. Through the Mfesane program, Allison and other young women learnt that, even before they register their businesses, they need to have a clear plan of action. Especially the services they want to offer. They have also learnt that the best thing for their growth is to always keep their business doors open and let the business adapt to its business environment.



“It is not easy to start a business from nothing, but hard work and determination yield positive results. I also want to use the skills I acquired from Mfesane to help mentor at least one or two teenage women to enter into entrepreneurship. I think this will help them to become independent. Once I do that, then I really will have empowered a neighborhood,” she said.

With dreams in mind, Allison is also planning to open two or more salons in the West Coast District. She is a woman with a dream. Still in the pipeline, she also plans to venture into the events management industry at a later stage.

Standing tall and strong, Allison had to work hard to satisfy her demanding clients. She explains that women like her who are in business must be positive, think ahead and remain focused on what they are doing.

“I sometimes wake up as early at 4am in the morning to provide services to my clients. I work long hours, sometimes seven days a week.

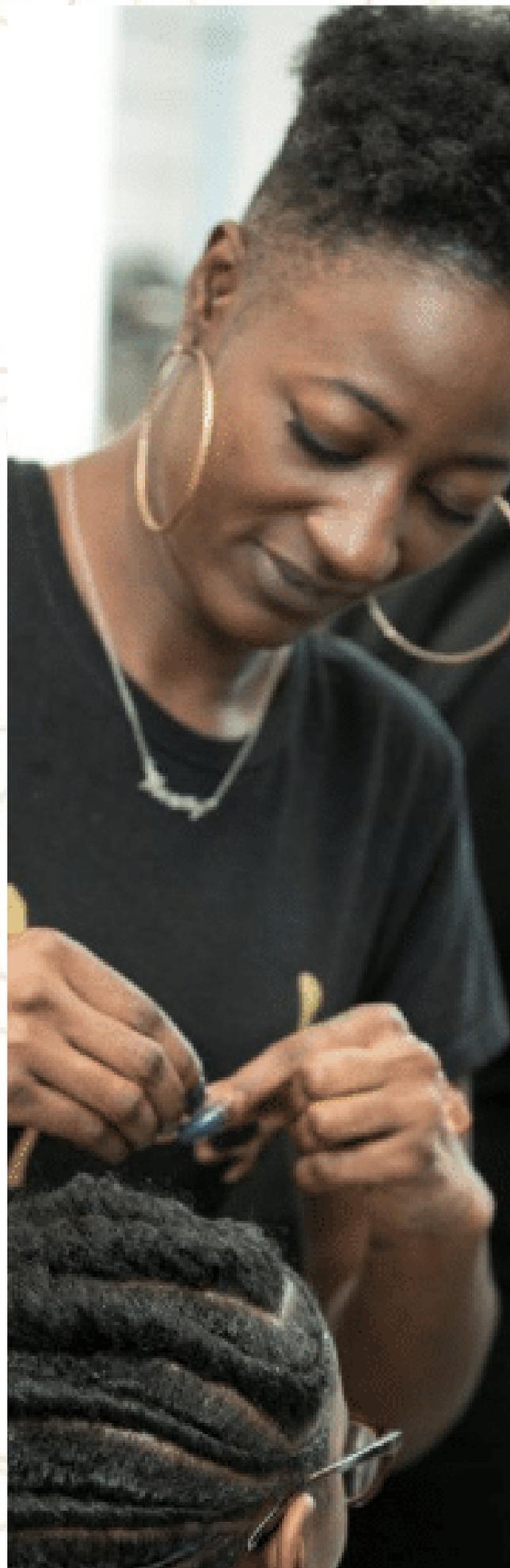
I saw an opportunity in the Beauty Industry. Women always want to be beautiful and I thought this is the way to go. I have not yet achieved my successes, but I am starting from a humble beginning. All thanks to NDA’s Startup kit,” Allison explained.

Furthermore, she believes that there are so many distractions in business that disrupt one’s vision, and that focusing on one idea is the key to run a successful business.

In conversation with all other thirty inspiring businesswomen, Minister of Social Development Ms. Lindiwe Zulu said the Government is working hard to find solutions to unemployment and empowerment of young people especially, in disadvantaged communities.

“Nothing is too small for success, but with a little bit of effort, you can become successful business women. The present and the future are in good hands because I see that young people are venturing into business, especially young women.

I hope you make a success of every opportunity presented to you by NDA through Mfesane,” said Minister.



Launch of

Ezibeleni

One Stop Centre

A Skills Development Programme



By Siphumelele Mdyodyo

The outrageous effects of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remain an immense challenge in society that cannot be overlooked. According to the World Health Organisation, 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence. GBV survivors gathered under one roof on the 17th February 2022 at Chris Hani District Municipality Council Chambers to witness the launch of the Ezibeleni One Stop Centre Skills Development Programme.

The programme is a result of a collaboration between the Department of Social Development, Nyamukara Empowerment, and the Chris Hani District Municipality.

Thirty (30) participants will receive mentoring and training on sewing as means to empower them as well as to enable self-reliance. The training is a three-month Level 2 SETA accredited Programme. It is a third initiative in the Eastern Cape Province with one launched in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan and the other in OR Tambo District four (4) years ago. During the programme, the beneficiaries will receive a monthly stipend and the necessary equipment.

Nyamukara Empowerment is an NPO that was established by two (2) women who were part of the EDCON Group (Edgars, Jet, & CNA) that shut down in 2020. Mercia Maserumule, one of the founders of the organisation stated that they founded the organisation because of the work they performed at EDCON Group and felt that they needed to continue because they could see the difference it made.

According to Maserumule, they have implemented the programme in four Provinces and the reception they received from the Eastern Cape was the most enthusiastic, which has led to the success of the programme in the Province. She motivated women by referring to them as survivors not "victims" because they stood up, fought for themselves, and allowed their voices to be heard hence the need to exploit all the support from the government to empower themselves more. Thus far, Nyamukara has successfully trained 400 women.

Giving the purpose of the Day, the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development Head of Department, Mr Mzimkhulu Macheмба, said it has been noted with



great concern that one of the reasons that contribute to violence against women is their financial dependence on their partners. Therefore, the Skills Development programme is one of the important interventions to fight the scourge.

“Women empowerment is not only crucial to the survivors but to all corners of society, hence it is important that in all Government and Private Sector Programmes it must always be lifted”.

He referred to Pillar 5 of the National Development Plan which looks at interventions of Gender-Based Violence, with one being economic empowerment for self-dependency.

“We hope that upon receiving these sewing skills, Government processes and procedures will allow meaningful opportunities and trading” , concluded Macheмба.

One of the beneficiaries, Sizeka Mpotsha, highly commended the programme. She said it is an opportunity to bring their dignity back, to gain the respect they have lost and to create more things for their families to build their communities.

Mpotsha thanked Social Development and partners for the support as it is what keeps them going during training.

She concluded by saying “we can see the light at the end of the tunnel”. Various stakeholders such as Chris Hani Development Agency committed to further assisting the beneficiaries during and after the training.



Foster child defies odds and passes matric with two distinctions

By Phetoho Maja

Losing parents at an early age did not stop 18-year-old Lesedi Malope from pursuing his dream of becoming a Chartered Accountant.

The articulate Lesedi, who resides at Bluegum View in Duduza, Ekurhuleni says he wants to become a game-changer in his family, and not allow being an orphan to determine his destiny. He says despite growing up as an orphan, one thing that kept him going was the support he received from his grandmother, Mme Tryphina Rangoaga. She encouraged him to use education as a tool to academic excellence.

Lesedi is one of the 2021 Top Achievers from the local school, Asser Maloka Secondary School in Duduza, and a beneficiary of the department's foster care programme. He passed Grade 12 with an "A" and scooped two (2) distinctions in Accounting and English. He is now enrolled to study BCOM at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) to pursue his dream of becoming a Chartered Accountant.

Even while his parents were still alive, Lesedi was cared for by his grandmother because his parents had demanding working hours. "In the year 2020, my grandmother took me to the Gauteng Department of Social Development office in Duduza to apply for foster care. Up until that point, I've been in the foster care system as an orphan" he said.

"I was raised in a very strict household and followed my grandmother's instructions. She always encouraged excellence in all her children. She made sure we are



well taken care of and all our needs at school are handled properly." "Her words still reverberate in my mind that school comes first, she's been loyal and very supportive."

