

KZN SPORT, ARTS & CULTURE

BUDGET SPEECH

Feb 10
2024

A CREATIVE, HEALTHY, WINNING AND SOCIALLY COHESIVE PROVINCE



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**



ADDRESS BY



MEC, MR MNTOMUHLE KHAWULA, MPL,

**ON THE TABLING OF THE 2024/25 BUDGET VOTE FOR
THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE**

DATE: 16 AUGUST 2024

Madame Speaker
Deputy Speaker
Honourable Premier, Mr, A.T. Ntuli
Honourable Members of the Executive Council
Honourable Members
Distinguished Guests, Business Leaders,
Members of the Arts and Creative Industries,
Leadership of the Sport Federations and Recreation Entities
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam Speaker, it's an extremely conflicting experience to celebrate and mourn at the same time. The month of August is dedicated solely at celebrating women of our beloved country – Imbokodo. It is also during the same month where we amplify our call for the end to Gender Based Violence. A message that the government of KwaZulu Natal preaches 365 days in the year.

We can't forget the selfless contributions of heroines like Princess Mkabayi, Mama Albertina Sisulu, Princess Magogo, Florence Nightingale, and Mama Mary Malahlela – the first black female medical doctor to take the Hippocratic Oath in June 1947. These are some of the women we celebrate in the month of August for their bravery, assertiveness and resolve to fight the injustices of the tyrant grapples of apartheid and colonial oppression.

It is not easy to celebrate these women and at the same time mourn the death of trailblazers such as Zanele Mbokazi-Nkambule. Mbokazi-Nkambule was an accomplished businesswoman, a seasoned broadcaster and a larger than life figure whose passing has sent shockwaves in South Africa and beyond our borders. Zanele Mbokazi-Nkambule's passion for the creative industry is synonymous with a sea of gospel artists and captains of industries who calved their prowess from her many signature inventions such as The Future Leaders and The Crown Gospel Music Awards – to name but a few.

As the Department seized with the responsibility to support role players in all our nine sectors – the death of one, is one too many as it robs our province of yet a critical antidote of creative genius. We are one creative poor as the province of KwaZulu-Natal. It is therefore a rollercoaster ride to celebrate Women's Month, while heroines like Connie Chuene and Zanele Mbokazi depart to be on the other side.

As I begin my address, allow me to extend my deepest condolences to families of these heroines. Yesterday, I joined industry stakeholders *Ukuyobhonga emswanini*.

Zanele Mbokazi-Nkambule is an embodiment of what women can achieve in the sport, arts, culture and creative industries, through several careers and business opportunities that can be created. She was a living example of how the sectors can play a role in economic development and job creation, and in our quest to drive the industry towards self-sustainability, and less reliance on government funding.

Lala ngoxolo Mbokodo!

Madam Speaker

In commemoration of their struggle to empower women and achieve greater gender equality, it is important for us, as a Department, to ensure that, we provide girls and women, equal participation in sport, arts and culture. Today, let me not only showcase our commitment to women's sport but also commit the Department to act as a catalyst for breaking gender stereotypes in sports. Sportswomen such as Tatjana Smith (swimming), Jo-ane Van Dyk (Javelin), Gerda Steyn (Athletics) and Bongki Msomi (Netball) have become a source of inspiration for aspiring female athletes, demonstrating that with dedication, skill, and support, that women can excel in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Closer to home, we are encouraged by the exploits of our girls from Edendale Technical High School who, under the tutelage of coach Ntombifuthi "Muchichwa" Khumalo, have dominated the school sport arena provincially, nationally and up to the African Continent.

Their achievement, together with that of 18-year-old schoolboy Bayanda Walaza who shone on a grand stage as part of South Africa's 4 X 100m silver medallists in the Paris Olympic Games,

further cements our firm view that school sport and arts should be placed at the pinnacle of our development trajectory.

On that vein, I wish to congratulate all South African athletes, more especially from KwaZulu-Natal, who represented us so bravely at the Olympic Games. As KwaZulu-Natal we have our work cut out to ensure that we increase our representation on Team South Africa and add to podium finishes at the next Olympic Games and other international engagements.

Ohlange and Sibhudu Cave inscription

At the end of July, we were at King Shaka International Airport to welcome our delegation returning from India after two new South African sites were inscribed in the list of World Heritage Sites. The two sites are: The Emergence of modern human behaviour: The Pleistocene Occupation Site of South Africa and the Human Rights, Liberation, Reconciliation: The Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites. These two new inscriptions are serial sites, which means, each of them includes several components. In the Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour, of the three sites which compose the nomination, Sibhudu Cave, in KwaDukuza, is one of them. Of the fourteen components of the Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites, Ohlange, in Inanda, is one of them.

We are very proud of these two additions which bring our Province and the Country prominently on the World Heritage scene. However, these inscriptions would lose their significance if they could not contribute to the socio-economic development of the Province. And for this reason, our work starts today, achieving these inscriptions is just the first step that acknowledges the significance of these sites for the world. But it is now our responsibility to ensure that Sibhudu Cave and Ohlange become a positive and successful examples for sustainable tourism and economic development.

