



2022/23

POLICY & BUDGET SPEECH

VOTE 11



culture, sport & recreation

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2022/23

JUNE 2022

Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Hon Makhosazana Masilela

Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Hon Jeanette Thabethe

Premier of Mpumalanga Province, Hon Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane

Honourable members of the Executive Council

Honourable members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, Inkosi Ngomane

Executive Mayors and Councillors

MMCs for Culture, Sport and Recreation from District and Local Municipality

Head of Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mr Godfrey Ntombela and other Heads of Departments

Leadership of Sport Federations

Leadership of Multi Religious Formations

Representatives of CCIFSA and CWUSA

Comrades and friends

Members of the media

Invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

INTRODUCTION

1. It is an honour and privilege for me to stand here to table a budget speech on Vote 11 of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation in June, a significant month in the history calendar of our country.
2. Since the dawn of freedom and democracy, we commemorate the contribution of the youth in the liberation history of our country. We remember and salute the brave and courageous youth cadres who were at the forefront of the struggle for liberation on June 16 1976. They did not flinch in the face of the brutal and violent repressive apartheid regime, but were determined and willing to risk and sacrificed their young lives to ensure that we enjoy the fruits of freedom and democracy.
3. It is dedicated to honouring the many sacrifices that was made by the generation of young people to bring about freedom and democracy in our country. The current generation owes it to the youth of 1976 and its leaders who lived up to the values which great leaders espoused, the values and principles of Ubuntu, inclusivity and equality. The ideals for which they live and died for should serve as a great source of inspiration to all the youth of our country.
4. In keeping up with the spirit of this great generation, we recommit ourselves to the objective of further advancing youth development, as an integral part of building a national democratic society; that is united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous.
5. June month also remind us of the painful period where on the 19th of June 1913 the Natives Land Act became law, where black families were forcibly removed from their land. Usizi Lo muntu omnyama became the joy of the oppressors.
6. We deliver this budget in full understanding of the negative impact that the emergence of Covid-19 pandemic has created in our sector. The Covid-19 pandemic has plagued the entire world, taking a toll on economic activities and people way of life.
7. As government we must seize this moment of hope and courage displayed by the masses of our people and rebuild from the devastation brought by the pandemic.
8. We believe that as we move out of this dark cloud, there is a bright future lying ahead for our province and its people.
9. The honourable Premier, in her state of the Province address reminded us that even though we are facing steep and daunting challenges we must not lose hope, but be optimistic that someday we shall overcome.
10. Madam Speaker, I am inspired by the words of former President Thabo Mbeki when he said – *“Gloom and despondency has never defeated adversity. Trying times need courage and resilience. Our strength as the people is not tested during the best of times. As we said before we should never become despondent because the weather is bad nor should we turn triumphalist because the sun shines”*.
11. Madam Speaker, There is remarkable progress made under this democratic government through its service delivery programmes that strive to reduce inequality, poverty and unemployment.

12. Honourable Speaker, in the past weeks I attended an Imbizo at Nkomazi on Gender Based Violence and Femicide. It was heart breaking to listen to ordinary citizens raising serious point of dissatisfaction to our justice system.

The latest events of abuse against women, children and vulnerable groups within our communities leaves much to be desired.

We have just witnessed the brutal killing of Hillary Gardee, Bontle Mashiyane and the Mazibuko sisters here in Ehlanzeni which is regarded as an epic centre of gender based violence and femicide.

I want to thank the Honourable Premier for her commitment to the fight against gender based violence and femicide. I also want to commend the swift response by the police in arresting the perpetrators of these heinous and barbaric acts.

13. How can we sleep peacefully when this GBV-F is becoming the order of the day? It is for this reason that we are making a clarion call to all artists, poets, writers to compose songs, theatrical productions and documentaries dealing with gender based violence in order to raise awareness about the scourge.
14. Allow me to commend and appreciate one of our artist by the name of Princess Indlovukazi who recently composed a song about GBV titled Nyandzaleyo. Asishayeni inyandzaleyo uma sibona kuhlukunyetwa kwebantfu besifazane nebantfwana.
15. Honourable speaker, our past continues to hang over us like a spectre haunting our present. Let me join the millions of voices and condemn incidents of racism that continue to take place especially in universities, schools and farms that undermines the spirit of reconciliation, nation building and social cohesion as embedded and protected by our constitution. We cannot rest while this other pandemic is not totally defeated.
16. An activist by the name of James Baldwin once said - "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced"
17. Our plans for the period ahead are focused on the transformation imperatives that will accelerate growth and build a more equal society within the creative and arts sector.

PROGRAMME 2: CULTURAL AFFAIRS

18. Honourable Speaker, the overarching role of this programme is to promote cultural diversity, multi-faith, multi-lingualism, transformation of the heritage landscape and in the process ensure that socio-economic development takes place in the province. These roles are implemented through three(3) sub programmes.

Arts and culture

19. Madam Speaker, as we endeavour to address Priority 6 on social cohesion and safer communities, the Department implemented social cohesion dialogues. In 2021/22 financial year, the department coordinated three(3) community conversations/dialogues. These dialogues which included the theme of gender based violence, moral values,

religion, safety and security were coordinated as part of social cohesion and nation building. Sessions like these are of utmost significance, hence they are planned to be continued in the 2022/23 financial year in all the districts of the Province.

20. Madam Speaker, in our quest to support job creation initiatives in the creative industry, the Department coordinated marketing platforms for arts and craft products. In 2021/22 financial year, twenty cooperatives were supported in this regard. In the 2022/23 financial year, the Department will reach out to 17 cooperatives.
21. In 2021/22 financial year, two(2) anchor events were supported to promote cultural diversity and to enhance cultural tourism. The South African Traditional Music Awards (SATMA) and Innibos National Festival hosted in the City of Mbombela. We will continue to support the two anchor events in the 2022/23 financial year.
22. As we are mandated to advance social integration, we will build from the success of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience 5th edition that was hosted in 2021/22 with pillars such as comedy, music, choral, traditional, soul session and gospel awards. In 2022/23 we are looking forward to continue with great vigour and determination since the COVID-19 restrictions were eased. Lessons were learnt in the previous Festival where local artists were the main beneficiaries through performances in the various pillars. In an effort to support local artists, the Department will continue in implementing the 90/10 principle for the procurement of artists.
23. The Department commits itself in recognising and supporting the creative workers. The Department partnered with Malumbi Foundation in the Art of Legends program that seeks to honour and celebrate legends in this sector. Among the Legends honoured thus far are Dr Esther Mahlangu, Dr Rebecca Malope, Vusi Mahlasela and Masibuyele kuJehova. The late Ray Phiri, Dr Gubudla Malindzisa, Jozi Thwala and Sam Nzima were honoured posthumously. The Department will continue in its endeavour to identify and honour more legends in the current financial year.
24. Madam Speaker the support of community based structures in the 2021/22 financial year, ten structures were supported namely; Friends of Barberton and Pilgrims Rest Museums, Moral Regeneration Movement, Rademessy Creatives Organisation NPC, Girls Foundation NPC, Mpumalanga Choral Music, Mpumalanga Got Talent, Endumbeni Cultural & Creative Arts Centre, Mpumalanga Gospel Awards and Cultural Creative Industry Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA)..Moral Regeneration Movement, Mpumalanga heritage & heal our land prayer through Big Fish Entertainment, Mpumalanga Gospel Awards, Music Creative Workshop and Mpumalanga Got Talent projects.
25. In 2022/23 a new window of funding opportunity was opened and 10 new structures will be funded.