"I remember she helped me so much that she made me cut on my chores at home, just so I could focus and spend time studying. She would set the alarm on her phone and wake me up at night every day to study."

"One thing I appreciate about my family is the support, regardless of the challenges I had to endure as a child. It is through their support and encouragement, that I believed my dreams were valid."

"I am going to work very hard so that I thank them with my success and achievements," added a jubilant Lesedi. Case Manager and a Social Worker at Gauteng Social Development in the Duduza Office, Mpho Thubakgale says she was very lucky to have Lesedi under her wing.

"I always knew that Lesedi is a star boy, he always had that star in him. I want to thank his grandmother also for cooperating and always giving him the support."

"It is not always easy to work with people, but Lesedi made my work very easy and brought out that passion in me to continue serving people as a passionate social worker specialising in the foster care programme," said Thubakgale.

She added that she was very happy to share this moment with Lesedi and hopes he will remain grounded as he pursues new life challenges at tertiary level.

Lesedi has thanked the Department, his family, and most specially his grandmother for the lifelong support, and gave gratitude to his high school accounting teacher, Miss Nhleko from Asser Maloka Secondary School.



The Department Honours Top Foster Care Beneficiaries

By Sipho Ncube

"In my first year at the University I used to submit hand-written assignments because I did not have a computer. However, this propelled me to do better and hustle hard, so I can have a better life", said Pontsho Simelane.

Pontsho is a former foster care beneficiary who is now a Biomedical Technologist at South African Blood Services, where she is responsible for quality control. She is also a motivational speaker.

Simelane was speaking during the event organised by the Gauteng Department of Social Development to honour 120 foster care beneficiaries who passed their matric with flying colours held at Capital Hotel in Sandton North of Johannesburg.

Simelane who matriculated some years ago at Reashoma Secondary School in Protea, encouraged the children to find their inner self which will help them to determine what they want in life rather than to have others impose their ideas on them.

She further said they should be able to go back to Social Development to demonstrate their success and inspire others to outshine adversity.

One of the top achievers, 18-year-old Lehlogonolo Nhlapho, who got distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Science, and Accounting said his triple R philosophy got him through.

Nhlapho said throughout the year he Reminded himself of the goals, created a daily Routine and that got him results.

Annually the department hosts this event to celebrate the achievements of children who matriculated and obtained good results despite their circumstances. The children were given tablets and earphones as a token of appreciation.

From Surviving to Thriving

By Madali Chibambu

In a colourful magazine called "From Surviving to Thriving", nine women who survived different types of abuse were profiled by the Gauteng Provincial Government to raise awareness on the scourge of gender-based violence in society. The cover of the magazine contains their pictures.

The book was launched two years ago at the Constitutional Hill in Braamfontein, Johannesburg by Community Safety MEC Faith Mazibuko.

The women survivors are now successful businesswomen and are proud to share their stories with the nation. The heart-breaking stories published in the magazine are meant to empower, educate, and inform society, especially women and children who were victims of gender-based violence.

All the articles in which they gave consent to the government to publish are all heart-breaking. However, these stories all have a happy and successful ending.

These women were abused physically, verbally, mentally, and financially by their husbands, partners, or close family members. Despite all the challenges they encountered they were able to

stand up, dust themselves off and start afresh after they received counselling from Ikhaya Lethemba- a shelter for abused women.

Some of these women came with their children and they were taken care of by the shelter until they were emotionally and mentally healed. They were then reunited with their loved ones.

One such example is Belinda Ralityana, a 42-year-old mother of five, who came to the shelter with all her children and she was not turned away.

Today Belinda is a proud owner of a three and a half hectare farm.

She is one of the businesswomen who acquired skills from Ikhaya Lethemba and later changed her life by achieving financial independence.

The magazine also included previous female MECs like Nomvula Mokonyane, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane and other senior officials who also shared their input in support of these women.





