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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINI-PLENARY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL**

**ASSEMBLY**

\_\_\_\_

Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual

platform at 10:07.

The Acting House Chairperson Mr Q R Dyantyi took the Chair and

requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or

meditation.

The Acting House Chairperson announced that the virtual mini-

plenary sitting constituted a meeting of the National

Assembly.

**VIRTUAL SITTING RULES**

(Announcements)



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The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr Q R Dyantyi): Hon members,

before we proceed I would like to remind you that the virtual

mini plenary is deemed to be in the precinct of Parliament and

constitutes a meeting of the NA for debating purposes only. In

addition to the rules of virtual sittings the rules of the NA

including those of debate apply.

Members enjoy the same powers and privileges that apply in a

sitting of the NA. Members should equally note that anything

said in the virtual platform is deemed to have been said to

the House and maybe ruled upon.

All members who have logged in shall be considered to be

present and are requested and very important to mute their

microphones and only unmute when they are recognised to speak.

This is because the mics are very sensitive and will pick up

noise which might disturb the attention of other members.

When recognised to speak, please unmute your microphone and

connect your video. Members may make use of the icon on the

bar at the bottom of their screens and which has an option

that allows the member to put up his or her to raise points of

order.



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The secretary will assist in alerting the Chairperson to

members requesting to speak. When using the virtual system,

members are urged to refrain or desist from raising

unnecessary points of order or interjections.

We shall now proceed to the order which is the debate on Vote

19, Social Development Adjustments Appropriation Bill.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate on Vote No 19 – Social Development:

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Chairperson, hon Dyantyi

thank you very much for this opportunity, Chairperson and

members of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development,

Deputy Minister on Social Development Bogopane-Zulu, MECs for

Social Development present here in today’s presentation,

distinguished guests, fellow South Africans, members of the

media, ...

*IsiZulu*:

... nani lapho emakhaya, nabantu bethu esisebenza nabo ngaso

sonke isikhathi siyabonga kakhulu ukuthi nikhona namhlanje



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nizolalela isabiwomali esimqoka kakhulu ezimpilweni zabantu

baseNingizimu Afrika.

*English:*

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2022-23 Budget

Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development to this

honourable House. In the past two years, our people and

institutions have been on the frontlines of a series of novel

challenges and disasters such as COVID-19, the July 2021

unrests and, lately, the floods in the KwaZulu-Natal and

Eastern Cape provinces.

Throughout this time, we held together as society and formed

defences with which we are protecting and improving our

people’s lives and livelihoods. Informed by the need to

improve the state of the collective of our people, their

families and communities throughout our country, the Social

Development portfolio is entering a period of the great shift

wherein our visibility, responsiveness and relevance will be

aligned with the people’s felt needs.

As the Social Development Portfolio that is Department of

Social Development, DSD, the South African Social Security



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Agency, Sassa and the National Development Agency, NDA, we are

entering this era of great shift by remaking ourselves because

the future of each South African is greater than the past we

come from, and together with all South Africans we are going

to make tomorrow worth living for.

Working together with our provincial Departments of Social

Development, Sassa and the NDA, and corresponding with

President Cyril Ramaphosa’s state of the nation address,

throughout this financial year, the Department of Social

Development will intentionally intensify its contributions

towards interventions that address the impact of poverty,

inequality and unemployment through:

Firstly, continuously improving the implementation, quality,

and reach of all Social Development services for each South

African and towards the realisation of a society-wide impact;

Secondly, strengthening our fight against gender-based

violence and femicide by means of implementing the National

Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide, in

particular pillar 4;



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Thirdly, the establishment of beneficial and sustainable

linkages between the implementation of Social Development

services and economic opportunities, particularly through

creating and supporting the participation of beneficiaries in

the social economy – the economy is just as important to all

these beneficiaries;

Fourthly, continuing with the implementation of the COVID-19

Social Relief of Distress, SRD, grant – a very popular R350;

Fifthly, ensuring that our programme implementation embodies

the protection and furtherance of the dignity of our people;

Sixthly, leading the formation of community-targeted and

strong people-public-private-civil-academic-multilateral

partnerships and social compacting in areas such as tackling

gangsterism, substance abuse, gender-based violence, and the

impact of disasters, shocks and emergencies;

Seventhly, expanding our support for food- and nutrition-

provision interventions in pursuit of ending the pain of

hunger as well as undoing the effects of malnutrition;



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Eighthly, implementing Social Development programmes through

the Cabinet-adopted District Development Model – this District

Development model will end being a song. It will be a reality

for us as Department of Social development in our portfolio;

Ninthly, strengthening government’s co-ordination and

implementation mechanisms across the three spheres of

government of the people; and

Tenthly, stabilising and strengthening institutional

governance and capacity to implementation programmes

throughout the Social Development portfolio. This is about the

capacity of the state to deliver to the people of South

Africa.

In light of the sustained conflict in Europe, not only is the

cost of basic food items and energy sources rising, but the

likelihood of our people securing these basic provisions on a

continued basis is increasingly becoming remote.

Inadvertently, ill-prospects such as these only serve to

heighten the need for Social Development interventions to be

strengthened towards ensuring that the state of our people

does not deteriorate further.



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We are presenting this Budget Vote at the mid-term point of

the Sixth administration’s electoral mandate. Therefore, this

budget is the opportunity to meaningfully remake ourselves in

a manner that reflects the great future that each South

African lives to realise. Henceforth, programmatic performance

across the Social Development portfolio must be consistent

with the great shift as well as the people’s aspirations. Our

institutions must be the true embodiment of the people’s

aspirations. To this end, during the state of the nation

address, President Ramaphosa challenged us to forge and I

quote, “a consensus that unites us behind our shared

determination to reform our economy and rebuild our

institutions.” Guided by, among other, the Sona priorities,

the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, the Putting

South Africa to Work proposals and the need to found and

sustain social compacts that will bring all of us, especially

communities, together, the Department of Social Development is

addressing itself to the realisation of the people’s

aspirations.

Here I am presenting the breakdown of the budget 2022-23

Budget Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development is

government’s third largest budget for the 2022-23 financial



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year, and it constitutes 13,1% of government’s overall

estimated budget of R1,957 trillion. Our budget allocation for

the 2022-23 financial year is a total of R257 billion, of

which R248 billion is allocated to cover more than 18 million

social grants beneficiaries. This social grant investment

constitutes and I repeat constitutes 99,6% of the department’s

total budget allocation in the current financial year.

Therefore, this means 96,6% of the resources that are given to

the department of social development are given in hand to our

communities so that they can live.

Sassa will distribute R248 billion directly to more than

18 million beneficiaries monthly. These include old age, child

support, disability and foster care grant beneficiaries. Hon

members, we are not just about the R350. We are about

supporting these categories that I have indicated. Added to

this is an amount of R44 billion that has been allocated for

the extension of the Special COVID-19 Social Relief of

Distress grant for one year. This will be distributed to

10,5 million eligible persons monthly. An amount of

R7 499 billion is allocated towards SASSA’s operations and

grant payment fees. Hon members we have to pay for these

processes as Sassa.



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This operational budget enables Sassa to continue to

meaningfully contribute towards reducing poverty among South

Africans who are unable to support themselves. Moreover, Sassa

will continue to provide temporary reprieve to individuals and

families who are experiencing temporary distress — such as

those they assisted during the recent floods in the KwaZulu-

Natal and Eastern Cape provinces — in order to meet their

basics needs whilst they are addressing their temporary

challenges. Most relevant to our commitment to social and

economic reconstruction and recovery, henceforth Sassa will be

supporting initiatives through which COVID-19 SRD grant

beneficiaries as well as child support grant caregivers can

access employment opportunities. Again, we keep talking about

the fact that we are not just about consumption, we are also

about empowering our people to be able to stand on their own

two feet.

We need to create the conducive environment for them.

Meanwhile, Sassa continues to invest in enhanced digital and

data capabilities by means of which the service experiences of

beneficiaries are eased and the experience during this COVID-

19 of R350 is one thing that you will be using as a way

forward. With regard to COVID-19 SRD Grant, the allocation for



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the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant for the financial

year 2022-23 is R44 billion. This means that each month 10,5

million approved applicants will receive this important social

safety net intervention that cushions them and their families

against the constants of unemployment and poverty. This grant

type is increasingly taking advantage of commonplace data and

digital infrastructures to process applications and conduct

verifications. Therefore, the need for physical contact is

greatly reduced.

The application channels for the grant for the period from

April 2022 to March 2023, as announced by the President Cyril

Ramaphosa, opened on 23 April 2022. By 30 April 2022, in

excess of 8,1 million applications had already been received.

I assure all qualifying applicants that they will be in

receipt of their payments for this iteration of the grant by

June.

On the question of the accessibility of grant payment

infrastructure, Sassa is extending its negotiations to include

local fast-moving consumer goods traders as part of their

payment outlets for the COVID-19 SRD grant. I know the members

will be asking me about the post office. I wish to reiterate



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our government’s commitment and readiness to fight crime

syndicates and criminals who are defrauding the state. To this

end, we are continuing to work together with the relevant law

enforcement agencies to ensure that these and their actions

are detected, isolated, arrested and successfully prosecuted.

We are coming for you!!! Minister Bheki Cele will be happy to

see that we are handing you over to him.

With regard to extended child support grant in support of the

department’s commitment to find a comprehensive legal solution

to the foster care challenges which have been plaguing the

sector for many years, an amount of R687 million in 2023-24

and R871 million in 2024-25 has been allocated for the

implementation of the long-awaited extended child support

grant - otherwise known as the top-up child support grant -

for orphans who are in the care of relatives. As soon as the

amended regulations to the Social Assistance Act of 2004 are

published in the next few days, Sassa will be in a position to

provide the extended child support grant of R720 per child per

month to relatives who are caring for orphaned children.

