



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

VOTE 14 **POLICY** **SPEECH** **2024/25**



A United, Active and Winning Province Through Sport, Recreation, Arts, Culture & Heritage

TABLING OF VOTE 14 BY MEC FOR SPORT, RECREATION, ARTS, CULTURE, HONOURABLE S. NGONGO 2024-2025

Madam Speaker

Honourable Deputy Speaker

Premier of the Eastern Cape Province, the Home of the Legends

The Honourable Members of the Eastern Cape Executive Council

Honourable Members of this House

Representatives of all our Social Partner Formations

Members of the Diplomatic Community

Your Worships, the Mayors

The Traditional Leadership,

Members of the Religious Groups,

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Speaker, I am presenting this policy speech a week after our legendary author, actor and playwright, Dr John Kani, was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by his Majesty, King Charles III. The Order of the British Empire is one of the most prestigious honours awarded by the United Kingdom, it recognises individuals for their outstanding achievements and service across various fields including the arts. Dr Kani's recognition speaks to his lifelong commitment to the creative industry. They claim him as the grandfather of the nation, thina apha ePhondweni simbanga ngokuba ngunyana waseGqeberha, iPoni yaseNew Brighton and we certainly look forward to hosting him again in the province when we host our provincial book fair in October.

The tabling of this policy speech effectively marks the end of the 6th term of government, which provides the broad context to give account on the implementation of our plans.

At the beginning of this term in 2019, we were given a clear mandate to **ensure sustainable growth** of the **sporting and creative sector** as well as the **promotion and preservation** of South Africa's cultural and heritage fortune.

Our Honourable Premier, Mr Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane also made a clarion call to us as the department to **strengthen social cohesion and ensure nation building and unity**.

Honourable Speaker, the Department **reaffirms its commitment towards the realisation of a socially cohesive society** in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.

Honourable Speaker, this last term has been different in comparison to other terms due to challenges in global health and economic conditions. Over the past five years, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound and multifaceted impact on societies, economies, and individuals worldwide.

The sport, recreation, arts, and culture sectors were amongst those affected the most due to the regulations on social distancing and the prohibition of gatherings. As a result, we had to adjust our plans, come up with creative ways by developing social relief packages, to support the sectors. We managed to support 384 beneficiaries, inclusive of the living legends, from the R7.7 million allocated to the creative sector; and 234 beneficiaries from the R4.6 million allocated to the sport and recreation sector.

The 2024/25 financial year's Budget Vote comes at a time when we as the nation are **celebrating 30 years of democracy**. The year also marks the **60th anniversary of the Pretoria Central Prison execution of Vuyisile Mini, Zinakile Mkaba and Wilson Khayingo**. These were the first three members of the African National Congress' military arm to be executed by the apartheid government in 1964.

This year, we also commemorate:

- **190 years of the start of the 6th War of Resistance, also known as the War of Hintsa:**
- **205 years of the battle of Egazini, as well as**
- **The centenary of the birth of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe.**

These historic milestones afford us an opportunity to celebrate the distinct legacy and proud heritage of the Eastern Cape.

We also celebrate **18 Years since the establishment of the Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture**

Today we gather in the beautiful capital of the Home of Legends, Bhisho, to commemorate our past and plot the future of our children.

Madam Speaker, in the diverse cultures and traditions of our province, the 30 years of democracy presents a moment for us to introspect: *Sizibuze singobani, senzani, siyaphi, sifuna ntoni, silelikhaya leengqwele.*

Since the establishment of the Department, we have made significant progress in setting the foundation for social cohesion and nation building through sport, recreation, arts, and culture. The gains made in the 30 years of democracy include, but not limited to:

- The development of communities through democratic and inclusive policies in the sport, recreation, arts, and cultural spheres of our society.
- We have managed to build and renovate relevant social infrastructure and amenities to benefit previously marginalised communities. This has been done in partnership with other government departments and entities.
- Transformative programmes have been implemented to ensure the inclusion of women, children, people with disabilities and youth in sport, recreation, arts, and cultural activities.

- We have established democratic institutions that have helped us to deliver on our legislative responsibilities and transformative mandate as part of government in this Home of Legends.
- We have also made significant strides in advancing the Department's core mandate of nation-building for the achievement of social cohesion in our rainbow nation.

Indeed, the above is testimony to the significant strides that we have made, and we commit ourselves to continue this path.

Madam Speaker, let me now take the opportunity to update the nation on the work of the department as it relates to:

1. DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

At the beginning of the term, through the Departmental 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan, we made a commitment to invest in the cultural and creative industries as an important contributor in sustaining the province's prosperity. We made an undertaking to shift the role of the department from primarily being a provider of arts, culture, and heritage opportunities, to providing greater support and facilitate programmes initiated and driven by communities and civil society.

