

VOTE 14



MEC POLICY SPEECH

2020/21



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
SPORTS, RECREATION,
ARTS & CULTURE



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Ceremonial Greetings

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier and Colleagues in EXCO

Honourable Members of the Legislature,

People of the Eastern Cape “The Home of Legends”

1. Introduction

The tabling of this policy speech effectively marks the beginning of the 6th term of government, which provides the broad context for the implementation of our plans. The beginning of each term of government is marked by continuity between the new term and the previous one, but also the breaking of new ground in the form of new innovative ways of doing things. The COVID-19 outbreak has thus further added to this context and has necessitated changes in the way we do things across society.

The sport, recreation, arts and culture sectors are amongst the most affected due to the regulations on social distancing and the prohibition of gatherings. As a result, we have had to review our plans for 2020/21 financial year to come up with more creative and practical ways of doing things.

Guided by the wise words of John F. Kennedy when he said, *“In a crisis, be aware of the danger but recognize the opportunity”*; we had to engage in a collective exercise to identify and mitigate the dangers of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as ask ourselves: “What are the opportunities presented by the crisis to us as a department? In answering this question, we have had to rethink and equip ourselves with all the insight we could possibly get in order to move forward.

We also had to acknowledge the world’s COVID-19 responses, such as lock downs and social distancing and the effects that these have had on the economy. Some of these responses have disrupted our lives and at times created unanticipated personal experiences. As temporary as they might be, these interruptions are giving us a glimpse of living differently and perhaps inspire us to create a new and better world post COVID-19. Our response to the COVID-19’s economic crisis is not as simple as cutting down our operations, maintaining social distance and putting in place occupational safety measures. It requires us to adopt new delivery models and pursue new markets which mostly will be uncharted and experimental. The creative and sporting industries are important contributors to the economy and a number of people derive their means of livelihood from these industries. As a department, we are therefore required to develop short term and long-term interventions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the sectors we are leading, in particular to lessen its impact on the livelihoods of creatives and athletes. In this regard as we are establishing **a relief package**, targeting artists and athletes whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the pandemic.

Our plans for this current financial year, provide a *vision* for the Province where citizens will have equal access to services; that are supported through *social compact, strong community connections, improved leadership, stakeholder engagements, governance and accountability*. These plans are informed by ***national, provincial and local policy imperatives***. They also provide for a framework that details the five overarching outcomes, with associated outputs for each outcome.

The outcomes also reflect the major themes and directions that emerged from the planning process and are meant to enrich people's lives, build the capacity of the sector as well as contribute towards the achievement of provincial and national goals. In addition, the programmes within this framework focus on ensuring that there is greater collaboration and coordination, through the ***district development model***, as well as market and promote the sector with a view of moving it forward. The planned programmes of the department will benefit women, youth, people with disabilities and diverse communities, thereby contributing significantly to nation building and social cohesion.

We recognise that in our rapidly changing world, the province needs different skills, tools, information, programs and services to succeed. The Department is therefore committed to supporting the transformation agenda which requires us to foster a new organisational culture that is agile and responsive to these changes, accepts risk, rewards innovation, and seeks continuous improvement.

2. Cultural Affairs

Over the coming years the department commits in investing in the cultural and creative industries as an important contributor in sustaining the province's prosperity. The role of the department will shift from being primarily, a provider of arts, culture and heritage opportunities to providing greater support and facilitate programmes initiated and driven by communities and civil society. We will focus on leadership and advocacy to ensure that creativity is fostered as well as nurture and develop formal partnerships that strengthen the provision of arts, culture and heritage programming in the Province. These partnerships will include local artists, community organisations, traders, academic institutions, a host of other public agencies and private enterprises.

The department seeks to develop a Strategy that will re-engineer the craft hubs to enable them to provide the necessary services, expertise production, training, design, quality assurance, and e-Commerce platforms.

It has now been confirmed that the Eastern Cape will be getting a nationally declared performing arts institution, the process is just awaiting the finalisation of the White Paper. In preparation for this, the department will put in place a governance and working model for the Eastern Cape Performing Arts Institute (ECPAI) which will be the amalgamation of the Opera House, Guild Theatre and Art Centres into one institution. This model will enhance governance, institutionalise

collaboration, share resources and extend the reach of the two theatres beyond metropolitan areas, to include the art centres in the province.

During this financial year, the department will introduce digital platforms to ensure compliance with the social distance rules while providing platforms for artists to showcase their work. The National Arts Festival will pioneer the hosting of virtual performances, exhibitions and e-commerce platforms, thus creating a platform for best practice and knowledge sharing.

We are still very much committed to establishing the Eastern Cape Provincial Film Commission. Our previous attempts and limitation of resources has meant that we need to take a different approach premised on building the necessary blocks, including the development of a provincial film policy framework.

2.1. Support to languages content and markets

Our languages in the province, namely, SeSotho, IsiXhosa, Afrikaans and English are at the heart of our identity and cultural diversity, and therefore make our creative industries distinct. Each language market is different, and each produces great content that represents our uniqueness as a province. We will reach out to communities who speak dialects of our official languages, thus, strengthen the use of these languages.

In our drive to push for the advancement of indigenous languages we shall also collect expressions and stories written in these dialects. In addition, we shall seek to leverage on the linguistic plurality of our Province, and develop the lexicon, technical and scientific vocabulary of our indigenous languages so that they can compete fairly with other world languages. Moreover, we will intensify our efforts to mount projects that promote all our indigenous languages such as Khoisan, Sign language, isiXhosa and Sesotho.

We will reinforce our relationship with the Pan South African Languages Board (PanSALB), the National Language Board, the isiXhosa Language Dictionary unit based at Fort Hare University, the Eastern Cape Provincial Language Committee, the National Language Service, the National Term Bank and language faculties in tertiary institutions. Currently we are teaming up with PanSALB to develop orthography and terminology of the indigenous languages.

2.2. Support to self-published authors (from manuscript to book shelves)

We will continue to strengthen our programme to support self-published authors. For this current year, we are targeting to support a total of 100 books to be published. This includes covering all the publishing costs involved such as editing, proofreading, cover design, printing and ISBN registration. We will furthermore provide platforms for writers using

provincial and district literature festivals which will be conducted virtually through digital platforms.

We have established the Masithethe Sign Language structure which currently represents the deaf community. The department will continue to grow and support the deaf awareness campaign held annually in September. Through our Isivivane Publication we will publish short stories and poems from the province targeting submissions by youth, women and persons with disabilities.

2.3. Museum and Heritage Services

Our heritage initiatives will enrich citizens, offer opportunities for education and awareness that involve the whole community. The department will continue to conduct education programmes on national symbols and orders to instil identity and nationhood. The Amathole and Albany Museums will work with the departmental district offices to extend the museum education programme through virtual museums.

With reference to museum infrastructure, we are working on repurposing the existing museums to strengthen integration of other sectors. This will be realised through innovative ways such as, incorporating coffee shops, curio shops and internet cafés on the new designs of museums and repurposing the existing ones. We will work in collaboration with ECPTA in marketing our four big museums (Bayworld, Albany, Amathole and East London), with the aim of marketing these to attract more tourists

while providing necessary resources for the eMaxesibeni Museum in Mt Ayliff. We will continue with our museum partnership with the state of Lower Saxony in Germany which is a knowledge and skills exchange on museums and heritage management.

The year 2020 has been declared the “Year of Raymond Mhlaba and Vuyisile Mini”. The provincial government, through the Office of the Premier and the Department, will host the centenary celebrations virtually, as well as establish legacy projects dedicated to the first Premier of the Eastern Cape, Mr Raymond Mhlaba and Mr Vuyisile Mini, who was one of the first political prisoners executed at the Pretoria Gallows in 1964. Both icons would have turned 100 years old if they were still alive.

The Department will embrace the Province’s rich history and heritage, by connecting the past, present and future conservation of resources (both tangible and intangible heritage), through partnering with communities. The department will organise programmes that honour and salute men and women who have earned their titles as military veterans. As part of Liberation Heritage Route, the department will construct a statue in honour of Canon James Calata at St Matthews Anglican Church in Keiskammahoek, in partnership with the municipality.

3. Library and Archives Services

3.1 Archives and Records Management

To accelerate the archival processing, the department will enhance access and increase the total percent of records available for research. This is aimed at ensuring that we go beyond the traditional role of making records accessible to increasing volumes of electronic records on the online portal. The Department will participate in the ATOM (ACCESS TO MEMORY), a national web based archival system of arrangement, description and retrieval of archival material. This will be rolled out in all the three repositories i.e. King William's Town, Port Elizabeth and Mthatha. It will be in line with the International Standards as adopted by the International Council of Archives (ICA). This will therefore improve the manual preservation of records and increase access to public records.

3.2 Library and Information Services

The department recognises that in our rapidly changing world, the province needs different skills, tools, information, programs and services to succeed and has therefore, committed to supporting the transformation of public libraries. As our world is changing, we must meet the evolving user expectations and community needs, libraries will therefore adjust their programs, services, collections, policies, and systems.

We will reprioritise resources to ensure that the existing libraries function optimally. This will be done by reducing the number of new infrastructure projects and reprioritise funding to maintain the existing library buildings with adequate resources. The use of technology for providing access to information in both the libraries and archives will be enhanced through the continuous procurement of e-books. We will continue with our programme of providing internet connectivity to ensure that an increased number of our libraries provide free internet access to the public.

