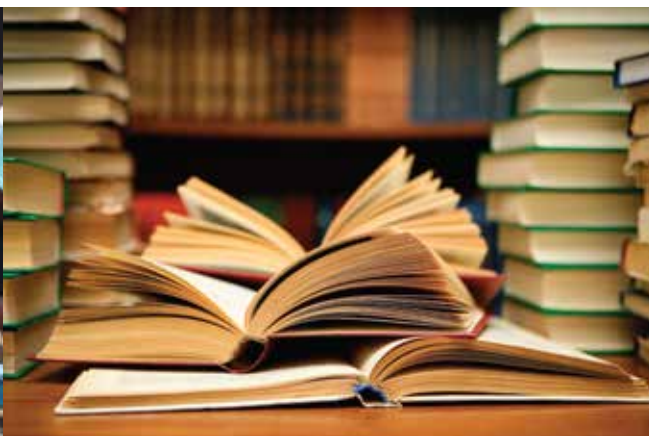




MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation  
Ms Norah Mahlangu

# *Policy & Budget Speech 2017/2018*



culture, sport & recreation  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# **POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2017/18**

**25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

Madam Speaker, Honourable Thandi Shongwe

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Violet Siwela

Honourable Premier of our Province, David Mabuza

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Honourable Members of Parliament

Kgoshi Mokoena, Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders

ANC Provincial Secretary, Mr Mandla Ndlovu

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

Head of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mr Sipho Mnisi and other Heads of Departments

Leadership of Cultural Forums

Leadership of Sport Federations

Language experts

Leadership of Multi Religious Formations

Traditional Leaders

Traditional Healers

Representatives of the Creative Workers Union of South Africa

Comrades and friends

Members of the media

Invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

When the names of those who immensely contributed towards the attainment of freedom and democracy in South Africa are pronounced, the name of Oliver Reginald Tambo stands out as he was a visionary and progressive cadre who was dedicated to the cause of liberating our country.

The ANC led Government has declared the year 2017 as the year of OR Tambo in honour of this gallant fighter and leadership par excellence so that we could reflect on the immense contributions that Tambo had made towards us achieving freedom and democracy in our mother land. Tambo would be celebrating 100 years and we are fortunate that we are in a position to draw from his inspirational leadership as we are hard at work to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

We are committed to progressive and radical economic transformation of our country so that we could be free from social malice afflicting some of our people as we are faced with a complex reality that our budget could not redress the legacy of apartheid and we therefore ought to prudently distribute our resources so that we can create better lives that we have made solemn promises to our people.

The characteristic of our country's apartheid reality is that our people were subjected to inhumane living conditions that subjected them to a life that relegated them to the periphery of society. We therefore have to constantly draw from the wisdom of those among our patriots like Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Chris Hani, Adelaide Tambo, Albertina Sisulu among others so that we could indeed create a South Africa that will respond positively to the needs and aspirations of its people.

I am fully conscious of the reality that our liberation struggle produced heroes and heroines among our people who were committed to bring to an end the debilitating legacy of apartheid in our country but the immense contributions of Tambo epitomize most of our struggles for freedom and democracy.

We shall not betray what Tambo stood for as he handed over to us noble and progressive ideas that finds resonate in the policies that we implement to change the lives of our people. We shall therefore as we present our policy and budget speech before this august house, not attempt to truncate the biography of Oliver Reginald Tambo. We will however as revolutionaries respond to the call of Tambo to build social cohesion in the country and emulate his exemplary life that was dedicated to serving others.

Honourable Speaker, the mandate bestowed upon us by our people dictate that we serve them diligently as we have committed ourselves the representatives of the people to work towards building a South Africa that will create better lives for all. We have present day leaders like His Excellency President Jacob Zuma and Honourable Premier, David Mabuza who guides us as we implement the mandate we derive from our political manifesto that resonates well with the aspirations of the people.

We have extended service delivery in all areas of the province so that our people could cease from walking long distances to access much needed services as we are a caring government that is privileged to serve our people. We shall never detach ourselves from the perspective we have made to build a province with a common identity.