While we expect the extended child support grant to be

implemented in June of this year, we estimate that it will be



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received by over 191 000 relatives during the 2022-23

financial year.

Let me remind you that in order to access this grant,

qualifying applicants need not go through the lengthy

Children’s Court process which was a nightmare. As a result,

the affected children will quickly receive the support they

need for them to unlock their full potential.

Now with regard to the National Development Agency, NDA, is

allocated R219 million to implement its primary mandate of

contributing towards the eradication of poverty and its causes

by granting funds to civil society organisations. Through

grant funding, the NDA will address the increasing cost

pressures that civil society organisations, CSOs, are

experiencing. This intervention will enable CSOs to support

their communities as they recover from the effects of the

disasters we have been through recently. Quite frankly, I

personally believe that if these CSOs really also support our

communities would have less of our people complaining because

these are the CSOs that are supposed to be on the ground

reaching our people.



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In the same vein, throughout this financial year the NDA will

positively impact the skills base and sustainability within

the CSO environment. To this effect, while a total of 1 846

CSOs were provided with financial and management skills that

would enable them to operate sustainably and stabilise the

governance of their organisations. Hon members, usually the

problem is with the governance structures of these

organisations and accountability by these organisations.

This year the NDA will be implementing its partnership model

by which the investments of a diversity of partners will be

co-ordinated towards positive impact on targeted communities.

At the heart of the success of these partnerships will be the

piloting of interventions through the Cabinet-adopted District

Development Model. As companies are scaling down or shutting

down their operations, the NDA will be creating 3 000 work

opportunities in the current financial year. Out of these,

2 300 will be created through the implementation of the

volunteer programme which will be funded through the

Presidential Employment Stimulus Package.

With regard to SA Council for Social Services Professions,

SACSSP, for the remaining Medium-Term Expenditure Framework,



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MTEF, period an amount of R125 million has been allocated

towards strengthening the operations of the SACSSP for it to

carry out its legislated mandate. The Council is important to

regulate and professionalise the social service profession

sectors. We will continue our discussions with different

stakeholders to ensure that social service professionals are

adequately funded and utilised as a part of our country’s

social and economic reconstruction and recovery efforts.

The department’s programme has allocated an amount of

R43 million to be transferred to National Council that renders

vital services. These include the South African National AIDS

Council, which is allocated an amount of R15 635 million in

the current financial year. This leaves the department with an

operational budget of R944 million. With regard to welfare

Services Policy Development R309 million of the department’s

allocation will go towards Welfare Services Policy Development

programmes among which are: Social crime prevention and victim

empowerment - that has been allocated R75 402 million;

Substance abuse - for which R20 726 million has been budgeted

for; Older persons - allocated R19 126 million; and youth

which has been allocated R12 607 million.



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Regarding Social Policy and Integrated Development programmes,

R359 million has been allocated towards Social Policy and

Integrated Development programmes. This includes key

programmatic areas such as: supporting the Central Drug

Authority in doing its work R 7 069 million; the registration

and monitoring of non-profit organisations R41 910 million;

the promotion of population policy R38 773 million; community

development R29 863 million; and Substance Abuse Advisory

Service and Oversight R7 069 million. Gender-Based Violence

and Femicide in line with the commitment of the Sixth

administration, the department will continue to play an

important role in the implementation of pillar 4 of the

National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Our society’s success in undoing the scourge of gender-based

violence and femicide rests on the pursuit of comprehensive

and targeted partnerships across different sectors. While we

are working towards measurable outcomes, we shall continue

with the implementation of awareness and advocacy programmes

and assign specific attention to areas that the Minister of

Police has declared GBV hotspots.

To this end, we have trained and deployed GBVF Ambassadors to

work closely with local community organisations. Towards



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ensuring that our services are accessible for survivors of

gender-based violence, through the NDA, we partnered with

community-based civil society organisations who are well-

positioned to support locally.

To this end, and owing to the Criminal Asset Recovery Account

which is the CARA funds, the NDA funded 297 civil society

organisations to render support services to survivors of GBV.

With regard to expansion of shelters, we are working jointly

with the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure to

identify state-owned facilities across the country that can be

re-purposed into Khuseleka One-Stop Centres. In addition to

rendering psychosocial support services to survivors during

the recovery process, we are expanding the developmental

dimensions of facilities and as far as offering productive

skills and enabling economic empowerment towards self-reliance

are concerned.

In this regard, we are finalising agreements with different

Sector Education and Training Authorities. It is important for

us to appreciate that training is very important for our

communities because as I indicated earlier on its important to



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create a conducive environment for our people to make their

lives and livelihoods and to be alive.

Hon Chairperson, as I draw towards the conclusion please allow

me to evoke Pixley kaSeme ceremony when he delivering an

address in 1906. He authoritatively stated that and I quote,

“the regeneration of Africa means that a new and unique

civilisation is soon to be added to the world.” In view of the

Reconstruction and Recovery Plan that we have chosen for our

society and economy following the disaster we had to endure

Budget Vote 19 of the Department of social Development for

2022-23 financial year is meaningful contribution to the rise

of South Africa that we all want as well as the South African

who we want to inhabit it. Here in simple terms, I mean

government has got responsibility. Citizens too have got

responsibilities.

Please, allow me to conclude by thanking the Deputy Minister

Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu for her relentless contribution to

the realisation of this mandate. May I also add, Chairperson,

that since the disaster happened in KwaZulu-Natal Deputy

Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu has been on the ground in

KZN. I also thank the acting director-general Mr Linton Mchunu



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and his management team, the chief executive officer of Sassa,

and acting chief executive officer of NDA, Ms Totsie Memela-

Khambula and Mr Bongani Magongo respectively and their

management team as well as the council and registrar of the

South African Council for Social Services. I am grateful to

the Ministry team, our social partners, embassies,

multilateral and institutions, NPOs, activists on the ground

and all social service professions who are going a long way

and went towards translating the Social Development mandate

into reality in many of our communities.

I am grateful to the African National Congress for the

continued support, confidence that they have continued to give

in serving the people of South Africa. Hon Chair, in

particular, I would like to thank my family who are always

enduring my absence, enduring my noise in the house because I

am screaming at officials and everything. Now that we’ve been

having this thing of having meetings at home. I am sure they

are tired of my voice. I apologise to you but I am serving the

people of South Africa. Hon Chairperson, I hereby table Budget

Vote 19 of the Department of Social Development together with

priorities for the 2022-23 financial year. To hon members, we

are here coming to you to present to you our operational plans



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so that as you do your oversight you will be oversighting on

something that we have presented to you. Thank you very much,

hon Chairperson and thank you very much, hon members.

*IsiZulu*:

Abantu abasemakhaya ngiyethemba ukuthi nisizwile nilalele

ukuthi siniphatheleni siwuMnyango Wezokuthuthukiswa

komphakathi

*Setswana*:

Ke nagana gore batho botlhe kwa gae ba ba reeditseng gompieno,

ba tla re thusa gore re netefatse gore ...

*English:*

... South Africa becomes a better place for everybody. I thank

you.

Ms N Q MVANA: House Chairperson, hon Minister and hon Deputy

Minister, stakeholders and hon members, good morning to

everybody. I gonna deal with consolidating and defending our

democratic gains to expanding the confidence in social

security system. The Department of Social Development, Soc

Dept, House Chairperson, has been task with a critical task of



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consolidating the Social Wage through Reliable and Quality

Basic Services, in line with the NDP, that is the National

Development Plan, priority of expansion of social security

system.

It also plays a key role on South Africa’s contributing

towards the achievement of the sustainable development. The

recent COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the level of poverty and

inequality in our society. The recent climate change natural

disaster in Kwazulu-Natal, KZN, Eastern Cape and parts of

North West and the fire in the Western Cape have also shown

that we are living at a time of disasters, and this requires

the department and government to streamline governance systems

and legislation to enable an efficient disaster response by

the department.

The Department of Social Development has demonstrated during

the pandemic and during periods of crisis that our government

has relatively developed responsive capabilities of the state.

The other part is the Bill of Rights and the comprehensive

social security system policy imperatives. The mandate of Soc

Dept is to provide social protection services and leads



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government efforts to forge the partnerships through which

vulnerable individuals, groups, and communities become capable

and self-reliant participants in their own development.

In order to eradicate poverty, we need to create economic

opportunities for the poor. The ANC-led government has placed

education as an apex priority in order to address generational

poverty which is a result of land dispossession and exclusion

of the majority of black South Africans, SAs from quality

education and economic freedom.

The comprehensive social security system is part of the social

wage which our government has prioritised. Hon members, this

Vote 19 is critical to the reduction of levels of poverty,

inequality, vulnerability and social ills. It also has

mechanisms in places to empower, resilient and individuals,

families and sustainable communities. And also progressively

ensure that is it led by a functional, efficient and

integrated sector.

The other point is comprehensive social assistance coverage

protecting the most vulnerable and a social wage

prioritisation. Several research studies have placed the South



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African Social Assistance Programme, that’s the social grants,

(as we use to call it) as one of the key programmes which

contributes to poverty alleviation and income security for the

most vulnerable groups.

The programme has been found to be developmental in nature.

This means that it did not only immediately reduce poverty,

but it promotes people’s ability to look for employment or

undertake risks to generate their own income. All major social

grants such as; the old age pension, the child support grant

and the disability grant - are significantly and positively

associated with a greater share of household expenditure on

food. Social grants, which is called *Social* Relief of Distress

SRD, provides income security to about 47% South Africans.

Hon members, the South African Social Security Agency, we call

it SASSA (at our times), pays more than 18,5 million

beneficiaries with the target to approve and pay additional

1,2 million in 2022-23 financial year. Thus increasing the

total number of beneficiaries to 18 9 million. Most

importantly, in 2023-24 financial year it will commence with

the payment of the Child Support Grant Top-Up for double

orphans. It has a target to reach 191 200 beneficiaries. A



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total of R587 million and R871 million has been allocated for

this financial year, that is 2023-24 respectively.

COVID-19 social relief measures and disaster responses. South

Africa as the rest of the world, had to fight off the impact

of COVID-19 pandemic, as I have already said. The Social

Development Portfolio became one of the key leading government

institutions that had to implement social relief against the

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These include the provision of the psychosocial support

services, Social Relief of Distress Grant, that is the grant

of SRD, the top up grant of the social grants, the social

relief of distress through the food and the nutrition

programme, the one that we call food parcels. The Presidential

Stimulus Relief to the Early Child Development, ECD, sector

and implementation of the Criminal Asset Recovery Account,

which we call it CARA Programme contribute to creating work

opportunities.

Studies on the impact of the SRD grant have found that the

grant benefitted both the previously and recently employed

people. It enabled unemployed people to actively seek



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employment by adding to transport costs, internet café costs,

money to purchase data to send curriculum vitae, CVs, etc.

Therefore, this grant enables citizens to exercise their

economic rights to attain better opportunities.

In some households it became the main source of income

contributing to the food security. With the extension of the

payment of the SRD grant to March 2023 an amount of

R44 billion has been additional allocated to cover

10,5 million eligible persons. This is the commitment of the

President in the Sona on not leaving no one behind.

Notwithstanding these achievements, SASSA continues to face

challenges of fraud and corruption in grant payment systems,

people that we know that are not supposed to get these grants,

are also getting them, unofficially or illegally. It also

faces challenges of long queues at its local offices and pay

points.

*IsiXhosa*:

Siyayazi imigca emide engapheliyo nabantu abalala eziposini

...



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*English*:

... and set a target to develop consultations report on draft

policy for Income Support to 18-59 year olds for this

financial year. It will also develop a draft policy on

voluntary cover for retirement and risk benefits for typical

and informal sector workers.

This is in line with the national discussion which President

Cyril Ramaphosa urged society to engage on considerations for

the basic income grant. This will yield good outcomes in

consolidating a social safety net for all vulnerable South

Africans, SAs.

Hon members, all of these initiatives underpin how this vote

enables a comprehensive social support system that empowers

people and protects the poor and the most vulnerable.

As the ANC, we will play our robust oversight over the

executive and work with the department to ensure it continues

protecting the wellbeing of the poor. House Chairperson, I

wish to say the words that the Minister has said of thanking

everyone, thanking our stakeholders to support us, thanking



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our hon members and the backup staff. Otherwise, the ANC

supports the Budget Vote 19. Thank you very much.

Ms B S MASANGO: Hon Chairperson, the report we are debating

today, while ticking some boxes on the efforts of the

department and its entities, largely reveals a historical

culture of complete neglect of the people the department and

its entities are constitutionally mandated to serve.

One look at the issues raised by the Auditor-General, AG, on

the Annual Performance Plans, APPs, is enough to conclude that

the department itself has had inadequate capacity to function

during what is probably one of the most challenging periods

this country and the world has ever faced.

But let’s examine the failures, Chairperson. Firstly, the

payments of grants, for example, the red flags that were

highlighted by the AG back in 2020 have still not been

resolved. Then, the AG said: SA Social Security Agency,

SASSA’s outdated, limited databases and inadequate

verification controls resulted in people who were not in

distress receiving the Social Relief of Distress, SRD, grant,

while those who were in distress were unfairly rejected. This,



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the AG said was due to the weak government control environment

in which the relief funds had landed.

Secondly, the inability to finalise fraud investigations.

Astoundingly, some cases date back to 2011 for irregular

expenditure while fruitless and wasteful expenditure dates

back to 2013.

Thirdly, 83 contracts had expired in 30 September 2021 with no

replacement contracts through the normal procurement or

deviation process.

Lastly, in 2012 a payment of R316 million was made to a

service provider for services that were never rendered.

These deeply concerning irregularities are wide ranging and a

clear indicate an entity whose systems and controls are

dismally inadequate to manage large sums of money. This

decidedly limits the chances of the intended beneficiaries

receiving the relief they so desperately need.

The emergency SRD grant is managed completely online but how

is this humanly possible when so many people depend on these



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grants merely to survive? Despite desperate people who walk

into SASSA offices for help are arrogantly turned away because

the system is only available online. Is this a caring

government? No, it’s an ANC government. But, email and

telephone platforms are advertised for queries, until you

realize that calls are cut off after you’ve held on for over

an hour. Emails are never responded to.

Hon Chairperson, I have to express our grave concern about the

recent abrupt and insensitive announcement to discontinue pay

points. This is a further indication that the department is

removed from the day to day reality facing, especially those

grant recipients, who live in remote rural areas. Where the

retailers given by SASSA don’t have a footprint. These people

would have to travel long distances to access their grants. It

is a mere transfer of shoes from the Post Office to retailers,

only this time these people would have paid exorbitant

transport costs.

The situation in this department is dire. Performance

improvements are overshadowed by persistent gaps that render

the department paralysed. It is unable to provide the services

millions dependent on.



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The state of disaster in poor households has not come to an

end. The change in the approval of the SRD grant, using an Act

that [Inaudible.] in extended and deepening levels of

vulnerability, is a slap in the face of poor South Africans.

It is a reminder of an uncaring ANC poverty government.

Amazingly, the extension of the SRD grant was made in February

as a result of staggering unemployment figures, and yet we are

today on the 13th of May and applicants have still not been

paid, and there is no indication of when they will be paid.

Shame on you ANC! There is no clarity on when, if at all, the

reconsiderations of appeals dating [Time expired.] Thank you,

hon Chairperson.

Ms P MARAIS: Hon Chairperson, in 2021 we witnessed scenes in

the streets of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal when hundreds of our

people stormed shops and caused unimaginable chaos.

The EFF has always warned that our people are desperate and

hungry. One day they will have nothing to eat, but just to

take, even if it means breaking the law.



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Poverty is a security threat. Hunger without hope is a

security threat. Hopelessness is a security threat and we have

failed to provide a social security system that uplifts our

people out of poverty.

The poor continue to suffer the effects of a mismanaged

economy. Deep, structural poverty, the covid pandemic has ...

now the floods in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape.

In the suffering and torment, the price of food has gone up,

the price of transport has gone up, there is no reliable

electricity and crime, including violent crime, has gone up.

This is why they must increase the care dependency grant from

R1 890 to R3 980 to allow those who have taken the

responsibility of caring for those who can’t care for

themselves to afford food. That is why they must increase the

disability grant from R2 000 to R4 000. They must increase the

old age grant from R1 980 to R3 960. They must increase the

foster-care grant from R1 070 to R2 140.

The permanent solution is the implementation of social

assistance and backwards a universal basic income for all.



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The EFF rejects the proposed budget for the Department of

Social Development because it does not make provision for

those increases or work towards the implementation of the

universal basic income grant. The [Inaudible.] EFF calls for

those increases.

Hon Chairperson, allow me to address the ruling party’s

incompetence that fails the poorest of the poor, those who

have already been failed by the society that has failed to

lift them out of poverty.

The SASSA grant system uses a 25-year-old computer that

crashes more than 10 times a month. The system crashed 119

times in 11 months. This is to how the system is left

vulnerable to be exploited by thieves from the inside.

Over R200 million was looted and only R12,5 million was

recovered. When we demand that social grants are doubled we

are told there is no money. But money allocated to social

grants is stolen every day. Money is stolen when poor people

wait for months for a doctor’s assessments, to quality for

social grants. Money is stolen from SASSA. SASSA officials are

overworked and poorly paid.



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It is shocking that the ruling party boast celebrating 31% of

South Africans relying on social grants. If we add the COVID-

19 Social Relief Grant, the number is nearly 50%. This is the

scale of the failure of the ruling class, and this is the

failure they celebrate every year when they table the proposed

social development budget. We know that the cronies celebrate;

it’s not about feeding millions of poor people, it’s a

celebration about transactions and contracts out of social

grants administrations. That is why they refuse to crease the

state-owned bank. That is why now it is announced that social

grants will no longer be paid through the Post Office. The

intention was never to build a long term relationship with the

Post Office instead. It is the bank that must benefit.

Lastly, it is shockingly that both the report and the proposed

budget are silent on the appointment of much needed social

workers while we have social worker graduates sitting at home

unemployed. This is not only incompetent; it is also evil.

The EFF rejects the proposed budget for the social

development. Thank you, Chair.



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Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Thank you very much, Chairperson. It is

another year and yet another Budget Vote debate, and it will

be the same script of the Minister outlining the progress made

by the ANC-led government, as she has just done. A very crafty

exercise in sugarcoating the truth and reality. The reality is

that South Africa is in perpetual crisis mode. We face a

foster care crisis, an adoption crisis, a social worker

crisis, a gender-based violence crisis, a substance abuse

crisis and we face a leadership crisis.

The truth is that despite countless promises and a 2018

Cabinet resolution to employ them, roughly 7 000 social

workers trained by the state are still sitting at home.

Nonprofit organisations, NPOs, are still underfunded, with

many having had their budgets cut, leaving the elderly

vulnerable. Our children still die on the killing fields of

the gangster-ridden Cape Flats because there is no concrete

plan to fight gangsterism.

