

pcwomen  
22/2/12



women, children &  
people with disabilities

Department:  
Women, Children and People with Disabilities  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Revised version

**DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE TO THE  
2012 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
22 February 2012**

**1. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

**2011 Achievements included in SONA:**

- Establishment of the Jobs Fund
- IDC allocation of 10 billion rand for job creation.
- Mining Beneficiation Strategy

**2012 Commitments made going forward:**

- Massive infrastructure development drive coordinated by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Council (PICC), focusing on five major geographically-focused programmes, as well as projects focusing on health and basic education infrastructure, information and communication technologies and regional integration; social partners and potential investors to be brought on board through a Presidential Infrastructure Summit.
- With regards to issues of disability, we have directed all government departments to ensure that we meet the target we set several years ago of having 2% of people employed in the Public Service to be disabled persons.
- Amendments to the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act.
- Elimination of all forms of abusive practices inherent in labour broking.

**The DWCPD will be focusing on the following in 2012/13 to accelerate economic empowerment of women and people with disabilities:**

- **The DWCPD will submit a Portfolio of Priority Projects for support through the Second Phase of the Jobs Fund. Partner departments, NGOs and companies will be requested to inform the DWCPD of proposals they intend submitting to the Job Fund. These proposals will be scrutinised to determine beneficiation of women and people with disabilities, especially in rural areas, and the DWCPD will then lobby the Jobs Fund for support of the 10-20 most beneficial projects.**
- **The DWCPD will track beneficiation by women and people with disabilities through the preferential procurement system in government through quarterly reports submitted by government departments, state-owned enterprises and municipalities to National Treasury. The Department will furthermore continue encouraging companies and organisations of women and people with disabilities to register on government entities and departments' supply chain databases.**
- **The DWCPD is partnering with the Department of Public Service and Administration to strengthen monitoring of the achievement of the 2% employment equity target set by Cabinet, accelerating rolling out of reasonable accommodation measures across departments, and the development and implementation of a road map that proposes strategic interventions. The DWCPD will as such develop a barometer that will be published annually.**
- **The DWCPD will continue to work with key departments to increase participation of women and people with disabilities in programmes such as the Expanded Public**



Works Programme, the Cooperative Development Programme, programmes and services aimed at small enterprise development, etc. This will be done, among others, by finalising the Economic Empowerment Framework for People with Disabilities, as well as by working with social partners to provide women's organisations and organisations of people with disabilities with information, and linking these organisations with relevant government programme managers.

- Consultations will be held with relevant stakeholders on the establishment of Women's Empowerment Fund and a Disability Empowerment Fund.
- The Department will facilitate advocacy and exchange programmes on skills development for women as well as for people with disabilities. The Department will also continue its current work aimed at facilitating a network of inclusive skills development centres in all provinces which makes provision for reasonable accommodation of students with disabilities. The Department is currently working in collaboration with Departments of Higher Education and Training and Social Development, respectively.
- The DWCPD will also continue its work to engage the Departments of Labour and Social Development on the transformation and expansion of sheltered employment factories and protective workshops, and financial support for income generating small businesses run by organisations of disabled people.
- With regard to job creation and shared economic growth through the roll-out of infrastructure development programme, the DWCPD will be working with the lead departments to ensure that targets set for participation

by women and people with disabilities are met during construction phases, as well as that companies owned by women and/or people with disabilities benefit substantially from sub contracting on these projects.

- A particular focus on the infrastructure development programme will be to monitor compliance with universal access and design principles, with the aim of ensuring that people with disabilities have equal access to new and/or renovated education and health facilities, as well as buildings and facilities to be established by Transnet.
- The DWCPD will also be finalising the process of integrating gender and disability disaggregated data into the government-wide monitoring and evaluation system for socio- economic indicators to strengthen advocacy interventions and reporting on the progressive realisation of the rights of women and people with disabilities to economic independence through an economic empowerment barometer.

## **2. EDUCATION**

### **2011 Achievements included in the SONA:**

- Improvement in matric percentage pass rate
- Close to 14 000 learners were placed in workplace learning opportunities over the past year, and over 11 000 artisans have completed their trade tests, both exceeding targets set.

### **2011 Concerns included in the SONA:**

- Concern by the report of the General Household Survey in 2010 that just over 120 000 children in that band are out of school.



- **Grade 10 drop outs appear to be a problem, particularly in the rural and farm areas of the Western Cape.**

**2012 Commitments made going forward:**

- **Commitment to universal access to education.**
- **Producing more teachers who can teach mathematics, science and African languages.**
- **100% coverage for Grade R by 2014**

**The Department's flagship campaign – the “Education for All Children” campaign – will be the focus of our education-related interventions and activities in 2012/13, which will include, among others:**

- **Collaborating with the Department of Basic Education on finalising the Inclusive Education Strategy, reviewing the funding model and norms and standards for education buildings and monitoring compliance to the norms and standards on an on-going basis.**
- **Monitoring universal access to education, in particular for children with disabilities between the ages of 5 and 16 who are currently out of school, and promoting the registration of children with disabilities for education at their local schools between September and December for the 2013 academic year.**
- **Publishing the results of the 2011/12 Special Schools Audit conducted by the DWCPD and monitoring the plans developed by provincial Education Departments aimed at accelerating intervention where violations are occurring or where no effective teaching and learning is taking place.**
- **Developing an education for all barometer to measure exclusion from compulsory basic education and inequalities to access to, among others, early childhood development.**

- Collaboration with the Department of Higher Education and Training will be strengthened to advocate for the development of national norms and standards for Disability Units at all institutions of higher education, as well as to increase universal access for students with disabilities and young women to FET colleges and adult basic education.
- The DWCPD will, in support of this initiative, conduct a survey in a sample of institutions of higher education with the aim of publishing a report reflecting experiences of students with disabilities at institutions of higher education.

