

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HELD 27 MAY 2015 (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. INTRODUCTION

Mpumalanga Legislature is duly vested with a mandate to maintain oversight of provincial executive authority and any organ of state and all provincial executive authority including provincial organs of state are accountable to it in compliance with section 114 of the constitution. The legislature is independent and performs its functions impartially without prejudice enshrining the rule of law.

In terms of Standing Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature 2013, the Select Committee on Women, Youth, Children, and People with Disabilities (the committee), is established in terms of Rule 135 (h) and has powers to conduct oversight on transversal issues affecting designated groups. The Committee is composed of a multiparty representation and is empowered to develop mechanisms to conduct oversight over provincial departments and public institutions.

The select committee is vested with the power to monitor, investigate and enquire into and make recommendations concerning any organ of state or constitutional body regarding transversal and transformation matters to ensure a province free from gender discrimination and inequalities in promotion of the Bill Of Rights.

The committee in accordance with Rule 119 may summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath/ affirmation, or to produce documents and permit oral evidence. The committee may compel an institution or a person to comply with a summon subject to the rules and orders or a provincial legislation.

2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The objective was to engage on the 2015/16 Annual Performance Plan for Department of Social Development, Department of Economic Development Tourism and Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs on Transversal Transformation.

3. METHOD OF WORK

The Committee invited the Department of Economic Development and Tourism; Department of Social Development and Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs on the 27 May 2015. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Department of Agriculture,

Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs were solicited to compile a comprehensive report and be led by HOD's of the departments respectively.

4. PRESENTATION MADE BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The department made the following presentation:

4.1 Strategic Objectives

Youth Development: The department assist youth development by creating an enabling environment for young people to develop competencies and skills and engage as partners in their own development and that of their communities.

Women Development: The department create an enabling environment for women to develop constructive, affirmative, sustainable relationships and skills; for them to engage as partners in their own development and that of their communities.

National Indicator	2015/16 Targets	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of youth development structure supported	90 R15, 626, 000	Signing of SLAs Transfer of 1 st quarter funds Conduct Sessions with YDCs with challenges for monitoring and support Collation of narrative and financial reports with claim forms for quarterly transfers.	Collation of narrative and financial reports with claim forms for quarterly transfers. Transfer of 2 nd quarter funds Conduct Sessions with YDCs with challenges for monitoring and support Develop specifications and call for business plans	Collation of narrative and financial reports with claim forms for quarterly transfers. Transfer of 3 rd quarter funds Conduct Sessions with YDCs with challenges for monitoring and support Receive business plans and appraise for funding.	Collation of narrative and financial reports with claim forms for quarterly transfers. Transfer of 4 th quarter funds Submission for approval for next financial year
Number of Youth participating in National Youth Service Programmes	1000 R250,000	Identify facilities and mobilise youth for volunteer services 700 youth are reached through NYS Volunteer Programmes	300 youth are reached through NYS Volunteer Programmes	Evaluate NYS programmes	-
Number of youth participating in mobilisation programmes	2 760 R 5,227,438	Identify and mobilise youth for participation 1 000 youth reached through mobilisation	960 youth are reached through mobilisation programmes are reached	800 youth reached through mobilisation programmes are reached	Facilitate evaluation sessions

		programmes			
Number of Youth utilizing services delivered in Youth Centres	106 200	26 100 youth utilizing services in the YDCs reached Monitoring and support of YDCs	26 100 youth utilizing services in the YDCs reached Monitoring and support of YDCs	27 000 youth utilizing services in the YDCs reached Monitoring and support of YDCs	27 000 youth utilizing services in the YDCs reached Monitoring and support of YDCs
Number of youth linked to work/economic opportunities	450	435 youth linked to work/economic opportunities Report on youth linked to work opportunities	435 youth linked to work/economic opportunities Report on youth linked to work opportunities	450 youth linked to work/economic opportunities Report on youth linked to work opportunities	450 youth linked to work/economic opportunities Report on youth linked to work opportunities
Number of life skills workshops conducted	54 R1, 714,272	Identify youth for participation 18 Life Skills workshops conducted	Identify youth for participation 18 Life Skills workshops conducted	Identify youth for participation 18 Life Skills workshops conducted	Facilitate evaluation sessions
Number Provincial Youth Camps conducted	01 R1,100,000	Identify youth from foster care, vulnerable youth, youth heading households Identify mentors and officials to participate Planning sessions with stakeholders	01 Provincial Youth Camp conducted. Develop action plans and monitor implementation	Facilitate evaluation sessions and preparation for national camp Implementation of action plans Attendance of the for national camp	Facilitate evaluation sessions
Number of women participating in empowerment programmes	1000 R 100,000	Draft policy framework presented for approval Workshops on the framework Mobilize women to participate 300 women reached through women empowerment programmes	350 women reached through empowerment programmes	350 women reached through women empowerment programmes	Facilitate evaluation sessions
Number of women in Social Co-operatives	100 R400,000	Identify women cooperatives	50 women in social co-operatives supported with training	50 women in social co-operatives	Facilitate evaluation sessions

supported			Monitor application of skills	supported with training Monitor application of skills	
Number of women participating in Life Skills Programmes	1000 R100, 000	Mobilise women to participate 400 women reached through Life Skills Programme	Mobilise women to participate 300 women reached through Life Skills Programme	Mobilise women to participate 300 women reached through Life Skills Programme	Facilitate evaluation sessions

The committee wanted clarity as to what do they mean by operational budget, for example they have indicated that under the activity on the number of older persons reached through community based services but there is no budget allocated?

The committee noted that operational budget is the money related to the salaries of officials and their travel claims. The activity will be achieved as it is driven by officials in the employ of the department.

Furthermore the committee wanted to know as to whether or not the department did prioritise social workers who completed their studies in previous financial years when making appointments.

The department indicated that they created a database for all social workers who have completed their studies and the list was according to years of completion.

Secondly, when the department advertise all vacant funded posts of social workers preference is given to social workers who are bursary holders. Appointments are informed by the available budget as well as the performance during the interview as the social work graduates have to compete for placement in the limited number of vacant funded posts in the department. Therefore the list of bursary holders appointed in 2014/15 financial year includes bursary holders who completed in 2011/12/13 academic years.

The committee wanted clarity on the recruitment strategy of social workers especially in rural areas. The department indicated that they are using various ways to recruit social workers with the aim of reaching all potential students in the various areas within the Province. Amongst others are the following strategies:

4.1 Media

The Department utilise both electronic and print media to cover targeted areas.

4.2 Exhibition

The Department always joins the Department of Education to put stalls during exhibition and enlist the services of social workers and Human Resource Personnel to motivate and encourage learners

to study or choose social work as a profession and inform them about the National Scholarship for Social Workers.

4.3 Campaigns

Every academic year, the National Department of Social Development identifies schools in the province where targeted recruitment should take place, therefore the Department would partner with them during the recruitment phase, in order to encourage learners to choose Social Work as a profession

4.4 Dissemination of information through government and NPO structures.

The Department also make use of offices of both DSD and NPO offices as well as other government buildings to ensure that all interested applicants are reached with ease.

4.5 Household profiles

The Department would also utilise household profile information to target poverty stricken child headed households and those exiting foster care. These children become change agents in their families once they complete their studies as they break the cycle of poverty.

Youth Development Centres for 2015/16

District	Number of YDCs	Allocation for 2015/16
Ehlanzeni	31	R5, 779,000
Gert Sibande	31	R5, 316,000
Nkangala	28	R4, 531,000

Ehlanzeni:

Sub-district	Number of YDCs
Nkomazi	07
Mbombela	12
Umjindi	03
Thaba Chweu	02
Bushbuckridge	07

Gert Sibande:

Sub-district	Number of YDCs
Nkomazi	07
Mbombela	12
Umjindi	03

Thaba Chweu	02
Bushbuckridge	07

Nkangala:

Sub-district	Number of YDCs
Emalahleni	02
Emakhazeni	06
Thembisile Hani	05
Dr JS Moroka	09
Steve Tshwete	04
Victor Khanye	02

The committee wanted clarity on the difference between the Youth Development centres and the Love Life centres, e.g. the Love Life centre in Acornhoek.

