

MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreaton Ms Norah Mahlangu-Mabena

Policy & Budget Speech 2015/16





culture, sport & recreation MPUMALANGA PROVINCE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo, Yizwa imithandazo yethu, Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso, O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho, O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso, Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.

> Uit die blou van onse hemel, Uit die diepte van ons see, Oor ons ewige gebergtes, Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together, And united we shall stand, Let us live and strive for freedom, In South Africa our land. Madam Speaker, Honourable Thandi Shongwe

Deputy Speaker, Honourable David Dube

Honourable Premier of our Province, David Mabuza

Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Honourable Members of Parliament

Kgoshi Mokoena

Traditional Leaders

ANC Provincial Secretary Lucky Ndinisa

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

Leadership of Cultural Forums, Sport Federations and Multi-Faith Formations

Comrades and friends

Members of the media

Invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Speaker, we are standing before this august house a day after celebrating Africa Day which is an important day for all Africans. As we celebrate Africa Day, we are reminded of what one of Africa's finest sons of the soil, Kwame Nkurumah said and I quote: "The forces that unite us are intrinsic and greater than the superimposed influences that keep us apart," unquote.

We have observed that one of the superimposed influence that still keep us apart today is criminality perpetrated against our African brothers and sisters which needs to be condemned in strongest possible terms. We know that most South African communities have embraced their African brothers and sisters and they are living harmoniously with them and working together to confront challenges that they face. As Africans, we are all off springs of our forbearers who many years ago had a vision of a united Africa where all of us will work together to eradicate the legacy of decades of colonialization and uplift ourselves from challenges brought about by our colonisers. We remain convinced that it is utter most important for us to work together to ensure that all Africans are freed from poverty, under development and social challenges that continue to inflict our continent.

Former President of the African National Congress, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, was correct when he said 'we have known that as Africa and Africans, acting together, we will achieve our Renaissance, our rebirth'. We therefore call on all our people in the province to continue embracing our brothers and sisters from our neighbouring countries, Mozambique and Swaziland and other parts of Africa and to continue to live with them in a peaceful environment.

It is an undisputable fact that we are a diverse continent but we should use our diversity as a weapon and strengthening tool to unite all Africans to work towards the common purpose of realising the dream of our forbearers of a united Africa that will collectively respond to the need and aspirations of its people. As South Africans, we have a common defining identity which is Ubuntu and we proudly embrace this identity which we need to profoundly extend to our brothers and sisters from our



neighbouring countries.

We are continuing to mobilise all communities to work together and join efforts of creating African integration so that we can all realise unity across all Africans who will in solidarity eradicate the legacy of colonialization and accordingly respond when actions that seek to undermine our unity emerges.

It is against this background that as the provincial government, we ensured that our Africa Day commemoration that took place yesterday had participation of our neighbouring countries and we interacted warmly and shared cultural norms and practices where we embraced the spirit of togetherness. We used to better effect the values and ethos of unity with our counterparts from Africa in a manner that is exemplary to all our people.

Achievements in Culture, Sport and Recreation in Mpumalanga

Honourable Speaker, as a Department, we were hard at work in the last financial year implementing our mandate in all corners of our province. Our Rolene Strauss was crowned as Miss World at a glittering ceremony in London last year and her crown was vied by other 120 contestants from around the world. Strauss is the third South African to take the crown and previous winners from our country were Penelope Coelen who was crowned in 1958 and Anneline Kriel who was crowned in 1974.

We unveiled the statue of Saul Mkhize in SaulMkhizeville (formerly Driefontein) in the last financial year to preserve our history and heritage as part of our plans of honouring heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle. This was also in response to a clarion call made by Honourable President, Jacob Zuma, in the 2014 state of the Nation Address for our government to build an inclusive heritage over the next five years through building monuments and other symbols that honour the heroes and heroines of the struggle that delivered the freedom and democracy we enjoy today.

Honourable Speaker, we produced a book that has all the speeches of all democratic presidents of our republic that were delivered during national commemorative days since 1994 and we will distribute these books in all schools in the province. We also promoted the Constitution, national and provincial symbols as well as the national anthem in schools and communities to ensure that our children grow up with positive values and the love for their country and its people.

We also coordinated the commemoration of all National Days in the province as part of prioritising healing and nation building in Mpumalanga so that we can achieve our mandate of having a socially cohesive society. During the commemorations, we preached the message of tolerance and reconciliation and urged all our people to work together with Government to fight racism, xenophobia, homophobia and all related intolerances.

