



MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 931 Pretoria 0001: Tel: 012 3590013

**BUDGET VOTE SPEECH BY HONOURABLE MS
MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE,
MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR WOMEN,
YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

19 May 2021, FINAL

VIRTUAL PLATFORM, DELIVERED FROM GAUTENG

Check Against Delivery

Honourable Chairperson
Deputy Minister, Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize,
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee
Honourable Members,

It is an honour to present this year's Budget Vote Speech of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities in the year of Charlotte Makgomo Mannya-Maxeke.

Mme Charlotte Mannya Maxeke was one of the outstanding leaders of the liberation struggle who traversed effortlessly from politics to religion, education, community development and women empowerment.

The first President of the African National Congress, Dr John Langalibalele Dube described her as "***The Mother of African Freedom***". She was indeed a pathfinder and a true trailblazer.

As we celebrate her 150th birthday anniversary, let us honour her legacy by recommitting to an equal society for women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of our people. We mourn for the many lives we have lost and salute our frontline workers for their bravery during this difficult time, especially in the rollout of the vaccination programme.

While many lives were saved by measures introduced by our government – women, youth and persons with disabilities are the hardest hit by the negative effects of this pandemic.

Let us prioritise women, youth and persons with disabilities in our efforts for economic reconstruction and recovery. We must also continue to observe all COVID-19 protocols.

The Department is central to our collective objective of inclusive development in our country. We have an important role to lead and coordinate efforts towards the realisation of the constitutional vision of equality for women, youth and persons with disabilities.

In pursuit of the National Development Plan goals, we must continue to focus on inter-sectionality because the three vulnerable sectors continue to face diverse challenges in our society.

It is important to recognise the differential needs and concerns among the different sectors of our population as we plan and implement our daily tasks.

The challenges and needs of a young Black, African, lesbian woman in a wheelchair in a rural area are very different from those in a different set of circumstances.

I am pleased to report that since our last budget vote, we have appointed a permanent Director-General of the Department, Advocate Mikateko Joyce Maluleke – who has been instrumental in stabilising operational matters and undertaken a revision of our strategic position.

Our mandate of upholding the rights of women, youth and persons with disabilities is crucial through playing a regulatory role in promoting socio-economic transformation.

Honourable Chairperson,

During the State of the Nation Address on 11 February 2021, His Excellency President Ramaphosa underscored that *“ending gender-based violence is imperative if we lay claim to being a society rooted in equality and non-sexism”*.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) which has been declared a second pandemic, remains a dark stain to our country's image.

We must continue to speak out and report any instances of GBVF.

The Department is committed to eradicating this pandemic, which requires the collective efforts of all sectors of our society.

Since the launch of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF in April last year, the Department is working tirelessly to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this plan.

In this regard, remarkable progress has been made in its implementation, including the following:

1. Monthly progress reports on the implementation of the NSP were submitted to the President.
2. National Departments have integrated the NSP priorities in their Departmental Annual Plans and have been reporting against their annual targets.
3. Multi-stakeholder collaboratives supported by UN Women, are fully functional and meet regularly to support implementation of the NSP.

4. The Department is working with Provinces and Districts to integrate the NSP into their Provincial Departmental Plans, District Development Plan and establishment of District Rapid Response Teams.
5. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBVF continues to oversee the implementation of NSP by playing a key facilitation role.
6. We have developed a Draft Bill to establish a National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide that will coordinate the implementation of the NSP to ensure that as a nation, we eradicate Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in this decade. We will be consulting on this Bill soon.

Honourable Members,

During the 2020 Budget Vote Speech, I informed this august house that the Department had initiated the implementation of the Cabinet approved Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework.

In this regard, the Department has analysed the 2020/2021 Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans of selected departments and found that there is a positive response by departments on this matter.

However, more work needs to be done to improve our implementation of this important Framework.

We are also working with National Treasury on the issue of youth and disability responsive budgeting.

In the coming year, we will convene workshops with Provinces to capacitate them to mainstream gender, youth and disability responsive budgeting.

Menstrual Hygiene must be our priority for everyone given that every day about 300 million women and girls experience this natural cycle.

