



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

SPEAKING NOTES FOR DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY PROFESSOR HLENGIWE MKHIZE DELIVERY DATE: 4 MAY 2021

Online Platform

V2

THEME / TOPIC / AGENDA:

**APP, STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET 2021/22 OF
DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Word Count: 927

Honourable chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

Honourable members

Research team and secretariat

The Director-General, Adv Mikateko Maluleke

Officials of the department present

I want to appreciate the discussions so far that look at the Annual Performance Plan, Strategic Plan and Budget 2021/22 of the department.

This department faces numerous capacity challenges, yet our mandate is so massive and one that has enormous consequences for the country's development.

Allow me to join Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane in welcoming Cabinet's decision to declare 2021 The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke.

uMama Charlotte Mannya Maxeke will become the second woman to be memorialized and honoured in this way since 2018 when struggle icon Albertina Sisulu was honoured.

This, the 150th year since the birthday of uMama Charlotte Mannya Maxeke is an important year for South Africa as we recognise women of courage and fortitude who pursued the same cause as struggle icons like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo, to name but a few. Charlotte Mannya Maxeke made an indelible impact in many areas, including education, faith and politics.

Allow me to stress to this committee the need to establish our position as a centre of government department as we rollout programmes to give impetus to our mandate of regulating for the socio-economic empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities left on the periphery for far too long.

I am glad to add that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Unit is also working on *The Self representation and Awareness* frameworks that will undergo the last phases of consultations and approval.

In the youth space, the department is partnering with Digititan (PTY) LTD, a private sector Information Technologies company and an official training Google partner in South Africa.

The 4IR Youth skills training and employment Initiative seeks to equip the youth between the ages of 18–35 years with digital skills, so that South Africa and Africa, can reap the benefits from the 4IR. The partnership between the department and Digititan is an innovative solution to prepare the youth as the current and future workforce.

There are other partners who will be on board such as: Departments of Communications and Digital Technologies; Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Basic Education; National Youth Development Agency; NEMISA; CISCO; MICT Seta. It is envisaged that once trained, young people would be employed or become entrepreneurs in 4IR fields and would be equipped with accredited technical skills such as: Digital Literacy; Technical Support; Web Development; Cell phones and Computer Repair; Information Technology Trainers skills; Cybersecurity;

Entrepreneurship; and Sales and Digital Marketing skills. This Initiative has been consulted extensively and will soon be presented to Cabinet.

Again, the department, is delighted that the National Youth Resilience Initiative, which was successfully launched on 13th of July 2020 in partnership with GIZ, now seems to be taking off.

I welcomed 50 Ambassadors who have been selected from all provinces as Youth Network of Ambassadors for Resilience. These youth will design and initiate local activities that promote youth resilience and amplify young people's voices. These Ambassadors would be able to bring young people's ideas, aspirations and challenges to the national youth development agenda.

Honourable Members,

The Department has intensified its efforts to ensure that it institutionalises the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) through regulating, monitoring and enforcing accountability across the three tiers of government. As presented on, we must strengthen our capacity to measure government's response to GBV.

The DWYPD has also intensified efforts towards localising the NSP on GBVF through convening information sessions on NSP GBVF with all 9 provinces, 5 Districts and 2 Metropolitan Municipalities. The DWYPD has also provided technical and mentorship support to provinces in their development of Provincial Action plans on NSP GBVF and establishment of Provincial GBVF Coordination Structures.

A workshop is scheduled in May with all provincial SDIF coordinators to address the issues of discrepancies across provinces and standardise the implementation of the programme in relation to the following;

- a) Frequency of distribution
- b) Packaging in terms of how many sanitary towels are in a pack
- c) Interim measures when schools are closed due to alert levels of Covid-19
- d) Addressing the issue of proposing that one provincial department across all provinces must be chosen to receive and disburse the sanitary dignity programme funds

In my meetings with the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality in my capacity as the District Development Champion I am constantly engaging with the Metro on their coordination in response to GBV in a particularly challenging province, where GBV is widespread.

Chairperson,

The Department is also closely engaging with a number of development partners towards promoting the work of the department, especially in the areas of financial and/or technical expertise. We cannot undertake this immense mandate with the collective working together with development partners and our stakeholders in public and private sectors and in civil society at large.

In conclusion,

I must join Minister in stressing the need to get more involved in elevating youth participation in the upcoming local government elections. We need to see a new level of youth participation that embraces our democracy and shapes it for the better.

We must also urge more women, especially young women to stand for elections and strengthen the process towards women's empowerment and gender equality. We must also encourage persons with disabilities not only to be voters, but to also take up electoral positions at the local government level.

Our performance as a department is impacted by our capacity, however, do not doubt our commitment to this portfolio.

I thank you