



culture, sport & recreation

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The MEC for Culture, Sport & Recreation
Ms Leah Mabuza

2025 / 2026

Policy & Budget Speech

Vote 11



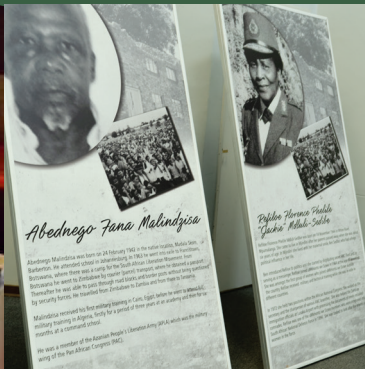
Thursday, 24 July 2025



09:00



Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature



"Mpumalanga, a Province that works for all"

2025/26 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH

- Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Hon Makhosazane Masilela
- Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Hon Sam Masango
- Premier of Mpumalanga Province, Hon Mandla Ndlovu
- Honourable members of the Executive Council
- Honourable members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature
- Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi LM Mokoena
- Members of the Portfolio Committee and Chairperson, Hon Grobler
- Troikas of Districts and Local Municipalities
- MMCs for Culture, Sport and Recreation from District and Local Municipalities
- The Provincial Secretary of the ruling party and its leagues, led by Mr Muzi Chirwa
- Alliance partners
- Acting Head of Department for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mr Mxolisi Mahlangu and Heads of Departments present.
- Representatives of committees and Sport Federations working with the Department
- Comrades and friends
- Members of the media
- Invited guests
- One of my special guests is Dr. Esther Nostokana Mahlangu in the gallery (Sibawa u Dogodera Gogo Esther Mahlangu asikime)
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mpumalanga Province that works for all.

We are defined by the province with pristine scenic beauty which is incomparable to any other province.

The majestic water falls, Makhonjwa mountain range, Kruger National Park, the unique fauna and flora which makes Mpumalanga Province an eternal wonder.

Our description lies in the archaeological evidence found in our province, the study of human evolution will be incomplete without Mpumalanga Province.

The only Province to have a “window” to the almighty God.

God’s window which is few kilometers from here provides breath taking view which in fact make you feel being closer to your creator.

I owe my loyalty to Mpumalanga Province

Mpumalanga my beginning, Mpumalanga my ending.

1. Honourable Speaker, I would like to dedicate this Policy and Budget Speech to the 2025 Mandela Month Celebration under the theme ***“It is in our hands to Combat Poverty and Inequality”*** Accordingly ***“it is in our hands to build Mpumalanga province that works for all”***
2. Once again, we wish to pay homage to all the departed heroes of the soil who have put Mpumalanga province on national and global map. The province is still mourning the unexpected eternal departure of the following organic leaders of our time:
 - The former Deputy President of the African National Congress and the Republic of South Africa, Mr DD Mabuza
 - Mr Veli Mahlangu, a resilient businessman and sports personality
 - Bishop SD Gumbi, a respected evangelist and a motivational speaker of note

With your indulgence Honourable speaker, can we observe a salute of silence

(I thank you)

3. Somlomo, neNdlu ehloniphekile yesishaya Mthetho sase- Mpumalanga, ngithokoze ithuba enginikezwe lona lokuthi ngethule uhlelo Lwemali kuMnyango **Wamasiko, Wezemidlalo nokuzithabisa** onyakeni wemali ka- 2025/2026.

