



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT ON THE 2022/2023 BUDGET – VOTE 13:

Committee Details

NAME OF COMMITTEE	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE (VOTE 13)
TABLING DATE	6 MAY 2022
CHAIRPERSON	HON. GN SWARTBOOI-NTOMBELA

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Speaker and Members of the House, I am pleased to present the Budget Committee report for Social Development Portfolio Committee.

Preceding the Department of Social Development (DSD) tabling of the budget speech today, I wish to inform the House that the Social Development Portfolio Committee has been enthusiastically engaging the Department in several meetings from the first draft of the budget to the final budget we are discussing today. The Committee met to consider the final budget on Thursday, 29 April 2022. The Department for Social Development presented its final Reviewed Annual Performance plan (APP) and Reviewed Budget for 2022/2023. As required by the Sector Oversight Model (SOM), the committee had an interactive session with stakeholders at a meeting held on the 14 January 2022 at Cecil Emmett Hall, at AbaQulusi Local Municipality which was a great success.

The Portfolio Committee noted that the Department had aligned its APP and Budget to the National Development Plan (NDP), the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF). Furthermore, the department mainly contributes to two of the seven priorities, namely:

- Priority 4: Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services.
- Priority 6: Social cohesion and safer communities.

THE 2022/2023 BUDGET FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic remain. Like most countries, South Africa is still recovering from the economic damage wrecked by the pandemic and subsequent measures taken to contain it. We have also suffered both, the loss of livelihoods and the loss of lives. The devastating floods, which were some of the heaviest recorded in many years, have left a trail of destruction in our province. The ailing economy still has record-high levels of unemployment. The country is also noted as having the highest income inequality in the world.

The department of Social Development has a critical role to play in our society. This Department's effort can provide a lifeline to the poor, the vulnerable and the excluded within

our society and provide them assistance in trying to secure a better life for themselves. Furthermore Hon. Speaker, the Province continues to be shackled by the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Last week on 29 April we learnt of the killing of three (3) women in one house in Umlazi. We urge the police to conduct a thorough investigation so that the criminals will be brought to book.

The Provincial budget of the Social development department outlines how the department intends to deploy its financial resources to assist the most vulnerable in our society. These actions are in line with the priorities outlined in the SONA and SOPA.

The committee learnt that the KZN Department of Social Development has been allocated a budget of **R3.198 billion** which is approximately R500 million less than the original budget of the 2021/22 financial year. The reduction in funding is due to the transfer of the ECD function to the Department of Education as well as the continuing budget cuts. The budget will cater for the department's five (5) main programmes within Vote 13.

These funds are to be used to provide for the social development needs of the Province.

A large proportion of the budget is for the provision of personnel. The department will continue to utilise funds toward the provision of social work practitioners to meet the norms and standards as set out in the Integrated Service Delivery Model. The department currently employs 1 587 Social Workers.

Committee deliberations

I would like to highlight a few of the Committee's concerns and what we noted following our deliberations with the department.

- The committee noted the work being done by the department in assisting the victims of the recent floods in KZN. The department, assisted by SASSA have been providing SRD to the victims of the floods. The committee learnt that the department has also been acting in a coordinating role to support the efforts of the various NGOs and NPOs as well as providing psychosocial support to the victims of this disaster.
- The committee understands that the department will continue with its Social relief of distress (SRD) programmes. The committee was satisfied that the department has

tried to increase the funds allocated to SRD through reprioritization however, we are still concerned that the allocated budget is not sufficient for this critical service.

- The committee was advised on how the budget cuts have affected the department's compensation of employees. Four (4) of the department's five (5) programmes have a smaller budget for compensation of employees, in the financial year 2022/23, when compared to the prior fiscal year. The department for their part will continue to only fill critical vacant posts, which bolster service delivery. However, the committee is concerned by an alarming statement made by the department, which spoke to the lack of budget, to adequately compensate the current warm bodies.
- The Department reported that the ECD function has been transferred to the Department of Education. The transfer of this function means that the accompanying funds would also be transferred to the department of education. The Members have requested an updated report on the finalisation of this process.

ADOPTION OF THE 2022/23 BUDGET

The Committees has considered the budget and APP of the department for the 2022/23 financial year. The Portfolio Committee supported the 2022/23 Budget on the 29th of April 2022 as follows:

- African National Congress (ANC) supported
- Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) supported
- Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) supported
- Democratic Party (DA) supported
- Minority Front (MF) supported

CONCLUSION

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, I am pleased to inform you that the Portfolio Committee supports the 2022/2023 budget of the Department of Social Development.

May I take this opportunity to thank the MEC, Hon. NM Khoza, the HOD and all officials of the department; its Agencies, SASSA and NDA.

Thank you to the Office of the Auditor-General and Treasury, for always being cooperative and willing to clarify matters where necessary.

Lastly, thank you to the Legislature officials that support the Portfolio Committee as it executes its duty.



04/05/2022

HON GN SWARTBOOI-NTOMBELA

DATE

CHAIRPERSON: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE