

# Affirming Social Work Resilience

Repositioning for a  
Social justice agenda

# Celebrating Social Work

Encourages a reminiscence , reflection and building a new vision

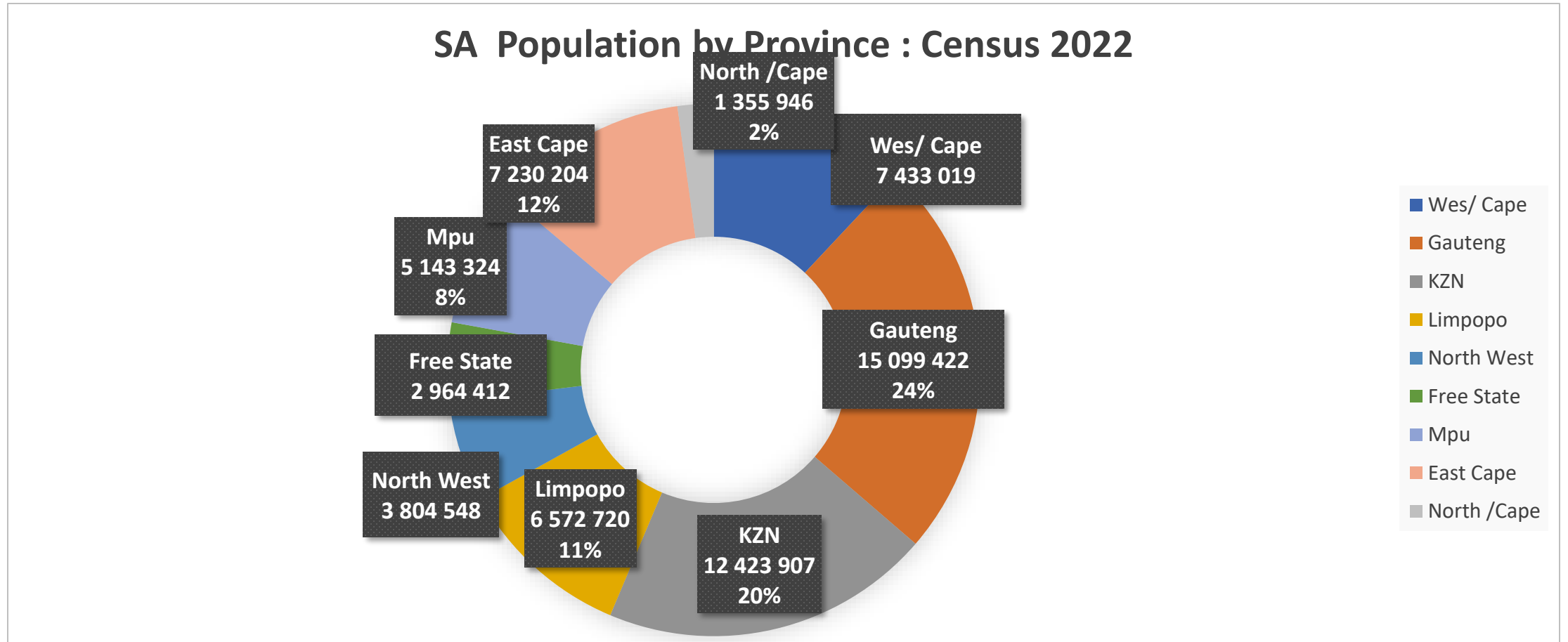
In the struggles for human rights , and social justice in SA , it requires a very honest analysis , an introspection of the last 30 years .

Our current reality , as social workers , social service professionals , as citizens , as communities . Where are we and how are we engaging in the social justice arena.

Our vision for the future

What compels us , as social workers over the next 30 years.  
Do we have a shared vision for the future ?

# SA Population by Province : Census 2022



# SA Social Context

- Population of 62 million (2022 ) compared to 40 m in 1994 .
- Highest Income inequality in the world Gini coefficient of 63 as of 2023 .
- Unemployment rate of youth 2022 , (62,1% 15-24 years, and 40.7 % for 25-34) year olds, with an average unemployment rate of 32,9% 2023
- Rape capital of the world (2020)
- Murder rate in top 10 worldwide
- 1 of 5 people in SA abuse mind altering substances or suffer from SUD Substance Abuse Disorder
- Unabated urbanisation with declining access to basic infrastructure , water, electricity , housing, safety etc.

