



**SPEECH OF THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION, MS LIMAKATSO MAHASA, ON THE TABLING OF THE BUDGET VOTE 12 - THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION, 09JULY 2019, BLOEMFONTEIN.**

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Premier

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Legislature

Executive Mayors, Mayors and Councillors present

Representatives of House of Traditional Leaders

MMCs responsible for Sport, Arts and Culture

Representatives of Sport Federations as well as Arts and Culture Councils

Management and Officials of the Department

Baahi ba Foreistata

Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades

**Dumelang**

It is a great pleasure for me to table the 2019/2020 Budget Vote of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Vote 12 during this 6th Administration of Democracy. We owe a gratitude to the people of

our province and country who voted on 8 May 2019 for this opportunity to stand here and present this Budget Vote. It is these voters that we commit ourselves to doing everything in our power to ensure that quality service delivery is escalated and enhanced.

As we table this Budget Vote during the 25th anniversary of our democracy and freedom, we rededicate ourselves to the values and principles as enshrined in the Freedom Charter and in our Constitution that broadly declares that the people must govern. Honourable Speaker, we are grateful that today we can proudly say we defeated Apartheid about 25 years ago, but our history of resistance is richer than 25 years.

On 03 July 2019 I visited one of the rural towns in the Free State that has a rich history in our struggle against suppression and oppression. This town experienced an Anti-Pass march in 1956 which was led by the two icons in the struggle against Apartheid, Mama Lillian Ngoyi and Mama Elizabeth Motingoe. I am very honoured to indicate that today we have as two of the women who participated in the 1956 march our guests, let's send our respect to Nkgono Mary Davids and Alinah Kedibone Moshodi. To them we say thank you for liberating us, "Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi".

This is the same town which the former President of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela used to pass through when he tried to avoid being arrested and was underground to consult with another former President of the ANC in Thaba Nchu, Chief James Sebe Moroka. Strangely enough and very ironic, the same President Nelson Mandela was assisted by a white family when he was in one of his trips to meet with President Moroka and ran out of petrol, not knowing it was him. The person who assisted him was Mr. Wynand Strydom, from Brandsdrift, his grandchildren, Jo and Hennie Van der Walt are our special guests today.

Ladies and gentlemen, the town I am referring to is Winburg. Along with its rich history, I also learned that it has mass grave of about a 100 victims from the Second Anglo-Boer War that took place between 1899

and 1902, these included our African great grandfathers who were not part of the war but were shot by the British armed forces because they were in-between these forces and the Boers. It is further alleged that they died because they were servants of Boers and were buried without dignity like some wild animals. My greatest appreciation goes to a local teacher Mr. Motsiri who is with us today and has done research on this matter, I urge members of the Legislature to go through the folders which have been distributed today, and present within the folders is this research along with my Budget Vote Speech. Mr. Motsiri is one of our invited guest today and can we please give him a round of applause.

Subject to excavation permit and investigation to determine provenance, we will honour these departed heroes and as part of celebrating their lives, by unveiling a stone in their memory at Thaba Lebitla next to the mass grave during heritage month in September 2019.

Honourable Speaker, in 1955 when our people met in Kliptown and declared that, "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, Black and White". This declaration should be seen as resonating with our commitment for a negotiated political settlement approach through CODESA in December 1991 and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1996. In the same spirit of reconciliation and as means of our Transformation Agenda, we will:

- Honour the political heroes of our democracy who once set their foot in Winburg by unveiling their portraits in the Voortrekker Museum in Winburg.
- Launch and celebrate in the Voortrekker Museum in Winburg the 52 steps which were taken by Solomon Mahlangu as he went to the gallows and his blood was about to nourish the tree of freedom that we all enjoy today.

I must emphasize that this initiative does not wipe off the history of Afrikaaners as captured through the Voortrekker Museum, it simply says we all have a history as South Africans and in a spirit of unity and social

cohesion, we must attempt to find a common ground to share our history, yes indeed, it is “Unity in Diversity”.

