DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Progress Report on the

2018-19 Budgetary Review and Recommendations Report

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, SASSA & NDA

31 August 2020

1. **PERFORMANCE REPORTING**
2. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister must ensure that the department reports to the Committee on its mandate and its role in the fight against gender based violence.*

**PROGRESS:**

The Department’s mandate is providing psychosocial services to victims of Gender Based Violence. There are various initiatives implemented both at provincial and national level in terms of intensifying and increasing our efforts in the fight to end the brutal scourge of gender-based violence. Amongst others are:

**Strengthening of legislation to efficiently and effectively respond to the need of victims of GBV:**

The Victim Support Services Policy and Bill were been presented to Cabinet for approval. The policy has been approved for printing and the bill was approved for gazetting for public comment. The Bill has been gazetted for public comments and the closing date for comments is the 15 September 2020. The Victim Support Services Billcalls for a paradigm shift of the justice system from being perpetrator based to being victim oriented. This Bill advocates for the extension of this legal representation to the victim. It therefore calls for the vetting of every personnel of a service provider working with victims. This Bill acknowledges that there is always a possibility of secondary victimization and therefore creates a prohibition against such. This Bill also provides for a victim to be made aware when a bail is being granted, not just as a matter of courtesy but as a statutory obligation. The VSS Bill advocates for the regulation of the victim support services and facilities, strengthen, promote safety and protection of the victims in South Africa. It will enable the establishment of government owned Shelters and Khuseleka One Stop Centres. The legislation will address the gaps identified in all the existing victim support services related legislations, such as the Domestic Violence Act which is silent on the role of DSD as well as management and registration of victim support facilities. It will increase accessibility to services by all victims across the country (especially rural and urban areas where there is high prevalence of GBV and Femicide and limited services). It will also strengthen monitoring the quality of services rendered within the VSS sector and addressing the scourge of violent crimes and improves referrals thereof. The Victim Support Services Bill is supported by other Government Strategies including the National Strategy Plan on GBV and Femicide. The Bill is driven through Pillar Four (4) which focuses on response, care, support and healing.

**Increase capacity to respond to GBV:**

In addition to the 200 Social Workers who were appointed and placed in all provinces to render Gender Based Violence services in response to the Presidential Emergency Response Plan, the department has partnered with NEDLAC, HWSETA, SACSSP and Solidarity Fund, to increase the number of Social Workers rendering services to victims of violence. This partnership has resulted in the appointment of 50 (fifty) Social Work graduates who have been placed at provincial DSD offices as interns as well as 10 Social Work Supervisors for a period of 1 (one) year. These appointments will ensure that the department intervenes timeously to avoid the high levels of rape and murder.

**Intensified Gender Based Violence Campaigns**:

Ongoing GBV campaigns roll-out at Institution of Higher Learning. These are conducted in an integrated approach whereby the various programmes such as Victim Empowerment Programme, Anti-Substance Abuse and Social Crime Prevention visit the Institutions to offer an all-inclusive package. For example learners will be engaged on the effect of getting involved or committing crime, the negative impact of abusing drugs and substances as well as the implications of gender based violence. The campaigns are designed to basically educate and raise awareness to young people. The social workers where necessary intervene as part of prevention with counselling and conduct referrals for further interventions.

The department hosted three webinars during the 2020 Women’s month on the 13, 14 and 18 August. The first webinar, which was organised in partnership with the Ministry for Women and People with Disabilities, focused on the services of the GBVCC and the National Emergency Response Team (NERT). The National Policy Framework on Trafficking in Persons was discussed in the second webinar with special focus on care and support to victims of trafficking and repatriation and reintegration of foreign victims. In the third webinar the department partnered with the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) and discussion was around the victims’ trauma which is exacerbated during the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Social Behavioural Change Programme:**

The Department has various other campaigns targeting both communities and staff for example the **orange day campaign**. This is a campaign that was initiated by the United Nations whereby internationally the 25th of every month is observed as a day to wear orange as a symbol of solidarity against any abuse of women and children. **Community dialogues of GBV (Men and Boy Assemblies)** conducted across the country. The dialogues for example create a platform specifically for men and boys to talk about ways and means to fight the scourge of Gender Based Violence in society. There is **Men as a positive role models** whereby men in communities are encouraged to mentor young men and boy in their own locality and model good behaviour that is acceptable. There is **Everyday Heroes brand/programme** with comics covering issues of domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse, child sexual abuse, abuse of elderly and trafficking in persons. The everyday heroes brand promote the spirit of Ubuntu in dealing with issues affecting communities using the ordinary members of society to provide support and ensure safety of others from harm’s way/danger. There is also **16 Days of Activism, 365 action plan campaign** that promotes no violence against women and children. This campaign consolidate all other efforts and is intensified during the November and December period whereby the observation of the collective programmes implemented. The Department is previous years will use the opportunity to recognise organisations offering shelters services as well as other stakeholders dealing with victims of GBV. This was meant as a motivation for NGOs and other stakeholders to provide quality services to victims.

