



# **Presentation to Financial and Fiscal Commission on Child Welfare Services**

**9 April 2013**

**Presented by :Mr Mooketsi**

Building a Caring Society. Together.



**social development**

Department:  
Social Development  
**NORTHERN CAPE**

# Layout

- Introduction
- Implementation of Children's Act
- Implementation of the Child Justice Act
- Substance Abuse Services
- Care and Support Services to Families / VEP.
- Conclusion



# Introduction

- The Northern Cape is the largest Province in the country and it is sparsely populated
- The population of the Northern Cape is 1 ,147 600
- The Northern Cape has a very young population
- The Province has high levels of poverty pockets and these are exacerbated by the closure of some of the mines and the slowing down of agricultural activities.
- There is also a lack of progressive NGO's to render specialized child welfare services in rural areas.
- The Department is also experiencing high turnover of social service professionals in our rural areas.
- All of the above has serious implication for the rendering and sustenance of child welfare services in the Province



# Implementation of the Children`s Act

CHALLENGES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
High turnover and vacancy rate of Social Workers in the NGO Sector rendering statutory services due to poor remuneration.	100% Funding to organizations rendering Statutory services
Shortage of Social Workers both in the department and the NGO`s sector poses a great challenge in the implementation of the Children`s Act and Child Welfare Services in general.	It is proposed that the compensation budget and the transfer budget for the Northern Cape be increased significantly to accommodate the ratio of 1: 3000 of the population, and appointment o additional social auxiliary workers with sufficient funds for office space, vehicles etc.
The transformation of Children`s homes and Shelters to meet the norms and standards of Youth Care Centres.	Costing of norms and standards for youth centres to ensure adequate funding for the implementation of therapeutic programmes in our all our youth centre in the province.
Staff shortages impacts negatively on the rendering of prevention and early intervention and statutory services (Foster Care)	Improve funding model to NGO`s for e.g. programme funding as against post funding to ensure sustainability of child welfare services rendered by NGO`s to children.
Lack of a Child and Youth Care Centre for the placement and treatment of children with behavioral problems. (There is currently only 1 Place of Safety and 7 Children`s Homes in the province)	Provision of funding for the establishment of a Child and Youth Care Centre in the province for children with behavioral problems.



# Implementation of the Children`s Act

CHALLENGES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
<p>Current funding for the provision of Social Infrastructures for ECD Centres by Local Government – Municipalities is non existent (dilapidated ECD Facilities which cannot be registered)</p>	<p>Follow model of Department of Health and Education where ring-fenced funding is provided for social infrastructure for the Department</p>
<p>Inability of ECD Management Committees to pay ECD Practitioners a decent salary due to poverty and unemployment levels.</p>	<p>Increased funding to pay competitive salaries to ECD Practitioners with necessary qualification. .</p>
<p>Lack of capacity of management committees especially with regard to governance and financial management.</p>	<p>Implementation of a sustainable training, capacity building, monitoring and support programme for management committees.</p>
<p>The high cost of transport and accommodation for training of ECD Practitioners.</p>	<p>Sufficient funding to cover the logistics for training.</p>



# Implementation of Child Justice Act

CHALLENGES	PROPOSED SOLUTION
Lack of specialized NGO`s in the districts which impacts negatively on the rendering of prevention and statutory services. (the closure of NICRO Offices in the province)	Increase funding to specialized NGO`s to attract social workers to render specialized crime prevention, diversion and treatment services to children / youth in the in the districts
Shortage of Probation Officers and Assistant Probation officers to render prevention and treatment programmes	Increase compensation budget of the department for the appointment of additional Probation and Assistant Probation Officers to render prevention and treatment programmes to children/youth in the districts including Home Supervision



# Substance Abuse

Challenges	Proposed Solutions
Lack of Rehabilitation Centre to address the challenge of substance abuse by children / youth in the province.	Adequately fund the province for the establishment of a Government Rehabilitation Centre for both children/youth including adults.
Lack of specialized NGO`s in all districts. (SANCA) to render substance abuse prevention programmes to children and youth	Increase transfer budget to enable SANCA to expand services to all districts.



# Care and Support Services to Families / VEP

CHALLENGES	PROPOSED SOLUTION
High turnover of social workers in the child and family care sector (FAMSA)	Increase transfer budget to the Sub Programme Care And Support Services To Families. To recruit social workers to the sector to ensure implementation of reunification programmes and care and support to children.
Lack of shelters for gender based violence in rural areas with special reference to the girl child.	Increase transfer budget for the establishment of additional shelters in our rural areas where high incidences have been reported e.g. Kakamas
Lack of funding to roll out the Court Support Programme to all magisterial districts.	Increase transfer budget to make provision for the roll out for the Court Support Programme to Siyanda and Namakwa District to increase conviction rate for gender based violence.





# Conclusion

- The implementation of both the Children's Act and the Child Justice Act is going to have serious implications for the Province unless these Acts are adequately resourced to ensure sustainability of child welfare services.



# THANK YOU



**social development**

Department:  
Social Development  
**NORTHERN CAPE**