We must continue to work together to ensure women's ownership and full access to the production of sanitary dignity products and proper sanitation to women and girls.

It cannot be that women do not benefit from the production lines of sanitary dignity products because the process rest solely in the hands of men.

The Department has reviewed the previous Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill and have updated it. It will be consulted on widely during this financial year with different stakeholders.

Economic empowerment is an integral component of efforts to improve the lives of women, youth and persons with disabilities. We call upon the private sector and other partners to do their part to realise this goal.

The Department has entered into numerous Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with departments to make interventions in these areas – such as in agriculture – to ensure that women, youth and persons with disabilities benefit from the land reform programme.

We also need more women to play a leadership role in harnessing the economic opportunities that is emerging from the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Youth empowerment is at the core of our work and through the National Youth Development Agency, we implement programmes that brings change in the lives of our youth.

These include ensuring that government, private and social partners continue to coordinate an integrated plan to create two million new jobs for young people during the next decade.

The South African Youth Development Bill is also under development. This is an overarching legislation for youth development in the country which will further intensify the youth development agenda.

Cabinet has approved the National Youth Policy 2020-2030, which is an important blueprint to ensure that all sectors of society implement inclusive youth interventions.

Through the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, we will ensure that our government effectively transitions young people into the labour market and significantly reduces the high rate of youth unemployment.

The NYDA is also building a national Pathway Management Network for young work-seekers to view and access available learning and work opportunities.

The Department remains committed to advancing and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. In this regard, I have recently presented to Cabinet important documents for rolling out services for persons with disabilities.

These include the National Strategic Framework on Reasonable Accommodation and the National Strategic Framework on Universal Design and Access, amongst others.

We will also collaborate with the Department of Basic Education to host an inclusive education summit for persons with disabilities in line with government commitment to improve access to education for persons with disabilities.

Under the leadership of His Excellency President Ramaphosa, South Africa continues to play a leadership role on the Continent and globally.

During South Africa's Chair-ship of the African Union (AU), we championed the adoption of the AU Women's Decade 2020-2030 on African Women's Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment.

We have also signed and ratified the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.

We have developed both the continental Protocol on Violence against Women and Children, and the Continental Strategy on Women's Economic Empowerment.

Globally, South Africa was elected to serve as the Chair of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2022 and 2023.

We continue to participate in the Generation Equality Forum and co-lead on the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights. In this regard, we attended a successful Generation Equality Forum in Mexico, where draft blueprints were presented and adopted.

Our contribution to these efforts clearly demonstrates the confidence the world has on South Africa's leadership in various areas in driving inclusive development.

The mandate of the Department remains complex and vast. However, it is not commensurate with the current budgetary and human resources allocations.

This has severe negative implications on the work we can do in promoting the empowerment and advancement of women, youth and persons with disabilities in the country.

We therefore appeal to this august house to ensure that we are adequately capacitated and resourced. We must guard against culling empowerment programmes.

The budget allocation of the Department was R763 550 000 for the 2021/2022 financial year.

The Department's budget was reduced by R133 200 000 to support government's response to COVID-19. The expenditure of the Department is expected to slightly increase from R778 450 000 in 2020/21 to R781 900 000 in 2023/24.

This amount includes R470 962 000.00 (million) and R91 376 000.00 (million) earmarked for transfer to NYDA and CGE respectively.

Therefore, the actual budget of this Department for the 2021/22 Financial Year is R763 539 000.

I implore all members of this house to hold Departments accountable in delivering on the seven priority areas of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework in relation to women, youth and persons with disabilities.

I wish to remind Departments that they are required to incorporate gender, youth and disability deliverables and targets in their Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans.

As we move towards local government elections we call upon all political parties to ensure the participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities, and their representation at leadership level.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Honourable Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee for their continued support and cooperation.

Let me also thank Deputy Minister Mkhize; the Director-General, and the staff of the Department for their continued hard work in executing our mandate.

Finally, as we continue with our work to advance the plight and interests of women, youth and persons with disabilities, let continue to honour the legacy of Mme Charlotte Manya Maxeke and remember her words of wisdom when she said:

“This work is not for yourselves- kill that spirit of self, and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise bring someone with you”.

Malibongwe!