The reality is that the Post Office, which is on the verge of

collapse, and SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, will possibly

drive us to yet another grants crisis, with the announcement

that due to unforeseen circumstances and long queues, the SA



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Post Office, Sapo**,** will no longer be able to pay the R350

grant.

Surely it is unforgivable that this government would punish

vulnerable citizens for its nightmarish long queues, all while

it excels at paying grants to comrades, officials and those

who do not qualify for the grant.

The truth is that Sassa’s databases are so dysfunctional and

broken, that it is not fit for purpose. In 2021, over

R200 million was lost on the payment of the R350 grant to

people who didn’t qualify for them.

Furthermore, Minister, many repeat findings by the Auditor-

General, AG, have not been attended to. Consequence management

within this department doesn’t exist. Minister, taxpayer money

is being wasted and nobody is held to account. Investigations

into fruitless and wasteful expenditure are just never

finalised. This is our reality.

We meet at a time when KwaZulu-Natal has just suffered the

most devastating floods in history. In the midst of this

devastation, President Ramaphosa was quick to reassure the



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nation that his government, its officials and his party’s rank

and file, will not steal the relief meant for the poor. His

distress was not misplaced. During the COVID-19 pandemic,

leaders stole food parcels. Thousands of government officials,

even those working in President Ramaphosa’s office and

Treasury, stole the R350. Ours is the highest unemployment

rate in the world. Grants therefore are a necessity, not an

accomplishment.

Let us be honest today. This rhetoric of our government

expanding the comprehensive social security system is nothing

more than the creation of a welfare state. A total of 50% of

South Africans already rely on some type of grant. We need a

clear plan to lift our people out of poverty, not keep them

trapped in ... [Inaudible.] ... create a success story.

In a speech to the White House, Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel

once asked, what is indifference? He then said:

In a way, to be indifferent to suffering is what makes the

human being inhuman ... Indifference is not a beginning; it

is an end ... the hungry children, the homeless ... — not to

respond to their plight, not to relieve their solitude by



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offering them a spark of hope is to exile them from human

memory. And in denying their humanity, we betray our own.

Twenty-eight years after the dawn of our democracy, children

are dying of hunger. According to reports, close to

200 children died of malnutrition in January and February

alone, with poor children being forced to eat plants and sand

to fill their stomachs. These children were not just mere

statistics. Their lives mattered. They died of hunger, despite

a welfare state and despite being born in a free South Africa

under a democratic dispensation. Nobody offered these hungry

children hope. Nobody responded to their plight. They were

denied their humanity.

This department sums up its own challenges very well in its

annual performance plan, APP, on page 22 when it states that

it is poor at the enforcement and implementation of Acts; that

it is reactive to social ills; that it is ineffective at

monitoring and evaluation; that it has poor oversight and

governance over Sassa and the National *Development* Agency,

NDA; that it has critical leadership vacancies; and that there

is a low absorption of social workers.



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Minister, in order for us to support this budget, the IFP

calls on you to table as a matter of urgency a plan of action

to absorb all social workers. The Minister must also table a

plan of action to address her department’s weaknesses, the

AG’s findings, a plan to enforce a culture of consequence

management and a plan to intensify the fight against fraud and

corruption.

There is so much injustice. We cannot afford to be indifferent

to the plight of the most vulnerable. For indifference is not

a beginning; it is an end. Indifference will render us

inhuman.

*Afrikaans*:

Me T BREEDT: Voorsitter, die departement en sy entiteite was

‘n sleutel departement gedurende die afgelope ramptoestand.

Die departement was nog altyd veronderstel om die lig aan die

einde van ‘n baie donker tonnel vir ons mees behoeftiges in

Suid-Afrika te wees, maar die realiteit is dat hierdie

departement en sy entiteite die mense gefaal het.

Die bevindinge van die Ouditeur-generaal, OG, is nie nuwe nuus

of enigsins eers verstommend nie. Dit bevestig egter net wat



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die Opposisie van die begin af gesê het. Alhoewel dit nie nuwe

nuus is nie, lees dit soos ‘n Stephen King riller.

*English*:

Under the various headings: Financial Management and Health,

Compliance Management, Human Resources, Procurement and

Contract Management, the findings are more damning than the

next. What is of specific concern is the material losses from

noncompliance with legislation, fraudulent transactions, as

well as irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Furthermore, the inability to finalise investigations in a

timely manner has resulted in a failure to implement

consequence management against those who were responsible for

incurring irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Sassa apparently recovered R12,6 million from 3 268 public

servants who illegally received grants. However, there has

thus far been no consequences for state employees who have

been found to have received grants they did not qualify for.

This is a disgrace and I would urge the Minister to not just

pay lip service but to take action.



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A start can also be the filling of key posts, such as the

position of the director-general, DG, of the department.

Whether the incumbent acting DG is doing a good job or not is

not the discussion. The fact of the matter is that this

department needs stability. A permanent DG will be a start.

Mother Teresa once said:

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked

and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and

uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our

own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

Chairperson, that brings me to a matter that I feel the

Minister needs to address today, and that is the court case

between SA Childcare and the department regarding the payment

of conditional *early childhood development,* ECD, grants.

Fifteen rand per child per day. That is what the grant

consists of. These are children that are orphans or have

absolutely no other source of nutrition and care but through

these centres. These centres have to be approved to receive

these grants through a stringent process provided for in the

framework to the Division of Revenue Act, Dora. In these



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instances, they were approved in 2019 already. Vulnerable

children who are dependent on these ECD’s and this grant for

food were deprived during the worst of times — the pandemic.

This grant was utilised to procure personal protective

equipment, PPE, rather than feed food to these children.

The end result of the initial judgement was that Judge Janse

van Nieuwenhuizen found the Minister and eight MEC’s in breach

of their statutory duties prescribed in Dora by failing to pay

the funds allocated to the children, as well as in breach of

their constitutional duties prescribed in section 28(1)(c) of

the Constitution.

Instead of adhering to the judgement, the Minister and MEC’s,

after conceding on no less than 10 occasions that the money is

due and owing, appealed against the order. Leave to appeal was

granted in December of 2020.

Fast forward a whole 18 months to a notice for hearing, a new

directive to argue whether the matter has not become academic

in nature, and still no officials have been brought to book

and the most vulnerable are still suffering. This matter needs

to be resolved in the interest of children and the ECD’s.



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*Afrikaans*:

Voorsitter, dit is egter ‘n skreiende skande dat vir meer as

nege jaar daardie toelaag op R15 per kind per dag stagneer

het. Terwyl die regering geld mors op duur funksies,

hotelverblyf, VIP-protection (beskerming) en besigheidsklas

vlugte vir Ministers, kry hierdie mees kwesbare kinders slegs

R15 per dag vir kos, vir klere en vir skooltoebehore. As die

departement nie gaan begin fokus op kinders en die

ontwikkeling van kinders nie, sal ons altyd ‘n welsynstaat

bly.

Maar ek sluit af. Die probleem lê by die ANC, want die ANC pak

alles ideologies aan en verkies om die mense afhanklik te hou.

Tot en met die Minister en haar departement nie hierdie

kopskuif maak nie, gaan Suid-Afrika nie net ‘n gefaalde staat

wees nie, maar ‘n welsynstaat bly. Ek dank u.

Ms M E SUKERS: Hon Chairperson, a long, hard winter approaches

for the poor and vulnerable when viewed through the current

economic environment, the high rate of unemployment, and the

instability many households are forced to endure post the

COVID-19 crisis. The budget of this department decreases by



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over R25 billion, and more people now need access to social

security and support.

The performance score card of the department is that of a

struggling student who repeats the same mistakes year on year.

The state’s inability to transform itself to provide efficient

service to the poor, is the single biggest threat to the

security and stability of South Africa. That within an

environment with multiple threats. I say this to you today

because in April, this year, I received almost 20 to 30

messages daily from people who did not know how they will

survive due to the nonstop payment of the Social Relief of

Distress Grant.

We cannot afford to take the critical issues highlighted by my

colleagues here today, and the many alarms being raised by

stakeholders in the social sector, lightly. The state sets

itself as an agitator of the worst kind to the poor. You

promise relief, and then stop abruptly. In addition, you fail

to plan and more importantly, to communicate effectively for

the legislative changes, of which you knew comes with lifting

the National State of Disaster.



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The ACDP urgently appeals to this House, and the department,

to consider the dire circumstances of our people that requires

a deep rethink of the way we do things politically. If the

state, this department and its entities continues to make the

same repetitive mistakes, and fails to adopt an urgent change

of strategy, in all its functions, this country will plunge

into an unthinkable crisis. There can be no politicking or

grandstanding. We are in a deep mess when it comes to the

systems and processes, that are supposed to undergird the

social security network of this country.

We must acknowledge that through the commitment and hard work

of ordinary South Africans, there would not have been over

R230 billion available for the protection of the poor and

vulnerable in 2021. It is because of the ordinary men and

women who get up and go to work, come rain or sunshine, that

we have the biggest social security network on the continent.

Let us, and this department, honour their commitment by doing

the right thing. For the love of humanity, we ask you to plan

and communicate effectively and plan effectively, and to

recover grant monies from the criminals who stole it.



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Chairperson, we must lead differently. We cannot agitate for

change but fail to recognise our own responsibility

politically. If we fail, history will show us as the worst

kind of leaders. Criminal in our dereliction of duty, with a

callousness that comes from spiritual bankruptcy. Thank you

Chair.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Chairperson, thank you very much.