We were encouraged when our living treasure and Ndebele culture encyclopedia, Gogo Esther Mahlangu, who won the Ubuntu Awards earlier this year and this was once more a feather in the cap of her illustrious career that spans for decades. She won the Arts and Culture Veteran Award at the Ubuntu Award Ceremony that was held in February this year. Gogo Mahlangu's Ndebele artwork has made her very popular in the country and the rest of the world and we are privileged as a province to have her in our midst and we are constantly learning from her so that we can popularize our culture.

We also applaud Thembelihle Mpofu who was crowned as Miss Indoni 2016 and it is encouraging to see young people embracing our culture and participating in activities that are meant to uplift culture and completely erase the myth that culture is '**not cool**' among young people. As she will be handing over the crown of Miss Indoni to the new queen who will be crowned later this year, we want to impress upon her that she has made us proud in the province and she should continue with efforts to teach her fellow young people about our culture.

Honourable Speaker, we could be fully justified to celebrate the achievements that we have made in the portfolio of culture, sport and recreation but we cannot bask in glory as more still needs to be done. We have witnessed our local football team, Acornbush United, slaying giants before their slaughterhouse at the Kabokweni Stadium where champions in the Premier Soccer left the venue with their heads bowed down.

We are happy that they have qualified to compete in the Play-Offs of the National First Division. We have full confidence in their abilities and we are rallying behind them so that they can join Mbombela United and Witbank Spurs in the first division. The Department's long term goal is to have a team from Mpumalanga playing in the Premier Soccer League.

The joy that we have seen in the faces of our people as they witness service delivery inspires us to continue working hard. We are convinced that we are in the right path of bringing prosperity in the province as service delivery is central to freedom and democracy.

We have successfully hosted the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience where we brought well-known brands into the province and also afforded our local artists to showcase and market themselves before a platform that will make them grow in the industry.

We remain resolute in our decision of supporting artists in the province as we know that this sector could contribute towards job creation if correctly supported and we assure our artists of our continued support.

We have also financially supported Ten community cultural structures in the province which are Izithethe Arts Institute, Casterbridge Music Development Academy, Innibos Festival, Melokuhle Arts Development, Mpumalanga Living Cultural Affairs, South African National Community Theatre Association, Big Fish Music Entertainment, Mpumalanga Choral Music Association and Cultural and Creative Industry Federation of South Africa and Moral Regeneration Movement in the province.

Big Fish Music Entertainment coordinated 36 choristers from the three regions to form a Provincial group called "Mpumalanga Praise". They recorded a CD and DVD and launched them.



We have also brought much needed infrastructure to our people where we handed over three newly built and state of the art well equipped libraries to communities in Mgobodzi, Acornhoek and Thusiville. These libraries will go a long way in positively shaping the minds of young people in those areas as they offer progressive titles that will stimulate their thinking. Libraries are developmental centres which seek to give new opportunities to our communities and in this regard, we urge our people to look well after them so that they can preserve them for future generations. Wi-Fi and internet is freely available in these libraries.

We have committed ourselves to eradicate poverty and have identified the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) as a tool to afford our people opportunities to fend off poverty and address immediate challenges. In this regard, the Department created 328 job opportunities in the province where our people more especially the youth were targeted and paid stipends that enabled them to put food on the table. We also supported 30 cooperatives to promote heritage and culture in the province as part of investing in the cultural and creative industries of Mpumalanga.

When delivering the State of the Province Address on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February this year, Honourable Premier, Mr DD Mabuza stated that the challenges facing our people remain part of our daily lives and is a reality. Let us remember that Oliver Tambo did not lead a struggle against one of the most brutal regimes - in comfort and convenience. There were hard times, but hope and belief in a better South Africa inspired him to continue the fight for a different future. Equally, our prevailing challenges must not lead us to despair, but should inspire us to find innovative solutions and employ collaborative approaches that will produce a vibrant and caring Mpumalanga.

We will be guided by what Honourable Premier Mabuza said as we know the reality that some of our people still live in abject poverty and need the intervention of government through its programmes to be relieved of that poverty so that they can have a better tomorrow where the sun could also shine on them. It is against this background that we are going to double our efforts this financial year and be innovative as we have a budget allocation that is far exceeded by the needs and demands of our people but we will adequately respond to these needs and where our budget does not allow, we will be honest with our people on matters that we cannot implement in the current financial year.

