



FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

BUDGET VOTE 2020/21

Hon. L. Mahasa
MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation



29 JULY 2020
FROM BLOEMFONTEIN

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FREE STATE PROVINCE



SPEECH OF THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION, MS. LIMAKATSO PATRICIA MAHASA, ON THE TABLING OF THE BUDGET VOTE – 12 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION, 29 JULY 2020

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Premier

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Legislature

Executive Mayors, Mayors and Councillors present

Representatives of House of Traditional Leaders

Representatives of Sport Federations as well as Arts and Culture Councils

Management and Officials of the Department

Baahi ba Foreistata

Bomme le Bontate

Comrades

INTRODUCTION

Indeed, the words of that poetic English writer, Charles Dickens, have never rang so true and meaningful as they are at this current period that we are in as a country and the world. In his novel, A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens famously summarized the challenging period of the 1789 French Revolution as follows: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was a spring of despair....”.

Honourable Speaker, undoubtedly this characterization of the period of the 1789 French Revolution also summarizes the period that we are going through as a country and the entire world. The unprecedented challenge imposed on us by COVID 19 means that we have to do things differently and marshal all the strength to rise out of this period of darkness, period of incredulity, period of despair, period of the worst of times as Charles Dickens might have described it.



Let me send my heartfelt condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones because of COVID 19.

Honourable Speaker, let me join the multitudes of our people and the rest of the World by expressing our heartfelt condolences to our struggle icon, an outstanding activist for equal rights, one of the fathers of our freedom and Isithwalandwe, Dr. Andrew Mlangeni. To him, we say, look upon our country as you have transformed to being an Angel, inform other Rivonia Trialists who have departed that our country, South Africa and the rest of the World is today a better place because of your sacrifices. Hamba Kahle Mkhonto Wesizwe.

Speaker, despite these challenging times, it still nonetheless gives us a great pleasure to present this second Budget Vote Speech of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation. Indeed, it gives us a great pleasure because our faith and belief, our past freedom struggle and our resilience, still give us hope against despair, show us Light against Darkness, sustains our beliefs against incredulity.

Guided by the 2019 Elections Manifesto of the African National Congress, and following the 2019 national democratic elections we had to respond to the seven (7) priorities that were adopted by this administration, and which also found expression in the Medium-Term Expenditure Strategic Framework. As the Department, the following three (3) priorities are more directly relevant to us even though we still have a role to play in all other priorities. These priorities are:

- 1) **Priority 1:** Economic Transformation and Job Creation
- 2) **Priority 2:** Education, Skills and Health
- 3) **Priority 5:** Social Cohesion and Safe Communities.

We will, through this budget vote outline our **milestones in the realization of these priorities during the 2020/2021 financial year**. Evidently, our strategic planning process has been affected tremendously by budget cuts which have been caused by the need to reprioritize funds to respond to the challenge of COVID-19.



Against this backdrop, I want to emphasize the following points: for as long as COVID 19 is with us, and to the extent that the different Lockdown Alert Levels do not open up the space for the sport and creative sector, **our programmes will be restructured for implementation in a different format and on different platforms. As part of our Relief Fund for Artists and Athletes**, we made a call for proposals for staging of our programmes virtually. Therefore, together with parties and individuals who were selected during the Relief Fund adjudication process, we will implement many of our programmes using **digital platforms. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)** will serve as an enabler in the implementation of our programmes in the context of COVID 19 and the Lockdown.

Honourable Speaker, as we are celebrating the life of our icon, the late President Mandela, it is important for us to note that the Relief Fund for Artists and Athletes that the Department is rolling out will be distributed in the spirit of positive values, building our nation and social cohesion. I must emphasize that our programmes as the Department also generally benefit and have a positive impact on young people, whether they are in the creative sector, sport fraternity or in the libraries where we are empowering young people with information and knowledge as well as relevant researches for the job market. Our today freedom fighting young lions were inspired by the 1944 youth generation of our late former President, Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela whose spirit and contribution to the freedom struggle we are celebrating during this **Nelson Mandela Month**.

Honourable Speaker, the **Budget Allocation** of the Department for the 2020/2021 Financial Year is **601 million 751 thousand rand**. To accommodate the budget cuts, as well as accruals, that the Department is facing for the year 2020/2021, we have considered and **reprioritized the budget allocations**.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (112 million 123 thousand rand)

Honourable Speaker, we continue to strive towards ensuring a **better audit outcome** of the Department through establishing a culture of **clean administration and management**. While our audit performance improved slightly from its previous position, a lot still needs to be done.



