



arts, culture,
sports & recreation

Department:
Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Budget

& Policy Vote 2025/2026



22 July 2025
Tuesday



MEC Galerekwe
Virginia Tsotso Tlhabi



G20 SOUTH AFRICA 2025



A NATION THAT WORKS FOR ALL

Let's Grow North West Together

**2025/2026 BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ARTS,
CULTURE, SPORTS AND RECREATION PRESENTED BY MEC
GALEREKWE VIRGINIA TSOTSO TLHAPI - 22 July 2025.**

Honourable Speaker, Ms. Desbo Mohono

Honourable Premier, Mr Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Collen Mokone Maine

Honourable Chief Whip Motlalepule Rosho

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Representative of House of Traditional & Khoisan Leaders

Executive Mayors, Mayors, and Councilors present

Head of Department, Mr Itumeleng Mogorosi

Acting Chief Executive Officer of Mmabana, Mr Hendrik Metsileng

All Sector Stakeholders

Distinguished Guests

Other Dignitaries in the gallery

Media Present

Ladies and Gentlemen

Baagi ba Bokone Bophirima

Amogelang Madume

Honourable Speaker,

I rise today to present the 2025/26 Budget Vote 4 for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation.

Our Mandate is to give effect to the strategic priorities as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan. We will strive to build an active, winning, creative, and socially cohesive society, where all residents of our province can thrive through arts, culture, heritage, language, sport, and recreation.

In the 2024/25 budget vote, the department made commitments to deliver specific deliverables, and I have an honour to report the progress we registered in the 2024/25 Financial Year, and table the 2025/26 commitments:

On Strategic Priority 1, which speaks to “**Inclusive Growth and Job Creation**”, in responding to the **outcome on increased employment opportunities**: the department has created a total of one thousand two hundred and thirty-five (1,235) job opportunities against a target of one thousand (1000). This was done through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) in a form of short-term contracts, learnerships, and internships.

In the 2025/26 financial year, we have set ourselves to create two thousand (2000) job opportunities for artists, athletes, and general communities.

An amount of two million, five hundred and seventy-one thousand (R 2, 571m) has been allocated for the implementation of the EPWP programme.

On **Strategic Priority 2** dealing with the **reduction of poverty and tackling high unemployment**, in respect of youth development and workplace readiness: 31 young people were placed in various departmental units for experiential learning in disciplines such as Financial Management, Public Administration, and Management Assistance. This initiative is part of our broader effort to address youth unemployment while building a pipeline of future public service professionals.

Honourable Speaker

Strategic Priority 3 speaks to the **creation of a Capable, Ethical, and Developmental State**, which requires deliberate and intentional effort for organizational review as well as investment in human capital management. In response to the said **outcome**, the department has, in 2024/25:

- Undertaken key steps to finalize the organizational structure. This process involved extensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including the Office of the Premier and the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA).
- Developed a draft organizational structure and conducted job evaluation for newly-created posts. This work will be completed in the 2025/26 financial year. We had to make difficult choices in terms of departmental re-organization, and had to place efficiency, compliance and service delivery at the center of our decision making.

Human capital development remains a key enabler of our departmental success. In 2024/25, the department awarded bursaries to twenty-nine (29) employees. These officials will improve themselves and be ready to

contribute to service delivery. Over 251 employees benefited from targeted training programmes that enhanced skills.

On strengthening governance and accountability, in the 2023/24 financial year, we set ourselves a target to achieve a clean audit. This target has been achieved. We achieved 100% in the implementation of the Post Audit Action Plan. We are working tirelessly to synergise the correlation of our audit opinion with service delivery.

Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla

Re tshaba go ikoketsa magetla ka maje, mmefela nnete yona ya pholosa. Ke rata go tlotlomatsa lefapha ka tsamaiso e phepha e e boneng boruni jo bo phepha mo ngwageng wa matlotlo wa 2023/24. Kgwetlho kgolo ke gore re tswelele go e sireletsa re ntse re neelana ka ditirelo. Nko ya kgomo *mogala tshwarathata e sere go utlwa seabodu wa kgaoga.*

Our Annual Financial Statements were free from material misstatements; there were no findings on compliance with laws and regulations. We have achieved 97 % of the set performance indicators and targets. We spent 99% of the budget allocated to the department.

Honourable Speaker, clearly, this department is stable, it is performing and must serve as an inspiration to other state institutions. We aim to sustain this performance in 2024/25 audit process and beyond.

In responding to the **outcome on improving governance and performance of Public Entities:** we are closely monitoring Mmabana, Arts Culture and Sport Foundation, which has challenges relating to infrastructure, governance, stability in management, and inadequate service delivery.

In 2025/26, we will:

- Continue with our efforts to undertake a comprehensive review of Mmabana, Arts, Culture, and Sport Foundation.
- Enter this financial year with a clear vision anchored in the implementation of the 2025-2030 turnaround strategy, which seeks to stabilize governance, reposition the brand, and deliver relevant and impactful programmes that speak directly to the realities of our communities, especially young people.
- Recruit qualified personnel into Mmabana as forefront staff, tutors and administration staff.
- Review flagship programmes such as the Taung Cultural Calabash to establish their relevance to our communities. We will also look at options of repacking our programmes to ensure maximum impact and bring back their vibrancy.

Nonetheless, we wish to report that our efforts to host the Taung Calabash in 2024 were not successful due to legal matters. We are currently working tirelessly to resolve these challenges, so that we can host the Calabash this year. In light of these challenges, we were able to implement the Calabash.

Notwithstanding the said challenges, the competition was hosted in the form of a final leg of the auditions held in 2024. Two hundred and eighteen (218) young people from across our provincial districts participated in the competitions. Thirty-two (32) groups benefited from prizes amounting to four hundred and twenty thousand (R 420 000).

- Review Mmabana offerings with the intention of providing market related programmes that respond to modern youth demands.

- Recognise that “Re ka se ikgone re le nosi”. Bagaetsho, kgetse ya tsie e kgonwa ka go tshwaraganelwa. It is against this background that Mmabana has started engaging a few municipalities in identifying areas of collaboration. In this regard, ‘I would like to extend my gratitude to the Greater Taung, Madibeng and Mahikeng Municipalities for opening their doors to listen to our requests.
- Will focus on drawing revenue from multiple streams including revenue collection of users of our services. Our intention is to fund about 30% of Mmabana’s budget through external revenue by 2030. This is a mammoth task that we have set ourselves for the coming five years.

On revenue enhancement: In the year 2024/25 the department developed a revenue enhancement strategy to improve our revenue collection. The 2025/26 revenue tariffs and baseline have been revised upwards and approved by the Provincial Treasury. We are optimistic that we shall see improvement in revenue collection.

Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, Tshotlakako ya Basadi le Bana ke tlhobaboroko. Re tla tswelelapele ka mananeo a go lwantsha leroborobo le. In 2024/25, we targeted to conduct thirty (30) interventions to implement the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide. These interventions raise awareness and are part of Government messages to fight and combat GBV and encourage victims to report cases. Our system will, to a greater extent, rely on the use of artists and sporting programmes to convey the messages on GBV.

In 2025/26, we will continue to work with all stakeholders to implement forty-five (45) planned interventions to combat GBV and Femicide.

We will further strengthen our systems to ensure that those who want to report incidents are able to do so without being compromised. The department will act on any reported cases and hold officials to account.

On fighting corruption and promoting integrity, the department has adopted a zero tolerance to fraud, misconduct and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We will continue to monitor the three (3) criminal cases that were opened in 2023/24 and ensure that our operating environment is free from non-compliance, fraud, and corruption incidents.

In our quest to achieve the **outcomes of Social Cohesion and Nation building**, we will continue to implement programmes in Arts, Culture, Language, Heritage, Libraries, Archives, Sport, and Recreation.

Madam Speaker, we have a responsibility to support artists for them to showcase their exceptional capabilities. Undoubtedly, the province supplies talent to the country. Ours, as government, is to create an enabling environment.

We have the responsibility to develop arts, culture, heritage, and language to advance socio-economic transformation and social cohesion. The outcome of the programme is to ultimately build and supply creative skills and drive the economy. In 2024/25, the department:

- Successfully hosted the annual Mahika Mahikeng Cultural Festival. The four-day programme attracted approximately twenty thousand (20,000) patrons, showcasing its significance as both a cultural and economic driver in the province. We created employment opportunities, and a platform for artists to showcase their talent. According to the South African Cultural Observatory (SACO) report on Mahika Mahikeng Cultural Music Festival Economic impact 2024, the festival generated a total economic impact of forty point

three million (R40.3 m). A total of two hundred and sixty (260) job opportunities were created.

- Successfully implemented commemorative days, which included **Freedom Day, Africa Day, Youth Day, Women's Day, Heritage Day, and Reconciliation Day**, all hosted across the province's four districts. These significantly contributed to fostering social cohesion and promoting nation-building, whilst celebrating our cultural diversity.
- Observed International Museum Day and hosted the Annual Traditional Medicine Day.
- Partnered with the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Foundation to host the annual Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Pilgrimage. This event honoured the legacy of this iconic struggle heroine and recognized the vital role of women in the liberation movement.
- Through the Film and Video unit, to contribute to economic empowerment of film practitioners, the department facilitated the screening of two locally produced films.
- In collaboration with the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we implemented the Repatriation and Restitution of Human Remains of our fallen liberation heroes from Zambia and Zimbabwe. The North West Province was amongst the beneficiaries, receiving the remains of liberation heroes originally from the province. Notably, the remains of the late Aaron Tiro were repatriated and laid to rest on 7 December 2024 at Lekubung Village, in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality. Regarding the other repatriate, Bogosi Klaas, from Ramosadi in Mahikeng, we are in the process of DNA identification, before we forge ahead with the reburial.

- We supported nine (9) crafters from the Province to participate and showcase their works at the DECOREX exhibitions held in Cape Town and Johannesburg. This Craft Investment Initiative platform provided valuable exposure, enabling local artists to market and sell their products both locally and internationally.
- We developed thirty (30) artists through mentorship programmes, provided capacity-building programme to five-hundred and seven (507) arts practitioners, placed eighty (80) artists in schools to help develop talent and give practical lessons to the youth. We supported one hundred and forty-two (142) events which were organized by the Department through collaboration with the private sector. All these efforts are a package to support the creative sector.
- We allocated R1.5 million to the North West Federation of Community Arts Centres, enabling support for (90) artists through non-accredited workshops in craft, music, and visual arts. Community Arts Centres (CACs) have continued to play a pivotal role in the social and economic development of the arts sector by offering artists a supportive and professional environment to refine their craft.
- We conducted assessments of nine (9) new Community Arts Centres across the province, distributed as follows: Bojanala (1), Dr. Kenneth Kaunda (3), Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati (2), and Ngaka Modiri Molema (3). This was done to enhance the operational capacity of these centres. The department has supplied essential equipment, including djembe drums, laptops, and office stationery.

- Through the Bokone Bophirima Publishing House, we have established district writers' forums across the province to discover and nurture emerging writers. An amount of R1 million was allocated to support writing, publishing, and capacity-building initiatives.
- The Publishing House conducted workshops for 170 writers and provided one-on-one editing for 70 writers, and published 41 books, with one author gaining international recognition at the University of Austin, in the USA.
- Provided thirty-eight (38) veterans with scriptwriting training, resulting in ten (10) published manuscripts.
- Implemented ninety (90) activities to raise awareness on national symbols against a target of (80). We also implemented one hundred and twenty (120) community conversations / dialogues. We all understand the importance of national symbols and dialogue as part of social cohesion in our constitutional democracy.
- We held thirty (30) South African Sign Language (SASL) workshops, against a target of thirty (30). These workshops assisted in creating the required capacity for sign language.
- We supported the Provincial Language Committee for celebrating **International Mother Tongue Day, Translation Day, and Deaf Awareness Day.**
- We hosted the launch of ***Badibelapuo: Setswana Writers*** in Zeerust from the 7th to 8th June 2024. We implemented translation, interpretation, book launches, literacy campaigns, poetry competitions, literary festivals, promotion of sign language rights and honour translators' roles.

Honourable Members, I stand before you today with pride in announcing that last year we supported 11 productions to the National Arts Festival. One physical production called “**Roped**” and one online production called “**Digagodi tsa Barolong Boo Ratlou**,” received the “**Festivals Ovation**” awards. In the current financial year, two of our productions received the “**Ovation Awards**”.

The first award is for the **Lowe’s Children**, by Tsweleng Cultural Dancers. This is a musical theatre production written and directed by Mothusi Mokoto, produced by Godsend Mokgope, choreographed by Ntibiseng Mokgaola and Thabang Keadisa, stage managed by Thusoetsile Rancho.

The second award was for a comedy show by one of our own, son of the soil from Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, Chris Mampane. The comedy production is titled 18 Years Later.

We would like to congratulate those who received the awards and encourage other productions to draw inspiration and courage from the achievement of their peers. Ideally, there is a need to support productions which achieved recognition at this festival to grow and gain access to the mainstream industry. Owing to lack of budget we are unable to do so. Accordingly, we urge the Legislature to consider a budget increase to strengthen the department’s capacity.

Honourable Speaker, we will continue in 2025/26 financial year with our interventions to support the creative sector, responding to our mandate to attain social cohesion and nation building.

The department will host a Creative Sector Lekgotla to review provincial sectoral coordination and governance and align to the new national sectoral coordination model.

This is very important given the fragmentation and its negative impact on the sector. The session will also look at policy proposals, programming, and mapping a developmental trajectory for the creatives.

The following programmes will be implemented in the creative sector:

- Capacitating and developing five hundred and thirty (530) Arts and Culture practitioners within the sector.
- Support one hundred and fifty-five (155) structures in the creative and cultural industries through financial and non-financial support.
- Seventy-nine (79) cultural and creative industry platforms are to be created or organized, for artists to showcase their exceptional capabilities.
- Implementation of 120 community conversations or dialogues to drive Social Cohesion and Nation building.
- Host eighty (80) awareness initiatives on national symbols
- Hosting of thirty (30) workshops on South African Sign Language for capacity building and increase awareness.
- Hosting of strategic programmes that drive artist development and growth, as well as economic stimulation. These programmes include:
 - Film festivals.
 - Implementation of Mahika Mahikeng.
 - Arts and craft markets.
 - Funding for film production.

In partnership with Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation:

- We will support artists to participate at the National Film Festival (Makhanda)

- Funding artist's productions.
- Implement Taung Cultural Calabash.

We have in the past pronounced that our province needs to support a conceptualisation of telenovela. This is to ensure that our creatives tell our stories and promote our culture and tradition. This has not materialised due to budget constraints. For this financial year, our focus will be on support to short stories and films. This will maximise participation of our creatives and diversify promotion of stories.

Honourable Members

In the 2024/25 budget speech we had made commitment on hosting of the talent search. I am happy to report that the talent search was successfully held. A total number of 135 artists participated in the search. The overall winner was Gomoitsang Seitumeleng (Gold) from Bojanala District. Other artists uncovered are Ntsiki the guitarist, Keaotshepa Morake, Kelebogile Dikhupe, Thapelo Tau and Hadasa. Gomoitsang Seitumeleng has been in Spain displaying her talent and is now back in the country. Due to current budgetary constraints, we will be unable to host the show.

In Celebrating our diversity, we will host and celebrate seven (07) Provincial Commemorative and seven (07) historical days through collaborations with other relevant stakeholders.

We will oversee the implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems to track funding provided to departmental committees, entities, agencies, and ensure there is value for money.

Through Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation, we will refurbish Taung Theatre, which is our biggest theatre in the province, so that we can attract quality theatre productions to Taung and offer Taung artists space where they can showcase their talent. We have engaged the

Department of Public Works & Roads to repair the roof which was blown away by wind.

In 2018, an unfortunate situation happened where two Mmabana buildings in Mafikeng were torched and looted. The two buildings are the Mafikeng center and the Head office. This unfortunate occurrence led to services being suspended in Mafikeng, staff were not going to work because of Occupational Health and Safety challenges with the Mafikeng Centre.

Madam Speaker, during my first stint as an MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, I led the renovation of the Mafikeng Centre and its operations were reinstated. During my second term, I will be focusing on renovating the head office building. It is our intention to finish the renovations in two years so that the building can be utilized.

The refurbishment of Mmabana was allocated R10 million, which has since been fully utilized. A further R5 million was allocated for the refurbishment of other Mmabana Centres. The funding was from the National Arts Council.

Mmabana and the department have applied for a roll-over of R3,996m which was allocated for the 2024/25 financial year. The plan is to complete the work before the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

While we acknowledge our limitations and recognize that our current baseline funding constrains the scale and sustainability of our ambitions, our dream of Mmabana Re-Imagined will not be killed. We will work tirelessly to turn Mmabana around into a Centre of excellence for the arts including artistic sport in the country. We continue to address legacy issues such as outdated policies, irregular internal controls, and the lack of Centre-level independence.

We therefore appeal for increased budget support to unlock Centre activation, allow flagship initiatives to thrive, and enable targeted infrastructure development in under-served areas. **Mosekaphofu ya gaabo ga a swe lentswe.**

To support the entities and committees, and enable them to deliver on their mandate, the following transfers will be done in 2025/26 financial year:

- Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation to receive Hundred and thirty-one point eight million (R131.8 million).
- Provincial Heritage Resource Agency (PHRA) to receive one point seven million (R1.7 million)
- Provincial Geographic Names Committee (PGNC) to receive one point four million (R1.4 million).
- North West Publishing House receives one point five million (R1.5 million), and Provincial Language Committee (PLC) to receive one point four million (R1.4 million).
- An amount of five hundred thousand (R500 000) will be transferred to the Moses Kotane Foundation to initiate the construction of a six-metre statue and continue to develop this heritage site.

We are going to take the necessary steps in strengthening our Entities and Committees. This includes improving the oversight and accountability as way of enhancing their operational activities so that maximum value is derived from them.

Honourable Speaker, we are on course to complete the cultural villages. An amount of one point five million (R 1.5m) has been set aside and these Cultural Villages will be handed over for use by the Traditional Authorities:

- Kudungwane.
- Tseoge.
- Matloding.
- Tshidilamolomo.
- Sione.

The department aims to expand the database of functional Community Arts Centres to thirty (30) across all four (4) districts by the end of 2025/26.

We will further pilot two (2) Community Art Centres (CACs) as incubation hubs. These hubs will offer accredited training programmes, mentorship, and dedicated creative spaces to support and sustain artists.

Accredited capacity-building programmes will be provided to Center Managers and Tutors to ensure long-term sustainability.

We will closely monitor the operational activities of the Community Arts Centres to ensure their maximum impact on the communities and that they achieve their desired outcomes.

On Museums:

As we continue to implement programmes and activities that support museums, I wish to report on the previous commitment in respect of the refurbishment of Mahikeng Museum. The project was funded by the National Department of Tourism. The first phase has been completed. The next phase requires a budget of one point two million (R1.2 million). Unfortunately, these funds have not been received from the National Department of Tourism as a result, the opening of the museum has been delayed.

In the 2024/25 financial year, we committed to completing several ongoing community library construction projects. I am pleased to report that we have achieved practical completion on them. We are now in the process of procuring library furniture, materials, and appointing personnel to ensure these libraries are fully operational and officially open them in the 2025/26 financial year:

- Madibe A Makgabana Library – Ngaka Modiri Molema District
- Dinokana Library – Ngaka Modiri Molema District
- Wolmaransstad Library – Dr Kenneth Kaunda District

Madam Speaker, the following libraries were officially opened as they were completed and provided with necessary furniture, books, and material for operations:

- Migdol
- Uitkyk
- Mmatau

A total of twenty-six thousand two hundred and twenty books (26 220) were procured, ten thousand two hundred and sixty-nine books (10269) were locally procured and distributed to community libraries along with toy collections for new libraries.

In April 2024, the department launched the Access to Memory (ATOM) archives system and conducted promotional activities, which included Archives Awareness Week that was held in Bojanala District, as well as library awareness activities.

The department recorded the oral history of the Batlhako ba Matutu Traditional Council and hosted an Oral History Colloquium during Heritage Month. This was done to preserve cultural heritage through the sharing of oral traditions and indigenous knowledge.

The Department finalized the recruitment and selection processes for five (05) Chief Work Inspectors, who will be placed in four districts. This intervention will go a long way in ensuring that our infrastructure maintenance programme is carried out.

To strengthen records management, sixteen (16) inspections were conducted to assist government bodies in adopting the best practices.

Security services were expanded from 35 to 41 in community libraries. This was due to additional libraries being opened in areas where local municipalities could not provide the services.

In the 2025/26 financial year, we will monitor and ensure that the Community Library Projects that are at final stages of planning get into construction phase. These libraries are:

- Matlosana,
- Bodibe,
- Boitumelong / Coverdale,
- Ganyesa,
- Mabeskraal,
- Moshana Modular Library,
- Kgakala Modular Library.

All new libraries will receive custom-made furniture and will be equipped with computers and photocopiers.

We will further continue to support Community Libraries through the transfer of funds to the Local Municipalities for library services operations.

The department will further continue to work with the South African Library for the Blind to deliver services in Community Libraries where there is designated space for the visually disabled.

The Sports and Recreation programme provides sustainable mass participation opportunities across the age spectrum to promote a physically active lifestyle, whilst providing support to institutions. We also provide infrastructure that increases participation and excellence in sports.

The programme is mainly funded through the Mass Participation and Sport Development Conditional Grant, and very little equitable share.

Honourable Speaker, below is a report on the achievement against the target we set for ourselves in 2024/25 financial year:

- We have contracted seventy-one (71) Sport Coordinators against a target of seventy (70). These officials coordinate delivery of sports and recreation programmes within communities.
- We have trained seven hundred and thirty-one (731) people on sport and recreation programmes, against a target of six hundred and eighty (680). This was achieved through collaboration with sport federations.
- We have seen eight thousand eight hundred and eleven (8 811) learners participating in the district school sport tournaments, against a target of eight thousand (8000). On this achievement, we are grateful to the schools, learners, parents, the Department of Education, and all other stakeholders for the support. It has not been an easy journey. Working together we will collectively unleash talent through school sports.
- We have provided support services to five hundred and thirty (530) athletes through sport academies, against a target of five hundred and thirty (530). The support varies based on the needs identified.

- We provided two hundred and seventy (270) schools, clubs and hubs with equipment and attire to enable participation in sport and recreation, against a target of two hundred and sixty-four (264).
- We have supported one hundred and seventy-four runners (174) from the province to participate in major events. These are 174 runners for Comrades Marathon runners, and fourteen (14) for Two Ocean Marathon. The support came in the form of accommodation, transport and catering - at around R1 million.
- As we commemorated the 2024 Heritage Month, we opened and handed over the Manthe Multipurpose Sports Complex to Taung Local Municipality for implementation of sport programmes by communities. This was a significant milestone given the history of this project.

Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, the department provided funding for athletes and clubs to participate in National and International sporting events. Annually, we support these teams and individual athletes who are qualified to compete on international and national programmes with attire, accommodation, transport, medical services and their nutritional needs.

We supported teams, and athletes to participate in different competitions, at different levels.

Allow me to recognize the good work done by our athletes and teams:

On Comrades Marathon, we once more congratulate all North West athletes who participated in the 2025 Marathon. Let me take this opportunity to salute the following athletes for being in the top 10:

- **Tete Dijana - Position 1**
- **Edward Mothibi - Position 4**
- **Joseph Manyedi - Position 5**
- **Gordon Lesetedi Position 9**

In relations to Soccer, we congratulate **Orbit College FC** for qualifying to play in the Betway Premiership in the 2025/26 season. The department supported Orbit College FC throughout the season in the Motsepe Championship, and at the most recent historic play-offs. Well-done **Mswenko Boys**, we will use this achievement to support talent development. We have held series of engagements with Orbit College Management Team and other relevant stakeholders in pursuit of exploring support to the team going forward. Our financial situation is constrained, but we are hopeful that other departments and stakeholders will come on board given the benefits to be accrued, which amongst others include talent identification across all corners of our province, tourism, transport and local economy.

We also congratulate **Thames FC** for battling it out at the ABC Motsepe Play-offs, though they did not earn the top prize. To them we say: “Keep trying, the doors shall be opened, you have what it takes”.

Other significant achievements

- Shane Williams from the Lions wheelchair basketball club took part in the wheelchair basketball national tournament as a Team North West member. He was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the tournament prize and signed a contract during a tournament in Durban, with international wheelchair basketball in Spain.
- The North West Wheelchair Male Basketball team won the National Championships, and the Ladies won silver in Durban.
- Eletsa Secondary School managed to finish second at the National Kay Motsepe tournament.
- Tumisang Edwin Thapelo from Tlapeng village in Ganyesa (Huhudi High School) was selected to represent National Football at the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) under 15.
- Bontsi Senna was selected as a safeguarding officer to represent South Africa at COSAFA under 15.
- Kopano Kgatijwe was selected to be part of the South African Football Association girl's academy. She is part of the Shooting Star club, which we supported through the league. In addition, the support was through the supply of equipment and attire.
- Five (5) softball-playing learners, namely :Franco Stein, Tebogo Mangati, Themba Molebatsi, Meyer Van Sittert and Carla Mariee were selected to play for South Africa.
- Two (02) Basketball players under 15 were selected for the National Basketball Team. They are Reotshepile Dithake and Olerato Malatsi.

- During the National Schools Summer Games, North West Province obtained ten (10) medals for rope skipping: 3 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze medals, and 1 gold in Goalball.
- Girls under 15 Basketball team received silver medal
- Girls under 18 Table Tennis received 1 Gold and one Bronze
- Tennis Under 14 received silver medals
- The Province achieved overall position four out of 9 Provinces.
- Young North West athletes broke eight records during the Provincial School Sports Athletics Championships held from March 6 to 8 at Mc Arthur Stadium, Potchefstroom.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to extend my heartfelt words of congratulations to the following athletes for their exceptionally outstanding performances in the School Sports Athletics Championships:

- Amogelang Moeng
- Jordan Denike
- Manders Jaydeen
- Galane Khothatso,
- Boitumelo Nchoe
- Shongwe Katlego
- Carli Visser
- Robertson Hardus
- Tietus Keelan

At those Provincial School Sports Athletics Championships, the four Districts performed as follows:

- 1st position: Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, 2nd position: Bojanala, 3rd position :Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, and in the 4th position it was Ngaka Modiri Molema District

Honourable Speaker,

As we march into the 2025/26 Financial Year with all these remarkable achievements, we have challenges of infrastructure and inadequate funding. Notwithstanding, we will do everything reasonably possible to give support to the extent that we can. We call on all stakeholders, government, and private sector, to support athletes and invest in the improvement of facilities and funding of programmes. We undoubtedly have talent in abundance; we just need to unleash it.

We continue to place school sports at the pinnacle of sport development, as articulated in the National Development Plan. The department will implement the following programmes and support interventions:

- Strengthening our relationship with, and monitoring of key stakeholders such as North West Provincial Sport Confederation, and Federations. Funding of Federations will go a long way to support sport development.
- We must forge strong relationships with academies, the confederation and federations to ensure full implementation of talent identification and development through provision of support to local leagues, local clubs as well as supporting 16 priority federations/codes.

- We will strengthen and prioritize monitoring and reporting by all funded entities.
- Establishing solid governance for the Academy Commission to oversee the North West Academy of Sports.
- Finalization of the Provincial Sports Master Plan, as well as the funding policy.
- Review a five-year strategy for recreation, working with the Provincial Recreation Council (ProRec).
- Launching of the Provincial Hiking Day to encourage healthy living in the Province and the “**I choose to be active programme**”.
- Organize and implement fourteen (14) active recreation activities.
- Maintenance of these facilities, ie. Recreation Centres, Mmabatho Stadium, Itsoseng Stadium, Lehurutshe Stadium and Trading Entities.
- Support thirteen (13) school sport programmes that will be used to deliver school sports in the province.
- Support three hundred and thirty-six (336) learners competing in the National school sport championships, including autumn, winter, and summer championships.
- Support four hundred (400) high-performance athletes through the sport academies.
- Support ten (10) elite athletes through the sport academies.
- Provision of equipment and attire to one hundred and fifty-seven (157) schools, clubs, and hubs to enable them to participate in sport and recreation activities.
- Train four hundred and fifteen (415) people to deliver sport and recreation programmes.

- Continue support to key programmes that assist service delivery:
 - Implementation of the Rural Sports Development Programme.
We will work with Local municipalities, and the Federations to institutionalize the Mayoral Cups, from Local, District, and in the Premier's Cup.
 - We have already supported athletes who participated in the Comrades Marathon.
 - Budget permitting, we will host the Provincial Sport and Creative Recognition Awards to recognize sportsmen and women who continue to represent the province in both provincial, national and international sporting stages.
 - We have already supported the N12 Marathon. An amount of R2 million has been invested in this marathon.
 - Implementation of Project 350, which I have already launched.
This project is aimed at preparing athletes from the Province to be part of the final 350 athletes selected for the Atlanta Olympics. A strong partnership will be forged with North-West University to deliver on this high-performance programme.

The department invested resources for the implementation of Disability Sports in the province and that has yielded positive results and uplifted the morale of disabled athletes.

We will further prioritize participation of disabled athletes in the mainstream sporting events during the medium-term development plan period.

Honourable Speaker, the budget allocation for the 2025/26 financial year for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation is Seven hundred seventy-six million, sixty-three thousand rands R 776 063.000, which is distributed as follows:

No	Programme	Allocation	Allocation
1	Administration	R 176,605,000	One hundred and seventy-six million, six hundred and five thousand rands
2	Cultural Affairs	R 212,841,000	Two hundred and twelve million, eight hundred and forty-one thousand rands
3	Libraries and Archives Services	R 219,098,000	Two hundred and nineteen million, and ninety-eight thousand rands
4	Sports and Recreation	R 167,519,000	One hundred and sixty-seven million, five hundred and nineteen thousand rands
TOTAL		R 776, 063,000	Seven hundred and seventy-six million, sixty-three thousand rands

As we conclude the tabling of this budget, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to delivering programmes that advance the aspirations of our artists, arts practitioners, and athletes, and contribute meaningfully to the developmental goals of our province.

We will subject ourselves to the principle of **servant, leadership, ethical leadership, and accountability.**

Arts, culture, sports, and recreation are not peripheral luxuries, but essential catalysts for social change, youth empowerment, economic opportunity, and nation building.

Let us remember, the words of Tata OR Tambo: ***“A country that does not value its youth does not deserve its future”***. This department values its youth deeply and is resolute in creating platforms that empower them to rise, to lead, and to inspire.

I would like to thank the Honourable Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the Portfolio Committee, our stakeholders and communities who continue to partner with us in realizing the developmental mandate of this department.

I want to thank the Head of Department, and our dedicated officials, for serving the communities. I also want to thank my family for the support they provide in the execution of my responsibilities.

With these words, I hereby table the Budget Vote for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation for the 2025/26 financial year for consideration and approval.

Kealeboga.

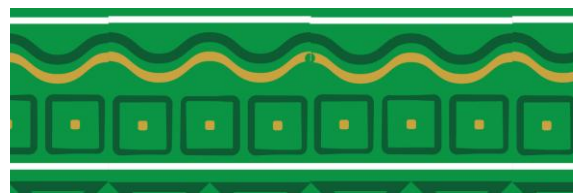
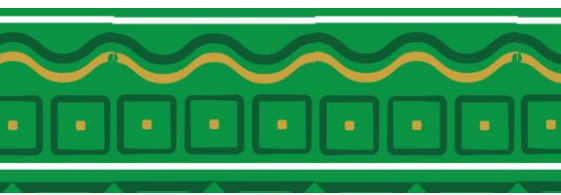
Thank you.

Baie dankie.



Notes

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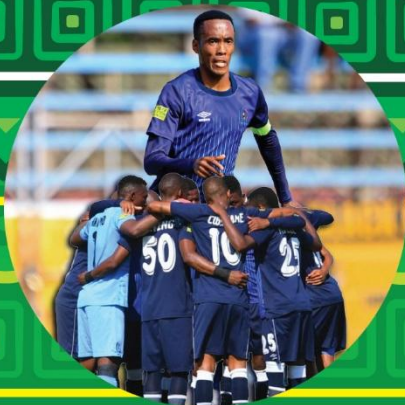


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Arts, Culture, Sports & Recreation North West Province

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**North West Department of Arts,
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