A Good Gesture from Global Fund Beyond Zero to the Department of Social Development

By Kanakana Mantshimuli and Khutso Molokela

The 18th of February 2022 symbolised a very jubilant day for the Limpopo Department of Social Development. The department received personal protective equipment donated by the Global Fund Beyond Zero at an auspicious handover ceremony held at the Andrew Mehlahe Social Development offices in Mankweng in the Polokwane Municipal area. The same gesture has already been extended to four other districts. The Head of the Department Mr. Desmond Mahopo received the PPEs on behalf of the MEC for Social Development, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale. "We are grateful for the

On the left:
Ms. Patricia Ntjje (Acting Social Work Manager: HIV & AIDS Programme)

In the middle:
Mr Desmond Mahopo (HOD)

On the right:
Dr. Bulumko Futshane
(Director: Global Fund Beyond Zero)

partnership with Global Fund Beyond Zero NPO even in these trying times where Covid-19 is still prevalent amongst us, and we therefore believe that such generosity will help curb its spread even in our local and vulnerable communities" said Mr. Mahopo in his message of appreciation.

The Capricorn District director for DSD Ms. Sethosa expressed high commitment in ensuring the safe keeping and the employment of strict logistical security measures in the cargo transportation and distribution of the PPEs.



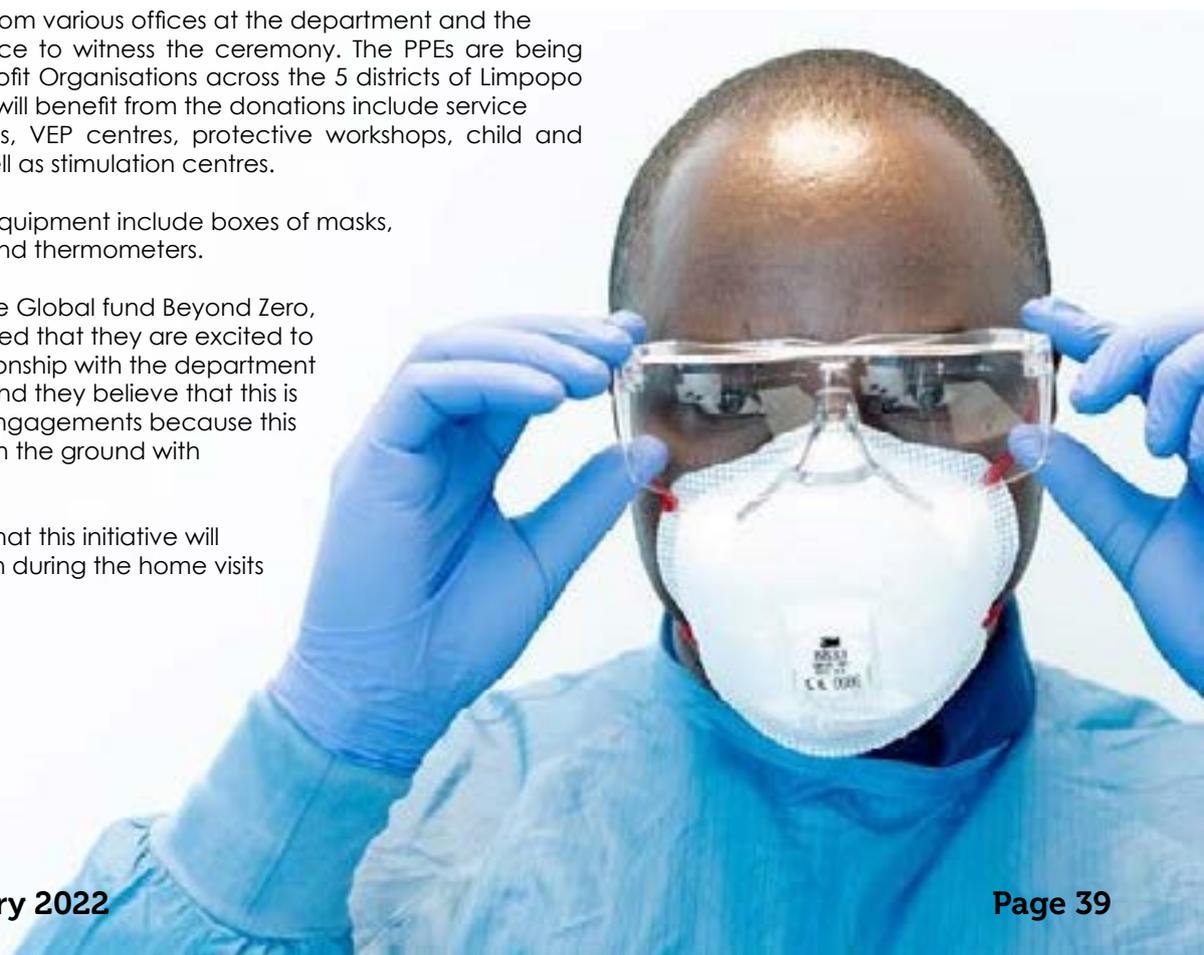
On the left: Dr Futshane (Director: Global Fund Beyond Zero), Mr Mahopo (HOD), Ms Maibele (Director: Restorative Services)

