



MEC BT SHONGWE

VOTE 11

POLICY & BUDGET

SPEECH | 2023/24



culture, sport & recreation

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2023/24

09 JUNE 2023 09:00

Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Hon MC Masilela

Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Hon JL 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, Kgoshi Mokoena

DG of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government Mr Mampuru

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.

1. We are honoured to table the 2023/24 Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation during the month of June, an important month in our country's history, where we celebrate the contribution of the youth in the liberation's struggle. 2023 marks 47 years since the 1976 Youth uprising where the youth fought against the Educational oppression by the apartheid government. We will never forget the sacrifices and contributions made by the class of 1976 in the Liberation struggle. We owe our gratitude to this generation and their leaders past and present.

2. Madam Speaker, our country will be heading to the polls next year for National and Provincial Elections and we have noticed that there is a huge voter apathy amongst the youth of this Country, we want to encourage all the young people across the province to go out in large numbers to register with IEC and to participate in the electoral processes and exercise their rights to vote .
3. The late former President of the African National Congress Ubaba O R Tambo once said, ***“This uprising of 1976 was, of course the historic watershed.... Within a short period of time it propelled into the forefront of our struggle millions of young people”***.
4. Madam Speaker 2023 marks a great milestone in the sports calendar where our Country will be hosting two International sport competitions. Today marks 49 days before the kick off of the Netball world cup competition which will be held on the 28th of July until the 6th of August 2023 in Capetown.
5. I am pleased to report that on Sunday the 4th of June 2023 Mpumalanga Province received the Netball world cup trophy at Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport in an occasion which was graced by the Deputy Minister of Sport, Art & Culture, Ms Nocawe Mafu.
6. The Trophy was handed over by President of Netball South Africa Ms Cecillia Molokwane the tour started at Ehlanzeni, moved to Gert Sibande and lastly to Nkangala District. I must indicate that it was warmly welcomed by the people of Mpumalanga especially Netball players in all the 3 Districts.
7. We encourage the people of Mpumalanga to watch all 60 netball games on Television and visit our public viewing areas(fan parks). The world cup trophy toured the Province with the aim of creating awareness, mobilising, showcasing and motivating netball players and supporters of sport. The tour was led by the President of Netball South Africa . We are excited to note that one of our own Khanyisile from Bushbuckridge will be playing for the National Team (Spar Proteas).
8. ***‘If you have a dream and you have ambition, then go for it. You know, unless you try, you’ll never know’***, this is the message I shared with all the young learners I met across the province since Sunday until Yesterday when the trophy was handed over.

9. May I take this opportunity to thank the Hon Premier for the budget allocated for legacy projects for Netball combi courts built in all 3 Districts as a build up to the Netball World Cup 2023.
10. Madam Speaker our province will also be hosting the World Gold Panning competition from the 6th to the 12th of August 2023 at Pilgrim's Rest in Thabachweu Local Municipality. We are expecting 20 member countries which includes Spain, Canada, Poland, Sweden, German, Finland just to mention the few to converge on our shores and we promise to give them a true south African experience showcasing our cultural richness which includes our traditional songs, dance and African cuisine.
11. We also expect them to tour the famous and iconic landscapes like the panorama routes and Kruger National Parks. We commit to deliver a spectacular opening ceremony and world-class competition. Indeed this tournament will directly and indirectly boost our economy.

PROGRAMME 2: CULTURAL AFFAIRS

12. Madam Speaker, we are mandated 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, which is Arts and Culture, Heritage & Museum Service and Language Services.
13. Madam speaker in the previous financial year, in an effort to optimise the output in terms of the standardization of geographic names and features, the Department endeavoured to capacitate Local Geographic Name Changes through local municipalities and the Provincial Geographic Names Changes.
14. Progress recorded in 2022/23 financial year, will see an increase in the 2023/24 financial year. This translates to a minimum of two standardized features per District.
15. The responsibility for the Standardization of geographical names and feature resides within all Spheres of Government, however it requires the active participation of Local communities to make submissions.

16. Communities are urged to play a more active role in an effort to transform the Heritage landscape of their immediate surrounding, the Province and the country.
17. Madam Speaker, we are continuing to contribute towards the promotion of non-racialism and combating racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance through the **six** commemorative days. Two key cultural events namely; South African Traditional Music Achievers (SATMA) awards and Innibos National Festival were implemented to promote cultural diversity and integration.
18. The SATMA awards were hosted for a period of three years and the contract has since lapsed in 2022/23. We are grateful with what we have achieved with this event notwithstanding the challenges that were brought by COVID-19 in the beginning.
19. We will also continue to implement our signature event namely: The Cultural Xperience in the current financial year with its six pillars taking place on the 26th November to the 10th of December 2023.
20. In 2022/23 financial year **ten** cultural community structures were supported in the Province namely; Friends of Barberton and Pilgrim's Rest Museums Mpumalanga Gospel Awards, Lukhanyo Girls Foundation, Mpumalanga Moral Regeneration Movement(MRM), Top Aces Entertainment, Zoe Creative Organisation NPC , Jimeliz Foundation, Community Creative Industry Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA) and Malumbi Foundation. In 2023/24 FY thirteen culture community structures are planned to be supported.
21. Madam speaker, we are continuing to invest in the promotion of multilingualism and development of indigenous languages through writing competition that culminated into six(6) novels written in isiNdebele and Siswati. In these competitions, we target young writers, who had never published before and in the current financial year two books will be produced in the two indigenous languages.

