



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: 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**

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Honourable chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

Honourable members

Research team and secretariat

The Director-General, Adv Mikateko Maluleke

Officials of the department present

Thank you for availing yourselves to look at the Annual Performance Plan, Strategic Plan and Budget 2021/22 of the department.

My department welcomes Cabinet's decision to declare 2021 The Year of Charlotte Manny Maxeke. We must continue to advocate to celebrate our heroines side by side with male counterparts who fought for the liberation of this country and equality and rights for women.

All national days, and Youth Month and Women's Month will be dedicated to honouring Mme Charlotte's legacy.

The Department continues to lead and coordinate efforts towards the realisation of the constitutional vision of gender equality and the full realisation of the rights of women, youth and persons with disabilities. This includes forming an integral component of government's overall response and interventions to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The start of the 2021 year has seen us focus efforts on government's vaccination procurement and rollout, to curb the spread of the COVID-19 Virus. In addition, government has been hard at work ensuring South Africa's path to economic recovery is inclusive.

We have seen improvement by government departments, 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.

We continue to capacitate the department to regulate 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 department has recently initiated a process to redesign its functional and organisational structure to ensure a more appropriate alignment with its mandate. This is work in progress and consultations will be conducted with the DPSA and National Treasury before I seek concurrence from the Minister for the Public Service and Administration. However, this department remains critically under-capacitated (both financially and in terms of human resources) to deliver on its targets and responsibilities as set out by the President.

Honourable Members,

We welcome His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa's launch of the Private Sector multi-sectoral Gender Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund in February. The fund aims to support implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP), and the wider GBVF response in the country.

With the International Women's Forum South Africa (IWFSa) playing a leading collaborative role in this initiative, the launch exemplifies collective and strategic leadership and partnership in the fight against this scourge.

Since the launch of the NSP on GBVF, the DWYPD has provided technical assistance to national, provincial, district and local municipalities to enable them to: 1) integrate the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) priorities into the National Department's Annual Performance Plans and Integrated Development Plans (IDPs); and 2) facilitating submission of progress reports on the implementation of the NSP on GBVF to the Presidency.

As a result of this intervention a number of departments are beginning to account and comply with requirements for implementation of the NSP on GBVF. e.g. The number of national departments that are reporting on the NSP on GBVF has now increased by 11 to 21 departments. The consultation sessions with National Departments have also enabled Chief Directorate: Governance, Transformation, Justice and Security to refine the NSP on GBVF operational plan and development of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System. National departments are now using the Operational Plan to monitor and report on their performance.

The NSP on GBVF Collaborative Platform made up of Government departments, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs including the labour movement) and the private sector are meeting regularly to monitor and discuss progress in implementation of the NSP on GBVF and making recommendations on corrective measures.

This financial year, the Department will develop and finalise the Gender, Youth and Disability (GEYODI) Coordination Framework which will provide a platform for coordination and integration of the work done by the 3 sectors it is serving.

The Department is also continuing with the implementation of the Gender responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation and auditing Framework that was approved by Cabinet. We have extended this

framework to speak to the youth and disability sectors as well. At the national level, gradual progress is being observed in terms of this framework, and this year the intention of the department is to promote the implementation at both the provincial and local or district levels.

The Department has also initiated the review of the previous WEGE Bill so that we can begin consultations in this year itself.

Honourable Members,

The Department has finalised the consultation sessions for the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Bill. At present, the Bill is being discussed in NEDLAC and will soon be refined, presented for SEIAS and then tabled in Parliament via Cabinet. Important to note is that, there were many issues which were raised by stakeholders including NEDLAC, beyond the NYDA.

In response, the department has included in this year's APP, a target for development of the South African Youth Development Act – an overarching or framework legislation for youth development in the country. This legislation will enforce the National Youth Policy's provisions thus regulating service delivery to the youth.

Honourable Members,

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Branch has presented the following Frameworks to Cabinet:

The Universal Design and Access Framework and the Reasonable Accommodation framework. We now await approvals of these frameworks.

The RPD Branch held a Repositioning Workshop in March and the Operational Plan 2021/22 has since been developed, submitted and approved aligned to the Departmental Strategic plan and APP 2021/22.

Work on the Development of legislation towards the Disability Rights Bill continues. The South African Law Reform Commission has published the issue paper to be consulted on during the months of April, May and June 2021.

The DWYPD and the South African Law Reform Commission held two consultations with the Presidential Working Group on the Issue Paper have already taken place in April. Further consultation to the broader disability sector will be conducted in May and June 2021.

The budget allocation of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities was R763.5.5 million for the 2021/2022 financial year. The department's budget was reduced by R133,2 million to support government's response to COVID-19. Total expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 8 per cent, from R621 million in 2020/21 to R781.9 million in 2023/24, with an estimated 73.4 per cent (R1.7 billion) of the department's budget over the medium term allocated to transfers and subsidies to the Commission for Gender Equality and the National Youth Development Agency.

In conclusion,

With President Ramaphosa declaring 27 October 2021 the date for the Local Government Elections, I have tasked my department to work with the IEC to improve participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities. It has been reported that youth are losing interest in our democratic process of electing officials. So we aim to encourage youth to

honour the legacy of Mme Charlotte Mannya Maxeke by participating in democratic processes that will improve service delivery at local level.

We also want to see more youth formations, engaged in active citizenry to ensure that change at local level is lived through youth activism.

Allow me to add that we rely on the Portfolio Committee to engage other Committees on the implementation of Annual Performance Plans of departments that have empowerment programmes for women, youth and persons with disabilities.

I will now invite the Director-General to take us through the details of the APP.

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

I thank you