



social development

Department:
Social Development
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa



**MEC Basetsana Rebecca
Sussana Dantjie**



BUDGET SPEECH

2026/27



NW_DSD



@DSDNW3



NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



social development
Department:
Social Development
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa



BUILDING A
NORTH WEST PROVINCE
THAT **WORKS** FOR ALL

**NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET
SPEECH (VOTE 12) AND POLICY STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MEC
BASETSANA REBECCA SUSSANA DANTJIE AT THE NORTH WEST
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON THE 23rd JUNE 2026**

Honourable Speaker, Dr Desbo Mohono

Honourable Deputy Speaker, rre Mokone Maine

Honourable Premier, Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers of all Municipalities

Honourable Members

Leaders of Political Parties

House of Traditional Leaders

Heads of Departments,

Distinguished guests,

Comrades and Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

Revolutionary greetings to you!

Madam Speaker, in the book of Isaia 1:17 the Lord directs us *“to learn to do right, seek Justice, defend the oppressed, take up the cause of the fatherless and plead the case of the widow”*. This scripture provides a profound moral foundation for social development by emphasizing leadership, dignity and the obligation to uplift the weak. It frames the budget not just as numbers, but a moral document that translate compassion into tangible action.

This scripture resonates well with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The constitution provides for the Department of Social Development to enhance the rights of citizens to social security and appropriate social assistance if they cannot support themselves. It mandates the department to protect the rights of children, such as the right to care, nutrition, shelter, social services, and the protection from maltreatment, neglect, abuse and degradation.

It is therefore a great honour and privilege for me to present the Social Development Budget 2026/7 with shared aim of uplifting lives and championing the cause of vulnerable communities as mandated by the constitution. This budget speech presents an opportunity for us to report back to you as public representatives and to the broader communities of the Northwest Province.

Allow me therefore Madam Speaker, to take you through a journey of many good things the department has done in making the lives of our people better. Despite many challenges our country is going through, the future looks bright and there is hope of better life for all. Not all is doom and gloom as many would want us to believe.

Honourable members, fellow stakeholders and esteemed citizens of our beloved Bokone Bophirima, every year in May we join the UN member states in observing Child Protection Week. This year we will observe this campaign for a period of month under the theme: ***“Working together in ending violence against children.”***

Child Protection Month remains a critical national initiative that promotes awareness and action to prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children. Every effort and strive we make, seeks to restore back to our future leaders - our children- the dignity, rights and

protection enshrined in the constitution. Through partnerships and collaboration, we continue to wrestle with social ills and harms that children face in homes, schools, communities, and increasingly, through digital spaces.

Data from the National Child Protection Register for the first three quarters of the 2025/26 financial year recorded 8,984 cases of child abuse, including 3,258 cases of sexual abuse. Additional figures from the Department of Justice indicate an increase in statutory rape cases, rising to 127 in 2024/5 to 199 in 2025/26.

Motlotlegi – Mmusa Kgotla, e tsentse tlhako kgamelong, motsetse o ja ka seatla, ntja e ja ntjanyana. Go mo maruding a rona rotlhe re le baagi le mekgatlho e e farologaneng go ema kgatlhanong le tshotlakako ya bana, ntle le go itseela molao mo matsogong gone ngwana ke sejo wa tlhakanelwa.

Honourable members, I am pleased to report to this House that we have made inroads in preventing and reducing incidents of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and trafficking of children including statutory rape. Through collaboration with the Department of Education and Department of Health, 1750 relevant officials, educators, and health professionals were capacitated on mandatory reporting of incidents of child abuse.

In addition, the department is implementing the child protection register as enshrined in the Children's Act by screening all referred individual applicants at the Department of Education to ensure that they hire suitable applicants who have no record of child abuse.

The Department has partnered with 34 child protection organisations for 2026/27 and committed R 46 796.00 (forty-six million, seven hundred and

ninety-sixty thousand rand) to this noble cause. This will result in the creation of 285 new jobs. In the reporting period, the department provided funding to six drop-in centers servicing 410 children who work on the streets and those who beg for living and ten Community Youth Care Centers (CYCC) servicing 682 children which provide care and protection services with 330 children at a cost of one R1.6 million.

As part of restoring children's dignity and improving the quality of life of dysfunctional families, the Department in collaboration with funded NPOs conducted capacity building workshops on Integrated Parenting Programme. A total of 4374 family members participated in this programme. A further 3491 family members participated in preservation services covering areas like bereavement counselling, marital problems, family conflicts, prevention and advocacy programme.