22. Thirty six Arts and craft cooperatives have been supported accross the Province and further exceeded our target by 17 in collaboration with the National of Sports Arts and Culture during the Africa Month and we commit to continue with such support in 2023/24 financial year.
23. We further coordinated marketing platforms for creative industry products job creations.

Priorities 2023/24

24. In 2019 Mpumalanga Provincial Government and the South African Gold panning Association secured the bid to host the World Gold Panning Championship 2023 in Pilgrims Rest. As reported earlier the event will showcase our Province and make it a destination of choice.
25. In continuing with our obligation to improve and transform the Heritage landscape, we will continue to standardise geographical names and features in the province through review of six(6) features per annum and popularise existing ones.
26. The Honourable Premier pronounced in her last SOPA address the hosting of the prestigious Metro FM Music Awards for the next 3 years working with DEDT, MPTA and City of Mbombela. In partnership with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) we were able to successfully host the event which was attended by the Premier and MECs.
27. The rippling effects of these awards seeks to bolster tourism within the Province and heighten focus on the arts and creative industry. In addition, the hosting of the Metro Awards increased the influx of tourists both domestic and international.
28. We are in the process of concluding a partnership with the Wits University's School of Heritage and Archaeology to assist in fast-tracking the assessment of heritage sites in the province.

29. The partnership is also aimed at capacitating communities situated around heritage sites with site management and business development skills to ensure communities benefit from the protection and proclamation of heritage sites in the province.
30. The provincial museums at both Pilgrims Rest and Barberton will continue to welcome tourists and learners from across the country and the world. We also expect to see a constant increase in visitor numbers at our museums as the hospitality and tourism industries are showing improvement post Covid.
31. Honourable Speaker, the Samora Machel Memorial Heritage site is a National site and enjoys a level 1 status and I am glad to announce that the National Department of Sport, Arts & Culture has appointed the Freedom Park Museum to oversee the transition of the site to a National Institution, however the Nkomazi Local Municipality and the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation will still play a critical role in this regard.

PROGRAMME 3: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Achievements 2022/23

32. Madam Speaker, the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa once said ***“we are a nation that does not build walls. We do not believe in building walls and that defines who we are. We are South Africans, and we do not subscribe to the building of walls”***.
33. It is for that reason we are continuing to deliver library services to communities in an effort to ensure access to Information services. The province currently has a total of 119 libraries with access to online books, free internet and Wi-Fi and services to the blind.
34. We have completed the construction of one new library at KaMatsamo Public Library in Nkomazi Local Municipality, in addition Newtown Library will be completed in the 2023/24 financial year.

Priorities 2023/24

35. Madam speaker we are committing ourselves to finalising the construction of two(2) new libraries Ethandukukhanya and Kwamhlanga, in the 2023/2024 financial year. The other three (3) new libraries Mammethlake, Louville and Warburton will be initiated in the 2023/2024 financial year and completed in the following year.
36. In the current financial year 2023/24, we are planning to hand over the completed libraries that is Matsamo in Nkomazi, Newtown Public Library in Steve Tshwete and eMalahleni Public Library.
37. The handing over of eMalahleni library will also coincide with the hand-over of two Mobile Library Buses for Nkangala Region while the other two regions, Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni will benefit at a later stage.
38. We will also support the **one hundred and twenty** existing public libraries with resources to increase access to information.
39. We are continuing to supply new library material to public libraries in order to empower learners and communities with knowledge. To this end, **five thousand seven hundred and forty five** electronic library materials will be supplied to public libraries in this financial year.
40. In each financial year the Department has the financial capacity to provide maintenance to only six(6) public libraries. In the 2023/24 financial year the following libraries have been prioritised; Silindile, Grootvlei, Phola, Funda, Msogwaba and Hluvukani.
41. Madam Speaker, you will note that we are in the fourth industrial revolution(4IR). In order for the libraries to remain relevant to the changing times; it would be prudent for us to invest more on ICT and I am happy to announce that we have already started.

42. The trends on public library usage strongly reveal a paradigm shift towards a digital age since most library users prefer to search information online than using a traditional book and we are gradually adapting to these changing times in order to remain relevant to the needs of our people.
43. Persistent electricity load shedding is having a negative effect in the delivery of library services but we are pleased to report that as a short term solution, we have rolled out Uninterrupted Power Suppliers (UPS) to all our libraries and museums in the previous financial year for effective and efficient smooth running of systems during power outages.
44. This system will be continued to ease pressure brought by shortage of electricity in the country and we are exploring long term solutions including the possibility of rolling out solar energy in all libraries.
45. William Butler Yeats once said “ ***Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire***”.

PROGRAMME 4: SPORT AND RECREATION

46. Madam Speaker, Sport is used as a vehicle to unite our people through interaction across race, gender and creed. It is a medium of self-expression among athletes, a source of inspiration to spectators and a source of pride of every nation. As a Province we have to keep the momentum in supporting sport initiatives in order to position the province as a sporting powerhouse.
47. I wish to report that on the 22nd June 2023 we will be launching the Mpumalanga Sport Awards to honour men and women who excel in sport fraternity and we are pleased to announce that as a Department we will host the Mpumalanga Sport Awards on the 9th September 2023 at Emnotweni Arena in partnership with DSTV.

48. Madam Speaker, in the last financial year, we have developed and nurtured talent of **nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy three** learners in sport through the provision of opportunities in District, Provincial and National tournaments linked to school sport seasons and we have managed to exceed the target due to inclusion of Pan African School tournament, an additional two (2) indigenous games codes and South African Schools Association for the Intellectually Impaired (SASAI).
49. Madam Speaker, we are continuing to support Community Based Structures such as the Mpumalanga Sport Confederation, Mpumalanga School Sport Organization, Nelspruit Marathon Club, City of Mbombela Marathon Club and Mpumalanga Cycling Union.
50. The Mpumalanga Cycling Tour is one the high profile sporting event which emanates from the support mentioned above. The Cycling Tour is implemented over a four day period covering the three regions of the Province.
51. We are also continuing to support two (2) high profile games to promote sport development namely International Rugby Tournament between RSA vs New Zealand as well as International Boxing Tournament.
52. We are continuing to provide sport equipment and attire to 177 schools, hubs and clubs as per established norms and standards for athlete's empowerment. This will be continued in the year under review with the rotation of beneficiaries.

Priorities 2023/24

53. Madam Speaker, as reported earlier, the Department will also tap in the glory brought by the Netball tournament event through provision of Netball World Cup Legacy projects that are as follows:

54. Work has started with the construction of the three- in- one combo courts in the three regions to cover codes such as Netball, Tennis and Volley Ball with a budget to the tune of **R7 million**. The locations to be covered includes; Jeppes Reef in Ehlanzeni , Kwamhlanga in Nkangala and eManzana in Gert Sibande.
55. During the Netball World Cup tournament there will be fan parks and/or public viewing areas erected in support of the South African team and to also promote social integration.
56. We wish to report that we will hand over a sport multipurpose centre at Manzana in Chief Albert Luthuli in August 2023. A statement will also be made about similar facilities being built in Thembisile Hani and Nkomazi Local Municipality.
57. The Department will continue to support **eight thousand** learners to participate in school sport seasonal tournaments and Support five (5) sport structures which includes; Mpumalanga Sport Confederation, Mpumalanga Cycling Union, Mpumalanga School Sport Organization, Loskop Marathon and Nelspruit Marathon Club.
58. Madam Speaker, we are mandated to support school sports leagues implemented in partnership with the Department of Basic Education. In the current financial year a significant amount of **R10 million** has been set aside to supplement schools sport grant projects.
59. The funding will not only ensure participation of learners in all seasons of the programme but will also allow full integration of the **sixteen** priority sporting codes and indigenous games into the school sports system.

60. This will also include the preparation of training camps which will allow athletes to merge and adapt to the environment prior to competing in the National School Sport Championship games. This presents prestigious opportunities for talented learners in the Province to compete at the highest level of the programme and a path to the Long-Term Participant Development Programme (LTPDP).
61. As I conclude Honourable Speaker, The Department also pride itself with accolades received in sport wherein the Airlink Pumas, our Provincial Rugby team, recorded their second win of the prestigious Currie-cup since 1971 in June last year. This has put our Province, with limited budget, on national and International maps.
62. The efforts made by Netball Federation through the provincial team **Sun Birds** did not go unnoticed since they reached the semi-final of the Telkom Netball Tournament and more investment will be done in their next session.
63. Madam Speaker, our role in the development of Sport cannot bear positive results without the involvement of the private sector. The Province has been fortunate to be the recipient of private investments in sport infrastructure especially the development of Netball Courts.
64. We want to appreciate the son of the soil Mr Calvin Mawela Multichoice CEO for his contribution in building Combo-Courts in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.
65. We also want to appreciate Mr Lex Hollman from Malelane Super Spar who contributed a multipurpose sport centre to the community of Nkomazi.
66. Madam Speaker, how can I forget the RCL Food and Milling (Pty) Ltd for playing their part in the development of Sport by sponsoring the prestigious Selati Cup (**iyanongotela**) almost every year and we want to encourage other private sector business to do the same and invest in sport development especially in our rural communities.

APPRECIATION

Madam Speaker, let me express my gratitude to the ruling party, the African National Congress led government for their unwavering support. I wish to also extend words of appreciation to Honourable Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane for her continuous guidance as we implement our 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 of Department, Mr Godfrey Ntombela as well as Management and the entire staff 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	102.9 million
Programme 2: Cultural Affairs	120.0 million
Programme 3: Library and Archives Services	215.6 million
Programme 4: Sport and Recreation	179.6 million
TOTAL BUDGET	R 618.1 million

Ngiyabonga
Thank you
Baie dankie
Ngiyathokoza

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