



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR
MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY
MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE
DELIVERY DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2021**

Online Platform

V1

THEME / TOPIC / AGENDA:

**QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE, APP OF DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Honourable chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

Honourable members

Research team and secretariat

Departmental officials present

Allow me to express my gratitude to this committee for availing yourselves to look at the performance of the department over the 3rd quarter of the 2020/21 Financial Year, as well as the Annual Performance Plan of the department.

Firstly, I want to show my support for the plan outlined by His Excellency President Ramaphosa during the State of the Nation Address last week. The address spread hope across South Africa during one of the country's darkest periods.

Importantly, President Ramaphosa committed this administration to dedicating resources to ending gender-based violence, supporting women empowerment, and ensuring gender equality through infrastructure development, focus on empowering youth, and creating job opportunities, and empowering persons with disabilities through opportunities and not handouts.

We must continue to lead on socio-economic transformation and implementation of programmes to ensure the empowerment and participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities through mainstreaming, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation.

The President spoke about Cabinet approving 40% of public procurement be ring-fenced for women-owned businesses. **However, the question**

departments must answer is how this commitment will be put into practise? With South Africa's procurement of COVID-19 vaccinations, there will be need for storage and transport of these vaccines – This department must ensure women are empowered with information to do business with government. To this end, we are working on a national radio show, that will go out in all 11 languages on all major commercial radio stations, that will take information direct to millions of listeners.

We welcomed President's pronouncement that over the next 3 years government will allocate approximately R12 Billion to implement various components of the National Strategic Plan.

We also would like to congratulate President Ramaphosa on motivating South African companies to pledge towards the cause of ending GBV by pledging R128 Million.

His Excellency, also spoke of the active participation of persons with disabilities in the economy. We need commitment across government for this to happen.

On youth, the SONA focussed on employment opportunities and entrepreneurship. Our delivery vehicle, NYDA, has been meeting its targets and is on track to provide funding and business support to 15 000 start-ups by 2024.

Members,

I wish to congratulate The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu for conducting oversight visits at SASSA Offices in the Western Cape. We raised the treatment of beneficiaries sharply at this forum.

Minister Zulu also took time to monitor the progress and impact of National Development Agency (NDA) grants to support gender-based violence and

Femicide (GBVF) interventions, income generation and the agency's volunteer programme (VP).

Before the Director-General unpacks the performance of the department in the last quarter, in more detail, I wish to make a few remarks. The third quarter is a very important quarter for this department and the country, as we host the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign (25 Nov – 10 Dec) and Disability Rights Awareness Month (3 Nov – 3 Dec).

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we had to commemorate these events with severe restrictions on our community outreach programmes. However, South Africa rallied behind these campaigns to raise attention and start conversations that elevated public consciousness to these important areas of our work.

The theme for DRAM 2020 was: Together *Building Communities Inclusive of Disability Rights*. While DRAM was underway, the 16 Days of Activism Campaign was launched under the theme: *Women's Economic Justice for a non-violent and non-sexist South Africa*

There are strong links between Disability Rights Awareness Month and 16 Days Campaign due to women and children with disabilities suffering a range of abuses at the hands of caregivers, family members, fellow classmates, etc. Women with disabilities are more likely to suffer abuse at the hands of partners, and women and children with cognitive disabilities may be taken advantage of due to perceived inability by the victim to report the crime.

Both themes looked at South Africa's recovery but also social re-integration and the inclusion of persons with disabilities into this new society.

Economic justice for women and persons with disabilities is an important theme and was explored during the campaign.

Members,

As I conclude, allow me to raise this concern which has a grave impact on our work: It is worrying that while the Annual Performance Plans of departments pay lip service to empowerment programmes for women, youth and persons with disabilities, in lines with government's priorities, you would be challenged to find funded programmes that translate these polished statements into impactful interventions.

As the department, we have much work to do, however we also face our own challenges. We face major roadblocks in achieving our APP targets due to severe staffing constraints. Our lack of capacity reflects in our targeted delivery goals.

We also continue to face challenges in our ICT infrastructure and this has a bearing in how the reduced staff complement is able to work efficiently, and with as little down time as possible. **The Director-General is charged with concluding contracts with SITA and a Service Provider to upgrade our IT Systems. This will be a major overhaul of the department's IT infrastructure.**

Allow me to hand over to the Director-General here so that she make take you through the report in more detail.

I trust we will have fruitful discussions and make determinations where the Portfolio Committee can assist.

I thank you