Several representatives from various offices at the department and the donor were in attendance to witness the ceremony. The PPEs are being distributed to 733 Non-Profit Organisations across the 5 districts of Limpopo province. The NPOs that will benefit from the donations include service centres for older persons, VEP centres, protective workshops, child and youth care centres as well as stimulation centres.

The Personal Protective Equipment include boxes of masks, sanitizers, disinfectants, and thermometers.

Speaking on behalf of the Global fund Beyond Zero, Dr Bulumko Futshane stated that they are excited to have established a relationship with the department of Social Development and they believe that this is the beginning of great engagements because this will assist NPOs working on the ground with communities.

He furthermore alluded that this initiative will add practical value even during the home visits by caregivers.



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

The Department of Social Development improves its workforce with energetic personnel to improve its service delivery mandate. New employees, who are now part of the DSD Family, are looking forward to making a difference in the lives of South Africans in need of social services.

By Evans Molimi



Ms. Slindile Dlamini

Slindile Dlamini is working under the Directorate Internal Control as an Accounting Clerk. His daily responsibilities include payment verification for batches and journals for completeness and compliance with the regulation.

Slindile maintains a register of all payments on batches and journals received for record keeping.

He also ensures a filing system for document retrieval as well as monitoring and following up with bookkeeping on long outstanding uncertainty accounts are attended.

The vibrant and excited Slindile says he is passionate about his work. "I am happy to be part of the Department that is working towards addressing social ills that are affecting vulnerable citizens. I find my working environment conducive".

"I hope to learn and explore new things in my role as Accounting Clerk. I am working with friendly people. They are making me feel welcome and this makes my work easier. I have learnt a lot about teamwork since joining the Department. Working together ensures more productivity and service delivery to the public," he said.

Furthermore, Slindile said he is looking forward to growing in his career. "I am looking forward to advancing my knowledge and skills to contribute productively towards meeting the departmental objectives and its goals," Concluded Slindile.



Mr. John Tau

John Tau holds a Bachelor of Information Studies and is currently busy with his Masters in Information Science with the University of South Africa.

John joined the Department on the 1st of February 2022. John says so far, he has not encountered huge challenges, but he concedes that it is still early days.

However, cheerful John is ready to face any challenges on his line of duty. "I have a great team and I'm looking forward to fulfilling the Departmental mandate to serve the public with pride. I also look forward to working with everyone at the department to deliver Social Development services to all South Africans," he said.

He says being part of the Department of Social Development as a Population Resource Centre Manager under Population Advocacy, Knowledge and Information, is actually a huge achievement for his career development.

Since joining the Department, John is enjoying every moment. He is looking forward to learning more concerning population advocacy.

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



Ms. Fortune Louw

Fortune Louw is upbeat and her excitement says it all. "There's more to work than just earning a salary," says the Supply Chain Clerk from the Supply Chain Unit.

Her daily duties include receiving Departmental stock and also preparing files for the payment of service providers. Enthusiastic about her work, Fortune is a go-getter and she assists with any task given to her by her supervisor.

Fortune says she still cannot believe that she is the one who managed to get the job out of all interviewed candidates.

"I am very excited to be in this role. It's an opportunity to learn new skills and savor the experiences I have. Thinking about the bigger picture for my career growth,

I have to work very hard because nothing is holding me back to shine on my tasks. My role is very challenging. I have earned this position, but I have to prove it through my responsibilities and I am enjoying my work," she said.



Mr. Phemelo Moatshe

Mr. Phemelo Moatshe has a B-Com Degree in Accounting. He reported for work on the 7th of February 2022 as a State Accountant under the Directorate: Financial Monitoring of Funded Organisations and Entities.