In response the committee noted that the Youth Development centres funded by the department focus on the following youth services:

- Life skills and Leadership programmes - preparing youth for adulthood
- Job preparation workshops - empowering those seeking jobs, to develop CVs and
- Entrepreneurial skills - for self-employment opportunities
- Basic computer skills - including access to internet in the most rural communities of the province
- Linking youth with work opportunities
- Awareness creation on social ills, e.g. Substance abuse, HIV and Aids and Teenage pregnancy

The Love Life programmes focus on behaviour change and prevention programmes for youth. The department works in partnership with Love Life in communities throughout the province on Life Skills programmes and HIV and Aids prevention programmes.

Currently the department also funds the Gender Based programmes focusing on boys provided by Love Life.

The committee sought clarity on the reasons that made the department to stop funding some of the NPO's and how they inform them when they are not doing well.

The committee noted that the Department communicates with NPOs verbally and also in writing, if they are not doing well. This is done during quarterly road shows and meetings at sub district level as well as one on one sessions with affected NPOs.

Furthermore the department indicated circumstances lead them to stop funding NPOs as follows:

- Mismanagement of funds
- None compliance with regulations and deviation from the signed service level agreement
- Change of focus of the programme in the Department. For example the department stopped funding Home Based Care organisations under the HIV and AIDS programme and funded the Drop-in-Centres.
- Refusal to be monitored by the Department
- Abuse and neglect of beneficiaries
- Unsafe buildings
- Refusal to meet required norms and standards
- dysfunctional, or corrupt management committee for NPO's

Finding

- 1) The Committee noted that the youth Centres don't serve the purpose they were intended for and the department should monitor these centres by conducting regular audit.

Recommendation

- 1) The department must continue and monitor Youth Centres which were non- functional, working closely with the Community Development Practitioners (CDP) to intensify effective monitoring.

4.2 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Background:

- Early childhood Development is one of the priorities of both the provincial and national government.
- Provision of ECD services is a dual responsibility between Department of Social Development and Department of Education.
- Social Development is responsible for 0-4 age cohort while Department of Education is responsible for Grade R
- Provision of ECD services is regulated by the Children's Act 38 of 2005 chapters 5 and 6
- The Act defines ECD as a process of emotional, cognitive, spiritual, moral,, physical and social communication development of children from birth to school going age.

FUNDING OF ECD SERVICES

The Department currently funds ECD centres at R15 per child per day.

The breakdown of the subsidy is as follows:

- 45% nutrition

- 35% contribution to stipend
- 20% administration
- Non-Centre Based ECD services are funded at R10 per child per day

After school programmes are funded at R10 per child per day

REGISTRATION OF ECD CENTRES

DISTRICTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF ECD CENTRES	BASELINE OF REGISTERED ECD FACILITIES	UN-REGISTERED FACILITIES	%REGISTERED FACILITIES
EHLANZENI	744	522	222	70.1%
GERT SIBANDE	481	307	174	63.8%
NKANGALA	608	335	273	55%
TOTAL	1833	1163	669	63.5%

POPULATION OF CHILDREN

DISTRICT	AGE 0-4YRS	CHILDREN ACCESSING REGISTERED ECD PROGRAMMES	%
Gert Sibande District	118,792	17687	15%
Nkangala	140,506	15791	11%
Ehlanzeni	202,258	19403	10%
Mpumalanga	461,556	52881	11.5%

REGISTRATION OF ECD CENTRES

Status on registration and funding in Gert Sibande

SUB-DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF CENTRES	NUMBER OF REGISTERED CENTRES	NUMBER OF FUNDED ECD CENTRES	2015/16 BUDGET ALLOCATION	UNREGISTERED CENTRES
CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI	135	90	62	R 15 242 040	45
MSUKALIGWA	80	40	31	R 7 266 600	40
MKHONDO	88	41	31	R 6 965 640	47
PIXLEY	34	27	16	R 4 589 640	7
LEKWA	43	25	14	R 4 074 840	18
DIPALESING	21	19	10	R 2 625 480	02

GOVAN MBEKI	74	64	32	R 9 365 400	10
TOTAL	475	306	196	R 51 065 640	169

Status on registration and funding in Nkangala

SUB-DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF CENTRES	NUMBER OF REGISTERED CENTRES	NUMBER OF FUNDED ECD CENTRES	2015/16 BUDGET ALLOCATION	UNREGISTERED CENTRES
DR JS MOROKA	152	113	90	R 14 699 520	39
EMAKHAZENI	28	11	10	R 3 080 880	17
EMALAHLENI	122	44	35	R 8 870 400	78
STEVE TSHWETE	54	28	25	R 6 613 200	26
THEMBISILE	168	99	72	R 20 572 200	69
VICTOR KHANYE	37	20	16	R 2 835 360	17
TOTAL	561	315	248	R 57 947 400	246

