



Member of the Executive Council
for Social Development
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Legislature

Members of the National Assembly Present

Leadership of the Local Government

Leadership from the Business and Civil Society

Members of the Social Development Constituency

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Friends of the Poor

I promised you earlier today – during the budget speech - that you will be seeing more of what we are doing to address the legacy of underdevelopment.

I promised you a stage in which all of us will be devoting our intentions to practical things that will serve as the beacon of hope and a light to the faces of our children, our older persons, our people with disabilities, our youth and our women.

I am not doing this for myself and my friends in the Cluster and government, but for the people of our country.

We are responding to the Presidents call which was affirmed by the Premier that:

“For as long there are children who do not have the means nor the opportunity to receive a decent education, we shall not rest and we dare not falter in our drive to eradicate poverty”. Those are words from our President Jacob Zuma.

Our approach to the Friends of the Poor Partnership Programme is based on the service delivery theme of our government, “Working together we can do more to build a caring society.”

This is a practical way of rallying the support of the private sector, individuals, government and society into practicing the values of Ubuntu/Botho and therefore ensuring that the dream of a better life for all is experienced by everyone.

The upscaling of the Friends of the Poor as a Partnership Programme has taken a new shape and meaning. It is now taking a bigger shape in order to meet the social needs that we cannot meet with the normal operational budgets of Departments.

We have now heard what the partners have to offer, the challenge is now on us to do the same. The time has come for government, the private sector and civil society to join hands and help stop the spread of poverty.

Let us live to the objectives of this campaign which requires us to give to the needy with love, to build a circle of friends that will make sure that my child is your child and it takes a village to raise a child.

Thanks to following partners for helping us in making a good start :

ABSA

ACSA

ADRA

EDCON

GET IT

KONICA MINOLTA

NUMATA

STANDARD BANK

WINDMILL CASINO

**“WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE TO BUILD A CARING
SOCIETY”**