### 3. HEALTH

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success of the HIV and AIDS programme.</li> <li>• While we are doing well with regards to treatment and the prevention of mother to child transmission, general prevention efforts must also be accelerated.</li> </ul> |
|--|
- The DWCPD will focus on the monitoring of disaggregated age, gender and disability data for, among others, access to Anti Retro Viral (ARV) treatment, prevention of mother-to-child transmission.
  - The Department will also coordinate mainstreaming of disability considerations into the National Health Insurance (NHI).
  - A submission will be made to Cabinet on a comprehensive plan to redress the growing backlog of assistive devices, taking into account that the 2011 wheelchair backlog was 26 777 (100% increase from 2010) and a hearing aid backlog of 32 039 (50% increase from 2010) reported by the Department of Health.



#### 4. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**“We have only distributed 8% of the 30% target of land redistribution for 2014 that we set ourselves. The process is slow and tedious and there is general agreement that the willing buyer- willing seller option has not been the best way to address this question.**

**That is why we have introduced a new policy framework, the Green Paper on Land Reform.**

**We urge the public to participate in the process of improving land redistribution and reform to reverse the impact of the 1913 Act.”**

The DWCPD will continue to work with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) to facilitate access to land for both women and people with disabilities, and to monitor inequality in the distribution of land.

In addition, the DWCPD will focus on mainstreaming age, disability and gender into the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) by working with the DRDLR on the development of baseline information and mechanisms that will enable government to improve on as well as determine the impact of the CRDP on women, children and people with disabilities.

The Department will as such continue with the coordination and facilitation of mainstreaming of children, women and people with disabilities in rural development initiatives, e.g. expanding the current sites in Limpopo, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

## **5. ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES, PEACE AND SECURITY AND SOCIAL COHESION**

- **The Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, to promote compliance in both government and the private sector and to provide for sanctions in the case of non-compliance.**
- **Unveiling of museums, centres, memorial sites and homes and graves of national heroes**
- **National Traditional Affairs Bill**
- **Decline of 5% in the number of reported serious crimes compared to the previous year.**
- **Our star performer, Oscar Pistorius has set the standard for the year by winning the 2012 Laureus Sportsman of the Year with a Disability Award.**

The DWCPD will, in 2012/13, finalise the following policy imperatives:

- **The National Disability Policy;**
- **The Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill;**
- **The updating of the National Plan of Action (NPAC) for Children and strengthening of the NPAC coordination mechanisms;**
- **The amendment of the Commission on Gender Equality Act in order to align it with the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act.**

The DWCPD will also be finalising the following periodic country reports due to relevant United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies:

- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) - The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> combined periodic report together with reports on the Optional Protocols, will be finalised in 2012/13 for depositing with the UN in July 2013;**



- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) - The 1<sup>st</sup> Country Report will be finalised by July 2012 for depositing with the UN in August 2012;**
- **CEDAW - The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> combined periodic report was deposited in 2009, and presented to the UN-CEDAW Committee in January 2011. The next report is due in February 2015.**

**Regarding the unveiling of museums, centres and memorial sites and homes and graves of national heroes, the DWCPD will be working closely with the Department of Arts and Culture to ensure recognition of women and people with disabilities in these heritage projects.**

**The DWCPD will continue its core work, i.e. advocating for the reduction in inequalities experienced by women, children and people with disabilities, fostering social cohesion by combating discrimination against the three sectors, and fighting the scourge of gender-based violence.**

**Working with the Department of Traditional Affairs, the DWCPD will ensure that the National Traditional Affairs Bill is gender responsive.**

**Central to this agenda is the establishment of the National Council against Gender-Based Violence, as well as coordination of:**

- **The 365 Days National Plan of Action on Violence against Women and Children;**
- **The 16 Days of Activism on No-Violence against Women and Children,**
- **The National Universal Accessibility Campaign;**
- **The Sanitary Dignity Campaign;**
- **National Social Campaigns, National and International Days significant to women, children and people with disabilities.**

The DWCPD will continue to promote the participation of disabled people in sport and support the different sporting codes. In doing so, the Department is working with the Department of Sport and Recreation.

## **SUPPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

The DWCPD once again expresses its appreciation to the members of both the Portfolio and Select Committees on Women, Children, Youth and People with Disabilities for their on-going and sustained support in promoting the rights of children, women and people with disabilities.

Your role in and contribution to the following cannot be sufficiently emphasised:

- ensuring accountability of the DWCPD to vigorously implement its mandate,
- holding other sector departments accountable for lapses in ensuring equal access to services and opportunities for women and people with disabilities, and to at all times protect the rights of children, and
- finally, in championing the rights of women, children and people with disabilities in all your work, including in your constituencies.