We committed to focus on leadership and advocacy to ensure that creativity is fostered and nurtured through development of formal partnerships that would strengthen the provision of arts, culture, and heritage programming. We also reinforced our commitment to creating opportunities for local artists through hosting festivals in the different local municipalities, thereby contributing to local economic development.

Honourable Speaker! We are proud to report back that we have done just that. To date, the department has partnered with small medium micro enterprises (SMME's), artists and communities in hosting the following major projects:

- 6th Annual Eastern Cape Provincial Arts, Culture and Heritage Awards in Buffalo City Metro (East London)
- Maskandi Music Festival held in Mzimvubu Municipality (KwaBhaca)
- Sondela Youth Arts Festival in Walter Sisulu Municipality (Maletswai).

There are serious economic spin-offs from the cultural and creative industry (CCI) which fashion design is part of. According to research conducted by the South African Cultural Observatory (SACO) in the period 2016 to 2023 the CCI contributed 6% to employment and 7,5% share to the provincial GDP. This means therefore that craft and design is an important lever in fighting unemployment in the province.

1.1 Film Development

Honourable Speaker, the Department, through its public entity, the **Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC)** has been instrumental in fostering the growth of the local film industry. With respect to film, our mandate is transformation and developmental support, aimed at enabling our people to tell their stories. In the last five years we have **supported over 36 films with funding**. These range from **documentaries and short films**, including documentaries on legends such as **Madosini and Ben Nomoyi**. For the longest time we were concerned about the absence of Eastern Cape productions on national television, hence we supported the production of the very successful IsiXhosa telenovela, **Gqeberha: The Empire**.

Gqeberha: The Empire, stands as a shining example of the ability of television production to drive economic growth, promote cultural heritage, and empower local communities (reflection on economic growth and employment). In the production of Season one alone, more than R 16 million was directly injected into the local economy. The economic spin-offs generated by this cash injection extend into different markets.

As the series embarks on its second season, it reaffirms the Eastern Cape's position as a vibrant and dynamic centre for arts and culture in South Africa. The new season brings with it new talent and seasoned actors. The construction of brand-new film studios in Gqeberha, which are among the best in the country, promise to take production to new heights. We shall in the current financial year support film initiatives like Siziwe and biographical documentaries such as *Living Legend*, *Pride*, *Canvas*, and *Ilifa lomboko*. These documentaries are in the distribution phase, and we are planning to air them on television, just like Gqeberha: The Empire.

Honourable Speaker, as part of enabling the use of **Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)** and the building of skills in crafts, through our entity ECPACC working with CSIR, we have provided extensive training to emerging artists throughout the province in areas such as computer assisted design. Furthermore, we have assisted crafters with digital and online marketing skills so that they are able to sell their product. We are also going to **continue with in depth research on indigenous knowledge systems** as part of our quest to improve support and ensure that crafts contribute meaningfully to the provincial economy.

Going forward, the **founding legislation of ECPACC is being reviewed** to give the entity a fresh mandate, which also includes supporting our artists with facilitation of broadcasting platforms to ensure that their products are able to reach every home in the province.

1.2 Performing and Visual Arts

We recognise the importance of performing arts, particularly music as part of the cultural jewels of the province. We believe that artists should be at the forefront of teaching our history as leading story tellers.

In partnership with Mandela Bay Theatre Complex, the Department has once again implemented the **3rd edition of the Music Excellence Acceleration Programme of the Eastern Cape** (MEAPEC), where eight (8) record labels from the province were be supported, with the six (6) well-

established ones getting R300 000 each and the two (2) emerging ones getting R150 000 each.

A concerted focus this year will be placed on women, as we believe that more can be done within the space of feminine development in the arts. This is where pockets of excellence around music will be lifted, polished, and marketed for distribution. In the past, artists like *Betusile*, *Msaki*, and emerging Maskhandi artists like *Impondo Elitsha* have directly benefitted from this programme.

The Department has installed state of the art audio-visual equipment at Guild Theatre that will help artists in recording and editing their artistic work for online audience consumption. For post-production, the department will partner with local studios to ensure the whole value-chain of production is realised. Currently, artists like Dumza Maswana are benefitting directly from this investment through digital recording of their productions at the Guild Theatre

In the current financial year, we plan to inject more funding in support of visual art, as well as create new platforms for artists to exhibit their craft at prospective galleries. We also plan to introduce a cultural expo that would create new opportunities and new markets for our artists.

In the heart of our communities, vibrant transformation is underway, driven by a commitment to artistic expression and creative industry development. In 2023, the Department increased support to arts programmes through an addition of four art centres in partnership with *Imbumba Yamakhosikazi akoMkhulu* initiative. The newly established centres are in **Nqadu Great place, Mngqesha Great Place, Steve Biko centre, and Black Power Station**. This year again, we intend to extend our support to additional art centres through a mentoring programme, where existing centres will adopt arts initiatives from far-flung areas where there are no art centres. This initiative seeks to close the gap between urban and the periphery in terms of development.

Craft and Design – Madam Speaker, we have two types of fashion and garment designers. Some are organically produced by the informal and formal community structures, while others are products of the formal education and training institutions.

The Eastern Cape produces qualified designers from universities and colleges. Since 2014 this has been augmented by the Fashion Design Innovation Centre (FDIC) in Mthatha. Through this initiative, the sector has produced organic material while making fashion and textile design accessible to rural communities through creation of job opportunities.

Kulonyakamali nokubheka phambili, sicela ukuba nithunge, nenze bonke ubumbejembeje obubonisa izakhono ezinokwenza nephondo lethu. Kwaye singavuya xa singabona obbumbejembeje benziwe buphinde bukhombise izinto zalapha ephondweni.

1.3 Publishing industry

As part of our ongoing efforts to support writers in the province, we are putting in place strategies to ensure that the work of our authors is supported throughout the entire value-chain, from manuscripts to bookshelves. Honorable Speaker, we intend to upskill our writers by placing them in various capacity building programs.

As a springboard for showcasing the work of writers, in the 2023/4 financial year, we hosted the Eastern Cape Book Fair, which created a platform for our writers to interact with renowned writers, Professor Zakes Mda and Professor Ncedile among other.

The Eastern Cape has been a fountain to which we provide the country with renowned writers, and we will be pulling all stops to ensure that we sustain this noble status. Apha singakhankanya amaqhawe afana noMqhayi, ooJabavu. Kulenyanga yoMama, ndingakhankanya uNoni Jabavu, Phylis Ntantala, Nontsizi Mqwetho. This re-affirms our commitment to support our writers. Sibhalele kuni babhali!

Honourable Speaker, we continue to pay special focus to **literary icons** who have contributed and continue to do sterling work in language development across all languages. As such, this year, we are going to be celebrating the contribution made by the legendary Peter Mtuze who has published over 30 books, these include *uNomsa* and *Izibongo* amongst others. Mtuze, has spent his life contributing to the development of isiXhosa and it is therefore befitting that his works be celebrated now. Esaphila.

Languages – Honourable Speaker, the department is tasked with promoting multilingualism in the province as guided by the Eastern Cape Use of Official Languages Act of 2016 and the Eastern Cape Use of Official Languages Regulations that were passed in 2020.

Promoting multilingualism with a special focus on **indigenous languages is not just about language, but it speaks to people's identities**, who they are and how they were stripped of their identity by the apartheid system. In order to restore the lost dignity, kufuneka siqale ngokuvuselela ilwimi ezi zethu, inkcubeko nemvelaphi yethu. Yiyo lonto siqeqesha abantu abalishumi kwingingqi yase Sarah Baartman nase-Nelson Mandela Bay Metro kulwimi iNama lwamaKhoi and San.

This programme, which is in partnership with PanSALB, and the Department of Education will see the Nama language being introduced in schools. Speaker, I am proud to report that as I deliver the 2024/2025 policy speech, we have both the English version, neyesiXhosa printed and handed over to this August house.

Honourable Speaker, this year sizakuthathela ingqalelo nangakumbi iSign Language. This as sign language has recently been signed into law as one of the 12 official languages in the country. We are going to host a number of advocacy programs making sure we create an awareness and train communities on the basics of sign language. Kodwa sizakuqala apha ekhaya. We are working closely with the Office of the Premier to make sure we train frontline workers in government departments. There must be no

provincial government event without sign language interpreters and we are going to make sure of that.

Through the provincial central language unit and partners, we will continue to monitor efforts or progress made by government institutions in line with provincial language regulations.

Sifuna ukuqinisekisa ukuba wonke ubani uziva eyinxalenye yaloMzantsi Afrika ugqiba iminyaka engamashumi amathathu wakhululekayo.

To this end, we are going to partner with the institutions of higher learning to ensure that we train government officials on translations, interpreting and lexicon development. This is over and above the work we do with PanSALB.

2. TRANSFORMATION OF HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

Heritage is important in the transformation of society. Services associated with it usually do not have an immediate impact on communities as they are largely intangible. Efforts will be made to consolidate our heritage products with the view of developing these into tourism products, thus creating opportunities for the intangible heritage to be economically beneficial for our province.

Borrowing from Thandiswa Mazwai's *Nizilibele ukuba nizalwa ngoobani* song to emphasise this point. She sings melodiously that:

*"The world changes, revolutionaries die
And the children forget
The ghetto is our first love
And our dreams are drenched in gold
We don't even cry
About it no more
Are the beautiful ones really dead."*

It is through heritage that we can ensure that we don't forget the heroes and heroines that gave birth to our current reality of freedom, lest we are asked "Nizilibele ukuba nizalwa ngoobani".