Hon Members, the Department seek to build strong and cohesive families, through an integrated and comprehensive basket of care and support services. These services include family preservation, parenting, and reunification services.

In the year under review, we built strong partnership with thirteen NPO's providing family preservation services and disbursed the sum of R 9,3 m (Nine million, three hundred thousand rand) to these NPOs thus creating a total of 106 jobs through this partnership.

We have successfully launched the Northwest Social Work Supervisors' Learning and Support Forum, which is the first of its kind in the Northwest Province. The Forum play a centre role in creating the necessary space for social work supervisors and practitioners to share knowledge, develop skills, build professional networks, and receive mutual support to enhance the quality of social work services and their own professional well-being.

Honourable members, the department in collaboration with Health and Welfare Seta started a programme to train Community Care Givers in a national certificate for Child and Youth Care accredited at NQF level 4 through Recognition of Prior Learning. We are encouraged to report that all registered learners were assessed in October /November 2025/26 and 88, out of a total of 89 successfully completed the course.

Honourable Speaker, we will ensure that there is an increased access to all partial care facilities especially after school care programme. These facilities aim at providing care and protection in the absence of parents or care givers. These partial facilities will improve life skills, build their resilience in growing into responsible citizens and provide homework assistance, and psychosocial support. This is a building block in Nation building to ensure that all children have access to facilities that are compliant and nurturing as part of learner support to contribute to improved educational development and maturity. Le ojwa le sale metsi, ditheo tse di thusa mo kgodisong le matlafatsong ya bana.

As part of our commitment to develop the youth, the department coordinated the enrolment of about 50 youth, twenty-five from Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati district and twenty-five from Ramotshere Moiloa local municipality to be trained as security officers. A further 50 youth were taken through the driving school programme to obtain their drivers licenses. This is our effort to empower our youth to increase their opportunities to participate in the open labour market.

About 176 youth from all the four districts were taken on a week-long training on patriotism and life skills. The training was conducted by South African Military at Potchefstroom Artillery base. Other programmes as

reported during the last budget vote could not materialise due to unforeseen circumstances at NDA and NEMISA.

Honourable members, the scale of social needs exceed government capacity. For this reason, the department relies heavily on Non-Profit-Organisations (NPO) partnerships to execute its mandate at grassroots level.

NPOs are the primary boots-on-the-ground partners for the department of social development. They serve as a vital service delivery agents that bridge the gaps in public provision directly executing and customising social welfare, child protection and community empowerment programs to reach vulnerable citizens where government lacks.

The department struggled for years to ensure that all NPOs, specifically those from previously disadvantaged groups are also funded, paid on time and are fully operational and compliant.

Honourable members, it pleases me to report that after ten years of struggle, the department has turned the corner. A record of 362 NPOs serving 202 000 vulnerable community members were assessed, validated and approved for funding in line with the Sector Funding Model timeline.

A total of budget of R239 million committed to fund the NPOs will yield economic spin offs by creating approximately 3649 job opportunities across the province. Majority of this NPOs received their first funding tranches in April 2026 thus paving a way towards a smooth and seamless delivery of services.

We applaud Members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development for pushing us hard to realise this groundbreaking milestone after a decade.

We have created a new online system with the aim of enhancing efficient and effectiveness in the administration of NPOs.

In this financial year, the department will further capacitate 3 321 NPOs on resource mobilization, financial management, governance, project management and conflict management to comply with legislations regulating the NPO sector.

Honourable Speaker, our flagship programme; Re Thuse Re go Thuse, continue to yield fruits of service delivery far beyond our expectation. Through this programme, the department continue to provide comprehensive social services to the poor and vulnerable members of the society whilst creating an enabling environment for sustainable development.

Honourable members, working in collaboration with our Agencies, SASSA and NDA as well as sister departments, we mobilised a wide range of government resources to deliver on-site services, including social grant applications, assistance with birth and identity documents, health screenings, social work intakes and referrals, banking services, information sharing and more through SASSAs' Integrated Community Outreach Programme.

Several deserving children from poor background were profiled from Schools across the province and benefitted from the school uniform programme. The provision of school uniform is part of reinforcing governments commitment to educational inclusion, learner dignity and improved access to schooling for children from poor household.

Motlotlegi-Mmusa Kgotla, sechaba se se ikgatholosang boleng jwa bagodi, se itebatsa medi ya sona.

Older persons are a precious hub of information and a necessary resource that we must all take care of and protect from any form of violence in line with provisions of the Older Persons Act. This legislation seeks to deal effectively with the plight of Older Persons by establishing a framework aimed at the empowerment, protection of Older Persons, promotion and maintenance of their status, rights, well-being, safety and security.

Honourable members, I am pleased to report to this House the key achievement under this programme:

- 258 Jobs had been created through funded NPOs running Old Age Homes.
- Department continue to promote healthy lifestyle through implementation of the active ageing programme popularly known as the Golden games across all service points in the province in partnership with the social cluster departments of Health, Sports, Arts, Culture and recreation, municipalities and NPOs through their service club activities.

For the financial year 2026/27 the department committed R47 749 000 (Forty-seven million seven hundred and forty-nine thousand rand) to provide services to older person in line with its core mandate.

Currently the department provide services to older persons at two state run facilities namely; Taung and Sonop old age homes.

Honourable members, plans are afoot to put system in place for registration of community-based care services which is inclusive of frail

care services, train more care givers on accredited programme to improve quality of care and access to services to our senior citizens.

As part of preventing elderly abuse, awareness campaigns will be sustained at service point level to educate communities about the protection of older persons and services that are available for them.

Honourable members, the department is committed to strengthen partnership with NPOs providing day care, residential, protective workshop and social rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities within the four districts. A total of R16 980 000.00 (sixteen million nine hundred and eighty thousand rand) has been set aside to fund NPOs to provide basket of services to persons with disabilities.

We are grateful that the budget for persons with disabilities has been steadily increased by R747 000.00 (Seven hundred and forty-seven thousand rand)

Honourable members, in the recent times we have observed the growing number of people with autism spectrum disorder. This is not a disease but rather a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition. Autism in South Africa reflects local trends, with an estimated 1.2 million people living on the spectrum. Research has shown that Autism Awareness in South Africa is low and we need to do something to improve this.

The department in partnership with Autism South Africa has provided training to sixty-five officials, including NPO Social Workers in Dr Kenneth Kaunda (20), Dr RSM (20) and Bojanala (25). In the current financial year, 20 officials will be trained in Ngaka Modiri Molema District.

Hon members, women empowerment is one of our apex priorities. As part of its social investment, the department has, on an annual basis, procured equipment, machinery and materials for unemployed women who have livelihood strategies to uplift the socio-economic level of their communities and generate income for their respective households. The support focus on livelihoods sectors like, sewing, baking, hair and beauty services and informal retail trading.

During the reporting period, 107 women benefitted from material support for economic upliftment to reduce poverty and help them move beyond dependency on social grants towards self-reliance and improved household resilience.

Honourable members, in addition, the programme coordinated three pop up markets for cooperatives and SMMEs in partnership with SEDFA, LEDs and the private sector targeting 30 SMMEs and cooperatives in each district. These pop-up markets were held at Hebron Mall in Bojanala, Matlosana Mall in Dr Kenneth Kaunda Region and Agricultural Museum in Ngaka Modiri Molema. The intended outcome of the pop-up market is to ensure that women led, youth and persons with disabilities cooperatives and SMMEs show case their products and services and are linked to economic opportunities. About ninety (90) SMMEs and Cooperatives participated in the programme.

Honourable members, we have set aside an amount of R12 million (twelve million rand) to provide material support to 400 (four hundred) women owned SMMEs. Furthermore, we will continue to provide support to 18 women led cooperatives with a budget of R3.6 million.

Motlotlegi-Mmusa Kgotla, koduo e wela motho mongwe le mongwe e sa lebelelwa. Ke ka moo, ka metlha re leng malala-o-la-otswe le go baakanya ditlamelwana tsa pula go sa le gale.

Our Social Relief of Distress Programme plays a crucial role in responding to the emergency needs of people who are affected by disasters, through the provision of financial and material assistance to individuals and families in partnership with the South African Social Security Agency and other stakeholders.

In the year under review, 18 359 (eighteen thousand three hundred and fifty-nine) households have benefitted from social relief of distress programme.

The Department is providing thousands of needy people with a daily, healthy meal through its community nutrition and development centres that are being established in most food insecure and socio-economically vulnerable communities. Through this programme, we have, without fail ensured that we rid the needy from hunger and starvation, year on year to date.

