



MEC LINDIWE NTSHALINTSHALI

POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2020/21



culture, sport & recreation
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH OF THE MEC OF CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

25th June 2020

Honourable Speaker, Ms Busi Shiba
Honourable Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature
Government Officials
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!!

INTRODUCTION

1. Honourable Speaker, the Department reaffirms its commitment towards the realisation of a social cohesive society in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030. Let me start by quoting words from an American Science Fiction Author - Frank Herbert when he said; “Good governance never depends upon laws, but upon the personal qualities of those who govern. The machinery of government is always subordinate to the will of those who administer that machinery. The most important element of government, therefore, is the method of choosing leaders”.
2. Honourable Speaker, let me appreciate this opportunity to table the policy and budget speech of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (vote 11) in the midst of a world catastrophic health pandemic of coronavirus (COVID-19).
3. Honourable Speaker these plans are tabled during a difficult time in our era when the World Health Organisation has declared the faceless coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic. His Excellency President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa responded with urgent and drastic measures to curb the spread of the pandemic, protect the citizens of South Africa, to reduce the impact of the virus in society and the economy.
4. The national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act of 2002 was declared on the 15th of March 2020, and as a result lockdown restrictions had to be imposed. The lockdown regulation had a far reaching consequences across all sectors.

5. Honourable Speaker, let me hasten to say that the lockdown regulations and protocols for the Sport, Arts, Culture, Entertainment and Hospitality sectors has been in place since alert level (5) and continue to prevail as I speak. I am however pleased to acknowledge the easing of restrictions in our sector as recently announced, however we must take caution from other countries where sports has resumed however infections have started again e.g. World Tennis champion Novak Djokovic.

6. Since the announcement of the Lockdown measures by the President on the 26th March 2020, it has not been an easy journey to try and save lives while at the same time avoiding a disastrous economic impact aimed at deepening the triple challenges of Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality. The state machinery and capacity has been tested and stretched to maximum capacity and we are expected to meet those challenges.

7. We have also seen a dramatic increase in Gender Based Violence (GBV) and murders within our communities. Women and children are slaughtered like animals and humiliated like a nation without protection of human rights or constitution. Part of the core mandate of the department is providing safer communities, and we are compelled to be at the forefront of campaigns against Gender Based Violence. We have an obligation to educate our Fathers' and Young Men not to harm Women.

8. Honourable speaker, in addition to these atrocities there are also violations of chapter two (2) of bill of rights which confers on all of us with the right to human dignity, respect and protection of a person's pride and self-respect. We strongly condemn racist attacks of Danie Herselman who depicted our Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as a monkey on social media and the brutal senseless killing of George Floyd in the United States of America that gave impetus to the global campaign **#Black Lives Matter**.

9. The 6th administration ushered in a new dawn with seven (7) priorities that will form area of focus in the next five years. The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation was once more mandated with colossal task of driving priority six (6) Social Cohesion and Safer Communities. Therefore this budget statement outlines the Department's role in achieving the priority mandate of government and it must be noted that the department's Annual Performance Plan will be reviewed following the Minister's Budget Speech as department budgets are expected to be cut down drastically.

PROGRAMME 2: CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Arts and culture

11. Honourable Speaker, in the 2019/20 financial year the Department implemented programmes that seek to foster constitutional values, contribute towards non-racialism, combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance through three (3) social cohesion community dialogues and celebration of seven (7) National Days commemorative days. In the current financial year the Department planned to have a provincial social cohesion dialogues and also continue with the celebration of national days using digital platforms.

12. The Department will also continue to promote cultural diversity and integration while enhancing cultural tourism through support and implementation of the four (4) key cultural events namely; Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience, South African Music Traditional Awards (SATMA), Innibos Festival and Art of Legends per annum. Some of these programmes are delivered through community based structures. In total there are thirteen (13) NPO's that will receive funding during 2020/21 financial year.

Language services

13. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2019 as the “International Year of Indigenous Languages” aimed at preserving, supporting and promoting indigenous languages at the national, regional and international levels. In relation to the proclamation, the Department developed four (4) reading materials written in indigenous languages in Siswati and IsiNdebele featuring; Agriculture, Conservation, Economics and Atmospheric Science Terminology list books that were launched in 2019/20 in partnership with Department of Education. In the current year three (3) reading materials in indigenous languages will be produced with the total budget allocation of R730,000 set aside.

Heritage and museums

14. Honourable Speaker, the impact of the lockdown regulations of the COVID-19 pandemic will leave an indelible mark in the manner in which museums are managed and operated in future. During the height of the Lockdown, over 90% of museums worldwide had closed its doors to the public. Our museums in South Africa and Mpumalanga were not different.

