



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES BUDGET VOTE (VOTE 18)

MINISTER LAMOLA

Check against delivery

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CAPE TOWN, 17 JULY 2019

Honourable House Chairperson;

Deputy Ministers for Justice and Correctional Services, iNkosi Phathekile Holomisa and John Jeffery;

Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services;

National Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services

The Inspecting Judge;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

We ascend this august assembly with great humility to table the budget and policy statement of the Department of Correctional Services. It is extremely humbling that we table this budget and policy statement a day before the International Nelson Mandela Day in honouring the Prisoner who turned to be our first democratic elected President.

As we celebrate International Nelson Mandela day, we do so aware of the decision by The United Nations to name the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, after President Nelson Mandela as Mandela Rules, which are the single most important set of international standards that “*set out what is generally accepted as being good principles and practice in the treatment of prisoners and prison management*”.

The Nelson Mandela rules set out standards that correctly provide an antithesis to these regressive views of Mumia and Davis. Our work on the Mandela rules are a reflector of what Nelson Mandela said in his Long walk to freedom that “*No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizen but its lowest ones*” So we must collectively work towards parading who we are by the manner in which we treat our offenders

To further advance the realisation of the Nelson Mandela Rule we will, on the 22nd of July 2019 launch the training manual for the Nelson Mandela Rules.

Honourable House Chairperson

Our flag of honour is lowered to give singular honour to Comrade Ike Maphotho who passed on over the weekend. This distinguished former Commander of the Luthuli Detachment of the Umkhonto Wesizwe fought for our liberation alongside the ZAPU aligned ZIPRA forces during the Wankie Campaign in the former Rhodesia. We also mourn with deep sadness the passing on of one the leading artists, who exemplified the Constitutional values for a non-racial society when it was dangerous and costly to do so, Mr Jonathan (Johnny Juluka) Clegg. His songs will endure in our memories and society for a long time to come.

Honourable House Chairperson

After 25 years into our democracy, we can boldly proclaim that we have done away with jails and have correctly placed our facilities as correctional facility able to realise our triple task of incarceration, rehabilitation and reintegrating.

As we celebrate the Nelson Mandela month, correctional officials and offenders intensify their giving back to communities as part of our rehabilitation our programmes include:

- Establishing community food gardens for old age homes and poverty-stricken communities,
- The cleaning and maintenance of community infrastructure such as community halls, schools, cemeteries, churches, state hospitals, day care centres, orphanages and institutions for abused women and children.
- Contributing to building homes and providing furniture for victims of crime and destitute families in partnership with various stakeholders.

At the beginning of each year, during schools re-opening for the first semester and as part of the Safer Schools Programme, parolees contribute towards the cleaning, refurbishing, painting and maintenance of more than 600 schools across the country. In partnership with the Hillsong Foundation, we also utilized inmates to donate more than 2 000 wheelchairs to people living with disabilities.

Honourable House Chair,

We table this budget and policy statement mindful of the realities confronting our correctional facilities, particularly of over-crowding. The extent of this challenge is that on the 31st of March 2019, the number of inmates stood at 162 875, against an accommodation capacity 118 572 bed spaces, which in 37% overcrowding. This is a disturbing picture, which compels all of us to think deeper. Even more pressing is that our overcrowding challenges could become a norm in some of our centres if not managed properly.

We continue to employ different mechanisms and strategies in order to make a difference. Our infrastructure projects are progressing well in terms of upgrading and building new centres that are rehabilitation-oriented. The upgraded C-MAX Correctional Centre in Pretoria was completed in December 2018, and will be officially opened by August 2019. This facility has 284 beds. Standerton and Estcourt Correctional Centres were officially opened in April and May 2019 respectively. The two centres combined provide 1 998 bed spaces.

We are now awaiting the official handover of the Tzaneen Correctional Centre from the contractor, and, when combined with the refurbished Glencoe Correctional Centre, these will provide 1 101 beds by September 2019.

Over the medium-term, the Department will prioritise providing appropriate services for safe, secure and humane detention in correctional centres. The total expenditure increases are at an average annual rate of 6.7%, from R23.8 billion in 2018/19 to R28.9 billion in the 2021/22 financial year. However, it must be noted that there are budget reductions of R79.9 million in 2019/20 and R74.3 million in 2020/21 on the Department's budget for compensation of employees which will exert pressure on service delivery requirements. It is positive to note that we endeavour to maintain stability by, among other things, to fill strategic and critical vacancies to realise the objective of running an efficient correctional service.

Honorable House Chairperson

As part of the Integrated Justice System (IJS), we will modernize our information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and business application systems which Deputy Minister Holomisa will elaborate on. In the spirit of Batho Pele, DCS will soon be launching a call centre to enable members of the public to call a single dedicated number for efficient service delivery. Further details will be announced shortly.

