

Honourable Acting Speaker of the House;
Honourable Premier;
Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
Members of the Free State Legislature;
Mayors, Speakers and all leadership from Local Government;
Maqhekuohle a Freistata
All protocols observed

Motlatsiwa Motsamaisiwa Dipuisano,ka di 28-May 1913 basadi ba Freistata baile ba kopana mmoho ho fedisadi pasa. Selemong senake 100 years basadi bao balwanetse tokoloho ya bomme. Ke sentenare ya bomme ba Freistata, jwale ka bomme Mmamohlakwane, mme Mmakotsi le ba bang babangata. Halibongwe- Retlameha ho etsa bonnete ba hore Historiya bomme bana e ya tsejwa. Retlameha ho etsa bonnete ba hore e meng ya meaho le diterata di rehellwa ka bonahoremabitso a bona a se lebalwe. Halala bomme bafreistatahalala.

Motlatsiwa Motsamaisewa Dipuisano,re rata feela ho tshwela ka mathe ketsahalo tse etsahalang tsa depeto tsa bana le bomme lefatshe kabophara. Reipiletsa hore baetsi baketso tsena ekare ba ka ya teronkong dilemo tsa bona tsohle. Ha se hantle hore bomalome babete batjhana, bana babete bomme babona lebo nkgonwa bona, bontate bona ba be ba bolaya bana ba bona ka sehloho jwale ka Mmopi le moradiwamane Qwaqwa. Setjhaba se bolayang bomme le bana se ipolayaka bosona. Ba bolaya bokamoso ba sona.Phantsi nge Rape, phantsi.

Acting Speaker,our gathering in Tikwane Location in a town named Hoopstad, Hopetown in English, must be indeed a political statement and action to affirm our commitment to creating caring communities.Retlisitse mmuso ho setjhaba, ke seo mmuso warona wa ANC o se batlang.

This is a very small town with the population of about 9000 people.Ho nale dikgutsana tse 436, le batho ba saitekanelangba 96. Boholo ba batho ba mona ba phela ka tjheletya di grant.

Ha honamesebetsimonakekahoo re tlilengkwanano ho
tloetsabonnetebahorentjapedi ha e hloleke sebata.
Kematlafeelamona.

Madam Acting Speaker, we want to pledge the following services to the Tswelopele Local Municipality.

- One, establishment of vegetable tunnels donated by ABSA as part of Friends of the Poor partnership programme.
- Two, establishment and funding of a youth club which will also run a poultry project to generate income.
- Last but not least subsidization of the Day Care Centre in Bultfontein,

Ladies and gentlemen I want to declare today that that Absa also donated underwear worth R20 000 which will be distributed to deserving girls and boys throughout the province. I know that some people, especially those that are not gender sensitive, may construe this as trivial for this sitting. Let me assure you that this is crucial to girls and boys and for our campaign to claim back the dignity of our children.

Expansion of Child and Youth Care Services

Acting Speaker, in this financial year we have provided services to 17 000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC`s) through Community Based Care offered by HIV and Aids Programme. These children were also linked to Drop In Centres where they receive afternoon meals and support with their school work. We strengthened the programme by building a new Drop In Centre in Phuthadithjaba at the cost of R1, 9million. The centre is named Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Drop In Centre in honour of the first woman and a South African to lead the African Union.

Acting Speaker, allow me to announce that the department will be introducing **ISIBINDI MODEL OF CARE for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.** Through this programme we will train and create job opportunities for 182 Child and Youth Care Workers

(CYCW). The department will also open 12 sites for Isibindi and 2 safe parks in the following towns: Odendaalsrus, Botshabelo, ThabaNchu, Harrismith, Memel, Reitz, Qwaqwa, Gariepdam, Tweeling, Dewetsdorp, Vrede, and Frankfort. These sites will reach 7 140 orphans and vulnerable children. A budget of R 13, 4 million has been set aside for the implementation of the programme.

Thanks to our Friend of the Poor Mr. Pillay and family for building a Place of Safety in Tweeling. The centre will be launched during the Child Protection Week. Let me also announce that Standard Bank has donated R50 000 which will be used to buy furniture for the centre.