We want to see all South Africans embracing the commemoration of national days and attending them as they do not belong to a particular group of citizens and our call goes more in particular to minority groups to support government programmes. We could not falter in this regard as our honourable Premier Mabuza, in the 2014 State of the Province Address said 'government has a responsibility to mobilise all sectors of our society towards a common vision for Mpumalanga which all its citizens, irrespective of colour, social status or creed make a contribution towards shaping our collective destiny as a people'.

We also completed three newly built libraries in the province which are namely, Klarinet, Umjindi and Saul Mkhize and we urge our people to safeguard these libraries to ensure that they are not vandalised by criminal elements. Libraries are a fountain of knowledge and our people should visit them and utilise them fully so that we can push back illiteracy within society.



Honourable Speaker, we were also hard at work developing future champions through the School Sport Programme where we handed over sporting equipment to 200 schools in the province to enable learners to participate in sport. We also had 1 181 schools that participated in the school league sport programme and we will, going forward continue to vigorously implement the programme to nurture talent in the province. The School Sport Programme had 17 codes which are namely, Athletic/Cross Country, Basketball, Cricket, Chess, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Juskei, Morabaraba, Khoko, Kgati, Netball, Rugby, Table tennis, Tennis, Volleyball and Swimming. We have added softball in the current financial.

Programmes for the 2015/16 Financial Year

Honourable Speaker, we will be deriving our mandate as the Department of culture, Sport and Recreation in the current financial year from the State of the Province Address, National Development Plan as well as the State of the Nation Address among other strategic documents.

As the ANC-led government, we are committed to providing services in a professional and caring manner that recognizes the human dignity of each resident as we are here to serve the people and the people are not here to serve us.

We have observed that for too many years, the majority of our people were prohibited from giving expression to their culture and songs, plays, practices and most other forms of expression were regarded as unacceptable.

Arts and Culture

The ANC-led government says to our people; sing, dance and express yourselves in all your wonderful diversity as our diversity builds our national identity and collective pride as South Africans that act in social solidarity with one another and advances our common purpose.

Honourable Speaker, we have immense talent in the province and we are proud to inform this august house that our beauty queen from Pienaar, Mpumelelo Luphoko will be representing the entire continent at the prestigious Miss Fashion TV and she will be departing for Europe on the 3rd of June to contest for the crown with other beauty queens from around the globe. There is a voting competition for all the contestants and I urge all of you to vote for her so that she could arrive in Europe with more votes. The website for voting is www.fashiontv.com.

We will therefore in the current financial year conceptualise and host the Mpumalanga Cultural Festival as outlined by Honourable Premier Mabuza during the State of the Province Address. The festival will provide a platform for our artists to showcase our diverse rich cultural heritage and be used as gathering to promote nation building and social cohesion. The Mpumalanga Cultural Festival will be preceded by two strategic annual festivals, namely, Komjekejeke and Erholweni.

The Department will continue to financially support 18 Arts and Culture Forums in all the local municipalities, one provincial Arts and Culture Forum and a number of arts institutions which include amongst others, Izithethe Arts Institute in Nkangala Region, Casterbridge Music Institute in Ehlanzeni Region and the South African National Community Theatre Association in the Gert Sibande Region which the Department is working hard to assist so that it could be elevated to a Provincial Arts School. We call upon the private sector to come on board so that working together; we can elevate arts institutions in the province to a higher level.

Our artists continue to make us proud by winning national accolades and last year we were happy when Bongi Silinda came second in the Idols Season 10 competition and she showed that indeed there is talent in the province. Mzwandile Moya popularly known as Afrotraction also scooped the prestigious Best African Pop Award during the Metro Awards after the people from the province rallied behind him. Honourable Speaker, we have invited Bongi and Afrotraction as our guests today



and I request that they stand so that we can applaud them for their achievements.

Cultural Hub

In the State of the Province Address, the Premier pronounced on the need for the continuation of the construction of the Cultural Hub. We are packaging this project using the Master Plan to attract Public Private Partnership for investment. The Cultural Hub is aimed at stimulating economic development in the cultural industry in the Province, country and the entire SADC region. It is envisaged that the cultural hub will provide a platform for musicians, designers, film and video producers, visual artists and crafters to develop, and showcase their skills.

Indigenous Knowledge System

Honourable Speaker, this month we lost one of our stalwarts and heroine in the province who was a cultural activist and an organic intellectual, Monica Zwane, popularly known as Gogo LaZwane. She was the embodiment of our culture and customs and we owe her a great gratitude as she was a torchbearer for our traditions and she was always readily available to transfer her knowledge and skills to all the people in the province through various platforms.