Honourable members, we have committed R21,4 million (twenty-one million four hundred thousand rand) to fund 24 NPOs daily nutritious meal to about two hundred per community nutrition centre in the current financial year. Working together we can defeat the sting of poverty. This programme will in this current financial year accelerate the efforts to link potential beneficiaries with sustainable economic initiatives to move them from the social protection safety net into independence.

Hon members, National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs aims to eliminate these diseases as public health threats by 2030 through comprehensive, people centred interventions and multi-sectorial approaches.

To this end, notwithstanding the impact of the withdrawal of funds by American government on our services, we managed to survive and provided the required services to those affected. We will implement the following programs to tackle HIV and Aids in the province in partnership with our sister Department of Health and other relevant stakeholders: -

- Through our Social and Behavior Change programs we will reach the target population ranging from children, youth, adolescents, and traditional leaders to respond effectively to the reduction of HIV infection in the province. The budget allocated to drive the HIV prevention responses is R19 million (nineteen million rand). We are targeting 52 560 (fifty-two thousand five hundred and sixty) beneficiaries across the four districts in the province.
- We will implement Community Based Prevention Early and Interventions Program called RIHISA (meaning resilience) to reach out to vulnerable children to build resilience. RIHISA provides core package of services which includes the following areas: Nutritional support, educational support, household economic strengthening, Health Support and Child Care Protection services. The program is implemented through Community Based Organizations across the four districts funded to a total amount of R21 million (twenty-one million rands) targeting 4185 (four thousand one hundred and eighty-five) beneficiaries.

- Provision of psychosocial support services to children and adults affected and infected by HIV through community-based organizations across the four districts. The budget allocated for the provision of psychosocial support services is R23 million (twenty-three million rand) targeting 4200 (four thousand two hundred) beneficiaries.

Honorable members, the Department in collaboration with the National Department of Social Development will train Orphans, Vulnerable children and Youth aged 18 – 24 Years old on skills development program.

The skills development program prepares young people to transit from youth to adulthood with decent skills that grants them the opportunity to be economically viable. It will be implemented in the Community Care Centers across the districts, targeting 300 (three hundred) Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth.

Motlotlegi-Mmusa Kgotla, tiriso e e botlhaswa ya diritibatsi ke tlhoba boroko ga jaana mo porofenseng ya rona.

To mitigate this growing challenge, we established a Provincial Substance Abuse Forum consisting of various government departments, FBOs and NPOs to deal decisively with substance abuse.

- We have established local drug action communities in all 18 municipalities
- Taung Inpatient Centre and JB Marks Treatment Centre continue to provide substance use disorder treatment services in the province.
- We have allocated R15 537 000(fifteen million five hundred and thirty-seven thousand rand) to Taung Inpatient Treatment Centre and R21 919 000 (twenty-one million nine hundred and nineteen

thousand rand) for JB Marks Treatment Centre for the provision of substance use disorder treatment services.

- Seven (07) NPOs will be funded to the tune of R4,225.00m (four million two hundred and twenty-five thousand rand) in all districts to provide aftercare services, prevention and advocacy programme and early intervention services.

With the above-mentioned resources, we will ensure that more than 1 610 service users access our Substance Abuse Prevention and rehabilitation services across the province.

Honorable members, it is a known fact that crime and violence derail our hard-earned democracy.

It is for this reason that the department is implementing social crime prevention programme aimed at providing probation services targeting children, youth, adult offenders and youth within the criminal Justice process. In the year under review, the Department strengthened access to services in partnership with funded NPOs at an amount of R2,091,000 (two million and ninety-one thousand rand).

- Forty thousand two hundred and fifty-nine (40 259) people were reached through community engagement programmes.
- Four hundred and Seventeen (417) children in conflict with the law were assessed.
- One hundred and twenty-six (126) children accessed secure care services
- One hundred and seven (107) officials were capacitated on therapeutic programme and implementation of information

management systems as per the directive of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008.

- Teams are implementing information management systems as per the directive of the Child Justice Act ,75 of 2008.

Honourable members and esteemed guests, we still view gender-based violence as a serious violation of human rights.

Through our victim empowerment Sub-programme, the Department provides services to support, care and empower victims of violence and crime, in particular women and children.

Special focus is on awareness and education, provision of psychosocial support to victims through the NPAs' Thuthuzela Care Centres, white doors centres and funded NPOs.