Status on registration and funding in Ehlanzeni

SUB-DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF CENTRES	NUMBER OF REGISTERED CENTRES	NUMBER OF FUNDED ECD CENTRES	2015/16 BUDGET ALLOCATION	UNREGISTERED CENTRES
Bushbuckridge	381	222	156	R 37 700 680	159
Nkomazi	137	93	65	R 11 990 880	44
Mbombela	156	146	74	R 23 700 600	10
Thaba Chweu	40	27	25	R 6 161 760	13
Umjindi	39	19	08	R 1 675 080	20
Total	753	507	328	R 83 169 000	246

CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH ECD SERVICES

Number of children reached through Centre based and Non-Centre Based ECD Services

DISTRICTS	TOTAL REGISTERED CENTRES	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ACCESSING REGISTERED ECD PROGRAMME	TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-CENTRE BASED ECD BASELINE OF PROGRAMS REGISTERED	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ACCESSING REGISTERED NON-CENTRE BASED ECD PROGRAMME

EHLANZENI	184	17687	3	1174
GERT SIBANDE	152	15791	1	297
NKANGALA	141	19403	2	704
TOTAL	477	52881	6	2175

BUDGET BREAKDOWN FOR ECD SERVICES 2015/16

DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: CENTRE BASED	BUDGET	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: NON-CENTRE BASED	BUDGET
EHLANZENI	21029	81 081 000	1450	2 088 000
GERT SIBANDE	12 715	50 129 640	430	619 200
NKANGALA	14 256	56 671 560	886	1 275 840
TOTAL	48 169	R187 882 200	2766	R3 983 040

2015/16 PLANS FOR ECD SERVICES

ECD INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS 2015/16

DISTRICT	SUB-DISTRICT	AREA/VILLAGE	WARD	STAND/SITE NUMBER	BUDGET ALLOCATION
EHLANZENI	Mbombela	Manzini/ Chochocho	7	Stand no 0353 manzini trust	R 2 500 000
GERT SIBANDE	Lekwa	Rooikoppen	11	Saving Grace DCC 5611 Ext 4, Rooikoppen Standerton	R 2 500 000
	Msukaligwa	Wesselton	9	Tholulwazi Pre-primary 4997 Wesselton Ermelo	R 2 500 000
NKANGALA	Dr JS Moroka	Siyabuswa	7	Thabane Village – next to Siyathokoza School.	R 2 500 000
	Thembisile	Tweefontein	18	Stand 212 Thokoza Tweefontein M	R 2 500 000
	Emalahleni	Ogies	30	1043 Premises of	R 2 500 000

				Hlangu-Phala Primary School	
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PLANS FOR 2015/2016

ECD and Partial Care

- The department plans to reach 65 000 children through registered ECD programmes
- Registration of 120 new ECD centres
- 10 Non-Centre Based ECD programmes in operation reaching 2766 children
- 397 fully Registered ECD centres in operation
- 766 conditionally registered ECD centres in operation
- Conduct awareness campaigns reaching 8800 children and adults

The committee noted with concern that the department needs to focus on ECD's in rural areas and capacity building. The Department indicated that they are aware of the need to expand ECD services in rural areas hence it has been prioritising CRDP Municipalities for the last three years. Currently the department is implementing non centre based ECD services in rural areas. This is aimed at helping children who have no access to ECD Centres. ECD Centres in rural areas are prioritised for funding if they meet the norms and standards. The Department also capacitate ECD Centres in rural areas on various topics such as:

- Financial Management
- Parenting Skills
- Governance of NPOs
- Child Protection
- Resource Mobilisation

Findings

1. The committee noted that most retired educators are running ECD centres from their backyards.

Recommendation

1. The department should ensure that the Day Care Centres in the communities are regulated and not just being there for making profit; and those not complying with norms and standard must be shut down.

4.3 SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

BACKGROUND

- The labor market is discriminative; poverty and unemployment are especially widespread among disable persons.

