

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO THE 4th QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2018 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 07

1. INTRODUCTION

As stated in Rule 218 sub-rule (1) (2) and (3) of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, the Member of the Executive Council responsible for a provincial Department must table quarterly reports of the Department to the Speaker, within 30 calendar days after the end of a quarter.

The Committee considered the 4th quarterly report of the Department of Social Development (the Department) for the 2017/18 financial year, reporting period January – March 2018. Interaction with the Department was aimed at assessing the Department's performance for the quarter, in relation to its 2017/18 Annual Performance Plan (APP).

2. METHOD OF WORK

The Speaker referred the Department's fourth (4th) quarterly report to the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development for consideration and report back to the Legislature, as contemplated in Rule 218 (4) of the Rules and Orders of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (the Rules).

On 12 June 2018, the Committee met with the Department to deliberate and scrutinize in detail the aforementioned document. The Committee then met on 01 August 2018, to consider the draft Committee Report.

3. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- The total adjusted budget for the DSD is **R 1 484 438 000** and the expenditure for the fourth quarter is **R 1 476 788 000**, which is equivalent to **99.5%** with an underspending of **0.5%** on the overall budget allocation.

4. OVERVIEW BY THE MEC

The MEC Ms. BP Shiba appreciated the opportunity to present the 4th quarter performance report of the Department. The following was noted in her overview:

- The department performed reasonably well and achieved almost all planned targets, the department has successfully intervened and provided relief to those in need through the various programmes across the province;
- Community development and awareness campaigns have been vigorous, however need the support of everyone. In particular, the drug and substance abuse awareness campaigns. She highlighted the department's efforts to raise the plight of people with albinism, who are attacked and brutalised for ritual purposes;
- The department has engaged with various stakeholders including associations and organisations representing NPO's working with the department to stimulate a healthy and sustainable relationship, and ensuring that they comply with the regulations while providing services to the poor;
- As reported in the previous quarter, the department did not do well with its infrastructure construction programme. This is due to reasons that are partially out of the department's control such as site disputes and poor workmanship by the service providers. However, the department has since engaged local stakeholders where there were disputes and progress is satisfactory and closely monitored.

5. DELIBERATIONS ON THE 4th QUARTERLY REPORT

After the MEC's overview, the HOD was requested to brief the Committee on the progress made on the implementation of the Annual Performance Plan strategic objectives of the 4th quarter. Thereafter the Committee interacted with the Department on the following:

Overall Expenditure

Programme	Adjusted budget R' 000	Amount spent R' 000	% of budget spent
Administration	282 599	273 662	97%
Social Welfare Services	228 172	228 530	100.1 %
Children & families	570 183	557 968	98%
Restorative Services	238 364	246 798	103.5%
Development & Research	165 120	169 830	103%
TOTAL	1 484 438	1 476 788	99.5%
Economic classification			
Compensation of employees	675 543	661 805	98%
Goods & services	157 254	165 872	105.5%
Total transfers and subsidies	520 070	515 964	99.2%
Payments for capital assets	131 571	133 147	101.2%

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Programme 1 is responsible for policy and strategic direction by the Member of the Executive Council and the support staff of the Department to ensure good governance. There are six (6) sub-programmes namely; strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, anti-corruption and risk management, corporate services, financial accounting, management

accounting and supply chain management. There were 30 planned targets and 26 were achieved, which translate to 87% achievement for the quarter.

Administration	Adjusted budget	Actual Expenditure	Total %
	R' 000	R' 000	
Total (s)	282 599	273 662	97%

Expenditure

It was reported that goods and services overspent by 5.5% as the expenditure was 105.5% which is above the spending norm of the reporting period. The committee wanted to know about the measures put in place to prevent overspending on goods and services going forward. The Accounting Officer has reportedly introduced further cost curtailment measures by reducing kilometres travelled using privately owned vehicles, from 2000km to 1 500km. Only lunch is allowed for catering for meetings and events. The department also reported that officials are encouraged to share transport while travelling to same destination and direct telephone lines are limited to Managers and Senior Managers.