School Sport, Arts and Culture

Bayanda Walaza had the following to say after the famous Olympic victory: *“So, I’ll also say this is a motivation to every kid out there that this is not impossible, age doesn’t matter if you keep on pushing, you’re going to go where you want to be.”*

Madame Speaker, I am of the firm belief that somewhere out there, in the remotest rural village, sitting behind a school desk, is a potential world champion waiting to be discovered. School sport is the bedrock of sport development in the country. School sport and physical education are contained in the National Development Plan and are integral to development in the country. Government, the sport and education sectors, and commercial, community and civil society partners need to work together towards building a sustainable, integrated and united school sport system.

On the back of a National School Sport Indaba held last year, I have called for a Provincial School Sport Imbizo that must involve all stakeholders and focus on a new theory of change, realising the need to resolve all obstacles that are in the way of an inclusive, accessible and quality school sport system in the province. There are 6 256 schools in KwaZulu-Natal, of which less than 10 % have access to structured, organised, and resourced sport participation opportunity. This means that most schools, especially in rural areas, do not have opportunities to access school sport.

The recent Cabinet Lekgotla has called for school sport to be mainstreamed. School sport, arts and culture is implemented in partnership with the Department of Education and the KZN Sport Confederation.

One of our focus areas is to look at the implementation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Integrated Strategic Framework for School Sport which was signed by the Department and our Education counterparts. We have a responsibility to ensure that this MOA and Framework are implemented and to effect improvements where necessary. The aim is to ensure that all learners participate in school sport, arts and culture programmes in their numbers. This will include the availability of infrastructure for learners to access these activities and programmes. If implemented as planned, the school sport, arts and culture programme will increase access for learners to participate on a provincial, national and international platform.

In 2024/25, a total of **R42,6 million** has been set-aside for the implementation of school sport, through the Mass Participation Conditional Grant with the department also allocating an additional **R4,0 million** through the equitable share. The grant enables us to offer development and support programmes for talented and high-performance athletes from predominantly Quintile 1-3 schools. Accordingly, **R14,7 million** is allocated to encourage the development of young people through supporting 132 school sport leagues at the district level in priority codes of sport. An additional **R5,0m** is ring-fenced to support 450 talented learners to showcase their skills at events such as the National School Sport Championship. Whilst **R7,5m** is set aside for the provision of sport equipment and attire to 456 schools – which is 7% of the number of schools in province. The allocation is certainly not enough to get all schools registered to participate in the school sport leagues.

Based on the consistent performance of athletes from Edendale Technical High School in the CAF Championships, I have committed to the establishment of a High-Performance Football Centre for Girls in Umgungundlovu.

The **Sport Ambassador Programme** is being prioritized in 2024/25 with 31 ambassadors trained in a SAFA Level D License Course. The Department is prioritizing identifying the sport ambassadors that will assist in the identification, mentoring and coaching of learners involved in the schools' league programme. Ntombifuthi Khumalo, the coach of Edendale has been assisted to a SAFA B License Course and she has been included in the SAFA National Under 17 Technical Team.

The CAF African Football Championships clearly demonstrates how effective school sport programmes can unearth talent from deep rural areas and provided these athletes with the opportunity to be recruited by national football academies and major football teams in the country and abroad.

The National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in collaboration with Community Arts Centres in KZN province is supporting the Artists in 38 Schools programme. This programme will be complimented by Provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture by amplifying arts and culture programmes in 38 Quintile 1-3 schools.

Cultural and Creative Industry

There are several challenges within the Cultural and Creative Industry (CCI) especially around funding and governance. On the 3rd of August, I called the Cultural and Creative Industry Imbizo in response to the concerns that were buzzing in the social media. This platform assisted

in noting the challenges faced by the industry and in relaying the approach of the programmes in the 7th administration. I will have further engagement sessions with all nine sectors of the industry. This will assist in ensuring that all sectors are moved from the periphery to the centre stage.

It is worth noting that these challenges are not peculiar to this Province. These were raised by all MECs during the MINMEC session (Minister's meeting with MECs) held early this month. The Minister committed to call the CCI Bosberad late August 2024 to address the coordination within the industry; and Funding Indaba in September 2024 to talk to the funding models. It is believed that these sessions will assist in streamlining the operations of the industry.

The Music House was relaunched in May 2024. However, I must highlight that there are still legal issues that have to be attended to, that dates back to the 5th administration. I have therefore instructed my team led by Legal Services to address these issues. The Music House Policy is being drafted and consultations will be held with the industry and all relevant stakeholders before it is approved. I have given the timeframe of December for the finalisation of the draft policy. This is to ensure that the operation of this critical asset is streamlined and understood by the sector.

Traditional Equine Industry development

The Department supports the traditional horse-racing industry by staging several traditional horse racing events across the province, mostly in rural areas. The flagship event is the Dundee July Traditional Horse Racing Event, which was hosted successfully on the 20 July at the Endumeni Horse Racing Track in Dundee. The event has distinguished itself with its tripling style of racing. Tripling/umtelebhelo is now well established in all 11 districts in KZN in line with the vision to establish a new traditional equine sector. There is a full support from the provincial cabinet, various strategic departments, government entities and private sector. Attendance figures in the 2024 Dundee July reached over 30 000 patrons enjoying the event in a variety of stylish corporate marquees, private marquees and relaxed general viewing areas. The programme is integrated with arts and culture with fashion, artists and creatives core to the day of festivities. The primary aim is to establish this sector as an independent equine industry contributing towards economic growth and job creation. This sector is also intended to contribute significantly to the transformation of the equine industry. Substantial progress has been made to regularize this discipline.