*IsiXhosa*:

Andizi kubiza abantu ngamagama ke namhlanje, ungandigxothi.

*English*:

Chairperson, thank you for this opportunity. The UDM supports

this Budget Vote. Minister the first issue for us ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... ebalulekileyo yile yokuba apha kwi ...

*English*:

... Social Relief of Distress Grant ...

*IsiXhosa*:



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... baninzi abantu abasifumanayo bengafanelekanga ukusifumana.

Ngokuye sihamba ezilokishini nasezilalini, baninzi abantu

abaziqeshileyo kwaye abaziphangelelayo, abanengeniso ngenyanga

engaphaya koyena mvuzo mncinci unokufunyanwa ngumsebenzi.

Ingxaki yile yokuba uluhlu lwabantu abafanelekileyo ukuxhamla

kwizibonelelo zenu (database) anikhange niyicoce ngendlela

eyiyo.

Baninzi abantu ozakufumanisa ukuba baneemoto ezisebenzayo

ezirenkini, abanye baziqeshile bayathengisa besenza iimali

ezinkulu kodwa bayasifumana esi siboinelelo sama-R350. Loo nto

ibangela ukuba abona bantu bafanelekileyo ukuyifumana le mali

bangayifumani.

Into esisoloko siyithetha siyi-UDM kwakudala yile ithi ...

*English*:

... the informal sector and the economy...

*IsiXhosa*:

... yaseMzantsi Afrika abantu babakhuthazwe ...

*English*:



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... to formalise it so that they can register.

*IsiXhosa*:

Bangathi sele bebhalisile baleqwe yinkonzo yerhafu.

Sibenendlela yokubaxhasa ukuze abantu banyaniseke. Okwesibini,

sisikhalo sabantu oko nangoku ebekusiliwa ngaso kutshanje

nakulaa Mpuma Koloni kufumaniseke ukuba ...

*English*:

... we have a lot of social workers, not only in that province

but around the country, who were unable to be absorbed by the

department.

*IsiXhos*a:

Kufumaniseka ukuba baninzi ...

*Englis*h:

... they are social workers. I think there is about 8 000 of

them around the country with qualifications, but have not been

absorbed by the department.

*IsiXhosa*:



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Kufanelekile ukuba isebe lisenenzisane namanye amasebe afana

namapolisa kunye neSebe leMfundo esiSiseko ...

*English*:

... to ensure that, we address the lack of social workers ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... ezikolweni nakwizitishi zamapolisa ukuze ngamaxesha ezenzo

zobundlobongela obusekelwe kwisini, amapolisa abenabo abantu

abazingcali abazakuthi bakwazi ukuhoya amaxhoba ngendlela

efanelekileyo kuba sinengxaki ye...

*English*:

... gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa. The

other issue Minister is an issue that we raised with the

Department of Education to say ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... ayinkho ntle into yokuba abantu abaqeshwayo lisebe ube

ngabo bafunde ngala mali yokufunda iphuma kwiFunza Lushaka,

ekubeni bekhona abantu abasebenzise iimali zabo ezininzi ukuze

bazifundise. Bonke abantu abaneziqinisekiso zemfundo eMzantsi



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Afrika ngabalapha eMzantsi Afrika, ngoko mabaphathwe ngendlela

efanayo ...

*English*:

... with equal opportunities.

*IsiXhosa*:

Nalapha kweli sebe, kukho into yokucalula abantu abafumene ...

*English*:

... the funding or the bursaries from the department. They get

prioritised over other graduates.

*IsiXhosa*:

Enye into ebelulekileyo yile ... [Ngokungavakaliyo]

...wangekayo zingene ezikolweni nasemapoliseni. Loo nto

izakubangela ukuba sikwazi ukulwa nomcimbi oxhaphakileyo

wokuxhaphaza (bullying) okuninzi ezikolweni. Ne

...[Ngokuvakaliyo] ... eziyifunayo nazo inkxaso kungathiwa

kujongwe i-Ukraine nezinye iindawo, siyeke ukujonga abantu

behlelelekile apha kule Ntshona Koloni bebethana kwaye

bebukulana. Enkosi Sihlalo.



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Mr B N HERRON: Chairperson this week, according to news

reports, the City of Cape Town issued fines of up to R1 000 to

homeless people living on the streets. We don’t know how many,

if any of those who received these fines are beneficiaries of

the R350 Social Relief of Distress Grant, but we can be pretty

sure that, most of those people don’t have jobs and will never

afford to pay those fines.

Their situation may be extreme; most poor people don’t live on

the streets. That is illustrates how marginal life is in our

radically unequal society. As millions of our most needy

people seek to manage the consequences of having to reapply

for the R350 per month Social Relief of Distress Grant, for

which some no longer qualify due to the rule changes.

The state continues to hum and haw over the implementation of

the basic income guarantee or grant. When the R350 Social

Relief of Distress Grant was introduced to soften the economic

blows of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was available to people

with an income of less than R595 per month, but that’s now

been reduced to R330 a month. This appears to indicate that

the state believes it is possible to survive on an income of

R945 per month under COVID-19 disaster conditions, but R700



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per month now that the state of the disaster has been lifted.

Although parliamentarians earn a fortune by comparison, we

can’t pretend we don’t know how little R700 buys. Nor can we

close our eyes to the social consequences of millions of

people not being able to afford the basic cost of life to

feed, clothe and secure their families.

Former Minister of Finance and Governor of the Reserve Bank.

Tito Mboweni says government should rather focus on best in

building the country’s economy by investing infrastructure

than on social grants. And yes, we need infrastructure and

developing it will create grants. But supporting a basic

income grant doesn’t mean we give up on creating jobs. Should

people starve while they wait the economic boom times. Did Mr

Mboweni not notice the ease with which poor people were

manipulated into an orgy of looting and destruction last July?

Now that the COVID-19 State of Disaster has been lifted,

government must not sit back and let the grass grow under his

feet. For the sustainability and the dignity of the country,

we need to accelerate the process of implementing the basic

income grant that are not shove back under the carpet. Nelson

Mandela said:



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Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act

of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human

right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty

persists, there is no true freedom.

Government must take heed of the situation on the ground. Our

citizens did not shed their blood and tears for democracy that

would abandon them in poverty. Besides issues of dignity and

justice, failing to implement the basic income grant is

fuelling a fire that that will eradicate the gains that we've

made in this democratic era and prove difficult and expensive

to extinguish. Thank you house Chairperson.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon Chairperson, the NFP will support

Budget Vote No 19, Social Development. Allow me also to

commend the Minister particularly. Whenever the Minister was

required to address a need of someone on the ground when

contacted. She is one of the few Ministers who always

available to assist. Rest assured the matter gets attended to

in due or short time.

Now, allow me to start off by saying that whilst we support

this Budget Vote, a question we need to ask is: Are we going



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to be able to sustain the number of people that are on some

form of social assistance which is standing at about 46%

currently? Ceternainly we cannot sustain this in the meantime.

Now, what are some of the root causes of these things; is the

high unemployment rate, the socioeconomic conditions under

which our people are living, the availability of alcohol and

drugs. The latest statistics which stands at 57% of accidents

in South Africa. One of the most dangerous countries on the

road in the world that is alcohol related. There is

availability of alcohol, drugs and teenage pregnancy is rife.

Now, unless we deal with this problem holistically we cannot

come out here Chairperson and keep blaming the Minister and

the departments. The Ministers come and go. You are not going

to solve the problem unless we have the holistic approach to

dealing with the challenges our people face. That is one of

the things that we are not actually doing.

Now, let me go on to say this: That if you look at the issue

of the roll out of the social grants currently, again this

thing is being given to big business. It is a win-win

situation for these big businesses they will benefit from



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this, number one, because of course they get a percentage of

that. However, more importantly, those people will be spending

money in those businesses. What about giving an opportunity -

and to smaller businesses whilst one might argue that they may

not have the capacity, but I also believe there are smaller

businesses, supermarkets and chain stores owned by the black

community who are the less fortunate community, but would be

able to equally roll out such a service.

So, I think that must also be taken into consideration. Now,

let us look at the issue of the role of NGOs and nonprofit

organisations, NPOs, fighting gender-based violence and other

problems that we have in the community.

Hon Chairperson, billions of rand are spending to NGOs and

NPOs, and what do you find? They come there when there is a

conviction of a person appearing in court with big placards,

but what have they done to assist the department and work in a

co-ordinated fashion to identify those people that might be

victims of gender-based violence. Why do have to wait for them

to be raped or murdered and then go out there and grand stand

and say no bail?



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I want to welcome the decision by the Minister to roll out

more and more social workers. They need to be the eyes and

ears of the community to timeously identify those that have

had the challenge. I think Chairperson, you looking at me

because my time is up. The NFP supports this Budget Vote.

Thank you.

Ms A L A ABRAHAMS: Hon House Chairperson, each year the

Department of Social Development juggled its reduced budget

with ever increasing poverty demands deliberating on which

social ill requires more budget than the other. Budget cuts to

critical programmes mean the Department of Social Development

must separate good intentions from actual results. Currently,

actual results real impact in the lives of citizens are not

been achieved.

We see this in the headlines such as in last week *Sunday Times*

which read, “Hunger kills South African, SA’s, children.” In

the same newspaper reports titled, “Where malnutrition lives,

enough food in South Africa, SA, but kids are starving and

sand has become a meal for starving children.”



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This reflects the true and disastrous state of our nation. One

where children starve to death while big bullied corrupt elite

dine on caviar.

COVID-19 saw poverty and hunger exacerbated, but we must never

forget it was the ANC government’s harsh and irrational long

lockdown that was the real contributor to crises level poverty

and hunger.