The committee shared their concern on the projections being exceeded as the same happened in the third quarter, citing that this might be as a result of poor planning. The department reported that cash-flow projections are estimates of future cash outflows and inflows of the upcoming financial year based on past, current and projected financial conditions. Thus, projections are estimates which are not actual cash inflows or outflows. During the period under review an amount of R 385 868 248 was received. Following the first budget adjustment in November 2017 which resulted in the budget of the department being increased by R53.429 000, the cash-flow projections were reportedly revised accordingly. The revised projections for the period January 2018 to March 2018 amount to R406 077 000. Subsequently, the projections were revised again after the second budget adjustment in February 2018 which resulted in the departmental budget decrease by R25 000 000. The revised projections for the period under review changed to R381 077 000 from the R406 077 000. The department further reported that in line with the exposition above,

the department did not, for the period under review spend in excess of the cash-flow projections of R381 077 000 as the spending for the period amount to R377 687 000.

The committee enquired about the factors that attributed to the under spending of the programme by 3%. The department reported that the reason which led to the under-spending is largely on compensation of employees, due to posts which became vacant during the period under review as a result of natural attrition and transfers to other departments. The department further reported that additional cost curtailment measures introduced during the period under review to contain the overall impact of overspending on goods and services, slowed spending on traveling and other non-core items under this programme.

Infrastructure Development

The committee cited concern about the noted poor work relations between the department and the implementing agent (Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport) in terms of infrastructure development resulting in delayed service delivery and lack of accountability. And further enquired on the appointment of service providers through the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport. The department reported that the contractor for Daantjie Youth Development Centre was appointed and site hand over took place in January 2018. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport was reportedly finalizing the Planning and Design processes, in terms of Msogwaba Youth Development Centre and the professional team was reportedly re-evaluating the cost of the project to determine the final costing for the Msogwaba Youth Development Centre. With regards to the Standerton ECD project, the department reported that site hand over is planned to take place in June 2018.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation the department reported that Daantjie Youth Development Centre contractor is currently on site and the construction progress is at 15%, slightly behind schedule but the professional teams are reportedly closely monitoring the project, to ensure that planned targets are achieved. Msogwaba Youth Development Centre, the department reported that the final costing will determine whether to continue with the appointed contractor or to go out on tender if it's above 20%.

PROGRAMME 2: SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

The social welfare services programme forms the core function of the DSD; its purpose is to provide integrated development social welfare services to the poor and the vulnerable in partnership with stakeholders and civil society organizations. Its priorities stress the issue of poverty reduction for children, adults and older persons as well as social cohesion. The Department managed to achieve 15 of the 17 planned targets, representing 88.2% achievement for the quarter.

Social Welfare Services	Adjusted budget R' 000	Actual Expenditure R' 000	Total %
Total (s)	228 172	228 530	100.1 %

Active Ageing programme

The committee is aware that the department has not achieved its planned targets on active ageing programme for the four quarters of 2017/18 financial year. The department reported that it has measures put in place to ensure that all older persons in Community Based Care Centres are motivated to participate in the Active Ageing Program in 2018/19 Financial Year. Districts and local offices are reportedly expected to develop a project plan to promote the Programme.

Social Relief

The committee noted that the department continually emphasises that the service in this regard is dependent on the need and that the department will continue to conduct assessments on clients in distress and stand ready to also submit applications to SASSA to assist as well. The committee asked how the department was going to conduct the assessments. The department reported that each client that is referred or self-presenting for social relief support is assessed following the Guideline on Social Relief of Distress. The assessment informs the type and frequency of support. In an event the department is unable to provide the support due to financial constraints, the department reported that a referral is made to SASSA for support.