Early Childhood Education

Thutoe bohlokwabaneng baronabakeng sahoetsabonnetebahore re thehahoholahotsitsitsenghoholeng ha bana le dithotsasetjhabatsesebetsang kabotlalosechabengsa bona.

According to Census 2011, there are 148 219 children between the ages of 0-4 years in the province. These are the age groups which require our services. During this financial year there were 95 000 children accessing early childhood education in the 920 crèches funded by the Department. Out of this total number of children in all the ECD centres, the department is subsidizing 43,960 children. The department intends increasing this number to 45 500 and total number of enrolled children to 105 000 during the new financial year.

In 2009, after I took office, the department committed itself to change the face of Early Childhood Education. This was critical as this programme is the biggest both in terms of budget allocation and size of funded organizations. Its budget currently constitutes 48% of departmental transfer payments. Funded ECD's constitute 62% of the total funded organizations. Despite its strategic significance it was the least developed.

Our intervention plan was based on four pillars namely: developing the competency base of ECD practitioners, improving the

infrastructure, increasing the outreach to rural areas, and improving the nutrition status of children.

In **building the skills and/ or competency base of ECD practitioners** the department has trained a total of 1310 practitioners and matrons in Grade R curriculum over the last three years. During this financial year were trained 360 practitioners. As we improve their skill base we also improved their conditions of service by increasing the stipend from R700 to R 1 200 per month.

Honourable Acting Speaker, the decaying infrastructure for service delivery is our serious problem. The problem is more pronounced regarding service delivery infrastructure for community based services. Quite a significant number of ECD centres, not only in this province, are in appalling conditions. This places children in those makeshift structures in grave danger. Regulating opening and operation of crèches which do not meet minimum norms and standards through registration does not provide an adequate and comprehensive solution to our problems.

Kaselemosaditjheletesa 2011/2012 re
ilerakenyatshebetsonglenaneo la baitekangle
bitswang **SAKHISIZWE: Lenaneolenakela**
Ntshetsopeleyamantlhayamaseahotsameralo le
hopotlakisaphanoyaditshebeletso (ECD INFRASTRUCTURE
RAPID DELIVERY PROGRAMME.) Kalenaneolena re lokisa le ho
aha botjhadibakatsadi Creche re
ikamahantsekantshetsopeleyaboemobahoipabola. Mahareng a
selemosena re butsedicrechetsehlano(5) tsentjha, tsenne(4)
tsalokiswa. Re entsemosebetsiona o tswilengmatsoho re
kopantsematsoho le National Development Agency (NDA) hammoho
le Al Imdaad Foundation bao re balebohanghomenahane

Last year, during the budget speech of the department in Thaba Patshwa, we committed ourselves to build a crèche and establish a nutrition and development centre in the area. I am glad to announce that, after experiencing a number of hurdles, the construction of the crèche has finally commenced. We hope to open

this crèche during the Child Protection Week in May 2013. The nutrition centre is already operational.

Selemongsena se setjhasaditjhelete rebehelletsekathokotjhelete e kalokadimillionetserobedifeelwanerobedi (R 8, 8 million)ho aha diCrechetsetsheletseng(6) ditoropongtsenatselatelang: Odendaalsrus, Cornelia, Heilbron, PetrusSteyn, Botshabelo and ThabaNchu.NDA e tlaabamoaho o le mong o tlabamaneAllanridge.

The department has also introduced an outreach programme for rural areas by deploying mobile trucks with on board library operated by Ntataise Development Trust. This year we have spent R 677 000 to buy a truck to service rural areas around Kroonstad and Viljoenskroon.The truck is servicing 330 children. This brings to three the total number of trucks procured and deployed to service rural areas.

A pilot nutrition project was initiated in Rouxville in 2011. In this financial year we extended the project to reach 990 children in 30 crèches in Botshabelo, Thaba-Nchu,andBethlehem.