- There is no economic mechanism to support the provision of equal opportunities for disabled persons.
- Access to adequate preventative rehabilitation and medical services, assisting devices and other special devices is low
- When persons with disabilities are empowered to participate and lead the process of development, their entire community benefits as their involvement creates opportunities for every one with or without disability. It is therefore important to include persons with disabilities and their communities in development efforts to advance the development agenda.
- Mainstreaming disability in development is a strategy for achieving equality for persons with disabilities.
- Although it may be necessary at times to develop separate programmes to address specific needs of people with Disabilities, it is also extremely important to find innovate ways to include people with Disabilities.
- The Department of Social Development (DSD) delivers a wide range of social welfare services to people with disabilities.
- These services are aimed at facilitating increased independence of people with disabilities to participate fully and equally in all social and economic activities.
- As part of these services, DSD provides subsidies to protective workshops, these are run and managed by Non Profit Organizations (NPOs)

PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY IN MPUMALANGA

The department indicated that there are six functional domains that are used to determine prevalence of disabilities, namely sight, hearing, communication, walking, self-care and remembering.

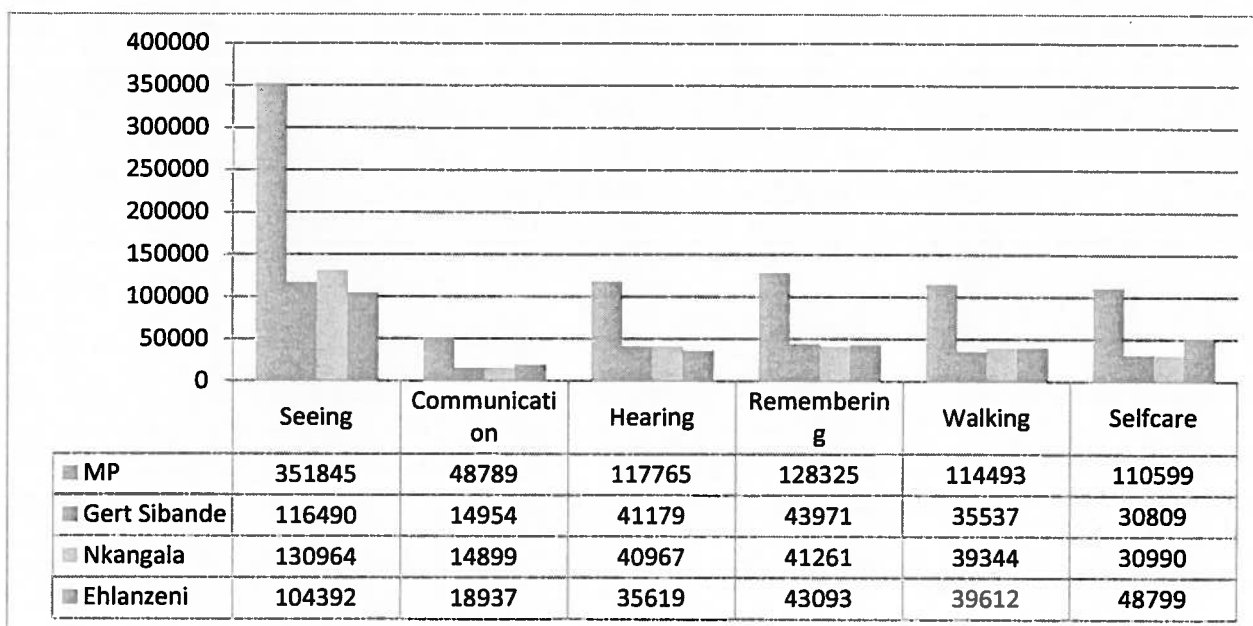
The highest prevalence in Mpumalanga province recorded was in sight disability followed by remembering, hearing, walking and self-care while communication recorded the least number of people affected.

Ehlanzeni district recorded the highest number of people with communication, walking and self-care disabilities.

Nkangala district recorded the highest in seeing difficulties

Gert Sibande district had majority of people with hearing and remembering/cognitive disabilities.

Six Functional Difficulties in MP Province



Furthermore, In Ehlanzeni, the top three local municipalities that have recorded high statistics in all the six domains are Bushbuckridge, Mbombela and Nkomazi.

