

PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BASIC INCOME SUPPORT POLICY

PRESENTATION TO PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4 FEBRUARY 2026

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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1. PURPOSE

To provide progress to the Portfolio Committee on the development of the Basic Income Support policy.

2. BACKGROUND

- At the last PC meeting, the Department provided progress report as follows:
 - The Department tabled the draft policy on Basic Income Support (BIS) to Cabinet in November 2024.
 - Cabinet directed further consultation, particularly on economic inclusion measures for the SRD beneficiaries
 - Further consultations were undertaken with Departments such Depts of Employment and Labour, Public Works, Small Business Development
 - This culminated in the June 2025 consultation report, whose findings were infused into the revised BIS
 - The updated BIS policy paper was then shared with National Treasury and Presidency.



3. PROGRESS SINCE JUNE 2025



- In October 2025, the Department held a two-day policy colloquium, to explore various policy considerations to address the income needs of the working age population, under the theme: **From grants to growth: Integrating Social Protection and income generating opportunities**
- Various government departments, including National Treasury and the Presidency participated in the colloquium, along with local and international experts on social protection, labour activation and economic inclusion.
- The colloquium provided a valuable platform for building the case for continuation of income support for working age populations, and the merits of investing in additional measures such as labour activation and support for other livelihood strategies to build the capacity of individual working age adults to be able to support themselves and live decent lives.
- The role of technology and coherent institutional design was emphasized, along with the need for sufficient financial investment in such strategies.

3. PROGRESS SINCE JUNE 2025 (CONT...)

- Following the colloquium, the Department held several engagements with the Presidency and the National Treasury and shared the updated BIS report for their input.
- The Treasury requested updated costing of the proposed policy, and the work has since been commissioned, with an expected completion date of late February.
- The Presidency has provided essential support for the work and facilitated engagements with other government initiatives such as the MyMzansi programme and other labour activation initiatives.
- These initiatives are being infused into the BIS policy framework, to respond to Cabinet's question about how the income support will be linked to other economic opportunities.
- Once completed, the costing work will be added to the policy proposal to deal with the fiscal considerations,

4. ENVISAGED NEXT STEPS

- In parallel to the BIS policy work, the DSD had also requested National Treasury for extension of covid SRD, to prevent a break in the income support of the beneficiaries while the policy is being finalized.
- The Department is pleased to report that the draft allocation letter for 2026/27 has included an allocation for the SRD provision until March 2026.
- The regulation for the continuation have been completed and submitted to State Law Advisor for certification, before they can be published for public comment.
- The Department is targeting March 2027 to submit the revised policy on basic income support to Cabinet, for consideration

5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Portfolio Committee take note of the progress made in the development of the basic income support policy

The road has been rocky, but there is light at the end of the tunnel

