



***MEC: Social Development, Me Sisi Ntombela welcomes Fifty three (53)
newly appointed Social Workers***

More than Fifty newly appointed Social Workers who completed their degrees in 2011 will be placed at different Free State Province's Department of Social Development Districts. This is to ensure that the Social work services are improved and accelerated in all the districts offices of the department. Motheo District will be receiving about five (5), Xhariep District, will get ten (10), Lejweleputswa District about, thirteen (13), Fezile Dabi District, nine(9) and Thabo Mofutsanyana District, sixteen(16) new social workers

This was the announcement done by the MEC for Social Development, Free State Province, Me Sisi Ntombela when she was welcoming about Fifty three (53) newly appointed Social Workers who attended the welcome ceremony and a weeklong induction programme in Bloemfontein last week. She told them (Social Workers) that the Department of Social Development is the only home for them and there are about 290 Social Workers currently, serving the communities of the Free state. She said she was disappointed to have lost 16 Social Workers to sister departments in 2011 due to unforeseen circumstances.

The MEC said she is excited to see the new social workers full of energy and looking forward to go to their work stations and start operating. She acknowledged that there is still a serious challenge with office space but the department is trying its utmost to get the office space in order. She told them to display positive attitude and to respect the vulnerable communities that they will be working with. Name badges will also be given to all departmental Social workers for the communities to know the names of officials serving them . Social Workers who have valid drivers licences will be provided with their own subsidized cars and new cellphones were given to all of them. About 48 laptops were also issued to the remaining officials who were appointed in 2011 to make their work with the communities easier.



The Department has now enrolled 110 new students studying social work for 2012 at various universities and more students should have been enrolled for social work degree if

there was enough space at various universities. The MEC also announced that the department has been allocated more than R850m for 2012/13 financial year and some of the funds are meant for recruitment and retention of social workers as announced by the MEC for finance, Seiso Mohai in his 2012/13 provincial budget speech on 6 March 2012 .