4. Sport and Recreation

For any sport and recreation system to grow, thrive, and be successful there is a need to resource, implement and monitor regular participation programs. The Covid 19 pandemic has forced us to invest in sporting equipment and apparel. We are doing this to ensure that sporting clubs are better resourced and prepared for when sporting activities finally resume, with a special focus on **youth, women and people with disabilities**.

South Africa will be hosting the 2023 Netball World Cup in Cape Town, the department will prioritize Netball in the province as part of preparing for this World Cup from this financial year, by ensuring that the netball clubs are resourced.

In this period of limited contact and direct sporting participation, our provincial sporting academies are focused on the conditioning and

training of individual athletes using virtual and other non-contact platforms. The department will further resource our eight (8) academies with the required specialist sporting equipment.

Working together with municipalities, we will monitor the construction of new and utilisation of sports facilities.

The Eastern Cape is not immune from the governance challenges that face sport in South Africa. Some governance weaknesses have seriously compromised the image of the province and made our talented athletes to leave the province. In trying to rescue the plight of athletes, the department has set aside financial injection towards the recovery and participation of the Border Bulldogs team in the National League.

The department is in close contact with the Department of Education with regards to the school sport programme, in order to ensure our readiness for when the programme starts again.

We continue to encourage families and individuals to maintain active lifestyles through home based recreational activities during this period. We will develop programmes that are geared at encouraging and skilling children and youth to participate in recreation activities through the use of animation, online platforms and electronic sports .

5. Partnerships

We will formalise partnerships with four institutions of higher learning in the province, namely, Fort Hare, Walter Sisulu, Rhodes and Nelson Mandela Universities for research and training in arts, culture, heritage and sports. Inter-provincial partnership with Free State Province will be enhanced to ensure maximum platform opportunities for Eastern Cape crafters and artists.

We have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with MultiChoice which is focused on the development of film, sport and sporting infrastructure. Through this partnership the department will also work closely with Bay TV (Mpuma Kapa TV) to broadcast some of our key events like the National Arts Festival in Makhanda. The department has embarked on a process to conclude a cooperation agreement with Eastern Cape Tourism Agency with a view of working together to enhance heritage, cultural and sports tourism in the province.

6. Provincial Arts and Sports Relief Fund

In light of the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have established a provincial relief fund for the cultural, creative and sports industries which focuses on social relief and economic recovery. The fund seeks to provide relief to all those in the sector who lost income due to cancellation of planned events. The fund is further targeted at economic

recovery by creating work opportunities for creatives through the use of digital platforms and other innovative ways.

7. Administration

With the COVID-19, the department has had to improve its information and communication technology (ICT), by introducing digital services to ensure that it is able to continue during this period. In enhancing the efficiency, we will implement the electronic document management system to improve the turn-around time and performance information management processes.

The department will continue with its implementation of the automation of its business process, including the e-leave management systems, e-submissions performance management and development system (PMDS), the recruitment, S&T and fuel claims as well as the invoice tracking system to improve the payment of service providers.

In this financial year, we will strive to achieve clean audit outcomes, as we continue to implement good management of public funds. We will strengthen internal controls to ensure that any irregular and wasteful expenditure is minimised.

We will continue with the implementation of the Accelerated Women Empowerment Programme (AWE) which has led to the successful transformation of the executives in the department, with appointment of females, reaching 83% and for this, we are very proud. However, more

work still needs to be done to improve the appointment of women at senior management and management levels with the department currently sitting at 35% and 47% respectively. Furthermore, the department will endeavour to increase employment of people with disability from 1,7% to 2%.

Through our partnership with the CATHSSETA and other SETAs the department will create opportunities for the unemployed youth. As it stands currently the department has appointed fourteen (14) interns whose contracts are continuing into the current financial year and has 18 other interns with various other SETAs. With the support of the National Library South Africa (NLSA) and Telkom, the department has managed to recruit 20 of the unemployment youth to its learnership programme, with their contracts ending in February 2021.

We have observed that overall our internal and external communication requires improvement. In order to deal with this challenge, the department will develop a Communication Strategy targeting both internal and external stakeholders.

Honourable Speaker,

I present to this House and to the entire Eastern Cape community our 2020/25 Strategic Plan; 2020/21 Annual Performance Plans, 2020/21 Operational Plans and budget summary for both the Department and Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC).

Programme	Medium-term Budget Estimates, R'000		
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Administration	349 051	342 910	353 171
Cultural Affairs	248 678	253 919	265 853
Library and Archives Services	256 363	274 535	287 431
Sport and Recreation	166 196	180 543	189 025
Total	1 020 288	1 051 907	1 095 480

I, Thank You

Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture



VISION



“A United, Active and Winning Province through Sport, Recreation, Arts, Culture & Heritage”.

MISSION



“Developing, Preserving and Promoting Sport, Recreation, Arts, Culture and Heritage for Spiritual, Intellectual, and Socio-Economic Upliftment of the people of the Eastern Cape”