Honourable Speaker, perhaps I must remind the House that we are descendants of Dawid Stuurman, Langalibalele, Mhlontlo, Sarhile, Mhala, Phatho, Xhoxho, Stokwe, Nonibe and Nonesi. Masikhumbule ukuba sizalwa ngamaqhawekazi namaqhawe amela ubuntu bethu kungelula, into zoo Mqikela, ooDalindyebo, ooMadiba, ooXhamela into zooSisulu nooBiko, ooTshonyane into yakwaHani.

Sithetha ngamadoda amakhulu afana noSobukwe nabafazi bemibhinqo ephezulu, abafana noMama uMaxeke kunye noMam'uNomzamo Madikizela-Mandela, Sarah Baartman, Victoria Mxenge. Ke basadi batshwarang tipa kabohaling.

2.1 Celebration of National Significant Days

The Department through the national days programme will celebrate the 30 years of freedom and democracy to strengthen patriotism. The institutionalised days will continue to be used as platforms to promote nation building, reconciliation, unity, multiculturalism, and foster social cohesion.

These days have also been utilised as platforms to launch government campaigns against Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), Alcohol and Drug abuse, Xenophobia, Fraud and Corruption, gangsterism and other social ills.

Over the past 5 years, the department has spent close to R8 million towards legacy projects to empower local communities (especially youth, women, and people with disabilities) to improve their skills and capacity in the development and promotion of cultural industries.

In this regard, community based cultural heritage initiatives in various municipalities have each received equipment and supplies to the value of

R250 000 per institutional day. Stakeholders such as the Robert Sobukwe Trust, Bhisho Massacre, Uitenhage Massacre, Bulhoek Massacre, and John Knox Bokwe Foundations have all benefitted from the support provided by the department through the legacy projects.

Going forward, focus would be on mobilising and lobbying minority communities to attend and participate actively in these programmes as they have not been as active as we would like them to be.

2.2 Geographical Place Name Change Programme

Honourable Speaker, we are a government of the people, by the people. Our constitutional democracy requires us to consult with the people. The Eastern Cape is at the forefront of other provinces with regards to the implementation of the programme on standardisation of geographical place names. To date, we held numerous consultations with communities on place name change resulting in 164 names being standardised in the province, including *Gqeberha, Kariega, Makhanda, Qonce, Komani, Maletswai, King Phalo and Chief Dawid Stuurman Airports, and most recently, Nqweba.*

The process has been initiated to standardise Graaff-Reinet to be renamed to Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. In 2024/25, towns in the pipeline to have new names include East London, Aberdeen, and Colchester, to mention a few.

2.3 Exhumation, Repatriation and Reburial of Mortal Remains Programme

Over the years government has exhumed, repatriated, and reburied numerous heroes and heroines of the Eastern Cape. These were the people who died defending our land and fighting for our freedom. We will always remember the role and contribution of *Yiva Voyoyo and Zwelibanzi Kwetshube* in the struggle for our liberation. May their spirit live with us forever.

Madam Speaker, this is a very difficult programme that requires a multi-stakeholder approach. I can safely say that, in this regard, the Department is in collaboration with departments at national and provincial level responsible for justice, military veterans, and culture.

The Department continues to assist families of victims of conflict to heal and finally find closure through repatriation and reburial of remains of their loved ones. To date, 132 cases have been undertaken since 1999.

2.4 Infrastructure development and maintenance

In a bid to refurbish decaying museum infrastructure and create a secure environment for artefacts, staff and visitors alike, the Department is in the process of completing restoration of **Fort Beaufort Museum** (Raymond Mhlaba LM) and **Uitenhage Museum's Railway Station satellite** (Nelson Mandela Bay). Furthermore, the Department will conduct conditional assessment of damage to infrastructure at the **Missionary Museum**, a satellite of Amathole Museum in Qonce (BCMM), as well as **Sterkstroom Museum** (Chris Hani District), and report thereof will inform financial investment in restoration work. The above museums are some of the oldest institutions in the country, hence their infrastructure is dilapidating and needed restoration.

2.5 Advocacy programme

The department hosted **International Museums Day** in May 2024, and three learners from Amathole, Alfred Nzo and Chris Hani Districts that participated and excelled in the essay writing competition will be provided with an opportunity to attend and participate in the **Robben Island Spring School Camp in September 2024**. The learners will be exposed to and equipped with information and knowledge on international best practices on conservation and preservation of heritage resources. This will definitely develop the skill sets of the learners and trigger their interest in museology.

