



**MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**BUDGET VOTE SPEECH BY HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER IN
THE PRESIDENCY FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES,**

PROFESSOR HLENGIWE MKHIZE

VIRTUAL PLATFORM, DELIVERED FROM GAUTENG

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2021

TIME: 14H00 – 16H15

Honourable Chairperson

Allow me to acknowledge,

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on WYPD – Hon. Nonhlanhla Ncube-Ndaba;

Whip of the Portfolio committee on WYPD – Hon. Fikile Masiko;

Hon Minister of the DWYPD in the Presidency – Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane;

Honourable Members;

Director General of the DWYPD, Adv. Mikateko Maluleke;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me echo the voices of other Hon members by reiterating that, we are presenting our budget vote under extremely difficult global conditions, as the world is battling the Covid 19 Pandemic.

As public representatives we have to continue to make a clarion call for our people to observe the non-pharmaceutical protocols social distancing, hand washing, sanitizing and the wearing of masks.

As the department we will continue to support government's drive to register and vaccinate all South Africans, so as to ensure that no one is left behind especially those who have no access

to technology.

Honourable Chairperson,

On 27 March 2019, Cabinet approved the **framework on Gender-Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing (GRPBMEA)**. We will continue to monitor and report on the implementation of this instrument so as to ensure that youth and persons with disability are equally empowered through a public purse.

Honourable Chairperson,

On Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, the department continues to be vigilant and to create awareness about systematic problems which are perennial at the level of service delivery, such as shortage of test kits, forensic laboratories, shelters, investigation capabilities and slow court proceedings.

It is still common and unacceptable to get messages like: ***“I took my daughter to a Thuthuzela Centre; the report from the***

Doctor is there, swabs were taken...two weeks later, no arrest has been made and the perpetrator continues normally with his life.”

We call on all honourable members to prioritise and support a feasible legal framework towards the establishment of the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Council which will assist us to coordinate our fight against GBVF, strengthen prevention programmes through the District Development Model and to cement partnerships.

Honourable Chairperson,

On the **Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)**, the department is taking advantage of the 4IR and is partnering with amongst others, Digititan (PTY) LTD, a private sector ICT Company. This partnership is an innovative solution to prepare the youth for a digital economy.

Honourable Chairperson,

On **youth active citizenry consciousness**, the department in partnership with GIZ is delighted to be part of the **National Youth**

Resilience Initiative. This initiative is aimed at enhancing youth as agents of change and leadership by enabling young ambassadors to amplify a truly South African youth agenda in the context of education for sustainable development. These young people will design and initiate local activities that prevent violence; promote mental health; strengthen youth resilience; and amplify young people's voices and actions.

Honourable Chairperson,

On **repositioning the economy**, the financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities is sacrosanct.

As the department, we will continue to track the Employment Tax Incentive, ease of access to the labour market by removing criteria of experience for entry level jobs etc. We will also track the Youth Employment Service which aims to place 50 000 people in workplaces to gain paid workplace experience.

Government has also set aside 40% of public procurement for youth participating in economic areas with high absorption rate such as manufacturing, infrastructure build, green economy and the blue economy.

40% of public procurement has been set aside for women-owned businesses. We are currently engaging the National Treasury to ensure that all spheres of government and entities including the private sector comply.

The NDP has disability equity targets set at 10% to be achieved by 2030 if we are to redress past marginalisation and ensure equitable participation and beneficiation by persons with disabilities.

As of today the African Union has established the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), creating the largest free trade area in the world. The agreement connects 55 countries and 1.3 billion people across the continent, with a combined GDP of AfCFTA economies valued at US\$ 3.4 trillion.

Honourable Chairperson,

On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the principle of **Universal Design** is a core commitment in both the National Development Plan and the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have seen the benefits of adhering to the principle of universal design as spearheaded by the Department of Transport. Our resolve is that we accommodate vulnerable

groups like persons with disabilities at a design stage and not bring them as an afterthought. The White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities compels us to adhere to a universal design principle.

The Department developed a National Strategic Framework on Universal Access and Design, supported by a Strategic Framework for Reasonable Accommodation, in collaboration with disability organisations and access activists.

Honourable Chairperson,

On International Obligations, early this year Cabinet mandated the Department to submit the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa** to Parliament for ratification. We therefore call on this house to expedite the process.

Honourable Chairperson, I am happy to share with this house that the process of domesticating the UN Convention, which will also take on board the policy directives of the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is progressing well. The Department in this regard provides a technical supporting role to the SA Law Reform Commission, which is leading the

investigations. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the disability sector for their active participation in the consultative processes.

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued its Concluding Observations to the Country's Baseline Report to the UN Convention in 2018, and directed that South Africa submits its next periodic report in June 2022. The Department will be compiling the report in collaboration with government departments and municipalities over the coming months, and we encourage this house to conduct public hearings, calling on sector departments and provinces to account, in consultation with relevant Portfolio and Select Committees on Articles in the Convention which aligns with our seven national priorities as expressed in the 2019-2024 Medium Term Strategic Framework.

Honourable Chairperson,

On South African Sign Language, the Pan South African Language Board launched the South African Sign Language Charter in September 2020. I was honoured to sign the Charter on behalf of the Executive, committing government to ensure that we implement our commitments contained in the Charter.

The Charter calls on this Parliament to accelerate the finalisation of recognition of South African Sign Language as a 12th Official Language during this term of office. The Department is working with PanSALB, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, as well as organisations of Deaf people, to ensure implementation of the Charter and the amendment of the Constitution.

Honourable Chairperson,

In conclusion, a successful journey to economic recovery should be characterised by a deliberate aggressive inclusive agenda to make women, youth and persons with disabilities an integral part of our economic recovery and not an afterthought. Our grand mission should be not only to build back better, but to build forward differently.

I dedicate this budget vote to all heroines on whose shoulders we are standing: Winnie Mandela, Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu, Rahima Moosa, Lillian Ngoyi, Sophia Williams-de Bruyn and Charlotte Mmakgomo Mannye-Maxeke, acknowledging that 2021 has been declared a year to celebrate her legacy in what could have been her 150th birthday.

I Thank You.