

## **Address by Honourable Solomon Patrick Mabilo on the National Assembly (NA) Debate on Social Development - Budget Vote 17**

12 May 2015

Topic: Early Childhood Development (ECD),

Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Minister Bathabile Dlamini  
Honourable Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu  
Honourable Ministers & Deputy Ministers present here  
Honourable Members  
Distinguished Guests in the Gallery

Our journey to create a caring society for our children is encouraged by the words of our very own Isithwalandwe, Seaparamankwe, our late Icon, President Nelson Mandela when he said:

“There can be no keener revelation of a society than the way in which it treats its children”

Honourable Chairperson; the Strategy and Tactics of the African National Congress December 2012 state the following on social issues; of which Early Childhood Development is part thereof:

“The ANC therefore seeks to build democracy with social content informed by our very own concrete conditions and experiences, this will; in some respects, reflect some elements of the best traditions of social democracy, which include a system which places the needs of the poor and social issues such as health care, education and social safety net at the top of the national agenda.

The ANC at its Polokwane Conference resolved to 'develop a comprehensive strategy on Early Childhood Development which was developed.' Critical to improving the quality of teaching and learning in the schooling system, Early Childhood Development is imperative.

At the Manguang Conference the ANC resolved to 'develop mechanisms at the Early Childhood Development (ECD) level in order to be able to detect the needs and challenges of a child at an early age.'

The Government recognises ECD as a fundamental and universal human right to which all young children are equally entitled without discrimination.

ECD is a national priority programme under Outcome 1: Quality Education as Government has supported the principle of investment in children. The National Development Plan (NDP) states that action is needed to improve Early Childhood Development services.

At the core of the National Development Plan is a focus on capabilities of people and of the country. Early Childhood Development has been identified as critical for the development of people's capabilities and to ensure better performance in formal schooling which will later result in improved levels of employment.

The Early Childhood Development programme provides services related to care and early stimulation to children in the temporary absence of their parents or adult caregivers. These services should be holistic and demonstrate the appreciation of the importance of considering the child's health, nutrition, early stimulation, cognitive development, psychosocial and other needs within the context of the family and the community. Providing early childhood development services to children contributes

immensely to the development of self-esteem and ensuring that children meet their developmental milestones. It also enables them to be better prepared for formal schooling.

The South African Integrated Programme of Action for Early Childhood Development - Moving Ahead 2013 - 2016, approved by Cabinet in 2013, provides for the development of an ECD Policy. The development of the draft Early CD Policy is addressing the identified need for ECD and is aimed at transforming ECD service delivery in South Africa, in particular to address critical gaps and to ensure the provision of and universal access to comprehensive ECD services.

This Policy has been developed through an extensive consultation process of stakeholders in the ECD sector (government and non-government organizations). Consultations with provincial departments were completed by 25 August 2014.

The vision of the draft ECD policy is that all infants and young children and their families in South Africa live in environments conducive to their optimal development. The mission of the draft ECD policy is to provide a framework for government's accountability for the effective translation of this vision into reality through the public provision of a comprehensive package of quality ECD services that would be universally available in sufficient quantities and proximity so that all children enjoy an equal opportunity to access them.

The draft ECD Policy addresses matters such as the provision of an essential package of services to be attained in the short (2019) to medium term (2024) and a comprehensive package of services to be attained in the long term (2030).

The draft ECD Policy introduces a number of new services to fill gaps identified in the range of services currently available especially within the first 1 000 days of a child's life, such as home visits to pregnant mothers by community health workers, pre-registration of income-eligible pregnant mothers to have access to the Child Support Grant, pre-grade R, building of ECD centres in under-resourced and rural areas by Government and the design of early learning that will support the cognitive and language development of young children from birth to school-going age.

The pillars which support the policy have been agreed upon by the different departments and include:

**ECD as a public good:** The Government's recognition of ECD as a universal right and that ECD lays the foundation for the attainment of broader societal benefits requires the public provision of ECD services by Government for all eligible young children in South Africa.

**Universal access:** The Government has committed to the attainment of universal access to ECD for all children in South Africa.

