

FS GETS MORE SOCIAL WORKERS

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Helping the community ... Social Development MEC Sisi Ntombela and a group of newly appointed social workers.

Fifty-three social workers who graduated recently will be employed in various districts within the province. According to the MEC of Social Development, Sisi Ntombela, the newly qualified social workers will reduce the backlog in the province. Finance MEC Seiso Mohai announced during his budget speech last week that the department will be receiving more than R865- million in the 2012/2013 financial year.

“This amount will be distributed towards home-based care, continuation of infrastructure projects, and further expansion of early childhood development as well as recruitment and retention of social workers.” More funds will be allocated towards further recruitment of social workers, amongst other things, for the 2012/2013 financial year to ensure that social work services are improved and accelerated in all the district offices of the province.

The department has also funded 110 students to study social work at tertiary institutions across the country. The Motheo District will be allocated seven social workers, the Xhariep District ten, the Lejweleputswa District 13, the Fezile Dabi District nine, and the Thabo Mofutsanyana District 16.

The 53 social workers will join the 290 others already practicing in the province. “We have lost 16 social workers to sister departments and need more to fill their places.” Ntombela added that the social workers with driver’s licenses will be provided with subsidised cars and phones to ensure that their work in the community is made easier.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]