We have noted the recommendations of the **Portfolio Committee on Public Accounts and Finance** regarding the Appropriation Bill which we received on 22 July 2020. Our priorities will be as follows:

- **Capacitation of Internal Audit and Risk Management Units**
- **Capacitation Strategic Management Unit.**
- **Capacitation of Supply Chain Management Unit.**
- A functional Ethics **Management** structure.
- **Filling of vacancies** including **Establishment** of the Legal Services Unit in the Department
- **Implementation** of the electronic asset register.
- **Prevent** burglary and vandalism of our Sports and Recreational Centers, Museums and Libraries by appointing Security Personnel and upgrade security on our facilities by installing CCTV Cameras and alarms that are linked to Armed-response Companies.
- **Addressing Inefficient management of resources.**

Speaker, to strengthen our Internal Controls to ensure that budgets are spent timeously by programmes, we are going to establish FCC in the Department. Each Programme will have its own FCC to monitor and prioritize expenditure within Sub-Programmes and these will report to the Departmental FCC that will be chaired by the Chief Financial Officer and report to me on expenditure and financial reprioritization on quarterly basis with effect from the end of the Second Quarter.

Speaker, as the Honourable President of the Republic indicated that despite the Pandemic of COVID 19, we are faced with another Pandemic which is Gender-Based Violence. The recent spate of Gender-Based Violence is a matter of concern to the Department and the ANC as a ruling party. As a Department, we are the custodians of Moral Regeneration and positive values through our mandate for Social Cohesion and Nation Building. It therefore our responsibility to ensure that we have a fully functional Moral Regeneration Movement in the Free State that will address the Social Ills such as Gender-Based Violence. Our Special Programmes Unit, in partnership with other Departments within the Social Sector Cluster, LGBTQI+ and working together with our Artists and Athletes, we will develop and implement a Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence and further develop a Provincial Programme of Action for Moral



Regeneration. We intend to establish and launch a Provincial Moral Regeneration Forum which will serve as a one-stop service for all the initiatives of various Departments that contributes towards Moral Regeneration.

I must also inform the House that, as one of our contributions to youth and skills development, we are going to partner with Youth Affairs in the Department of the Premier and Ubuntu Training Company by placing 17 young people who are on the Multichoice sponsored learnership for sports coaching at NQF Level 4. We will place these young people on our facilities for exposure and practical experience.

As part of our initiatives to empower women against Gender-based violence, we will link our women with self-defense classes through Karate and Sensei Kleinsmith who is a Coach for different Sporting Codes and based at Free State Psychiatric Complex will provide these classes.

PROGRAMME 2: CULTURAL AFFAIRS (127 million 377 thousand rand)

Honourable Speaker, Programme 2 which deals with Cultural Affairs. As stated earlier, to cushion the impact of COVID 19 on our creative industries, the Relief Fund was introduced to benefit those artists whose income was affected by the pandemic. We have set aside a budget of **6 million rand** for COVID 19 Relief for Creative and Cultural Sector. 360 individual Artists benefitted from this Relief Fund for a total amount of **2 million 1 hundred and 60 thousand rand**.

We have also noted that the sectors on Choral Music and Clap and Tap requires a special intervention in relation to COVID 19 as they have also been negatively affected. In response to this, we have set aside an amount of **400 thousand rand** from the COVID 19 Relief Fund which will be used for Choral Music and Clap and Tap. The outstanding amount of **3 million 440 thousand rand** will be used for payments of 4IR Digital Platform Proposals as part of COVID 19 intervention, for the appeals of unsuccessful applicants and support vouchers.