The Child Support Grant is 23% below the food poverty line and

40% below the average cost to feed a child a nutritious diet.

Maize meal for breakfast, lunch and supper if you are lucky to

eat anything at all its not nutritious. The grant is a good

intention, but yields no actual results in reducing child

stunting and malnutrition if left at four 80.

The Department of Social Development and its entities are

still drafting plans and policies still remaking itself as we

heard earlier, all while children die.

Let us take the maternal support policy - a policy in draft

format, since I joined the committee in 2019. A solution for

pregnant mothers to life changing nutrition for their unborn



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children, but also a solution to breach the gap between birth

and accessing the Child Support Grant.

A database that can be shared with home affairs in order to

expedite birth certificates for the vulnerable.

Another example of the Department of Social Development’s

planning while children die is that they are still drafting

the policy for integrating and linking Child Support Grant

beneficiaries to the elusive government basket of services.

These beneficiaries are the children not in school or only

attend to receive the one meal a day.

The Department of Social Development know exactly who needs

the assistance, but with this reduced budget, it may be more

convenient to look the other way.

The abuse of a Child Support Grant by the adults entrusted

with it is prevalent and it is a crime. The SA Social Security

Agency, Sassa, does not keep statistics on this grant. With

only 23 convictions reported by the Department of Justice and

Correctional Services, since 2015. This needs more attention,

if not it is like pouring water into a bucket with holes.



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We must look at increasing the age limit of this grant, if the

child is in school, as it is done with the foster care grant.

The public education system is failing our children. As a

result, many children repeat the grade and are thus over 18-

years-old. Instead of helping these vulnerable children, this

ANC-led government deals in a second blow by stripping away

the grant are stripping away their opportunity to complete

school, increasing youth unemployment.

However, where do we find the budget to implement the above

and move from good intentions to actual results? It is found

by rooting out wasteful and fruitless expenditure, rooting out

corruption. Over the last three years, almost R7,5 billion of

all government’s expenditure was fruitless and wasteful.

The Department of Social Development must finalise draft

policies, put plans in action, honour good intentions by

committing actual results. If not Chairperson, we will

continue to read about children eating sand and wild plants,

scavenging dump sites to survive. Thank you, Chairperson.

*Xitsonga*:



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Man N K BILANKULU: Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu. Ndzi xeweta

vachaviseki hinkwavo lava va nga kona na vaakatiko va Afrika-

Dzonga hinkwavo. Avuxeni.

*English*:

The ANC rises in support of this Budget Vote number 19. This

Budget Vote seats on the 5th month after the devastation fire

swept our Parliament in Cape Town whereby the entire country

was shocked and devastated. A month ago, a terrible flood

disaster happened in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and other

parts of the Northern Cape. The two pandemics; COVID-19,

gender-based violence and femicide, all these turns our

country into extremely complex and challenging period whereby

so many lives have been lost.

Our economy has been severely damaged, millions of our people

are without jobs and the most vulnerable people are women.

President Mbeki once said, I quote: “trying times need courage

and resilience” As the ANC we will continue to work for a

better South Africa and a better world. Hon House Chair, our

nation is confronted with various social ills which impacts

the quality of life in our country. Some of the social

challenges experienced today are ills of the social



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engineering of our dark apartheid past. The state of our

economy and the level of inequality in our society worsens the

social ills we face.

This budget must respond to the mandate of the department as

it is geared to ensure protection against vulnerability by

creating an enabling environment for the provision of a

comprehensive, integrated and sustainable social development

service. The prevalence of alcohol abuse, drug abuse, gender-

based violence and femicide, rape abuse and other social ills

do not build our nation but tear apart the lives of many South

Africans, resulting in many not realising their full

potential.

The recent brutal murder of Hillary Gardee in Mpumalanga, has

been a stuck reminder of the social challenges confronting our

society. May her soul and of many others who were victims of

gender-based violence and femicide rest in internal peace. The

brutality the women of our nation experience has reached an

alarming state. What makes the situation worse is the fact

that on a daily basis, our women are at the receiving end of

the social ills. Hon members, in order to address the social

issues, we need to begin at a family unit level, without



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strengthening our families we will continue to produce social

ills.

It is important for all South Africans, particularly parents

and guardians to appreciate the social responsibility in

raising children and protect our children from exposure to

experiences which do not build the values we seek to create as

a nation. We welcome the process of the revised White Paper on

families in South Africa whose objective among others, is to

promote strong and equitable ultra-family relationship within

safe, supporting and nurturing communities and to support

families in need and characterised by severe conflict of

neglect of vulnerable family members to regain the dignity and

resolve conflict in an amicable way.

It is also important for religious bodies and civil society to

focus on strengthening the family if we are to realise the

mission of the White Paper, to promote family wellbeing and

strengthen and support family so that they are empowered to

provide physical, emotional, psychological, financial,

spiritual and intellectual support and care for their members.

We welcome the budget allocation to support over 300,000

family members with family preservation services. We encourage



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South Africans to seek counsel from existing social support

structures in our communities and those offered by the

department.

As the African National Congress, we call on society to play

an active role in addressing social challenges, social urgency

is important in order to drive social transformation.

Community mobilisation is an important aspect of utilising the

people against social ills and focusing the community on

developmental issues such as promoting education, promoting

healthy lifestyles, supporting the elderly and creating and

enabling environment for economic development. Chairperson, we

welcome the budget commitment to train 840 community

development practitioners, this is some significant

intervention, hon members, as this will improve the capacity

of community development practitioners to make a greater

impact in our society and to learn best practice to effective

mobilised communities.

It is therefore critical for the development to continue with

its strides supporting non-profit organisations as they play a

critical role of social agency in addressing social

challenges. We welcome the focus on capacitating stakeholders



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to implement the non-profit organisation, NPO, mentorship

model which will enable increased support for NPOs. This

Budget Vote provides funding for non-profit organisations and

we urge the department to strengthen its monitoring of objects

funded to ensure intended outcomes are realised.

Hon members, we welcome the effort of the department in

providing support to capacitate 270 workers. This will go a

long way in strengthening the support provided by our social

workers who provide support to vulnerable South Africans. In

today’s world, which has put to the full of the needs of focus

and mental health, social workers are a major need in our

society due to the trauma many of our people face. Hon

Minister, our social workers are heroes who give hope to the

vulnerable and we applaud the department to continuously

increase its capacity to provide social work services.

Psychosocial challenges are becoming endemic and the need for

psychosocial services is paramount. The rate of suicide in our

society is another great concern. We also welcome the target

of capacitating 500 social services practitioners on social

and behavioral change program, as this improves the capacity

to analyse behavior in order to respond in an appropriate



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manner. Hon members, the department has an important program

for teenage parents. The Sinovuyo Teen Parenting Programme

which is a 14-session parenting program for at risk families

with 10 to 18-year-old adolescent is an important project. The

use of digital technologies and other social media platforms

will enhance sharing of information which will support at risk

families.

The department should continue to explore the use of digital

platforms to expand its reach on various social ills.

Leveraging technology can also enhance social work, as at

times, those who are vulnerable require someone to listen to

them and to advise them. Hon members and the people of South

Africa, HIV and AIDS affect approximately 13,7% among the

South African population and it is important to always create

awareness. The Budget Vote supports testing programs and

supports the SA National AIDS Council with R43 million to

address the social and structural drivers of HIV and AIDS. It

is reported that you focus on preventive measures and focus on

behavioral change.

It is of great concern that we have increased teenage

pregnancies. This reality has an impact on their children’s



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growth and should not be promoted. Hon Chairperson, the

African National Congress support this Budget Vote and

together working with the department through the portfolio

committee we shall play our oversight role to enhance delivery

and our services to the poor and vulnerable. Hon House Chair

and the nation, I thank you.

*Afrikaans*:

Me G OPPERMAN: Dankie Voorsitter. Met ’n volgehoue R2 miljard

jaar-op-jaar besnoeiing binne die Departement vir Maatskaplike

Ontwikkeling, hoef jy nie verder as program 4 te kyk om te

besef hierdie is beslis nié ’n pro-arm begroting nie. Dit skyn

wel ’n gedaante van armlastigheid te hê.

Vanuit die 11 subprogramme onder program 4 gemoeid met

welsynsdienste, beleidsontwikkeling en implementering, toon

slegs drie uit die 11 positiewe begrotings. Die res van die

oorblywende agt subprogramme is in ’n afdraende stryd teen

besnoeiing en allokasie verminderings gewikkel.

Besteding op program 4 self word verminder van R1,8 miljard in

die huidige boekjaar na R1,6 miljard in die 2023-24 boekjaar.

Die grootste verloorders onder program 4 is die



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teensubstansmisbruikprogram wat skerp besnoei word, die ouer

persone program wat met R1,1 miljoen verminder word, asook die

program vir ongeskikheidsregte wat drasties afwaarts aangepas

is en wat bloot verdere marganalisering van hierdie sektor

teweeg sal bring. Beide die subprogramme kinderdienste en

families se begrotings is besnoei en die MIV/Vigs subprogram

is met ’n miljoen rand verminder.

Terwyl al hierdie besnoeiings egter geskied, is daar ’n

drastiese vermindering aan fondse regoor die nege provinsies

aan wie daar sedert 2020-21 volle verantwoordelikheid oorgedra

is vir psigososiale ondersteuning, skuilings, fondse vir

voedselverligting, MIV/Vigs, en nie-regeringsorganisasies. Die

provinsiale departement in die Noord-Kaap, provinsie van my

komvandaan, se besnoeiings beloop R909 miljoen, sonder enige

alternatief hoe om die impak van hierdie vermindering in

allokasie te versag of teen te werk.

