



Report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on its activities undertaken during the 5th Parliament (May 2014 – March 2019)

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide an account of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development's work during the 5th Parliament. It is also to inform the Members of the new Parliament of key outstanding issues pertaining to the oversight and legislative programme of the Department of Social Development and its entities.

This report provides an overview of the activities the Committee undertook during the 5th Parliament, the outcome of key activities, as well as any challenges that emerged during the period under review and issues that should be considered for follow up during the 6th Parliament. It summarises the key issues for follow-up and concludes with recommendations to strengthen operational and procedural processes to enhance the committee's oversight and legislative roles in future.

2. Executive summary

The report is structured into two parts. The narrative part which covers content aspects and the tabulated part. The latter deals with the activities the Committee undertook – oversight visits, number of meetings held, statutory obligations referred to it and petitions it dealt with. The content aspects relate to the government priorities that had implications to the social development sector. These priorities were identified in the National Development Plan, the 2014 – 2019 Medium Term Strategic Framework, National Government Priority Outcomes and State of the Nation Addresses. The identified priorities that the Committee focused on were:

- food security,
- Early Childhood Development (ECD),
- gender based violence, violence against children and older persons,
- child protection,
- substance abuse,
- financial and non-financial support to NPOs,
- youth employment, particularly through social work profession.

The other focus areas were issues pertaining to the organogram of the department and SASSA and institutionalisation of the social grant payment system by SASSA.

The report also includes recommendations made by the Committee during its oversight visits and committee meetings. Most importantly, the report also lists focus areas for the 6th Parliament. These will form part of the Five Year Strategic of the incoming Committee.

3. Functions of committee:

Parliamentary committees are mandated to:

- Monitor the financial and non-financial performance of government departments and their entities to ensure that national objectives are met.
- Process and pass legislation.
- Facilitate public participation in Parliament relating to issues of oversight and legislation.

4. Method of work of the committee

For the 2014 – 2019 medium term, the Committee's oversight focused on the department and its entities performance with regard to the implementation of the priorities set in the National Development Plan and in the Medium Term Strategic Framework. The Committee conducted also oversight over the department and its entities' performance in implementing the priorities of the State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Regular Portfolio activities were planned to focus oversight on the work and functions of the department and its entities. The programmed committee activities related mainly to budgets, strategic plans, annual performance plans and annual reports. These were complemented by meetings, oversight visits and study tours that provided additional information for inclusion in the BRRR. The Committee also received briefings from the Auditor-General and Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC).

The Portfolio processed legislation derived from the department and a private member's bill. The Committee called for submissions from experts, the public and public hearings to complement the process.

The Committee held joint committee meetings with the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education and Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA).

5. Key highlights

4.1 Reflection on committee programme on whether the objectives of such programmes were achieved

In the beginning of the Fifth Parliament the Committee focused on the expansion of the department's mandate to include Children and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities functions. It focused on the budget implications, Five Year Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plans. This was critical because these were previously budgeted for under a different Vote, Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities.

During the last three years of the term (2016 - 2018), the Committee focused its oversight over SASSA's implementation of the Constitutional Court's judgements. The first judgement was made in 2014. It found that the contract between SASSA and Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) was unconstitutional. It ruled that SASSA had to implement remedial actions to rectify the invalidity. The second judgement was made in 2017, after SASSA had failed to implement the deliverables it had set itself as remedial actions. The court extended SASSA's contract with Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) for a period of 12 months. The Committee conducted stringent oversight over SASSA to make sure that it implements all the court's pronouncements as it went through a transition phase from CPS social grant payment system to a new system. The system involved a hybrid payment through SAPO, commercial banks and retailers.

The Committee also conducted oversight over the NDA's transition to a new Business Model which aimed at expanding the agency's footprint and support to CSOs.

The Committee also focused on overseeing how the Department's activities were contributing to the fulfilment of the National Government Priority Outcomes, namely:

- Outcome 1, sub-outcome 3 – Improved Early Childhood Development
- Outcome 3, sub-outcome 1 – all people in SA are and feel safe
- Outcome 4, sub-outcome 8 – promoting job creation
- Outcome 7, sub-outcome 3 - ensuring vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities to attain food security for all,
- Outcome 13: - Social protection

The Committee also held specific extensive briefings on topical issues that are in the ambit of the Department of Social Development. These were gender based violence, violence against children and substance abuse. Some of the issues and programmes were also dealt with through the reporting processes on quarterly performance and briefings on budgets and annual reports.

The Committee achieved its target of holding briefings on Strategic Plans, Budgets and Annual Reports of the department and its entities on an annual basis. Furthermore, the Committee managed to hold briefings with the department on its quarterly performance and expenditure. The key areas the Committee focused on are outlined under section 4.3 below.

4.2 Committee's focus areas during the 5th Parliament

The annual programmes of the committee aimed to achieve the focus areas of the committee set in its Five Year Strategic Plan. The committee aligned these areas to the MTEF and the National Development Plan priorities as they relate to the social development sector.

National Development Plan (NDP)

These are the priorities of the NDP that the Committee focused on:

- Establishment of a social floor which outlines an acceptable or decent standard of living,
- Bringing the informal sector into the mandatory contributory scheme,
- Expanding social welfare system,
- Reviewing funding to not-for-profit organisations,
- Training more welfare professionals and community workers,
- Expanding public employment programmes,
- Promoting opportunities for youth employment.
- Use of social audits to enhance accountability in the welfare system, and
- The integration of all databases of people who receive different forms of social security services.

Social development MTEF priorities are as follows:

- Increasing access to social assistance.
- Investing in and increasing access to effective early childhood development services.

- Reforming and standardising the social welfare system.
- Expanding social development services.
- Improving household access to food and nutrition.
- Strengthening community participation in service delivery.

The committee identified these focus areas:

- Food security,
- Early Childhood Development (ECD),
- Gender based violence, violence against children and older persons,
- Social security reforms,
- Services to children,
- Financial and non-financial support to NPOs and
- Youth employment, particularly through social work profession.

The Committee also identified strengthening its oversight over SASSA and the NDA as its focus area. With regard to SASSA it aimed to focus on the following areas:

- Conduct oversight on the progress made in the re-organisation and automation of SASSA business systems
- Briefing on the outcome of the task team investigating unauthorized deductions from social grants
- Conduct oversight progress made in the upgrading of open space pay points into fixed structures
- Process reforms in the social assistance programme – universalization of the Old Age Pension and alignment of the Child Support Grant and Foster Care Grant

Pertaining to the NDA, the Committee identified the following as focus areas:

- Oversight on the re-organisation and repositioning of the NDA in response to the priorities of the National Development Plan (NDP).
- Oversight on the impact of the changes in the mandate of the NDA in its service delivery in line with the NDP and its functioning.