4. Leluhlelo lwetimali litawuniketa imininingwane lehambisana nenkhulumo yesimo sesiFundza sase Mpumalanga leyatfulwa nguNdvunankhulu wetfu Mhlonishwa Babe Mandla Ndlovu ngamhlaka **28 Indlovana 2025**.
5. Namuhla sitawubuka ticondziso talenkhumalo yesimo sesifundza ikakhulukati budlelwane phakatsi kwemasiko nemagugu etfu, temidlalo, tekuvakasha, kukhula kwemnotfo nekwakhiwa kwemisebenti.
6. Honorable Speaker, the Department of Culture, Sport, and Recreation (DCSR) reaffirms its commitment to fostering **social cohesion, promoting cultural diversity, the heritage landscape and enhancing sports development** across Mpumalanga.
7. Our efforts will align with the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP **2024-2029**) and the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP), focusing on **inclusive economic growth, reducing inequality, and building a capable, ethical, and developmental state**. The 2025 State of the Province Address has already given clear service delivery parameters.
8. According to STATS SA, Mpumalanga is home to approximately 5.1 million people, has a youthful population with 64% under the age of 35 and faces significant challenges such as 37.4% unemployment and a poverty rate of 51.2%. The youth unemployment rate is particularly alarming at 51.3%, with 68.6% of young women unemployed. These stark realities underline the urgency of the Department's mandate to leverage sports, culture, and recreation to address these socio-economic challenges while fostering nation-building. ***"It is in our hands to combat Inequality by building Mpumalanga Province that works for all"***.
9. We have set ourselves a high bar and we fully understand that achieving the sustainable development goals is not going to be a walk in the park due to the Afro-pessimism in the Geo-political order such as institutional racism.
10. Globally, there is persuasive evidence that racism in Sports and Cultural industries goes beyond the behaviour of fans. We are now faced with institutionalized forms of unfair discrimination giving birth to formation of movements such as **Black life matters**.
11. Promotion of Human Rights as one of the aspects of our mandate must be **educative** on the importance of **International stability**, campaigns against genocide, **combat racism in sport** and all forms of **gender based discrimination** when it comes to **opportunities in the sector value chain**.

12. African female athletes in particular have suffered discrimination in sports based on their **race, gender or perceived sex** despite the international judiciary ruling in their favour, the daughter of the soil **Castor Semenya** is but one classical example.
13. As a department we are committed to see more women in all sporting codes as **playing personnel, coaching, sport administration, officiating and leadership** in decision making brackets.
14. Honourable Speaker, our vision is to push boundaries, assist the sector to explore the Africa Continental Free Trade Area which also aims to boost trade in cultural products by creating a single market for goods and services across Africa and global space such as film, visual and performing arts including sports.
15. The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement seeks to strengthen Africa's voice against exploitation of Africa's wealth including our creative economy.
16. Nationally, we must deal decisively with policy framework to protect the content ownership and copyright of our local artists.
17. **It is in our hands to build a better Mpumalanga Province that works for all, a better South Africa, a better African continent and a better World.**

Institutional Capacity

18. In the 2024/25 Financial Year, the Department appointed **two(2)** SMS members at Chief Director's position wherein amongst those principle of gender equity was emphasised. Furthermore, to strengthen the institutional capacity, the Department is reviewing its organizational structure and has advertised all critical vacant funded positions.
19. The creation of a dedicated Language Service office has led to new positions and job opportunities which will be filled within the current financial year.
20. To mitigate the high Youth Unemployment levels, the Department for 2025/26 has recruited youth in the internship programme to gain experience in the workplace as a result some learners become permanently appointed in respective sectors.

Promotion of Cultural & Sport Tourism and Economic Development

21. The Department will continue to focus on enhancing **social cohesion** through high-impact cultural and sporting events.

Cultural Signature Events

22. The Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience, one of our flagship events, will be expanded to attract both local and international visitors, contributing significantly to cultural tourism and local economic activity.
23. The 9th edition (2024) of this signature event presented nine pillars namely; Carnival Xperience, Soul Session Xperience, Comedy Xperience, Kasi Xperience, Choral Xperience, Marathon Xperience, Traditional Xperience, 013 Summer Blaze, Mpumalanga Gospel Awards and Music Creatives Workshop spread in all districts of the Province.
24. In the financial year 2025/26, we are proud to announce the 10th Edition of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience. Spanning seven days, this flagship event will serve not only as a celebration of our province's vibrant cultures but as a strategic intervention to stimulate cultural tourism, empower creative workers, and inject value into the local economy through temporary job creation, business opportunities, and increased visitor spending. Indeed **"It is in our hands to build Mpumalanga Province that works for all"**
25. In an effort to enhance cultural visibility and position Mpumalanga as a premier destination for arts and culture, the Department entered into a three year agreement with SABC to host Metro FM Music Awards which ended in 2025.
26. These signature events such as the Cultural Xperience, Metro FM Music Awards and Innibos Festivals provided platforms for celebrating our province's rich cultural diversity and boosting the creative industries.
27. These events have grown in lips and bounds, contributing immensely towards the economic growth of the province by affording opportunities for job creation, SMMEs, creating platforms to local artists and prominent branding visibility with the potential to attract much needed investments into the province. ***"It is in our hands to build Mpumalanga province that works for all"***

Sports Flagship Initiatives

28. Honourable Speaker, the department works with a number of formidable structures who assist in the development of sport throughout the province, with a special focus on Sports Tourism, job creation and contribution to inclusive economic growth and development. The following are some of the initiatives supported by the department:

- Nashua Loskop Marathon which is the 3rd biggest in the country.
- Nelspruit Marathon (Kaapsehoop 3-in-1)
- Bella's Athletic Club (Makhonjwa Mountain Marathon)
- Tennis Base Legacy for the **inaugural Mbombela Open Tennis Tournament** that took place from the **14-18 May 2025** in the city of Mbombela and attracted more than **182** tennis players from all over the country and neighboring countries.
- Mpumalanga Annual Sport Awards to recognize and acknowledge excellence of our athletes who performed exceptionally well in sports.
- Imizamo Yabagibeli Horse Riders with the focus at grassroot level and to support traditional leadership initiatives in sports.

29. The department will continue to intensify support to other sporting codes such as Netball, Pool table, Basketball including the Prestine Ladies Golf.

30. Honourable Speaker, in the 2025/26 financial year as part of the continued programme to support and host of High profile games in the province, the Department has just supported the hosting of an international rugby match between RSA and Georgia on the **19 July 2025** at Mbombela stadium. ***"It is in our hands to build Mpumalanga Province that works for all"***.

Infrastructure Projects

31. Honourable speaker, expanding investments in infrastructure is one of the key pillars of radical social economic transformation.

32. To reaffirm this strategic objective, infrastructure projects will also be a dedicated focus in 2025/26 financial year, particularly the strengthening of the Public-

Private Partnerships (PPP) which are key in the successful completion and operationalization of the mega infrastructure projects namely; High Altitude Training Centre, Multi Purpose Arena, Cultural Hub and libraries.

Multi Purpose Arena

33. We are pleased to report that the planning and design stage for the Multi-Purpose Arena at Mbombela Stadium has been completed. The next phase which entails the top structure construction will commence in the 2025/26 financial year.

High Altitude Training Centre (HATC)

34. HATC will position Mpumalanga as a leader in sport tourism. The Project aims to create a world class sport centre which supports world class high performance and competitiveness. To date the construction of the 7ML Reservoir is at 85% and our target for the 2025/26 is to see the Reservoir fully completed. I
35. The 3.5ML Waste Water Treatment Plant is at 46% and our plan is to see the project complete during the 2026/27 financial year which will have a positive impact to the sanitation network of Emakhazeni.
36. These mega facilities will go a long way to enhance competitiveness of our athletes, provide critical inputs, job opportunities and reposition sport tourism prowess of Mpumalanga province.

Cultural Hub

37. Albeit associated challenges, Cultural Hub when completed will provide a platform for development of musicians, designers and the film industry in stimulating the creativity and ensuring skills development, celebrating the diverse cultures and heritage of the province, job creation and economic growth.

Libraries

38. Library Infrastructure is vital for empowering citizens with knowledge and bridging the digital divide, especially in rural areas. Our efforts will enhance inclusivity, allowing citizens across various socio-economic backgrounds to benefit from educational resources and opportunities provided.
39. The establishment of **10 new libraries by 2030**, raising the total from **122 to 132**, will provide increased access to information services for underserved communities.

40. In the 2024/25 Financial Year, **three (3)** new libraries were completed, namely, KwaMhlanga in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Newtown in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and Ethandukukhanya in Mkhondo Local Municipality.
41. In 2025/26 financial year, the department will focus on completing the construction of three libraries namely; Mmametlhake in Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality, Warburton in Msukaligwa Local Municipality and Louville in Nkomazi Local Municipality.
42. These modern facilities have been strategically built and maintained to ensure that community members have easier access to resources, eliminating the need to travel long distances to access information.
43. **Two (2)** new libraries namely; Mavilijanin in Bushbuckridge and Moloto in Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipalities respectively are in the planning and design stage for the current financial year.
44. **Six (6)** existing libraries are planned for maintenance in the 2025/26 financial year in: StanWest and Elukwatini under Gert Sibande District; Masoyi and Shatale under Ehlanzeni District; Phumula and Thubelihle Public Libraries under Nkangala District.
45. **The total Budget for Infrastructure projects and maintenance in the 2025/26 financial year is ninety one million and sixty one thousand (R91 061 million).**
- Cultural Affairs Infrastructure Projects : **R5 million**
 - Library and Archives Infrastructure Projects : **R35 million**
 - Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Projects : **R51 060 million**
46. These **Infrastructure Projects** are designed to attract private investments, stimulate the economy and create jobs.
47. Through the MOU entered between ICASA and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCTC), the department has benefited from the social obligations connectivity project rolled out by MTN and Vodacom.

48. The department received 22 routers from MTN and 58 from Vodacom which were allocated and installed in **70** Public Libraries within the province to improve the provision of universal Access to Information to under served communities.

“It is in our hands to build Mpumalanga Province that works for all”.

49. Honourable Speaker, addressing inequalities including spatial disparities is central to our strategy for social cohesion and deploying of services to remote rural communities.

Developmental Programmes

Cultural Affairs “Believing that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity”

50. The Department remains steadfast in promoting cultural diversity, multilingualism, transformation of the heritage landscape and fostering socio-economic development through the creative sector.
51. As part of the celebration, a **documentary** will be created that will cover the journey of the ten years of Cultural Xperience. This documentary will include artists who participated in building the legacy of **Cultural Xperience**.
52. These cultural development activities are not only platforms to recognize talent in the creative sector but also catalysts for economic beneficiation, social cohesion and tourism marketing for the province.
53. Honourable Speaker, the province will be celebrating Dr Esther Mahlangu’s Legacy in the current financial year. Dr Esther Mahlangu who will be turning 90 years, is a renowned South African artist known for her vibrant and intricate Ndebele paintings which have gained international recognition.
54. The department is planning to preserve Dr. Esther Mahlangu’s legacy works at Kgodwana Cultural Centre which will also be used as an Art and Craft training centre. She needs to be supported to further transfer her natural skills of painting to up and coming crafters in changing more lives, **nje ukuthi bakhone ukubeka umratha etafuleni**.

The Department also provides support to 16 community structures who assist the department to deliver on its mandate in the promotion of arts and culture at grassroot level. These structures includes amongst others but not limited to; **Cultural and Creative Industries Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA), Moral Regeneration**

Movement and Commemorative events hosted by Amakhosi.

55. In alignment with the Mpumalanga Language Act No. 3 of 2014, **R7 million** has been set aside to establish a provincial language unit that will promote multilingualism, implement language policies, facilitate translation services, and support the development of indigenous languages.
56. Through these efforts, we aim to foster an inclusive, linguistically diverse society where all languages are valued, respected, and used as tools for cultural expression, knowledge-sharing and economic empowerment.