We will then reprioritize some of the demands and needs of our communities, also explore Public Private Partnerships so that we can enhance our resources and draw from the expertise of the private sector.

We have been allocated a responsibility of organizing National Commemorative Days in the province and we will communicate positive messages to our people through these days, taking into account the perpetuating of violence and abuse against women that we have unfortunately witnessed where women were maimed by their partners who are people that are expected to protect them. We call on all men in the province to say No to violence against women and children, expose and shame those who violate defenseless women. We extend messages of condolences to all families that have lost their loved ones at the hands of abusers in recent times in the country.

We have put strong administrative measures in the department to enable line functions to deliver on their mandate and to improve on our audit opinion outcomes and we remain committed to root out matters of corruption. We are a transparent department that

adheres to all government prescripts and any deviation from these prescripts will not be tolerated.

We will promote good corporate governance practices and management as well as always giving feedback to our communities.

Honourable Speaker, it is our intention to improve the knowledge of our people on values enshrined in the Constitution of our country and create equal opportunities for all in the province on matters of arts and culture. We are going to use the arts to reach a common identity in the province where working together, we will build a united Mpumalanga that will be a vehicle for change and bring about new opportunities for our people.

We will host the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience in the third quarter of this financial year and will draw from the experience of the inaugural festival we held in 2016. This year's edition will be bigger, better and we will bring the whole country to a standstill as we bring an exciting weekend for people to tap in the rich history of our culture that will be expressed in an artistic expression and we have no doubt that this will resonate very well with those who subscribe to the notion that culture best finds expression through the arts.

We have also set aside an amount of **three million, three hundred thousand rands** to sustain Cultural Institutions which assist us to implement our programmes be it on artist development, talent identification, skill empowerment and creating social cohesion among others. We have identified six(6) community cultural structures that we are going to support this financial year and they are **the Innibos Festival, Cultural and Creative Industry Federation of South Africa, Izithethe, SA National Community Theatre Association, Casterbridge Music Development Academy and Big Fish Entertainment.**

The Department will also support 30 arts and craft Cooperatives in all the three regions of Mpumalanga to promote heritage and culture as part of investing in the cultural and creative industries and we have set aside an amount of **one million rands** for this purpose.

Honourable Speaker, we know that the provincial government under the leadership of Honourable Premier, DD Mabuza is committed to eradicate poverty and create job opportunities for our people and in this regard, the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation will in the 2017/18 financial year create **203** job opportunities for young people in all three regions and we know that this will contribute to the fight against poverty in Mpumalanga.

As part of heritage preservation and ensuring that communities embrace their heritage in the province, the Department will embark on awareness campaigns in the province on heritage management and standardization of geographic features through the Mpumalanga Heritage Resource Agency and the Mpumalanga Provincial Geographic Names Committee.

The Department will continue in its efforts of ensuring that Municipalities continue with the process of naming unnamed streets in the Provincial settlements. We will also in this financial year explore an electronic names database platform, allowing name proposal applications to be done electronically and this will ensure effective interaction between government and its stakeholders as required by the South African Geographical Names Council Act 118 of 1998.

In the last financial year, a total of eight (8) Provincial Geographic Names were submitted to the South African Geographic Names Council for approval, all of which are from the Gert Sibande District and amongst them include the name of Volksrust which has been proposed to be renamed as Langwane. These names are awaiting the Minister of Arts and Culture, Honourable Nathi Mthethwa's Approval and Gazetting.

Honourable Speaker, in order to celebrate the contributions of our liberation heroes and heroines, the Department in conjunction with the National Department of Arts and Culture, successfully commemorated the 30th Samora Machel anniversary which was presided by the Deputy President of South Africa, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa and the Mozambican President Honourable President Filipe Nyusi respectively.

It is my pleasure to inform this august house that the Samora Machel Monument has been declared and proclaimed a National Heritage Site and was gazetted in Government Gazette No. 40386 on the 31st of October 2016. This proclamation is the first in the Province since the National Heritage Resources Act 25 was promulgated in 1999, other proclaimed sites were declared in terms of the National Monuments Council Act of 1969.