4.3 Highlights of Committee's work

- **Food security**

The Committee conducted oversight under this focus area within the policy priorities set in the national Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (IFSNP). It focused mainly in the implementation of the Provincial Distribution Centres and Community Nutrition Distribution Centres (CNDCs). It considered this focus area mainly when it considered the annual reports of the department and the NDA. It also visited the NDA funded food security projects during its oversight visit in KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape and Free State. It also visited Provincial Distribution Centres and Community Nutrition Distribution Centres (CNDCs) both in KwaZulu-Natal and Free State. The Committee also visited food security cooperatives. It also met with Department of Social Development and Provincial Food and Nutrition Implementing Agencies from all provinces.

The following are the areas that the Committee identified as needing to be addressed by the department and the NDA:

- **Linking food security projects and cooperatives as suppliers to DSD programmes:** The Committee found that there was no link between food security projects funded by the NDA and food security cooperatives with department's facilities. The department run children's homes, child and youth care centres, old age homes, old age service centres, substance abuse centres and CNDCs. All these programmes need to be supplied with food products, either raw or pre-cooked. The Committee therefore recommended that NDA funded projects and cooperatives should be suppliers of food products to the department's facilities. In that way there would be value for money for the department.

During the Committee's engagement with the Implementing Agencies, the Agencies strongly recommended for the incorporation of developmental programmes in the CNDCs. A budget for these programmes should be made available. The CNDCs should also have exit strategies for their beneficiaries to ensure self-sustenance. The Committee recommended that the Department of Social Development must make sure that the recommendations of the Implementing Agencies are implemented.

- **Operation of CNDCs:** The Committee found that these centres were not efficiently run. They were not well stocked. There was a lack of collaboration and coordination between these centres and food security cooperatives. NDA food security projects were not also linked to these centres. It concluded that the business model of these centres did not

promote integrated service delivery. Their operational model was also not efficiently implemented. It was because of these inefficiencies that these centres had not had desired impact of ensuring food security.

- **The department's food security programmes do not support community development:** The Committee strongly felt that the programme moved away from promoting community development. Instead of assisting communities to produce their own food through food gardens, this programme focuses more on promoting access to food (food parcels and cooked meals). This is done through CNDCs and Old Age Service Centres. This perpetuates the culture of dependency and that goes against the true principle of food security.
- **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**

The Committee conducted oversight in the form of briefings and visiting ECD centres during its provincial oversight visits. The Committee also held a joint meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education. The two committees were briefed on the implementation of the ECD programmes. The following are the areas that it identified that need to be addressed to ensure efficient and improved delivery of ECD services:

- **ECD infrastructure and resources (payment of subsidy)** – there is still a big disparity between rural and urban ECD centres wherein urban ECD centres have better infrastructure and resources compared to those in rural areas. There is also a serious lack of infrastructure for children living with disabilities and this negatively impacts in their inclusion or enrolment. The White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (WPRPD) identifies enrolment of children with disabilities in ECD programmes and provision of assistive devices as some of the indicators measuring progress in mainstreaming disability.

Also, the payment of subsidies is erratic. The payment is not done on time and in some instances months go by without payment. This affects payment of practitioners as well as availability of meals for the children. There are also persistent disparities in the value of subsidies across provinces, with KwaZulu-Natal province, for instance, paying the highest subsidy (R16 per day per child).

The proper expenditure of the ECD Grant would also need to be closely monitored to ensure that the above mentioned issues are addressed. Over 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020 period, total amounts of **R490 million, R518 million and R552 million** respectively will be allocated. The Department reported that it is

anticipating to subsidize **113 448** children over the medium term period. Oversight will also need to be conducted over the implementation of the ECD infrastructure plan (to be finalized during 2017/18 financial year). This plan aims to quantify investment required to improve access to ECD services. As part of the ECD conditional grant, the Department has allocated R250.6 million over the medium term to upgrade an estimated 1 165 conditionally registered ECD centres to allow them to comply with the minimum norms and standards set out in the Children's Act (2005). Oversight will also have to be conducted over the work to consolidate fragmented funding sources from different departments for the purpose of ring-fencing it.

- **Ratio of staff versus number of children:** There is no policy provision on the ration of staff versus number of children, including children with disabilities. During its engagements with the committee on 2 November 2016, the Department of Social Development (DSD) admitted that this issue had not been finalized and it committed to include it in its discussions with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and National Treasury (NT).

- **Training of ECD practitioners and career path** – The responsibility of training, awarding qualifications and provision of conditions of employment of ECD practitioners still needs to be clarified between DSD and the DBE. This also includes creation of a career path and academic development for ECD practitioners. DSD told the committee that it submitted a proposal for funding to NT for improving conditions of employment and academic development until PHD level. It is important for the committee to get report back on the status of the request.

The aforementioned issues are cross-cutting between DSD, DBE and local government (SALGA). It should therefore be a strategic focus for the committee to engage them on their role in the implementation of the National Integrated ECD Policy and progress made to address them, in the next term (6th Parliament).

- **Gender based violence, violence against children and older persons**

The Committee conducted oversight visit to Eastern Cape. The main objective of the oversight visit was to focus on the issues pertaining to gender based violence and violence against children in the province. Specifically, the focus of the

oversight was on the violence and murder of women, especially older women, forced marriages and abuse of children in Eastern Cape. This was because the Eastern Cape had at the time experienced an increase in cases of forced marriages (ukuthwala), murder of older women and abuse of children. The Committee engaged with the provincial department, OR Tambo District Municipality, religious leaders, the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders and District House of Traditional Leaders. It also interacted with ward councillors, community development workers and SAPS cluster manager.

The Committee found that a number of factors were behind the increase of older women. These included, older women accused of practicing witchcraft, belief that newly circumcised men have to prove their manhood by sleeping with older women, neglect of older women by their families, abuse of alcohol and drugs and Collapse of community policing, which made communities vulnerable to crime and violence. Based on these findings the Committee recommended that the provincial department develops a turnaround strategy that would address gender based violence in the province. It also recommended that the department strengthens its implementation of the Drug Master Plan through provincial forums and Local Action Committees.

Violence, rape and murder of children

The Committee invited the Medical Research Council to brief it on its report entitled 'Violence in Children and its Consequences in South Africa'. The main issue that the Committee identified as a serious concern was that South Africa did not have a national survey on child homicide. It was therefore not possible to provide a provincial statistical breakdown of child homicide. The country does not have a national database on substance abuse which would indicate the national prevalence of substance abuse in the country. The Committee expressed a serious concern that South Africa does not conduct these surveys. It strongly felt that these surveys are assessment tools and provide good evidence for policy interventions.

The Committee organised a special briefing from the South African Human Rights Commission and the Gender Equality Commission. The briefing was also attended by Members of the Executive Councils responsible for Social Development in the provincial legislatures as well as the Heads of Department of the provincial Departments of Social Development. The following issues were raised as challenges:

- Shortage of social workers. The magnitude of these social ills outweigh the availability of social workers.
- Needs of children with disabilities not recognized.

- Poor record-keeping prohibits evidence-based planning
- Need to strengthen families and mobilise communities to protect children.
- Children's Courts are under-resourced to deal with the scope of the problem.
- Need for effective coordination of community workers from the Departments of Health, Social Development and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
- Forced marriages of young girls.