The department further asked if the department has conducted a research to establish how many people are in need food in the province. The department reported that it has not conducted primary research regarding people needing food, but secondary analysis of the following four indicators from the Community Survey 2016 data has been done:

- Households that ran out of money for food in the past 12 months;
- Households that ran out of money for food for 5 days or more, in the past 30 days;
- Household that skipped meals in the past 12 months;
- Households that skipped meals for 5 or more days in the past 30 days.

The department indicated that this information was used to create a Food Security Ranking Index, which has also been mapped to indicate the ranking of municipalities from Less Food Insecure Sub-district to the Most Food Insecure Sub-districts. From this analysis it is reportedly possible to estimate the number of persons who are affected by food insecurity. The main limitation is that this information is only available at sub-district level.

Expenditure

The department was requested to provide the reasons which led to the 21.5% over spending under the Social Relief sub- programme. The department reported that the over spending was due to the high demand of social relief than anticipated.

Social Workers

The department has previously indicated the challenge regarding shortage of Social Workers, aware of the provincial moratorium on filling of posts, the committee wanted to know if the department managed to make any appointments to date. The department reported that during May 2017, the department absorbed 46 social work graduates (bursary holders) through conditional grant, furthermore, critical position have been submitted to the Provincial Management Committee to be considered by the EXCO.

Risk Managers

The committee wanted to know if the Risk Managers in the department are working closely with the Risk Managers from Department of Health. The department reported that it does

not work closely with Risk Managers from Department of Health, however, there is a provincial risk management forum wherein all department share information.

PROGRAMME 3: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The programme aims to provide for a comprehensive and integrated child and family care and support services to communities in partnership with stakeholders and civil society organizations. It focuses on providing alternative care and support to vulnerable children and to offer programmes and services to promote functional families. There were **18** planned targets only **12** were achieved which translates to **66.6%** achievement for the quarter.

Children and Families	Adjusted budget R' 000	Actual Expenditure R' 000	Total %
Total (s)	570 183	557 968	98%

Issuing unabridged birth certificates

The department was asked to outline the interventions that have been put in place to strengthen collaborations with the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that the process of issuing unabridged birth certificates is expedited, as this target was also not achieved in the 3rd quarter. The department reported that the Department of Home Affairs is represented in the Child Protection Forum coordinated and led by the Department of Social Development, challenges experienced in this regard are reportedly presented for intervention by the Department of Home Affairs. The department also reported that there is also a Case Flow Management team which is led by the Department of Justice, where these issues are also escalated.

Isibindi Model

The committee asked if the department has noted progress on the reporting by Isibindi sites. The department reported that it has established networking meetings at district level with all Isibindi sites and stakeholders and that reporting requirements have been included in the Service Level Agreements of the funded Non Profit Organizations. The department also reported that Social Workers visit the Isibindi sites on a monthly basis to provide support and assess progress on implementation of the services. Officials are reportedly collecting information from the sites and the department has outlined that over the quarters there is visible improvement with regards to numbers reported – there is an increase.

Funding of Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)

The department was asked if it also considers NPOs that are not funded when allocating resources, to avoid some NPOs benefiting from funding. The department reportedly considers the provincial and sector priorities when processing business plans, continuation of existing funding depends on the organization's compliance and accountability for the allocated funds.

PROGRAMME 4: RESTORATIVE SERVICES

This programme deals with the provision of the integrated developmental social crime prevention and anti-substance abuse services to the most in partnership with stakeholders and civil society. There are four sub-programmes, namely; management and support, crime prevention and support, victim empowerment (VEP) and substance abuse, prevention rehabilitation. There were 19 planned targets only 17 were achieved, that is 89.5% achievement for the quarter.