There are now eleven fully operational associations in the province with approximately 4000 racing horses with a potential growth estimated at 10 000 horses once the industry is fully fledged. This would equate to approximately 40 000 direct jobs in the long term. It will add a minimum of R2 billion to the GDP. This excludes export potential of horse breeds and related products value chains, on a global scale.

The Traditional Horseracing industry has a significant impact on tourism, especially in Umzinyathi (Dundee), Uthukela (Umnambithi) and Amajuba (Newcastle) Districts.

The Department has supported the Dundee July with an allocation of **R7,5 million** from its Organised Recreation budget. Organised Recreation is grossly under-funded, and we are desperately seeking public-private partnerships to sustain the many high-impact programmes implemented. This Unit is allocated a budget of **R20,8 million** and must implement major programmes of Indigenous Games, Traditional Horse Racing including Harry Gwala Summer Cup, Provincial and National Golden Games and the Work and Play Programme amongst others.

The equine industry is in need of an injection of funds from the Gaming and Betting Industry and we are in anticipation of a favourable outcome from the legal challenges currently facing the allocation of funds from their transformation budgets.

Culture development – support for Imikhosi

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is mandated to promote and preserve culture, focusing on aspects that promote social cohesion and nation building. In the quest to fulfil this mandate the Department, working closely with Indlunkulu kaZulu supports the celebration of various cultural ceremonies / Imikhosi.

This weekend women from all corners of the province will gather at KwaKhangela Royal Palace for Umkhosi Wesivivane. This event is appreciating the roles women play in families and communities.

Umkhosi Womhlanga that is scheduled for September 2024, is celebrating 40th anniversary. His Majesty has requested that we have a full week programme to mark this milestone. This event is not just a celebration but a programme that talks to the behavioural change campaigns addressing social ills and encouraging our youth to become good and acceptable citizens.

We are excited with the commitment made by His Majesty, Isilo Samabandla, that this year we will celebrate Umkhosi Woselwa. This is assisting in ensuring that we don't leave the boys behind as the focus will be more on *ibutho elincane*. This event includes the wrestling with the bull which denotes that in life they will be faced with life struggles and they should endure. We are rolling out the Raising of Legends (Boys to Men) as we move towards Umkhosi Woselwa. Furthermore, the behavioural change programmes talk to the role of boys and men in communities. Our take is that, if such programmes are implemented effectively, they will contribute immensely in reducing statistics of gender based violence.

The implementation of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) Strategy will be resuscitated and the Department is busy drafting the IKS Implementation Plan. This is talking to us as this province reviving the indigenous knowledge systems on a number of areas, namely; intangible and living heritage, preservation and preparation of traditional/indigenous cuisines, and preservation and preparation of indigenous/traditional medicines (amakhambi emvelo). A total budget of **R21.8 million** is set aside for Imikhosi including Umkhosi weLembe and Isandlwana.

Provision of sport, arts and culture infrastructure

The ultimate objective of our transformation pathway remains to 'level the playing fields' so that the majority of South Africans have equitable access and opportunity to participate and achieve in all areas of sport, arts, and culture.

Our infrastructure development programme is designed to incrementally achieve this by setting achievable goals and targets within the limited resources at our disposal. Delivery of sport, arts and culture related infrastructure for rural areas remain a focus area for the Department. This includes the establishment of libraries, community arts centres, sport facilities, SMME's and other arts and culture infrastructure.

The Department is targeting to complete two (2) facilities in 2024/25 financial year namely: Endaleni Library and Sankontshe Modular Library. The Department will continue to fund the

construction of four (4) libraries around the province for different municipalities namely: uMzumbe Library, KwaDlangezwa Library, Imbali Mega Library and eShane Library. Two libraries in Nquthu and Pomeroy are planned to be advertised in this financial year.

As the caring Government of Provincial Unity, we cannot over-emphasise the importance of access to information and quality education. The completion of these library facilities is in essence our contribution to the educational development of our communities through access to information. Lest we forget that the late founder and president emeritus of the Inkatha Freedom Party – Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi was a strong believer in education. Shenge was a well-decorated scholar who always promoted reading. I make mention of this Premier Mphemba, simply because as a former teacher and principal in your own right, you know the role libraries play in the development of communities.

In addition, the upgrade of two (2) Arts Centres, Osizweni and Mbazwana Arts centres, are planned to commence in the current financial year.

The Department will also construct 10 minor sport facilities in 2024/25 financial year. These include five (5) combo courts for a budget **R3 million** and five (5) play gyms for early childhood development with a budget of **R564 000**. The construction of three fitness centres which the Department is implementing through the municipalities namely Alfred Duma local municipality, uPhongolo local municipality and uMzimkhulu Municipality is still currently underway.

We have taken a decision to introduce the construction of kickabout fields throughout the province, with the initial three set to be constructed in different districts.

A total budget of **R139 million** is set aside for infrastructure development projects.

Honourable members, one of our priorities in the new department is to ensure that we have combined facilities that will cater for both sport, arts and culture.

KZN Premier's Cup

Last month, with the guidance of the Honourable Premier, uMphemba, we took a bold decision to host the KZN Premier's Cup at the Prince Mangosuthu Regional Stadium in Ulundi on 27/28 July, with the aim of ensuring that the benefits of hosting major events are also shared outside of the big cities of Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Richards Bay. The event provided a major boost for the local economy, with accommodation establishments fully booked in Ulundi and surrounding towns of Mthonjaneni, Melmoth, Vryheid and Eshowe (90km away).