- **Child protection**

The Committee considered and passed the Children's Second Amendment Bill [B14 of 2015]. The Bill sought to extend the definition of a social worker to include state social workers. It also provided for state social workers to perform adoption processes. Over and above the amendments of the Bill, which the Committee supported, it expressed serious concern over the exorbitant fees charged for adoption processes. These are especially charged in the private sector. The Committee felt that the charging of the adoption fees needs to be regulated, if not scrapped. It questioned the rationale of the charges when adoption forms part of child protection services. Other child protection services, such as foster care, are not charged.

The Committee also cautioned the Department that while it seeks to address the issue of the department's social workers performing adoption services, it had to take into account that it still has a shortage of social workers. That is one of the challenges over the implementation of the Children's Act. To be fully implemented the Act requires 66 000 social workers. The department falls far short of this number.

- **Substance abuse**

The Committee continuously raised its concern that the scourge of substance abuse and alcohol is behind the increase and the violence nature social ills in South Africa. However, despite this fact, substance abuse treatment centres are not accessible due to high costs or some provinces do not have them. Those provinces that have them, they are located in urban areas. It also raised a concern that some provinces did not have substance abuse treatment centres. Subsequently, National Treasury approved a Substance Abuse Conditional Grant to fund construction of five (5) substance abuse treatment centres. Two (2) treatment centres in North West, one (1) in Free State, one (1) in Limpopo and two (2) in Northern Cape.

The Committee expressed concerns over the delays in the completion of the Free State Substance Abuse Treatment Centre and challenges thereof. It agreed to invite the National Treasury, the Department of Public Works, and Head of Department of the Free State Department of Social Development to provide clarity on this matter. Meeting was scheduled for 13 March 2019. The report from Free State MEC for Social Development and National Treasury was postponed to a later date.

The Committee also raised serious concerns that the National Drug Master Plan was not adequately implemented in most of the provinces. Local Drug Action Committees were not functional or well supported. Of most concern to the Committee was that the Central Drug Authority (CDA) only has advisory powers. It is merely a sub-directorate of the Department and so it does not have a budget appropriated to it. It does not have authority to take action over the implementation of the NDMP and on any other substance abuse related matters, such timely reporting by government departments. Both in the previous term (2009 – 2014) and current term (2014 -2019) the annual report the CDA had not submitted its annual report on time (before end September). This was due to government departments not submitting their reports to the CDA on time. The Committee recommended that the Prevention of and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act be amended to restructure governance of the CDA. It should make the CDA an entity and give it powers to act as such. This would give CDA authority to ensure that stakeholders submit their reports timely and cooperate with it.

This recommendation was however not implemented. During the presentation of the CDA 2016/2017 Annual Report on 06 March 2019 (two financial years later), the Committee expressed serious concern that its recommendation was not implemented. The Committee unanimously agreed not to proceed with the consideration of the 2016/2017 Annual Report until such time that its recommendation is implemented by the Department of Social Development. The Committee pointed out that the recommendation was approved by the National Assembly so it had to be implemented.

- **Financial and non-financial support to NPOs**

NGOs play an integral part in delivering statutory services of the Department of Social Development. Therefore, a functional partnership between the Department and NGOs is very important. However, this partnership has in some instances been undermined by issues of funding, working relationship, perceived lack of support from the department, non-compliance by some NPOs with the NPO Act and lack of capacity in the NPO sector. These were the issues that the Committee focused its oversight on. It continuously raised them with the department and recommended that they should be addressed. They however remain not fully resolved even though the Department reported in its 2017/2018 annual report that it revitalized an interdepartmental forum, which coordinates all government departments to discuss

issues relating to NPOs governance. The department also developed a DSD-NPO Partnership Model for state-civil society, NPOs and relevant stakeholders in order to build, strengthen and maintain partnerships with NPOs. It also intends to amend the Nonprofit Organisations Act.

- **Youth employment, particularly through social work profession**

The social development sector creates youth employment opportunities through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) through care giving services and Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP). It also does it through Child and Youth Care Workers, Isibindi Model, social work scholarship programme, youth clubs, Community Development Practitioners (CDPs), National Development Agency (NDA) funded income generation and food security projects and through linking of Child Support Grant (CSG) beneficiaries to economic opportunities.

The Committee's oversight particularly focused on the shortage of social workers. It was concerned over the low absorption of social work graduate by the department, particularly provincial departments. This resulted in the announcement by National Treasury of a new conditional grant to support the employment of social work graduates from the social scholarship programme. For the medium term period (2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020) a total amount of R591 269 million was allocated.

Despite, the implementation of this conditional grant, as of February 2019, there were 3 969 social work graduates who were unemployed. This number excluded social work graduates who were privately funded. The department had awarded 10 929 social work scholarships since 2007. A total of 7 478 social work graduates were employed by the department.

The Committee also raised concerns over the lack of career pathing and professionalization of Child and Youth Care Workers. This issue remains unresolved. It also noted with serious concern that the budget of the department was cut to R500 million over three (3) years. This impacted on the employment of social workers. It resolved to invite National Treasury to come and give clarity on the matter. National Treasury was then invited to meeting of 13 March 2019. National Treasury requested to give a more comprehensive report at a later date as the invite was a short notice.

The Department of Social Development submitted a written explanation to the Committee. In it, it had requested National Treasury to approve a reallocation of the Social Work Scholarship Programme as part of 2019/2020 financial year. The plan was that the Social Scholarship programme will be phased out in 2021. Since the 2018/19 financial year, no new intakes were awarded Social Work scholarships through this programme. The request was to reallocate this earmarked funding to appoint additional unabsorbed social work graduates. A cost estimate scenario was submitted to appoint 410 additional social work graduates with the reallocation request.

National Treasury was not favourable with the reallocation of the earmarked allocation of the Social Worker Scholarship to be further utilised for additional absorption of unemployed social worker graduates. It wanted the department to give guidance on whether the programme will continue or whether the earmarking can be amended.

The Committee raised a concern that social worker graduates funded through social work scholarship but upon graduating decide to work not for the department.

The Committee engaged with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) regarding its funding by the Department of Social Development. The briefing revealed that the sector is faced with a number of challenges. These included funding model of the Council in which the Council is funded as an NPO, need for professionalization of Child and Youth Care Workers, need for a tailor made curriculum for the training of Child and Youth Care Workers, alignment of their remuneration to Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD) and alignment of the sector to universities.

The Committee further expressed a serious concern that the South African Council for Social Service Profession operates from a very small office in Pretoria. Its structural design was not meant for it to be used as an office. It was particularly concerned that this is the only office of the Council and it serves all nine (9) provinces. It only opens from January – March for registration. It is served by an extremely limited staff. All these factors result in extremely long queues. The Committee was seriously concerned that an important Council like this one was not treated with the same status as that accorded to other professional councils.