In 2025/26 financial year, the department has recorded the following key milestones: -

- Strengthening twenty-three (23) shelters and NPOs for victims providing services to GBVF victims.
- Funded twenty-two (22) NPOs providing services to GBVF victims
- Victim Empowerment Programme such as Orange Day campaign were observed monthly in all districts as part of the implementation of 365 Days campaign against GBVF. We commemorate victims of Gender based violence on the 25th of each month. This campaign was recently commemorated in Khuma, Stilfontein on the 25thMay 2025.

Honorable Speaker, our plans for 2026/27 financial year include: -

- Strengthening consultation with key stakeholders for completion of a shelter for the victims of gender-based violence in Dr Kenneth Kaunda district.
- Strengthening partnership with NPOs to improve access for victims of gender-based violence through funding.
- Intensify the implementation of 365 days community programme to embrace positive alternative approaches within specific communities/groups inclusive of LGBTIQ+.
- Capacitate stakeholders and social services professionals on victim empowerment interventions
- Debriefing of social services professional to relief them from the stress resulting from GBVF cases and to enhance their coping mechanism.
- Strengthen the engagement of men and boys in the fight against gender-based violence across the province.
- Support the establishment of GBVF rapid response team in the hotspot area responding to classification of GBVF as a National disaster.

Hon members, the Department has a considerable footprint in social infrastructure development and shares the responsibility with other departments and spheres of government, communities and business to provide and facilitate access to social services.

The department appointed the Independent Development Trust as an implementing agent for the erection of prefabricated structures to serve

as office accommodation for the Moretele Service Point. This is intended to address the following challenges:

- Inadequate office space to enable the department to deliver on its mandate
- Limited community access to departmental offerings
- Unavailability of a conducive service point in the area to ensure effective and efficient service delivery

Honourable members, re lebogela tirisano mmogo le bogosi, Bakgatla ba-Mosetlha tribal authority, ka go neelana ka lefatshe. The project commenced on the 6th February 2026, with a duration of ten (10) months and the contract amount is R26 722 726.80 (twenty-six million seven hundred and twenty-two thousand seven hundred and twenty-six rand). Progress as at the end of April 2026 was at 32% which is slightly above the percentage time lapsed of 30%.

Hon members, as I conclude, I wish to point out that our social fabric continue to be stretched as poverty, gender-based violence, mental health challenges and youth unemployment persist. Our budget is allocated in such a way that it responds with urgency, resilience and sustainable investment in our people to endure beyond the cycle of economic hardships we live in. Our budget for the year ahead is structured as follows;

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PER PROGRAMME

Programme	Budget Allocation
	R'000
1. Administration	298 448

	Two hundred and ninety-eight million, four hundred and forty-eight thousand rand
2. Social Welfare Services	745 099 Seven hundred and forty-five million, and ninety – nine thousand rand.
3. Children and Families	388 402 Three hundred and eighty-eight million, four hundred and two thousand rand.
4. Restorative Services	329 910 Three hundred and twenty-nine million, nine hundred and ten thousand rand.
5. Development and Research	234 312 Two Hundred and thirty-four million, three hundred and twelve thousand rand.
Total Budget	1 996 171 One billion, nine hundred and ninety-six million, one hundred and seventy-one thousand rand.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, please allow me to borrow words from one of the stalwarts of freedom Tata Nelson Mandela,

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

This message is a clarion call to all of us who are serving the masses of our people to leave indelible footprints in the sands of time.

As the Executing Authority of the Northwest Department of Social Development, I am humbled by the responsibility that has been bestowed upon me to lead the Department to greater heights of service delivery.

I would like to thank all the employees of the Department, led by the Head of Department, Ms Peggy Mhlongo-Kgaboesele, for putting their shoulders to the wheel in ensuring that the most vulnerable people receive services.

A special appreciation goes to my political home, the African National Congress for entrusting me with this huge responsibility of serving the people of the Northwest Province.

My deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Premier, Hon Mokgosi for entrusting me with such a huge responsibility of heading this department.

I express my profound thanks to the Chairperson and all members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development for their oversight role, including the Auditor General South Africa and other oversight bodies.

I would also like to thank my family for the continued support and words of encouragement,

My sincere appreciation to Social Development family – The South African Social Security Agency and National Development Agency. We are on course to serve the people of the Northwest province.

The journey has begun,

Aluta Continua

To God be the Glory (Soli Deo Gloria)

I thank you.