The MTSF builds on the significant achievements achieved in the first two decades of democracy. One of the key targets that the MTSF seeks to achieve is that by 2024, an essential age- and developmentally stage-appropriate package of quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) services is available and accessible to all young Children and their caregivers. The MTSF note that: 'Improving the quality of education requires further improvements in early childhood development.' Initiatives to sustain and accelerate improvements in school performance include the following: Further expansion of early childhood development programmes, driven by the social development sector, contributing to improved school readiness of 5-6 year-olds.'

Improving the provision of ECD for children 0-4, developing comprehensive ECD policy and regulatory standards for child care facilities, establishing ECD centres in poorest areas are the noted priorities from the ANC's elections manifesto and the National Development Plan (NDP).

There has been a rapid increase in the expenditure trends and estimates that is reflected in Programme 4 of the department which has its focus on 'Welfare Services Policy Development and Implementations Support'

A number of performance targets have been directed at strengthening child protection and improving Early Childhood Development (ECD) services. For 2015/16, the budget allocated for this sub-programme amounts to R80.3 million. The target of the department is to increase the number of children accessing ECDs by 10% from its 129955 baseline. In 2014/15, the ECD Policy was finalised, and the intention is to approve the Policy and the comprehensive ECD programme during the current year (2015/16). In addition, a human resource plan for ECDs will be developed during 2015/16.

The Freedom Charter 1955 states,

All shall enjoy human rights!

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children.

The doors of Learning shall be opened!

Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children.

In conclusion, we reaffirm that spending more on ECD is an investment not a cost. It is about the future progress that is being made every year on ECD must be consolidated and natured further today sufficient investment in this aspect of our society secures our children's future.

The ANC supports this Budget Vote

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## **Address by Honourable RN Capa on the EPC Old Assembly Budget Vote Social Development Vote 19**

12 May 2015

Topic: Working together to do more in Social Development to move South Africa Forward.

I would like to declare upfront the DA and EFF adopted the Portfolio Committee Report with Reserve meaning that both parties are neither here or there. Neither inside or outside the house.

With this short introduction I greet you

Hon Minister  
Hon Deputy Minister  
Ministers and Deputy Ministers present  
Hon Members of Parliament  
Our Guest in the Gallery  
Officials of the Department  
Ladies Gentlemen Comrades  
The South African Communities

Chairperson, we as the ANC remember our Cde Mama Ruth Mompati today may her soul rest in

peace and rise in Glory. Our Minister the and Deputy Minister all from the ANC already expatiated on the core mandate of this Department which is a Constitutional imperative as espoused in the White Paper on Welfare (1998) and enacted pieces of legislation to provide access to the appropriate comprehensive social assistance and security reforms to those our people who are unable to support themselves and their dependents. Also giving the appropriate care, basic nutrition, shelter, social services, referring to the basket of services for children, including youth and people with disabilities.

Chairperson, with our the ANC January the 8th, celebrations in Cape Town, His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma announced this year is the year of the Freedom Charter.

Chairperson the adoption of the Freedom Charter by the true Congress of the People 26 June 1955 was a major political event that was of great significance, widely recognised in both South Africa and the International World.

Late Chief Albert Luthuli the then President of the ANC stated

“Why will this assembly be significant and unique? Its size, I hope, will make it unique. But above all its multiracial nature and its noble objectives will make it unique because it will be the first time in history of our multi-racial nation that its people from all walks of life will meet as equals, irrespective of race, colour and creed to formulate a Freedom Charter for all the people of the country”.

How true is our late President Chief Albert Luthuli and the other visionaries' demands or commitments because this very Charter is still relevant 60 years later? Finding expression in the policies of the ANC, the Constitution of South Africa and in the National Development Plan an overarching plan and vision of the ANC led Government.

Chairperson it is important to note that this document was not crafted by one or a person but by people of our townships and country side whom were visited by 55,000 volunteers to collect their 'freedom demands'. We should remember that the Congress of the people was not a single event but a series of campaigns rallies big and small which were held in houses, flats, factories, kraals, on farms, the open spaces to collect 'freedom demands'. Then only adopted by 3000 delegates at Kliptown in 1955. This was a process which was open to all the people of South Africa.

This statement is a very profound one that no other political party within this august house can equal even if they come up with their own Charter, was not tried or tested as the Freedom Charter.

Chairperson, according to the Freedom Charter

“South Africa belongs to all who live in it Black and White .....