- **Organogram of the department and SASSA**

The Committee raised a serious concern that the department was functioning on an interim organizational structure with no clear indication that it was approved by the Department of Public Service and Administration. It is operating through the 2015 organogram. Some of the branches and units within the Department were not reflected in the structure. This had implications in the implementation of the APP and obtaining funds from National Treasury to implement it. The Department also a number of acting positions, particularly at senior management level. The South African Security Agency (SASSA) had the same problem. A number of Regional Executive Managers and other senior and middle managers were acting for a number of years. Some dated back to 2014.

- **Office accommodation for the department**

It came to the attention of the Committee that there had been delays in processes to either renew the lease agreement between the Department of Public Works and the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) of the office building occupied by the national Department of Social Development. It was reported to the Committee that different options were proposed. These were to either renew the lease, or the Department of Public Works find another accommodation with a capacity to house the Department as well as its both entities, SASSA and NDA. Other option was for the DSD entering into a temporal accommodation that would include a three, five and a nine years lease options while it was working with National Treasury towards the construction of the DSD campus.

The Committee expressed a serious concern over the cost implications caused by these delays, particularly relating to the costs incurred with the purchasing of the ICT infrastructure (cabling infrastructure). The cabling project had been out on hold resulting in low expenditure for quarter 2 of 2018/2019 financial year.

This issue remained unresolved and the incoming Committee would need to monitor it.

- **Institutionalisation of the social grant payment system**

During the last three years (2016 – 2018) of the term the Committee conducted strict oversight over SASSA's implementation of the Constitutional Court's pronouncements. The court made two judgements in the case between Black Sash vs Minister of Social Development and CEO of SASSA. The Committee received weekly progress reports from SASSA.

Please see details under section 5b below.

4.4 Recommendations

Food security

- The Minister must make sure that the department revises its Household Food and Nutrition Security Programme to ensure that Community Nutrition Distribution Centres (CNDCs) incorporate developmental programmes for their beneficiaries. These centres should also have exit strategies for the beneficiaries to enable them to be self-sufficient. The department should make the budget available for the developmental programmes.
- The Minister must make sure that the department also revise its Household Food and Nutrition Security Programme to make it a requirement that CNDCs are linked to cooperatives.
- The Minister must make sure that the department develops a policy that will make cooperatives and food security projects it funds (also through NDA) are linked to its facilities as suppliers.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

- The Minister must make sure that the department together with the Department of Basic Education and National Treasury finalise policy stipulations regarding the training of ECD practitioners, awarding of qualifications, ratio of staff vs number of children and conditions of employment of ECD practitioners.
- The Minister must also make sure that the department and SALGA formulate a policy that will regulate their partnership with regard to SALGA's role in the provision of ECD infrastructure.

Gender based violence

- The Minister must ensure that provincial departments develop strategies to address the gender based violence and violence against children.
- The Minister must make sure that provincial departments strengthen their implementation of the Drug Master Plan through provincial forums and Local Action Committees.

Violence against children

- The Minister must make sure that the Department of Social Development partners with the research institutions to conduct research on violence against children that will look at indigenous practices on family mobilisation, family interventions and role of communities. The research should also include the role of traditional leaders and religious fraternity.
- The Minister must make sure that the department partners with the research institutions to conduct a national survey on child homicide and gender based violence.

Substance abuse

- The Minister must ensure that the department amends the Prevention of and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act so as to make the CDA a separate entity. This will enable the CDA to have authority to ensure that government departments implement substance abuse programmes and report to it timely. It will also strengthen its coo-rdination function and ensure that the National Drug Master Plan is implemented in all spheres of government.

Employment creation through social service profession

- The Minister must make sure that the department addressing the funding model of the South African Council for Social Service Professions. The funding model should be in line with Section 12(c) of the Social Service Professions Act (No. 110 of 1978). The amendment should also make provisions for the Council to have offices in all nine (9) provinces to make it more accessible.
- The Minister must make sure that the department and the Council should also work together to address issues that resulted in the department withholding funding to the Council.
- The Minister must make sure the department works with the South African Council for Social Service Professions and the Department of Higher Education and Training to address challenges of access to training for Child and Youth Care Workers, professionalization of the sector, curriculum development. The department must also engage National Treasury to source funding for bursary scheme for Child and Youth Care Workers.

- The Minister must make that the department works with the Council to resolve issues that resulted in it withholding its funding to the Council. Equally, the issues of office space, human resources, operation of the Council should be urgently resolved. Funding of the Council should be re –instated urgently.
- The Minister must also ensure that the department deploys Child and Youth Care Workers in other sectors, such as schools, health care facilities and correctional facilities. This will create more employment opportunities for this profession. It will also address the challenge of the shortage of social workers.
- The Minister must also ensure that the department reviews the deployment of the social work competency. This competency should be made national to ensure uniformity in working conditions, absorption and payment of salaries.
- The Minister must ensure that the department in its social work retention strategy include a provision that it compulsory for social workers who were funded through the Social Work Scholarship work for the department for a stipulated period.

4.5 Key areas for future work

Legislation

- Process the Social Assistance Amendment Bill [B8 – 2018] tabled in Parliament on 13 April 2018 and the Children’s Amendment Bill.
- Amendment of the Social Service Professions Act (No. 110 of 1978) to address funding of the South African Council for Social Professions.
- Amendment of the Prevention of and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act so as to make the CDA a separate entity.

Policies

- Implementation of the DSD-NPO Partnership Model for state-civil society, NPOs and relevant stakeholders. Funding of the NPO sector as per the Policy on Financial Award.
- Implementation of the High Level Panel Report recommendations. Follow up on the responses presented by the department to the Committee on 27 February 2019.

Oversight

- Absorption of social work graduates (including social work auxiliary) by provinces through the Social Worker Employment Grant.
- The extent to which youth clubs and CDPs are utilized as sustainable employment opportunities for the youth in all social development programmes.
- Improved roll out of the programme linking CSG beneficiaries to economic opportunities. Despite this programme having been a policy direction of SASSA from the previous term of government it is yet to be made a fully implemented programme.
- Completion of the Free State Substance Abuse Treatment Centre.
- SASSA ultimate institutionalization of the payment of social grant system and the already implemented hybrid payment model with SAPO, commercial banks and retailers.
- NDA's implementation of the Business Model, focusing on the impact on the success of CSOs.

Key areas on the work of the committee

- Roundtable discussion with the department and the NPO sector to discuss all challenges affecting their partnership.
- Roundtable discussion with government departments, NPO sector and research institutions on gender based violence and violence against children.
- Reporting by the department on all the indicators identified in the WPRPD to measure progress and achievement of targets set out in the Implementation Matrix. The report to be guided by the questions contained in the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Periodic Reporting Guidelines.

6. Department/s and Entities falling within the committee's portfolio

a) Department of Social Development: incorporation of Children and Rights of Persons with Disability functions

The Department derives its mandate from several pieces of legislation and policies, including the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) and the Population Policy (1998). The constitutional mandate of the department is to provide sector-wide

national leadership in social development by developing and implementing programmes for the eradication of poverty and social protection and development amongst the poorest of the poor and most vulnerable and marginalized.

The Department's mission is "to ensure the provision of comprehensive social protection services against vulnerability and poverty within the constitutional and legislative framework, and to create an enabling environment for sustainable development". The Department further aims to deliver integrated, sustainable and quality services, in partnership with all those committed to building a caring society.

The vision of the Department is to create a caring and integrated system of social development services that facilitates human development and improves the quality of life.

In the current term the department's mandated was extended to take over Children and Rights of Persons with Disability functions. These were formerly under the mandate of the Department of Women, Children and People with Disability. This department is now called Department of Women in the Presidency.

b) SASSA: transition to in-house payment system

The mandate for South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) is to ensure the provision of comprehensive social security services against vulnerability and poverty within the constitutional and legislative framework. Its objective is to act as a sole agent that will ensure the efficient and effective management, administration and payment of social assistance. Since its inception the payment of social grants was outsourced to private companies. In 2014 the Constitutional Court ruled that its contract with Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) was invalid. It, however, suspended its invalidity pending determination of a just and equitable remedy for the continued operation of payment of social grants until a new payment tender is implemented after the completion of the current tender.

Thereafter SASSA indicated to the court that it would take over the control, administration and management payment by April 2017 when the contract with CPS expires. It submitted to court 7 deliverables with timelines and milestones it was going to implement to take over the social grant payment system. It was further going to pilot its payment system during 2016. SASSA, however failed to implement all the deliverables and meet the deadline.

In March 2017, the court extended the contract with CPS for a period of 12 months from 31 March 2017 on the same terms and conditions. However, the court resumed its supervisory role over SASSA. It made pronouncements which SASSA had to report to it quarterly. These included awarding of a new social grant payment contract.

During 2017 and 2018 SASSA went through a transition phase from old payment system (done through CPS) to a new payment system. The new system focused on a hybrid model which involved payment through SAPO, commercial banks and retail outlets. SASSA also in-sourced the biometric enrolment of social grant beneficiaries from CPS as well as beneficiaries' data. For the first time SASSA is now directly in charge of the social grant payment and enrolment of beneficiaries. The long term goal of SASSA is for it to provide an integrated grant administration and payment process.

Throughout the two years the Committee exercised strict oversight over SASSA to make sure that it delivers and meets all the pronouncements made by the Constitutional Court. The Committee received weekly progress reports throughout 2017 and less frequently in 2018.

c) NDA: new business model

The NDA is a public entity established by the National Development Agency Act, (No. 108 of 1998) as amended, and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Social Development. It is listed under Schedule 3A of the Public Finance Management Act (No. 1 of 1999).

The NDA's primary mandate is to contribute towards the eradication of poverty and its causes by granting funds to civil society organisations (CSOs) to, among others:

- Implement development projects in poor communities, and
- Strengthen the institutional capacity of CSOs that provide services to poor communities.

The NDA's secondary mandate is to:

- Promote consultation, dialogue and sharing of development experience between CSOs and relevant organs of state,
- Debate development policy, and
- Undertake research and publication aimed at providing the basis for development policy.

In 2016, the business model of the NDA was reviewed. The review was brought because it was found that with the old business model the NDA was not well positioned to deliver on its mandate. It was duplicating activities done by other departments. Its institutional structure and ability could not efficiently and effectively contribute to its legislated mandate. It also lacked visibility and was not accessibility to CSOs.

The new business model focused on decentralising the services of the NDA at district level through the formation of advisory centres. This was aimed at increasing community access to the NDA programmes and widen its footprint. It also positioned the NDA as a facilitator of resource mobilisation for CSOs, CSO mobilisation to support each other and CSO development.

7. Key statistics

The table below provides an overview of the number of meetings held, legislation and international agreements processed and the number of oversight trips and study tours undertaken by the committee, as well as any statutory appointments the committee made, during the 5th Parliament:

| Activity | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2019/20 | Total |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Meetings held | 21 | 24 | 22 | 26 | | |
| Legislation processed | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Oversight trips undertaken | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | |
| Study tours undertaken | None | | | | | |
| International agreements processed | None | | | | | |
| Statutory appointments made | None | | | | | |
| Interventions considered | None | | | | | |
| Petitions considered | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

8. Legislation

The following pieces of legislation were referred to the committee and processed during the 5th Parliament:

| Year | Name of Legislation | Tagging | Objectives | Completed/Not Completed |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2014/15 | Children's Amendment Bill [PMB 2 - 2015 | Private members Bill [PMB 2 2015} | <p>Bill seeks to amend the Children's Act, 2005 (No. 38 of 2005) so as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide that a person, other than a child, convicted of any offence against a child in terms of the Sexual Offences Act, 1957 (Act No. 23 of 1957) or the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007), be deemed to be found unsuitable to work with children; ▪ provide that in respect of a child convicted of certain offences against a child, a finding of unsuitability may be made only after representations have been heard and the best interests of the child have been considered; ▪ deem persons convicted of any offence in terms of the Sexual Offences Act, 1957 (Act No. 23 of 1957), the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007) or certain common law offences against a child during the five years preceding the commencement of section 120 of the Children's Act, 2005 unsuitable to work with children unless such person was a child at the time of the commission of the offence; ▪ provide that where a child was convicted of certain offences five years preceding the commencement of section 120, application can be made to a court to make a finding of unsuitability to work with children. | Completed |
| | | | | |

| Year | Name of Legislation | Tagging | Objectives | Completed/Not Completed |
|---------|---|---------|--|-------------------------|
| 2015/16 | Children's Amendment Bill [B13 – 2015] | S76 | To amend the Children's Act, 2005, so as to insert certain definitions; to provide that a person convicted of a sexual offence, or an offence for the possession of child pornography, be deemed unsuitable to work with children; to afford a child offender an opportunity to make representations as to why a finding of unsuitability to work with children should not be made; to provide that the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service must forward to the Director-General all the particulars of persons found unsuitable to work with children; to provide for a child offender to apply in the prescribed manner to have their particulars removed from the Register; to provide for the review of a decision to remove a child without a court order; to extend the circumstances as to when a child is adoptable; to extend the effects of an adoption order by providing that an adoption order does not automatically terminate all parental responsibilities and rights of a parent of a child when an adoption order is granted in favour of the spouse or permanent domestic life-partner of that parent; and to provide for matters connected therewith | Completed |
| | Children's Second Amendment Bill [B14 – 2015] | S76 | The Bill seeks to amend the Children's Act of 2005, so as to insert certain definitions; to provide | Completed |