15. The Department has completed comprehensive maintenance and restoration work at the Pilgrims Rest Provincial Museum (Alanglade House) and Barberton Provincial Museum (Belhaven House).

16. The ongoing maintenance work at the Nomoya Masilela local museum at Govan Mbeki Local municipality was also completed. However, there was slow progress at Mashishing Local museum due to non-availability of special roofing material. This project will be completed in the current financial year together with ongoing maintenance of our Provincial Museums.

17. Honourable Speaker, the Department will continue to invest in the transformation of the heritage landscape in the Province through support of Provincial Geographic Names Committee. In 2019/20 financial year seven (7) geographical names and features were reviewed as follows; Kaffirkuilen changed to Weiveld , Kaffirspruit changed to Kuilspruit, Kaffirskraal changed to Esiphileni Fields, Kaffirstaad changed to Emanzimnyama, Iswepe changed to Insephe, Amsterdam changed to Emvelo, Witbank that is found at Mkhondo Local Municipality changed to Bumbanani. These name changes were submitted to the minister of Sport, Arts and Culture for approval. In the current year five (5) existing features are planned to be reviewed.

18. On the 18 June 2020 World Gold Panning Association considered our intention to bid for the World Gold Panning Championships 2023 as articulated at the WGA AGM in Finland. The SAGPA will submit the final documentation for this process by the end of June 2020. The final decision will be made in August 2020, at the AGM in Novy KNin, Czech Republic. We look forward to hosting the World Gold Panning Championship again in Mpumalanga in 2023. The National Gold Panning is planned for October 2020 in Pilgrim Rest.

19. Honourable Speaker the Department also planned to facilitate the official proclamation of the Delmas Treason Trial and the Gert Sibande Precinct Sites in terms of section 27 (2) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. This will then give these sites full protection.

20. There are already three Mpumalanga Resistance and Liberation Heritage Routes developed and launched by Department of Culture, Sport & Recreation and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency in three Districts respectively. The routes are a series of sites themed around resistance and liberation. As more sites are identified and developed adequately for tourism consumption they will be added to respective routes.

21. Honourable Speaker, in the current financial year the Department will develop feasibility studies and conceptual designs for a full scale development of the Lowveld Massacre Sites and Saul Mkhize Legacy Sites through the budget allocated by National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

PROGRAMME 3: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Library Services

22. Honourable Speaker, in order to redress the imbalance of the past and provide equal opportunities to library services, the Department has provided access to library services. In 2019/20 financial year the Department has built two new state of the art library facilities at Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality and Sakhile in Lekwa Local Municipality.

23. Honourable Speaker in the 2020/21 financial year we planned to build two (2) new library facilities in Newtown at Steve Tshwete local municipality and Matsamo library (Schoemansdal) in Nkomazi local municipality while continue to support of one hundred and sixteen (116) existing with resources such as free internet to create access to information.

24. In addition we will continue to upgrade eMalahleni Main library and maintain five (05) existing libraries; KwaGuqa, Mafemani, Kamachekeza, Lynnville and Daggakraal.

25. In 2019/20 financial year the Department also provided free internet and WIFI, 25 401 library books written in indigenous languages including Siswati, IsiNdebele, Xitsonga and IsiZulu to all public libraries. These services will be continued in the current financial year.

26. The Department in collaboration with the South African Library for the Blind established 21 mini libraries that serve partially sighted and those living with albinism. To date the mini libs have over 400 registered members. In the current year this service will be increased to 28 facilities.

27. Honourable Speaker, the introduction of e-books as a 4th Industrial Revolution innovation will be implemented to address the shortage of physical libraries. In the current financial year two thousand (2 000) electronic library books will be provided.

Archival Services

28. Honourable Speaker, in 2019/20 we hosted a 16th Annual National Oral History Conference at Nkangala District Municipality. This also serve as an important platform to preserve and restore the history and heritage of our people.

29. There were two key highlights that includes celebration of our history and heritage through “Time Travel” wherein the life of fallen hero Solomon “Kalushi” Mahlangu was remembered. The second highlight was the inclusion of Dr Esther Mahlangu who conducted a master class on the Ndebele art work. The provincial oral history conference will be continued in the current year.

30. Honourable Speaker our appreciation goes to this traditional artist, Dr Esther Mahlangu who continues to make us proud by flying the flag of South Africa high through her iconic Ndebele mural paintings. In February 2020 Dr Mahlangu attended the unveiling of the “Mahlangu” Rolls-Royce Phantom, a luxury vehicle from the British manufacturer that features hand-painted inserts and panels by the artist.

