



GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Member of the Executive Council (MEC)

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT

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RESPONSES TO QUESTION POSED BY GAUTENG LEGISLATURE

**Follow-up Questions on the
Department's Annual Report for
2022/23 Financial
Year**

The shifting of monies from programme to programme is also a concern to the Committee.

Response

Shifting of funds between programmes is done in line with section 43 of the PFMA which states that “department may utilise a saving in the amount appropriated under a main division within a vote towards the defrayment of excess expenditure under another main division within the same vote, unless the relevant treasury directs otherwise”.

The process of shifting funds is done in the adjustment budget and year end which is aligned to budget process in the public sector.

Under programme one, how come is the spending 100% expenditure whilst all the NPO’s were not paid.

Response

There are no NPOs funded under programme one.

Under expenditure of 88.1 million under children and families is a concern to the Committee.

Response

- The underspending of 88.1 million was for the 2021/22 financial year not for 2022/23 financial year. The underspending in 2021/22 financial year was affected by compensation of employees due to additional allocation received in the adjustment budget period to appoint unemployed Social Workers on a four-month contract was not spent in full. Funds allocated for ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Fund were not also not spent in full as anticipated due to rejections caused by unverified bank accounts, ECD centres registered as companies, partnerships, and other forms of businesses other than Non-Profit Institutions.

- In the 2022/23 financial year, Children and families underspent by 16.3 million which was mainly contributed by vacant posts not being filled by the end of the financial year as reported in the Annual Financial Report.

The Committee should find a way in dealing with the department's underspending.

Response

The Department is fast tracking the tender process for key goods and services items to ensure underspending is reduced and service is rendered to ensure that expenditure is incurred,

Is there more development of the Rearabilwe Centre in Garankuwa?

Response

No. According to Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP) of the department, there are no future plans for new development at Garankuwa Rearabilwe Centre until the issue of Township establishment is resolved.

The department should explain, what is the community nutrition centre?

Response

- Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDCs) were initially facilitated by NDSD, developing the Household Food and Nutrition Programme based on various policies and documents, including the South African Constitution, the Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS), the Household Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, and the National Development Plan Vision 2030.
- CNDCs are located within the Development Centres, equipped with a fully compliant kitchen to ensure the provision of warm and nutritious food to the poor and vulnerable, addressing immediate needs of hunger and food insecurity. Program aspects involve profiling of beneficiaries, provision of warm meals with an intention to link them to empowerment/economic programmes, such as referrals to jobs, learnerships, training and skills development, food production initiatives, and connecting them with other development opportunities.

- The implementation at the GDSD CNDCs aligns with the broader program implementation framework aimed at achieving the government's objective of ensuring that poor and hungry households and individuals have access to food.
- Currently, the Department has funded 27 CNDCs and 5 Mobile CNDCs across the province. Mobile CNDCs are utilized to reach informal settlements with poor infrastructure and for disaster responses in cases where people are displaced. GDSD has a total of 32 CNDCs

The department need to inform the Committee on why two probity auditors' companies were appointed and how much are they being paid?

Response

Probity auditors are appointed as part of the open tender process for various tenders that the Department is implementing. The Department spent R 2,448,058.00 on probity auditors for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Which of the NPO's sectors were decreased to allocate for substance abuse sector.

Response

Additional funds allocated to substance abuse programme were mainly sourced from Goods & Services.

Committee is concerned with R1 Billion-rand unauthorized expenditure.

Response

As per Note 1.3 of part A of the annual report on page 174 the Department did not disclose any unauthorised expenditure.

The department is struggling with the attraction and retention of clinical psychologists, nurses, social workers, and other scarce skills. Can you explain this is so.

Responses

In terms of attracting and retaining Clinical Psychologist:

Various reasons exist for not attracting large numbers of applicants and/or retaining them:

- The salary structure and grading offered in the public sector is not as lucrative as those in private practice.
- Applicants prefer to work for the Department of Health as there are more areas of service in the field and more specialization opportunities.

In terms of the Nursing Category:

We do not struggle to attract nursing applicants; we just have a high turnover due to competition with the Department of Health.

In terms of Social Work:

The Department is not struggling with this category of posts.

How far is the department with buying beds from the private in-patient centers.

Response

The department is in discussions with several service delivery partners to ensure the expansion of the bed capacity for the inpatient treatment of substance use disorders.

Negotiations are underway with the following facilities:

- Clinix Health Group of hospitals for inpatient and halfway house beds.
- SANDF facilities for inpatient and character-building programmes.
- Life Nkanyisa Recovery Centre for inpatient services

As soon as the agreements are reached with regards to the funding and the central supplier data bases are updated the service level agreements will be signed between the department and the private centres.

The department should provide the committee with progress regarding the work of the Probity Auditors.

Response

Please see attached **Annexure A** detailing the progress of probity auditors for all Departmental open tenders.

Yours sincerely


Ms Mbali Hlophe (MPL)

MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MEC)

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DATE: