

2025/2026



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









GREETINGS

Speaker of the Provincial Legislature,

Premier of the Eastern Cape Province,

Members of the Executive Council,

Chairpersons of our Portfolio Committees,

Honourable Members of the House,

Leaders of faith-based organisations,

EC House of Traditional Leaders

Government officials present,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen, Greetings to you all.



INTRODUCTION

Honourable Speaker,

This 2025/26 Policy Speech provides a roadmap we aim to travel together with our communities in ensuring that the five departmental priority areas are realised (these are made of two priority areas and 3 enabling priorities) in line with the **Provincial-Medium Term Development Plan (P-MTDP)** and **Provincial Development Plan (PDP)**. These priority areas are: -

- Increased market share of and job opportunities created in sport, cultural and creative industries.
- A diverse, socially cohesive society with a common national identity.
 Integrated and accessible sport, recreation, arts, culture and heritage infrastructure and information
- Transformed, capable and professional sport, recreation, heritage, arts, and culture sector
- A compliant and responsive governance.

In our endeavour to *INCREASE MARKET SHARE OF AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES CREATED IN THE SPORT, CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES*, the department acknowledges its major role in the development and promotion of cultural and creative industries (CCI), thereby improving the quality and standards of production, safeguarding cultural heritage, and promoting the integration of culture into the mainstream of development. These industries are a fast-growing economic sector that holds great potential for a developing province like ours, which has rich traditions of arts, music, dance, literature, film, and other forms of creative talent, as well as a vast cultural heritage and profound traditional knowledge.

In his **State of the Nation Address (SONA)** on 6 February 2025, President Ramaphosa recognised the flourishing creative industry in the following statement: - "*The services sector is now the largest part of our economy, ranging from financial services to retail, hospitality, tourism and the burgeoning creative industry". In alignment with this statement, the Premier of the EC, Mr Oscar Mabuyane, in his State of the Province Adress (SOPA), further emphasised on the importance of our sector, thus: -*

"To attract and retain international tourists we are diversifying our product offerings to include culture, sport and heritage which are endowments of our province...."

On the same vein, we are proud to report that the CCI, encompassing industries like music, film, design and fashion, hosting of major sport events holds significant potential to generate employment and income, especially in marginalised communities. Additionally, South African Cultural Observatory's (SACO) 2022 bi-annual mapping study indicates that the **sector contributes 3% to national GDP**, comparable to agriculture, and **supports nearly one million jobs**, accounting for 6% of the national workforce. **Sport contributes 4.3% to GDP and sustains approximately 1.125 million jobs**, representing 7.6% of the country's employment.



On the same vein, we are proud to report that the CCI, encompassing industries like music, film, design and fashion, hosting of major sport events holds significant potential to generate employment and income, especially in marginalised communities. Additionally, South African Cultural Observatory's (SACO) 2022 bi-annual mapping study indicates that the **sector contributes 3% to national GDP**, comparable to agriculture, and **supports nearly one million jobs**, accounting for 6% of the national workforce. **Sport contributes 4.3% to GDP and sustains approximately 1.125 million jobs**, representing 7.6% of the country's employment.

Therefore, together with our partners, we aim to enhance sport and recreation programmes; increase the creative and cultural industries' contribution to the province's economy; and in so doing, bring greater opportunity and prosperity for the overall enrichment of our communities in ways beyond just revenues [i.e., increase contribution to the EC's economy and the overall portion of GDP derived from the creative and cultural industries (CCI)].

Hon. Speaker

We have adopted the following theme for the current financial year, "Actively transforming the Cultural, Creative Industries (CCIs) and the sporting sector to maximise economic growth in the province". It is in this context that we will vigorously pursue delivery of our services.

INVESTMENT IN CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

During this MTEF, we will focus on the development of **indigenous music** as part of our heritage in the province. The department, in collaboration with Ihashe elimhlophe and the Guild Theatre, will invest in the indigenous incubation programme as a catalyst to drive the initiative forward. It has been 10 years since Maskandi stalwart, Saba Mbixane, passed on, and in recognition of his sterling work in the development of this genre, the annual Maskandi event will be named after him. Furthermore, in collaboration with Lady Smith Black Mambazo, a program segmented for only women in isicathamiya is planned to be one of the departmental incubation programme.

The department will continue with its support to MEAPEC, with a bias towards indigenous music as part of preserving this genre and this will include the prioritisation of women.

We will explore options to *update branding and promotion for the province's cultural and creative industries* to raise the profile and increase discoverability of the products and experiences of the province. Through leveraging on premier platforms such as Decorex, Rand



Therefore, together with our partners, we aim to enhance sport and recreation programmes; increase the creative and cultural industries' contribution to the province's economy; and in so doing, bring greater opportunity and prosperity for the overall enrichment of our communities in ways beyond just revenues [i.e., increase contribution to the EC's economy and the overall portion of GDP derived from the creative and cultural industries (CCI)].

Hon. Speaker

We have adopted the following theme for the current financial year, "Actively transforming the Cultural, Creative Industries (CCIs) and the sporting sector to maximise economic growth in the province". It is in this context that we will vigorously pursue delivery of our services.

INVESTMENT IN CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

During this MTEF, we will focus on the development of **indigenous music** as part of our heritage in the province. The department, in collaboration with Ihashe elimhlophe and the Guild Theatre, will invest in the indigenous incubation programme as a catalyst to drive the initiative forward.

It has been 10 years since Maskandi stalwart, Saba Mbixane, passed on, and in recognition of his sterling work in the development of this genre, the annual Maskandi event will be named after him. Furthermore, in collaboration with Lady Smith Black Mambazo, a program segmented for only women in isicathamiya is planned to be one of the departmental incubation programme.

The department will continue with its support to MEAPEC, with a bias towards indigenous music as part of preserving this genre and this will include the prioritisation of women.

We will explore options to *update branding and promotion for the province's cultural and creative industries* to raise the profile and increase discoverability of the products and experiences of the province. Through leveraging on premier platforms such as Decorex, Rand

Easter, and Investec, we aim to position our craft on a global stage, using these events as catalysts for greater market exposure and growth.

Visual arts, crafts and design: - The department plans to select six visual artists from various districts to participate in the 2025 Investec Art Fare, where EC exhibitions will be showcased.

Decorex: - This is a home decor and visual art platform, partnering with ECDC to share costs from pricy stalls. In the previous financial year, 8 home deco and visual artists participated, with one of the designers from East London spotted and getting contract to supply Mr Price home with artifacts.

For 2025/26 financial year, the department will continue to utilise this platform and increase the number of creatives to participate during the Decorex in Cape Town for exposure and possible collaborations with established industry role players.



Investec Art fare: - In showcasing the best of visual art in the province, the department is partnering with Limani art gallery as an implementing agent at the Investec art fare.

The department will increase the number of top provincial visual artists from 8 to 12 drawn from various districts to get an opportunity of showcasing their works among the international galleries.

Rand Easter: - For the past 2024/25 financial year, the department enabled participation for our crafters from which they benefitted economically. Again, this year, for the benefit of the crafters in the province, 8 crafters drawn various districts will participate and take advantage of the prestige festival, displaying the best of what the province can offer.

Last year, **two of our crafters** got the opportunity to supply David Tlale's Sandton shop (one of the country's top designers) with products.

Summit for creatives: - Following the recent Creatives Parliament and in line with the departmental plans, we will work with EC CCIFSA and existing civil society structures to host a creative summit to **craft our strategic direction** for the next MTSF.

Festivals

The department will support the continued development of cultural tourism through the EC tourism development strategy and invest in new products and experiences, enhance visitor awareness of the rich culture and history of this province.

The local festivals' component of building communities through arts, culture and heritage programme will support 4 arts community driven festivals which will be partially funded for the next two years by the department. Additional to that, 2 provincial flagship festivals will be financially supported based on the previous performance and impact (R3 million).

The department, together with its stakeholders, will strengthen the implementation of the **two provincial festivals** - Isingqi Sethu Cultural Festival and Maskandi Indigenous Music Festival

National Arts Festival

The department will inject an amount of R13.368 million into this festival. This financial year marks its 51st anniversary, with 23 years of financial support from the department. The Eastern Cape showcase was a departmental strategy to ensure inclusivity of the provincial creatives to the mainstream of the festival.

The department will continue to support the NAF programmes which include the Eastern Cape Indigenous Music and Dance ensemble, visual arts, craft, and design at the village green, as well as Dakawa music experience.



We are **rebuilding and reimagining** our Literature Festival, which is part of the prestigious National Arts Festival, by intensifying and extending our scope to maximise exhibitions and selling of books by our local and emerging writers. Over and above this we will be turning the Literature Festival into a **powerhouse of literary celebration**, where books, music, and culture collide in an unforgettable experience, thereby positioning the Eastern Cape as an important literary destination in our country.

The department will *modernise* and streamline existing funding support to improve delivery, structure, effectiveness, and address gaps. We will ensure that funding policies and criteria are clear, consistent, and flexible to promote an integrated and continuous spectrum of creative arts and business development centred around the creative value chain.

The department, through ECPACC's **Siqaqambisa Ubugcisa Fund** will continue to distribute funding to the poor and emerging artists. ECPACC has set aside an amount of R12 million, which is intended to give financial support to emerging, intermediate and experienced individuals and/or organizations in domains such as Film, Audio-Visual and Interactive Media, Cultural and Natural Heritage, Music, Performance and Celebration, Design, Creative and ACH Technical, Support Services, Education and training in the creative and cultural industries sector and Visual Arts and Craft. Our main objective with funding over the MTEF is to address unemployment and social exclusion for vulnerable groups and designated groups; to transformed programmes with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities to ensure improved economic participation of designated groups; and to ensure the individuals and arts organisations are able to sustain themselves even post funding.

With respect to Craft, Visual Arts and Design Development, ECPACC has set aside an amount of R4 million, which is intended to support the sector with product development and refinement to improve the quality products to international standards; support the sector practitioners with compliance and business development programmes for them to be competitive in the market; and to provide mainstream market access platforms for the entrepreneurs to showcase their products and trade. Over the MTEF, the entity's objective includes the promotion of consumption of locally produced arts and crafts products.

Honourable Speaker,

The Premier in his SOPA reaffirms that, "Creative arts and film production, also contributes immensely to job creation. We must nurture that talent and keep it working inside our province. Government has issued an expression of interest call to film producers and broadcasters to apply for production of films in our province. We have further allocated R30 million to fund emerging artists and film development".



Indeed, on **Film Development**, ECPACC has set aside an amount of R30 million over the MTEF, which is intended to develop the film value chain through multi-prompt initiatives such as production support, audience development and skills capacitation projects. Over the MTEF the objective is to position the province as a preferred film destination, that has the requisite skills and talent base. Promotion of our picturesque landscapes in order to attract investment and stimulate a viable film industry, and to produce authentically Eastern Cape films and documentaries, including a documentary on the **Eastern Cape wars of resistance and Battle of Lurwayizo**.

Honourable Speaker, whilst our sector is recognised for its economic contribution, it is also optimally positioned to impact positively on social cohesion and nation building. The following are programmes and projects that support "A diverse, socially cohesive society with a common national identity".

Moral regeneration movement initiative

As part of moral regeneration movement, the department will continue to support community based inkciyo and Ulwaluko initiatives, working with traditional councils and relevant stakeholders.

TRANSFORMATION OF HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

The department will continue to protect heritage resources that are conservation worthy and embrace technology and innovation to engage visitors. We will strengthen the management, coordination and facilitate the conservation and promotion of the heritage resources for socio-economic benefits for the people of the province. This will be done by improving the ability of heritage places and attractions within the context of **Provincial Liberation Heritage Route** to operate sustainably and within a visitor economy setting.

We will continue to promote local heritage themes within special events and initiatives, including the promotion of heroes and heroines' legacy and its importance to the community. The department will continue to coordinate all spheres of government to lead celebrations, dialogues and commemorative partnership programmes. This financial year, the celebration of national days will focus on the following themes:

Freedom Day, 27 April 2025: Centenary of the birth of Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo, Matatiele; Alfred Nzo District,

Africa Day, 25 May 2025: **170**th anniversary of establishment of Healdtown Mission School, Amathole District.

Heritage Day, 24 September 2025: **150th anniversary of the birth of national poet SEK Mqhayi,** Ntabozuko, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

Day of Reconciliation, 16 December 2025: Commemorate provincial massacres.

Human Rights Day, 21 March 2026: **45**th anniversary of passing on of Joe Nzingo Gqabi, Maletswai, Joe Gqabi District



Indeed, on **Film Development**, ECPACC has set aside an amount of R30 million over the MTEF, which is intended to develop the film value chain through multi-prompt initiatives such as production support, audience development and skills capacitation projects. Over the MTEF the objective is to position the province as a preferred film destination, that has the requisite skills and talent base. Promotion of our picturesque landscapes in order to attract investment and stimulate a viable film industry, and to produce authentically Eastern Cape films and documentaries, including a documentary on the **Eastern Cape wars of resistance and Battle of Lurwayizo**.

Honourable Speaker, whilst our sector is recognised for its economic contribution, it is also optimally positioned to impact positively on social cohesion and nation building. The following are programmes and projects that support "A diverse, socially cohesive society with a common national identity".

Moral regeneration movement initiative

As part of moral regeneration movement, the department will continue to support community based inkciyo and Ulwaluko initiatives, working with traditional councils and relevant stakeholders.

TRANSFORMATION OF HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

The department will continue to protect heritage resources that are conservation worthy and embrace technology and innovation to engage visitors. We will strengthen the management, coordination and facilitate the conservation and promotion of the heritage resources for socio-economic benefits for the people of the province. This will be done by improving the ability of heritage places and attractions within the context of **Provincial Liberation Heritage Route** to operate sustainably and within a visitor economy setting.

We will continue to promote local heritage themes within special events and initiatives, including the promotion of heroes and heroines' legacy and its importance to the community. The department will continue to coordinate all spheres of government to lead celebrations, dialogues and commemorative partnership programmes. This financial year, the celebration of national days will focus on the following themes:

Freedom Day, 27 April 2025: Centenary of the birth of Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo, Matatiele; Alfred Nzo District,

Africa Day, 25 May 2025: **170**th anniversary of establishment of Healdtown Mission School, Amathole District.

Heritage Day, 24 September 2025: **150th anniversary of the birth of national poet SEK Mqhayi,** Ntabozuko, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

Day of Reconciliation, 16 December 2025: Commemorate provincial massacres.

Human Rights Day, 21 March 2026: **45**th anniversary of passing on of Joe Nzingo Gqabi, Maletswai, Joe Gqabi District



Exhumation and repatriation

We continue to repatriate our fallen heroes and heroines across all frontier states. Furthermore, in order to assist families of casualties of war and victims of conflict to heal and finally find closure, the department will continue to collaborate with national and provincial government departments, state entities, municipalities and social partners to **repatriate and rebury remains of freedom fighters** that fell in the battle against apartheid inside and outside the borders of South Africa. In the new financial year, the following cases will be embarked upon:

- The repatriation and reburial of remains of local freedom fighters that passed on in action in Angola and Tanzania respectively. The Department will collaborate with national departments, state entities, municipalities and social partners to implement the plan that is an integral part of the Exile Repatriation Project that was launched by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa in Pretoria last year.
- Reburial of remains of the following Umkhonto weSizwe combatants that had been repatriated from Zambia: Eddie Nqabisile Mbekisa (Gqeberha), Rhoda Nkole Hempe (Kariega), Mava Mankazana (Qoboqobo) and Lindile Maneli (Mdantsane).

Moreover, in line with resolutions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to advance symbolic reparation and promote reconciliation and social cohesion, the department through the **Eastern Cape Provincial Geographical Place Names Committee (ECPGNC)** shall create a conducive environment for the people of the Eastern Cape to standardize place names and geographical features in their own spaces. This will enable communities to replace unwanted and offensive place names with those that promote the Rainbow Nation. The committee has processed and submitted, for approval, four names (Graaf Reinet, East London, Aberdeen and Adendorp) that are to be changed.

In collaboration with our partners, the department will continue to pursue the realisation of the following key heritage sites:

- Klasies River Caves Archaeological Site,
- Bhisho Massacre Exhibition,

On the other hand, the department through the **Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Authority** (ECPHRA) will facilitate construction of heritage assets that profile and promote local icons such as **Mthetheleli Ngumbela** (community builder), and **Victoria Mxenge** (anti-apartheid activist), **King Phalo**, to mention a few. These memorials will form an integral part of the EC Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route and enhance the Home of Legends brand. Furthermore, the ECPHRA will continue to work closely with the National Heritage Council, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), municipalities, state entities, stakeholders and social partners to preserve and promote the **Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites** that have been proclaimed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. These significant sites are the **University of Fort Hare** (Dikeni), **ZK Matthews House** (Dikeni) and **Mghekezweni Great Place** (Mthatha).



Furthermore, the ECPHRA will continue to work closely with the National Heritage Council, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), municipalities, state entities, stakeholders and social partners to preserve and promote the **Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites** that have been proclaimed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. These significant sites are the **University of Fort Hare** (Dikeni), **ZK Matthews House** (Dikeni) and **Mqhekezweni Great Place** (Mthatha).

Heritage preservation and cultural tourism can significantly benefit local economies by creating jobs, boosting businesses, attracting investment, and fostering sustainable development. Also, Heritage sites and cultural attractions can attract both domestic and international investment, leading to the development of new businesses and infrastructure. This can lead to the revitalization of urban areas and the creation of new economic opportunities.

The above are transformation programmes that need to be enhanced as they form part of our strategy going forward.

We shall pursue our strategic partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Environment Affairs and its entities including the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency to promote these iconic sites to the benefit of our communities.

Subsidies to museums - The Department will continue providing funding to heritage organizations to digitize collections, develop digital content and build their capacity in these areas, through the museum subsidy programme. To this end, **20 province-aided museums** will be supported with their annual subsidies, and this will enhance their operational efficiency. Museums will be able to improve their services to meet the demand of their clients particularly learners with their studies.

Advocacy Programmes

The department will collaborate with various stakeholders to promote access to museums as centres of education and cultural excellence through various means, including the hosting of International Museum Day at KwaMaqoma in Raymond Mhlaba LM, in May 2025.

As we continue to transform museums, use of exhibitions has been incorporated for relevance, inclusivity and engagements in order to reflect new ideas and diverse perspectives for betterment of our communities and improved understanding.

We will use our museums to promote social cohesion and nation building by continuing to implement the following interventions, National symbols, fight against GBVF, etc.



PROMOTING MULTILINGUALISM

In our endeavours to promote multilingualism, the department will continue to reinforce the implementation of the **Use of Languages Act, 2016**, the **Eastern Cape Use of Official Languages Regulations** that were passed in 2020, and its related instruments to secure the future of the **EC official languages** (i.e. IsiXhosa, English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Sign-Language and Khoi & San language)

Multilingualism also talks to Social Cohesion as communities are tolerant of their linguistic differences. DSRAC is the custodian of Social Cohesion, Pillar 1 of the **Provincial Social Cohesion Strategy** that advocates for multilingualism.

Honourable Speaker, the **Use of Official Languages Act, 2016** is clear on the actions that need to be taken by government departments like the **Intergovernmental Language Forum meetings.** These are gatherings that seat regularly and it is in these platforms [in partnerships with PanSALB] that government departments and other entities are **trained in editing and translations amongst other things.** The act is prescriptive that all government departments must have their own **Language Units and Language Policies** as this will ensure inclusivity and compliance with the act.

We will leave no stone unturned in promoting multilingualism with a special focus on **indigenous languages**. The promotion is not just about language, but it speaks to people's identities and self-worth. Everyone should feel being part of the province, that starts with the way we communicate with each other – the language we use in communicating with the people of our province

Sign Language

Honourable Speaker, this year marks two years since the Sign Language was officially recognised as one of the official languages in the country. This marked a significant step towards creating an inclusive society, a win for our democracy and a win for deaf people in the country. As such, on the 19th of July we will be commemorating this day.

This past financial year, we successfully trained frontline workers that include the South African Police Services, Healthcare workers and social workers on the basics of Sign Language. The department in partnership with DEAFSA will continue to conduct awareness and provide training to government departments and broader society.

I stand here Speaker, proud to share that significant strides have been made by department in ensuring that no major government event takes place without Sign Language interpreters. We call upon all government departments to emulate this and make sure that our deaf people do not lock themselves at home and not attend government programs because there are no interpreters. Let us work together to build an inclusive Eastern Cape

Platforms to support writers

In improving the business acumen of our writers, we will be hosting a Financial Literacy workshop that will be equipping them on how to access the entire value chain of writing and publishing.



Social dialogues The Department will pursue the renewal and continue to foster dialogue with our diverse communities to ensure a coherent whole-of-government approach to advancing multiculturalism and combatting GBVF, crime, racism, etc. These planned activities are aligned with the government's priorities, including commitments to combatting hate and racism, and investments in the empowerment of the vulnerable groups.

CHAMPIONING LIFELONG LEARNING

The Hon. Premier, in his SOPA, refers to digital economy and has this to say: "Government has made significant strides to connect internet to schools, public health facilities and libraries. We must collectively ensure that these sites are used for the benefit of our communities and are protected against vandalism".

In line with this noble goal, one of our key roles is to inculcate a culture of reading and provide access to information. To improve on library services in the province, we will continue to invest in automation and accessibility by providing free internet services in our libraries and ensuring that our communities have the digital tools that they need. With the roll out of broadband in the province, the department has installed 60 routers to enable connectivity on Wi-Fi and will continue to roll out to libraries connected to broadband.

This service is provided through collaboration with municipalities in the form of transfer payments. **R98.6m has** been set aside for this purpose.

In partnership with the South African Library for the Blind (SALB), the department continues to provide **inclusive library services** as a commitment to cater for all societal groups. In the 2025/26 financial year, the department has allocated two million (R2m) for the maintenance of the existing mini libraries and further establishment of three more.

Through our trained librarians we will continue to offer our services and integrate in the planned provincial events.

Services such as book reading, storytelling, educational games, board / inter-active games as well as other activities that stimulate the mind will be enhanced to ensure that children are accommodated in government programmes for sustainability.

In support of lifelong learning, our libraries will support book clubs to promote the culture of reading and offer digital literacy for adults, school leavers and persons with disabilities.

To safeguard our collection, the department is **installing book detection systems** in all our libraries, and this is envisaged to be completed by 2026/27 financial year.

In the same breath, we have piloted the installation of the **head count system in twenty (20) libraries** which has yielded positive results, and the plan is to extend to other libraries. This will allow us to gather data on user demographics, which include age, gender, helping us to shape our collection development and future services.



Provincial Records Management

The Provincial Records Management Policy will be reviewed to assist governmental bodies to manage their records efficiently. An **automated monitoring tool** that has been developed will be fully implemented across all governmental bodies with a view to improve records management practices in the province.

INCREASING CAPACITY AND PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND RECREATION

Our approach to sport is developmental focussed on investing across the entire system, with a priority on grassroots level, at the most basic level is children developing fine motor skills and basic sporting techniques at primary school level through introduction of sport and physical education in our school sport programme. The next level is mass participation where all our children get an opportunity to participate in sport and recreation, this level then builds to organised clubs in communities who (through the club development programme) are supported to participate in leagues and affiliate to the relevant sport federations.

Local, regional, provincial and national competitions provide platform for excellence and talent identification in both school sport and club level. The Easten Cape Sports Academy and its network of district academies work with the identified talents across sporting codes to develop excellence into elite athletes who can compete in national and international competitions and participate at the professional sport level.

Our delivery model is anchored on school sport, club development, sport administration and governance, sporting excellence and professional sport. This delivery model enables us to support sport development across the system, from early ages to professional and international competitive levels. This pipeline speaks to our sport development model where the focus is developing athletes to the highest level. This is just but one of the sport benefits to society, the development of professional athletes. The other very important social benefits of sport which are enabled by mass participation and playing purely for enjoyment, include physical health and prevention of lifestyle diseases, building cohesive communities by closing the race, class and gender divide through sport and most importantly economic development through sport tourism and the professional sport industry.

As a department we have developed a structured programme which seeks to systematically integrate all these different areas of sport through a comprehensive school sport programme, club development and support to sport federations and recreation.

The recently held social cohesion dialogue by the department, has raised concerns and a number of issues on transformation and access to sport. We will continue engaging with federations to have a development path that will see young people of previously disadvantaged backgrounds benefitting and thus addressing issue of **access** to some sporting codes. The department has also planned to provide support for sport not only for deaf community but also blind cricket and goalball as access for sport to athletes with disability is of importance to us.



School Sport

School sport is a shared responsibility with the Department of Education and our department, a **Memorandum of Understanding** which outlines the School Sport Implementation Protocol has been signed by the Ministers of the two departments. At the provincial level the two departments have developed a plan to roll out the signed agreement. The plan outlines the different responsibilities in school sport, the Department of Basic Education is primarily responsible for the everyday and regular participation of leaners in sport starting from the classroom through physical education, to designated sports days and inter school games.

Our department is responsible for the support to school leagues, inter school competitions, district, provincial and national school sport championships. In this regard we have allocated a budget of R31 Million which amongst others will support leaners to participate in the different national school sport championships.

We aim to drive the revival and regular participation in school sport through supporting different school leagues, tournaments, festivals and championships at district and local level. Schools will be supported with Equipment and Attire with a budget of **R**6. 960 million, this aims to support the participation of schools in all the above cited school sport programmes. Educators and school sport volunteers will be trained to be coaches, technical officials and sport administrators, this is to ensure that there is sufficient capacity within the province to drive school sport programmes.

Through working together with DOE and School Sport Associations we aim to make school sport an integral part of the schooling system, as it is critical to the wholistic development of children. The full implementation of the MOU over the coming years will improve the coordination and integration in the delivery of school sport in the province.

As part of growing school sports, we are establishing partnership with non-governmental organisations, sports organisations and the private sector. In this regard we will continue to support these initiatives through formalised partnerships.

In schools' football we are in advance negotiations with Mamelodi Sundowns to form a partnership on an under 11 and under 13 school football leagues with OR Tambo District as our pilot for launching. Through the partnership with Mamelodi Sundowns we will provide advanced training for schools' football coaches and scout talented young players to be recruited to possibly join the Mamelodi Sundowns Football academy. We intend in the coming years to rollout the partnership to all districts in the province.

We have also launched the school sport ambassador programme where we are appointing sport legends from the province in all districts to drive sport promotion and activation programmes. We are further recruiting 44 young people to be employed by the department as Sport Coordinators in our School Sport, Club Development and Recreation Programmes. These young people will be placed in our district offices to work alongside the sport ambassadors to promote sport in communities.



We have also launched the school sport ambassador programme where we are appointing sport legends from the province in all districts to drive sport promotion and activation programmes. We are further recruiting 44 young people to be employed by the department as Sport Coordinators in our School Sport, Club Development and Recreation Programmes. These young people will be placed in our district offices to work alongside the sport ambassadors to promote sport in communities.

Club Development and Support to Sport Federations

Our club development programme is aimed at introducing formal sport in communities while increasing mass participation in sports. Sport clubs are the foundation of our sport development programme as they aim to introduce organised sport in communities. Our club development programme seeks to support clubs with equipment and attire, transport and other logistics to enable the clubs to participate in organised leagues at local, district and provincial level. We also provide support to the technical officials and administrators to enable the facilitation of leagues and other forms of competition. A total budget of **R7 456 million** has been set aside for the club development programme.

We require sport and recreation organisations/federations with the capability to deliver safe and welcoming environments while balancing financial and environmental sustainability.

Without organisational and financial sustainability, without excellent governance, without a strong, confident, and talented workforce and without effective collaboration, the ability of the sport and recreation sector to deliver this strategy will be severely restricted.

The department will strengthen sport and recreation organisations for long-term viability through a focus on both financial and environmental sustainability. A program of work will be developed to support sporting organisations take meaningful steps to create positive change. There are some specific actions that the department can take here, but this is more about a series of important principles which we see the sector as needing to apply to succeed. These include financial stability, diversification of funding, efficiencies and academy programme.

Provincial Sport Federations and Sport Councils shall be supported through the Eastern Cape Sports Confederation to strengthen their governance and administration as well as the hosting of their district and provincial championships. **The Eastern Cape Sport Confederation** will be allocated a budget of R4 941 million for its administration, support to its member federations, participation in national championships and support to District Sport Councils, development of coaches' commission and sport women's commission. The provincial sport Confederation is also tasked to provide support for delivery programmes of sport for people with disabilities. Hosting of major sporting events in the province contributes to economic development of the province through tourism, direct and indirect spending, marketing exposure for the province as a destination.



In this regard an amount of R4 800 million has been set aside to support the hosting of major sport events targeting National and International (World) Boxing Title fights, hosting football, rugby and horse racing. The province will also host the Steve Vukile Tshwete Games, which are the **main ultra provincial multi-coded games**, with representation from all the 8 districts.

In the 2025 SOPA the Premier had this to say, "We will bid to **host more sports events** because they create jobs and business opportunities in the hospitality industry. Our province is endowed with talent in various sporting codes".

In response, our federations are engaged in intense lobbying with various national sport federations to host their big national and international matches to the province as part of sport tourism. These include SAFA, SA Rugby, Cricket SA, COSAFA who in the past year managed to bring international matches of the Proteas, Bafana Bafana to the province. For this year SA Rugby has already confirmed that the Springboks will be playing a test match against Italy at the Nelson Mandela Stadium on the 12th of July 2025. We also in advanced negotiations with SA Rugby to bring South Africa, New Zealand Australia and Argentina (SANZAAR) Under 20 Rugby Championship to the province.

We are engaging with the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism, as well as the Department of Economic Development to grow and strengthen the role of sport tourism within the broader Eastern Cape Tourism and Economic Growth Strategies. These engagements include the private sector for partnership and sponsorship in the hosting of major sport events.

Honourable Speaker, in recognising excellence, for the first time in their history, the **Sport and Recreation Achiever's Awards** will be held in either Alfred Nzo district or O.R. Tambo district to give the districts municipalities to host as well, while redefining the sport as a developmental tool for growth of economy in the districts as well. *Sitshilo Somlomo, ukuba sizakuluweza uphuhliso phesheya kweNciba.*

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 active and healthy lifestyles (especially in the ages of 40 and above). Recreation is also used in the younger ages as a pathway and a way to encourage the younger ones towards formal sport.

Through Recreation, we will continue to support Community Recreation Hubs. A budget of R7 622 million will be used this financial year to support the hosting of the recreation activities in communities including the Move for Health Campaign, Big Walk, Recreation Against Crime, District and Provincial Indigenous Games Festivals. These are **advocacy programmes and campaigns that** intended to address social ills and promote healthy living in our communities.



We have recently launched the **Learn to Swim program** at the state-of-the-art Ntabankulu Multi-purpose Centre in Alfred Nzo district. Through this programme we aim to ensure that codes like swimming are rolled out to our rural communities and township. This is also to ensure that all children acquire basic swimming skills to enhance water safety and prevent incidents of drowning. In this financial year we will drive the rollout of the Learn to Swim programme across the province with special focus in Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo districts. The Learn to Swim programme will be integrated across our different programmes.

Women Sport Development

As part of redress and inclusivity, we are intentional and deliberate as the department in promoting and supporting historically marginalised group, women, from the male dominated world of sport. Women sport development programs will receive priority in various sporting codes. Netball being the biggest women's sport code will continue to receive our prioritised support from grassroot levels right through to provincial and national participation. Aloes and Comets are the two teams from the Eastern Cape, participating in the **Telkom Netball League** who will continue to be home to young girls from district municipalities and the metros of the province and will receive support on services from the Eastern Cape Academy of sports.

With regards to **women's football**, clubs participating in Hollywood Bets Super league will be receiving support as the pride of the province. The province is realising the potential of **women's cricket**, more so with the growth in the recently awarded independent status of Kei Cricket union, over the Transkei region, and this cannot go unnoticed as the department will be supporting these young girls in growing their game of cricket. While boxing is supported generally by the department, **women's boxing bout** will be staged, to benefit women boxers, officiated by women judges, referees, technical officials with a woman boxing promoter.

We will continue to host our **annual Geneva Scholtz Women's Rugby** tournament as a premier women's rugby tournament in the province. The girls from this tournament are able to fight their way up to be absorbed in play both Eastern Province and Border rugby union programs which are equally supported by this department. Some in fact get to be offered good packages by some resourced franchises from other provinces and this affords them opportunity to earn better while also finding their way to represent the women Springboks.

Sporting Excellence and Professional Sport

As this year is the year of the start of the new Olympic cycle, the department will be hard at work in consultation with federations preparing Eastern Cape athletes to participate in national and international competitions that will improve their performance for the 2028 Olympics and para-Olympics. The satellite academies located in all our districts will be playing a critical role in assisting athletes shape and sharpen their craft. Through an Individual Athlete Programme, they will be provided with specialized scientific services like sport psychology, strengthening, conditioning, periodization and nutrition education, intended to assist them improve and cope with the various competitions they will be involved in at national and international level before they take their part in Olympic games.



A total of 130 sport persons identified by federations are to be trained in sport science to provide coaching services to athletes in different areas of the province and enhance the talent of athletes as they are grown and nurtured to participate in competitive sport

International Exchange Programme with Lower Saxony

This international exchange programme is contributing immensely to change the sport landscape and lives of young people in the province of the Eastern Cape. The province is once more intending to largely benefit from a number of water sports programmes like rowing and canoeing while also getting a milage on other sporting codes like Judo, hockey and triathlon. The province will continue with the Youth Exchange programme that fosters patriotism among sporting young people from this province as well as promote intercultural exchange while teaching them social responsibility for their country. Our rugby will surely benefit the Eastern Cape rugby development as the under 21 rugby will be participating in a tournament in Germany and get to experience the celebrations of 125 years of rugby development in Germany. It should also be noted that the German's rugby development has improved a great deal through the contribution made by our young people who get involved in volunteer exchange program and get to train and coach rugby in communities in Germany.

ENABLING SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

One of our priority areas is to ensure that there is an *integrated and accessible sport, recreation, arts, culture and heritage infrastructure and information* (**Priority 4**).

In 2025/26 financial year, the department will continue to invest in cultural infrastructure to empower and enable connections for creative collaboration and innovation through exploring the repurposing and or development of new infrastructure through partnerships. Through these interventions, job opportunities will be created, and these include the **construction of the following projects with the milestones listed next to each:**

- Ntabankulu Library R6m (80% complete)
- Ngquza Hill / Lusikisiki Library R1.5m (50% complete)
- Dutywa Library R500 (planning and design complete)

We will also consider expanding the role of community libraries, archives and museums, recognizing their importance as information centres (e.g. maker spaces, training and technology). We will embark on the renovations, refurbishments and maintenance of the following: -



- Ugie Library R1.5m (planning and design; 10% construction)
- Pearston Library R885 (planning and design)
- Fingo Library R3.7m (60% construction)
- Sterkstroom Museum R2.4m (planning and design; 30% construction)
- KwaNojoli (Somerset East) Museum R3.3m (planning and design; 50% construction)

Maintenance and repairs: -

- Wilton Mkwayi building R1.2m (100% complete)
- Provincial Archives R980 (100% complete).

Sport and recreation facilities

"We are calling on municipalities to ensure that sports facilities are adequately and regularly maintained to support grassroots sports development and tourism", the Premier said in his SOPA.

While there is a core of people that will take part in sport and recreation no matter what the facilities are like, for most people the type, suitability and quality of infrastructure and opportunity to take part have a huge effect on the chances of them trying a sport or activity for the first time and then coming back to it regularly. It is important that the wider built and natural environment is designed to make participation in sport and recreation safer and easier, making activity the easy choice. Sport facilities are the main enabler of participation in organised sport, without sport facilities there can be no real sport development and mass participation in sport on the ground.

We will continue to make use of available schools and TVET Colleges' sport facilities: - Existing assets should be maximised to make the sector as productive as possible. Model C (Quintile 4-5) schools are one of the largest owners and operators of sports facilities, but a message that came out strongly in consultation responses is that more could be done to make their facilities available and accessible to local communities and clubs to use outside of school hours. While we do not think that a new mandatory regime is currently needed to address this, we do want to provide schools and colleges with the appropriate knowledge and resources to maximise the use of their facilities – for the mutual benefit of schools and their communities. It is also important that, where possible, local facilities are available for use by schools as well as the wider community.

The department will review take up of and engagement with the Department of Education to ensure that sports facilities owned by schools are used as effectively as possible and are available to a broad range of community sports groups.

I am pleased to announce that TVET colleges have availed their sport facilities for free and that opportunity can never go without being recognised.



Following the Sport and Recreation leadership conference, a fresh mandate was given to address amongst others the issue of facilities, we are intending to work hard in following those municipalities who have been **awarded project to build sporting facilities** in the province as well as engage Federations through the Sport Confederation to promote use of and become residents in the already built facilities so that they do not become white elephants while young people remain playing in the wild.

The engagements with local sphere of government for the provision of sport and recreation facilities will continue to form part of the departmental agenda.

The development of new sport infrastructure and maintenance of existing sport facilities is a function of Municipalities, the construction of these facilities is funded under the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). There is a portion of the MIG that is ringfenced by the National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the development of sport infrastructure. This ringfenced funding is allocated to municipalities through an application process that is managed by both departments. As part of this funding the following sport facilities are under construction:- Port St. John Sport Field, Port St. John LM, OR Tambo District, Zone 5 Sport field, Ingquza Hills LM, OR Tambo District, Ntabankulu Sports field Phase 3, Ntabankulu LM, Alfred Nzo District, Nomathamsanqa Sport facility in Addo, Sundays River Valley LM, Sarah Bartman District, Blue Gums Sport Facility Senqu LM, Joe Gqabi District, Cala Sport facility, Sakhisizwe LM, Chris Hani District, Mlungisi Sport Facility, Amahlathi LM, Amathole District

The following existing facilities are being upgraded: - Westview Sport Field in Blue Crane LM, Sarah Baartman District, Msobomvu Sport Field in Mquma LM, Amathole District, Cradock Sport Field, Inxuba ye Themba LM, Chris Hani District, Hopedale Sport Field, Elundini LM, Joe Gqabi District

We are also at advanced engagements with our national department for the construction of a state-of-the-art Netball Indoor Arena in Buffalo City Municipality. As a department we will work with the Provincial COGTA and the respective municipalities to monitor the progress in the construction and upgrading of these facilities. We further urge communities to protect these facilities from vandalism and ensure that sporting activities take place in them.

Administration

Through the implementation of the employment equity plan and Women Empowerment programme the department has improved in the employment of Women at SMS, as follows at the SMS Management level there is 57% women representation and 43% male representation with one unfunded SMS vacancy.

In employment of persons with disabilities the department is currently sitting at 1.7% as against prescribed target of 2%. The department plans to improve the status by ringfencing certain positions for persons with disabilities and ensuring that all adverts reach organisations that deal with PWD.



Organisational development strategy: - The department has established the DTT with approved terms of reference to review the organisational structure. To date, the reviewed draft structure has been consulted and is being costed, pending validation and concurrency.

Employee engagement strategy: - The department continues to ensure sound labour relations by creating an engagement platform between employer and employee through Labour Management Forum.

Knowledge Management strategy: - The Government of the Eastern Cape has engaged the concept of Innovation and Knowledge Management (IKM) with the primary purpose of acquiring, creating, synthesising and sharing knowledge, information, insights and experiences to achieve the set outcomes/priorities as well as preserving the Provincial Memory through various Practices. Subsequently, all Provincial Departments were therefore required to develop and align their customised Strategies to Provincial Innovation and Knowledge Management Strategy. Therefore, in line with this requirement, the department will review and finalise its draft IKM strategy which seeks to ensure the proper facilitation and coordination of knowledge collection and sharing of information among peers and the establishment of Communities of Practices as well as Cross Functional Teams from all business units in order to engage other provincial departments regarding the implementation of the strategy.