2.6 Heritage Resources Management

Through **Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (ECPHRA)**, the department has, over the years, worked closely with the National Heritage Council, University of Fort Hare, and the South African Heritage Resources Agency to submit a proposal to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to declare Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites. These include the University of Fort Hare (ZK Matthews House) in Dikeni and Mqhekezweni Great Place in Mthatha as World Heritage Sites. In the 46th session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the two sites have been declared as World Heritage Sites, and this is something the Province of the Eastern Cape should be proud of. We would like to acknowledge and appreciate the work done by the professional team led by DSAC in making this a success.

Furthermore, the Province has also submitted **Klasies River Caves Archaeological Site** in Humansdorp as one of the iconic sites associated with "emergence of modern human behaviour". The plan is for the site to join three sites from the Western Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal that have been proclaimed World Heritage Sites in this category. A feasibility study and conservation management plan have already been conducted and developed to put a strong case for the site to be considered in 2025.

The ECPHRA is also contributing to the success of infrastructure development in the province especially **big wind projects** and related high impact project as they have raised their capacity and speed to grant permits to property developers to develop spaces for socio-economic development. This is an area that was a challenge in the past but increase in human capital and financial resources has enabled the ECPHRA to improve drastically in this critical area of work.

3. INCULCATING A CULTURE OF READING AND LIFELONG LEARNING

3.1 Provision of library material to public libraries

Honourable Speaker, library services are central in the facilitation of continuous learning for all age groups. Over the years, the Department has provided **support to various local authors**, and will continue to do so in the upcoming year. Since 2021, we have been resolute on sourcing local content and distribute these books through our public libraries. We have again, for the 2024/25 financial year set aside a budget of R4.5 million for the procurement of locally produced library material.

3.2 Establishment of mini libraries

Madam Speaker, it prides me to mention that **South African Library for the Blind (SALB)** continues to be a beneficiary of the financial support of R2 million a year to enable people with visual disability access to libraries. To date 56 mini libraries that benefit the above designated group have been established and resourced with equipment that services their needs. In the 2024/25 financial year, three (3) more mini libraries are planned. These are to be established in Sakhisizwe (Indwe), Blue Crane (Cookhouse) and Ingquza Hill (Flagstaff).

3.3 Audio Book Studio

We currently have an **audio book studio** to produce these (books) for visually impaired users. The studio was established at the Mdantsane Library in Zone 14.

As the Department, we are reimagining and repurposing our libraries to be active role-players in transforming rural communities. They are to be community hubs that nurture and level the playing field through easy access to ICT facilities, play areas, reading rooms etc.

3.4 Infrastructure development and maintenance

In the previous term, the Department spent R 100 million to build **eight (8) new library facilities**¹. For the 2024/25, financial year, we will continue with the construction of new libraries in **Ntabankulu and Ingquza Hill Local Municipalities**.

3.5 Provision of ICT infrastructure

In an effort to bridge the digital divide, over the past 5 years, the Department has over the 5 years provided ICT infrastructure to enable internet access to the 217 libraries in the province. We have also introduced an e-lending platform, where people can access books without physically visiting a library. We have also initiated a process to move away from manual processes by installing the automated library information management system (SLIMS) in our libraries.

I cannot conclude on library services without mentioning the heart-breaking and continuing vandalism, break-ins, and theft that continues to rampage our library infrastructure. We call upon communities, municipalities traditional authorities, and law enforcement agencies to start owning these facilities and protect them with their lives, for the benefit of our future generations.

From the shrinking fiscus, the Department is not able to go back and rebuild but can only look at developing other communities where there is a need for library facilities.

¹ Welcome Baskiti in Cookhouse, Jeffreys Bay Public Library, Makhenkesi Stofile Public Library in Dikeni, Fort Beaufort Public Library, Ashley Wyngaard Public Library, Mpendla Public Library, Izingcuka Modula Library and Mango Public Library

4. PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE

Honourable Speaker, **Digitisation** is one of the relevant solutions in the 4th Industrial Revolution that will secure the information, knowledge and every record that is in the provincial archives. This is also crucial in managing preservation and access to records. The conversion of provincial archival records to the digital formats will continue in the 2024/25 financial year.

Since the digitisation project started the following milestones have been achieved, including the setting up of a digitisation centre with ICT related equipment; appointment of staff with archives and records management skills; capacitation of archives practitioners through workshops and skills development initiatives. To date 36 boxes (3.6 linear meters) with 744 files have been digitised and preserved for posterity.

Furthermore, the Department applied the same criteria in selecting records to be digitised in the Western Cape. The records to be digitised are 45,2 linear meters, equalling around 452 boxes of records. The digitisation of these records will start in 2024/2025 financial year, and it is estimated to take 10 years and more because of the sensitivity of the collection which dates to the 1800s.

