



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES BUDGET VOTE (VOTE 18)

SPEECH BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
NKOSI PHATHEKILE HOLOMISA (AH! DILIZINTABA) MP

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CAPE TOWN, 17 JULY 2019

- Honourable House Chairperson,
- Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Advocate Ronald Ozzy Lamola,
- Ministers and Deputy Ministers here present,
- Honourable Chairperson Advocate Bulelani Magwanishe, and Members of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services,
- Honourable Members,
- National Commissioner for Correctional Services, Mr Arthur Fraser, and the Senior Management of DCS,
- Distinguished Guests, especially my wife Nosimanye and my uncles, coming all the way from Ngqungqu, Mqanduli.

Enkosi, maGebe, ngokuza kususith'umhlana, nitsho nibone ukuba sisebenza kanjani kweli Kapa,
➤ Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning!

I stand before you today at a historic time in our beloved country. This July, Mandela Month, is particularly symbolic as it coincides with South Africa's 25 Years of Democracy. Mandela Day, tomorrow (18 July, coincidentally the birthday of the Hegebe clan Crown Prince Jongumsobomvu), calls on us all, every day, to make the world a better place. Through our daily actions we must be inspired by Madiba's belief in a society characterised by justice, dignity and human rights.

The advent of a democratic South Africa introduced a paradigm shift, a new beginning, where prisons became correctional centres of rehabilitation. Offenders are given a second chance, a new hope, and encouragement to adopt the lifestyle of ideal members of society.

Rehabilitation requires a smart, dynamic, responsive and futuristic criminal justice system - Correctional Services being an integral part of the whole. It was President Mandela who said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". It is in that vein that we, as a department, promote comprehensive education programmes , which do not only minimize the negative impact of incarceration, but serve to improve prospects of reintegration, self-esteem and high morale.

As part of reading with meaning, this year marks the 10th anniversary of Funda Mzantsi, a reading festival aimed at encouraging offenders to read and write.

Honourable Members, to achieve a society characterised by justice, one of the focus areas of the Department of Correctional Services is to stamp out corruption within its ranks. During the last financial year (2018/19), the Department conducted 32 disciplinary actions against officials involved in corrupt activities. This resulted in the dismissal of 17 officials, the suspension without salary, as an alternative to dismissal, of 5 officials, final written warnings to 5 officials and written warnings to 4 officials. Five (5) officials resigned before their hearings could be finalised, whilst 1 was found not guilty.

In line with the Public Service Regulations, the Department is reviewing the structure and aligning strategic priorities with core competencies. Compliance with applicable legislation through available human resources, due to the reduced funded establishment numbers, in line with the Estimates of National Expenditure (ENE) ceiling for each financial year, will be negatively impacted, and so will the business and governance of the Department.

Ladies and Gentlemen, DCS operates within a complex environment and delivers upon a broad mandate, that is progressive and holistic in terms of the incarceration, rehabilitation and social reintegration of remand detainees and sentenced offenders. A Service Delivery Model (SDM) for DCS has been developed to respond to the mandate of the Department, and is aligned to the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) Operations Management Framework.

The total Compensation of Employees baseline budget cuts from the 2015/16 financial year to the 2020/21 financial year amounts to R3,15 billion. Currently the funded post establishment in the department sits at 39 191 posts. 866 posts had to be abolished to accommodate funding for Case Management Committees and the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS).

The budget cuts under Goods and Services have also put immense pressure on the operational budgets for both correctional centres and administration. One of the major areas negatively impacted upon is fleet services, used for the transportation of sentenced offenders to courts and hospitals; the monitoring of parolees and probationers, as well as the transportation of officials to perform their daily functions.

Corrections is a calling which requires a special cadre of official, one who is grounded on the values of moral rectitude and integrity. It is indeed a fact that correctional officials are courageous professionals who work in a challenging environment, with risk to life and limb, at a premium, at times.

The murder of Ms Nomsa Joyce Stuurman by a male inmate, at Goedemoed Correctional Centre in March this year (2019), exposed the incredible dangers that confront our officials, particularly female officials. The sacrifices that our officials endure, their service offering, are all driven by a passion and the obligation to ensure the safety for our communities and the nation at large. It is thus our sacred duty to ensure that the name and memory of Nomsa Joyce Stuurman are remembered and honoured, for posterity, as those of a fallen soldier.

We are encouraged by the progress made thus far, by the South African Police Service, on the investigation of the case of

the murder of Ms. Stuurman. It remains our resolve and determination to see to it that justice is served in this unfortunate matter.

The Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services recognizes that its human resources are its most valuable asset. Whilst we confront the realities of a constrained economy and the budget restrictions it imposes, we remain committed to creating employment and development opportunities, especially for young persons.

We are aware that with every employment opportunity created, an entire family benefits and the negative impact of the cycle of poverty is reduced.

We have recalibrated our processes of filling vacant posts to be far more efficient, with quicker turnaround times. We take courage from the collaborative relationship we enjoy with organised labour. In as much as we shall not always agree on all issues, together, we remain committed to an improved organisation.

The Department is required to change and adapt its security training and capabilities in order to respond to the evolving security risks and threats. Over the past four years, DCS has rolled out basic and tactical training to 3 556 Emergency

Support Team (EST) officials, as well as 6 520 officials on security equipment in the same period.

The total Payments for Capital Assets baseline budget cuts from the 2015/16 financial year to the 2020/21 financial year amount to R847 million. It is imperative that we become innovative and ingenious to ensure that our infrastructure delivery programme remains on track in spite of the budgetary limitations.

Therefore, an urgent need exists to consistently assess, the status of our facilities, to ensure accessibility, performance and functionality in terms of our safety standards.