The Department has insourced inmate catering services at 26 kitchens, previously contracted to African Global Operations (Bosasa). The transition has been materially seamless, given that DCS staff and offenders were involved in the catering function during the tenure of AGO. The contract for outsourced nutrition was structured in such a manner that the Department paid for services based on the number of meals served to inmates, as well as overhead costs relating to salaries for African Global Operations (AGO) employees deployed at various kitchens, training of inmates as well as other services (pest control and maintenance, etc.). Due to the termination of the contract, the element of overhead costs has been eliminated since all services are now rendered by inmates and correctional officials.

In the short term, efficiencies and resultant savings will be realized from elimination of overhead costs. We are currently establishing the level of savings, which will enable us to reprioritise accordingly.

Honorable House Chairperson,

Approximately 65% of the inmates in our correctional centers are youth. It is for this reason that on 27 June 2019, as part of Youth Month, we visited Brandvlei Correctional Centre where we re-launched the Western Cape Basic Radio and TV station. This R 1.6 million project was undertaken with support from the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA). We are encouraged and propelled that Twenty (20) offenders have since enrolled for a course on Radio Production (NQF level 5), and the New Venture Creation course, which will provide them with entrepreneurship skills.

Both these programmes are provided to offenders in partnership with one of the largest Community Radio Stations in the Western Cape, Radio Zibonele. These programmes will enable offenders upon their release to find employment at various Community Radio Stations. The Department will be engaging further with the MDDA to support the opening of five more such radio and TV stations across the country. This will enhance offender training, using radio and television as a platform to provide rehabilitation programmes on a mass scale thereby contributing to employability and reintegration of offenders upon their release.

Honorable House Chairperson

The Department commenced with Learnership Programme at our DCS Training Colleges at Zonderwater and Kroonstad respectively. Both these colleges cater for a total of 1,032 students, comprising of 540 at Kroonstad and 492 at Zonderwater. The next intake of 1 032 learners will take place in two months, during September this year. .Over the next two years (2019-2021), this programme will result in the employment of 2,064 entry level correctional officials, which will bolster the smooth running of the department, as DCS is continuously losing experienced officials on a monthly-basis which has resulted in a serious shortage of staff.

We will not tire to foster a culture of human development in our correctional centers and will continue to reskill our offenders to be better person who are economically active upon release. It is therefore befitting that on 21 September 2018, the Department officially opened a new high school, named Tari Liswa (New Leaf), for grade 10 to 12 learners. The school was built using offender labour and skills under the supervision of correctional officials from the Boksburg Management Area.

The Cradock Correctional Centre School was officially opened on 22 February 2019, bringing the Department's accredited schools to 14. The full-time school offers Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) levels 1 to 4, and Further Education and Training (FET) grades 10 to 12. The school has seven classes for ABET and FET, a library, a computer lab, staff room and a principal's office. The school has achieved a 100% pass rate since 2016.

The Department's grade 12 class of 2018 inmate learners achieved a 77.3 % pass rate. A total of 185 inmate learners sat for the 2018 grade 12 examinations, of which 67 (36.22%) qualified for admission to Bachelor degree studies, 46 (24.85%) learners were eligible to obtain a national diploma and 30 (16,22%) candidates eligible to enroll for higher certificate courses. The learners achieved a total of 56 distinctions in various subjects, with Usuthubeni Youth Centre recording a commendable 28 distinctions.

Honorable House Chairperson

Our training programme of offenders continue to align itself with the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Roadmap for the Development of Prison-based Rehabilitation Programmes* as well as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education which affirm our programme that learning in prison have a positive impact on recidivism, reintegration and employment outcomes. The report affirms our efforts to intensify the roll-out of education opportunities in prison align itself to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education who has recommended that comprehensive education programmes should be arranged, aimed at the development of the full potential of

each prisoner: 'These should aim to minimize the negative impact of incarceration, and improve prospects of reintegration, self-esteem and morale'.

However, it is important that our well intentioned rehabilitative programmes do not create the impression that incarceration provides for an alternative society if not even better than life outside correctional facilities. Whilst as a Department we do our part as we have outlined through the many interventions here, it is imperative that society at large also plays its role in discouraging breaking the law as part of the moral regeneration of our nation. The Constitutional dispensation can only thrive when we all raise to be counted as the co-architects of our collective future.

Over the short to medium term, we will review legislation applicable to correction in order to ensure that we are more responsive in terms of service delivery.

Honourable House Chairperson

We will continue to play a pivotal role in the national strategy on poverty eradication through our management of 21 farms and 96 small gardens that are being used for self-sufficiency and to provide work opportunities. Our production workshops, which specialise in cabinet making, wood machining, upholstery, furniture polishing, welding, plate metal work, fitting and turning, spray painting and powder coating, sign-writing, jig tool and dye making, garment making, confectionery and so on, continue to provide work opportunities for offenders, with the objective of skills utilisation and development in order to enhance offenders' employability and self-sustenance upon their release.