With reference to the introduction of the Mangaung resolutions on Social Transformation to enhance this Statement, “South Africa belongs to all who live in it Black and White...” the goal of the ANC, as outlined in its Strategy and Tactics document of 2007 states,

“Our strategies for Social Transformation must seek to empower people to lift themselves out of poverty while creating adequate social nets to protect the most vulnerable in our society”.

Therefore in concluding the above remarks, our goal as the ANC to realise our objectives within the Strategy and Tactics document in our oversight function of our department will be to ensure that the ANC Government implements a comprehensive programme that focus on the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality faced by the most vulnerable persons in our society which this Department is already focussing on in a doing by implementing a comprehensive programme that

focuses on which are based on advancing and defending human rights which are embraced in the Bill of Rights in our South African Constitution.

Chairperson the ANC Minister of Social Development with her department in fulfilling her mandate as adopted in Outcome 13 in her performance agreement with the President is responsible for the provision of "Inclusive and responsive social Protection system" in collaboration with the other government departments, in a clustered approach, but as an ANC we must caution the departments collaborating with our department that service delivery can be compromised if your departments do not cooperate.

Chairperson in our oversight function of the Departmental Annual Performance Plans 2015/2016 we recognised that there were elements of radical transformation in the work proposed to be done. Based on the developmental approach to welfare that recognises the interrelatedness of social development and economic development strategies for the effective implementation of social welfare services, which you I see in their DISPLAYS outside this Chamber today which I would allude to briefly.

Chairperson it is encouraging that this Department is the lead department co-ordinating the works programme between the different departments in Inter Alia Co-ordinating the Social Cluster Public Employment Programmes

The Community Works Programme which are of a long duration with 80% of the new participants being unemployed youth.

Social protection provided to military veterans in which the services will create jobs.

The above is all part of the Social protection

The above job creation initiatives, the plan and how to source them must be made available to our different Constituencies.

What was clearly apparent in our oversight was the key principles underlining all their programmes which was underpinned by people centredness in participation and empowerment which are beneficial to them. The universal access relating to Child Support Grant and Old Ages pensions including taking over the future grant payment from SASSA within this 5th term of parliament with times and goals which respectively has been moved to the 2016/2017 financial due to financial constraints from the side of treasury and the latter processes will start in this financial year with the time lines and goals we as the ANC members will keep the department accountable to. We still have to look at trends of the previous financial years of the fourth parliament to see if the targets were realistic and that the department have not shifted any timeline going into this new term at this moment there were concerns raised in Programme 5 Social and Policy Integrated Service Delivery where only 62.5% of the planned targets were met. One of the principles that was not tangible, was the transparency of administration and management when it comes to alignment of this programme 1 to the Budget estimates 2015/2016 financial year which has been alluded to by the Chairperson and being emphasised by the ANC.

Chairperson, we as the ANC observed a very positive service delivery model project MIKONDZO the department put in place which brings government closer to the most vulnerable groups, including children, youth and people with disabilities to meet their developmental needs. The observation is that these services are provided by the department and its two entities SASSA and NDA and seems to be a progressive one, which is implemented at the coalface of society within the Wards. We saw a section of this programme when the ANC Minister and her team was in Marikana providing inclusive

social services to our vulnerable people there. This project Mikondzo has instilled the understanding that government alone cannot address the socio-economic challenges facing our country; but it has to be a collective effort between government, communities, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organisations. As the ANC we commend the Minister and Department on this enervative initiative.

Chairperson, we as the ANC has noted quite a number of legislation that had been put forward for enactment in this term and will be ready to be process in the 2016/2017 financial year. As the ANC we would like to caution our department to adhere to the timelines as indicated because from our experience as the ANC knows that if we do not receive them at the targeted time as set out we rush the Bills and we could sit with Legal implications at a later stage because public participation is a Constitutional imperative that we as legislators' should abide by.

The 2015/2016 Budget will allow this Department to provide quality social services to our vulnerable people although there were budget cuts made by Treasury.

In conclusion I would like to quote the President J.G. Zuma saying

“During this year of the Freedom Charter and Unity in Action to advance Economic Freedom, we rededicate ourselves to unity and hard work, to ensure continuous success in our beautiful country.

Together we move South Africa forward!”

We as the ANC support the budget vote 19 of the Social Development Department.

I thank you.