



culture, sport & recreation  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEC THANDI SHONGWE

# **2021/22 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH**

08 JUNE 2021

**DCSR.OFFICIAL**



Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Honourable Makhosazane Masilela

Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Honourable Jim Skosana

Premier of the Mpumalanga Province, Honourable Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, Inkosi Ngomane

MMCs for Culture, Sport and Recreation from District and Local Municipalities

Head of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mr Godfrey Ntombela and other

Heads of Departments

Leadership of Sport Federations

Leadership of Multi Religious Formations

Representatives of the CWUSA and CCIFSA

Comrades and friends

Members of the media

Invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

## INTRODUCTION

1. Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that South Africa is a beacon of hope in areas of championing women's rights and women empowerment. This is a culmination of a long history of struggle by a great visionary, uMama Charlotte Maxeke and a generation of heroines like Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Nokuthula Simelane and many others.
2. Among Maxeke's array of achievements, including being the first woman in South Africa to graduate with a university degree and being the first president of Bantu Women's League, she never lost touch with the people whom she dully served. She inspired a generation of women who came after her to fight for their rights and for the attainment of freedom and democracy in South Africa.
3. Today, as we reap great rewards from her efforts and celebrate 2021 as the Year of Charlotte Maxeke, perhaps the greatest way to honour her memory would be to deepen Constitutional Democracy and Nation Building where all people in Mpumalanga will live together in harmony.
4. As the new generation of women leaders, we carry our responsibilities standing on the shoulders of giants like Maxeke. Her teachings and successes, which cannot be rivaled, inspire us to endeavor for more. As uMama Maxeke taught us, this work is not for ourselves as leaders, every leader must kill that spirit of self. Leaders must not live above their people, but live with them. If they rise, they must bring someone with. This wise counsel by Maxeke guides our work. We don't seek personal glory, but we are preoccupied with the agenda of uplifting the lives of our people
5. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Constitution. The late President Nelson Mandela said the following about the importance of the Consitution and I qoute "**...it celebrates the richness of the diversity of culture, religion and beliefs of South Africans and affirms that we all belong as equals in our nation. It commits the state to respect, to protect, to promote and to fulfill the rights as stipulated in the Bill of Rights, acknowledging that it is not enough for government to refrain from violating people's rights.**"

6. The adoption of the Constitution would not have been possible if it were not for the contribution of liberation stalwarts such as Maxeke, who played a leading role in the attainment of freedom and democracy in the country.

7. Madam Speaker, allow me to celebrate and acknowledge Thando Mahlangu, who displayed bravery under difficult circumstances when he was kicked out of a shopping centre for wearing his Ndebele traditional attire, which was deemed “inappropriate”.

8. In the face of great injustice against him and his culture, the cultural activist and author, stood up and fought against cultural intolerance. He did not fight for himself and AmaNdebele but he fought for South Africans across all races. He fought for his Constitutional right. A right to practice his culture, without fear or prejudice. The Bill of Rights guarantees, among others, human dignity, equality, freedom of religion, belief and opinion. The move by the shopping centre manager was meant to strip him off all his rights and humiliate him but it elevated his culture to another level.

9. Today I stand before this House to commend Mahlangu and many others who fought and crushed cultural intolerance when it reared its ugly head in our society and our beloved country. We extend our appreciation to all those who are pulling all the stops to protect the Constitution, that we regard as the national birth certificate of South Africa. The country has no place for such barbaric behavior and any other form of human rights violation and racial discrimination in society.

10. Madam Speaker, as a Department responsible for social cohesion and nation building, we call upon fellow South Africans to join us in building a cohesive and safer society. It will take all hands on deck approach to advance constitutional democracy, human rights and equality and to promote non-racialism, non-sexism, equality and human solidarity, to build unity amongst South Africans, as well as with the region, continent and the international community and to encourage healing of individuals and communities.

11. The Department is using sport and culture, which are conduits for unity, to foster social cohesion and nation building. Sport and the culture always bring us together and closer. We celebrated together in 2019 when the Springboks won the Rugby World Cup and we will celebrate as one nation when our athletes dominate the Olympic stage in Japan, the Land of the Rising Sun next month. As was the case during the 2019 Rugby World Cup, Mpumalanga will be well represented at the Olympics. Banele Shabangu, who hails from Barberton, has qualified for the global showpiece in the 4x100 Women's event. The sprinter is a product of Community Sport and Recreation Programme, where she made a name for herself by dominating Drie Stokkies at National Indigenous Games Festival.

## COVID-19

12. Honourable Speaker, the tabling of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation (Vote 11) Policy and Budget Speech 2021/22 Financial Year comes at a time when the world is faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has been under a national lockdown for the better part of the 2020/21 financial year.

13. The Coronavirus pandemic has affected all aspects of our lives especially in the sporting and creative sectors. Honourable Speaker, to minimize the effects of the virus in society and to keep the service delivery wheels turning, the Department turned to innovation and adapted to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) to deliver services to the people of Mpumalanga as mandated by the Sixth Administration. The advent of the 4IR allowed us to fight the spread of the disease with officials working remotely and marked National Commemorative Days, among others, in hybrid and virtual formats.

14. Honourable Speaker, in the previous Financial Year the Department responded to the call made by Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture to provide a relief fund for artists and athletes, who made a living from these sectors and were unable to do so because of the National State of Disaster.

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

### Arts and Culture

15. Honourable Speaker, the Department continues in its endeavour to implement programmes and projects that seek to foster constitutional values, contribute towards combating racism, xenophobia and related intolerances.

16. In the 2020/21 Financial Year, the Department hosted a Provincial Social Cohesion Community Dialogue Conference. We also hosted three (3) National Commemorative Days, Youth Day, Women's Day and Heritage Day. In the current Financial Year, the Department will host three (3) Regional Social Cohesion Dialogues and five (5) National Commemorative Days. All COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be adhered to.

17. Honourable Speaker, as we are tasked to advance social intergration while celebrating cultural diversity we had to scale down in hosting the Annual Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience and South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards hosted in the previous Financial Year. The two (2) signature events, will be delivered in the Third Quarter of the 2021/22 Financial Year, in line with COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

18. Honourable Speaker, the support of community-based structures assists the Department to cover broader space of service delivery. In 2020/21 Financial Year, the Department supported six (6) structures such as Cultural and Creative Industry Federation SA, Moral Regeneration Movement, Mpumalanga Heritage and Heal Our Land Prayer through Big Fish Entertainment, Mpumalanga Gospel Music Awards, Music Creatives Workshop and Mpumalanga's Got Talent.

### Language Services

19. Honourable Speaker, Section 30 of the Constitution states that, **"Everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice."** As per the Provincial Language Act of 2014, the Department is mandated to develop isiNdebele and Siswati to promote multilingualism. In line with this mandate, we will conduct a IsiNdebele and Siswati Short

Story Writing Competition that will culminate in the publishing of two short story anthologies. This competition will unearth untapped writing talents in the province. The entries closed on the 4th of June 2021 and the winners will be announced on International Mother Tongue Day, 21 February 2022 where the two books will be launched.

### **Heritage and Museums**

20. Madam Speaker, the arts, culture and heritage sector was not spared by the COVID-19 pandemic forcing closure of museums and cultural institutions in the country. However, there was a silver lining, in that our museums and heritage sites managed to attract at least more than 3 000 local patrons during the 2020/21 Financial Year.

21. The Department was also able to conclude maintenance and restoration work at the Diggings Site in Pilgrim's Rest and Fernlea House Museum in Barberton, respectively. In the current Financial Year, we will continue maintenance and restoration of both provincial and municipal museums, Mashishing and Nomoya Masilela.

22. Honourable Speaker, the Department will continue to invest in the transformation of the heritage landscape in the province through the support of the Provincial Geographic Names Committee. In 2020/21 Financial Year, five (5) geographical names and features were reviewed as follows; in Mkhondo Local Municipality, *Driehoek to Uhlelo, Ishelo to Uhlelo, Donkerhoek to Entababusuku, Kransbank to eKaluka*. In Emalahleni Local Municipality; Piet Koornhof Building has been proposed to be renamed to Solly Moroape. These name changes were submitted to the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture for approval.

23. Madam Speaker, we are also pleased by the recent pronouncement by the Honourable Premier, Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane to standardize the naming of Kwamhlanga Government Complex and its various buildings, as it was done in the Provincial Government buildings.

This decision followed a broad consultative process and will go a long way in promoting tourism through flora and fauna and immortalizing heroes and heroines, who are significant in the history and heritage of Nkangala District.

24. Honourable Speaker, in the current financial year, the Department will finalize the feasibility studies and conceptualize designs for the development of the Lowveld Massacre and Saul Mkhize Legacy Sites as part of the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route project through the budget allocated by the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

25. Honourable Speaker, this year marks the 35th Commemoration of the Mbuzini Tragedy where Samora Machel and 33 of his countrymen perished during a plane crash that took place on the night of the 19th of October 1986. It is envisaged that both Presidents of South Africa and Mozambique will grace the event during the major commemoration coordinated by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation.

## **LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**

### ***Library Services***

26. Honourable Speaker, in order to redress the imbalances of the past and to provide equal opportunities, the Department has provided access to library services. In the 2020/21 Financial Year, the Department completed one (1) new state-of-the-art library facility at Thubelihle Public Library in Emalahleni Local Municipality.

27. We plan to build and complete two (2) new library facilities in Newtown in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and Kamatsamo (Schoemansdal) in Nkomazi Local Municipality and will continue to support 117 existing libraries with resources such as free internet to create access to information.

28. We will also upgrade eMalahleni Public Library. In the previous Financial Year, the Department maintained five (5) existing libraries at Lynnville, Kamachekeza, Daggakraal, Kwa-Guqa and Mafemani.



29. In the current Financial Year, working together with the Department of Correctional Services, the Department plans to carry out maintenance work at Ogies, Sundra, Milan Park, Lebogang, Mbuzini and Mbombela Regional libraries.

30. Honourable Speaker, in mitigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has launched a digital library platform, which allows our people to read books anytime, anywhere. The digital library has a collection of 2 597 electronic books, inclusive of fiction, non-fiction and books written in indigenous languages. In the current Financial Year, 1 000 electronic books will be procured, which will accumulatively reach 3 597 electronic books. Details on how to signup on the digital library are available on the Departmental website and social media pages.

31. The Department in collaboration with the South African Library for the Blind increased the number of mini-libraries from 21 to 28. Mini-libraries provide services to partially sighted users and at the moment it boasts 524 registered users.

32. Honourable Speaker, we are also pleased to report that the Department has since received funding for the implementation of the Mpumalanga Library Management System (MPULIMS) during the Second Budget Adjustment of 2020/21 Financial Year. The roll-out plan for the MPULIMS is progressing well as it will enable libraries to do cataloguing, classification, book circulation, inter-library loans, registration, management of administrators and patrons as well as retrieving reports. Madam Speaker, all these functions were done manually without the system.

### **Archive Services**

33. In the 2020/21 Financial Year, we hosted the Sixth Annual Oral History Conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was held in virtual format. The Oral History Conference provides a platform to preserve and restore the history and heritage of our people. Preparations for the seventh edition of the conference have started in earnest and the Department is encouraged by interest shown by our people, who responded in numbers when we issued a call for papers.

## SPORT AND RECREATION

### *Sport*

34. Honourable speaker, in the last Financial Year, we successfully hosted the Mpumalanga Cycling Tour. The race is key in positioning the province as the ultimate destination for sport tourism. The Department working together with Mpumalanga Cycling Union and the National Lotteries Commission initiated a transformation agenda to increase the number of cyclists and teams from previously disadvantaged communities. To date, the department has donated 10 bicycles, which will go a long way in transforming the sporting code that was previously dominated by minority groups. In September, we will host the annual Cycling Tour.

35. Honourable Speaker, in the 2020/21 Financial Year, the Department hosted the Annual Mpumalanga Sport Awards, which recognizes and honours individuals and teams who excel both on and off the field. We also wish to thank our sponsors such as Nedbank, Indalo Hotel, Curro Mbombela Academy, My Boet Transport and SuperSport, who contributed to the success of the event. The Mpumalanga Sport Awards will happen later this year.

36. Honourable Speaker, we regret to announce that the much anticipated international rugby match between the Springboks and All Blacks, which was planned to be played at Mbombela Stadium, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this high-profile game was substituted with the Return of the Big Guns International Boxing Tournament, at Graceland Casino in Secunda. The Bill of the Return of the Big Guns featured some of the best fighters in the sport and also upcoming talent from the province, however, there is a need to promote Boxing in the Province.

37. Honourable Speaker, we are also very proud to have a team flying the Mpumalanga flag high in the DSTV Premiership. TS Galaxy FC has represented the province with pride and honour this season. The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has provided support to the Rockets as football is one of the vehicles government uses to promote social cohesion and bring much needed local economic development in the Province.

## ***School, Community Sport and Recreation***

38. Honourable Speaker, School, Community Sport and Recreation was and still is the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since most sporting codes are contact in nature. All school sport activities that are linked to the school calendar were suspended. The Department still managed to provide equipment and attire to 162 schools, hubs and clubs to ensure that when things return to normal they will step out in style.

39. The Department managed to support six (6) Local Leagues such as netball, football, cricket, handball, basketball and tennis as they were played in a controlled environment that complied with COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

40. Honourable Speaker, the prospects of a full rollout of sports activities is still uncertain since all contact sport was suspended on the 19th of May 2021. Therefore, these sports activities will remain suspended until further notice.

41. Honourable Speaker, on the establishment of the High Altitude Training Centre in Emakhazeni, which is a multiyear project, we are pleased to report that the bulk water service supply was initiated in the 2020/21 Financial Year. The work will continue in the current Financial Year. This is an important milestone to profile this mega project as we continue to solicit external funding through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

## **CONCLUSION**

42. As I conclude, let me express my gratitude to the ANC in Mpumalanga which is led by Comrade Mandla Ndlovu, the Acting Chairperson, for entrusting me with the responsibility to be amongst the Honourable members of this House. I also wish to extend words of appreciation to Honourable Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane for her guidance as we implement the mandate of the Department. Let me also thank the Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation under the stewardship of Honourable Pat Ngomana for their support and oversight.

43. My sincere appreciation also goes out to the Head of Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mr Godfrey Ntombela as well as the management and staff for their continued commitment and support. I also want to convey my gratitude to my family for their steadfast and unwavering support at all times.

44. Honourable Speaker, allow me to table the Budget for Vote 11 for the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation allocated according to the following programmes for consideration by the House:



PROGRAMME	AMOUNT R'000
Programme 1: Administration	R115 211 million
Programme 2: Cultural Affairs	R99 379 million
Programme 3: Library and Archives Services	R212 091 million
Programme 4: Sports and Recreation	R195 344 million
TOTAL BUDGET	R622 025 million

I THANK YOU!