Access of the digitised records will be through the Departmental archives website which will indicate where records are housed within the three repositories (*i.e., Mthatha, eQonce and Gqeberha*).

As part of our Constitutional mandate, we continue to help other governmental bodies to transfer their records to the provincial archives' repositories

5. PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Provincial Records Management – Madam Speaker! To ensure public records generated in all provincial state organs are properly managed, a provincial records management policy has been implemented. Compliance with the policy is assessed and where applicable, interventions are provided to government departments, public entities, and municipalities.

The Department has made remarkable strides in ensuring that there is awareness of the records management concept which include the inclusion of the former marginalised communities. It must be emphasized that poor records management is one of the areas impacting negatively in the audit results received by governmental bodies.

6. INCREASING CAPACITY AND PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND RECREATION

Transformation and development are the main pillars of the government's agenda. The Department remains committed to fostering sports and recreation as the instruments of change, available and, most importantly, accessible to our communities.

Today, more than ever, young people are being inundated by new forms of entertainment and face increasing barriers to participation in sport and recreation activities. As society changes, new preferences are emerging, athletes desire greater flexibility, more tailored products and sports that work for them. As government, we are committed to keeping sport and recreation relevant and viable, whilst supporting our athletes to develop their physical literacy for active and healthy lifestyles.

In our endeavours to “**reinforce the contribution of sport and recreation to nation building, social cohesion and national development**”, the department will continue to deliver and support community initiatives that are aimed at increasing participation by designing and or supporting the delivery of inclusive programmes and services meant for, but not limited to, the elderly, young people, women, and people with disabilities.

6.1 Sport Development

The Department, working together with the Eastern Cape Sport Confederation [ECSC] and the various sport federations, will continue to implement the **club development programme** by reshaping and

sharpening the sport development growth path through the **hosting of local leagues** that will culminate into different stages of development. This is aimed at creating the link between the federations and clubs, which will be measured by increasing the number of young people in sport and recreation activities.

In building provider capacity, the department will develop and implement a **volunteer administrator recruitment and retention plan** to sustain volunteer administrators in our communities. We will continue to deliver support and resources to assist sport clubs to promote and build a positive sporting culture.

Honourable Speaker, **women sport** has seen a huge increase in profile over the past five years, bolstered by landmark sporting achievements on the biggest stages (Football and Netball World Cup). However, there is more work to be done to ensure that the growth in interest translates into sustainable growth for women's sport, and a closing of the participation gap between men and women.

Our desire is not necessarily for women sport to be a carbon copy of men's sport, but for it to be developed in its own unique way, influenced by different factors, and with its different opportunities for growth. What we want to see is women sport and our fantastic female athletes being given the appropriate support to flourish, inspire and be respected. Besides netball and softball, we have therefore as a province, prioritised four sporting codes, these being rugby, boxing, cricket, and football, of which we are supporting both at professional and developmental level.

The department continues to engage municipalities in their numerous initiatives to improve sport infrastructure. Sport infrastructure and recreational facilities currently exclude people living with disabilities. We need more investment in this regard because old infrastructure needs restructuring for inclusivity.

Sonke singabantu, kunyanzelekile ukuba siphile ngokufanayo. Kunyanzelekile ukuba izakhiwo zoluntu zifikeleleke kumntu wonke, kodwa ngoku imeko ayikho njalo. Masilandeleni imigaqo yenkululeko nobuntu ngokuthi sakhe izakhiwo zemidlalo ezifikelekayo kummi wonke weli.

Honourable Speaker, the success of a provincial sporting system requires that the components that make up that system must themselves be efficient and effective. The Eastern Cape Sport Confederation (ECSC), affiliated federations and clubs/teams are central to the sporting system. It is through these components that sport is delivered to community participants; and athletes and teams are prepared to represent their province in national and international competitions.

In the ensuing financial year, the Eastern Cape Sports Confederation (ECSC) has been given a mandate to profile each federation with a view to explore the possibility of direct financial injection to identified federations. The Confederation is meant, amongst others, to set out levels of transparency, diversity and inclusion, accountability and integrity required from sport federations receiving public funding. This also applies to organisations and or events companies delivering major sporting events with government support.

Rural Sport - As part of the broader development of society, the Department has committed itself to equalising the ground by creating equal opportunities across diverse regional locations. We have noted the vast majority of the province is rural, but resources and infrastructure distribution are skewed in favour of the urban areas. The budget for 2024/25 financial year will therefore seek to correct this anomaly.