With the shift and emphasis on rehabilitation in post-apartheid South Africa, it should be noted that all centres which were constructed during the apartheid era do not fully cater for rehabilitation programmes; they do not have facilities for the rendering of developmental and psychosocial group programmes.

The Department suffers from a chronic shortage of bed spaces, that leads to overcrowding in our correctional facilities. Whilst there are multi-pronged strategies to deal with this matter, it should always be given careful consideration when custodial and non-custodial sentences are imposed.

We are continuing with the migration from incarceration towards a fully-fledged rehabilitation service as an integral part of an integrated criminal justice system.

Inmates are skilled through working in the different departmental workshops, which include wood, steel and textiles workshops, bakeries, a shoe factory, and agricultural facilities. Our production workshops are in a position to confidently manufacture products that can be procured by other government departments and institutions.

The Department also manages 21 farms and 115 small gardens that are being used for self-sufficiency and to provide work opportunities for offenders.

South Africa is at a stage where it requires a correctional system which works together with communities to reduce reoffending. An inmate has to commit to change and embrace opportunities for skills development, which will result in meaningful reintegration into society. We need to understand that offenders go into a correctional facility as punishment, not for punishment. Hence, today we have centres of new beginnings where the spirit of humanity, hope and aspiration prevails. We opted for such a paradigm shift so that those in our centres must know that there is a road to a better life.

The Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) is an important office that ensures accountability through external scrutiny. In conjunction with JICS, the Department is continuing to urgently address issues that may hamper its effectiveness.

DCS has put in place short, medium and long-term plans, including increasing the JICS infrastructure footprint.

Funds earmarked for the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services amount to R77,2 million in 2019/20, R81,5 million in 2020/21 and R86 million in 2021/22.

The Department of Correctional Services reaffirms its commitment to modernise its correctional systems by replacing old legacy systems with reliable, integrated and secure information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and business application systems. Central to this modernisation is the development and implementation of the Integrated Inmate Management System (IIMS), which, as part of the Integrated Justice System (IJS), provides a single view of inmate and offender information. The upgrade of the ICT network infrastructure will take place over the next three years.

The establishment of a security committee helps to manage security risks and the alignment of security procedures across all 243 centres in the country. However, security breaches still

occur and we must as part of redress in this administration, rethink how we classify or categorise inmates, as either low or high risk offenders.

To dig deeper, the Department hosted a two-day Security Indaba in Durban on 25 and 26 April of this year. The Indaba critically analysed the security architecture of corrections in the country, and ventured into the root causes of security breaches. The outcomes of this indaba have directed the Department towards a more focused and uniform approach going forward.

During 2018/19, the Department achieved outstanding performance outcomes in respect of the 70 532 probationers and parolees caseload of community corrections. From the daily average caseload of 55 030 parolees, 99% complied with their conditions and from a daily average caseload of 15 502 probationers, 99% complied with their conditions.

Victim participation through the different Restorative Justice interventions has gained momentum and this approach continues to bring offenders and their victims, including communities, together to talk about the impact of the crime committed.

Corrections is, indeed, a societal responsibility.

The Department has established a number of strategic and sustainable partnerships with other Government Departments, Business Against Crime Organisations, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Profit Organisations.

We have also formalised partnerships with state agencies, non-profit organisations, as well as institutions of higher learning such as the University of South Africa, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Venda, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Free State and other relevant stakeholders.

This is aimed at enhancing the employability of parolees and probationers through training on various programmes. A total of 27 699 parolees and probationers participated in community projects through such partnerships in 2018/19.

R11 million was received from the Criminal Asset Recovery Accounts (CARA) to enhance victim participation in the Restorative Justice programme. Through this funding, the Department has contracted Social Auxiliary Workers, as one of the strategies, to assist in tracing victims of crime and preparing them for their participation in Restorative Justice.

There are currently 218 fully-fledged Community Corrections offices nationally, serving the respective communities and offenders under the system of Community Corrections. These offices enable probationers and parolees to access community corrections services within communities where they reside,

which ultimately contribute to a higher level of compliance to conditions of placement on parole and correctional supervision.

In an effort to increase access especially in remote areas, the Department has established service points throughout the country by formalizing partnerships with Non Profit Organisations to bring services closer to communities.

In this regard, in order to ensure ease of access, ownership and collaboration, it is incumbent on us to reach out and form partnerships with traditional leaders across the length and breadth of this country, by taking advantage of the existing traditional councils infrastructure.

It is also necessary that we continue to educate the citizenry on the transition and transformation from a prison system to one of Correctional Services in line with our Constitutional imperatives, as well as the White Paper on Corrections that came in to being in 2005. It is also equally important that we infuse the terms and definitions we use in our correctional systems through educational awareness and informative programmes.

It is in this light that I exhort all of you to join hands with the Minister and I in taking Correctional Services to a higher plane in the next five years.

As the Minister has already indicated, there are beautiful products of the work of our inmates, parolees and probationers, on display in our exhibition area. Do, please, go and take a look at them; you will be pleasantly surprised. In the spirit of Madiba Month, and restorative justice, tomorrow (International Mandela Day) I shall be handing over to the elderly residents of Salberau Retirement Village at Elsies River beanies, scarfs and blankets made by Siyakha Knitting Project. I shall also officiate in a ceremony at Mfuleni Primary School where uniforms and shoes worth R20 000 will be handed over to pupils from indigent backgrounds. The money was raised by staff members at the Goodwood Correctional Services for this purpose.

On that note, let me now take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Minister Lamola for collegial and comradely leadership and support. Let me also appreciate the National Commissioner, his management and staff of the department for the reception and the orientation I have received. The support we get from the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services is not taken for granted.

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I thank you