Language services

26. Honourable speaker, Section 30 of the RSA Constitution states that: everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice. In the Province as per the Provincial Language Act of 2014 the Department is mandated to develop Siswati and Isindebele and to further promote multilingualism.
27. Kuhambisana nalomgomo emnyakenitimali wa-2021/22 Litiko lente umsebenti wekwakhiwa kwemibhalo ngetilwimi temdzabu. Kwashicilelwa tincwadzi letimbili tetindzaba letimfishane ngeSiswati nangeSindebele - "Sentangabomu" naletsi "Alitjhangi Linganandaba". Kwakhiwe neluhla lwemagama etilwane ngeSiswati, Sindebele nangeSingisi, *phECEletI* Trilingual Animals Terminology List.
28. This financial year we have changed the focus to youth writers. We call upon the youth to participate in the competition which closes on the 19th June 2022.
29. Honourable speaker the in 2022/23 financial year the Department will produce three(3) novels for both Siswati and isiNdebele in an effort to develop and preserve our rich cultural heritage. This time the eligibility criteria to participate in the writing competition will be the youth that is between the age of eighteen to thirty five (18-35). This will go a long way in assisting and encouraging our people to read and study in their indigenous languages.

Heritage and museums

30. The significance of standardization of Geographic names cannot be over emphasized. It impacts directly on the identity and fiber of our people which were previously lost to Eurocentric names used in our geographical space. We note with concern that in the entire continent of Africa, our country is the only one littered with Eurocentric names amongst all African countries thus we lose our identity in the process. We cannot continue to take this for granted, it must change.
31. Honourable Speaker, despite these challenges Mpumalanga is a proud pioneer in the process of standardization countrywide, I will not leave this platform without re-emphasizing that since the year 2000 to date the Province has managed to standardize 276 geographic features. In 2021/22 financial year, 14 names mainly from Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipalities respectively, were approved and gazetted by National Geographic Name Council. In this regard we wish to appreciate the work done by the Provincial Geographic Names Change (PGNC) Chaired by Ms. Dinah Pule. We urge communities to work with the Local Geographic Names Committee (LGNCs) to fastrack this process.
32. Over the past two years the tourism, hospitality and entertainment sectors worldwide experienced a serious negative impact due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In 2022/23 financial year the number of visitors at our museums had dropped drastically to under eight thousand visitors from the previous trends of approximately forty thousand annually.

33. To rebuild this sector it requires much effort and innovative initiatives. We will continue to build on the ICT initiatives at our museums, as well as the ongoing revitalization programme of our facilities.
34. Honourable Speaker, let me report that in 2023 our iconic museum town of Pilgrims Rest will be welcoming Gold Panning participants from across the globe as we will be hosting the World Gold Panning Championships. As a build up to the 2023 event, South Africa as the hosting member country will be sending a team to Zlotoryja in Poland to participate in the World Gold Panning Championship 2022. Amongst other responsibilities, will be to present a South Africa night event. This will be done as an effort to galvanize support for our upcoming event and market the beautiful Province of Mpumalanga.
35. Honourable Speaker, the Department is the custodian of heritage resources of the province. Over three hundred and fifty heritage sites were inherited as Provincial sites with promulgation of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. The Act requires that we assess the significance of these sites and all other unregistered sites so that they may enjoy protection and be made accessible to the public. We will continue to support the work of the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority and South African Heritage Recourse Agency (SAHRA)
36. In the 2022/23 financial year, Honourable speaker we will be finalizing an agreement with the School of Heritage from the University of Witwatersrand. This will see the assessment of these heritage resources as part of heritage studies field work. The program will also include the investigation of best possible ways to present these resources as tourism attraction sites.
37. Madam speaker, as part of the transformation of the heritage landscape, the Department in partnership with the National Heritage Council is finalizing the feasibility studies for the development of the 1986 lowveld massacre in the City of Mbombela and Saul Mkhize legacy sites in Mkhondo Local Municipality. We will continue to appreciate the heroes and heroines of the struggle in support of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture's initiative on the Resistance, Liberation Heritage Route programmes.

