



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTORATE:

Ministry

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**REMARKS BY KZN MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
DR NTUTHUKO MAHLABA AT THE KZNSAC SUMMIT GALA
DINNER ENGAGEMENT
COASTLANDS HOTEL MUSGRAVE, ETHEKWINI METRO
22 MAY 2024**

Programme Moderators

KZN DSAC Acting Head of Department; Dr Thobile Sifunda

CCIFSA KZN Chairperson; Mr Thokozani Zulu

KZN Sports Confederation President; Mr Thami Mchunu

Stakeholders from the Arts and Culture Fraternity

Stakeholders from the Sports and Recreation Fraternity

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening to you all.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to join me here today for this gala dinner.

This year we are celebrating 30 years of freedom and democracy, and it is vital to take stock and reflect on what our sector has achieved and what the next 30 years have in store for us.

Your unwavering support is deeply appreciated, and I do not take lightly your dedication to the success of this department. Our primary responsibility is significant as we aim not only to monetise our sector for the benefit of everyone but also to uplift the spirits of our nation through sports and the arts.



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Last year, we gathered with a shared mission to unite people from all walks of life through sports and the arts. Sports have the remarkable power to bring people together, regardless of their circumstances or backgrounds. The same unifying effect can be found in the arts, whether performing or visual. Let us never lose sight of that fact.

I recognised the need to initiate something that would unite us and help us move forward purposefully. This effort has not ended with Sukasambe; we have worked to create synergies and cooperation in numerous initiatives. I was pleased to see the success of today's plenary sessions and workshops. We now look forward to robust engagement tomorrow at the summit.

In a globalising world where every place begins to feel and look the same, it is the products and activities of Sport, Arts, and Culture that differentiate one place from another, creating a unique competitive advantage. Historically, these fields were seen as insignificant against the backdrop of the industrial economy. However, this situation has changed. Sport, Arts, and Culture are now recognized as integral parts of the information or knowledge economy, contributing substantially to employment and job creation.

Sport, Arts, and Culture have often been neglected in mainstream trade and industry policy in South Africa, despite their significant contributions in developed countries. Tomorrow's conference aims to bring together industry practitioners, relevant stakeholders, government departments, the private sector, and business chambers to engage on innovative solutions that will grow the outputs and efficacy of the sector within our province.

This exchange will provide an opportunity to share innovative ideas and expand dialogue between practitioners and government, promoting mutual understanding, positive change, and cooperation. It will also allow participants to reflect on the state of the sector within the province and discuss the implementation of



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sector-related policies, strengthening work relations and exploring further collaborations.

This aligns with the mandate of our Department, which is to promote, develop, and oversee the growth of our structures with a vision of Opulence and Social Cohesion through Sport, Arts, and Culture.

We recognise that sports and the arts play a crucial role in physical and mental health, self-esteem, social cohesion, and overall well-being. In response, we developed the Ward Intervention Programme (WIP) in September last year to address the unique challenges faced by our youth by bringing a range of services to the ward level.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Working together, we aspire to create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to participate and thrive in the realms of sports, the arts, and culture. Through increased access and involvement in these communities, we can uplift the social mood of our province. As the Provincial Government, we have embraced the mantra: **'LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.'** The sport, arts, and culture sector will not be left behind.

Today's and tomorrow's platforms are intended to initiate a dialogue with you, our valued partners and stakeholders. We acknowledged the need for an Arts and Sport Indaba, which was discussed during my predecessor's tenure. That's why I am here today, ready to listen, learn, and collaborate with all of you as we forge a path forward together.

I look forward to enriching engagement tomorrow at the summit.

Thank you for your attention.