“It is in our hands to build Mpumalanga province that works for all through sustainable development”

National Identity and Social Cohesion Initiatives

57. Honourable Speaker, in line with our commitment to building a unified and inclusive society, the Department will continue to implement flag-raising campaigns and promote national identity through high-profile cultural and sporting events, in schools, traditional councils and public spaces. The **“I Am the Flag”** campaign and Community Dialogue Programmes will deepen social cohesion, encourage dialogue across diverse communities and build a stronger sense of **national patriotism**.

On an annual basis the Department will continue to preserve culture and heritage through the support provided to the cultural events driven in the main by four Kings namely; King Silamba and King Nyabela in respect of commemorations including Umkhosi Wemhlanga in Eswatini and Umkhosi Womhlanga in KZN where young maidens from Mpumalanga are participating.

58. Honourable Speaker, The Department through its Provincial Geographic Names Committee will continue to accelerate transformation of the geographic names landscape. In 2024/25 **six(6)** names were received and processed to the Minister for standardization, approval and gazetting.
59. We also recognize the urgent need to register previously unnamed settlements and streets, especially in rural areas. In partnership with local municipalities and the MPGNC, the Department will roll out awareness blitz and training workshops. This is not merely about maps; this is about dignity, identity and enhancing service delivery.

“It is in our hands to decolonize the Geographic naming process in our province”.

60. Honourable Speaker, our Heritage is not static, it lives in our museums, in our traditions and in the hands of our people. In our quest to build safer and more socially cohesive communities, the Department will continue to support museum programming and deepen partnerships with key institutions such as National Ditsong Cultural Museum of South Africa which aims to support provincial and local museums.
61. The department plans to roll out maintenance and renovation programmes to provincial and local museums, these includes Pilgrims Rest, Barberton, Nomoya Masilela Museum in Bethal, the Lydenburg Museum in Mashishing and the Museum at Kghodwana Cultural Village in Nkangala.
62. Honourable Speaker, as we advance our efforts to modernize and reposition the heritage sector for the digital age, the Department is proudly aligning itself with the imperatives of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In this regard, we have rolled out ICT services across all museums in the Province. Each museum is now equipped with reliable Internet and Wi-Fi connectivity, ensuring that visitors can engage with our heritage in real-time and with ease.
63. I am pleased to announce that in the 2025/26 financial year, we will launch a mobile application that will allow users to explore our museums virtually, make bookings, and navigate directly to sites using Google Maps and integrated local services.
64. In addition, we have introduced QR codes to facilitate quick and convenient online access to information and services. These innovations reflect our firm commitment to digital transformation in the cultural and heritage space, while ensuring that Mpumalanga’s history is **preserved, celebrated, and shared** with the world.
65. Finally, as part of preserving Mpumalanga’s unique living heritage, we are proud to once again support the South African Gold Panning Association, based at Pilgrim’s Rest. In August this year, I will lead the South African team to the 2025 World Gold Panning Championships in Navelgas, Spain. Later in the year, in partnership with the South African Gold panning Association, we will host the National Gold Panning Championships in Pilgrims Rest.

“It is in our hands to open the doors of Learning and Culture”.

Library and Information services

66. Honourable Speaker, the Library and Information Services caters for the provision of public library services to the public throughout the province. The Department receives Conditional Grant funding from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. The allocation in the main provides access to ICT services and library material such as physical books and electronic books to the **122** existing public libraries. In addition, new library facilities are built annually and handed over to the municipalities.
67. In the 2024/25 financial year, **six(6)** mobile library buses have been procured **two** for each District Municipality namely; Nkangala, Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni.
68. These mobile library buses are fully equipped with Free Internet and Wi-Fi, physical and electronic books, Computers and Copier services and are currently servicing remote rural and farm settlements where there is no library infrastructure.
69. In the 2024/25 financial year, six(6) mobile library buses have been procured two for each District Municipality namely; Nkangala, Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni.
70. These mobile library buses are fully equipped with Free Internet and Wi-Fi, physical and electronic books, Computers and Copier services and are currently servicing remote rural and farm settlements where there is no library infrastructure.
71. Working together with South African Library for the Blind (SALB) the Department has established Mini-libs on selected public libraries in the province that caters for those who are visually impaired through the provisioning of the necessary assistive technologies, reading material and other facilities. The service is rendered through **thirty-nine (39)** libraries for the blind and partially sighted and it will be continued in the 2025/26 FY. The project currently boasts a total number of **625** active members and continues to increase every day. All new libraries come standard with a specialized room that offers the service to the blind.