Die Nasionale Ontwikkeling Agentskap is self so onderbefonds

dat hulle nie eens in staat is om hul mandaat van armoede

verligting en armoede bekamping uit te voer nie. Met ’n 11%

besnoeiing in die komende boekjaar, beteken dit ’n

R26,7 miljoen vermindering aan finansiële hulp aan



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gemeenskapsgebaseerde organisasies wie armoede moet beveg op

voetsoolvlak. Die nonprofit organisation, NPO, [nie-

winsgewende organisasie] begroting alleen is met R9,2 miljard

onderbefonds. Erger nog is dat daar nul rand nul sent vir die

subprogram sosialewerkers beursgeleenthede begroot is, wat

beteken ’n hele R3,4 miljoen is gesny. Dit terwyl ons land

reeds ernstige tekorte aan dié skaars vaardigheid het. Ons

benodig tans 70 000 maatskaplike werkers slegs om die

aangepaste Kinderwet te implementeer. Daar is nie ’n dooie

sent vir die opleiding van nuwe maatskaplike werkers begroot

nie, maar ons kort ’n verdere 5 000 maatskaplike werkers om

slegs die substansmisbruikprogram te implementeer. Dit terwyl

die program self van R21,9 miljoen na R20,7 miljoen in die

komende boekjaar gesny is.

As ons in ag neem dat substansmisbruik tans die hoogte inskiet

weens werkloosheid in Suid-Afrika en hopeloosheid in ons land,

hoe regverdig jy so ’n besnoeiing? Die gebruik van tik in ons

land is twee maal hoër as in die res van die wêreld. Ons sit

met 15% van Suid-Afrikaners wat met ’n dwelmprobleem sit en

die fetale alkoholsindroom koers is vyf maal hoër in ons land

as in ander lande. Die is mos programme wat die weerloosdes en

kwesbares tot redding moet wees. Hoe sny jy aan programme wat



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senior burgers beinvloed asook kinders, families,

dwelmafhanklikes, mense met MIV/Vigs en persone wie met

gestremdhede saam lewe, en jy noem dit ’n pro-arm begroting?

Hier drink tieners om te vergeet. In ons land kry kinders

kinders, en sit 10 miljoen welgeskape mense sonder werk of

hoop. Ons stryd is nie teen vlees en bloed nie. Ons oorlog is

teen armoede, staatsverknegting en ongelykhede, maar in

hierdie oorlog is ons tans lelik aan die verloorkant. Ek dank

u.

Mr D M STOCK: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. Let

me also greet, the hon members, the hon Minister, hon Deputy

Minister, social development is about advancing transformation

and providing a safety net for the vulnerable and also to

empower them for self-liberation in order to realise self-

liberation and also to address the poverty and its root

causes.

We need to transform our economy to create economic

opportunities for the vulnerable. It is for this reason that

the Department of Social Development is not only focus on

social grants but rather guided by a comprehensive social



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security policy framework. It is comprehensive because it

needs to address the different dimensions of poverty

throughout our society.

The ANC has prioritised the fiscal framework, which allocates

over 59,4% to the social wage. The social wage response to the

multiple nature of determinants of poverty. This is the

conceptual basis of a comprehensive social security system,

which is developmental to free the potential of all South

Africans. Poverties depravation, which should at all times

innovate to address.

However, hon members, according to the combating hunger, it’s

also an important issue which is to be addressed by the

Department of Social Development. Combating hunger is

reopening sustainable development goal and an African Agenda

2063 goal is also a priority with regard to that. Hunger

deprive the wellbeing and quality of life of humans to a large

extent.

It is imperative that all stakeholders in labour, business and

civil society focus their energies in ensuring that no South

African is left behind and has to enjoy the pain of indignity



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of hunger. This is a right of our Constitution, which is also

enshrined and which the Constitution protects.

In order to alleviate poverty through working opportunities

this Budget Vote supports 176 474 Extended Public Works

Programme opportunities through a social sector EPWP

programmes. This is a critical massive intervention, which

will create a sustenance for many South Africans who need

these opportunities the most.

These opportunities are in line with the developmental mandate

of the department to equip the recipients who have the

sectoral experience, which will enable them to take advantage

of other sustainable economic opportunities in the sector. The

Budget Vote further supports the linking of about 20 000

social protection beneficiaries to sustainable livelihoods

opportunities. And for the next financial year, 30 000

beneficiaries were also being linked to this.

Hon van der Merwe from the IFP, it is unpatriotic to reject a

safety net budget. Contrary to the misguided believe of

welfare reason our government is not a welfare state but a

developmental state, which seeks to intervene in the social



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and economic live of the country to address the injustices of

the past and also to play a better future for all South

Africans.

Even developed countries provide a social support for the

vulnerable citizens of that particular country. We welcome the

progress of the department of integrating the information

sharing system with other entities, which provide critical

developmental opportunity such as students funding through the

National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS. This information

sharing enables social protection beneficiaries to be

automatically approved for students funding.

Hon Minister, this progress is commendable. Despite the

progress the material conditions remain that of increasing

employment and also poverty and the widening inequality gap.

It is common course that our country is the most unequal

society in the world. This exposes the sheers structural

exclusion of colonialism of a special time. This therefore,

calls for the department to continuously innovate to

development programmes, which will actually macify the impact

of linking beneficiaries with the developmental opportunities.



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On the youth, this Budget Vote support the training of about

600 youth on the development of the skills development

programme. This programme by the department is also in line

with the state of the nation address commitment by the hon His

Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Without the social protection programme by SA Social Security

Agency over 18 million South Africans will be living in a

precarious manner.

We are strongly opposed to the perspective, which disregards

the importance of social assistance by our government. Those

perspectives are actually spoken from a position of privilege

and they can never be said if one has experience sleeping with

an empty stomach and not knowing how they will get their first

meal on the next day.

The social wage comprehensively ensures that no one endures

the pain and indignity of hunger. For children hunger comes

with a lot of implications as this result in the child

stinting, which will affect 27% of our children throughout the

country. This takes away the right of children to grow up to



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attain equal opportunities. It also has an impact on the

growth and the health of the children.

Hon Minister, in our constituency work the people have raised

some concerns in our communities where mothers who receives

child support grants do not use the grants to support the

growth of the child. It is therefore, critical that we

strengthen the campaigns in our community to have mechanism

for reporting such parents to ensure that we protect the

rights of our children.

We want to commend the department for having displayed the

agility of responding to urgent crisis, which before our

nation in different skills. We welcome the support also, hon

Minister, the interventions from the National Development

Agency, NDA, whose primary mandate is to contribute towards

the eradication of poverty and is causes by granting funding

to civil society organisations to implement the development

projects in poor communities.

We also welcome the targets of 8 000 civil society

organisations to meet their registration of reporting

requirements and to build their capacity in areas such as



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financial management, leadership and general management. This

is actually important work to strengthen civil society and

also to mobilise our communities’ in general. The NTT will

further create 3 000 job opportunities, which are part of the

Presidential Employment Stimulus. The entity will also fund

corporative, which are creating efforts by citizens for income

generation.

It will be critical that the turnaround strategy of the NDA

yield the expected outcomes to reposition the NDA as an

entity, which makes tremendous impact on poverty.

Hon Masango from the DA as well as hon member Sukers from the

ACDP, the ANC is a caring government and the DA is a party

that advances the retainment of the status quo of inequality.

The department is not paralysed by the rands. The largest

social security system in recent portfolio committee meetings

both hon Masango and Sukers. We expressed the greatest form of

appreciation for the department officials’ for answering their

calls and also to responding to a number of queries, which we

have sent or forwarded to them very adequately.



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To be quite honest and just to tell the truth in today’s

debate, I am actually not surprised that you used this

platform for political posturing and grandstanding. My

question to you, however, my hon members is that, why do you

acknowledge or how can you acknowledge that there is great

performance improvement on the work of the department whilst

you are also raising that there is general neglect of

underperformance and no proper system in place of

accountability?

I am really not surprised by the issues that you raised

because we know that is mainly for political scoring and you

want appearing before the TV, the cameras and you want to

create and drive a particular narrative.

It is estimated that in Sub-Saharan Africa only about 10% of

the economically active population is covered by a statutory

social security scheme in Africa. My advice to you is to make

continental review on the social protection system and you

will find that our government has made advance strides in

providing a social safety net.



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Like all other institutions, there are weaknesses but we

should never allow the weaknesses to overshadow the positive

impact that our government is doing and also the hard work

that is done by the ANC-led government. Your focus, hon

members, is only on the failures of the department, and for

that matter, it is quite unfortunate that we only focus on the

weaknesses and we are failing to highlight all the

achievements and all the good things that the department has

actually achieved or striving towards achieving.

The hon member, hon Shak Emam, I agree with your initial view.

What you actually fail to tell our people is that, the

department has put in place strong measures to the issues

raised by the Auditor-General of South Africa and also to

improve the inefficiencies that are currently actually

happening in the system in which also include to a large

extent the implementation of the outstanding issue of the

prismatic system, which will actually deal or eliminate also

the fraudulent activities that are happening in the system of

the SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, and all of that.

The ANC support the Budget Vote 19 of the Department of Social

Development. We support this Budget Vote because it response



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to the commitment made by the government and the provisions of

the Constitution. I thank you, hon members. Thank you very

much.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Thank you, hon

Stock. I will now recognise the Minister of Social

Development. Hon Minister, you have five minutes extra which

you left on your 30 minutes. So, you will be having 15

minutes. Over to you, ma’am. Hon Minister Zulu? Unmute

yourself ma’am. Hon Minister, you are muted. May the

information technology, IT, desk assist us in terms of

unmuting the Minister.