The standard displayed by the clubs and the Department has ensured the KZN Premier's Cup is presented at the highest level and has become firmly established as the premier pre-season competition in the country.

The Premier's Cup was able to raise the profile of Ulundi (Zululand) and the province as a tourist destination as the event was broadcast live on 1KZNTV and SuperSport. We are hopeful that the preparation provided to the six professional teams will assist them to compete for honours in the upcoming Premiership and First Division seasons. I have conveyed to the clubs our wish that we do not want to see any of them languishing at the bottom part of the log table, but instead they should be fighting to bring a cup home to KwaZulu-Natal.

The hosting of this event also highlighted the critical need for the Department to focus on provision of infrastructure for sport, arts and culture especially in rural areas.

National Days

We will continue to celebrate national days and special cultural activities as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. A total of 12 significant days will be commemorated, with this aimed at contributing to nation building and social cohesion and addressing social ills such as GBV and crime. This includes the commemoration of national days, such as Freedom Day, Heritage Day, and Women's Day, Youth Day. During Africa Day we get an opportunity to celebrate our African diversity and success, highlighting the cultural and economic potential that exists on the African continent. The Department is only able to commit **R5 million** towards the celebration of these significant days on our calendar.

Ward Sport Councils

In partnership with the KZN Sport Confederation, we have completed the elections of ward sports councils within most districts and have inducted these councils to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities in the wards. They are going to be our eyes and ears on the ground, identifying the needs of the communities ranging from facilities to sports development programmes. The Ward Sport Councils will work very closely with the local ward councilors, izinduna, sector departments, SA Police Services, clubs, and other community forums with the ultimate objective of delivering sport on the ground. A budget of **R1,2 million** is allocated to support this ward-based intervention through the KZN Sport Confederation.

Job creation

Over **R35 million** is set aside through the conditional grant and equitable share for job creation opportunities through the Department. Whilst we have prioritised job creation with 437 jobs created for school sport coordinators, recreation and club development coordinators, I remain concerned that we do not have effective systems of monitoring the work of these coordinators at ward and cluster levels. I have directed the Department to ensure regular reports are received from the youth employed on contract and that district officials and key stakeholders – principals of schools, district sport confederations and sport councils are used to monitor the impact of their work. These jobs are funded through the Mass Participation Conditional Grant and the EPWP Social Sector Grant. Job opportunities are provided to unemployed individuals particularly the youth in the province who are deployed to schools registered for the school sport programme, wards, ward sport councils', sport federations to deliver key sport and recreation programmes at the coalface of service delivery. Through transfers to sport federations, an additional 195 jobs are created for development officers, bike mechanics, cricket umpires and scorers, high-performance coaches, administrators, BMX course builders and assistant coaches. These jobs are monitored and reported on directly by the sport federations themselves.

Transforming the sport and recreation landscape

Madam Speaker, whilst we have made steady progress with the transformation of sport, the composition of our national team at the Paris Olympics demonstrates the road we have yet to travel. The report by the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) provides a progress report

on transformation with all the key sport federations. Our Transfer Payment Policy sets the transformation parameters that sport federations must achieve to access financial support from the department.

Due to a constrained fiscus, the allocation within Transfer payments has been reduced for the 2024/25 financial year. **R30,3 million** is set to be transferred to a targeted 23 sport federations through the *Community Sport Promotion and Development* sub-programme. A large part of the funding will be used to drive development and high-performance programmes, create jobs for development coaches, technical officials and administrators, capacity building programmes for the youth as part of career pathing, hosting of major and minor events, infrastructure support, promote women-in-sport and improve the governance of federations and other non-profit entities.

KZN Cricket, Cycling and Rugby have made significant progress in meeting their transformation targets and we have been able to work with them in transforming their executive boards and increase the number of females that are in leadership positions.

- **Cricket development**

The very successful KZN Cricket Hubs initiative implemented in collaboration with the Department and Cricket South Africa continues to flourish, as Nonkululeko Mlaba and Ayanda Hlubi from Lindelani Township received national contracts during the past season. This is clear evidence of how sport creates lifechanging experiences for talented individuals. Nonkululeko Mlaba was also the KZN Sportswoman of the Year and won herself a VW Polo sponsored by Joma Sport at last year's KZN Sport Awards.

15 Formal Hubs based in eThekweni, iLembe, Umkhanyakude, King Cetshwayo, Ugu, Amajuba, Zululand and uMgungundlovu continue to create opportunities for more than 70 coaches and administrators in disadvantaged and rural areas.

- **KZN Rugby Hotspots Programme**

The Department has invested **R2, 350 million** into the development of rugby and ensuring it is taken to all corners of the province. A programme which is gaining momentum in rugby is TAG, which is played in about 300 schools around the province from Under 6 – Under 10. In this game there are no scrums and lineouts, and tackling is not allowed. The aim of the game is to allow children to develop skills for rugby in a safe, fun environment. The programme culminates in school leagues in rugby hotspots which attracts youth into rugby via mass participation and develop a pathway for players to graduate through age groups. A significant progress has been made to also organise more fixtures with rugby playing schools which has lifted the standard of rugby. Through the partnership with KZN Rugby, 120 community coaches and 8 developmental coordinators will be employed to organize and implement community and club leagues, through to District and Provincial level. A concerted effort will be made to expand the women's game by hosting more girls or women's rugby clinics as well as fast tracking the development of women coaches.