Employee resourcing strategy: - The department is implementing its employee resourcing strategy by developing an Annual Recruitment Plan (ARP) to ensure that people with adequate skills are sourced and placed within the organisation. However, due to the reduction of COE, the department is unable to fill all vacancies, but key positions are constantly prioritised. For 2024/2025, from the ARP, thirty-eight (38) positions were advertised and filled. Breakdown of the thirty-eight (38) appointments for 2024/25 financial year is as follows:-

Groups appointed	Number of appointments	% of appointments	
Youth	14	37%	
Adults	24	63%	
Females	22	58%	
Males	16	42%	
Disability	1	2.6%	

Forty-four (44) for conditional grant contract posts and thirty-nine (39) permanent posts have been advertised and will be filled in the first quarter of 2025/26 financial year.



In its efforts to support a highly competent and professionalized public service and the creation of a Capable, Ethical and Developmental state the department will continue to implement Onboarding programmes through the various **Compulsory Induction programmes** such as the Executive Induction Programme, Wamnkelekile for SMS Members, **Compulsory Induction Programme** for SL 1-12, Breaking Bearers into Entry within the Public Service and Personal Mastery for graduate Interns for all newly appointed officials within the department, as well as the Re-Orientation programme for seasoned public servants.

The department through its Skills Levy budget prioritises and concentrates on training in areas that seeks to achieve the improvement of governance and accountability whilst improving the overall performance of the department, through the provision of the necessary skills needed to increase the capacity of its officials to deliver on the set mandate and objectives. Stakeholder Engagement training as well as Citizen Centred Service Delivery has been lifted as key transversal training programmes in the 2025-26 Workplace Skills Plan, whilst Change Management, People Management & Empowerment has been identified for members of the SMS to address the Key competency skills needed for the SMS echelon. Through the National School of Government, the department will continue to implement the Cabinet approved.

Learning and development strategy (including reward strategy): - During 2024/25 financial year, the department has awarded internal bursaries to 63 employees. For 2025/26 financial year, 44 employees have been awarded.

The department will ensure that performance contracting, and assessments promotes greater alignment across the public sector and optimize the nexus between planning, productivity and performance management. Effective implementation of the Public Service PMDS Policy will ensure the timeous implementation of the Pay - progression reward as stipulated in the policy.

Through strengthening its partnerships with Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) the department will ensure that opportunities for Youth Developmental programmes such as the Graduate Internship Programme, the TVET and Work Integrated Learning Programme, the Learnership Programmes are implemented. These youth development programmes must respond to the scarce skills needs processes, the HR planning and Development as well as national development targets which are set from time to time.

The department in the 2025-26 financial year is set to increase the number fifty-nine (59) of graduate interns currently employed by the department and 11 Funded by TETA by a further forty-eight (48) Graduate interns which are funded by the National Skills Fund. 97% of these graduate interns will be placed in the Museums to address the scarce and critical skills of the department as identified in its HR Plan.



In addition to the **121 students** placed in the department, Partnerships and Memorandums of understanding will be implemented with all TVET colleges to ensure that the department through coaching and Mentorship assist the students to meet the workplace requirements needed to obtain qualifications. A further **150 learners** will be placed in the department in the financial year 2025-26.

Communication Strategy

Aligned to the DDM, (District Development Model), the implementation of the communication strategy seeks to inform, educate and empower our communities on the discharging of the dual mandate of the Department-of nation building and social cohesion.

Furthermore, through our Departmental publications, namely Siyancokola, (monthly publication – aimed at the internal stakeholders), ISisele (external publication – quarterly) and iQonga (annual, opinion pieces publication, aimed at external Departmental stakeholders), our communities will be well informed about the Departmental discharge of its broad mandate.

The communities of our Province continue to reach us through our Departmental WhatsApp hotline 060 585 2459. Quarterly, Departmental Information Sharing sessions are strategically aimed at equipping our internal stakeholders.

To broaden and strengthen our reach to our communities we will continue to utilise social media platforms, community radio and television stations. Mainstream Media who's mandate is reaching and informing our key stakeholders are also at the centre of our strategy

ICT Strategy

The department has made significant strides in modernizing its operations and improving interactions with external stakeholders. This has been achieved by adopting various digital portals, such as a digital stakeholders database, an internal audit tracker, and an online portal for the Provincial Archives questionnaire. Additionally, we have enhanced internet connectivity across libraries, museums, and arts centers by rolling out digital infrastructure through the Provincial and National Broadband projects. The Departmental ICT Governance Committee as the governance structure is in place and functioning well, enabling good governance and providing Corporate Governance of ICT.

Department's ICT strategic initiatives are anchored in three core focus areas: the modernization and digitalization of business processes, the piloting of Digital/Technology Hub with an emphasis on archive digitization, and the implementation of sound ICT governance.



Firstly, the **modernization and digitalization of business processes** is essential to improving service delivery. By automating internal workflows through platforms such as eLeave, eSubmission, ePMDS, eQuotations, and the invoice tracking system, the Department aims to reduce manual tasks, streamline operations, and ensure greater efficiency.

Secondly, the **Digital Technology Hub Pilot** represents the Department's commitment to leveraging Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies. This includes maintaining and expanding digital infrastructure across libraries, museums, and arts centres, while increasing digital access points for communities throughout the province.

Lastly, robust **ICT governance** remains a priority. Through the continued implementation of the Corporate Governance of ICT Policy Framework, the Department will ensure that ICT resources are managed securely, effectively, and in alignment with strategic objectives.

Together, these efforts aim to create a modern, digital-ready Department that serves the people of the Eastern Cape better and more efficiently.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN/STRATEGY

The department has embarked in a process of developing a **business continuity strategy** which will encompass measures to employ in the event of disaster. Business Continuity Management (BCM) strategy is a process that enables the Department to proactively identify and plan how to minimise the impact of risks that could affect its objectives, operations and infrastructure. BCM provides the capability for the Department to ensure continuity of critical activities and other business operations following any disruptive event.

The Business Continuity Management Committee has been established with terms of reference and the draft strategy has been finalised for further consideration and approval. The department has set aside **2% of its infrastructure budget** to cover for any disasters and disruptions.

IMPROVING INTERNAL CONTROLS

As DSRAC we believe that internal controls are the cornerstone of good governance, safeguarding assets, ensuring accuracy in financial reporting, and fostering compliance with laws and regulations.

As part of the oversight that the Audit Committee provides to the department, it has performed a review of the effectiveness of the internal controls through the reports submitted by Internal Audit, External Audit (AGSA) and reports from management. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the corrective measures and recommendations they make to management with the aim of improving the overall effectiveness of internal controls.



The department has an Internal Control and Compliance Unit whose responsibility, amongst others, is to design internal control systems, monitor implementation and make recommendations for improvement. It also monitors the implementation of the **AIP** in response to findings and recommendations raised by AG.

FRAUD/ETHICS AND RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The department continues to communicate its **ZERO TOLERANCE** stance on fraudulent and corrupt activities to its employees.

The department has functional RMC with an independent chairperson. The department continues to measure its vulnerability to conspicuous risks by assessing them for severity on a yearly basis and necessary registers are monitored on a regular basis. Risk champions continue to work in tandem with the Risk Management Committee in the successful maintenance of the departmental risk profile.

The department continues to **enforce workplace ethics to increase productivity and teamwork amongst its employees**. To this end, an ethics/risk/fraud forum has been established to encourage consistency among departmental employees in the adherence to departmental values and deliberate on ethics related matters.

The department continues to **conduct awareness campaigns on ethics, risk and fraud** to empower departmental employees with relevant knowledge which will increase their resistance to fraud schemes particularly in their work lives.

The department will continue to remain in **compliance with all financial interest disclosure** matters relating to designated groups within the department.

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

In 2024/25 the department managed to employ 123 beneficiaries in 2024/25 financial year in the EPWP grants. They were distributed in all 8 districts across the province, and they were stationed in the departmental facilities (art centers & Libraries). 22 job opportunities were created on the departmental infrastructure projects in the 2024/25 financial year.

In the 2025/26 financial year, the department will be employing 111 beneficiaries in the 2025/26 financial year due to reduced budget allocation on the EPWP grant.



LED Companies - Procurement on companies within the borders of the Eastern Cape

The Department spent 88% (R182 million) of its procurement on companies within the borders of the Eastern Cape known as LED Companies. Of this spending, 79% (R130 million) was spent on Women owned companies, 22% (R36,6 million) on youth own companies, 7% (R8,7 million) on companies of which the owners are disabled and 4.3% (R7,8 million) on companies owned by military veterans.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

During the 2024-25 financial year the the Department has embarked on a process to identify areas within existing legislation that require review, based on policy needs, operational challenges, or public feedback. An examination of the current legislation was conducted including assessing its effectiveness, identifying gaps, and considering potential impacts of proposed changes. The legislative plans contained the review of the Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council Act, 2000 (Act No. 6 of 2000) and the Museums Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004) (EC) respectively. The Department commenced with internal consultations towards the development of an Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC) discussion document and with the assistance of the Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC), developed and formulated the ECPACC White Paper aligned to the rationalisation process of public entities by the province. The Department advanced with stakeholder consultative sessions on the draft ECPACC White Paper, which sets out the new policy proposals for the future management of the public entity. During this year the department will proceed to finalise the draft ECPACC Amendment Bill and conduct stakeholder consultation sessions on the draft bill.

The department has also started a process of reviewing the **Museums Act** with the aim of developing a new regulatory framework for the museum sector in the province. The goal is to revise the Museum Act and establish comprehensive legislation to oversee the diverse network of museum institutions and organizations within the province. The Museums and Heritage Directorate concluded a discussion document, which is intended to serve as a catalyst for the development of new provincial museum legislation. The Department furthermore commenced with a working draft White Paper, which is at the initial stage, and intends to hold consultative sessions with relevant stakeholders geared towards the completion of the final draft document during this current financial year.

The department has also commenced with the review process of the provincial Libraries and Information Services Act, 2003 ("Libraries Act") and the Archives and Records Services Act, 2003 (Archives Act) and during the 2024-25 financial year we engaged with internal stakeholders to address concerns and gather inputs on areas that requires legislative revision. We will proceed with development of draft discussion papers and consultative sessions which is aimed at being concluded during the 2025-26 financial year.



PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH COLLABORATIONS

Coordinating and prioritizing the sector within provincial government programs and policies is essential to creating a responsive framework of supports. We should *improve interdepartmental collaboration* to facilitate complementary program delivery. Through collaboration, representation and establishing networks this diverse sector can become stronger. We need to minimize barriers and increase access for those already in the sector, as well as for those voices seeking to participate. We should increase collaboration between our sectors and tourism sector. We shall thus pursue our strategic partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Environment Affairs, DOE, ECDC, ECPTA, ECSECC, SABC, KZN Film Commission, NFVF, MOU with Multi-Choice, and other stakeholders to promote our sectors for the benefit of our communities.

The Creative and Cultural Industries Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA) plays a vital role as the custodian of the creative and cultural industries (CCI) in the province. The department maintains a strong and productive relationship with this federation, ensuring collaborative efforts in advancing the sector.

Additionally, the Eastern Cape Choral Music Association (ECCMA) and the Guild of Choral and Indigenous Music practitioners – Eastern Cape (GCIMPEC) continue to drive the growth of choral music. Their efforts have been instrumental in elevating the OR Tambo Choral Music Festival to a higher level, expanding its reach and impact.

Furthermore, the department's partnership with CATHSSETA is yielding positive results. A significant development in this collaboration is the formal accreditation of one of the province's arts institutions (i.e. MBTC), paving the way for structured training in dance and theatre. CATHSSETA's contributions further support the growth and professionalization of the CCI sector in the Eastern Cape.

CONCLUSION

Honourable Speaker,

I present to this House and to the entire Eastern Cape community our 2025- 2030 Strategic Plans, 2025-2026 Annual Performance Plans, 2025-2026 Operational Plans and budget summary for both the Department and Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC).





PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH COLLABORATIONS

Coordinating and prioritizing the sector within provincial government programs and policies is essential to creating a responsive framework of supports. We should *improve interdepartmental collaboration* to facilitate complementary program delivery. Through collaboration, representation and establishing networks this diverse sector can become stronger. We need to minimize barriers and increase access for those already in the sector, as well as for those voices seeking to participate. We should increase collaboration between our sectors and tourism sector. We shall thus pursue our strategic partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Environment Affairs, DOE, ECDC, ECPTA, ECSECC, SABC, KZN Film Commission, NFVF, MOU with Multi-Choice, and other stakeholders to promote our sectors for the benefit of our communities.

The Creative and Cultural Industries Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA) plays a vital role as the custodian of the creative and cultural industries (CCI) in the province. The department maintains a strong and productive relationship with this federation, ensuring collaborative efforts in advancing the sector.

Additionally, the Eastern Cape Choral Music Association (ECCMA) and the Guild of Choral and Indigenous Music practitioners – Eastern Cape (GCIMPEC) continue to drive the growth of choral music. Their efforts have been instrumental in elevating the OR Tambo Choral Music Festival to a higher level, expanding its reach and impact.

Furthermore, the department's partnership with CATHSSETA is yielding positive results. A significant development in this collaboration is the formal accreditation of one of the province's arts institutions (i.e. MBTC), paving the way for structured training in dance and theatre. CATHSSETA's contributions further support the growth and professionalization of the CCI sector in the Eastern Cape.

CONCLUSION

Honourable Speaker,

I present to this House and to the entire Eastern Cape community our 2025- 2030 Strategic Plans, 2025-2026 Annual Performance Plans, 2025-2026 Operational Plans and budget summary for both the Department and Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC).





2025/26 Budget	Medium-term estimates (R thousand)		
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1. Administration	351 228	357 184	373 493
2. Cultural Affairs	259 207	262 481	274 293
3. Library and Archives Services	298 538	320 111	334 560
4. Sport and Recreation	170 795	180 776	189 074
Total	1 079 768	1 120 552	1 171 420

I Thank You...



