

## **Business Day**

### **Delays in state funding putting orphans at risk**

DENISE WILLIAMS | 01 October, 2013 00:17

**Delays in the provision of funding to non-profit organisations by the Department of Social Development were putting children at risk, said Bongani Khumalo, acting chairman of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, in a report released yesterday.**

Khumalo said NPOs were facing severe financial pressure because of the increase in the demand for child welfare services and delays in payments by the government.

"If [the delay in money transfers to NPOs] is happening it means that somebody somewhere is not getting the services that they are supposed to be getting; so yes, we could say that the children are suffering," Khumalo said.

Despite a 10.4% increase in funding for child welfare - from R1.6-billion in 2009-2010 to R2-billion in 2011-2012 - R227-million of this money has not been spent.

According to the auditor-general's findings for 2010-2011, some NPOs were unable to account for funds received and some used the funds inappropriately.

Khumalo said that funding varied substantially across the provinces and that this must end.

Northern Cape spent R412 a child on welfare services in 2011-2012, compared with R81 a child in KwaZulu-Natal.

Khumalo said that, of South Africa's 18million children (2011), 900 000 were orphans for whom the state had an obligation to provide services.

KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Gauteng had the highest number of children and the highest number of orphans.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2013/10/01/delays-in-state-funding-putting-orphans-at-risk>