He is expected to perform the following duties as per his job description: compiling correction journals and analysing Non-Profit-Organisations' financial statements to identify funding risks. He also performs tasks of following-up on the transfer of payments on a monthly, compiling the expenditure reconciliation and assessment.

Phemelo said there is nothing to complain about because his work environment is ideal and that makes it easy for him to cope with the daily grind.

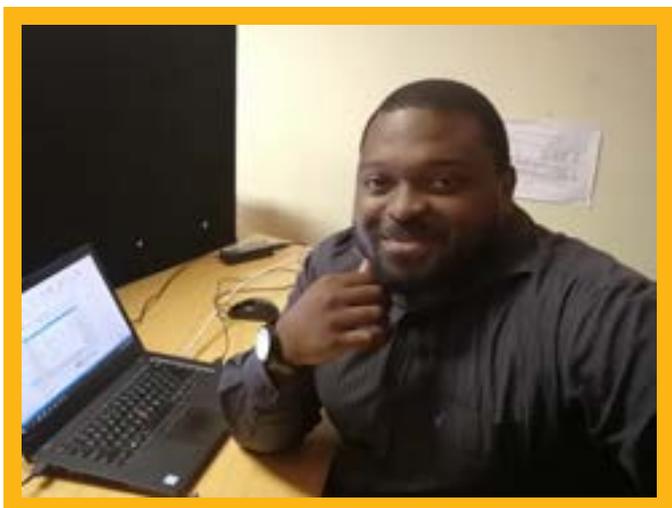
"I am assigned to perform, so far so good. There is no negative factor and everything is running like a well-oiled machine. I am still enjoying learning the job and to perform the tasks given to my best ability," he said.

His future goal is to achieve and obtain a well-deserved higher position within the Department.

He is also looking forward to working hard to the best of his ability to the implementation of his ideas that may as well work in the best interest of the Department and his directorate.

"My dream is to work hard and achieve the most significant and well-performing public servant meeting. I will ensure that I become a team player working towards fulfilling Departmental objectives and mandates," Phemelo concluded.

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



Mr. Thabang Masetla

Mr. Thabang Masetla is a State Accountant under the Directorate of Financial Monitoring of Funded Organisations and Entities at the Department.

His daily work is to prepare a compliance checklist for all transfer payment submissions and payments. He also analyses Non-Profit-Organisations' financial statements to identify funding risks.

Furthermore, Thabang reviews monthly debtor's reports for compliance with the department's debtors management policy and procedures. He analyses monthly monitoring reports from departmental entities.

He follows up on the status of transfers of payments monthly and drafts the monthly report as well as preparing journals for correction of expenditure misallocations relating to transfer payments.

Thabang says the working environment has been welcoming since he commenced his duties on the 9th of February 2022.

"I have been coping and working well with regards to the workload that has been assigned to me. I would love to see myself being a more valuable employee to the department. One of my areas of focus is to assist the Department in providing its service to the public in a more effective and efficient way".

"I would also like to see myself growing in my current position. Hopefully I wish to be given an opportunity to grow and hold senior positions in future. I am ready for any challenges concerning my responsibilities and duties," said Thabang.



Ms. Pricilla Seamelando

Ms. Pricilla Seamelando is an anxious person. But she is excited to be officially part of the DSD Communications team.

Pricilla says she is happy to be officially part of the Communication team and Social Development family as a Graphic Designer Specialist.

She holds a Diploma in Graphic Design from the Vaal University of Technology as well as a degree in Computer Science from the University of South Africa.

"I have been part of the Graphics industry for 5 years and still counting. I have worked with prominent brands such as Lays South Africa, Gautrain, Multichoice just to name a few.

I am still a new kid on the block, but I still have a lot to learn professionally about how the public sector operates. However, I am looking forward to working with all Social Development families to deliver on the Departmental mandate", she said.

She explains that so far, her only challenge has been getting software to deliver on the tasks assigned to her. "I believe it's being taken care of and I am so excited to see myself officially working on departmental designs.

I hope I will be an indispensable addition to the Communications team together with the entire personnel at the Department," said Pricilla.