Gogo LaZwane was our heroine and ambassador who was not ashamed of her roots and where she came from. We shall fondly remember her as her passing on, brought immense sadness to all of us who worked closely with her and we take solace in the fact that her teachings will forever be with us and with them we will create a better society that she dedicated her life towards achieving. May her soul rest in peace.

We will continue with the good work that Gogo LaZwane was doing on issues of Indigenous Knowledge System as mandated by The South African constitutional mandate on matters of Culture, Language, and Religion to ensure that all citizens are free from the domination of another by other cultures, languages and religions by promoting and advancing the recognition, understanding and the use of Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS) and its Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in policy and decision to enhance the sense of self belonging and sustainable development.

Today, many Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Mpumalanga province are at risk of becoming extinct due to forces of rapidly changing natural environment and fast pacing economic, political, and cultural changes on a global scale. Practices vanish as they become inappropriate for new challenges or because they adapt too slowly. Many practices disappear largely due to the intrusion of foreign technologies or development concepts that promise short-term gains or solutions to problems backed up by neo-colonialism.

The tragedy of the impending disappearance of indigenous knowledge is most obvious to those who have developed it and make a living through it. But the implication for others can be detrimental as well, when skills, technologies, artifacts, problem solving strategies and expertise are lost. The IKS initiatives seek to resuscitate and bring to life many of the lost knowledge banks through the IKS workshops in all the regions, targeting traditional leadership councils, arts and culture forums and non governmental institutions (NGO).

LANGUAGE SERVICES

Njengababhekeli bolwimi kulesifundazwe, sinikwe umthwalo wokukhuthaza ubuliminingi (multilinualism), nokuthuthukisa siphinde sivikele izilwimi ezisemthethweni sesifunda okuyiSiswati, isiNdebele, isiNgisi ne Afrikaans. Umthetho weZezilimi weSifundazwe iProvincial Language Act, 2014 osanda kuphasiswa uyahambisana nalomthwalo. Ukusebenza kwalomthetho kuzophakamisa ukuhlonishwa kuthuthukise nokusetshenziswa kwazilimi zomdabu ezikhulunywa kuleSifundazwe ezazibandlululiwe. Lomthetho unika amalunga omphakathi ilungelo lokusebenzisa izilwimi

ezizikhethele zona ukufinyelela kuzinsiza nolwazi kuhulumeni.

Umnyango ubambe imihlanganozifundo ukuhlomisa izisebenzi zayo yonke iminyango kahulumeni wesifundazwe, omasipala nezezinye izikhungo zikahulumeni weSifundazwe. Siyethemba ukuthi lokhu kuzoletha impumelelo ekusebenzeni kwaloMthetho kuzo zonke izikhungo zikahulumeni weSifundazwe.

Impumelelo ekusebenzeni kwaloMthetho isekubambisaneni kwabo bonke ababambe iqhaza.

Promotion of National Symbol

In an effort to foster a socially cohesive and patriotic society, the Department together with the National Department of Arts and Culture, rolled out the Train the Trainer Workshops on National Symbols in all the three regions of our province where all Arts and Culture Forums were trained.

The workshops on National Symbols were also extended to 18 Local Municipalities and Prison Communities across the province. I am happy to inform the people of the province that the program created so much interest such that the Department will be forging ahead with the rolling out of 72 workshops in the current financial year in the province.

For the 2015/16 financial year, the Department will place emphasis on the identification, preservation and management of our Heritage sites – this will range from the tangible and intangible heritage to archaeological sites, sites relating to the pre-colonial period in the wake of the massive development in and around the province. To this end, the Department will continue to support initiatives of the Mpumalanga Heritage authority to protect and manage the heritage of the province.

In a similar vein, the Department will also be embarking on a process of conducting preliminary assessment on sites unearthed in the Liberation Heritage Route Research as part of formal protection, identification and earmarking for future development.

We place high value in ensuring that our citizens play an active role in the preservation, protection and sustainable usage of our heritage and associated activities. We will reinvigorate our support to both local and provincial museums in our quest to highlight the valuable role these institutions play in society.

Standadization of Geographic Names

Honourable Speaker, we have embarked on a process of naming the government buildings here at the Riverside Government Complex. After a process of consultation with various stakeholders, names have been proposed to the Executive Council for ratification. It is anticipated that building 1 to 8 and some committee rooms will soon boast their own names and identities.

In addition to the 215 national features standardised since 2000 to date, the Provincial geographical names committee has submitted a schedule of a further 10 names to the South African Geographical Names Committee for consideration.

Honourable speaker, we are proud to highlight that change also came to an area which was previously known as Driefontein in the Mkhondo Local Municipality and it has since been renamed as Saul Mkhizeville and the name was unveiled in the last financial year.

We call upon municipalities and communities to become more active in supporting efforts to facilitate the renaming, naming, registration and spelling corrections of geographic features as part of contribution to building socially cohesion and common a national identity.

The Term of office of the Provincial Geographical names committee came to an end in the last financial year. I wish to thank the committee members for the good work done that they have done over the last 3 years.

We are also happy to report that a new Mpumalanga Provincial Geographical Names Committee (MPGNC) has taken office from the first of February 2015 for a three-year term of office. Its appointment will definitely restore our ability to effectively weigh in on the issues affecting the mandate imposed by the South African Geographical Names Council Act 118 of 1998. We therefore call on all local municipalities to strengthen and provide adequate support to the Local Geographical Names Committees so as to ensure the integrity of our processes and to guarantee a democratic transition in the geographical names standardazation space.

Libraries in the Province

Honourable Speaker, we will continue with our efforts of promoting a culture of reading in the province by providing library services in all the regions of Mpumalanga. We will work together with municipalities in the province through the MUNIMEC meetings to ensure that our people benefit from excellent services rolled out at all libraries which will be well equipped with relevant titles and sufficient technology.

We will work to ensure that our libraries are operated in a manner that will make them to realise the phrase that says libraries are places where people can expect smart and clear answers to even most difficult questions.

In the 2015/16, we will continue with the provision of Library and Archives services in the province where we will among other activities build five(5) new libraries in Acornhoek, KaNyamazane, Mgobodzi, Daggakraal and Thusiville so that we can bring services closer to the people.

Honourable Speaker, we have since the year 2009 built 12 new libraries Mkhuhlu, Morgenzon, Msogwaba, Siyabuswa, Phumula/Tweefontein, Thembisile Hani, Silindile, Botleng, Hluvukani, Masoyi, Perdekop and Libangeni.

We have also upgraded and renovated libraries in Mafemane, Shatale, Wesselton, Mzinoni, Ermelo, Mbombela, Elukwatini, Mashishing and Middelburg.

Archives and Records

The department is progressing very well in ensuring that record management and record keeping is diseminated to all provincial departments, the legislature, local municipalities as well as the parastaters. Training of record managers in all spheres of government is an ongoing process. This will subsequently enable the archive repository to ensure that it archives documents that are well kept. The archive repository is progessing well in installing the latest technology that will make archiving to be one of the best in the country. It is for this reason that the department will be able to archive records for three client institutions during this current financial year.

Sport and Recreation

Honourable Speaker, our stalwart and first democratic president of our country, the late Nelson Mandela once said and I quote: "Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination". Close Quote.

We will in the current financial year utilise sport as a mechanism to drive nation building and social cohesion in the province by embarking on concerted efforts of developing and enhancing sport and recreation capabilities of all the people in the province so that they can together participate in sport through our Sporting Hubs that are coordinated in all the 18 local municipalities of Mpumalanga.



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The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation will also be providing community gymnasia in Kabokweni, Ehlanzeni District by June and the other one in Gert Sibande District and a fully equipped one has already been built in Marapyane in the Nkangala District. We will also further improve sporting facilities in the province where we will be building two new Sport Combo Courts in the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme and one Combo Court in Dipaleseng Local Municipalities respectively.

We encourage communities particularly the youth to participate in sport and recreation as this is in line with Honourable President Jacob Zuma's call during the State of the Nation Address when he committed government to continue to promote healthy lifestyles and to urge citizens to refrain from smoking and abusing alcohol and drugs.

The Department is continuing to sponsor the Loskop Marathon and encourages learners and members of the community to participate in the marathon which has attracted over 5000 participants from all over the country and some parts of Africa. We are supporting the Loskop Marathon heeding the call by the Executive Council to ensure that we explore and constructively utilise sport as a viable tool of social cohesion and nation building.

We will introduce a six day Tour de Mpumalanga Cycling race in partnership with the Mpumalanga Cycling Federation which will take place during October this year. The tour will start in Loskop Dam and end in Mbombela Stadium and the inaugural race will be provincial, while the next year edition will be national and from the year 2017, we envisage to have an international race.

The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation is reviving Netball in the province and we have extended support to the provincial Netball Team, Sunbirds, who are representing the Province in division two of the national netball league where they are currently occupying the third position with two wins and two loses. We urge all our sport loving people to rally behind the team as they seek to gain promotion into Division One.

School Sport in 2015/16

Honourable Speaker, we will select 750 learners from all the regions of the province to represent Mpumalanga in the National School Sport Championships in December in Tshwane. We are also extending our assistance to learners with special education needs as we know that disability is not an inability and we therefore cater for their needs whereby we provide them with sporting equipment and attire. School Sport will enable our province to have a pool of talented sporting stars to draw from and we will work together with the Department of Education to revive the school sport league in all schools in the province. Currently schools are registering to participate in the league which will be launched by the end of June 2015.

Developing Sport

Honourable Speaker, we have noted the great need of introducing Sport Science to communities and working jointly with Lowmed, we have availed a Mobile Sport Science Unit that is currently used by the Mpumalanga Sport Academy for its High Performance Programme with federations, schools and clubs throughout the province. We have therefore resolved to identify sporting talent at a very young age and the Mpumalanga Sport Academy will be using sport science to be able to nurture and develop talent for a period of six to ten years. In this regard, we have hosted the Athletics Talent Identification Programme in Nkomazi Municipality where a total of 30 young athletes aged between 13 and 15 years were identified for sporting excellence and from the 30, two athletes will be supported for 6 to 8 years in preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games.

Club Development

We are supporting Mpumalanga Black Aces and Witbank Spurs by covering their travelling and accommodation costs to ensure that our province has representation in elite leagues like the



Premier Soccer League and the National First Division. We want to see players from Mpumalanga being selected for national teams so that they can proudly represent our country in international competitions.

The Year 2015

Honourable President Jacob Zuma correctly declared the year 2015 as the year of the Freedom Charter and Unity in Action to Advance Economic Freedom. It is the year of going the extra mile in building a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa.

It is also the year of rededicating ourselves to eradicate racism and all related intolerances in our country. It is also the year of investing more in our future, by educating our children and the youth about the rich heritage of this country.

We are already inculcating a new national identity through promoting national symbols such as the national flag, the national anthem and the preamble of the Constitution in every school.

President Zuma gave a directive that from this year, schools must also practice the African Union anthem.

As we celebrate Africa Month, we have seen our province hosting the Miss Deaf Africa in Hectorspruit, Nkomazi Municipality where Thlokomelo Sabole from Lesotho won this prestigious beauty pageant.

We have successfully and jointly with our neighbouring countries celebrated Africa Day in Schoemansdal, Nkomazi Municipality yesterday which was a colourful event predominated by African diverse cultures.

Job Creation

Honourable Premier Mabuza correctly said that the destination of our people has been clearly marked out and pursued by the ruling party for more than 100 years of existence. It is a destination free from poverty, inequality, deprivation and social exclusion.

We are contributing towards creating a destination free from poverty by creating employment opportunities for our people through the Extended Public Works Programme where we have set aside R3 million to create job opportunities for 153 young people in the current financial year.

The Department has also assisted crafters and artists with a strategic platform to sell their products by securing a Curio Shop at Crocodile Bridge in the Kruger National Park where our artists are selling their products to domestic and international tourists.

We are also assisting our talented artists to access funding through the Mzansi Golden Economy so that they could explore exporting opportunities available in the art sector.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker, the ANC-led government is a caring and progressive government working together with all South Africans to create a better country and there is no doubt that we indeed have a good story to tell as our province is abound with opportunities.

Yes, we might have challenges and difficulties, but we commit ourselves to continue working to meet the expectations of our people and we can never lose sight of the achievements that we have recorded as a Department.

We will continue working hard to roll-our services in the province so that our people can continue to benefit from progressive programmes rolled out in their communities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Honourable Premier David Mabuza for his visionary leadership and advise as we continue implementing our mandate in all the corners of our province. Siyabonga Mshengu. I want to thank the Acting Head of the Department for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mr Walter 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 want to take this opportunity and extend appreciation to the portfolio committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation and SCOPA for correctly playing their role and we will heed their advice and ensure that we address issues that they raise as we value this august house and we shall always account to it.

I also want to thank my family for their continued support as they are always there for me and understand when we have to spend long hours attending government duties.

I thank my organization, the African National Congress for guidance and always insisting that as leaders we humble ourselves before the people of Mpumalanga who overwhelmingly gave us a mandate to govern the province.

Budget for 2015/16 Financial Year

Honourable Speaker, allow me to table the budget for the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation for the 2015/16 financial year amounting to **454 million and 891 thousand rands** divided as follows:

Programme One	Administration	R81,1 Million
Programme Two	Cultural Affairs	R88,4 Million
Programme Three	Library and Archives	R195, 7 Million\
Programme Four	Sport and Recreation	R89,6 Million

I thank you! Ngiyathokoza! Ngiyabonga! Baie Dankie!

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