



arts, culture,  
sports & recreation

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



MEC  
**Galerekwe  
Virginia  
Tsotso  
Tlhapi**

**2026/27**  
**BUDGET &  
POLICY VOTE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
ACSR**

BUILDING A  
NORTH WEST PROVINCE  
THAT WORKS FOR ALL





**2026/2027 BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ARTS,  
CULTURE, SPORTS AND RECREATION.**

**PRESENTED BY MEC GALEREKWE VIRGINIA TSOTSO TLHAPI**

**DATE: 23 JUNE 2026.**

**Honourable Speaker, Mme Desbo Mohono.**

**Honourable Deputy Speaker, Ntate Collen Mokone Maine.**

**The Honourable Chief Whip of the House, Mme Motlalepule Rosho.**

**The Chair of Chairs, Ms Tebogo Modise.**

**Honourable Premier, Mr Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi.**

**Honourable Members of the North West Provincial Legislature.**

**Colleagues in the Executive Council.**

**Representatives of the House of Traditional and Khoi-san Leaders**

**Executive Mayors, Mayors, and all Councilors present here.**

**The Head of the Department, Ntate Itumeleng Mogorosi and the Team.**

**Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation, Ntate Hendrik Metsileng and the Team.**

**All Sector Stakeholders present.**

**Our Distinguished Guests.**

**All Dignitaries present here, in the gallery.**

**Members of the Media.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Baagi ba Bokone Bophirima.**

**Dumelang.**

Hon Speaker, I ascend to the podium to present the 2026/27 Budget Vote 4 for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation.

The year 2026 stands as a pivotal moment in the history of this country. It is a year in which South Africa reflects on its significant milestones that had shaped our journey towards attaining freedom, democracy, human dignity, and constitutional governance.

This year marks 30 years since the adoption of the Democratic Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It was adopted on 08 May 1996, by the country's first Democratic and Representative Parliament. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which derives from the 1955 Freedom Charter, remains a living expression of the aspirations of

our people and a firm commitment to constitutional democracy, human rights, equality, freedom, and the rule of law. As citizens, we all carry the collective duty to protect our democracy, uphold social cohesion, and contribute meaningfully towards the development of our nation. The official theme for this year's Freedom Day is: **“Freedom and the rule of law: Thirty Years of Democratic Citizenship”**.

**Speaker**, as we reflect on the year 2026, we also recognize it, as a defining moment marked by significant national milestones. This year, South Africa also commemorates the **50th anniversary of the historic 1976 Soweto Uprisings**, a pivotal turning point in the struggle against the oppression of the Apartheid system.

The resistance against Bantu Education and the forced use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction ignited the courage and determination of young people across the country. They rose in defense of justice, dignity, and freedom, thereby demonstrating extraordinary bravery in the face of injustice.

Their sacrifice and resilience continue to inspire generations of South Africans to strive for equality, champion access to quality education, and advance meaningful social transformation.

Madam Speaker, in August this year, our nation will also commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 09 August 1956 march, when 20,000 women courageously gathered at the Union Buildings to protest the extension of the pass laws to women.

This historic act of defiance stands as a powerful testament to the strength, unity, and resilience of the South African women in the struggle for justice and equality.

The theme for this year's National Women's Day, which directs us to "Build Resilient Economies for All," underscores the importance of advancing women's participation in leadership and strengthening their meaningful inclusion in the economy.

These commemorations resonate deeply with the constitutional mandate of the Department. Through programmes in the arts, heritage preservation, cultural promotion, sports development, and recreation, the Department continues to preserve the legacy of our liberation history, while empowering communities both socially and economically. Our programmes remain firmly anchored in fostering nation building, social cohesion, youth empowerment, healthy lifestyles, and community development.

Despite prevailing economic pressures and fiscal constraints, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering services to the sectors we serve. Guided by the principles of accountability, inclusivity, and service excellence, we continue to position arts, culture, sport, and recreation as powerful drivers of social transformation, economic growth, and community upliftment.

Today, we present a Budget Vote that seeks to invest in the future of our people. Honourable Speaker, the budget allocation for the 2026/27 financial year is Eight hundred and sixty million, two hundred and forty-five thousand (R860 245 000) and is distributed as follows:

No	Programme	Allocation	Allocation
1	Administration	R 188 189,000	One hundred and eighty-eight million, one hundred and eighty-nine thousand,
2	Cultural Affairs	R 259 727,000	Two hundred and fifty-nine million, seven hundred and twenty-seven thousand,
3	Library and Archives Services	R 220 105,000	Two hundred and twenty million, one hundred and five thousand,
4	Sports and Recreation	R 192 224,000	One hundred and ninety two million, two hundred and twenty four thousand,
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>R860 245,000</b>	Eight hundred and sixty million, two hundred and forty five thousand

Madam speaker, allow me to reflect on progress made against the 2025/26 commitments;

**In 2025/2026 we;**

- Committed to achieving a clean audit, and I am proud to report that we have attained clean audits for two consecutive financial years, in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
- Further achieved clean audits for Klein Marico and Donkervleit trading entities in the 2024/25. Se ga se go ikoketse magetla ka maje, re semeletse. We await the regularity audit for the 2025/26 to be completed.
- Mmabana received a qualified audit opinion, following three consecutive years of unqualified audit outcomes.
- Madam Speaker, Mmabana has adopted a turnaround strategy that focuses on the systematic capacity-building of the entity over a five-year period from 2025 to 2030. To ensure the effective implementation of this strategy, the performance agreements of managers have been aligned with its defined outputs and outcomes.



- The implementation of the turnaround strategy is therefore important in addressing audit findings, while strengthening governance, accountability, and overall organizational performance.
- Mmabana has strengthened its revenue management systems by implementing mechanisms to improve the collection of outstanding revenue, and to write-off historical prescribed debt.
- Furthermore, the entity has ensured full compliance with accounting standards by declaring all services rendered in kind, in line with the applicable financial prescripts.
- Honourable Members, in order to address areas of non-compliance, Mmabana has strengthened its institutional capacity through the appointment of highly skilled and experienced managers. These appointments are aimed at enhancing governance, risk management, and compliance systems within the entity.
- The following critical positions, which had been vacant for an extended period, have now been filled: Manager for Risk and Fraud Management; Deputy Manager for Revenue and Budget Management; Deputy Manager for Information and Communications Technology; Deputy Manager for Strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation; and Deputy Manager for Facilities Management.
- Honourable Members, and the people of Bokone Bophirima, we are proud to inform this august house that Mmabana has continued to honour its obligations to municipalities for services and has recently cleared long outstanding debt with Mahikeng Local Municipality.
- Targeted to create two thousands (2000) job opportunities, and we attained two thousand and two hundred and six (2 206) jobs. This



was achieved through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), and short-term contracts.

- Targeted to implement forty-five (45) interventions geared towards combating Gender Based Violence and Femicide, and we achieved forty-eight (48).
- Provided experiential learning opportunities to sixty-eight (68) young people across various units, contributing to efforts in addressing youth unemployment while building a pipeline of future public service professionals.
- Received one hundred and twenty-eight (128) proposals requesting financial support, of which fifty-seven (57) were approved, with a total allocation of R13 million.
- In addition, Mmabana also received Two Hundred and Thirty Three (233) proposals which amounted to Seventy Five Million Three Hundred and Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Rands (R75 313 620). Due to the limited budget they only managed to fund Twenty Three (23) proposals at a value of Four Million Seventeen Thousand) R4 017 000.
- Therefore Madam Speaker, both the Department and Mmabana Foundation funded Eighty Proposals.
- This investment has strengthened the creative and cultural sector, enhanced cultural tourism, and contributed to the promotion of social cohesion in the province.
- Allocated R15 million to support eight (8) film producers, who are currently engaged in productions that will showcase stories from the North West Province across various platforms, including the SABC, MultiChoice, and others. This investment is expected to stimulate

job creation across multiple sectors within the industry, including fashion, photography, make-up artistry, and related fields.

- Partnered with the National Arts Council (NAC) to implement funding workshops across all four districts of the province. This collaboration resulted in a notable increase in the number of proposals from the North West funded by the National Arts Council compared to previous years.
- Conducted a range of capacity-building workshops in areas such as writing, manuscript editing, music business, arts administration, visual arts and theory, video live streaming, and sign language. These initiatives have enabled emerging creatives to benefit from the Department's development programmes and enhance their professional skills.
- Further, capacitated ten film professionals in Artificial Intelligence, with the aim of positioning production companies to access global platforms such as Hulu and Apple TV, among others. This initiative is intended to empower production companies to effectively monetise their content and expand their market reach.
- Placed twenty-nine (29) young creatives in Community Art Centers, trained forty (40) managers in community development at NQF Level 4, and contracted one hundred and thirty-five (135) programme tutors as part of its job creation and skills development initiatives.
- Facilitated one hundred and twenty-seven (127) Community Conversations across the province. These engagements addressed a range of critical social issues, including teenage pregnancy, bullying in schools, gender-based violence, gangsterism and crime, mental health, the role of men in society, African traditional medicine, and the role of women in preserving heritage and culture.



- Created a platform for five (5) crafters in the Province to participate and showcase their work at the DECOREX Exhibition held in Johannesburg. This opportunity enabled them to market and sell their products to both local and international audiences.
- Supported fifteen (15) crafters to exhibit their artworks at the annual Aardklop National Arts Festival held in Potchefstroom in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. The festival showcases a dynamic blend of Afrikaans theatre, music, cabaret, and visual arts, while celebrating culture, diversity, and innovation.
- Supported the following committees to strengthen execution of their responsibilities in line with their mandate:
  - ✓ Provincial Languages Committee allocated – One Million and Seventy Eight Thousand (R1, 078m)
  - ✓ Provincial Heritage Resource Authority allocated – Two Million Five Hundred and Ninety Five (2 595m)
  - ✓ Provincial Geographic Names Council allocated – One Million and Seventy Eight Thousand (R1 078m)
  - ✓ Bokone Bophirima Publishing House allocated – One Million Five Hundred and Fifty Seven (R1 557m)
- Collaborated with Freedom Park in facilitating an educational visit for fifteen (15) students to the heritage site. This initiative aimed to promote national heritage sites and provide learners with an opportunity to gain knowledge and share best practices around cultural and heritage preservation.
- Collaborated with various foundations in preserving of our cultural heritage. Amongst others:
  - Onkgopotse Tiro Foundation in implementing the memorial lecture.

- Also with Dr Ruth Mompoti Foundation in celebrating Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti's birthday through the pilgrimage.
- Work with different Traditional Authorities in implementing our arts, culture and heritage programmes. To this effect, **We**:
  - ✓ supported Batlhaping Ba ga Maldi
  - ✓ Batlhaping Ba ga Phuduhutswana in Matlapaneng,
  - ✓ Batlharo Boo Tokwana ba ga Masibi,
  - ✓ Bahurutshe Boo Morutlwa
- Commemorated key national days, including Freedom Day, Human Rights Day, Africa Day, Youth Day, Women's Day, Heritage Day, and the Day of Reconciliation, in recognition of their significance in promoting unity, reflection, and national identity.
- Commemorated and celebrated significant historic and cultural observances, including Nelson Mandela Day, International Translation Day, International Mother Tongue Day, Deaf Awareness Day, International Museums Day, Africa Day, African Traditional Medicine Day, and Black History Month, in recognition of their importance in promoting cultural diversity, inclusivity, and heritage preservation.
- Established district writers' fora across the province through the Bokone Bophirima Publishing House. These forums play an important role in identifying, nurturing, and supporting emerging writers and storytellers.
- Assisted twenty-five (25) budding writers in writing and publishing books, poetry, short stories and novels.
- Supported local writers by purchasing locally produced books, including indigenous language material, for distribution to community libraries.

- Successfully implemented the Mahika Mahikeng Arts Festival, which attracted over sixteen-thousand (16,000) patrons across the three-day programme. The festival created meaningful employment opportunities within the creative industries and contributed positively to the growth of the local economy. Through partnership with the National Department, we have successfully held the Hello First Festival in Dr Kenneth Kauda District. This collaboration will further continue in the new financial year.
- In addition Madam Speaker, Mmabana successfully hosted the Taung Cultural Calabash, which created valuable opportunities for artists across the province, mainly in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District. The success of the event was largely driven by extensive stakeholder consultations and inclusive planning and implementation processes.
- The 2025 edition featured a refreshed and repackaged main event, with a stronger youth focus reflected in the programme line-up, as well as the introduction of a headline segment for the fashion showcase. In this regard, Mmabana partnered with renowned international designer Mr. David Tlale, who conducted masterclasses and ultimately selected two emerging designers to participate in his incubation programme.
- These achievements provide a solid foundation for further strengthening and enhancing future editions of the Taung Cultural Calabash.
- Both these projects continue to support our local creative sector by providing platforms that enables our artists to showcase their talent.
- Officially opened three (3) community libraries to deliver services to the communities.

- ✓ The Madibe-a-Makgabana Community Library was officially opened on 6 December 2025 during the Provincial Day of Reconciliation celebration, which was held in conjunction with the 18th Annual Kgotha Kgothe of Madibe-a-Makgabana.
  - ✓ Tsweleng Community Library in the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality was officially opened on 13 March 2026 as part of the Provincial Human Rights Day celebrations.
  - ✓ On 6 March 2026, as part of the Provincial Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, the Department, in partnership with the Rustenburg Local Municipality, Rustenburg Chrome Mines, and the Royal Bafokeng Institute, officially opened the Tshukudu Community Library in Thekwane, within the Rustenburg Local Municipality in the Bojanala District. The project was funded by Rustenburg Chrome Mines, while the Department has committed to ensuring the sustainability of the facility through the provision of personnel, books, and internet services.
- Completed Tseoge, Kudungwane and Matloding cultural villages.
  - Hon Speaker, Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sports Foundation Taung Centre's Roof which was blown off by the storms in 2023 has been fixed in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Roads.
  - A total of nineteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-six (19,856) library books were procured for community libraries at a cost of R7 million. This investment aims to replenish collections and enhance the range and quality of content available across various libraries.
  - The Department remains committed to supporting and promoting local writers within the North West Province. In the 2025/2026 financial year, a total of Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty

Two (6,742) books, valued at Two Million, one hundred and eleven thousand, eight hundred and one rand and fifty-three cents (R2 111 801.53) were procured from local authors. Notably, nineteen (19) of the forty-six (46) supported writers were women. This initiative underscores our commitment to developing and promoting local content while advancing inclusivity within the literary sector.

- Toys, learning aids, and games were procured and distributed to all newly established libraries as part of the Toy Library Service, aimed at supporting early childhood development.
- Records management workshops and inspections were conducted across identified government bodies during the 2025/26 financial year, as part of efforts in strengthening compliance and improve governance practices.
- To ensure the preservation of archival records, systematic appraisals are conducted and disposal authorities are issued to government bodies. The Department will further ensure that records of enduring value are transferred to the repository, for permanent preservation and made accessible to the public.
- The Annual Archives Awareness Programme was held in May 2025, beginning with a provincial launch followed by school-based awareness activities in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District.
- The Department successfully hosted the 2026 National Archives Awareness Week in the Province from 8 to 15 May 2026, under the theme “Archives for Justice.” Furthermore, on 9 June 2026, in celebration of International Archives Day, the Department has unveiled a travelling exhibition titled “Mission Mzansi: German Missionary Roots in South Africa.” The exhibition is open to the public at the Provincial Archives Building from 9 to 30 June 2026. Historians, learners, educators, students from tertiary institutions,



and the broader community are encouraged to visit and engage with this exhibition.

- The 2nd Oral History Colloquium was held in September 2025 in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, within the Bojanala District. The event reflected a growing interest in the Oral History Programme, bringing together oral historians, archivists, scholars, community elders, and cultural activists. It provided a platform to reflect on methodologies for recovering previously suppressed narratives and to share innovative approaches to memory preservation.
- Oral history recordings focused on liberation struggle veterans, beginning with selected participants in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, as part of efforts to preserve, protect and document historical narratives for future generations.
- This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to preserve, document, and safeguard significant historical narratives for future generations.
- Initiated and conducted oral history interviews with military veterans in Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality and the Traditional Council of Bahurutshe Ba ga Moiloa in Mokgola.

A total of ten productions, along with a videographer, were funded to participate in the National Arts Festival.

It is with great pride that we inform this august House that two of these productions received Ovation Awards at the National Arts Festival, reflecting the high quality and impact of talent emerging from the North West Province before larger and more diverse audiences.

The focus of Mmabana has moved from focusing on quantity of productions or artists supported to the quality supported. In order to improve on the quality of productions, Mmabana has introduced a selection criteria to ensure that productions supported to perform at the

National Arts Festival are of high quality. Very experienced and professional individuals in theatre were appointed to preside over the selection of productions participating at the 2026 National Arts Festival in Makhanda.

Following the implementation of the 2025/26 projects, the funding policy has been reviewed to better respond to the needs on the ground and to promote high-impact initiatives within the sector. In this regard, a new category of special projects has been introduced, which will receive funding over a three-year period, subject to their economic viability and long-term sustainability. The special projects should:

- demonstrate potential to generate revenue and be sustainable beyond three years,
- provide proof that they have been operational in the creative sector and arts sector for a period not below three years,
- provide financial statements to support their existence and performance,
- Demonstrate capability to create jobs for marginalized groups.

In 2024, the Ultimate Talent Search was successfully hosted in the Province. However, due to budget constraints experienced in the 2025 financial year, no funding was allocated to this flagship programme. Despite this setback, Mmabana provided support to the winners of the 2024 Ultimate Talent Search by facilitating the recording of their artistic work, thereby ensuring continued development and exposure of their talents. The following are the top three winners of the 2024 Ultimate Talent Search and the Mmabana intervention in exposing their talents:

- Position 1. Ms. Gomotsang Seitumeng from Rustenburg recorded a ten song gospel album and one music video,

- Position 2. Mr. Ntsikelelo Mathe from Taung recorded four songs and one music video, and
- Position 3 Mr. Keaotshepa Morake from Mahikeng recorded a single and one music video.

In recording all these artistic work, 100% Local North West talent was utilized across the province. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following production team that worked tirelessly with our winners:

- Producer Mr. Thabiso (Tasman) Tsotetsi from Ngaka Modiri Molema district.
- Co- Producer Mr. Tumisang (Green Fingers) Mokate from Ngaka Modiri Molema District
- Co-Producer Mr. Omega Khunou from Bojanala district
- Sound Engineer Mr. Tshepo Vena from Ngaka Modiri Molema district
- Music Video Production by Mr. Kopano Molokwane from Bojanala (Madibeng municipality)
- Musical Director Mr. Orethusitse (Thusi) Mabula from Ngaka Modiri Molema District

Madam Speaker, I want to encourage our top three winners of the 2024 Ultimate Talent Search to draw some inspiration and be encouraged by the work of one of our own, from Bokone Bophirma, Kgethang Konese, whose massive single hit “Rea Ho Leboha” surpassed a million plays and reached number 1 hotspot on iTunes charts.

**Madam Speaker, We:**

Successfully achieved the automation of Provincial Archives through the implementation of the national Automated Archival Information System

(AToM) by SITA, in partnership with the National Archives and Records Service.

- Arranged and described a total of fifty linear meters of archival records on the AToM system. The capturing and publication of archival material will continue to ensure remote public access through the AToM platform, integrated within the National Automated Archival Information Retrieval System (NAIRS) database.
- Ensured participation of four hundred and seventy-two (472) learners in the National School Sport Championships against a target of three hundred and thirty-six (336).
- Through the Sports Academy, we provided support to five hundred and forty-two (542) high performance athletes, against a target of four hundred (400).
- Successfully trained four hundred and fifty-seven (457) individuals in sports and recreation programmes, exceeding the initial target of four hundred and fifteen (415). This achievement was made possible through strong collaboration with various sport federations, whose valuable contribution is greatly appreciated.
- Provided two hundred (200) schools, clubs and hubs with equipment and attire to enable participation in sport and recreation, against a target of hundred and fifty-seven (157).
- Supported one hundred and eighty-eight (188) runners from the province to participate in major events. This included one hundred and seventy-four (174) runners who participated in the Comrades Marathon and fourteen (14) runners who competed in the Two Oceans Marathon.
- Supported athletes from the province to participate in the Community Sport and Active Recreation (Siyadlala) programme



held in Florida, USA, thereby providing them with valuable international exposure and opportunities for development.

- Supported cheerleaders to international cheerleading world championships in Florida.
- Successfully hosted the Athletic South Africa (ASA) Youth Championships in Potchefstroom, showcasing our capacity to host major sporting events.
- Partnered with Netball South Africa and successfully hosted Telkom Netball League in Suncity, Rustenburg.
- Supported the hosting of the N12 Marathon in Potchefstroom, which is a qualifier for the Comrades marathon.
- North West athletes delivered an outstanding performance at the 2025 Comrades Marathon, securing first place, with five (5) athletes from the North West Province finishing within the top ten positions.
- Hosted the Provincial Hiking Day in Klein Marico as part of the efforts to promote healthy lifestyles through trail and outdoor recreational activities. The facility is now fully operational, and ongoing improvements will continue to enhance its accessibility and user experience.
- Successfully hosted the Provincial Indigenous Games in the Bojanala District, with participation from all four districts across the province.
- Supported the Chess team to represent the province in Spain.
- Also supported karate athletes to participate in an international competition in Japan, providing them with valuable exposure and opportunities to compete in the global stage.



- Hosted the Provincial Gymnastics Championships at the Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation as part of preparations for the National School Sport Championships.
- Hosted the Provincial Softball Championships in Bojanala, Hartbeespoort, and selected top-performing players to represent the province at the National School Sport Championships.
- Supported the provincial gymnastics team to participate in an international competition in China, providing athletes with valuable global exposure and opportunities to compete at a high-performance level.
- Successfully hosted the Move-for-Health Big Walk and Recreation Day, in collaboration with Sun City, under the banner of the “Kasi Ride” initiative held at Sun City.
- Supported motorsport commonly referred to as *Spinning* through the successful hosting of spinning events during the Mahika Mahikeng Festival. This programme continues to attract large audiences, and we remain committed to its ongoing support given its popularity and contribution to the local events economy.
- Collaborated with Monk Matsepe Foundation to host a rural sports tournament, during which two soccer players were selected to join Orbit College FC, and one was selected for Mamelodi Sundowns FC. In addition, we also collaborated with Mr. Kagiso Dipotelo commonly known as Mahiro for the tournaments which took place in Bojanala.
- This achievement demonstrates the tangible impact of our Rural Sports Development Programmes in identifying and nurturing emerging talent.

- Madam Speaker, through the Artistic Funding Programme, a total of twenty-three (23) projects were supported during the 2025/26 financial year. This support has played a critical role in sustaining the sector, providing platforms for artists to showcase their work, and creating temporary employment opportunities within the creative industries.
- We have undertaken renovation work at Donkervlei as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that recreational facilities remain functional and accessible, recognising the critical role they play in the development of young people. We also commend and appreciate the resilience and commitment demonstrated by our athletes, who continue to excel despite challenging circumstances.

**Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla**, the report reflects that we have supported numerous stakeholders and partners in implementing arts, culture, sport and recreation programmes. This is despite budgetary constraints, particularly within the equitable share allocation. We acknowledge and appreciate the critical support received from the National Department and the Provincial Treasury in enabling these efforts.

**Madam Speaker, allow me to present the 2026/27 Financial Year priorities and commitments:**

**Madam Speaker, in 2026/2027 we will:**

- Speaker, this year, priority will be given to the appointment of key personnel and both the department and our entities. In actual fact the first batch of some of the senior and middle management positions have already been advertised. At Mmabana the recruitment of the Board of Directors, as well as key executive leadership positions, including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

and Chief Financial Officer (CFO). In addition, critical management roles such as centre managers will be filled, alongside the recruitment of essential core programme personnel. These appointments are aimed at strengthening governance and ensuring the delivery of high-quality, impactful programmes across the entity.

- Create 2000 job opportunities as an intervention responding to unemployment. An amount of R3,2m has been allocated for the implementation of the EPWP Programme.
- Continue to implement programmes to create awareness and contribute towards fighting Gender Based Violence and Femicide. An amount of One Million Rand (R1m) has been set aside for those programmes.

Madam Speaker, the Department continues to support initiatives that expose creative products to diverse markets and audiences, thereby promoting artists and expanding access to opportunities for networking, skills exchange, partnership development, and income generation. While numerous platforms have been established to support the sector, these efforts remain insufficient in meeting the growing demands and evolving needs of the industry.

We aim to expand and strengthen platforms that enhance the production and dissemination of local content, while increasing its exposure to relevant markets. This cultural capital plays a critical role in shaping our identity and positioning us within the global landscape. However, many arts practitioners, structures, and formations continue to face challenges in sustaining their creative and cultural initiatives, largely due to inadequate platforms, limited systems, and the absence of robust and responsive industry policies.



The Department will continue to support our Dikgosi and traditional councils in their efforts to promote Setswana traditions and cultural practices. This support is essential in ensuring the preservation and sustainability of our rich cultural heritage for future generations.

Let me take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to all Traditional Leaders such as Kgosi Montshiwa, Kgosi Motshegare, Kgosi Tawana and many others who continue to partner with the department in preserving our Setswana heritage.

The support of the department is essential in ensuring the preservation and sustainability of our rich cultural heritage for future generations.

Honourable Members, the Arts, Culture and Heritage Programme plays a pivotal role in fostering a sense of belonging and unity among our people through social cohesion initiatives, including the celebration of national commemorative days.

Honourable Members, it is an honour to announce that we have secured a total of R6 million in funding for the Ultimate Talent Search, which will be made available over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period. This investment will ensure the continuation of this important flagship programme, enabling us to identify, nurture, and position emerging talent from our province within the broader market.

Madam Speaker in the new financial year the department will continue to support the cultural and creative sector through the seventeen (17) clusters established by the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. We will soon be launching these sectors in the province. We have already engaged the sector on their programs including the challenges they face. We have listened to the issues raised and together we will be embarking on a journey to minimize or overcome them. This approach



strengthens sector coordination, ensuring a more coherent, accountable, and impactful ecosystem, with empowered leadership structures capable of driving sustainable growth, transformation, and effective policy engagement.

In the 2026/27 financial year, the Department will provide financial support to various priorities as listed:

- R136,1 million to be transferred to Mmabana Arts, Culture, Sports Foundation.
- R5,3 million to be transferred to committees (PLC, PGNC, PHRA, Publishing House).
- R1.3 million to be transferred to Community Arts Centers,
- R1.1 million to support Museums,
- R6.7 million to implement Commemorative days,
- R2 million for implementation of the Provincial Creative awards.
- R12 million to support Artists in the Province,
- R5 million to support Film Development,
- R15 million to host the South African Music Awards (SAMA's) as they make a historic return to the Province.
- R2 million to develop the Moses Kotane statue.

Hon Speaker, Libraries are important institutions that play a key role in building knowledge, supporting research, and advancing development. They serve as accessible centers of information, learning, and innovation, contributing significantly to educational growth and the empowerment of communities.

Honourable Members in the 2026/27 Financial Year on Library Services Programme we;

- Officially open the Dinokana Community Library in August 2026, in conjunction with the Provincial Women's Day celebrations. Construction of the facility has been completed, and preparations are currently underway for the official opening.
- Complete the planning processes and appoint contractors for the development of library projects in Matlosana Extension, Coverdale/Boitumelong, Bodibe, and Ganyesa Community Libraries.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2026, together with the Department of Public Works and Roads, we will introduce the Mabeskraal library contractor. The one for Ganyesa Library will follow thereafter.
- Also finalise the processes for the delivery and installation of modular library structures in Kgakala, Picong, Tosca, and Moshana.
- The long-awaited refurbishment of the Mmabana Head Office, which was torched in 2018, is now nearing completion following the commencement of the project in November 2025. During the 2024/25 financial year, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) committed funding for the refurbishment over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period from 2024/25 to 2026/27. The project is expected to reach practical completion by July 2026.
- We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the National Department for its continued support to the North West Province.
- While this milestone represents significant progress, a funding shortfall remains. Additional resources are still required to fully address critical areas, including theatre technical infrastructure, ICT

systems, and the provision of appropriate furniture, to ensure the facility is fully functional and meets operational standards.

- Will conduct sixteen (16) records management inspections and facilitate eight (8) records management workshops as part of the ongoing efforts to capacitate government institutions and strengthen compliance in records management practices.
- All newly established libraries equipped with audio-visual rooms will be provided with assistive devices to enable blind and visually impaired users to access information effectively and inclusively.
- Will continue with oral history interviews during the 2026/27 financial year, ensuring that previously undocumented histories are captured, preserved, and safeguarded within the Provincial Repository for future generations.

**Honourable Speaker, the Department has allocated resources to support the following key strategic priorities in order to accelerate service delivery:**

- R4 million towards the procurement of library books, of which R2.3 must be from local authors. This investment aims to encourage the production of local content, promote Setswana literature, and ensure that these works are accessible across all public libraries in the North West Province.
- R7 million for procurement of library furniture to ensure that libraries are equipped with necessary resources.
- R34.3 million for implementation of Library capital projects,
- R21.7 million to support Local municipalities to implement library services (and we will strengthen monitoring)
- R1.7 million to support Library for the Blind project.



Madam Speaker, I wish to assure the people of Bokone Bophirima that this year the Mahika Mahika Festival and the Taung Cultural Calabash will be bigger and even more impactful. We call on the stakeholders and the private sector to partner with us in amplifying the growth and economic impact of these two provincial flagship projects. We also call upon the people of Bokone Bophirima and the country at large to support these provincial flagship projects. We encourage everyone to not request for free tickets but rather purchase them, because their support will not only ensure the growth, development and sustainability of these provincial flagship projects

Madam Speaker, the Sports and Recreation Programme provides sustainable mass participation opportunities across all age groups. This refers to inclusive, culturally responsive, and community-based physical activity programmes designed to promote lifelong health and well-being. These initiatives are implemented in partnership with various stakeholders and are coordinated through the Provincial Sports Confederation, together with all its affiliated member federations.

The Department is responsible for the promotion, development, and coordination of sport and recreation activities across the province. Our core deliverables include the training and development of sport administrators, coaches, and technical officials, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills and competencies in all aspects of sport management and administration.

The Sports and Recreation Programme is primarily funded through the National Mass Participation and Sport Development Conditional Grant, with limited allocation from the equitable share budget.



Honourable Speaker, it is an undisputed reality that the Province faces significant challenges relating to sport infrastructure. These challenges are deeply rooted in historical deprivation and inequalities and as such, require urgent and sustained intervention. We cannot afford to overlook or delay addressing this critical matter.

Speaker, it is important to note that the development and maintenance of sport infrastructure fall primarily within the mandate of Local Municipalities as part of local government responsibilities. Our role as the Department is to provide strategic support and, most importantly, to deliver programmes that maximize the use of available facilities and promote participation across the province.

The utilization and monitoring of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), particularly allocations designated for sport facilities, will require the implementation of stringent oversight measures. There is a need for closer collaboration between the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Provincial Treasury, and the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation (ACSR) to ensure the effective planning, funding, and development of sport infrastructure.

Honourable Speaker, the lack of a functional stadium capable of hosting Premier Soccer League (PSL) matches remains a pressing reality in our Province. The North West Provincial Government must take deliberate and decisive steps to fund the refurbishment of Mmabatho Stadium. In addition, we must continue to support efforts to upgrade and restore Moruleng Stadium, Olympia Stadium, Olenpark Stadium, which have previously hosted major soccer matches and have the potential to do so again. We call on the private sector to collaborate and join hands with us in developing and maintaining our infrastructural assets.

In principle, the National Department has committed to supporting the refurbishment of certain critical areas of the Mmabatho Stadium, with technical processes currently being finalized. On that note Speaker, we urge the Legislature to consider augmenting the funding that will be provided by the National Department, in order to strengthen this collaborative partnership and restore Mmabatho Stadium to its former glory days.

We have engaged the Department of Public Works and Roads to provide technical support and capacity to the process, as we prepare to approach Executive Council for a comprehensive support package.

Madam Speaker, on Sport Development and Recreation, the following key priorities are funded in the 2026/27 financial year:

- R11,8 million to support academies,
- R4 million to support Provincial Sports Confederation,
- R2 million to support the National Summer Olympics,
- R500 000 for the Provincial Hiking.
- R 1,7 million to support the Comrade Marathon.
- R 2 million for support of the implementation of the Rural Sport Development Games,
- R300 000 for Cycling Development
- R1 000 000 for Bojanala Marathon
- R2 000 000 for Maintenance of Stadia and recreation centers
- R2 000 000 for hosting the Provincial Sports Awards,
- R2 000 000 for hosting N12 marathon,
- R2 000 000 for hosting National Championships.

The department will continue to place school sport at the pinnacle of sport development, as articulated in the National Development Plan. In this

regard, the Department will implement the following programmes and targeted support interventions to strengthen and expand school sport across the province: **We,**

- Will host a Provincial Sports Lekgotla aimed at strengthening collaboration, coordination, and oversight with key stakeholders, including the North West Provincial Sports Confederation and various sport federations. Furthermore, the continued funding of federations will play a critical role in advancing sport development and ensuring sustainable growth within the sector.
- Will strengthen and prioritise monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure that all funded federations are held accountable and deliver on their mandates effectively.
- Will promote well-designed governance structures that enhance the performance, credibility, and effectiveness of sport and recreation institutions, thereby strengthening talent identification and development pathways across the province.

The implementation of the Rural Sports Development Programme remains fundamental in driving inclusivity and transformation within the sector. This programme will be further strengthened given its significant impact, particularly in rural areas where access to sport infrastructure and development programmes remains limited. The Rural Sports Development Programme will place scouts at the centre to identify and nurture and expose rural talent.

The inclusion of persons living with disabilities remains a key strategic priority, reflecting our constitutional commitment under the Mass Participation and Active Nation Programme. The Department will continue to expand access and participation, with a targeted focus on women,



persons living with disabilities, and communities in rural and township areas.

We will host the Provincial Sports Awards and the Provincial Creative Awards to acknowledge, honour, and celebrate individuals and teams who have demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement in their respective fields.

Honorable Members, the implementation of Project 350, aimed at preparing athletes from the Province to be among the final 350 athletes selected to represent the country at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

We have already supported athletes who participated in the 2026 Comrades Marathon. Although their performance on the up-run did not meet expectations, we remain proud of their dedication, resilience, and contribution in representing the Province on this prestigious platform.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, we acknowledge that, despite our dedicated efforts, we have not yet reached every individual and community in need of our services. While our resources remain constrained, our resolve is unwavering. We are committed to confronting the challenges before us with determination and purpose, and to continuously strengthen our efforts to deliver meaningful, inclusive, and impactful services to the people of the North West Province.

We urge private sector, and all other potential funding institutions to work with government to develop Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation in the Province.

Honourable Speak, let me take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Premier, my colleagues in the Executive Council, the Portfolio Committee, and the sectors we serve; we value your contribution and support.

I want to thank the Head of Department, Ntate Mogorosi, Acting CEO Ntate Metsileng, and ACSR and Mmabana Management team, and the entire staff for their hard work. I know it is not easy.

I also want to thank my family for the support they provide in the execution of my responsibilities. The African National Congress in the North West Province led by the Provincial Chair, Comrade Nono Maloyi and the Provincial Secretary, Comrade Louis Diremelo; appreciation to the African National Congress for having entrusted me with the responsibility to lead this Department. I also want to thank my Comrades.

With those words, I hereby table the Budget Vote for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation for the 2026/27 financial year for approval.

**Ke a leboga. I Thank you. Baie dankie.**









arts, culture,  
sports & recreation

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

BUILDING A  
NORTH WEST PROVINCE  
FOR ALL  
THAT WORKS



# 2026/27 BUDGET & POLICY VOTE

## DEPARTMENT OF ACSR



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