72. Furthermore, investing in cutting-edge library infrastructure reflects a commitment to fostering a culture of learning for sustainable development. Each library is equipped with the latest book titles and technology, including photocopier services; uninterrupted power supply (UPS); internet access and Wi-Fi, to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of the community, particularly students.
73. The Department will continue to provide records management oversight to enable the preservation and protection of provincial records through the Provincial Archives. The Provincial Archives will set and enforce standards for records management across government departments and conduct inspection in governmental institutions.
74. The department will explore the possibilities of securing a facility to be utilized as a records storage center to assist governmental bodies with storage of semi current records to resonate with 30 years of our Democracy.
75. A total number of 39 Institutions were inspected in the 2024/2025 financial year. In the 2025/2026 financial year, the department will continue to provide records management awareness and training.
76. The Provincial Archives collected records from public bodies with enduring value of provincial significance which cannot be preserved by any other institutions, such as the former KaNgwane and KwaNdebele records. These records have been appraised, and an inventory is being developed for public access. The tracing of more records of this nature will continue in the current financial year.
77. Honourable Speaker, the 10th Oral History conference was coordinated to create awareness on the preservation, recording and conserving of intangible heritage through indigenous languages.
78. To collect and preserve the history of the previous marginalized communities which is not written anywhere in the mainstream history books, the department will coordinate the 11th Oral History Conference under the theme “Echoes of the past: Memory, Identity and Heritage” on the 10th-12th September 2025 at Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. The objective of the 11th Oral History is to assist communities in retrieving neglected indigenous and community knowledge as a way of promoting social, economic and cultural development.

“It is in our hands to ensure that everyone has a right to Education and information”

Sport and Recreation

79. Honourable Speaker, Sports make major contribution towards bringing us together, it is almost unpatriotic not to support Bafana Bafana, Banyana Banyana, Proteas, Springboks or any other national team.
80. The Department supports a number of sport related structures which assist in the development of sport, addressing the elements of social cohesion and improve sport tourism. As part of the 2nd Quarter programme, the province will support the coordination of the Mpumalanga Mkhondo Horse Racing. The race seeks to promote rural horse racing sport through **Imizamo yabagibeli Horse Riders** and targets youth development, tourists attraction, horse owners and local communities.
81. Honourable Speaker, the Department is working closely with the Department of Education in ensuring the smooth implementation of the Schools Sport programme and the introduction of league systems at school level. The department targets to support Schools Sport programmes with different sporting codes. **Four hundred (400)** learners will be supported to participate in the National Sport Championships (autumn, winter and summer games championship).
82. In the 2025/26 financial year, the department plans to support **200** schools, **25** hubs and **60** clubs by providing them with equipment and/or attire. **Twenty two (22)** local leagues will be supported with basic office logistics such as stationery, referees stipends, balls and medals. A total of **sixty (60)** clubs from different sporting codes will be supported to participate in district and provincial competitions. This programme seeks to empower athletes to excel in sport.
83. Honourable Speaker, in the 2024/25 financial year an international boxing tournament was hosted at Eric Jiyane Hall in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. This year with the support of the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the Department will launch the Steve Tshwete Boxing Tournament, an event that will be implemented in all the nine provinces honouring the work of the late former Minister of Sport, Mr. Steve Tshwete.
84. The department will continue to support more municipalities to access Municipal Infrastructure Grant aimed at improving sports facilities in our municipalities.