We further undertake that we will, during 2019/2020, in consultation with our Academic Institution, try to establish other mass graves which might be existing in the province where the dignity of our late African grandfathers and grandmothers will be reclaimed through honouring them by establishing memorials.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, ke nahana hore ho bohlokwa hore re tjhaele monwana bahale barona ba kajeno jwalo ka ho re entse ho ba dilemo tse fetileng. Ke ka hona ke rata ho lebisa hlompho ho e mong wa bana ba mona lapeng, mohale le morati wa dipapadi, haholo jwang bolo ya maoto, ke buwa ka “Hela Yalo Sani”, Ntate Botha Mosila. He has raised the flag of the Free State high by his sacrifice to be in Egypt for the African Nations Cup 2019. He is not an Ambassador of our province but of the entire country, to him we say, you are Free State and Free State is you.

The Department contributes towards strategic goals and priorities of government such as Job Creation, Promoting Healthy Lifestyles, Economic Growth, Literacy and Reading Culture and so on.

**The Budget Allocation of the Department for the 2019/20 Financial Year is 753 million 543 thousand rand which is allocated for Programmes 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

Honourable Speaker, our strategic approach for service delivery in the next five years of the current term of the 6th Democratic Administration is driven by our belief that, “What starts here, changes the World”.

It is an honour for me to unpack our priorities for 2019/2020 as follows:

### **Programme 1: Administration and Financial Management**

Administration and Financial Management continues to support other service delivery programmes in the Department and to ensure sustained provision and management of human resource capacity as well as prudent financial administration.

Honourable Speaker, the Department has a total of 1 thousand and 56 filled post of which the majority is women with 6 hundred and 23 employees. It is a concern to me that though women are the majority in the Department, only 35 percent of them are in the Senior Management. The issue of 50/50 gender representation is a policy of the ruling party which must also be implemented in government. We have long passed the era where we emphasized that women need to be affirmed on areas of responsibility and management. The 50/50 gender representation in Senior Management is going to be one of the major priorities in the Department. At least half of the Senior Management positions in 2019/2020 will be filled by women, without compromising requirements, knowledge, skills and competencies.

The National Employment Equity for People Living with Disability is 2 percent and the Department has not met required target as we are currently at 1.5 percent. Honourable Speaker, it is sad to also indicate that the current Provincial Office building is also not Disability friendly to even the appointed officials with Disabilities. We will ensure that our officials with Disabilities are accommodated in offices that address their special needs.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Midyear Population Estimates released on 23 July 2018 by the Statistics South Africa indicated that the Free State has a population of 2, 9 million of which about 1, 3 million are the young

people between 15 and 34 years. This reflects that about 50 percent of the Free State population are the youth. The mandate of my Department is about Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation which resonates more with the young people. It is my sincere conviction that these demographics must also be reflected in the public service, especially in my Department. The current youth employment in the Department is 3 hundred and 26 out of 1 thousand and 56 filled posts which reflects about 30.8 %. The Quarter 1 Labour Force Survey for 2019 by StatsSA has also indicated that, "Of the 20,3 million young people aged 15-34 years, 40,7% were not in employment, education or training (NEET) – an increase by 1,8 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2018". Speaker, I am of the opinion that the mandate of my Department makes it central in creating employment for the young people and we will prioritise the youth when we fill our posts.

We need to address the issues that were raised by the Auditor-General that affect the Department. Our Department has been one of the Departments to have boasted of clean Audit in the past and we need to address all the areas that made us to regress. An Audit Action Plan was developed and is being implemented to address all audit matters that were raised by the Auditor General. We are certain that for 2019/2020, we will be able to address those issues so that the Department returns to its Clean Audit status.

**Programme 1 has a budget of 102 million 577 thousand rand.**

### **Programme 2: Cultural Affairs**

Speaker, Programme 2, is the Cultural Affairs Programme that receives its allocation towards the funding of Arts and Culture as well as Heritage, Museum and Language Services.

### **Arts and Culture**

One of the major challenges that we will be seriously working on in this new 6th administration is the upgrading of our Arts and Culture facilities. While we continue to respond to the challenge presented by the ruling party's resolution of creating Arts and Culture Centres in every ward, the immediate task is to ensure that our current Arts and Culture facilities are in a proper state of maintenance. Our projects for addressing the facilities will include the following:

- Kroonstad Recording Studio
- A Satellite recording studio in Mmabana Art Centre,
- A Satellite recording studio Lejweleputswa Art Centre
- A Satellite recording studio Fezile Dabi Art Centre

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Premier held an Imbizo with the Creative Sector on 10 April 2019. She re-emphasized her commitment to the Creative Arts sector during the State of the Province Address on 02 July 2019 where she made a commitment that the Department will attend to the challenges facing the Free State Artists. The commitment by the Premier was informed by the deliberations from this Imbizo and its resolutions. The Department will ensure that these resolutions are implemented by undertaking the following in 2019/2020:

- Hosting of the Free State Awards for all Arts Genres in November 2019.
- 2 Day Summit to work on Creative Arts Framework for the Free State Creative Industry no later than 30 October 2019.
- Disbandment and restructuring of Provincial Arts and Culture Council for the benefit of deserving beneficiaries.
- Pursue and engage with relevant structures for the establishment of the Film Commission.

To further support our Artists and Crafters, we will establish Community Arts Centres. The Department intends to use dysfunctional Art Centres in some schools in the province and we will, in consultation with the Creative Arts Sector, the Department of Education, the Department of Public Works and Human Settlements, establish one Arts Centre per Municipality. Our aim is to contribute on the growth of our economy through Visual Arts and Crafters.

In the State of the Province Address, the Honourable Premier gave us a mandate that we need to celebrate our identity through MACUFE. We will increase our efforts in marketing MAFUCE to mobilize attendance and involvement of other racial and cultural groups in the province.

Honourable Speaker, on 04 July 2019 I had a meeting with the Members of the Mayoral Committees (MMCs) from the Free State Municipalities who are responsible for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation. I must indicate that this was a fruitful engagement that will ensure implementation of the services at a coalface level to achieve the mandate of both the Department and the Local Government. Subsequent to this engagement, I am proud to announce that the Department will establish a Provincial Structure that will better coordinate and communicate with the Gospel Clap and Tap Choirs. The very same Provincial structure will facilitate successful hosting of the Provincial Gospel Clap and Tap Competitions in November 2019.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) within the Arts and Culture environment and sectors currently assists 95 local Free State community artists who, on annual basis, have employment in the Environmental and Cultural Sectors. These artists are working in various programmes of the Department that include a Music Programme, a Theatre Programme, an Arts in Schools Programme, a Visual Arts Programme, a Crafts Programme and a Film and Photography Programme. The above mentioned programmes have been



implemented to the value of 2 million rand from a funding by Public Works and are some of the contributors to employment opportunities that our country and province so much require. In the 2019/2020 financial year, the number of existing 95 job opportunities will be increased to 120 and will be implemented to the value of 5 million and 5 hundred thousand rand with an additional budget contribution of 3, million and 5 hundred thousand rand from the national Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

The Department initiated the establishment of a Choral Music structure called the Lengau Choral Music Association (LECMA), so as to give impetus to the Choral Music Programme in the Province. The structure has been funded to the tune of about 3 million rand since its inception. Due to the intense support to this Programme, the Department was able to send a choir called the Free State Choristers based in Bloemfontein, to the World Choir Olympics that were hosted in Pretoria where they performed well and achieved a bronze medal. On 15 June 2019, we staged a Provincial Choral Music competition in Bethlehem as a partnership between the Department and LECMA.

Furthermore, an Inter-Departmental Choir Competitions which involves public servants in the Province has also been established in 2016 and 780 thousand rand is spent for the successful staging of these competitions. Schools Choral Eisteddfod competitions initiated by the Department of Education is also supported by the Department to the tune of 300 thousand rand annually. This financial year we will establish our own Free State Provincial Mass Choir which is similar to the internationally acclaimed Soweto Gospel Choir. From 17-19 October 2019, the Department of Police will host Music and Cultural Association Festival and the Department will support this event which seeks to promote choral music.

Artists in the Province take part in various arts and culture genres (music, dance, theatre, visual arts and crafts, and arts in schools, film

and photography.) that are staged by the Department. Over 500 individual artists have benefitted through festivals such as Freedom in our Life Concert, Cherry Festival, Mines Cultural Dance Festival, Reconciliation Carnival and Homebrew Free State Artist Development Programme. In 2019/2020, working through the Provincial Arts and Culture Council (PACC), which will have a fresh mandate, we will introduce different genres and categories in the Arts and Culture programme. The new genres and categories will include Districts, a Free State Fashion and Textile Festival which includes a fashion show; dance; Mapantsula; Theatre and Visual Arts programmes. This will be achieved by February 2020.

### **Under Museums, Heritage and Language Services**

Speaker, through the Cultural Affairs Programme we should continue to ensure that our post-apartheid inherited museums continue to be transformed for them to meet the needs of our people including the social and political requirements of the new dispensation.

Subsequent to my meeting with the MMCs, I have resolved that it is important for the Department to consult widely and promote Patriotism, Social Cohesion and Nation building. It for this reason that we will, starting in July 2019, have the Departmental roadshows where we will be visiting at least three Municipalities each month. The roadshows will be approached as outreach programmes where the Department will market its services and the following National Symbols will be distributed to communities during these roadshows:

- National Symbols and Orders,
- South African National Anthem brochures,
- African Union Anthem brochures,
- Desk National Flags,
- Pre-Amble of the Constitution,

- National Identity Passports,
- National symbols brochures and posters.

In 2019/2020, the Department will also reach 150 Elderly and Persons Living with Disabilities through its Heritage and Museums Outreach Programmes.

Speaker, let me also emphasize that this year we will reach out and increase our support to the African Writing Publishers, whilst celebrating the wonderful work they are doing to preserve our culture and heritage.

**Programme 2, the Cultural Affairs has an allocation of 188 million 162 thousand rand.**

### **Programme 3: Library and Archive Services**

Speaker, the promotion of the culture of reading and writing must be intensified, particularly among the young people and children who are the future. During his State of the Nation Address on 07 February 2019, the Honourable President of South Africa, His Excellency Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa declared, “Another critical priority is to substantially improve reading comprehension in the first years of school. This is essential in equipping children to succeed in education, in work and in life – and it is possibly the single most important factor in overcoming poverty, unemployment and inequality”.

The Department’s early grade reading studies have demonstrated the impact that a dedicated package of reading resources, expert reading coaches and lesson plans can have on reading outcomes. The elimination of the challenge of low literacy levels in our country can go a long way in addressing many of other challenges that our country is confronting. Libraries are therefore important institutions in our communities that need to be at the centre of our people’s lives. To

promote the culture of reading and writing, the Department will roll-out programmes in the 180 libraries which currently have a total of 671 391 registered library users. The programmes that we undertake through our Library Services in the 2019/2020 will include the following:

- Reading Festival, Spelling Bee with the Free State Department of Education, Libraries Online (IT and Internet Connectivity), Library Services for the Visually Impaired, African Publishers and Authors Support, Photocopying Services, Archives Repository Services, Archives Week which will take place from 15 to 18 July and an average amount of 150 thousand rand will be spent on this Programme.

**We have set aside an amount of 232 million 985 thousand rand for Library and Archive Services.**

#### **Programme 4: Sport and Recreation**

Let me join the multitudes of South Africans in celebrating the spirited and inspiring performance of Bafana Bafana in their African Nations Cup victory over Egypt last Saturday. Because of this victory, it is a great feeling to be a South African today and the whole nation is fully behind our boys for their next quarter-final thriller against Nigeria. We beat them 2-0 in Nigeria during the AFCON qualifying games and am convinced we will beat them again. Let me also congratulate the Proteas on their World Cup match 10 runs victory against Australia on Saturday. Well done to both our National Soccer and Cricket Teams.

Honourable Speaker, it might sound as a mantra but the reality is that sport is a catalyst for a fight against many social ills in our communities.

Yes, indeed an idle mind is a devil's workshop! The former President Nelson Mandela once said, "Sports have the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sports can create hope, where there was once only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination. Sports is the game of lovers".

We all know that healthy and positive living should be encouraged and start at an early age. Schools will be targeted to promote positive lifestyle and sporting activities. We are going to consult with the Department of Education to partner and revive the Sports Wednesdays in 2019/2020 which will ensure that our children participates in various Sporting Codes every Wednesday.

We all know that President Mandela is a living example of someone who was a sportsperson and he was very keen on Boxing. Ladies and gentlemen, let me wish Lerato Dlamini the best of success and luck in his title fight for WBC Silver Featherweight. He is one of our own and he is a Free State born Professional Boxer from Welkom and his fight will be on 12 July 2019. Let us all support and wish him well, of course, Lerato is our Champion.

Speaker, let me acknowledge the presence of our Free State born champs in Boxing who are Doctor Themba Ntsele, the former SA Flyweight WBC Champion from Welkom, Matshidiso Mokebisi who is a SA Junior Featherweight WBF Champion from Kroonstad and France Ramabolu who is from Qwaqwa and a former IBF and WBA Africa Champion. We will prioritize the revival of boxing in 2019/2020, but this will be done without dropping the bar of our other Sport and Recreation programmes. We, as the Department together with the MMCs for Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, had an opportunity to engage with Boxing South Africa on 04 July 2019 in Bloemfontein. I must indicate that the presentation that was made by Boxing SA painted a very negative

picture and declining status of boxing in the Free State. It is for this reason that we, in partnership with the local Municipalities and Boxing SA, have decided to embark on the following milestones to revive boxing in the Free State:

- Appoint a Provincial Boxing Manager.
- Host boxing tournaments in, at least, 10 local municipalities where each Municipality will provide the facilities for these tournaments and the Department will provide boxing equipment for all these tournaments.
- Host the Provincial Boxing Indaba with all the relevant stakeholders in Boxing to plan and support the development of boxing.
- Train boxing officials who will assist as promoters and officiating both nationally and internationally.
- In partnership with the Department of Basic Education, we will introduce and provide boxing equipment in the schools.
- Host National Boxing Awards.
- We will also develop the Provincial Champion Belt which will be launched before 31 December 2019.

Honourable Speaker, to celebrate President Mandela, we resolved that it will be wise to recognize one of the Sport he was participating in, which is boxing. Our celebration of Mandela month will take place on 26 July 2019 in Xhariep, Rouxville, where we will host a Provincial Boxing Tournament and all the Municipalities will converge to support this noble initiative.

I also want to take this opportunity to wish Mr. Sandile Makwali, all the best as he will be representing South Africa in the UFAK Africa Karate Championships to qualify for the All African Games. He will be contesting in Botswana, tomorrow on 10 July 2019.

Honourable Speaker, we have, together with the MMCs also agreed that the hosting of OR Tambo Games should rotate in the Municipalities, depending on the availability of sufficient and relevant resources to host these games. We will host the OR Tambo Games for 2019/2020 in Kroonstad, Moqhaka Local Municipality.

Speaker, I was very touched by the presentation that were done by various MMCs for Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation in terms of availability of resources for Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation in different Municipalities. I must acknowledge that there are some Municipalities that made the resources available but the majority have serious challenges. I call on the Executive Mayors and the Municipality Managers to make resources available for us to realize the social cohesion we aspire so much.

Speaker, to assist some of these Municipalities, the Department will support the Tokollogo Local Municipality with the renovations of the Hertzorgville Swimming Pool in 2019/2020.

On 09 December 1982, the South African Defence Force of the Apartheid Regime crossed the borders and invaded Lesotho where defenceless 42 people were murdered for fighting for a just cause. 30 of these were members of the ANC and they include about 10 Lesotho nationals, of which 5 were women and 2 were children. These murdered heroes of our liberation also need to be celebrated. In celebrating their lives, the Department will, in 2019/2020 introduce and launch a Cross-border Cycling Marathon from Ladybrand in Free State (South Africa) to Maseru (Lesotho) as a commemoration of the victims of Lesotho Massacre. We will later engage with the Intergovernmental Relations in the Department of the Premier to assist in realizing this commitment. We will launch it on 09 December 2019 and expect it to be an annual event. I must emphasize that the marathon will also promote healthy life style and the EXCO and the Members of the Provincial Legislature will be

expected to at least cycle for not less than 4.2 kilometres in remembrance of the 42 lives that were lost due to the massacres.

We will also have a Programme in five local Municipalities on the indigenous games during the Heritage month in September 2019.

**Programme 4, Sport and Recreation receives an amount of 229 million 819 thousand rand.**

Infrastructure Projects:

Speaker, the nature of our mandate requires a solid foundation of infrastructure in terms of sport facilities, libraries as well as Arts and Culture Centres and Museums. The Department has been able to implement some capital projects in the past and will continue to roll more of such moving forward.

Infrastructure projects earmarked for upgrading and construction this and subsequent financial years are the following:

- Charles Mopeli stadium in Phuthaditjhaba
- Fezile Dabi Stadium in Parys (New roof and soccer pitch)
- 3 Statues (Albertina Sisulu, Fezile Dabi and President Z.R. Mahabane)
- Libraries in Van Stadensrus, Soutpan, Luckhoff, Smithfield, Wepener, Cornelia, Tumahole/Parys, Bluegumbosch, Clarens and Zamdela/Sasolburg
- Dual Purpose Library in Batho Township, Bloemfontein,
- Multipurpose Indoor Sport Centre in Dinoheng, Kroonstad
- Lister Skosana Museum in Parys
- Indoor Swimming Pool in Parys



- Multi-purpose Sports Centre in Mafube
- Multi-purpose Sports Centre in Xhariep

I would like to appreciate the support of the National Department through its commitment of the three Sport Infrastructure Projects in Refengkgotso, Ntha (Lindley) and Tshepong (Verkeerdevlei). The total amount which has been committed by the National Department for these projects is 29 million rand.

### **In Conclusion:**

Speaker, as I conclude may I take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God who makes everything possible. I extend my gratitude to the African National Congress for entrusting me with this responsibility and the people of our Province who have again mandated us to govern and to ensure service delivery continues unabated.

I thank the management and officials of the Department under the administrative leadership of Mr. Stanley Malope for welcoming me in the Department and committing themselves to working closely with me to ensure that we intensify the delivery of sport, arts and culture services to all our people in the Free State in all its corners. I appreciate the wise counsel and support from the Honorable Premier, Mama MaNtombela, colleagues in the Executive Council, Ntate Ace Radebe who is a Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee and all other members of the

Committee. How can I not mention you the Members of this Legislature? I am even making an appeal to the opposition to join the Department in working together for the betterment of the lives of the people. Remember, we are all here to serve our people.

I thank my family for their resilient support through trying times and for their understanding during my continued absence when duty calls.

We call upon the people of our Province to continue to excel in their chosen paths of sport, arts and culture and we commit ourselves to ensuring that they do indeed excel. They should remember the words of

one of the greatest philosophers by the name of Aristotle when he said, "Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit".

Honorable Speaker, I table Vote 12 for the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation.

**Umoya Wam Uyavuma**