Sport as a vehicle for socioeconomic transformation – Most participants in sport and recreation are young people. In our province, young people are vastly marginalised and excluded by virtue of them being in undeveloped townships and rural areas, away from sport facilities and sporting expertise in the form of coaches and trainers. This situation often leads to young people falling prey to alcohol and drug abuse, crime,

teenage and unplanned pregnancies, and many other problems in our communities. In the 2023/24 financial year, we hosted events that were aimed mainly at women and young people, including Boxing tournaments and the U19 and U20 Women's Rugby.

The Department has noted this and has put in place interventions to facilitate provincial tournaments which will see an improvement in young people participating in sports.

Honourable Speaker, we have also **recognised the existing excellence around sport** and hence we are intervening in this regard to motivate the young people to partake in sport development initiatives.

In recognition of excellence in sport and recreation, the department hosted the sport and recreation awards in the last financial year. It is with jubilation that I report to you Honourable Speaker and the public that non-government agencies and the private sector partnered with the Department in this regard by donating certificates, trophies and a car presented as a special award to the top achiever for the year.

6.2 Recreation

The Recreation programme is important for nation building, and as a foundation for networks and social interaction. It is also important for the maintenance of good physical health; and socially, as it promotes activity and helps with mental health promotion.

In this regard, the department will support opportunities that initiate sport and recreation pursuits in the ocean/river environments. Through the Learn-to-Swim Programme, we will concentrate, amongst others, in those areas within the province where our children drown on a daily basis while swimming in dams and rivers due to the lack of swimming as a life-skill. The Move-4-Health, Learn-to-Swim, and the Recreation Against Crime programmes are some of the skills development programmes that we will be conducting in 2024/25 towards encouraging active and healthy lifestyles.

6.3 School Sport

Over the past 5-year period (2020/2024), the department has facilitated the establishment of school sport governance structures and supported 2662 quintile 1-3 schools, including special schools, with sport attire and equipment. This has necessitated regular participation, nurturing of talent and excellence in sport and recreation. This also created employment opportunities for sport coordinators through the Mass Participation Program Conditional Grant (MPP).

School sport is the bedrock for development. Many young people participate in sport for the first time at school. Most of the sport stars have school sport reference as the beginning of their stardom.

Honourable Speaker, therefore, allow me to report to the House that 240 schools across all the eight (8) districts were resourced with equipment and attire. The beneficiaries were in the previously disadvantaged, mainly marginalised schools in quintiles 1-3.

Isebe belimaxhaphetshu, lizula iphondo kwizithili zosibhozo. Linika umlisela nomthinjana izixhobo neezambatho zokudlala. Liyinene elithi siyaqhuba, asimanga.

The province participated nationally in athletics, aquatics, netball, national youth weeks, the inter-provincial hockey tournament and the Craven week. The performance of the provincial teams was fairly good, which is an improvement from the previous years.

The pilots in the form of **school leagues and festivals** is aimed at significantly increasing activity and sport participation by young people in their local area (in school time and outside), as well as contribute to positive mental well-being and development of character and skills. Schools in these pilot areas will work with sport providers and local organisations to put in place a co-ordinated offering of sport, competitions, and activity in and outside schools.

The Department, through its **ambassador programme**, will identify and attract schools (quantile 1-3) within proximity; and volunteers who run community innovative programmes and events that support sport and recreation participation at community level. These programmes will include, but not limited to, organised school leagues/festivals, community driven easter tournaments, adventure sport, sport tourism, charitable and modified sport, etc.

On international Relations – The partnership that the province has with Lower Saxony has continued to bear fruit. Four (4) young people from the province were sent to Germany for Rugby voluntary work in coaching. Tennis coaching clinics were conducted by focusing on learners, educators, and existing players, creating the possibility of two (2) coaches going to Germany to be exposed to international training techniques.

The Youth Exchange Programme also saw 16 German youth visiting and interacting with the local youth on cultural values at Buffalo City Metro, Sarah Baartman, Amathole District Municipality and Nelson Mandela Metro.

In this financial year, the department is sending two female rugby players to be based at Hanover in Lower Saxony for a year. Over this year, these players will serve as coaches in different rugby teams. Five triathlon team members will participate in International Triathlon Championship and Under 16 Hockey Girls Team will also participate in an International Hockey Tournament in Lower Saxony.

7. ADMINISTRATION

Madam Speaker, for government to thrive proper management, administrative functions cannot be ignored.

We will continue to build the capacity of officials and volunteers to flawlessly execute applicable policies, whilst simultaneously ensuring that the

Department and its service delivery institutions can deliver reliable and high-quality services.

Through our ethics and anti-corruption strategy, we will further empower citizens to engage with their leaders from various sector organisations and hold them accountable. This in turn, is meant to create conducive environment for private sector investment that will drive sustainable and inclusive growth. We reaffirm **ZERO TOLERANCE** as our statement of attitude towards corrupt and fraudulent activities.