Permanency placement through adoption

Ngwanawahaokewaka le ngwanawakakewahao. Senakebotho. SetsosaronasamaAfrika.Hobehwa ha banaba se nangbatswadihorebaholelemalapeng a nang le batswadihonehabanahoreba be le maikutlo a horebasireletsehile, bana le bathobaobaamanang le bona, hoba e fanakamaemo a tsitsitseng a moo badulangbakengsangwanayaphetsenghantle le kgodiso e ntle.

Lefapha le tlakopanyamatsoho le mekgatlo e sengyammuso (NGO`s)e fanangkaditshebeletsobakengsabanabadikgutsana ho netefatsahoreditshebeletsotsa ho behabanabadikgutsanakaharamalapadi a ntlafatswa. Dipuisanomahareng a setjhaba di tlatshwarwaditerekengtsenne (4)re sakenyelletseseterekesaFezileDabi, ka ha dipuisanotsena di se di iletsatshwarwamane Kroonstad.Sepheosadipuisanotsenake ho rutasetjhabaka ho behabanamalapeng a bolokehileng, ho

babatswadibabanabadikgutsana le ho famalapa,banaba se
nangbatswadihorebabahodisejwalekabanababona.Retlasebedisadik
oranta le diRadio ho
tsamaisatlhahisolesedingena.Ditsamaisotsetshwanang le
diphuthehotsaditereketsa ho
fanakabanabasenangbatswadihorebahodiswekaharamalapa di
tlathehwa ho potlakisadikopotsa ho
babatswadibabanabadikgutsana

Disability

Madam Acting Speaker, Ha re tswelapele, we have just allocated an amount of R 3 million in February 2013 for building of a multi-purposed service centre in Frankfort and a Day Care Centre in Ficksburg. The project in Frankfort was identified during Operation Hlasela in 2010. These two facilities will serve as models of excellence for provision of services to people with disabilities as per applicable norms and standards. In order to ensure availability of required professional teams to render services we will sign Memorandum of Understanding with relevant sector departments.

The second area of intervention is training of care givers in Day Care Centres. These will be drawn from the 41 Day Care Centres funded by the department. The department will work with the Dept of Health and established NGO`s specializing in different areas of disabilities.

Lastly, for all these interventions to be successful they must be negotiated, endorsed, owned and championed jointly with the disability sector. In May 2013 we will launch a Disability Coordinating Forum. This is to ensure that we give effect to the matra of the sector which says **"NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US!"**

Addressing adult poverty

Ladies and gentlemen allow me to move forward to address the issue of adult poverty with particular focus on the elderly. The

province has a total population of 228 789 senior citizens. The great majority of these are recipients of Old Age Pension.

Bongataba bonakebathobabatsho. We also know that in many instances that the grant is the only source of income in poor households. Again we know that our senior citizens are victims of exploitation through evil schemes of lenders and insurers who provide short term loans and funeral policies. In many instances my department and Department of the Premier are often called to provide help to bury the elderly who gets cheated by some scrupulous dealers.

Boikitlaetsongbaronaba ho rarollabothata bona Lefapha le sebetsa
le bathobafanangkaditshebeletso ho
kenyameraloyatshireletsotshebetsong ho
etsabonnetebahoremaqheku a rona ha a
patwejwalokabathobasenangbahabo bona
kapaseng. Retshepahoredikgwedingtsetharo(3)
tsetlangretlatsebisakahothehwa ha tshebetsoenakabotlalo.

Anti-substance abuse

Ladies and gentlemen one of our sector priorities is Anti Substance Abuse. This social problem has twin brothers named crime and violence. What is shocking is that the age of experimenting with substances is getting younger; the number of children tried for serious crimes such as murder and rape is also getting younger so are victims. This is destroying the innocence of our children.

The department will revive and lead the Provincial and District Chapters of the Drug Master Plan to ensure delivery of integrated prevention and development programmes. These coordinating forums will have service plans and Coordination Agreements. The development of coordination plans and agreements must be finalized and signed by end April 2013.

The Department is funding 43 organizations to run prevention, advocacy and education programmes. These organizations will host build up campaigns towards celebration of International Day

Against Illicit Drug Trafficking. The build-up campaigns will target hot spot areas as per plans of structures coordinating the Drug Master Plan. The International Day Against Illicit Drug Trafficking will be celebrated on the 26th June in Bethlehem.

Last year we were allocated R 4 million to build a state owned Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre. We surrendered this money as we could not find an appropriate site to build a centre. The centre has to be within a hospital setting to ensure availability of multi-disciplinary professionals. A budget of R 3, 4 million has been set aside to pursue this project. We are continuing to explore other alternatives for a site.

Fighting poverty through income generation interventions

Honourable Acting Speaker, poverty remains the most serious challenge to this government. This is reflected mainly in the unemployment statistics and in the growing divide between the rich and poor.

Lefapha la ntshetsopeleyamoruo, tsabohahlaudi le Tikoloho (The department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environment-DETEA) baradileleano la ho ntshetsapelediKoporasi. Lefapha le kopantsematsoho leDETEA ho kenya projekeyamatswathakaya ho atisalenaneolenahore le tshehetsadiKoporasi. Lenaneolena le ile la tsibolwakgwedingenayaHlakubele ho tlohaka la12-13, selemongsenasa2013.

NakongenayadipontshotsadiKoporasi, MasepalawaseterেকেসাThabo Mofutsanyanae bile waboraro ho kenyaletsoho ho bankakarolo, ho thusahoreleanolena le phethahale.

Lefapha le tla fanakatjheletebakengsa ho thehadikoporasi tsepeditsekgoloho di behaboemongbabobedi mane Qwaqwa.

Koporasiyapele e tlabayamaselammeetlatsepamisamaikutlo ho rokweng ha diUnorormotsamafapa a ikgethileng a mmuso le ditheotsefumantshitswengtjheletekemmuso. KoporasiyaNtshetsopele yaFreisetata (Free State Development Cooperation -FDC) e

tlabapalakaroloyabohlok kwamabapi le sena,ka ha ba se bana le moralo o tshebetsong ho tshehetsaqalehoyamoreroona.

The second cooperative will be involved in food production and processing. Equally this cooperative will produce vegetables to supply state owned institutions and school feeding programme. The department has set aside R2 million for this purpose. These cooperatives will be functional by June 2013.

A top up funding of R800 000 will be provided to Ntswaki Moloi Cooperative in QwaQwa which is producing shoes. The cooperative will supply sector departments and other state institutions which require shoes as part of their uniform.

In 2011 we started a new initiative of mobilizing people who make a living from the dumping sites. We funded a recycling project for youth scavenging in Mangaung Dumping Site. In the new financial we are going to implement the project in Welkom. These people will also be profiled with the purpose of linking them to Food and Clothing Bank and other services of the department. A budget of half a million has been set aside for establishment of a recycling project.

The Retail Development and Support Programme which was successfully implemented in QwaQwa will be extended to Botshabelo and ThabaNchu. This will assist ten young people to open or transform their businesses into successful shops through the support and mentorship from the BiBi Cash and Carry Brand.

The National Development Agency (NDA), which is the agency of the department, working together with the department will initiate and fund fruit and vegetable cooperative in Moqhaka Municipality. The project will serve as a marketing centre for all other vegetable projects in the municipality. The National Development Agency (NDA) has budgeted R 1, 5 million and the department will contribute R 700 000 towards successful implementation of this initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen during this financial year the department funded 16 income generating projects at the cost of R3,5 million. The National Development Agency (NDA), funded 7 cooperatives to the tune of R 7, 2 million.

It is important to acknowledge that there is growing a problem of youth unemployment in the country. Whilst government has developed a package of a variety of interventions, we need greater involvement of business in growing the economy and creating jobs. The department will make its humble contribution by contracting 1000 young people, who will be paid a stipend, to collect data which is required by the departments, municipalities and provincial government for planning. The project of **Door Knockers** will be implemented by April 2013.

This will assist us in gathering data we could not get through formal research. The research project we committed to undertake this year failed to take off the ground due to poor response to the advertised tender.

Youth development

The department has invested time and resources on developing the capacity of youth to be productive and serve as change agents in their communities.

Honourable Acting Speaker, the department working with the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation has built a state of the art Youth Development Centre in Tweeling. This Centre has facilities such as outdoor gymnasium, netball court, and play park for children. The centre also has a computercentre and conferencing facilities. We have received reports that the centre is effectively utilized to such an extent that owners of taverns are complaining that the number of youth patronizing taverns is decreasing. The centre was officially opened on the 08th November 2012.

We have committed ourselves to progressively roll out this concept of youth development centres. In the next financial year we have set

aside R 2 million to renovate and restore Makoane Youth Centre in QwaQwa to serve its original purpose of offering services and programme for youth empowerment. The centre will also house our local office in QwaQwa.

We also funded 13 youth clubs. These clubs play a crucial role in the development of life skills, and in rendering programmes for education, advocacy, cultural development and promotion of good citizenship. Whilst sustaining the existing clubs, we are going to extend our areas of operation by funding 16 new youth clubs.

Ladies and gentlemen we are driven by the desire to constantly improve our performance and service delivery. On the 15th June 2012 we launched Young Community Developer of the Year which is going to become an annual event.

This Award has four categories which are: Volunteerism, Sports, Arts and Culture, Economic Empowerment and Education. The overall winner was sponsored by the National Department of Social Development. The prize was a study tour to Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College in Tanzania which was won by a girl from Frankfort.

On the 1st to 7th December 2012, the national youth camp was hosted in the province. The purpose of the camp was to mobilize the youth of this land across cultural and racial divide with the aim of inculcating social cohesion, build leadership and engender a spirit of patriotism.

Ladies and gentlemen one other critical strategic priority of government is skills development. The department is going to train 30 young people on different trades (Artisans). The beneficiaries of the project will be young people who are former beneficiaries of foster care grants. The project will be implemented in Phuthaditjhaba with the budget of R 2, 2 million.

Food for all

Honourable Acting Speaker, allow me to address another priority focus area which is food security. I have listened to a lot of academic debates on this subject. Most academics stand opposed to provision of immediate food relief to destitute people and families experiencing hardships. I have concluded that most of such arguments are nothing but academic and will remain academic.

Constant stories of children and poor families going to bed without food for days must be vulgar to the conscience of this nation. We cannot speak of a better life for all if we cannot afford to provide a simple decent meal to those who desperately need it. The department has introduced and will be expanding its social relief interventions.

In this financial year we have funded five nutrition and development centers together with 30 Drop In Centers. Services of the Drop In Centre are limited to orphans and vulnerable children. In the financial year 2013/14 we will fund Nutrition and Development Centres in Springfontein in Xhariep and Welkom in 2010 settlement. Working with Food Bank S.A, the department will also establish Food and Clothing Banks in QwaQwa and Welkom. Each bank is costed at R 1 million. These projects will be launched in October during the International Food Day on the 16th of October 2013.

These centres will not only dish out food but will provide services such nutrition education; parenting, household management and inter-generational programmes. This programme will be linked to Expanded Public Works Programme through which project members and support staff will be trained to render professional services.

Ladies and gentlemen the National Development Agency (NDA) will add greater impetus to the programme by funding vegetable tunnels projects in Frankfort, Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa. In Ficksburg an additional project named Kgaketsa Setjaba will be funded to initiate community vegetable garden and a broiler.

An efficient, effective and development oriented public service

Before I conclude, let me address the issue of human resources in the department. The department will employ 36 newly qualified social workers as at the beginning of the new financial year. Furthermore we will implement two learnership programmes for Social Auxiliary Workers (SAW) and Child Youth Care Workers. Each learnership will take 50 young people. The budget set aside for employment of social workers is R 5, 9 million and R2, 8 million for learnerships.

To render all our services, the Budget for Vote 7 for the Department of Social Development has been appropriated as follows:

Prog No	NAME OF THE PROGRAMME	BUDGET
Prog 1	Corporative Management Services	R 207 721m
Prog 2	Social Welfare Service	R 636 835m
Prog 3	Development and Research	R 106 673m
TOTAL		R951 229 m

The Budget Vote 7 for Department of Social Development is tabled.

I thank you