The Department in partnership with the South African Gold Panning Association, also supported the participation of the South African Team in the 2016 World Gold Panning Championships in California. The South African Team brought home three medals. In the Under 16 Juniors category, South Africa achieved 1st and 2nd positions. The gold medal for the winner went to Sonet Vermaak, and silver medal to Mario van der Heever. Team South Africa also achieved a bronze medal in the Proficient Ladies category. In the 2017/18 financial year, the Department will continue to support the participation of the South African Team in the World Championships in Scotland.

Honourable Speaker, we will celebrate our liberation struggle hero Oliver Tambo as we have declared 2017 as the OR Tambo Year and we will popularize his legacy through the staging of temporary displays as well as conducting a dialogue on Tambo. Part of the OR Tambo centenary will also include the rolling out of the Time Travel re-enactments planned for Nkangala and Gert Sibande regions where the re-enactments will be themed around local histories and also highlight the principles and legacy of OR Tambo.

Honourable Speaker, allow us to follow the narrative of one of the popular journalists Russel Davies when he asked young people why would they need weapons when we have libraries which have books which are best weapons in the world. Young people therefore need to arm themselves with correct weapons which they will find at the library and our libraries in the province indeed have those weapons that the youth in particular could arm themselves with and derive benefits that will make them to become better people of tomorrow.

The English Novelist, Jane Austen, also has a popular quote on reading which says and I quote: "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading. How much sooner one tires of anything than a book, when I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library". Unquote.

The roll out of infrastructure will eliminate any form of misery among those who, like Jane Austen are fond of reading.

The Department has set aside an amount of **thirty eight million, one hundred and twenty three thousand rands** to start building four new libraries in the province at KaNyamazane, Thubelihle, MP Stream and Masobye. We have also budgeted an amount of **ten million, four hundred thousand rands** to upgrade two libraries in Mashishing and Standerton and we are convinced that once completed, these libraries will go a long way in creating new opportunities for our people and working together with our people, we will roll out more exciting infrastructure to our communities.

Honourable Speaker, in ensuring that our people get quality services in our Public Libraries, the Department will be maintaining the following seven Libraries in the 2017/18 financial year: Khululwazi Library in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Ekulindeni Library in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Wesselton Library in Msukaligwa Municipality, Thembisile Hani Public Library in Thembisile Hani Municipality, Siyabuswa Public Library in DR JS Moroka Municipality, Delmas Public Library in Victor Khanye Municipality and Botleng Public Library in Victor Khanye Municipality. An amount of **ten million, three hundred and eighty seven thousand rands** has been set aside for the maintenance.

We will also be providing twenty five thousand books to public libraries across the province, books that will correctly tell the correct history of our country.

The Department is committed to render quality services to people with disabilities including those who are blind and in this regard we will continue to provide services for the blind through Libraries for the Blind where 14 Libraries in the Province will provide the following services:

- Daisy Player (CD) – This CD Caters for both Literate and illiterate for Audio Books
- Document Reader- This machine when documents or newspapers are put through it, the machine reads loud the documents or newspapers
- Computer- The computer is designed specifically for Blind users

The Library for the Blind is a Library established within a normal Public Library.

We were privileged as a province to have hosted the Queen's Baton in our shores in preparation for the next edition of the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and the baton will travel for 388 days. The baton carries a message from Queen Elizabeth 2 to all Commonwealth nations and to the athletes as well. Mpumalanga hosted the Baton in eMalahleni, Watervalboven, Mbombela, Thaba Cheuw and Bushbuckridge.

We will also be supporting Acornbush United who will be participating in the National Playoffs to vie for qualifying for the National First Division and the playoffs will take place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June at East London in the Eastern Cape. We urge all people in the province to rally behind Acornbush United as they are a good side that deserves to qualify for the first division and we are looking forward to welcoming them back home with them having made us proud and joined Mbombela United and Witbank Spurs.



Honourable Speaker, working together with the Department of Education, the department of Culture, Sport and Recreation ensured that **1300 learners** were selected to participate in Provincial Schools Championships. **800** of these learners were selected to participate in the National Schools Sport Championships.

