



MINISTRY
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X904, Pretoria, 0001, HSRC Building 134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 312 7414, Fax: +27 12 325 7071, www.dsd.gov.za
Private Bag X9136, Cape Town, 8000, Tel: +27 21 465 3360, Fax: +27 21 465 1267, E-mail: ministerialservices@dsd.gov.za

**Remarks by the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Mr Ganief Hendricks, MP on
the occasion of the International Day for Poverty Eradication**

Thursday, 17 October 2024 | Chris Hani Development Centre—Cofimvaba

Programme Director;

Mayor of Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, Councillor Khanyiswa Mdleleni;

Speaker of Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, Councillor Yanga Zicina;

Local Economic Development Portfolio Head, Councillor Matomela;

Community Services Portfolio Head, Councillor Mafanya;

Prince Zanoxolo and all Members of Sentile Royal House here present;

All councillors, traditional leaders, parents and community leaders, and

Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning! Molweni abahlali!

1. I would like to begin by acknowledging all traditional leaders joining us here today, including members and the Committee of Sentile Royal House, the custodian of the land on which we meet here today.
2. Every year on 17 October, South Africa joins all United Nations Members States to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in order to raise

awareness about ongoing fight against poverty and to mobilise collective action to eliminate poverty in all its forms.

3. The commemoration of this day comes at a time when most households in South Africa are experiencing the cost-of-living crisis and the widening gap between the rich and the poor. The Department of Social Development is at the forefront of Government efforts to address poverty, with particular focus on the most vulnerable.
4. Ladies and Gentlemen, It is fitting that the organisers of this programme have chosen the Chris Hani Development Centre here at Sabalele village to commemorate this year's International Day for Poverty Eradication. Sabalele is the birth place of Chris Hani, the revolutionary freedom martyr who was assassinated by the far-right Polish immigrant Janusz Waluz with the support of Clive Derby-Lewis.
5. The brutal murder of Chris Hani almost triggered a civil war along racial lines in South Africa. He payed a supreme price with his life for us to have political settlement. His death unlocked the CODESA negotiations that ushered the first democratic elections in 1994. He will continue to live in the hearts of the people of Sabalele and millions across our country for many generations to come.
6. Cofimvaba is also home to the son of the soil who gave all of himself to the cause of freedom and justice—Chief Mshweshwe. I am pleased to be back here in Cofimvaba in to fulfil the promise, which I made during the reburial of Chief Mshweshwe in August at Sentile village. Chief Mshweshwe fought gallantly and fiercely resisted the colonial apartheid regime and was held at the Robben Island prison until his passing. Chief Mshweshwe paid the ultimate price for resisting the apartheid regime in defence of freedom and democracy we now enjoy in our country.
7. Chief Mshweshwe's sacrifices were not in vain and we take great pride in the role that he played in liberating our country. We have now brought home the mortal remains of Chief Mshweshwe to the land of his birth where he is finally resting in perfect peace at his ancestral home and among his own people.

8. During the reburial ceremony, I promised to come back to this area before the end of this year to honour Chief Mshweshwe's legacy by bringing him home to his own people. I believe there is no better way of honouring his legacy than fighting poverty unemployment and inequality and improving the quality of the life of his people.
9. We should not take for granted the many freedoms we now enjoy as South African citizens that were paid for with the lives of others like Chief Mshweshwe. So, we deemed it fit to commemorate this year's International Day for Poverty Eradication to honour Chief Mshweshwe and many others who died for our freedom.
10. Yesterday, I delivered school uniforms to three local schools in Sentile to ensure that learners from poor households remain in school and complete their education. The first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela said *[and I quote]: Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world [close quote]*
11. Today, through this Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme (ICROP) we have brought the services of the Department of Social Development and its public entities—the National Development Agency (NDA) and the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).
12. We have also brought the Departments of Health, Home Affairs and the South African Police Service (SAPS) to ensure that you all get services to alleviate poverty and hunger especially in rural areas such as Cofimvaba and surrounding villages. We want to ensure that no one is left behind.
13. We want to ensure that all children that are eligible for social grants are registered the minutes they are born. Last year, the South African Human Rights Commission directed the Department of Social Development and SASSA to address issues of child malnutrition here in the Eastern Cape. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to urge you all to take full advantage of all services today because they are all here for you.

14. Social development is not just about social grants. Besides SASSA, another entity of the Department is the National Development Agency (NDA) whose mandate is to:

- contribute towards the eradication of poverty and its causes by granting funds to civil society organisations for the purpose of implementing development projects in poor communities
- build the capacity of community-based and civil society organisations that provide services to poor communities; and
- promote consultation, dialogue and sharing of development experience between civil society organisations and relevant organs of state

15. Next year, we want the NDA to support youth and women projects as part of our contribution to creation of job opportunities. On this International Day for Poverty Eradication, we need to join hands to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry in our communities. We need to ensure that no one is left behind. We can start with small initiatives such as backyard gardens and community gardens to ensure household food security for all.

16. Over the next five years, the Government of National Unity (GNU) will focus on making service delivery more accessible and responsive to our people's felt needs without them having to spend money and time on transport. We are making service delivery as effortless as possible by bringing the service closer to where you live. Once again, I want to encourage you to please make use of this opportunity.

17. Ladies and Gentlemen, one of the most urgent issue of national concern that we need to address here today is teenage pregnancy. We all know that teenage pregnancy is a serious issue in South Africa as mothers are getting younger and younger. We cannot break the intergenerational cycle of poverty without reducing teenage pregnancy because teenage pregnancy compromises the education of our children.

18. As I conclude, I want to make a special appeal to men and boys in this hall today. We need to work together to end gender-based violence in our families and communities. We cannot succeed in eradicating poverty if we do not confront the pandemic of violence against women and children. Do not turn a blind eye because we all have a role to play!

19. I am proud to be part of this Government of National Unity because I want to contribute to the building of a South Africa we want for which Chief Mshweshwe and other freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for us to be free.

20. As we celebrate the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy in South Africa, let us continue our solidarity and stand with the people of Palestine and support their right to self-determination.

Enkosi! I thank you for your attention.