**Access to psychosocial services:**

The Department is funding NGOs/Civil Society organisation both at national and provinces to provide sheltering services to victims of crime and violence. There are currently over 130 shelters across the currently that are funded by DSD. There are also three Khuseleka One Stop Centres established and supported by DSD in Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth) North West (Vryburg) and Limpopo (Polokwane). There are over 200 Whitedoor Safe Spaces of Hope which provide short-term accommodation (72hrs) for GBV victims in emergency situations. Each province has at least one accredited shelter.

The Department has **Gender Based Violence Command Centre** which provide immediate psychosocial services to victims be it containment, counselling on trauma and more. This is done online via telephone emergency number: 0800428428, USSDs (please call me facility) : **\*120\*7867#** , Skype Line(add **“HelpmeGBV**” to skype contacts) and SMSs( sms “**Help” to 31531**) for people with disabilities . The Command Centre has received **196 729 calls**, **20 432 USSDs** and **14 215 SMSs** in the year 2019/2020 both GBV and non-GBV related cases.

The DSD had a played a pivotal role in the development of the **National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).** As part of the DSD contribution to the process, well gathered information from previous consultations was provided to the Interim GBVF steering Committee that was appointed by the president to utilize in the drafting of the document. In addition, the Department was part of the consultations and conducted consultations in the sector especially in institutions of higher learning to get more inputs on the NSP.

A service provider was appointed to provide technical assistance in the development of the policy on provision of psychosocial support.

**National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP-GBVF)**

The Department of Social Development is part of the Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) established to lead in the implementation of the NSP on GBVF, 2020-2030. Consequently, the department is responsible for the implementation of Pillar 4 (Response, Care, Support and Healing) of the approved NSP. The Pillar seeks to ensure that every survivor of Gender Based Violence has access to appropriate and sensitive response, care and support that facilitate immediate containment.

In response to the need, the DSD has forged partnerships the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. This partnership has resulted in the allocation of buildings to DSD for use as facilities so as to ensure the expansion of services to the victims. The DSD has identified a need for establishment of Khuseleka One Stop Centre in Six (6) provinces for (Gauteng, Free State, KZN, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and Western Cape). Visits have been conducted to provinces to verify and assess the state of the allocated buildings. This process was followed by bilateral meetings with the provincial DSD departments to operationalise the identified facilities.

Furthermore, the department as part of direct response to Pillar 4 of the NSP on GBVF is developing the two policies forming part of APP deliverables.

* The Intersectoral Sheltering Services Policy which is aimed at responding to issue of women accommodation beyond the shelter and
* The Psychosocial Services Policy which is aimed at regulating the space for the best interests of victims of crime and violence.
1. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister must ensure that the department commissions an investigation into the state of psychosocial services at Thuthuzela Care Centres.*

**PROGRESS:**

The provision of psychosocial support services to victims at TTCs is critical hence the model propose that a social worker must be part of the team in the TCC. The DSD has realised that there is a need to generally develop a guideline document on the provision of psychosocial services in the sector. A project to develop a policy guideline was established and technical support from a service provide was secured in March 2020. The Department will have a draft document on the provision of psychosocial support services that will be consulted in the sector including the engagement with the TCCs.

1. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister must also ensure that the department employs people with disabilities to at least exceed the 2% target of government. This is important because the department is entrusted with the constitutional mandate of protecting the rights of vulnerable people.*

 **PROGRESS:**

**Disability Profile for DSD: As of 03 August 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Female** | **Female Total** | **Male** | **Male Total** | **Grand Total** |
| **Salary Level** | **A** | **C** | **I** | **W** |  | **A** | **C** | **I** | **W** |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | 2 |  |  |  | **2** |  |  |  | 1 | **1** | **3** |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | **1** | **1** |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | **1** | **1** |
| 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | 1 |  |  |  | **1** | 1 |  |  |  | **1** | **2** |
| 12 | 1 |  |  |  | **1** |  |  | 1 | 1 | **2** | **3** |
| 13 | 2 |  |  |  | **2** |  |  |  |  |  | **2** |
| 14 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | **1** | **1** |
| 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | **6** |  |  |  | **6** | **4** |  | **1** | **2** | **7** | **13** |

The Department employs a total of 1.7% persons with disabilities, resulting in a deficit of 0.3% to meet the 2% Employment Equity target for employment of persons with disabilities. The reason being that the some of the officials with disabilities are being transferred from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Women, Youth and Disabilities in line with the Government National Macro Organisation of State.

The Department is currently embarking on the recruitment drive, as such the Department might strengthen its disability target to reach or exceed 2%.

**SASSA Disability Profile:**

By the end of March 2020, the disability quota stood at 2.1% of the filled funded posts, which is 176 persons with disabilities in employment against a total of 8 243.