Mr N P MASIPA: She is not on the platform.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): No, she is, I

can see her. If you check on the gallery, you will see her –

she’s there. Hon members, can we just give the Minister a few

minutes so that they can sort her out by unmuting her.

Mr D M STOCK: House Chairperson?

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Hon Stock?



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Mr D M STOCK: I have been informed that the Minister is

frozen. So, they are busy trying to sort it out - maybe one or

two minutes.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Advise her to

log off and then come back again. She will be fine.

Mr D M STOCK: Okay. Alright, thank you.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): We apologise,

hon members. It’s the technology that’s beyond any human

capabilities.

Mr W F FABER: Chairperson, could I ask if maybe one of the ANC

members read the Minister’s last few points as the hon Stock

was already repeating himself a few times. Maybe someone can

just repeat something again. [Interjections.]

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Hon Faber, you

know that you are out of order – out of order, thoroughly so.

I am sure you are raising that on a lighter note. We shall

wait for the Minister. I requested you to be patient with her.

[Interjections.] You can’t control it.



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Ms N K BILANKULU: He is out of order. He cannot lecture us.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Okay. Thank

you, hon Bilankulu. Let’s just wait for a few seconds.

Mr D M STOCK: Hon House Chair, if you can just request the

Table staff to ... [Interjections.] They have accepted ...

[Interjections.]

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Order, hon

members. Can we allow her to use someone’s gadget and allow

her to speak – to address us. I can see that she is using

Linton Mchunu’s gadget. She will unmute herself and then wrap

up her debate. There you are. [Interjections.] Thank you very

much. We can see you and hear you; you may proceed. You have

five additional minutes.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Can I for now remove

myself from the camera so that I don’t waste your time.

The ACTING HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms R M M Lesoma): Please do so.

You can switch off your ... Yes, hon Minister, you may do so.



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The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much,

Chairperson. Firstly, I would like to thank you House Chair.

Let me also appreciate all the members who participated in

this debate, but particularly thank and appreciate the NFP,

the UDM and other parties that supported the Budget Vote. We

will ensure that we work with you to put our people first in

responding to the challenges. I want to thank the hon member

Kwankwa particularly and say to him that we are with him in

terms of ensuring that the people are supported, especially

the informal sector that we are talking about, as well as the

social workers.

May I also indicate, hon members and hon Kwankwa in particular

that, as a Department of Social Development we also managed to

get resources from some embassies – for instance, the Chinese

Embassy that supported us not only now during the disaster,

but also supported us during the unrests. What we did as a

department is that this money that they are giving us is

supposed to be money for food parcels, but I requested the

department that we make sure that we co-ordinate the issue of

food parcels by co-ordinating with the people that are

assisting us – the organisations, the NPOs, the private sector

and all. We can also take some of this money and support



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informal businesses because many of them lost their

livelihoods and wellbeing.

Working together with the Department of Small Business

Development, we are going to do our best to see how we can

support those people who are in the informal business who lost

a lot, including the implements of trade. So, part of the

money we have we will be giving to people who can go and make

more money for themselves – buy the products or whatever they

sell and go back again and work for their families. I know

that even those who get social grants – some of those people

are making something out of the social grants by making sure

that they keep their families alive. I also wish to thank the

members from the EFF.

We remain committed to the attainment of a comprehensive

social security system as envisaged in the National

Development Plan. This is a social protection system that is

concerned with both development and distribution of ...

[Inaudible.] ... developments and solidarity. And the basic

income grant is therefore an essential element of the new

social compact in what is already the most unequal society in

the world. By the way, I was very excited when I saw what Elon



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Musk is talking about – the universal basic income grant. I

thought maybe if he says it, some people will listen to him. I

mean he raises this, not only form a point of view of South

Africa, but he raises it as something that is needed to be

discussed by the world because the issues of unemployment,

poverty and others are not only a South African problem but of

course, we need to make sure that as South Africa we respond

to it.

So, during this financial year we shall table the updated

policy on the basic income grant for Cabinet’s consideration,

as the hon Mvana indicated. The President has directed that we

should start looking at the basic income grant as an important

developmental stepping stone in current dispensation of our

democracy. Hon Breedt, it is important to have accurate

information and I would like to say to you that the advantage

is that we are there and we are always available at the

portfolio committee.

Therefore, if members have other questions that they want to

continue raising with us, we will be there to respond to that.

I also want to remind you that the early childhood

development, ECD, has migrated to the Department of Basic



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Education – I am sure you are very much aware of that. You may

recall that we were paying R17 per child and not R15 per child

for the past two years. We didn’t remove money from feeding

children to the Department of Basic Education, but we

reprioritised the funds for infrastructure development to

assist in time of crisis of COVID-19. To respond to the most

urgent need at that time.

Some members have unfortunately decided to focus on the

negative aspects but yes, we are able to take that from a very

positive point of view. May I also tell you members that when

you raise issues with me negative or not, I always take them

very seriously because I think that it is an opportunity for

me and my department in its portfolio to go out there and see

the things that we are raising so that we can be able to

respond to them.

I acknowledge indeed that there are weaknesses in every

institution, but we have put in place strong controls and

measures in place to eliminate fruitless wasteful and

irregular expenditure and to ensure that there are

preventative controls in place to avoid fraud and corruption

and instil a culture of consequence management. I heard some



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members saying that there is no consequence management. We

have to report back on consequence management that we have and

we share that with the portfolio committee.

With regard to the employment of social workers, you will

recall that we have employed a number of social workers across

various provinces, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic,

albeit on contract. Some provinces like the Free State and

KwaZulu-Natal have actually taken social workers on a

permanent basis. And we encourage all provinces to do the

same.

Again, I want to add here that the issue of social workers

must not be an issue only for the Department of Social

Development. We are also encouraging other departments,

including the private sector to work with us here because I

personally believe that in dealing with the social ills, which

some of the members raised here, including gender-based

violence - it is up to us to ensure that we do our work

through the district development model.

I have been insisting and talking to the department that if we

have to deal with the social ills, we need to mobilise our



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communities so that we work hand-in hand with them. I have

said to the department that we need to deal with this house to

house, street to street, community to community because ...

*IsiZulu*:

... ngeke kwenzeke ukuthi ngesikhathi somzabalazo sasisebenza

thina sisekelwa futhi sivikelwa abantu ...

*English*:

In our communities and now that we have freedom, we need the

same support we had at that time, now being in government to

make sure that people are supported in our communities. Hon

Van der Merwe, I have directed the department to work on a

plan of action on the employment of the social workers, as I

have indicated before.

As hon Shaik Emam indicated, social workers are the eyes and

ears on the ground, and have a fundamental role to play in the

care and protection of our people. But more so in ensuring

preventative measures because here is the problem with South

Africa as a whole, we need to collectively to look at

preventative measures. I agree with the hon Shaik Emam that it



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is important for our communities to work hand-in-hand with

others.

I also want to thank all categories of social workers who have

done a fantastic job in looking after our people, especially

during the COVID-19 pandemic and the current disasters that we

have right now. With regard to the R350 grant, we have just

received information recently with the current iteration of

R350 grant that 44 000 people who applied are actually

deceased by August 2021. With public servants who are

receiving child support grant, we have actually found them in

the system, ourselves, and some of them are actually the

Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, workers, new graduates

and interns.

It is important that sometimes when we need the information,

we need to ask for this information so that we can clarify to

avoid drama where we don’t necessarily need it. Lastly, I want

to say that for the sake of our children and children’s

children, we have to ensure that we lift people out of poverty

though our interventions and programmes. And we must do this

within the context of social compacts and within the district

development model as directed by President Cyril Ramaphosa.



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As I conclude, I need to thank all the organisations, the NPOs

that we normally work with out there. I want to say to them

that they should please keep coming back to us. Let us work

together and you being on the ground. I am talking about

organisations such as Goodman Foundation, Kwanele Foundation,

National Shelter Movement of South Africa, Act Now ...

*IsiZulu*:

... nina ACT Now sinifuna emgwaqeni kudala nisinyamalalele.

Siyanifuna futhi ...

*English*:

... because when you are out there, people can see you. They

can hear your message. The United Nations Population Fund,

UNFPA, is also an organisation which we work very well with

the United Nations, by the way. There is the Commission on

Gender Equality. Gift of the Givers – we had a meeting with

them not so long ago because we want to be able to be on the

same par and the same level of appreciation and understanding

and support. Other organisations are Meals on Wheels, and a

whole of them that we work with.



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I wish to thank the members of the ANC who actually responded,

in particular the last speaker, the hon Stock. The hon Stock

responded to some of the questions that were raised by the

members, and it shouldn’t be a surprise that the members of

the ANC are responding in the manner in which they are

responding. We are one government, but that does not remove

their responsibility obviously to do oversight as expected by

government. For those who think that the members are singing a

song around me, they are not. They are talking about things

that they see on the ground.

I would also like to say that we are celebrating the Africa

Month, and 25th is going to be Africa Day. I am encouraging

all our members to remember and always appreciate the fact

that we are Africans, and we are in Africa, and therefore use

this opportunity to celebrate what we have managed to achieve

globally from an African point of view – from colonialism to

freedom or democracy. And in South Africa, our democracy is on

the move. And in South Africa, we are strengthening our

institutions of democracy so that our people can have what

they fought for and that our people can benefit for what they

fought for. To everybody across the board, let us celebrate



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ourselves as South Africans, and negativity will never reside

here. I thank you.

The Mini-Plenary rose at 12:07.