- **Cycling Development**

Madam Speaker, I am inspired by the story of Unathi Nxumalo a cyclist from Mpumalanga Township in Hammarsdale, who used his bike to overcome the tragedy of drug related gang violence that claimed more than one member of his family. Four years ago, his talent was identified through the KZN Cycling Development Programme clinics in Hammarsdale and was included in the cycling development programme. He rose to represent South Africa

at the 2021 UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) Mountain Bike World Championships in Val di Sole, Italy – together with another programme graduate, Matthew Scott. He is now riding for an international mountain bike team called Pump for Peace and competing and earning his living internationally. It is noted that to date, twelve people that have been involved in the cycling development programme are riding professionally and earning their living through this.

The KZN Cycling Development Programme which was started in earnest four years ago with the support of the Department has grown and matured into an internationally recognised project of excellence. The programme is not only about developing young riders in all 11 districts in KZN, but it is also about staging numerous capacity building programmes in bike mechanics, race officiating, marshals and course and track builders with the express aim for these courses to lead to job creation opportunities.

In 2024/25, we plan to host 2 300 training clinics in schools across all 11 districts with over 49 000 male and female learners attending. The programme will train 250 unemployed youth as event marshals who will then be used at events staged across the province. An additional 48 youth will be trained as BMX and mountain bike track builders, and they will be employed to build another four BMX tracks across the province.

The Integrated Strategic Framework for School Sport makes provision for the introduction of cycling in schools as part of our healthy lifestyle programme and to provide learners with basic transport to travel to school. We plan to implement 36 school-based competitions across KZN to allow learners to showcase their talent, as well as four inter – district events. This programme is funded through a *Transfer payment* of **R5 million** to KZN Cycling with each cycling Hub provided with bikes and the necessary protective equipment.

It is with great pride that we acknowledge the achievements of Alan Hatherly and Candice Lill who have both achieved remarkable results in the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup series this year, and of course, Alan Hatherly stormed to a bronze medal in the Paris Olympics. Both riders are products of the rolling hills of KZN, and now flying their homegrown flag high across the world. We are also proud of Nick Floros, a resident of Pietermaritzburg and who built the world-renowned Cascades Mountain Bike Park, was the course designer for the mountain bike competition at the Paris Olympics, as he was at the Games in Rio and Tokyo previously.

- **Sailing**

The Department invests in sailing to create access for learners to access the many opportunities available in the maritime sector. Our investment of **R450 000** annually to Sail Africa has seen so many learners being given the opportunity to become sailors, deep sea divers, engineers and facilitators.

The achievements of Vuyisile Jaca are but one example of the opportunities that are being created by this programme. Vuyisile began her sailing with Sail Africa when her school J.G. Zuma High School brought a pilot group who were studying nautical science for on-the-water experience. She was born in Empangeni and lost both her parents at a young age. She was sent to KwaMashu to live with her older brother. When she began her sailing journey, she could not swim and was fearful of being in the water. She had to start with learning the basics of swimming and water safety. She eventually got an opportunity to sail on several different boats. Having earned her stripes from being a sailor with Sail Africa, the 25-year-old Jaca was part of an all-women conquering team that participated in the internationally acclaimed World Ocean Globe Race onboard the *Maiden vessel*. She spent 154 days at sea

covering 28,674 nautical miles. Together with two of her teammates they have become the first black women to round Cape Horn, she is the first and only Black African to do so. The achievement is phenomenal as sailing is historically the preserve of the privileged.

- **Boxing Development**

In the 2024/25 financial year, the Department is seeking a partnership with Boxing South Africa to assist in streamlining our boxing calendar that will allow us to provide sustainable support to our boxers and trainers. We will continue to support promoters to stage tournaments, but more resources will be spent on ensuring our promoters are able to become independent and operate efficient promotion companies that can assist with the promotion of local boxers onto the national and international platforms. We are proud that there is a significant rise in the number of women promoters with the province boasting five all female boxing promoters, with two licensed to host international tournaments. Our investment in professional boxing will be **R3,3 million** in 2024/25 with the amateur Olympic Style Boxing Association benefitting from **R2,0 million**.

Language Development

This year, the Department will be giving back to life the legislative process for the Provincial Language Act. Our management plan takes us to the end of the financial year. Parallel to this process, the Department will be encouraging the Provincial Departments and Municipalities to establish language services units. This will promote the use of indigenous languages especially the four that are prioritised by the Province, namely; isiZulu, IsiXhosa, Sesotho and Afrikaans. The Department has advertised the call for nominations for the Provincial Geographical Names Committee (PGNC). The closing date is the end of August. This committee will drive the names changes of places. The focus this year will be on townships and redress the orthography of the names that were incorrectly spelt.

Digital Economy

We are excited about the significant milestone with the establishment of a digitisation and data unit. This unit will play a crucial role in making the Province's records and invaluable heritage material easily accessible to the public through online platforms. This effort goes beyond preserving the past, it's about making history available to everyone. This showcases my Department's commitment to improving public access to government services and aligning archival practices with the highest global standards in digital access and heritage preservation.

Over the past four years, we have laid a solid foundation for our groundbreaking digital archives programmes. This has brought us to the point where we are now ready to embark on a long, yet exciting journey of formally digitising and preserving the rich history of our Province. The steps we are currently taking will soon result in the systematic digitisation of our archival records, ensuring their preservation for future generations and making them more accessible than ever before.