The Department Of Social Development Begins Its Round Table Discussions To Prevent Teenage Pregnancy

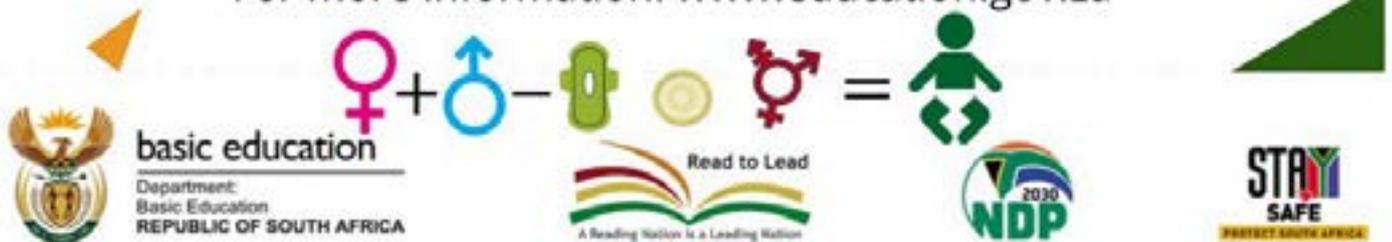
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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Elimination of Discrimination and Abuse

No educator, school staff member or fellow learner may discriminate against, humiliate or abuse a learner physically, emotionally or psychologically, based on their pregnancy or post-pregnancy status. The dignity and Constitutional rights of every learner, pregnant or not, will not be prejudiced, including the rights to education, equality, dignity and privacy.

For more Information: www.education.gov.za



By Staff Reporter

The Department of Social Development has begun its roundtable discussions around the country to strengthen the existing child protection system to prevent teenage pregnancy. The discussions which began in Lusikisiki, Ingquza Hill District municipality in February, aim to target districts that recorded the highest number of teenage pregnancies in the past two years.

These districts are from provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape. Statistics South Africa revealed that the country recorded 34 587 teenagers who gave birth in the 2020/21 financial year.

Acting Chief Director: Child Protection in the Department, Ms Neliswa Cekiso said as a Department tasked with the responsibility to care and protect children, the high numbers of teenage pregnancy should be a cause for concern. "Teenage pregnancy is a multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive intervention," said Cekiso. Attended by among others, representatives from the Departments of Social Development, Health, Basic Education, the SAPS and Traditional Leaders, the initial round table discussion reached an agreement that there is a need for a holistic approach to address the challenge of teenage pregnancy.

Ms Cekiso revealed in the meeting that during 2019 in KZN there were 671 deliveries by children between the ages of 10-14 years and 661 deliveries in 2020. In the Eastern Cape during 2019, there were 671 deliveries by the 10-14 years and in 2020, there were 661 deliveries. The 15-19 years recorded 17 211 in 2019 from the Eastern Cape and 17 740 in 2020.

Noluthando Gwiji from the Eastern Cape Department of Health said there were interventions and continuous campaigns by the Department of Health but the numbers are not going down which should be a serious concern for the country.

“There are times at Holy Cross Hospital in Flagstaff where 80% of deliveries is by children,” a concerned Gwiji said. Cekiso also stated that Section 110 of the Children’s Act, 38 of 2005, makes provision for reporting of suspected cases of abuse for purposes of triggering immediate response and measures to assist a child whose life is at risk.

Ms Cekiso further highlighted that daily reported abuse disclosed by child to a mandatory or non-mandatory adult whether it happened a long time ago or recently, needed to be taken seriously and most importantly reported to the police or the Department of Social Development.

“We all have an obligation as communities, parents, caregivers, teachers, health professionals to report suspected child abuse cases,” she said.

In order to ensure targeted interventions to the affected pregnant children, the National Department of Social Development has requested provincial departments to profile and assess the children so that adequate services can be provided including investigation and referral to the South African Police Service (SAPS) in instances of statutory rape.

The Department has also communicated with the Directors General of Health and Basic education so that at national level, current policies and programmes can be evaluated and improved.

The Department of Basic education has launched its policy on the prevention and management of learner pregnancy in schools on February 17 in the North West. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), teenage pregnancy is global problem, but occurs most often in poorer and marginalized communities.

Many girls face considerable pressure to marry early and become mothers while they are young.

The Department will continue with the roundtable discussions in KZN in March.