We are pleased to announce to this august house that the Provincial team obtained position 2 in the Summer Games that were held in Pretoria and three of our learners were awarded Ministerial bursaries at the National Championships and they were placed in Sport Focus schools:

The learners are Banele Silinda who is now studying at Lowveld High School, he plays Rugby, Jimmy Ndlovu who is now studying at Hoerskool Rob Ferreira and he plays Basketball and Ginah Mkobongo who is also studying at Hoerskool Rob Ferreira and plays Volleyball.

We have set aside an amount of **ten million rands** to enable 1100 learners to participate in school sport tournaments at national level as we are committed to bring sporting opportunities to learners. We are committed to develop future sporting champions and we know that the province will benefit immensely from these champions.

We have also budgeted **one million, five hundred and twenty thousand rands** to support schools where 120 schools will be provided with sport equipment or attire as per established norms and standards and this will assist our schools to take part in sport.

We have also budgeted **five hundred and ten thousand rands** to support five Sport Focus Schools to ensure that learners with sporting talent excel and the schools are: Lowveld High, Ligbron Academy, Rob Ferreira Hoerskool, Lydenburg Hoerskool and Hertzog General.

We have budgeted an amount of **nine hundred and seventy six thousand rands** to enable 108 indigenous clubs in the province constituting both young and old to allow participants to take part in Indigenous Games. Following the construction of KaMhlushwa Community Out-door gym that was completed and handed over to Nkomazi Municipality, another community out-door gym will be erected in Nkangala Region in the current financial year to promote healthy lifestyles among our people.

We have also set aside **three million rands** to afford 250 young people to take part in the provincial youth camp which will help them to gain valuable skills that will contribute towards their development.

Honourable Speaker, 60 clubs in the province participating in various sporting codes will be provided with equipment and attire as per established norms and standards and **two million and eighty five thousand rands** has been set aside for this purpose.

As we move towards conclusion, we want to take this opportunity and wish all the people of Mpumalanga, South Africa, the entire African continent and the Diaspora a progressive Africa Day as this day is meant to encompass all of us to work towards the greater unity in Africa and among Africans.

We are called to be proud of who we are as Africans and work towards developing our continent and rid it of all those things that bring us into disrepute with our people.

We are happy that the callousness that was once witnessed among us Africans where we attacked one another has ceased to be experienced in most parts of our continent.

We recommit ourselves before this august house to the renewal of Africa and as we celebrate Africa Day, it is worthy to reflect and applaud the constant heroic deeds that Africans make worldwide be it on the economy front, politics, religion, sport, music and culture amongst other fields. We will be celebrating Africa Day in the province on Monday, 29 May, at eManzana Cultural Centre and we urge all of you to join this important celebration.

Honourable Speaker, we will continue to serve our people with pride so that working together, we can make Mpumalanga a place that will continue to be in demand and be a home of champions. The ANC-led government is a caring government that our people have confidence in and it will continue changing the lives of the people so that service delivery could be advanced.

The Provincial Government under Honourable Premier DD Mabuza is equal to the task of radically transforming the province so that we can adequately confront the legacy of apartheid.

I want to take this opportunity and extend words of appreciation to Honourable Premier Mabuza for his guidance as we implement our mandate, my colleagues in the provincial executive, honourable members of the legislature, the portfolio committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation, under the stewardship of Honourable VV Windvoel that enables us to account properly to this august house.

We also appreciate the support we get from the leadership of the African National Congress and its broader membership in the province and we will continue working together with the movement to advance the national democratic revolution.

Honourable Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Head of Department, Mr Sipho Mnisi 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.

I also thank my family for their support as we spend a lot of time moving around the province implementing the work of government away from our loved ones, thank you very much to my family once more.

## Financial Budget

Honourable Speaker, I therefore present to the house, Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation amounting to **R511 232 million** divided according to the following programmes.

<b>1. Administration</b>	<b>99 986 million</b>
<b>2. Cultural Affairs</b>	<b>132 743 million</b>
<b>3. Library and Archives</b>	<b>184 158 million</b>
<b>4. Sports and Recreation</b>	<b>94, 345 million</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>511 232 million</b>

Ngiyathokoza! Ngiyabonga! Thank You! Baie Dankie!

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