The Department will continue with the transformation programmes adopted in the previous financial years to address gaps identified for the attainment of good governance, including the capacitation of women, young people, and people with disabilities.

Creation of job opportunities and support to designated groups – The partnership with SETA's and private sectors continues to ensure that as the department can afford to provide the Eastern Cape youth with job opportunities within the various youth development programme.

In the current financial year, we have managed to appoint **196 EPWP work opportunities**, as well as placed **149 unemployed youth** in the form of internships, land work integrated programmes both for TVET students and university graduates. We have further appointed 31 learnerships, 17 of these have been placed within ICT, 4 are placed in communications, 2 with internal audit, and 10 with archives services.

Through the Young Creatives Programme and the Artists in School Programme funded by DSAC, the Department has recruited 60 young people who have been located within Community Art Centres as well as schools in the province.

In supporting local economic development, the Department has surpassed its target of 60% allocation of its goods and services budget, spent on local suppliers with women suppliers benefitting the most at more than 75%.

Digital/ Technology Hub – In the current financial year, the Department will be piloting the digital hub concept which seeks to leverage and transform the traditional institutions/facilities for libraries, museums, and art centres through the use of various 4IR technologies, with Bhisho Massacre centre as the main pilot site.

The Department will be collaborating with MeSETA to run the Mechatronics Learnership (Robotics) programme and host other relevant digital skills programmes for the youth with other partners in both public and private sectors.

Modernisation and automation of business processes – The use of ICT is an enabler to bringing efficiency of processes, thus improve public sector transparency and accountability. The Department has also advanced in its use of ICT to improve some of its operations that were traditionally done manually with the automation of quotations management and monitoring and evaluations modules in the current financial year.

For the 2024/25 financial year, the Department will finalise the artists and athlete's database as well continue to modernise the business processes to create efficiency as well as promote interface between the Department and its stakeholders.

SOMLOMO OHLONIPHEKILEYO, ndiswele amazwi ombulelo kumntu wonke kwisebe noluntu lwaseMpuma-Kapa ngokungazenzisiyo ngoba impumelelo yethu ingenxa yokusebenzisana kwethu.

8. 2024/25 BUDGET SUMMARY

Our total budget for 2024/25 is R1 043 363 (*One billion, forty-three million, three-hundred and sixty-three*)

Programme	Medium -term Budget Estimates, R'000		
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Administration	335 221	331 026	343 516
Cultural Affairs	241 598	248 638	257 093
Library and Archive Services	292 297	320 772	331 373
Sport and Recreation	174 247	174 057	182 919
Total	1 043 363	1 074 493	1 114 901

9. CONCLUSION

Honourable Speaker, I present the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan and Operational Plans for ECPACC and the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture

Acknowledgement of 2023 heroes and heroines in sport, recreation, arts, culture, and heritage sectors

- In sport, 4 players from the Springbok's Rugby World Cup champion squad in 2023 are bona fides of the Eastern Cape and proud products of school sport: Siyamthanda Kolisi, Lukhanyo Am, Makazole Mapimpi and Jayden Hendricks.
- Also, the Director of Rugby Rassie Erasmus, the Assistant Coach Mzwandile Stick, and one of the technical team's esteemed members who is a Performance Analyst Lindsay Weyer, all hail from the Home of Legends.
- In boxing we would like to congratulate the son of the soil, Sivenathi "The Special One" Nontshinga on his gutsy performance in reclaiming his IBF junior-flyweight championship.

- We also acknowledge Akhona Makalima, a young woman who has added being a VAR referee in the Africa Cup of Nations that took place in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) to the provincial list of achievements. Wathint'abafazi, wathint'imbokodo!
- The Under-19 Cricket World Cup team coach, Malibongwe Makhetha is the son of the province.
- 19 out of 49 boxers that participated in the amateur Boxing tournament in 2023 managed to bring medals to the province.
- Ronwen Hayden Williams, the heroic captain and goalkeeper of Bafana Bafana is from Gqeberha.
- Luxolo Adams who won both the Sports Star and Sports Man of the Year at the Provincial Sport Achievers Awards.
- The Eastern Cape Sunrisers also did us proud and defended the coveted T20 title in Cape Town. We shall engage the federation to ensure that they defend the title in their home ground.
- In music, we acknowledge the singer, the songwriter, Betusile Mcinga, for representing the province on the national and global stages by winning the Song of the Year at the Metro FM Awards and the coveted Best International Male Award at the 26th Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards in Texas, America.
- There were, however, unfortunate incidents during this period that must be acknowledged, including the passing of the province's cultural icons such as Dr Latozi Mpahleni Madosini, and that of Bulelwa Mkutukana, fondly known as Zahara, to name a few. We acknowledge with great pride the significant contributions they have made to the arts and culture sector and the heritage legacy of the province.

I thank you.