**WE ARE @ THE COALFACE OF THIS REALITY**



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# Government response over the three decades

- A “Unified Service ” 1 National , 9 provincial departments.( Review of White Paper for Social Welfare :2016 )
- National Government – Policy makers and shapers - poor consultation and implementation
- Social Security : Best practice model ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the world
- Strong Legislative reforms , Frameworks ,Norms & standards
- Provincial Government – Increased its service delivery profile
- Local Government – Poor incorporation into a total social service delivery model
- CSI Programmes – Poorly integrated into the social service offering
- Cleaning the NPO Database

# Highlights – Human Resources – DSD

Initially bloated HR as a result of grant administration combined in social service.

2005 – SASSA Agency was born – separated functionaries & funding

2006 – Recruitment & Retention Strategy ,Occupation specific dispensation, notch escalations

Employee Health & Wellness access for Government employees is available

Occupational Health & Safety measures remains poor in the public service .

Public service wages & working conditions are amongst the best in the world , due to strong labour organisation , bargaining platforms and bargaining power. Tripartite alliance has supported this progressive trajectory.





# NDSD

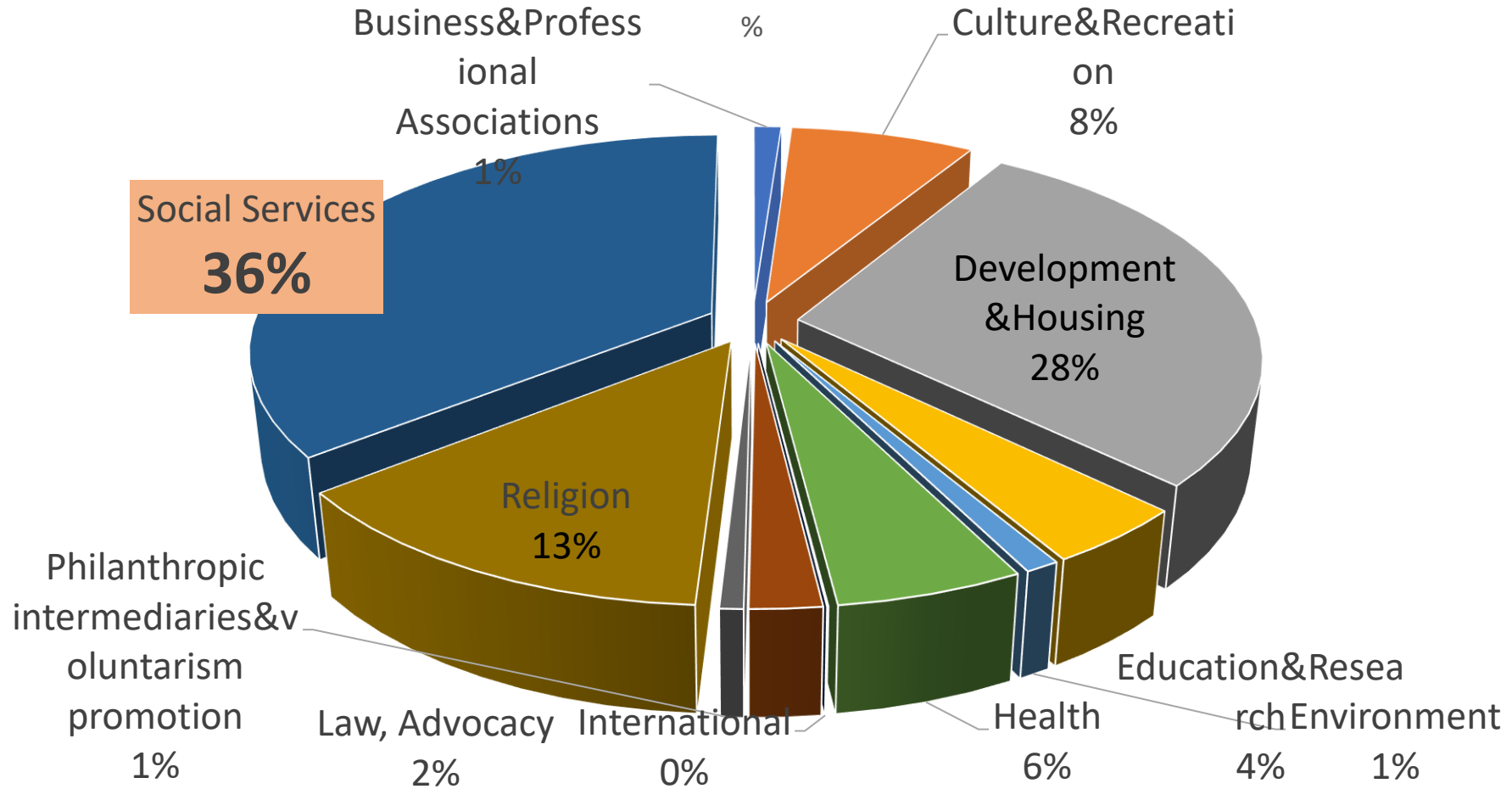
CONSULTATIONS WITH  
NATIONAL NPOs 15 /08/2023

# TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED NPOS

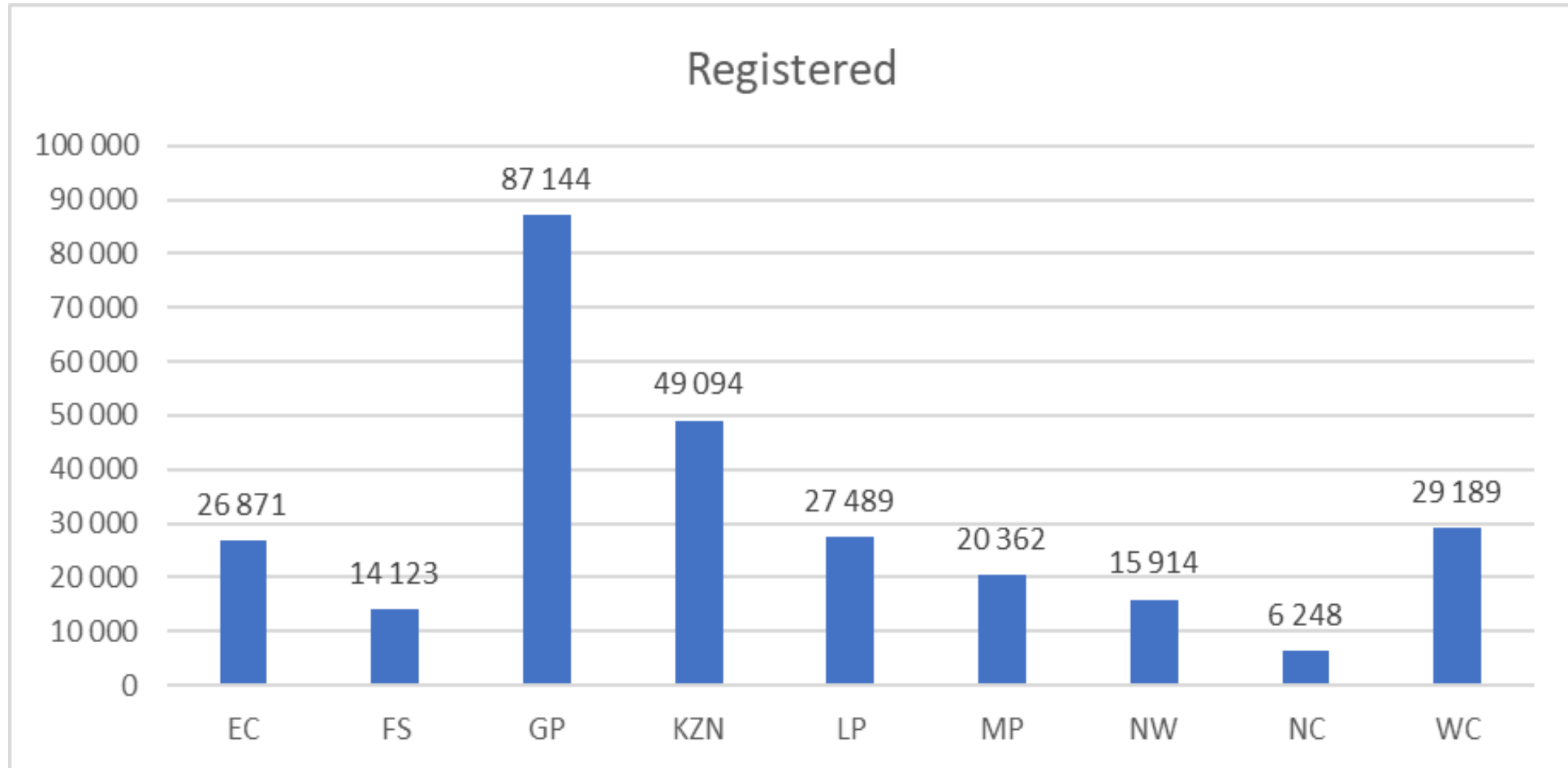
Sector	Registered	%
Business and Professional Associations, Unions	3 120	1
Culture and Recreation	21 120	8
Development and Housing	78 715	28
Education and Research	11 842	4
Environment	2 798	1
Health	15 218	6
International	112	0
Law, Advocacy, and Politics	5 839	2
Philanthropic intermediaries & voluntarism	1 910	1
Religion	37 166	13
Social Services	98 594	36
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>276 434</b>	



# TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED NPOS



# REGISTRATION PER PROVINCE



# PROVINCIAL TRANSFER BUDGETS

No.	Province	Budget (R'000)
1.	EC	336 312
2.	FS	312 566
3.	GP	2 240 870
4.	KZN	673 454
5.	LMP	264 028
6.	MPU	394 701
7.	NC	182 057
8.	NW	255 345
9.	WC	1 010 501
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5 669 834</b>

# NO. NPIS FUNDED PER PROVINCE

PROVINCES	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
EC	3 866	4 029	4 139	1234	1234
FS	1 793	1 745	1 948	757	757
GP	2 802	3 326	3 393	1 924	1925
KZN	3 269	3 586	3 067	1 070	1070
LMP	2 957	2 923	2 924	821	810
MPU	1 278	1 595	1 821	638	638
NC	785	711	903	371	371
NW	740	927	758	442	442
WC	1 923	1 923	2029	1 149	1136
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>19 413</b>	<b>20 765</b>	<b>19 034</b>	<b>8 406</b>	<b>8 383</b>

# NPO Sector Funding

- DSD has drastically , reduced the number of NPOs funded nationally, post Covid , extremely poor timing , amidst deepening financial woes.
- Access to National funding opportunities – National Lottery Commission suffered great prejudice mainly from corruption .
- Failure of the sector to unify Strategically and Substantively has impeded progress
- Wages and working conditions in the NPO sector are directly linked to failed organisation of workers .
- Minimum domestic worker wages are to this day are not demonstrated by NPOs.

The NPO Leadership and National coordinating bodies must accept half the responsibility for the State of affairs. The old blame game and perpetual victimhood will not solve the reality . The sector needs an overhaul of strategists , disruptive thought leader and repositioning for a brighter future. Broader the collaborations, dialogues and shape shifting will occur.





# Local Government

- The role of local Government in addressing social determinants of health e.g. population growth , housing, water , energy etc must be incorporated into the broader social service delivery strategy.
- Local governments current heavy- handed application of by-laws seeing many CBOs closing down – fails the developmental agenda.
- Opportunities for Municipal waivers on billing to organisations rendering social services must be considered . Strategic advocacy and lobbying may be able to achieve this .
- Renewables programs must be prioritised for Social Service delivery agents.

Local Government salary scales are higher than the public service despite the state of poverty in municipal areas.





# Concerns

Nawongo Judgements issued between 2010 -2014 provided a watershed moment for progressive realisation of rights .

Prospective beneficiaries of the judgement i.e. NPOs were unfortunately weak at ensuring the enforcement of the judgements.

Lack of a National Act for Social Development impedes equality of access to services and resources for social service delivery .

The need for an ombuds function , and an Independent evaluation of the total service , from various delivery agents such as Government, NPOs, and Private sector must be considered.

The current model of Government as referee and player is not fair nor progressive .

Social justice as an aspect of social service delivery and progressive realisation of rights could be strengthened .

# Possible future priority areas

National Social Development Act , is urgent to set the national social service vision alight

Ensuring the Presidential Social Sector Summit Agreement is realised so that all delivery partners build the shared country vision for change.

Build a collective practitioner conscience around developmental objectives , social justice and equality.

Capacity building for Social Service Practitioners ;particularly around social policy engagement , accountability and reforms.

NPOs to speak in one strong National Voice

Consolidate a strong workers , advancing working conditions and wages , pay equity , occupational health & safety for the sector .

Expand employability for social service practitioners beyond the traditional spaces.



- Make the circles of thinking , strategizing and mobilising bigger
- Exploit every opportunity to build on the resilience and strength of the social work foundations.
- Building the sector & repositioning for the future.
- Expand the collective conscience of the social service practitioners , geared for a just and fair South Africa and a just and fair world.

Thank you

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