For the current financial year, we have the following priorities:

Creative Sector Summit Outcomes:

It gives me great pleasure to report to this august house that we have made tremendous strides since the **Creative Sector Consultative Summit** that was staged with artists of our province spearheaded by the Honourable Premier, Ms. Sefora Ntombela. When I was given the mandate to lead this Department, we deemed it fit that we must hear from our artists regarding their challenges and proposals as resolutions of the summit. Following this Consultative Summit, I am delighted to report that the following progress was made around the four main resolutions of the Summit:

- Firstly, on the **Free State Awards for all Arts Genres**: The awards were scheduled to take place in March 2020 but due to COVID-19, they were postponed to the new financial year of 2020/2021. However, concrete planning had already taken place jointly with (CCIFSA) and they will be implemented before the end of December 2020.
- Secondly, the **Hosting Creative Arts Framework Summit** : The summit was planned for March 2020 but had to be postponed to the new financial year due to COVID 19, the summit will also be implemented before end of this financial year.
- Thirdly, the **Disbandment and restructuring of Provincial Arts and Culture Council (PACC)**: the term of office came to an end in September 2019 and the new Council has been finally appointed with effect from July 2020. We thank the previous Council members for their contributions and we trust that the new Council will respond to the challenges that confronts the creative sector.
- Lastly, on the **Establishment of the Film Commission**: The Department, together with (CCIFSA), embarked on a Film Commission benchmarking exercise with the Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng Film Commissions. Following that benchmarking exercise, a consultative meeting with the Film Industry role players in the province was held to further consolidate the efforts towards the establishment of the Commission. It is a great pleasure to inform the House that the Department will start the administrative processes of establishing the Free State Film Commission with effect from the beginning of the next quarter in September 2020, with an intention that it



should be fully operational as on 01 April 2021. We have set aside a budget of **3 million 5 hundred thousand rand** for the establishment of the Commission which will include procurement of Film-making equipment such as Cameras and Sound Effects.

The Department continues to fund CCIFSA annually and we have set aside a budget of **400 thousand rand**. I must however emphasize that, in compliance with good governance and value for money, any transfer payments to CCIFSA will only be done subject to the structure submitting audited financial statements and expenditure reports to the Department.

Mangaung African Cultural Festival (MACUFE):

MACUFE, like many other projects, had to be cancelled in 2020. The need to reprioritize funds for interventions against the devastating impact of COVID 19 had to be undertaken as a matter of unavoidable necessity. We must however point out and stress that MACUFE remains our flagship programme. It is our firm belief that the festival will be back in 2021 on condition that the COVID 19 pandemic is no longer a crisis and its after-effects would have dissipated.

Choral Music Programme:

Choral Music Programme assists us to respond to government priority number 5 of Social Cohesion and Safe Communities. In a quest to fully and meaningfully implement this programme, the **Provincial Gospel Clap and Tap structure** was established in September 2019. The Department will host the **Provincial Gospel Clap and Tap Competition** in the last quarter 2020/2021. We continue to work closely with the **Lengau Choral Music Association** to facilitate our community and mass-based music development and have budgeted **150 thousand rand** for the Association.

Let me take this opportunity to report that the Department also established the **Free State Provincial Mass Choir** along the lines of the Soweto Choir in November 2019. The Choir has had its first camp at Mooigenoeg camping site near Bloemfontein. This choir must now be allocated a proper budget to function optimally as members are spread across the districts of



the Province. A budget of **750 thousand rand** will be allocated to the choir for its activities and rehearsal camps during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Expanded Public Works Programme for Arts and Culture:

The (EPWP) for Arts and Culture responds to Priority 1 of Economic Transformation and Job Creation. During the 2019/2020 financial year, the Department set a target of employing **95** EPWP Arts and Culture Fieldworkers consisting of unemployed Free State community artists.

In the 2020/2021, the Department will continue providing jobs to **120** EPWP Arts and Culture consisting of unemployed Free State community artists with the same budget allocation of **2 million rand**.

Museum, Heritage and Language Services:

Honourable Speaker, the transformation of our heritage landscape, culture and languages should continue uninterrupted and unapologetically as a matter of historical necessity. Through our Museums, Heritage and Language Services programmes we will continue to ensure that this transformation goal is achieved. Our government priorities on Social Cohesion and Safe Communities as well as “A better Africa and World” will be realized through these programmes.

Museums Services

In order to further maximize community interest in our Museums, Museum Services has, in the previous financial year, conducted 60 **outreach programmes** in a quest to entrench the understanding of the importance of our museums.

Amongst other milestones the Department recorded in the museum and heritage space are the following:

- 1) A **research about Mme Albertina Sisulu and Mr Fezile Dabi** was conducted and the output will be part of the information which will be inscribed on the statues of both these liberation stalwarts.



- 2) The **1956 Women's Anti-Pass March** was celebrated on 16 August 2019. During this celebration, the surviving stalwart, Me Malejone Davis was honored for her contribution towards women emancipation.
- 3) The **9th Sesotho Literary Museum Dialogue** was hosted in Ventersburg in May 2019 under the theme "Tsosoloso ya lerato la puo ya Sesotho le dingolwa".

Speaker, it is with great pleasure to announce that for this year, we will award and honour Mr. Kgotso Nkhatho, Ms. Tina Mnumzana, Mr. Tsheliso Ramakgele and Ms. Mampai Mokeki with prize money for their outstanding participation with Film and Arts Industry.

Honourable Speaker, in 2019 we continued to celebrate the **Basotho New Year** which is celebrated after the last days of *Mariha*/winter. Basotho New Year Celebration is a platform to celebrate and showcase the Basotho culture, heritage and traditions.

Our museums still attract a high number of visitors from within and outside our borders. Museums continues to be a preferred destination for both domestic and International tourists such as Lesotho, Canada, USA, Germany, France, Zimbabwe, Denmark, England, Holland and Italy. The effect of COVID 19 on visits to our museums has been negative.

Heritage Services

In line with the National Developmental Plan and the recent 2020 State of the Nation Address pronouncement on imagining the new cities, the Department has resolved to position itself as a facilitator of the process that repositions and reinterprets the heritage resources material towards social cohesion and social benefit ends.

In partnership with the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (PHRA), plans are in motion to **assess and audit currently declared heritage sites**. The existing statues and monuments protected by the NHRA will also enjoy attention from the Heritage Free State.



The PHRA will in 2020/2021 ensure that previously nominated sites, like the *Springfontein black concentration camp graves*, are formally declared and protected.

Honourable Speaker, this financial year, the Department will unveil the following statues:

- **Fezile Dabi** at Fezile Dabi Stadium in Parys.
- **Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela** in Brandfort.
- **Mama Albertina Sisulu** in Tweeling.

In the same spirit of transformation of our heritage landscape, as well as the spirit of nation building and reconciliation, the Department through the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority has been instrumental throughout the process of relocating **President M.T Steyn statue** from the University of the Free State to the War museum.

Language Services:

Honourable Speaker, communication and conversations in our indigenous languages has to be promoted. The need to inform our communities about the current pandemic in their own languages has, for example, become central as we observed in the media briefings by the COVID-19 National Command Centre.

During this financial year we will identify **young women in Winburg** for mentorship to write and publish a book of their local stories. This book will be launched on Women's Month in August 2020. Our partnership with the Writers' Forum continues to be sustained and we fund this Forum to the tune of **200 thousand rand** annually.

To assist the Free State Provincial Government Departments to implement **the Use of Free State Official Languages Act** we:

- will establish an Interdepartmental Language Forum.
- commence with activities leading towards the revision of the provincial language policy.



Speaker, we have received concerns that the Department has not consulted with all the formal structures that mobilize the Arts and Culture Sector and our focus has only been on CCIFSA and SAACYF. A sharp criticism was raised by a Women Structure known as **Wombman Theater** and we acknowledge this oversight. In 2020/2021, we are going to audit and consult with all the structures that organize and mobilizes under Cultural Affairs for building formidable partnerships. This process will be undertaken with effect from 01 August 2020.

Programme 3: Library and Archive Services (200 million 150 thousand rand)

Honourable Speaker, Education and Skills Development as well as Health form the top priorities of our government. It is for this reason that during his 2019 State of the Nation Address, the Honourable President of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa declared that, and I quote, **“another critical priority is to substantially improve reading comprehension in the first years of school. This is essential in equipping children to succeed in education, in work and in life – and it is possibly the single most important factor in overcoming poverty, unemployment and inequality”**, close quote.

The Department will therefore continue to roll-out programmes in over **184** libraries which currently have a total of **671 thousand 391 registered library users**. In response to the recommendations of the Portfolio Committee on Public Accounts and Finance and the context of COVID-19 and the Lockdown, we will modernize our rural libraries by upgrading the ICT Infrastructure to bridge the digital divide between the rich and poor. We will also strengthen our already existing Library Online services called e-library services. The service provides access for library patrons and the general public to e-books and e-encyclopedic material. Although at a reduced scale, the public is still able to borrow e-reading materials.

In 2020/2021, we will also focus on establishment of **Reading Clubs** as an initiative to participate in the President’s call for the nation to read.



In the context of the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**, the Department continues to ensure that libraries become hubs for internet of things. In 2019, **157** community and dual-purpose libraries were provided with internet connectivity through the contracts we have with SITA and Vodacom. In 2020/2021 internet speed in our libraries will be improved by providing Free Wi-Fi with unlimited data, including Voice-Over Protocol to ensure free access to information for communities as well as continued communication between libraries district offices and head office. As part of our contribution to the priority of Education and the goal of access to the internet we donated 30 Laptops and facilitated internet access to the two (2) schools that I have adopted in Kroonstad. These schools have had positive results in their matric performance.

Honourable Speaker, in 2019, **17 services for the visually impaired** were maintained and **5** new services were established. Among libraries where these services were established and already making a difference, is the library in Matlakeng: Mr. Thando who is a resident of Matlakeng is a person with albinism and struggled with the usage of a computer because of his condition. Since using a computer for the visually impaired, Mr Thando is enjoying reading online due to the screen which is suitably designed for his condition. We have formed partnerships with the Free State Department of Education to roll-out these services for the visually impaired to schools such as Bartimea School in Thaba Nchu. In 2020/2021, we will continue to work in partnership with the South African Library for the Blind (SALB) to maintain the existing **22** services for the blind in our libraries.

Photocopiers have become a valuable resource in the libraries for our communities and the service is provided at the cheapest rate to the public as compared with the market rates. In 2020, 17 more Photocopiers will be delivered to 17 libraries.

PROGRAMME 4: SPORT AND RECREATION (162 million 101 thousand rand)

Honourable Speaker, the role of sport in the attainment of priorities on Education, Skills and Health as well Social Cohesion and Safe Communities is well documented. With the onset of



the Lockdown we used digital platforms and electronic mass media to encourage the public and athletes to exercise from home.

A COVID-19 Relief Fund to the tune of **6 million 500 thousand rand** was provided for the relief of athletes. This Relief Fund was allocated from Conditional Grant that has been negatively impacted by this pandemic. It a great pleasure to inform the House that out of 238 applications which were received for the Relief, 189 have been approved and a total amount of **2 million 8 hundred and 70 thousand rand** will be paid for the approved applicants

Despite the challenges of COVID 19 that were experienced during the last quarter of the last Financial Year, in 2019/2020 the Department was able to realize many milestones through the Sport and Recreation programme. We hosted the **Nelson Mandela Boxing Tournament** in Rouxville where various boxers like Matshidiso Mokebisi, otherwise known as the Scorpion Queen defended her S.A female junior lightweight title against Gabisile Tshabalala from Gauteng Province. Matshidiso Mokebisi holds the current SA Featherweight, World Boxing Federation championship and is a Free Stater. We also launched two Provincial Belts for Male and Women Boxers during this tournament and these Belts will be contested before the end of the financial year, preferably in December 2020. We also will honour Mr. Spider Moeketsi for his outstanding contribution in development of Boxing in Free State.

We continue to make a call to industry leaders and the private sector to partner with us on this initiative of recognizing and promoting the talent that exists in our Province. Not only are we celebrating and rewarding these athletes and administrators, but we also strive to ensure that we continue to nurture and retain local sport talent we will host 2020 Sport Awards through virtual platforms.

COMMUNITY SPORT:

Honourable Speaker, through the Community Sport we will continue to implement mass participation programmes in the 2020/2021 financial year.

a) Community Outreach Soccer Tournament: This programme has been identified as



one of the vehicles that contributes positively towards Social Cohesion and Nation Building. The Department will partner with Xhariep District Municipality, SAFA and Community-based Organizations in the implementation of the outreach programme. This will involve talent scouting and community soccer teams will be afforded an opportunity to showcase their talent through this platform. This community outreach programme will continue to be used as one of the events where youth is given opportunities to engage in sport activities against crime.

- b) Delivery of Equipment and Attire:** To ensure full participation in sport by our communities, the Department continued to provide equipment and attire to identified Sport Hubs and Clubs in our communities. In the 2020/2021 financial year we will continue to distribute sport equipment to the value of **800 thousand rand** to clubs that will be identified.
- c) As part of Job Creation,** the Department will appoint 18 Sport Coordinators for 8 months and they will be paid a stipend of **4 thousand rand** per month through Conditional Grant.
- d) Pool Table Games:** the Department will, for the first time, introduce the Pool Table Games as a recreational programme guided by the Pool Table Federation. This programme will be implemented mindful of Lockdown requirements.
- e) Training/Capacity Building:** We will, in collaboration with the Boxing Federation, train boxing ring-side judges and referees with special focus on women. As part of our development programme for Sport Officials, we will also provide an accredited training to Netball and Football officials, especially the referees in amateur leagues.
- f) Netball through Club Development:** The Department has continued to assist the Netball Federation with the establishment of teams within the disadvantaged areas, payment of registration fees to the national federation, provision of transportation enabling teams to honour their league fixtures. Participation of teams and clubs at national tournaments is critical for talent identification and long-term development. In 2020/2021 we will launch a talent scouting project in order to create a platform for talented players for progression.



SCHOOL SPORT:

Honourable Speaker, as the saying goes ‘a healthy mind resides in a healthy body’.

Learn-to-Swim and Water Safety Programme in our schools is continuing in partnership with Free State Aquatics and the Department of Education. In 2019/20, **20** educators have been trained as Swimming Coaches and the programme in Botshabelo has grown to **7** schools. During the 2019 National Schools Championships a total of **13** swimmers from a disadvantaged background made it to the championships to close the gap of **40%** of the total team required. For this financial year and to develop township Learn-to-Swim Project, the Chief Directorate responsible will engage the Municipalities for maintenance and upgrading of swimming pools in our townships.

Depending on how the Pandemic unfolds, the Autumn Games (Swimming and Athletics) will still take place in the 4th quarter.

Activities that will take place during 2020/2021 include the following:

- a) Provision of **sport equipment** and attire to **75** schools.
- b) **Online Capacity Building** of **300** educators as coaches and managers.
- c) Promotion of **physical activities for learners** through a production of digital material for exercises suitable for learners during the lockdown period.
- d) Development of an **Online Registration Platform and Central Database Management System** for schools and learners participating in school sport.
- e) Implementation of a **Careers in Sport Programme** to assist learners in grade 11 and 12 with choosing a career in the sport industry. Careers such as Biokinetics and Sport Science which are not well known amongst previously disadvantaged communities



will be showcased.

- f) Hosting **Girl Guides and Drum Majorettes** by learners to promote moral regeneration.
- g) Appointment of **12 School Sport Coordinators** to increase sector capacity and the roll-out of school sport.
- h) Promotion of **Chess** as a recreation amongst learners to assist in improving strategic thinking, mathematics skills and logical thinking.
- i) Support to **School Sport Structures** for the **16** priority codes. These structures are made up of educators and are responsible for the organizing of school sport at all levels.

Acting MEC for Education Honourable MEC Mohale, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation and Education is long overdue. I hereby make a commitment that both our Departments will finalize the signing of the MOA no later than 31 August 2020. The MOA will form the basis and framework for the roll out of School Sport in the province.

SPORT SCIENCE SERVICES

Honourable Speaker, we continue to strive towards ensuring that the Free State Sport Science Institute, the only government-supported high-performance facility in the country, is firmly positioned to render sport science services to all levels of the sport development continuum.

We are pleased to report that on 12 December 2019 we staged the **Boxing Championship** in Fezile Dabi District (Kroonstad) at Phomolong Primary School. **11** Boxing Clubs from the Free State participated with **40** bouts scheduled.

Speaker, the Free State Sport Science Institute will continue to support the Free State Academy of Sport as its official high-performance service provider. This Institute will provide high-performance services to the Free State Academy of Sport elite athletes on a national, provincial, and local.



An amount of **5 million 334 thousand rand** will be allocated to the high-performance programmes this financial year to also implement the following injunctions:

- Support **1 300** athletes in the province with various high-performance sport science services.
- Support **10** Sport Focus Schools with equipment, attire, and sport science services.
- Resourcing of the Provincial Academy and **3** District Academies.
- Offer High-Performance Capacity Building support to Coaches on Provincial and District levels.

In 2020/2021, the High Performance Programme will also implement the following programmes:

- Stage the **Dr. Andrew Mokete Mlangeni High-Performance Inter-Provincial Charity Golf Tournament** to celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Andrew Mlangeni to the development of South Africa into a non-racial and democratic South Africa.
- Host the **Inter-Provincial Academy Boxing League** to give our high-performance boxers the opportunity to participate against other Academies on an Elite Level to enhance their boxing skills.
- Host the **Inter-Provincial Academy Netball League** to give our high-performance netball players the opportunity to participate against other Academies on an Elite Level to enhance their netball skills.

Honourable Speaker, to support the boxing development and transformation initiative of the government, I instructed the Free State Academy of Sport to investigate the establishment of a unique **5-Year Full-time Residential Programme for Free State Amateur Boxers**. This programme will identify **12** talented boxers in the Free State in collaboration with the Free State Boxing Federation. To further enhance the programme to the level of excellence, the



Department will facilitate the process to request our Cuban partners to support the Free State Academy of Sport with **2** of their Olympic Coaches to ensure that our boxers receive international support in this regard.

The current High-Performance Boxing Centre and Accommodation facilities at the Free State Sport Science Institute will be upgraded to host the overseas coaches and boxers.

To realize the above commitments, a total budget of **21 million 877 thousand rand** has been allocated for the 2020/2021 financial year.

FREE STATE SPORT CONFEDERATION (FSSC)

The Confederation not only acts as a controlling body for sport and recreation in the Free State, but also as an autonomous body that exists for the sake of fair, comprehensive and coordinated sports provision within the Province.

During the 2019/2020 financial year, the Free State Sport Confederation received a total amount of **2 million 206 thousand rand** which has been used towards supporting **22** Provincial Sport Federations, **five (5)** Districts Sport Councils and for the administration of the organization.

Representation at the national and international level is still a major goal for the FSSC with the Provincial Sport Federations producing phenomenal technical officials, administrators and, most importantly, the athletes.

In order to drive Social Cohesion and healthy lifestyle; the Department and FSSC will in 2020/2021 promote coordination, cooperation, and consultation between Departments and the



private sector. Through the Confederation, we will, also, commence with activities leading towards achieving the above by planning Webinar training and virtual workshops that will capacitate our Federations compliant with governance while executing the objectives of developing the sport in the Province.

For the 2020/2021 Financial Year, the Confederation receives an allocation of **1 million 706 thousand rand.**

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:

Honourable Speaker, infrastructure development and upgrade contribute to the much-needed economic development and job creation in the local communities in line with Priority 1 of Economic Transformation and Job Creation. This programme will continue to unfold in the MTESF period.

Construction of three (3) new library buildings is in the final stages. These are Luckhoff, Smithfield and Soutpan Libraries. Our Infrastructure assets also include Van Stadensrus Library and the National Training Center and a total budget of **69 million 8 thousand rand** has been set aside for this purpose.

The following infrastructure projects will be implemented in 2020/2021: National Training Centre; Charles Mopeli Stadium upgrading; Kroonstad Recording Studio; Archives and Record Centers upgrades and Smithfield Museum.

We have set aside a Budget of **19 million 471 thousand rand for Upgrades and Additions.**

CONCLUSION:

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, presenting this budget vote against the backdrop of the daunting challenges of COVID 19 is indeed a painful exercise. We dip our revolutionary banners in honour of our patriots who have passed on since we tabled our last Budget Vote IN



2019/2020. We note with great sadness the recent and untimely departure of Mr. Mike Mokoena, Chairman of Free State Stars. May his beautiful soul and those of other brothers and sisters who have passed on rest in eternal peace. The Department will enter into negotiations with Dihlabeng Local Municipality regarding the renaming of Goble Park stadium in Bethlehem to Mike Mokoena Stadium. The Provincial Geographical Names Committee will embark on the process of Public Hearings for this purpose.

Let me thank all those who have been with us through these trying and turbulent times of COVID 19. My gratitude goes to the African National Congress for deploying me to serve in such a critical Portfolio of Sport, Arts and Culture. A special thanks to the Honourable Premier of the Free State and my Colleagues in the Executive Council for your support. To you Members of this Provincial Legislature, thanks for your guidance and assistance: we shall be a better Department; I salute and thank our stakeholders in the Creative and Cultural Industries and entire sport fraternity, lastly the Free State community.

Speaker, our Department would not have achieved some of its goals and objectives if it was not because of the Managers and officials in the Department; to them I say the road ahead is still long and please work with us to reach our destination.

Let me appreciate my parents, family and my children for their support and understanding, I know that being a Member of the Executive Council is one of the demanding responsibilities, yet my family understood my call which is to serve the people, and of course, I am your servant, the servant of the People. How can I not thank the Almighty for His Blessings and His Grace, today I am alive, we are alive – all because of His Mercy.

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

I thank you.



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