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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Policy Objective

This Policy provides an enabling and supportive environment that ensures that schools are safe, free of stigma and provide a non-discriminatory environment for pregnant learners, guaranteeing them the right to education during their pregnancy and, following childbirth, facilitating their re-entry into schools.

For more Information: www.education.gov.za

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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Policy Objective

Reasonable access to male and female condoms (barrier methods of contraception and sexually-transmitted disease prevention), as well as information on their use, will be made available to all learners of 12 years old and above, dependent on their level of inquiry or need.

Where condoms and information on their use cannot be provided in schools, ISHP nurses will ensure that learners are able to access condoms, as well as requisite information and support services, in a youth-friendly environment.

For more Information: www.education.gov.za

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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Advocacy and Leadership

Officials, principals, SMTs, SGBs, SBSTs and educators at every level of the Basic Education System are encouraged to support pregnant learners and advocate this Policy at every level.

They will act supportively at all times to facilitate and ensure a non-discriminatory environment in which the pregnant learner can access basic education, until the birth of her child requires her to leave school, and ensure her earliest return to resume and complete her basic education.

For more Information: www.education.gov.za

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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Policy Objective

Learners in the basic education system must have access to SRH information and skills, accurate knowledge about delayed sexual debut, abstinence and contraception, and information about the role of gender and power in relationships, in order to make informed life choices and help protect them from unintended pregnancy.

For more information: www.education.gov.za



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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Prevention of Learner Pregnancy

Learners will receive age-appropriate SRH information that is rights-based, which explicitly addresses issues of gender and power and facilitates critical thinking around these topics.

Life Orientation (LO) and other subjects, through the provision of CSE, should contain material that is interactive, learner-centred and employs skills-based pedagogies, delivering quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information, including information on contraception.

For more information: www.education.gov.za



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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Retention in School

In this context, this Policy is clear that schools will allow the pregnant learner to remain in school during and after pregnancy. To facilitate the application of these rights, learners who are over six months pregnant will be required to submit a medical certificate indicating the status of their pregnancy and estimated delivery date.

For more information: www.education.gov.za



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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

Retention in School

The Implementation Plan outlines the responsibilities of different agencies within and beyond the DBE, whilst the retention or promotion of the learner, during and after pregnancy, will be guided by the National Policy on the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 and Circular E22 of 2016 on the Criteria for the Implementation of Progression in Grades 10-12.

For more information: www.education.gov.za



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Policy on Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in schools

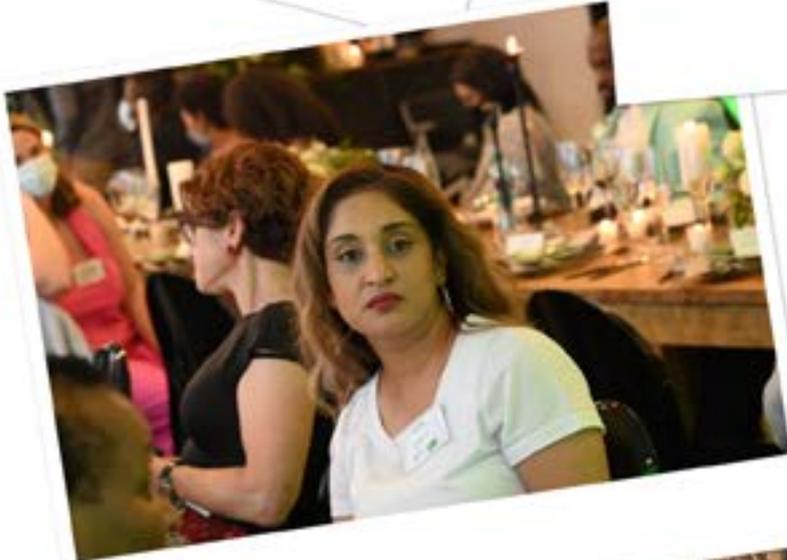
Measures to Deal with Sexual Offences, Child Abuse and Neglect

In certain circumstances, information relating to a learner pregnancy may give rise to mandatory or voluntary reporting by the educator appointed by the school to provide counselling, support and advice.

Specifically, if the pregnant learner is under the age of 16, this would require mandatory reporting to the SAPS and entails civil and criminal proceedings against the male partner if he is over the age of 16 years.

For more information: www.education.gov.za











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