| Year | Name of Legislation | Tagging | Objectives | Completed/Not Completed |
|---------|---------------------|---------|---|-------------------------|
| | | | <p>that a person convicted of a sexual offence, or an offence for the possession of child pornography, be deemed unsuitable to work with children; to afford a child offender an opportunity to make representations as to why a finding of unsuitability to work with children should not be made; to provide that the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service must forward to the Director-General all the particulars of persons found unsuitable to work with children; to provide for a child offender to apply in the prescribed manner to have their particulars removed from the Register; to provide for the review of a decision to remove a child without a court order; to extend the circumstances as to when a child is adoptable; to extend the effects of an adoption order by providing that an adoption order does not automatically terminate all parental responsibilities and rights of a parent of a child when an adoption order is granted in favour of the spouse or permanent domestic life-partner of that parent; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p> | |
| | | | | |
| 2016/17 | None | | | |
| | | | | |

| Year | Name of Legislation | Tagging | Objectives | Completed/Not Completed |
|---------|--|---------|---|-------------------------|
| 2017/18 | Social Assistance Amendment Bill [B8 - 2018] | S76 | To insert new definitions, to provide for additional payments linked to social grants, to provide for payments of benefits to a child headed household, to provide for social relief of distress in the vent of a disaster, to repeal the internal reconsideration process, to provide for an Independent Tribunal to consider appeals against decisions of the Agency, to provide for the establishment of the Inspectorate as a government component. | Lapsed |
| | | | | |

9. Oversight trips undertaken

The following oversight trips were undertaken:

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------------------|------------------|---|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 24 – 26 Nov 2014 | Limpopo province | To assess and evaluate the impact of the Expanded Works Programme through the Home Community Based Care (HCBC) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes has had in creating employment for women, youth and people with disabilities. To evaluate employment conditions in these | The Minister of the Social Development should make a follow up on the progress made to establish One Stop Centres as a way to improve SASSA infrastructure in rural areas. The Minister should ensure that | | | Adopted |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>programmes - including payment of stipends or salaries, availability of resources, management and governance systems, sustainability of jobs and funding.</p> <p>To assess and evaluate the performance of the youth development programmes in terms of funding, skills development and job creation.</p> <p>(i) Service delivery: To monitor the extent to which the following facilities adhere to the policy and legislative stipulations – residential facilities for older persons, substance abuse treatment centres, children facilities, places of safety and ECD centres.</p> <p>To monitor progress made by the department to implement Victim Empowerment programmes, family preservation</p> | <p>children’s homes comply with the norms and standard as well as policies on disability. This issue should be urgently attended to ensure the safety of the children.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department assists Judy’s Place centre to comply with the norms and standards and registration requirements.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial Department of Social Development assists the Makotse project to acquire a</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|--|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>programmes, services to older persons, anti-substance abuse prevention and treatment programmes, child protection services.</p> <p>To monitor progress made by the provincial development in implementing the Financial Award Policy to NPOs.</p> <p>To assess the work of the NGOs – focusing on compliance to norms and standards, conditions of employment, addressing the needs of the communities, funding and support from the department.</p> <p>(ii) Financial performance:</p> <p>To monitor the financial performance of the provincial department, SASSA and the NDA - looking at budget allocation to programmes and expenditure patterns,</p> | <p>vehicle to deliver its products.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department strengthens its monitoring and evaluation as well as oversight over the residential facilities. This will ensure that the department does not only rely on monthly reports submitted by the facilities but have first-hand assessment of service delivery.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department establishes a structured working relationship with the Provincial</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>compliance to the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), audit outcomes and steps taken to address the audit findings.</p> <p>(iii) Performance of entities:</p> <p>To monitor the performance of SASSA – focusing on conditions at the service and pay points, implementation of Integration Community Outreach Programme (ICROP) in conjunction with Project Mikondzo, infrastructure upgrade of local offices, fraud management and automation of business processes.</p> <p>To monitor the NDA projects in terms of grant funding to income generation and food security projects; capacity building of NPOs and CSOs, value for money, sustainability,</p> | House of Traditional Leaders. | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------------------------|--------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>job creation and marketability of products.</p> <p>(iv) Staffing and remuneration</p> <p>To establish the vacancy rate and staff capacity in the provincial departments, SASSA and NDA.</p> | | | | |
| 15 – 18 September 2015 | Eastern Cape | <p>The main objective of the oversight visit was to focus on the issues pertaining to gender based violence and violence against children in the province. Specifically, the focus of the oversight was on the violence and murder of women, especially older women, forced marriages and abuse of children in Eastern Cape.</p> | <p>The Minister should ensure that the department visits and consults communities on how best it can develop policy interventions that would address their challenges in the manner that would be in line with their community values.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that a turnaround strategy is developed to</p> | | | Adopted |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>address the gender based violence in the Eastern Cape province and in other provinces.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department develops a detailed plan, needs analysis and budgeting for the absorption of social workers.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department strengthens the implementation of the Drug Master Plan through provincial forums and Local Action Committees.</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>The Minister should also ensure that there is proper collaboration between the national department and the provincial departments to make sure that plans and budgets are aligned.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department strengthens its public participation and community consultation by involving traditional leaders, ward councillors and other relevant stakeholders in its programme implementation plans.</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|-------------------|---------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | The Minister should also ensure the provincial department involves traditional leaders in the programmes | | | |
| 20 – 24 July 2015 | Northern Cape | <p>To consider the department's programmes in implementing key legislative frameworks aimed at fighting substance abuse, domestic violence and violence against children.</p> <p>To consider the budget and expenditure patterns of the department in implementing the legislation and programmes on the aforementioned areas, including financial</p> | The Minister should ensure that the provincial department forges working relationship with Provincial House of Traditional Leaders. Traditional leaders are important stakeholders in the implementation of the department's programmes. They are key sources of information regarding challenges and issues faced by | | | Adopted |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|--|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>support to the NPOs in adherence to the Policy of Financial Awards to the NPOs.</p> <p>To assess how the department promotes inter-governmental relations in implementing legislation and programmes.</p> <p>To assess the impact the programmes of the department and its entities have had in the lives of the beneficiaries by conducting site visits to the identified areas.</p> <p>To assess the department's overall financial performance by considering its budget expenditure.</p> <p>To consider the Auditor-General audit outcome and progress made to address matters of</p> | <p>communities that require the department's intervention.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the provincial department as well as other provincial departments strengthen its partnerships with the religious organisations that render social development services. For instance focus on issues of curriculum, programme design and implementation as well as their impact on the beneficiaries.</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | emphasis, if any, raised by the Auditor-General. | <p>The Minister should engage with the Ministers of Home Affairs and Police and develop an integrated approach to address the challenge of undocumented foreign nationals in the rural areas, especially in relation to the issue of parental responsibilities.</p> <p>The Minister should also engage with the Department of Public Enterprise explore possibilities to revitalise the operations of the railway business in Nourdpoot.</p> <p>Transnet operations</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>in Nourpoort before there were closed down were the main source of income generation and employment creation in the Nourpoort.</p> <p>The Minister should engage the Minister of Basic Education to ensure that educational programmes at facilities are accredited.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department orientates social workers on how they can work with the traditional</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>leaders within the parameters of cultural and traditional practices.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department prioritises capacity building of the centre management committees in developing business plans to avoid delays in funding. Capacity building should also include record keeping, reporting and accountability. The issue of the issue of the business plan should be prioritized</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>so that funds can be disbursed on time.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department develops a standardised format for business plans. This will enable all NPOs, both the emerging and well established NPOs, to develop business plans.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial Department of Social Development adopts a strategy that would ensure that functioning and well-resourced facilities assist</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>struggling facilities in areas that need intervention.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the department develops and implement mobile services for the elderly and transform service centres into distribution centres.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department improves in its implementation of the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act especially in relation to treatment</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>and aftercare services.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department strengthens its monitoring and evaluation over the implementation of its programmes as well as the overall running of the centres so as to ensure that these centre comply with the norms and standards.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure the National Development Agency ensures that there is a collaboration between the food</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|--------------------|--------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | security projects it funds and the facilities of the department so that these projects can supply the facilities with their produce. | | | |
| 27 – 31 March 2017 | Free State | <p>To consider the provincial department's progress in implementing key food security programmes, such as the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security and the Households Food and Nutrition Security Strategy.</p> <p>To consider the provincial department's progress in implementing programmes aimed at fighting substance abuse, domestic violence and violence against children.</p> | <p><i>Mafutsanyana Secure Centre</i></p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial Department of Social Development arranges for more security officers to be deployed at the Centre to strengthen the safety of children. Furthermore, the Child and Youth Care Workers should be provided with training skills on how to deal with violent behaviour,</p> | | | Adopted |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|---|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>To consider the budget and expenditure patterns of the department in implementing the legislation and programmes on the aforementioned areas, including financial support to the NPOs in adherence to the Policy of Financial Awards to the NPOs.</p> <p>To conduct oversight on how the department promotes inter-governmental relations in implementing legislation and programmes on the focus areas mentioned above.</p> <p>To conduct oversight over the department's progress in creating jobs for the youth, training, recruitment and retaining social workers</p> | <p>health and safety issues.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the provincial Department of Social Development during its budget allocation includes a budget item for the medication dispensation in the Centre.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the provincial department engages with the provincial Department of Health and appoint a nurse who will provide twenty four hours (24) services in the Centre.</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|--|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>as well as job creation in the sector.</p> <p>To conduct oversight over the work of the regional NDA and the SASSA and what impact it had on the lives of the beneficiaries by conducting site visits to the identified areas.</p> <p>To conduct oversight over the department and its entities' overall financial performance by considering their budget expenditure.</p> <p>To consider the Auditor-General audit outcomes and progress made to address matters of emphasis, if any, raised.</p> | <p>The Minister should further ensure that the provincial department links the community centres such as the CNDCs to learnerships to ensure that care workers are upskilled.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the provincial department assist the Thabo Mafutsanyana Secure Centre to appoint more Child and Youth Care Workers.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the provincial</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>department engages with the Department of Health to provide health care equipment and medical supplies to the centre. The Free State department should also engage with the Department of Basic Education to address delays in the provision of educators and teaching materials.</p> <p>South African Social Security Agency (SASSA)</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that SASSA communication strategy includes raising awareness of beneficiaries on</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>the complex nature of cash loans and illegal deductions for electricity and airtime. This should be done whilst the department is exploring amending the Social Assistance Amendment Act.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the department and SASSA address and put an end to the practice of CPS using SASSA branding as this constitutes fraud and theft. They should also take measures to discourage CPS from opening its</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>offices close to SASSA offices.</p> <p>The Minister of Social Development should ensure that Free State SASSA office make provisions for infrastructure upgrade of SASSA offices, especially the Qwaqwa office.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the Free State SASSA office embarks on an awareness campaign to educate beneficiaries about the difference between SASSA payment cards and green cards, particularly</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>emphasizing that green cards are not SASSA cards.</p> <p>The Provincial House of Traditional Leaders was also urged to educate beneficiaries about the difference between the two cards (green card and SASSA cards) and discourage them from using the green cards.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that national SASSA office puts in place policies that would ensure that social grants beneficiaries develop them themselves or are</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>skilled to become self-sufficient.</p> <p>Parliament should enforce that Net1 and its credit providers are interdicted from using SASSA branding on the green cards.</p> <p>National Development Agency</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the NDA assists the Mospak Cooperative to develop its marketing strategy and market its products across the social development sector. The centre should also be assisted in improving</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|---------------------|---------------|---|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>packaging of its products.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the NDA develops initiatives that would assist government's goal of reviving mining areas.</p> | | | |
| 14 – 18 August 2018 | KwaZulu Natal | <p>To consider the provincial department's progress in implementing key food security programmes, such as the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security and the Households Food and Nutrition Security Strategy.</p> <p>To consider the department's progress in implementing employment</p> | <p>National Development Agency</p> <p>The Minister of Social Development should ensure that the NDA does not limit its fundraising at national level. Fundraising should also be done by provincial offices.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the</p> | | | Adopted |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|---|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>opportunities and community development programmes. Particular focus is on women, youth, people with disabilities and older persons.</p> <p>Conduct oversight visits to ascertain successes, challenges and impact of the aforementioned programmes on the lives of people.</p> <p>To consider the budget and expenditure patterns of the department in implementing the programmes outlined above.</p> <p>To conduct oversight over the work of the regional National Development Agency (NDA) and the South African Social</p> | <p>NDA both at national and provincial level work with traditional leaders.</p> <p>Vuma Youth Academy</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department assist the centre to include in its plans implementation of food production programme for the youth. This will ensure that young people are trained and involved in food production.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the provincial department makes sure that youth</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|--|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>Development Agency (SASSA) and what impact it had on the lives of the beneficiaries by conducting site visits to the identified areas.</p> <p>To conduct oversight over the department and its entities' overall financial performance by considering their budget expenditure.</p> <p>To consider the Auditor-General audit outcomes and progress made to address matters of emphasis, if any, raised.</p> | <p>development programmes promote social cohesion programmes involve older persons. Older persons have knowledge on cultural behavioral practices and other skills. This was supported by a local business man who expressed an interest to work with the centre. The business man was also trained at the centre when it was still run by a local Traditional Council.</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department assist the centre to establishes partnerships with the private sector</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>with the aim of negotiating for placement of students after graduation.</p> <p>The Minster should further ensure that the provincial department assists the centre to strengthen and monitor its aftercare programme. This will ensure that students who graduated from the Academy are able to invest or sharing knowledge to their communities.</p> <p>Makhalima Development Centre</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department urgently addresses the issue of shortage of resources in Makhalima Development Centre. This include the electrification of the hall, procurement of a refrigerator and installation of proper fencing to prevent theft and protect the vegetable garden.</p> <p>The Minister should engage with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to provide the facility with seeds that will be provided to beneficiaries for</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|-----------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <p>gardening. This will encourage food gardening on each household.</p> <p>Umzamowethu Youth Agricultural Project</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that the provincial department expedites the process of putting fencing around the project to avoid theft of materials.</p> <p>The Minister should also ensure that the provincial department negotiates with the Umhlathuze Municipality and employ a security guard for the project.</p> | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|---------------------|--------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| 13 – 14 August 2018 | | <p>Conduct oversight visits to ascertain successes, challenges and impact of the on programmes for women and children on farms, Early Childhood Development, substance abuse and employment programmes on the lives of people.</p> <p>To consider the provincial department's progress in implementing key food security programmes, such as the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security and the Households Food and Nutrition Security Strategy.</p> <p>To consider the department's progress in</p> | | | | |

| Date | Area Visited | Objective | Recommendations | Responses to Recommendations | Follow-up Issues | Status of Report |
|------|--------------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | <p>creating job opportunities since De Doorns is known of high rate of unemployment. What measures are in place to deal with issues of seasonal workers, poverty alleviation and community development programmes. Particular focus is put on women, youth, people with disabilities and older persons.</p> <p>To consider the budget and expenditure patterns of the department in implementing the programmes outlined above.</p> | | | | |