PROGRAMME 4: SPORT AND RECREATION

Sport

31. Honourable Speaker, in the 2019/20 financial year we successfully hosted the Mpumalanga Sport Awards, where a young chess player by the name of Banele Mhango, 16 year old won the Sports Star of the Year. On the National Sport Awards 2019 held in Durban, Ntando Mahlangu, 17 year old from the Province also won the Sportsman of the Year award on the category of people with disability. These awards will be hosted virtually in 2020/21 financial year.

32. We have also geared ourselves as co-host of the anticipated historic international rugby match between South Africa (Springboks) who are the reigning world champions against New Zealand (All Blacks) on the 26 September 2020. The hosting of this match will depend on the upcoming COVID 19 regulations and protocols as contact sport is currently prohibited.

School Sport

33. Honorable Speaker, sport and recreation is an important vehicle to gradually achieve social cohesion across society through increased interaction across race and class. Community and school sport programmes provide a necessary platform for our people and school children from diverse cultures and demographics to interact with each other.

34. In the 2019/20 financial year eleven thousand and ninety five (11 095) learners were coordinated as part of school sport programme at district, provincial and national tournaments. We are also proud to announce that the Province attained position 3 during the summer games. In 2020/21 financial year we planned to continue with the programme that includes ten thousand eight hundred (10 800) learners.

Community sport and recreation

35. Honourable Speaker on community sport that is mass participation in nature we also managed in 2019/20 financial year to coordinate seventy seven six hundred and ninety eight (77 698) athletes who participated in the community sport mass participation programme with key highlights on indigenous games, rural sport, golden games and other recreational events. Sport equipment and attire was handed over to sixty (60) clubs and seventeen (17) local municipal hubs.

36. The Department planned to continue with this programme in 2020/21 financial year targeting seventy thousand, three hundred and twelve (70 312) participants.

37. Honourable Speaker, the Mpumalanga Cycling Tour has been identified as a Provincial flagship event to promote both cycling and tourism in the Province. In 2019/20 financial year 196 teams participated during the Panorama Cycling Tour and 392 individual riders. This tour caters for both amateur and professional cyclists and will serve as a build-up event to the main Provincial Cycling Tour that is hosted annually. However, due to the current restrictions on COVID 19 pandemic these targets will be reviewed.

COVID 19 pandemic negatives effects

38. Honourable Speaker the advent of the COVID-19 global pandemic declared by World Health Organisation towards the end of the financial year negatively affected attainment of some targets. These includes; Human Rights Day celebration, Lowveld Massacre commemoration, participation in SA Schools Athletics Track and Field Championship for High and Primary Schools 2020, participation in the Deaf Sport Championship and host of Softball National Championship League.

39. The best lesson from this was to introduce innovative mechanisms that includes; provision of on-line coordination of cultural events, usage of the museum app which is an electronic feature that promote social distancing, provision of e-books and sporting activities on line such as fitness programmes. In addition services rendered should adhere to all regulations and protocols such as social distancing, usage of mask and sanitizing.

COVID 19 Relief Fund

40. Honourable Speaker we also wish to provide progress report regarding the COVID 19 relief fund for artists and athletes who have lost income due to the global pandemic. The Department has set aside R5,5 million to accomplish this task.

41. In rolling out the COVID-19 Relief Fund the Department partnered with MP Cultural and Creative Industry of South Africa (CCIFSA), MP National Youth Development (NYDA) and MP Sport Federation to manage the programme.

42. Honourable Speaker after the cutoff date a total of five hundred and seventeen (517) application were received and are currently being adjudicated with the team that includes stakeholders outside the Department to ensure that qualifying applicants are paid in due course.

Conclusion

43. As I conclude let me express my gratitude to the African National Congress for entrusting me with the responsibility to be amongst the Honourable members of this August House, the support and oversight given by the Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation. My sincere appreciation also goes out to the Head of Department as well as the management and staff of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation - for their continued commitment and support. I also want to convey my gratitude to my family for your steadfast and unwavering support at all times.

44. Honourable Speaker, allow me to table the Budget for Vote (11) for the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation allocated according to the following programmes for consideration by the House:

PROGRAMME	AMOUNT R'000
Administration	R114, 579
Cultural Affairs	R153, 496
Library and Archives Services	R186, 757
Sports and Recreation	R122, 317
TOTAL BUDGET	R577, 149

Thank You

DCSR.OFFICIAL



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