



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

11/4/1/2/11

Report of the Standing Committee on Social Development on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development for the 2019/20 financial year

The Standing Committee on Social Development, having deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development for the year ended 31 March 2020, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Annual Report Programme for the 2019/20 financial year was published in newspapers inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions.

The Standing Committee on Social Development (the Committee) deliberated on the Annual Report of the Department of Social Development on 10 December 2020, as part of its oversight function. The Minister and the Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks.

The Department was examined on:

Part A: General Information,

Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and

Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report.

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. There were no submissions.

2. Key points from the discussion on the Annual Report of the Department

- 2.1** The Department informed the Committee that the advent of COVID-19 and the budget cuts resulting from the lockdown's impact on the economy and government revenue required the Department to reconsider both its service priorities and the way it delivers services.
- 2.2** The Department reported that it has begun to transform its working environment specifically concerning its administrative processes. Remote working from home would be prioritised and has already commenced.
- 2.3** The Department informed the Committee that it is in the process of developing a quality assurance system that enables Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) to provide online evidence of its policies and practices.
- 2.4** All statutory services will continue including the Department's child protection services, residential care facilities, and probation services.
- 2.5** The humanitarian relief through the Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDCs) and targeted feeding sites would continue with the additional resources allocated to it under the disaster declaration to support food security alongside larger safety net providers such as the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and school feeding schemes.
- 2.6** The Department reported that it has established a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) desk in the Ministry to strengthen its approach to fighting the scourge of GBV in the province.
- 2.7** The GBV prevention training will be integrated into parent education and training programmes as well as substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes run at all DSD CYCCs.
- 2.8** The Department reported that the awareness created by the #EnoughisEnough campaign contributed to the increased number of victims of sexual offenses and domestic violence accessing psychosocial support during the period under review.
- 2.9** The Department provided additional beds and emergency beds in shelters for victims of crime and violence.

- 2.10** During the financial year under review, the Department offered services to address domestic and gender-based violence, family counselling and mediation, and drug treatment to strengthen families' resilience to violence.
- 2.11** The Department would be working in partnership with other government departments to identify, assess, and refer youth at risk, who live in violent communities' for specialised interventions to strengthen the resilience of youth at risk.
- 2.12** The expansion of child protection programmes included the recruitment, screening, and training of additional volunteers for the Eye-on-the-Child programme in Masiphumelele and Ocean View and the consolidation and extension of the integrated Isibindi Programme from eight to ten sites.
- 2.13** The Department reported that there was an increased need for the expansion and operationalisation of the GBV facilities and the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for residential and partial care facilities.
- 2.14** It was reported that the Early Childhood Development (ECD) support and the school readiness pilot projects reported positive outcomes including substantial improvement in the developmental milestones of the 1 368 participating children.
- 2.15** The Department reported that four specially adapted 16-seater vehicles were purchased during the financial year under review for the Persons with Disabilities programme. The vehicles were intended to ensure the safe transportation of children with intellectual disabilities to and from their special day-care centres.
- 2.16** During the 2019/20 financial year, more than 22 000 young people were part of the youth development programmes funded by the Department and two additional Youth Cafés were funded in Uniondale and Riversdale bringing the total number of Youth Cafés in the Province to 13.
- 2.17** The Department completed the bid process for the Sanitary Dignity Project and taken delivery of sanitary pads for girls in grades 4 – 12 in identified schools where high rates of girl learner absenteeism were identified.
- 2.18** The Department spent 96.74% of its R239.828 million budget, the unspent R7.816 million relates to underspending in Compensation of Employees (CoE) due to not finding suitable candidates in the recruitment process, internal promotions and staff exits and, the underspending on social work graduate earmarked funding due to a high number of exits from the programme.
- 2.19** During the 2019/20 financial year, the Department facilitated various training and development opportunities for staff members. The Department allocated 37 new bursaries to staff members in specialised fields where skills deficits existed namely, probation services, addiction care, child and family studies, as well as forensic and clinical social work.
- 2.20** The Committee was informed that the NPO Management System commenced during the financial year under review and consisted of the provision of training to seven sub-programmes on the implementation of the finance modules as well as the application and registration modules of the system.

3. Information requested

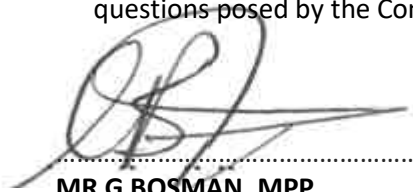
The Committee requested that the Department provides it with the following information by Monday 1 February 2020:

- 3.1** A copy of the Department's Child Murder Reduction Plan.
- 3.2** A copy of the Western Cape Government Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy for Children and Families in the province.
- 3.3** List of Municipalities that have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department on the Provincial Drug Strategy.

- 3.4 A copy of the MOU between the Department and the Municipalities in the Province on the Provincial Drug Strategy.
- 3.5 Detailed information on the effectiveness of the Local Drug Action Committees, Gender and GBV Forums in various municipalities, how often these committees and forums meet, and how the impact of these structures in various communities is measured.
- 3.6 A report on the accountability processes of these structures; how the Department measures the effectiveness of the Local Drug Action Committees, Gender and GBV Forums in various municipalities, and how the decisions of these structures are communicated to the Department and back to the communities.

4. Conclusion

The Chairperson thanked the Members of the Committee, the Minister, the Head of Department and all the officials of the Department for their preparation and responses to the questions posed by the Committee.



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MR G BOSMAN, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT