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**Speech by the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Mr Ganief Hendricks, on the occasion of the tabling of the National Council of Provinces Budget Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development**

**Wednesday, 16 July 2025 | Cape Town**

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Honourable House Chair,  
Minister of Social Development, Ms Sisisi Tolashe,  
Chairperson and Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Social Development,  
MECs for Social Development,  
Honorable Members,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to stand before you today and table the Department of Social Development budget to the second house of parliament, the National Council of Provinces.

We present the department's budget guided by the theme: "Restoring Trust, Deepening Impact: Reigniting the Role of the Family in a Renewed Commitment to Dignity and Inclusion".

As the theme dictates, we recommit the department's ambition of restoring dignity in people's lives through impact and inclusive poverty eradication.

However, we must not depart from the reality that the stubborn challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality have a negative impact as we strive to improve the lives of South Africans.

Honourable Chair, this financial year, the budget allocation for vote 19 amounts to 294 Billion Rand. At a glance this may seem like a substantial amount. However, 284 Billion Rand of this budget constitutes transfers to 27 million social assistance beneficiaries.

To address dependency on social assistance programme, the department is promoting sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance in communities. To this end, the department developed a Framework on Linking Social Protection Beneficiaries to Sustainable Livelihoods Opportunities. In partnership with FinMark Trust, SASSA and NDA, this Framework is implemented by means of a Project called Generating Better Livelihoods (GBL) for Child Support Grant Recipients.

To date, the project is being piloted in Sebokeng and Randfontein, Gauteng, Madadeni, Kwa-Mashu and Mthwalume, KZN, as well as Oppermansdorp and Virginia in Free State. Given the progress attained in the pilot sites, we

are convinced that the Framework on Linking Social Protection Beneficiaries to Sustainable Livelihoods Opportunities has a potentially huge impact on dealing with poverty and hunger.

## **Food Security**

We are committed to the Zero Hunger strategy of our government, as such, we are working in partnership with departments of Agriculture and Health to improve access to food for poor and vulnerable persons. We have just finalised the development of a Food Security Quality Assurance Toolkit which will be utilised to train and provide support to all Centre-based feeding programs to ensure amongst others, proper food storage and handling. This is to ensure that we do not experience the challenges of foodborne diseases which often lead to loss of lives.

## **HIV/AIDS**

Coupled with other social ills, including, teenage pregnancy, school dropout rate, crime, violence, and gender-based violence, the HIV/Aids pandemic cannot be taken lightly. The prevention of this chronic disease demands collaboration and prevention from private and public sectors and communities across all our provinces.

In playing our part, as custodians of the Children's Act, we have embraced and entrenched awareness in all our Child Protection campaigns, to empower and educate children, caregivers and parents about HIV and its implications in families.

Hon. members, in the current financial year, the HIV/Aids budget allocation increased from fourty four million one hundred and three thousand Rand to fourty six million two hundred and six thousand Rand. . This allocation is projected to increase to fifty million five hundred and fifty six thousand Rand over the MTEF period.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Similar to the threat of HIV/Aids, substance abuse has not only dismantled the social fabric of South Africa, but impacted negatively on its socio-economic progress.

The medium-term budget estimates in the fight against substance abuse are just over twenty Million Rand, with an allocation of twenty and a half Million Rand for the current financial year (2025/26).

This budget will assist greatly as we are committed to advance the course of addressing substance abuse in communities. In our efforts of achieving this noble objective, the department is working with institutions of higher learning, focusing more on TVET colleges, and communities.

In this financial year and beyond, the department is targeting reaching over 40 institutions of higher learning in all provinces through the anti-substance abuse programme. I will be working more with the department's programmes to reach this target through the District Development Model to curb underage substance abuse.

Our partnerships with the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, South African Depression and Anxiety Group, and other Non-Profit Organisations should support our efforts in implementing the anti-substance abuse programme.

## **FAMILIES AND PARENTING**

Honourable Chair, families remain at the centre of social development programmes because social ills affect all persons irrespective of their race, colour, and status in society.

As we strengthen the family to play its pivotal role in society, we will succeed in building resilient individuals and societies that can withstand any challenges. It is in this context almost eleven Million Rand is set aside to empower and reach out to families.

## **OLDER PERSONS**

House Chair, our efforts of embracing older persons through Active Ageing Programmes are in full swing across all provinces. This year, we plan to reach out and engage senior citizens in Western Cape as the host province. This we do each year in collaboration with Premiers' offices, Departments of Sports, Arts and Culture and Health.

We acknowledge that budget constraints often hinder service delivery. Having said that, this current financial year, just over eighteen Million Rand has been allocated for services to older persons. The department commends

older persons who contribute meaningfully to mitigate the spread of social ills in . Some of our older persons, are taking care of orphans who lost their parents due to violence, gender-based violence, and HIV/Aids pandemic. Older persons are reservoirs of knowledge and through intergenerational programmes we want to create a conducive environment to impart that knowledge, wisdom and values that has seen them survive very challenging times in their days. This can also been done best within a normal family setting espoused above.

## **SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

In line with national and international frameworks, the department developed a policy intended at inclusive and integration of persons with disabilities into all social development initiatives. Following 28 public hearings in all nine provinces, this policy was developed and awaits approval by Cabinet, a step that would paved a way for legislation within the current Medium Term Development Plan.

To embrace and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, an amount of 14 Million, and 75 Thousand Rand has been allocated in the current cycle with MTEF estimate of 15 Million, 412 Thousand Rand. We continue working with DeafBlind South Africa, Autism South Africa, Uhambo Foundation and many more to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS, CONVENTIONS, AND TREATIES**

The department will align its programmes with the UN and AU Conventions on the Rights of the Child as well as continue to develop periodic reports on the treaties that we are signatories to.

In closing, I am pleading with members to support this budget as it seeks to improve the lives of South Africans in line with the provisions of 2024-2029 Medium Term Development Plan of the Government of National Unity.

I thank you.