In Gert Sibande Govan Mbeki, Chief Albert Luthuli and Mkhondo recorded high numbers of people experiencing difficulties in the six domains.

Thembisile Hani, Emalahleni and Dr. J. S. Moroka local municipalities are the highly affected municipalities in Nkangala district.

The prevalence of disabilities therefore indicates that the three urban municipalities in the province, namely Mbombela, Emalahleni and Govan Mbeki have high statistics of persons with disabilities.

The six CRDP municipalities also feature in the list of the local municipalities that have recorded high number of people in all the six functional domains. These are Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi, Chief Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo, Thembisile Hani and Dr. J. S. Moroka.

OBJECTIVES

- The department's strategic objective is to provide care, support and protection for Persons with Disabilities.
- Promote participation of Persons with Disabilities
- Increase employment and economic opportunities for Persons with disabilities
- Create better living conditions for the People with Disabilities so that they are provided with opportunity of full involvement in the socio economic development, political and cultural life by observing the principle of equality
- Provide conditions for dignified life for Persons with disabilities, eliminate actual discrimination through providing inclusive environment

- Provide conditions for rehabilitation and empowerment of the disabled through the necessary treatment, care, provision with assisting facilities and education
- Raise awareness of the society and the decision makers-central, local authorities regarding disability issues making them interested and mobilized
- Provide information on available resources'

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities
- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa No 108 of 1996
- None Profit Organization Act No 71 of 1997
- Policy on Disability
- Guideline for Partial Care Centres/Stimulation for Children with Disabilities
- Policy on Rehabilitation
- The Children's Act 38 of 2005, South Africa
- Mental health Care Act no 17 Of 2002
- Policy on Transformation of Protective workshops
- Guideline on policy on Transformation of Protective Workshops
- Transformation Strategy for Protective Workshops
- Minimum Norms and standards for Residential Facilities

Services available to Persons with Disabilities

- **Protective workshops** refers to an organization that provides rehabilitation to implement sound business principles in respect of production of its goods and services;
- Providing high quality psycho-social development services
- Increasing self-sufficiency and empowerment of the workforce in workshops;
- Leveraging training and development towards restoring dignity, improving the skills and productivity of people with disabilities so that they can work in the open labour market and earn an income;
- Facilitating the transition from informal to formal employment
- Ensuring the financial viability and long term sustainability of the workshops by transforming them into viable business entities where this may be feasible.

Protective workshops

DISTRICT	PROTECTIVE WORKSHOPS	Beneficiaries	Amount budgeted 2015/16

Ehlanzeni	25	836	R 3 113 700
Gert Sibande	21	483	R 1 638 738
Nkangala	18	635	R 2 442 290
TOTAL	64	1 954	R 7 194 728

SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Residential facilities for adults and children: They are facilities that cater for temporary or permanent care, protection, support, stimulation, skills development and rehabilitation of people with disabilities that due to their disability and social situation need care. There also an assisted living service which offers a housing facility to Persons with Disabilities who do not require 24hrs care because they have a certain percentage of independence

DISTRICT	Residential facilities	Beneficiaries	Amount budgeted 2015/16
Ehlanzeni	1	246	R 5,313,00
Gert Sibande	2	92	R 2,086,560
Nkangala	4	227	R 4,579,200
TOTAL	7	565	R 11,978,760

SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- Stimulation centers/partial care centers for children with disabilities admitting children 02 to 18 years.
- The children are provided with care, protection and stimulation to stimulate their development.
- To ensure that Children with disabilities function at maximum level of physical, social, emotional and mental independence that is required for everyday living
- To receive services within their own settings that are designed to meet their specific individual needs

DISTRICT	No of stimulation Centres	Number of beneficiaries	Amount budgeted 2014/15
Ehlanzeni	18	458	R 2 748 000
Gert Sibande	21	494	R 2 780 484
Nkangala	15	406	R 2 400 480

TOTAL	54	1 358	R 7 928 964
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- Social service organizations which are providing community outreach programmes.
- The aim is to facilitate organisational development, coordination, support and monitoring to create an enabling environment for service delivery organisations rendering services to persons with disabilities.
- They also serve as an extension for the department's services as they renders services to those areas where the department is unable to reach especially rural areas