In addition, we are excited to announce the recent launch of Isivivane Solwazi – Digitisation Dialogue Coalition. This groundbreaking initiative is a result of a strategic partnership between public and private sector, uniting various stakeholders to tackle urgent challenges in the field of digital archives. With this coalition, we are creating a specialised platform aimed at

overcoming the developmental hurdles encountered by the digital preservation community. This new resource platform will be available by the end of this year.

In May 2024, we opened a new KwaDukuza Museum adjacent to King Shaka Memorial Centre. In this museum, we have digital exhibition responding to the 4th Industrial Revolution. Due to financial constraints, we cannot move with speed in digitizing all exhibitions, however we have started to include Quick Response (QR) in all the new exhibitions.

A budget of **R33.876 million** is allocated for Archives.

Building an E-Sports Culture and Economy in KZN

eSport is a first of its kind in our province, championed by a youth-centric, black-owned team of entrepreneurs, founded locally and created for the sole purpose of bringing much-needed access to digital platforms and technology through the engine of e-sports to rural and under-developed communities.

The KZN eSport Federation will focus on providing solutions to address the vast technological gap facing rural and underdeveloped regions of the province and, tackling the high youth unemployment rate amongst community members by creating sustainable sources of employment, encouraging an entrepreneurial spirit and exposure to a vast network of career opportunities within the digital space such as gaming content creation; programming; software development and game design to name a few.

The Department and the KZN Sport Confederation are working together to legitimize eSports as a recognized sporting code in the province. KZN eSport launched eSport at the Farmers Hall, Newcastle in 2023. They are fully affiliated member of the KZN Sport Confederation, and our intention is to roll-out the programme across all districts.

Library Services

The Department continues to transfer funding to all Municipalities for the management of libraries. A system has been put in place to monitor the up time of the internet in the 179 libraries. The challenge with the procurement of books is being addressed as the application was lodged with the High Court. Unfortunately, we can't give any timeframe as we are awaiting noting of set down deliberation on the application and decision of the court.

The Department provides smart buses that are not only used to promote library services and for outreach purposes. The buses are also used for membership drives where we go out to the community to register people interested to be part of members of the library. If the library is struggling to attract members, the bus will go out to the communities and schools to promote the use of the library. The bus has an internet café, gaming and toys. The Department is undertaking research to improve mobile library services so that we ensure access to this service. Library services is allocated a budget of **R280,208 million**.

Heritage Services

Heritage is an important tool to build a nation. Our province is one of those that have diverse elements of heritage that contribute to the spiritual well-being of our nation.

During the 2024/25 financial year the Heritage Services unit will implement the following:

- The unveiling of the statue of King Shaka at the King Shaka International Airport.
- The completion of the Indentured Indian Memorial in Durban.
- The implementation of the National Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route. This is a national funded project which include the site where Chief Abert Luthuli was injured by the train (KwaDukuza Municipality), homestead where Jonny Makhathini was born in Thafamasi (Ndwedwe Municipality), and the DCO Matiwane Museum in Willowfontein (uMsunduzi Municipality). The Department has already signed a memorandum of agreement with the National Heritage Council through which the amount of **R5.1 million** has been set aside for this purpose.
- Development of heritage routes in order to ensure that heritage sites are monetised and contribute to the economic development of local communities.

During the financial year, the Department has transferred **R45 million** towards the maintenance of the KZN Amafa and Research Institute – which is an entity of the Department. While these funds are not sufficient to keep the entity fully operational, the Department is working with the entity to ensure that alternative forms of revenue are explored. During this financial year, the Department will conduct a study to quantify the economic contribution of heritage to the growth of domestic economy of the Ilembe and uMzinyathi District Municipalities. Heritage has a total allocation of **R65 491 million**.

Museum Services

Museums are important institutions as they are the custodian of the Province's tangible and intangible heritage. It is in museums where education programmes are offered and exhibitions that explains who we are hosted.

The Department will continue to provide funding to 41 affiliated Museums. For this financial year, the amount of **R17,7million** will be transferred to local Municipalities and Museums that are managed by Board of Trustees for the provisioning of salaries and operational costs.

In pursuing the government's agenda of Social Cohesion and Nation Building, Museum Service will stage exhibitions which consciously take into consideration accessibility for people with various forms of disabilities.

The first exhibition was staged in May 2024 and is titled "Democracy 30 years later: How far have we come". This exhibition will create dialogue and discussion in communities.

The second one will be titled "Women's Charter: How Far Has South Africa Come?".

The third will be on "Transforming Archives", with the purpose of bringing out the government archives to the public to inform the citizens about their unknown treasures kept for their benefit.

In addition, the Department will conduct training on Sign Language for Museum employees this will assist them to accommodate vulnerable groups in the communities.

The Department is working with sister Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in completing the Mtubatuba Museum which is constructed as part of the SMME facility. This museum through its exhibition will highlight the rich history of Mtubatuba. This will be the first Museum for Umkhanyakude District.

Museum Services has a budget of **R36 327 million**.

The KZN Amafa and Research Institute

KwaZulu-Natal is known to be the trendsetter in the area of heritage policy and management. The Department's entity, the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute, is one of the two highly effective Provincial Heritage Resources Authorities (PHRA) in South Africa. Amafa are the only PHRA that was assessed to be fully competent to implement all aspects of the National Heritage Resources Act.

Amafa Institute is dedicated to protecting and managing heritage sites, formally recognise and preserve sites of historical importance, as well as honouring prominent historical figures who played key roles in the history and development of the Zulu Kingdom. This often involves the identification, documentation, and conservation of heritage sites to ensure that the cultural legacy of the Zulu people is safeguarded for future generations.