PROGRAMME 3: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Library Services

38. Honourable Speaker, scholars refer to library as gateways to knowledge and culture, as they play a fundamental role in society. The resources and services they offer create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help to shape new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society.
39. Honourable Speaker in order to redress the imbalances of the past and provide equal opportunities, the Department has provided access to library services. In the 2021/22 financial year the Department constructed two(2) new library facilities in Nkomazi Local Municipality(Kamatsamo) and Steve Tshwete Local Municipality(Newtown) which are recorded as work in progress and planned to be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.
40. Honourable Speaker as we strive to increase access to public libraries to many of our communities, we have planned to construct five(5) additional new library facilities in the 2022/23 financial year. These facilities will be initiated at Mkhondo Local Municipality(Ethandukukhanya), Thembisile Hani Local Municipality(KwaMhlanga), Msukaligwa Local Municipality(Warburton), Nkomazi(Louisville) and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality(Mammetlhake).
41. It is important to make sure that the existing library facilities and services are conducive and meet the norms and standards that are expected. In the 2021/22 financial year we provided maintenance to six(6) library facilities. In 2022/23 six(6) more public libraries will be maintained at Emjindini, Simile, Secunda, Grootvlei, Libangeni and Maphotla libraries. One(1) Library facility will be upgraded at Cassimpark, in Msukaligwa Local Municipality. This will bring total infrastructure investment to R51.4 million for 2022/23 financial year.
42. The provision of Library Management System for all the one hundred and seventeen(117) public libraries in the Province has gained significant momentum. This new Library Management System enables libraries to do cataloguing, classification, book circulation, inter-library loans, registration, management of administrators and patrons as well as retrieving reports.
43. Honourable Speaker, the challenge of vandalism, theft and arson have deprived many library users from fully gratifying their information needs. The Department has therefore identified a need to install electronic security gadgets such as Closed- Circuit Television cameras (CCTV) and Alarm System in line with the modern technology and the fourth industrial revolution. The phased-in roll out of the installation of CCTV cameras has commenced. We call upon communities to take pride and protect these facilities.

Archival Services

44. Honourable Speaker, in 2021/22 financial year we hosted the Oral History Conference that served as an important platform to preserve and restore the history and heritage of our people. The Oral History conference is an annual event and will be continued in the 2022/23 financial year under the theme; The year of unity and renewal: International Solidarity and Cultural Diplomacy, Redefining 21st century global alliances. While there are various sub themes, learners at the conference will be focusing on Oral History in the classroom.

PROGRAMME 4: SPORT AND RECREATION

Sport

45. Madam speaker our athletes continue to make us proud at the International stage. You may remember the outstanding achievement of Ntando Mahlangu who won two(2) Gold medals at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Paralympics. The two(2) gold medals are men's long jump and 200m sprint. The Department conferred a special award to him during the Provincial Sports Awards hosted in September 2021.
46. Despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions the Sport and Recreation sector, various sport programmes were implemented. This includes the hosting of the 5th Provincial Annual Sport Awards. These awards acknowledged the contributions of Legends in the sporting fraternity. The awards will be continued in 2022/23 financial year with a new focus.
47. The contribution of community based structures and sport confederations cannot be overemphasized in the successful implementation of sport programmes in the province. These include sporting codes affiliated to Mpumalanga Sport Confederation.
48. One of the key highlights was the hosting the 2022 South African National Cycling Championship in collaboration with Cycling South Africa at Graskop, Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. Cyclists from all the Provinces and abroad competed for national titles and to qualify for International competitions. A total of 517 cyclists comprising of youth, men, women and people with disabilities participated. The 2022/23 Mpumalanga Cycling Championship will be hosted in August 2022.
49. Honourable speaker, as part of the key output to support high profile games in the Province we are pleased to report that an International Boxing Tournament was hosted in the 2021 financial year. The Department will continue with this key output of boxing tournament in 2022/23 financial year.
50. The excitement at Mbombela Stadium on August 6th, will be at fever pitch. The province will be hosting our World Cup Champions, the Springboks who will play against the All Blacks (New Zealand). Supporters are expected to converge from all parts of the world to the Place of the Rising sun. Let us embrace them with true Mpumalanga hospitality.

School and community sport and recreation

51. Honourable Speaker, School and community sport and recreation was the most affected sub programme since it has sporting codes that are contact in nature. However, the Department remained resolute in its support to the promotion of sport by providing sport equipment to 177 schools, hubs and clubs. In the 2022/23 financial year, sport equipment and attire will continue to be provided to the 177 schools, hubs and clubs.
52. Honourable Speaker, the Department was also able to develop and nurture talent of learners in sport by providing them with opportunities to participate in school sport seasons. Despite the shifting of calendar dates in 2021/22 all the sport season games were hosted as planned. In the 2022/23 financial year the Department will continue its partnership with Department of Education to develop and promote sport at school level.
53. Honourable Speaker, we also appreciate the support that we receive from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. In 2021/22 financial year a School Sport Multipurpose Combo-court was handed over to Memezile High School in Sabie by the National Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture. The facility caters for four (4), five-a-side soccer, basketball, netball and volleyball.
54. Honourable Speaker, we also appreciate the upgrade of Siyathuthuka Stadium by Emakhazeni Local Municipality through Municipal Infrastructure Grant from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to the value of R11 million. The facility is equipped with an artificial soccer pitch, three(3) new sport combo courts and a community outdoor gym. We also appreciate the upgrade of KwaMhlanga stadium by the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality through Municipal Infrastructure Grant from the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to the value of R17 million. These relationships will go a long way in the promotion and development of sport in the Province.
55. Madam speaker, the role of the Private sector in the development of sport is highly appreciated. MultiChoice and Supersport donated two(2) sport combo courts to Sedebeng and Boikhutsong Primary schools in Bushbuckridge respectively.
56. Honourable Speaker the Department is pleased to announce that South Africa was awarded an opportunity to host the 2023 Netball World Cup which will take place in the Western Cape. The Province will coordinate build-up activities to the World Cup and soon we will be launching netball Fridays.

CONCLUSION

57. Honourable Speaker and Members, it remains our task to remake out of our fractured past a more socially and economically inclusive society that is proud of all its cultural expressions; and a people that act together to enable the birth of a new culture and create new forms of engagement towards greater unity.
58. Honourable Speaker whilst it is important to recognise that there are many challenges ahead, we must also celebrate the positive outcomes that we have achieved in these difficult times.
59. We have achieved much in the past years, in a very difficult climate. But there is more to do ahead, more to build, more to put right, more to learn, more to implement in the future. And we are mindful of the fact that this can only be possible if we only work together.
60. Indeed it is time for a bold vision of our future as set out in the National Development Plan. It is time for action and implementation. It is time to move our Province forward to the next stage of our historic journey to more rapid growth, jobs and development – time to leave behind poverty, joblessness and inequality.
61. This Budget seeks to lay the foundation and give a blueprint to steer the province's arts and culture industry to greater heights.

Appreciation

As I conclude Madam speaker, let me express my gratitude to the ruling party, the African National Congress led by the Chairperson Comrade Mr Mandla Ndlovu for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation in the Province. I wish to also extend words of appreciation to Honourable Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane for her continuous guidance as we implement the mandate on nation building and Social Cohesion. Let me also thank the Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation under the stewardship of Honourable Gillion Mashego for their support and oversight.

My appreciation goes to the Head Department, Mr Godfrey Ntombela as well as Management and the entire staff for their continued support.

Lastly, I want to thank my family, for their continued support.

Budget

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	R105 570 Million
Programme 2: Cultural Affairs	R114 751 Million
Programme 3: Library and Archives Services	R225 750 Million
Programme 4: Sport and Recreation	R158 070 Million
TOTAL BUDGET	R604 141 Million

I thank you!

Ngiyabonga!

Ngiyathokoza!

Kea leboga!

Baie dankie!

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