NAME OF ORGANISATION	AMOUNT BUDGETED 2015/16
MENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY	R 1 174 640
Deaf Federation of South Africa	R 1 568,844
Mpumalanga Association for People with Disabilities	R 1 358 756
Epilepsy South Africa	R 1 325 284
Ama-wheelies	R 291 233

- **Therapeutic services** these include psychosocial support provided to families and individuals
- **Group work** to families and a group of Persons with disabilities with common problems
- **District and Provincial forums:** have been established and supported. The aim of the forum is to bring stake holders together in order to discuss issues pertaining to Persons with Disabilities and to ensure that services are provided according to the relevant legislation and sharing of best practices
- **Awareness campaigns:** on various issues pertaining to Persons with Disabilities are conducted in various districts.
- **Development of Policies and guidelines:** for Persons with Disabilities programme in order to ensure that norms and standards are adhered to when rendering services to Persons with Disabilities.

CHALLENGES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

CHALLENGES	PLANS TO ADDRESS
Mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities is still a challenge within government departments and within the communities	Promote mainstreaming of services for Persons with Disabilities
Inadequate programmes to suit different disabilities within the subsidized NPO centres	To identify the types of disabilities and develop appropriate programmes

Inaccessibility of infrastructure	Infrastructure should be accessible to Persons with Disabilities
Lack of transport	Department of transport to avail transport that is user friendly to Persons with Disabilities
Poor coordination of services	Office of status of People with Disabilities to ensure and facilitate coordination of integrated service to Persons with Disabilities
Coverage of services	To intensify awareness on services available for Persons with disabilities to the community Lobby for additional to improve coverage and access of services
Poor access to education for children with disabilities who do not cope in mainstream school and higher learning institution.	To engage the department to promote inclusivity in education and bridge the gap by introducing skills development programmes in their TVET institutions

The committee wanted clarity on how the Department is going to complete infrastructure projects under implementation when the roll-over request was not approved.

In response; the committee noted that the roll-over request of unspent funds of infrastructure of 2013/14 financial year was made to continue with implementation of the following infrastructure projects:

- Amsterdam Branch Office
- Marite Branch Office
- Hendrina Branch Office
- Thulamahashe Children's Home

Furthermore, the funds requested for roll-over to 2014/15 financial year amounted to R3 268 million. For the period ending September 2014 spending on infrastructure was poor at 13, 9% of the infrastructure budget of R72.040 million, hence the roll over request was unsuccessful.

Consequently, the Department embarked on a budget reprioritisation process within the allocated funds of infrastructure delivery and made funds available to continue and finalise the projects listed above. There are no additional costs incurred through variation orders.

Furthermore the committee noted that on Women Development there is no budget and the department indicated that the budget has been reprioritised for Youth Development Programme. An amount of R600, 000 is reflected in the departmental Implementation Plan and it will be allocated to women development during budget adjustment.

Findings

- 1) Infrastructure play a leading role in terms of development and the department not complying with the norms and standards as it must play a leading role in ensuring that buildings are easily accessible for people with disability. The department not complying towards reaching the 2% as prescribed by the Employment Equity Act.

- 2) In terms of Infrastructure the committee noted that the department have challenges as offices are leased through the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport hence they are unable to comply.
- 3) There is no database from the municipalities on the status of the office of people with disabilities in the province.
- 4) The reported stolen bus in Masinakane which was meant for transporting people with disabilities still not recovered and no plans in addressing the challenge especially around Acornhoek.
- 5) The reasonable accommodation Policy is not functional as it is in the process of cabinet approval.

Recommendations

- 1) As Infrastructure plays a leading role in development, the department must ensure compliance and play a leading role in ensuring that buildings are easily accessible for people with disability and comply with the norms and standards.
- 2) The department must collaborate with the department of public works on infrastructure development so that norms and standards are adhered to when planning.
- 3) Database from the municipalities about the status of the office of people with disabilities in the province must be created and be monitored by the department.
- 4) Timeous report should be provided to the committee on the plans to address transportation of people with disabilities.
- 5) The reasonable accommodation Policy must be fast tracked for approval and be implemented as a matter of urgency.

5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson thanked all the Honorable Members, support staff and the department who participated during the deliberations.



HON. BV NKUNA

**CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON
WOMEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

18.08.2015
DATE