The following projects will be implemented during the course of the 2024/25 financial year:

- KwaCeza Precinct: research is being conducted to formally protect and proclaim KwaCeza as a Provincial Heritage Site. This initiative aims to recognize KwaCeza as the scene of the final act in King Dinuzulu's resistance against the British annexation of Zululand. This proclamation would help preserve the historical significance of the site, ensuring that its legacy as a crucial location in the struggle against colonial forces is officially recognized and protected for future generations. Furthermore, Amafa will rehabilitate the four huts in order to restore the dignity of the site.
- Restoration of KwaBulawayo Precinct outside Eshowe will be prioritised. Amafa Institute is working with the eHabení Traditional Council as well as district and local government to ensure that the site's potential is realised.
- Improvement of access, restoration of royal gravesites at eMakhosini Valley, and installation of new signage. This project is being implemented in partnership with Ulundi Municipality.
- In November it will mark 40 years since Princess Magogo ka Dinuzulu departed this world. Amafa will work with Zululand District Municipality, the Buthelezi family, Zulu Royal family, and other stakeholders to ensure that the commemoration is delivered in a manner that befits the stature of Princess Magogo. Already Amafa has started a partnership with the University of Witwatersrand's researcher specialists to conduct research on Princess Magogo.

High-Performance

The Department launched the **Elite Athlete Development Programme (EADP)** in 2014 with the goal of driving transformation in sport in the province, retaining top sporting talent in the Province and providing opportunities for KZN athletes to reach their full potential on the local and international stage. The EADP augments the work that is done by athletes, their coaches and federations by providing much needed sports science, high-performance, technical and medical support to athletes on the programme. Ten athletes, four current and six plying their trade on the international circuit, graduated from this programme to represent South Africa at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Pick of this group was Zakhithi Nene who finished 6th in the 200m semi-finals and was part of the 4 X 400m relay team that finished 5th in the final. The programme has an intake of 100 talented athletes identified by the respective sport federations with a tier of athletes identified for future World Championships and Olympic Games. The Kingdom Stars and Kingdom Queens netball teams, together with the KZN Wheelchair Basketball Team are also part of this programme. This programme has an investment of **R5,5 million (R55 000 per athlete)**, which is not sufficient to meet our needs.

I have emphasized the need for the EADP to unearth and nurture road running talent from KZN who will begin to dominate the gold medal positions in the Comrades Marathon and other elite races around the world.

Enhancing the socio-economic benefits of Sport, Arts and Culture by hosting major events

The Department will support 15 major sport events that include boxing tournaments, high-profile football and netball matches and major road running, cycling and canoeing races, to lend support to the sport tourism sector. The Comrades Marathon, Amashova Durban Classic Cycle Race, Dusi Canoe Marathon, Durban International Marathon (incorporating the SA Marathon Championships), KZN Premier's Cup and Dundee July are some of the major sporting events to be supported by the Department. Major arts and culture programmes to be implemented include the Signature Event, Imikhosi kaZulu and the Provincial Choral Music Festival.

Sport Scholarships

With an investment of **R1,0 million**, the Department has awarded 24 sport scholarships in 2024/25. The scholarships are awarded to deserving talented athletes who have the potential to represent the country at national/international sporting levels in a specific code of sport. Preference is given to students who can demonstrate the potential for academic success and come from disadvantaged backgrounds. These scholarships are available from school through to tertiary level. From our existing sport scholarship holders, Phiwokhule Mguni is a female boxer from Dundee who is a bronze medallist at the Commonwealth Games. Siphelele Professor Nzama, who comes from the informal settlement in Mayville, learnt tennis by being a ball boy at the Westridge Park Tennis Stadium. His sport scholarship has enabled him to be a part of Tennis South Africa's Rising Stars team. He was part of the KZN School Sport team that won gold at the Summer Games in Gauteng.

Academies

An Academy System is a critical component of the South African sports development continuum. The Department has invested extensively in an academy system which is part of a unified, integrated approach with the aim of developing sporting talent at different levels.

In 2024/25, the Department has planned to support 10 sport academies which is aligned to the Elite Athlete Developmental Programme (EADP). Through the EADP the Department will ensure that there is a seamless developmental pathway for athletes and coaches right up to the elite levels of performance.

There will be a specific focus on District Academies during the 2024/25 financial year. There are discussions underway with the KZN Sport Confederation, Ugu District, and several federations to create a District Academy with multiple codes at the Ugu Sport and Leisure precinct. This will be first for Ugu and with existing infrastructure in place, it is intended to service athletes in Ugu District. The KwaMsane High-Performance Centre is operational and in 2024/25 additional clubs and identified athletes from the district primary and secondary school teams will access the facility. The community has full access to the outdoor gyms and play-gym on site. Other academies supported are the Sharks Academy, Dolphins Academy, Midlands District Academy, KZN Canoeing Academy, Football-4-Life Academy for Girls in Umkhanyakude and the Sipho Zimba Goalkeeping Academy. Academies will be funded through the Mass Participation Conditional Grant with **R9,6 million** invested in the identification and development of talent across the development pathway.