**NDA Disability Profile:**

The NDA had 4 employees with disabilities, translating to 2% of the 186 filled posts as at 31 March 2020. This is consistent with government target of 2%. However, it is the intention of the NDA to increase the number of people living with disability in the outer years of the implementation of the Equity Plan.

1. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister must ensure that the Social Development portfolio in its re-imagination of social transformation aligns its targets to its mandate.*

 **PROGRESS:**

The Social Development Portfolio and the provinces are still implementing a common mandate seeking to *“provide social protection services and leads government efforts to forge partnerships through which vulnerable individuals, groups and communities become capable and self-reliant participants”.* This mandate is implemented through the sector agreed indicators and targets as well as the strategic plans (2021/2025) which also set out indicators and targets for the next five years.

1. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister must make sure that the Social Development portfolio moves towards evidence based outcomes approach to deliver on its mandate. The portfolio must strengthen monitoring and evaluation. It must work with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Some of this responsibility must be placed in the Office of the Minister.*

 **PROGRESS:**

The Social Development Portfolio is making strides towards evidenced based planning in delivering its mandate, in line with the Framework for strategic plans and the annual performance plans issued by the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation as well as the recommendations of the Portfolio Committee. The challenges of Covid 19 pandemic also affirmed the necessity of evidenced based planning. As a result, the DSD Portfolio had to review the current annual performance plans in response to Covid 19 and the adjusted budget using a decision-making framework to provide science on the review of the strategic plans and the annual performance plans that were already tabled in March 2020. The framework also required evidence as part of rationalizing and reprioritizing the plans.

The DSD Portfolio is starting a process to develop the APPs for 2021/2022 which should be informed by evidence and other relevant tools, as a progress towards the achievement of impact and outcomes.

1. **EXPENDITURE**
2. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister must ensure that the department, SASSA and the NDA develop an action plan to address control deficiencies and other recommendations of the AG. This plan should be tabled and presented to the Committee during its next meeting. It should be submitted to the Committee in advance so that Committee Members can go through it before the meeting. The implementation of the action plan should form part of the quarterly reports to the committee.*

**PROGRESS:**

The Department and its entities developed the Action Plan to address the findings and recommendation of the Auditor General (AG) for financial year 2018-19. Progress against the Action Plan was presented to the Portfolio Committee in November 2019. Subsequent progress report was submitted to the Committee in April 2020. The latest progress report is scheduled to be presented to the meeting of the Portfolio Committee on 2 September 2020.

1. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister should also ensure that the department, SASSA and the NDA finalise investigations on irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. The report on the outcomes should be submitted to the Committee.*

**PROGRESS:**

The DSD held Loss Control Committee meetings during 7, 8 and 30 July 2020. Financial misconduct cases relating to irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure were presented at these meetings. Further meetings are planned for the months of September and October 2020 with a view to finalizing all outstanding cases.

**NDA PROGRESS**

Irregular and fruitless & wasteful expenditure incurred in prior financial years, and the 2019-20 financial year have been identified, confirmed and assessed in line with the 2019 National Treasury frameworks, recorded on checklists and reported to the NDA Board.  The checklists have been referred to the Legal & HR departments, for determination (assessment and investigation) and disciplinary action where accountability for non-compliance has been confirmed. These processes are in progress, and to date 96 transactions relating to 9 legacy contracts that were irregularly procured in prior years, have been recommended for condonement. This is due to the fact that the accountable employees have long since left the NDA’s employ, disciplinary action for non-compliance is not possible, the NDA has received value on these contracts, and there is no suspicion of fraud, corruption, or criminal conduct having occurred in relation to these contracts. The NDA also participates on the NT contract for investigations, and this should expedite cases that have been flagged for investigation.

The NDA has engaged Treasury on a way forward for 3rd Party partnerships sourced for the implementation of 3rd Party funds, which are permitted in terms of the NDA Act, and implemented according to third party conditions, but which require an open and competitive sourcing process under the PFMA. Treasury has provided guidance on the conflict between the NDA Act and the PFMA, and have directed that all third party partnerships, whether involving the disbursement of funds or not, are sourced via a competitive bidding process. The NDA is therefore in the process of implementing changes to its Partnership framework, SCM policy and the NDA Act to align with this guidance. MOU’s historically sourced in contravention are in the process of termination, and condonement.

1. ***RECOMMENDATION***

*The Minister should also ensure that the financial expenditure reports are aligned with the non-financial performance or mandate of the department and its entities. They should indicate how the funds were allocated and spent towards the achievement of performance targets.*

**PROGRESS:**

When reporting its performance, the Department always ensures alignment of financial expenditure reports to the programme performance. Both financial and non-financial performance information is included in the Department’s Annual Reports and is regularly presented to the Portfolio Committee on invitation.

The NDA has reviewed its quarterly reporting processes to ensure that financial expenditure is reported in line with non-financial performance of the organisation in order to enhance regular monitoring of performance against budget utilisation.