On average, 1 500 offenders work in production workshops per day, while, on average, 3 000 offenders are working in agriculture/farms per day. During 2018/2019, a bakery was opened at St. Albans Management Area which is the ninth bakery we are operating. As at the end of 2018/2019, the St. Albans Bakery produced 280 062 loaves of bread for offender ration, at an average cost of R5.18/loaf of bread. The national bread production for 2018/2019 is 3 661 940 loaves. Despite the impact of drought and fiscal constraints, the performance of agriculture production has improved steadily thus contributing towards self-sufficiency. Milk production has increased by 307 519 litres, whereas fruit production

has increased by 75 010 kg, due to improved agricultural practices and land use (in particular for fruit production). Farms are producing milk, butter, eggs, vegetables, fruit, pork, chicken and red meat for offender ration, despite the prevailing financial constraints.

Honorable House Chairperson,

Our programme will continue to increase the offenders, parolees and probationers participating in Restorative Justice to 7 000 and ensure that at least 7 560 victims participate in our restorative justice programme. Our wish is that each offender must meet with their victims before release to promote healing, forgive and reconciliation between offenders and offended.

The Victim-Offender Dialogues (VODs) initiative, which is aimed at strengthening the current rehabilitation and reintegration programmes is able to keep as many people as possible away from incarceration through reconstruction of family units and community systems as well as victim support and empowerment, while pursuing the rehabilitation of those already incarcerated through well-managed rehabilitation programmes.

We are confident that these majors will enhance our efforts of achieving 97% of parolees without violation per year and a further 97% of probationers without violation per year. These, we cannot achieve without the deepened involvement of communities.

Honourable House Chairperson,

We remain grounded on our commitment to humane custody and rehabilitation of offenders before placing them back into society. Correctional and Rehabilitation Programmes therefore remain a priority focus area.

Seated in the gallery today are female parolees from the Siyakha (We are building) Knitting Project, whose work is on display in our DCS Exhibition stand as you enter.

The Siyakha Project started in 2017 with correctional officials and ten female probationers/parolees, from Belville Community Corrections, who are unemployed due to their criminal records. Some of the parolees/probationers completed their sentences.

The achievements of this group of formidable offenders include donations to Ubuntu House for abandoned children in Goodwood as well as beanies and scarfs to Bishop Lavis Trauma Centre. More females are being recruited to this group, who certainly deserve a round of applause.

Also seated in the gallery is another parolee, Mhambi Mtose, who was sentenced to two life sentences in 2000. He is currently running a butchery business, and also sells food at the taxi rank daily. He has acquired two vehicles, and four deep freezers. Whilst in custody, he received skills training in, amongst others, carpentry and was also Head Chef at Drakenstein Correctional Centre. He was admitted into the system of community corrections in 2017, and the skills he acquired in terms of the preparation of food, whilst in custody, has now placed him in good stead to have his own stake in the food industry. Mtose has also employed three people permanently.

Yet another parolee with us today is Victor Rampeng, who was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment in 1996. Whilst incarcerated, he completed his matric and thereafter his B. Com Degree in Retail Management. He is currently busy with his Honours Degree in Business Management. In 2016, Rampeng registered his company known as Resinalo Development Projects Pty Ltd, which carries out projects in welding fencing, building, renovation, paving and so on. He currently has 10 dependants, and 15 employees. Let's also give Mtose and Rampeng a round of applause.

A responsible society corrects its citizens. To achieve societal corrections, we need a new cadre of correctional officials, a new cadre of police officials, a new cadre of defence officials and, in fact, a new cadre of JCPS Cluster officials.

We are alive to the realities that we need to be effective, but for this to happen, we need to get the basics right. It means creating correctional centres that are safe,

where rehabilitation is purposefully structured to transform lives. Social media has exposed that some of our centres have fallen below the required standard that we expect. We therefore have a duty to build a correctional service that has a relentless focus on its mandate, by means of contributing towards the maintenance and protection of a just, peaceful and safe society by enforcing court-imposed sentences and detaining offenders in safe custody under humane conditions.

The final revised allocations for 2019/20 MTEF are as follows:

- o 2019/20 R25,408 billion
- o 2020/21 R27,177 billion
- o 2021/22 R28,963 billion

These allocations afford us an opportunity to realise the instruction of Haile Selassie who said ***“We must act to shape and mould the future, and leave our imprint on events as they slip into history”*** Join us as we strive to make South Africa a “Crime Free Society”

Let me extend my humble gratitude to the Deputy Minister Inkosi Phathekile Holomisa and Deputy Minister John Jeffrey for their unwavering support as we discharge our responsibility as the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services.

I also want to thank the National Commissioner and the entire staff in the Department who continue endure difficult conditions to ensure that we discharge our departmental responsibilities as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan.

THANK YOU.