“It is in our hands to ensure that Mpumalanga province works for all through properly funded sports development programmes”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

85. The Department extends its heartfelt congratulations to the following best achievers:

- South African spinning athlete, Mr. Samkeliso “Sam Sam” Thubane from Mbombela, Mpumalanga for his outstanding achievement as a talented car spinner who has recently showcased his exceptional skills on the global stage at the grand reopening of Hangar-7 in Austria.
- The Bees Football Club from Naas, Nkomazi for winning the Provincial ABC Motsepe League and subsequent playoffs to gain promotion to the National First Division.
- The department also congratulates the following soccer teams for achieving top 8 brackets in their respective divisions: Casric Stars for obtaining position 3, Kruger United Football Club in position 5 and TS Galaxy for attaining position 5, enabling them to be in the top 8 of the prestigious Betway Premier League.
- The Mpumalanga Pumas have made us proud by becoming the 2024/25 SA Rugby Cup Champions.
- The Lowveld Walkers who walked 500km from Beit Bridge border of Zimbabwe to Mbombela. This **long walk** is aimed at honouring the legacy of Dr. Nelson Mandela. I would also want to acknowledge the presence of the founder of this initiative, Mr Joseph Mashaba.
- Mr. Lawrence Ngubeni who represented Mpumalanga province in the ministerial dinner held in Pretoria on Monday 31st March 2025, aimed at honoring boxing legends.
- Ms Nkosingiphile Mthombeni from Moduping Combined, Havene Whitney and Lizzy Khoza from St Marks School who represented the province in the 2024 CAF African School Football Championship under 15 competition.
- In addition, let me congratulate the provincial school football teams for both girls and boys who obtained position 2 in the National School Sports Winter Games in Durban, with Nkosingiphile Mthombeni from St Marks being nominated again as the best player of the tournament and Zolani Wyne Kenny from Witbank High nominated as the best player for boys.

- Ms Boitumelo Tefu who won the 2025 Miss Teen Universe and World Supermodel competition that was recently held in Turkey on 14 May 2025 all the way from Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. Can she please take a bow.
 - Mr. Shalom Magadla, a young golfer from Malelane in Nkomazi Local Municipality who has shared a stage with the President of RSA and the Premier of Mpumalanga province .
86. As we implement the planned targets for 2025/26 financial year, our strategic focus remains on promoting social cohesion, cultural preservation, access to information and sports development to address the socio-economic disparities in Mpumalanga
87. The department's collective expertise, innovative strategies, and strong partnerships will ensure that DCSR plays a pivotal role in realizing the goals of the Mpumalanga Vision 2030 and the National Development Plan 2030.
88. Our shared efforts will foster a society that is “active, creative, informed, and patriotic”, and contribute to the building of a more cohesive, culturally vibrant, and economically inclusive Mpumalanga. Together, we will ensure that every citizen, especially the youth and marginalized communities, has the opportunity to thrive in a united and prosperous province.

Appreciation

89. As I conclude Honourable Speaker, let me express my gratitude to the ruling party, the African National Congress led by the Chairperson Mr Mandla Ndlovu for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation in the Province.
90. Let me also thank the Portfolio Committee on Culture, Sport and Recreation for their dedicated guidance and oversight role.
91. Let me thank all agencies, committees and federations assisting the department to fulfill its mandate.
92. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Acting Head of Department and the entire staff component of the Department for their continued support as we are a dedicated team that works tirelessly to service the people of Mpumalanga.

93. Let me also thank my family for their continued support and my spiritual father Bishop Ezrom Zulu.

Budget

94. Honourable Speaker, allow me to table the Budget for Vote 11 for the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation allocated according to the four (4) programmes for consideration by the house:

PROGRAMME	AMOUNT R'000
Programme 1: Administration	R 128 million 458 thousand
Programme 2: Cultural Affairs	R 320 million 739 thousand
Programme 3: Library Services and Archives	R 213 million 509 thousand
Programme 4: Sport and Recreation	R 149 million 592 thousand
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2025/26	R 812 million 298 thousand

“It is in our hands to build Mpumalanga Province that works for all”

“It is in our hands to combat poverty and inequality”

I thank you

NOTES

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