Restorative Services	Adjusted budget R' 000	Actual Expenditure R' 000	Total %
Total (s)	238 364	246 798	103.5%

Substance Abuse

The department was requested to outline interventions and efforts made in ensuring that beneficiaries receive out-patient treatment services. The department reported that it has reduced the target for this indicator to 1 200 for the financial year 2018/19. Out-patient services are provided to persons who require treatment services on a part time basis due to their employment and schooling status. The department reported that they receive treatment in institutions such as SANCA and other community based care Centres, and the department has put plans in place to intensify and promote outpatient treatment services. The department further reported that it will intensify prevention services and marketing of all services through campaigns, outreach, radio and other platforms.

PROGRAMME 5: DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

This programme is aimed at the development and research in the province. It has the following sub-programmes:

- Professional and administrative support;
- Youth development;
- Sustainable Livelihood;
- Institutional capacity building;
- Research and demography;
- Population capacity development and advocacy.

There were 17 planned targets only 10 were achieved, that is 59% achievement for the quarter.

Development and Research	Adjusted budget R' 000	Actual Expenditure R' 000	Total %
Total (s)	165 120	169 830	103%

Poor Performance

The committee requested the department to provide reasons which led to the immense regression in achievement of targets in the programme. The department reported that some of the targets not reached in the 4th quarter were already reached in the previous quarters due to demand. The under achievement on Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) targets had various contributory factors including:

- Delays in submission of the documentation for capturing on the EPWP system;
- Officials have been delegated to support each NPO;
- Some of the job opportunities created did not meet the EPWP remuneration guidelines, therefore, the system rejected the job opportunities created. The targets have since been reviewed for 2018/19;
- The youth linked to work opportunities in centres could not be reported as they were found to be over age at the time of reporting, hence the guideline has been revised in this regard to address the challenge in future;
- Underachievement of people accessing food is as result of inconsistency in attendance of beneficiaries in the centres.

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

The committee requested for progress report with regard to the timeous submission of EPWP forms for capturing, as this target was not met in the previous two quarters. The department reported that officials have been delegated to support each NPO to quality check the information before submission for capturing. Furthermore, workshops were held in all the districts to clarify the basic requirements and documentation for reporting. The department also reported that the EPWP item is now a standing item in the District management meetings to reflect on the district progress and challenges for corrective measures timeously. Departmental EPWP forum was also established (all registered programmes) to discuss EPWP developments and strategic matters.

Community mobilization

The committee enquired on the reasons which led to the 61% over spending on the sub-programme; Community mobilization. The department reported that overspending on this sub-programme was due to increased demands for more dialogues and campaigns in

communities. The department through Community Mobilisation Programme reportedly conducted and empowered communities through community campaigns and social dialogues on escalating social ills that affect communities; e.g. substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, poverty, women development, violence against women and children, etc. The department also reported that Community Based Planning sessions are also held as follow ups where communities indicate the need for support.

6. COMMITTEE FINDINGS

After the deliberations on the 4th quarterly report of the Department of Social Development for the 2017/18 financial year, the Committee found that:

- a) The moratorium on the filling of posts has a negative impact on service delivery and expenditure;
- b) The department is not doing well in terms of infrastructure development – poor monitoring and evaluation and also poor work relations with the implementing agent, Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport;

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the Committee recommended that the Department must implement the following and **submit a detailed progress report by 31 August 2018:**

- a) Establish and make the submission on the number and levels of critical vacant posts, outlining the significance of them being filled and also provide a detailed progress report if any in this regard by 31 August 2018;

- b) Strengthen measures put in place for monitoring and evaluation, strengthen the work relations with the implementing agent and also provide a detail progress report on all infrastructure development projects;

Lastly, the Chairperson requests that the House adopts the report with its recommendations and request the Department to submit the progress report on 31 August 2018.

8. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson would like to thank the MEC, the Acting HOD and the officials of the Department of Social Development for availing themselves for the deliberations on the 4th quarterly report of the Department.

The Chairperson would further like to thank Members of the Committee for their active participation and contribution during the deliberations of the 4th quarterly report of the Department and the Legislature staff for their support and contribution towards the production of this report.



HON DP MANANA

CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

01/08/18

DATE