



MINISTRY FOR WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY

PART A

Introduction

This report covers the period 2008/9 and 2009/10 activities within the Office on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. Part A of the report focuses on the plan and its budget, Part B summarizes current activities including 4 focal areas of the POA targets that the office is engaged in and Part C outlines key priorities and challenges.

Vision and Mission

- Realizing the Commitment of a better life for all persons with disabilities through excellence in Governance.
- Ensuring the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities in leading, developing and managing the strategic agenda of Government.

Strategic Objective 1

To strengthen strategic management and leadership capability to achieve greater organizational cohesion.

Policy Coordination, Mainstreaming, Advocacy and Awareness Raising:

Policy Coordination:

- Finalised National Disability Policy and prepared a Cabinet memo as well as Gazette memos ready for discussion with Minister's Office before submission to Cabinet.
- Started preparations for the implementation plan for the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising:

- Made a presentation at the launch of the JOBACCESS Strategy in Limpopo working in collaboration with Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). The Cabinet decision is that the employment target of 2% of persons with disabilities should be reached by 31/03/2010.
- Explored future partnerships which will involve making Umsobomvu's services accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Attended the launch of the Reprint of South African Classic in indigenous languages in support of Department of Arts and Culture. The objective of the initiative is to reduce illiteracy and promote the culture of reading and writing including among people with disabilities.
- Held a camp with deaf youth in partnership with Deaf Federation South Africa.
- Visited special schools with the former Minister (in the Presidency) in Soshanguve.
- Participated in Disability Awareness Month activities through workshops.
- Organized the 2008 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Strategic Objective 2:

Provide strategic leadership to provincial focal points in all spheres of government including civil society.

- Coordinated quarterly meetings with National provincial structures and two term meetings of National Disability Machinery and compiled reports and minutes.
- Convened the second National Disability Summit in July 2008 regarding UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disability. 500 delegates from National Department, provincial, Business sector and Disable People Organisations attended the summit.

Strategic Objective 3.

To coordinate, monitor, evaluate and communicate government policies and programmes and accelerate integrated service delivery.

M & E

- Compiled a report on OSDP budget and budget systems controls for the 2009/10 financial year.
- Completed the Handover Report for the new administration and submitted to Minister in the Presidency. Completed the GDCY final exit / Hand over report for Minister and for the Presidency.
- Finalised GDCY FYR report and submitted to the project leader.

4. Strategic Objective 4: *To foster nation-building and effect and impetus to the people's contract*

- Participated in the Ministerial imbizo to engage the community in a dialogue about forced marriages for girls aged between 12-14 years in Lusikisiki (particularly in the OR Tambo municipality) and continue to work with the task team to implement an integrated intervention plan to address a number of human rights concerns.
- Participated with the former Minister in the Presidency at the NCOP event held in the Eastern Cape.

Strategic Objective 5

To promote the integrated approach to governance for accelerated service delivery.

- Conducted Orientation workshops in 80 district and their local municipalities in 7 provinces on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Provinces covered so far are Limpopo, Kwazulu Natal, Northern Cape, Western Cape, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape and North West. The workshops targeted senior managers, provincial departments and Disabled People Organisations.

Strategic Objective 6

To support, develop and consolidate initiatives for building a better Africa and a better world.

Regional and International Obligations

- Attended the first Conference of State Parties in New York, participated in the Committee of 12 experts and South Africa was elected as Vice Chair of the Africa Bureau. South Africa used the opportunity to meet with the UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs (DESA) to discuss implementation options of this Convention.
- SA steering Committee for the African Decade Programme with clear terms of reference was established in 2008 in order to drive this agenda. The office also hosted two board meetings.
- Responded to resolution 62/170 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto and resolution 62/127 Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning disability issues.

Strategic Objective 7

To promote accelerated and shared economic growth and development with emphasis on the second economy and social inclusion

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Flemish Project: Trained people 40 with disabilities in the area of media production and animation.

- Submitted draft proposal to Flemish Government in order to spend funds remaining from the Awareness Raising Development Co-operative between the Governments of Belgium and South Africa.
- Danish Donor Funded programme – Economic Empowerment of protective and sheltered business enterprises (on-going work till March 2009)
- Finalised the Exit/Handover Report and Compiled video documentation of Economic Empowerment project Western Cape

Budget

The budget allocated per MTEF in 2008/9 was R2 333 000.

Total amount spent as allocated: R2 333 000.

Part B

Activities currently ongoing in the Department of Disability

- Finalizing the National Disability Policy (NDP) as the South African implementation plan for the UNCRPD.
- Coordinating the 2% target for 2009-2010 of the employment of persons with – disabilities in the Public Service.
- Reporting obligations after signing the UNCRPD for South Africa. Preparation for Country report on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Capacity building and orientation of municipalities on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Popularization and translation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Establishment of the task team and committee of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Preparations for participation in the Second Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2009.
- Working with SADA (South African Disability Alliance) in preparations for nomination of a candidate for the Committee of 12 Experts to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Involvement within African Decade for Disability 2010-2019. The signing of the extension is in Libya October 2009.
- Promotion of Sign Language and Braille literacy in the country through participation in the celebrations for the Bicentenary of Louise Braille working with the SA National Council for the Blind.
- Co-hosting the workshops of Artists with disabilities with Department of Arts and Culture.
- Working in collaboration with the Department of Transport regarding improvement of accessible public transport for persons with disabilities.
- Reports to the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and Persons with Disabilities.
- Finalisation and handover of the Danish Economic Empowerment Project.
- Preparations for the IDPD with the involvement of the Committee of 12 Experts to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and DESA (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs).
- 4 focal areas for the POA 2009/10 in the Social Protection and Community Development Cluster:
- Develop strategies aligned to the War on Poverty strategy and campaign to support vulnerable groups including children and families at risk.

- Development of a Disability empowerment Fund.
- Development of a strategy and action plan for development and empowerment of people with disabilities living in rural areas including at grassroots level.
- Undertake a study to establish the reasons why government has not been able to meet the Disability Target for employment in the public service and review the target with specific recommendations.

Budget 2009/10

The budget allocated for 2009/10 is R2 440 000

Part C

Key priorities in the Department of Disability

- (i) Finalisation and adoption of the Draft National Disability Policy.
- (ii) Development of cooperatives.
- (iii) Poverty alleviation programmes.
- (iv) Increasing representation in decision-making, employment and in the workplace.
- (v) Job creation and the advancement of decent jobs.
- (vi) Skill development especially in rural areas.
- (vii) Transformation of all spheres of society with special reference to the private sector.
- (viii) Addressing violence and abuse against Persons with Disabilities.
- (ix) Establishment of funds for economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- (x) Establishment of a Disability Fund.
- (xi) Encouraging the participation of DPOs (Disabled People Organisations) and civil society.
- (xii) Fostering relationships with the National Disability Machinery and other partners.
- (xiii) Observance of Commemorative Days and other Advocacy Programmes.
- (xiv) Hosting of Disabilities Parliament 2009/2010 in collaboration with the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and Persons with Disabilities.
- (xv) Implementing the projects of the 2009/10 Programme of Action (POA) according to the MTSF (Medium-Term Strategic Framework).

Challenges

- Limited budget.
- Limited capacity within the disability sector.
- Government Departments continue to treat disability as a separate issue rather than an issue to be mainstreamed into the general work of the department.
- Government has not yet reached the 2% target set for the employment of persons with disabilities.
- Ineffective coordination among various Government Departments and stakeholders.