10. Petitions

The following petitions were referred to and considered by the committee:

| Title | Date referred | Current status |
|---|-------------------|----------------|
| A petition submitted by a Member of Parliament (MP) Mr Michael Waters. Mr Waters on behalf of the residents from the East Rand calling for an investigation into reasons for chronic underfunding of its Child Welfare organisations for consideration and reporting. | 17 September 2015 | Completed |

Resolutions

- The Committee would to organize a broader forum where it would engage on the NPO funding across provinces looking at their funding and challenges experienced. It would invite the national and provincial departments as well as NPO representatives to participate in the forum.
- The department should provide the Committee with a copy of policy document on the financial award of NPOs.
- The department should provide the Committee with a list of NPOs it funded in Gauteng province.

11. Obligations conferred on committee by legislation:

2017/ 2018 BRRR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Having deliberated and made observations on the Department and its entities’ annual reports, the Committee recommended the following:

**Department of Social Development
Service delivery**

- The Minister must ensure that the Department revise its projections on the number of Foster Care and Old Age Grants beneficiaries. It must make sure that the budget allocation for these grants is accurately aligned to these projections so

as to prevent under expenditure in Programme 3: Social Assistance. The Department should report to Parliament on how it revised these projections on its progress report on the implementation of this report.

- The Minister must ensure that the Department prioritises the completion of the construction of the Substance Abuse Centre in the Free State. The construction should be completed before the end of the current financial year (2018/2019).
- The Minister must monitor progress and ensure that the Department, as a temporary measure, explores alternative ways to render the needed substance abuse services to the communities. The Department must make sure that this centre is operational. The Department should partner with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) who render these services. This will ensure that the Department does not underspend on operational costs payments.

Expenditure

- The Minister must ensure that the Department strengthens its oversight over SASSA. Focus should be on ensuring that SASSA complies with Supply Chain Management legislation in its administration of the Social Relief of Distress. This will avoid the Department incurring irregular expenditure under this programme. Steps taken by the Department to strengthen its oversight should be reported in the progress report to Parliament on the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.
- The Minister must make sure that the Department only procures goods from suppliers who meet prescribed minimum threshold for local production and content.
- The Minister must ensure that the Department improves under-spending in critical programmes such as Programme 2: Social Assistance. Particular focus should be on spending on Foster Care Grant.
- The Minister must make sure that the Department discontinue the practice of making virements from core programmes to fund non-core activities, such as Subsistence and Travel (S&T) and outreach programmes under Programme 1, sub-programme *Ministry*.

Governance:

- The Minister must make sure that the Department improves its oversight responsibility over its entities. Oversight should focus on ensuring that SASSA and the NDA address the AG's audit findings over the regression in the status of internal controls. Steps taken to improve oversight should be reported to Parliament as part of the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of this report.
- The Minister must ensure that the Department during the 2018/2019 financial year develops and implements consequence management policies to hold those responsible for non-compliance with PFMA and SCM regulations, as found by the AG.

South African Social Security Agency

Governance

- The Minister must ensure that SASSA puts in place mechanisms to improve the status of its internal controls for risk management and leadership controls.
- The Minister must ensure that the Agency strives to meet the requirement to employ at least 2% requirement of people with disabilities within its establishment.

Expenditure

- The Minister must ensure that SASSA puts in place mechanisms that will hold officials accountable for hotel 'no shows' which resulted in fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R419 000. Focus should be on ensuring that this kind of expenditure is totally avoided.
- The Minister must also make sure that SASSA's Supply Chain Management checklist is effectively implemented. It must achieve its desired intention to completely end irregular expenditure due non-compliance to Supply Chain Management policies. Steps taken to ensure that this checklist achieves its purpose should be reported to Parliament as part of progress report over the implementation of the BRRR recommendations.

- The Minister must ensure that the Agency develops mechanisms to improve the collection of debtors as this has the potential to cause problems in the future.

National Development Agency

Governance

- The Minister must ensure that the NDA strengthens the implementation of leadership control as was highlighted as an area of concern by the Auditor General.
- The Minister must ensure that the NDA puts mechanisms in place to address the regression in the internal controls relating to financial and performance management in record keeping, as well as performance reporting and compliance with regulations. These mechanisms should be reported to Parliament as part of the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of this report.
- The Minister must ensure that the NDA improves on its oversight responsibility over the preparation of financial statements, implementation of Human Resource Management, actions plans and policies and procedures.

Expenditure

- The Minister must ensure that the NDA take steps to prevent irregular expenditure by ensuring that officials follow all the bidding processes. The NDA should develop policies and regulations.

12. Summary of outstanding issues relating to the department/entities that the committee has been grappling with

The following key issues are outstanding from the committee’s activities during the 5th Parliament:

| Responsibility | Issue(s) |
|-----------------------|--|
| SASSA | Institutionalisation of the social grant payment system |
| SACSSP | Funding of the Council and challenges facing the social professions sector |
| DSD | White Paper on Social Welfare |

| Responsibility | Issue(s) |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Portfolio Committee, SASSA and DSD | Workshop on social security reforms. Social grant saving schemes |
| Portfolio Committee and DSD | Roundtable discussions on female and child homicides |

13. Other matters referred by the Speaker/Chairperson (including recommendations of the High Level Panel)

The High Level Panel Report was referred to the Committee for consideration. The Committee invited the Department of Social Development to respond to the recommendations made in the report.

| Date of referral | Date of consideration | Issues raised by the Committee | Expected report date | Content of referral | Status of Report |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 06 June 2018 | 27 February 2019 | The Committee was not satisfied with the content of the presentation. It lacked details on interventions put in place to address challenges raised in the report. The presentation only focused on high level | | | |

| Date of referral | Date of consideration | Issues raised by the Committee | Expected report date | Content of referral | Status of Report |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | legislative interventions. Department was requested to revise the presentation and include a column on the interventions and report back to the Committee at a later date. | | | |
| | | | | | |

14. Committee strategic plan

See attached committee's 5 Year Strategic plan

15. Master attendance list

See attached attendance list