Club Development

The goal of the Club Development Programme is to identify and develop new talent while also encouraging regular participation in structured league programs as part of a comprehensive sport development continuum. More than 40% of the clubs supported must be from rural areas. It is for this reason that the Department will utilise the Club Development Programme to implement a pilot **Obhuqwini Football Festival** with 16 invited teams. The Department will seek sponsors or partners to assist us with transportation, soccer kits, boots and other training materials for teams participating in these matches and the Under 17 Age-Group will be targeted.

Through the Club Development Programme, 100 local leagues will be supported in 64 Local Football Associations and Netball Association with 500 clubs benefitting from equipment and attire support. Sport ambassadors will be employed through the KZN Sport Confederation to act as talent scouts, mentors and coaches in this programme. Other codes of sport provided for under this programme shall be rugby, cricket and volleyball. This programme carries a budget of **R21,3 million** through the Conditional Grant.

Promotion of healthy lifestyles

The active recreation campaign is a 365-day initiative intended to encourage citizens to start, pursue and commit to the life-long wellness of a physically active lifestyle. It is a movement calling on all of us, to step up and take charge of our health and wellness through regular participation in physical activities as well as challenge others to join us in embracing an active & healthy lifestyle.

The Department has committed **R16,2 million** towards the promotion of recreation and club development programmes that are designed to address lifestyle diseases.

In addition, a budget of **R3,0 million** has been set aside to train 328 coordinators and aerobics instructors to implement this programme. As a pilot, our intention is to utilise community halls to implement regular programmes targeting children in early childhood development, senior citizens and the communities. Aerobics, exercise and fitness and walking shall be encouraged to be held at these 'Sport Halls'

National Cabinet declared an annual National Recreation Day for the first Friday of October each year. To reach more people and minimise the cost of transport, we will decentralise the National Recreation Day to districts. We will target over 2 500 participants for this programme which will also be decentralised to local municipalities to increase its impact.

Promoting social cohesion through Indigenous Games

The main intention of promoting **Indigenous Games** is to build social cohesion and healthy lifestyle amongst various groups. It further seeks to promote, preserve and develop traditional games and enhance our heritage. Nine games will be promoted in all 11 Districts: Induku, Incuva, Umlababala, Dibeke, Drie stokkies, Khokho, Jukskei, Inqathu, Arigogo with the KZN Indigenous Games Council overseeing the rules and regulations of the Games.

KwaZulu-Natal are the undisputed National Indigenous Games Champions and have defended the championship title for an unprecedented 12 consecutive years. National DSAC has incorporated a school segment to the Games. The Provincial Indigenous Games Festival is upon us and will coincide with arts and culture programme during this significant Heritage Month. The Provincial Indigenous Games programme carries a budget of **R3m** with funding being allocated through the Mass Participation Conditional Grant.

Through Organised Recreation, the emphasis has been on the establishment and implementation of the Premier League. Due to funding constraints, the National Indigenous Games Festival will not be hosted, and the programme will culminate with the provincial festival.

Madame Speaker, we have had discussions with the Indian Consulate with the view towards forming partnerships for the development of indigenous games, especially kho kho. Khokho is a popular traditional Indian game that is a variation of tag. Within India, it is played between states in the National Games of India and between franchise teams in the Ultimate KhoKho league, which has the backing of the KhoKho Federation of India. SADEC countries, such as Eswatini have shown an interest in pursuing talks with the province to establish partnerships in the promotion of the traditional equine industry and indigenous games. Formalising these partnerships will provide the Department with new opportunities to further develop the socio-economic impact of these games.

Active Seniors

To encourage our senior citizens to also participate in physical activities, the Department hosts the Golden Games Programme. This programme promotes active ageing and socialisation amongst older persons. The Games are also a way to encourage all South Africans to provide support to older persons by helping them live healthier lives. Partnerships have been established with both NGOs and Sector Departments such as Office of the Premier, Social Development and

Health to implement the programme. The limited funding will be used to support on-going programmes in senior citizens clubs, purchase of equipment, training of recreation leaders and to support the Golden Wednesday programme. In addition to participating in ongoing weekly programmes, the Provincial Golden Games have become very popular amongst the senior citizens. A KZN team is selected from the Provincial Golden Games to participate in the National Golden Games where KZN are the National Champions having emerged victorious over the last two years. The Senior Citizens Forum will continue to play a key role with the NGO Age-in-Action benefitting from a Transfer payment of **R350 000** in 2024/25.

Work and Play

The Work and Play programme seek to promote employee wellness and health. In partnership with other sector departments and the Office of the Premier, the Department will provide key activities that promote recreational sports, fun games and festivals, weekly inter-departmental programmes, fitness classes, yoga and wellness days. All Work and Play district structures have been activated. Ongoing leagues and district competitions will culminate in the Provincial Work and Play Games and the Work and Play Club Championships with more than 3000 employees targeted.

The Department will pursue the training of yoga instructors to introduce yoga to different communities. Yoga is incredibly beneficial to our overall well-being. Some of the many benefits of yoga include improved flexibility, strength, and mental health. The implementation of yoga in different sector departments will help relieve stress, inflammation, and anxiety thus contributing to a healthier citizenry.

Sport for People with Disabilities

The Department will continue to streamline and support programmes for vulnerable groups. The department actively supports sport for people with disabilities, providing opportunities for men and women with disabilities to engage in sports at a competitive level. Through its involvement and support for disability sport, we intend to send a powerful message that everyone, regardless of physical abilities, deserves the opportunity to participate and excel at the highest level in sport.

The continued support of disability sport reflects itself in the performance in major sport events such as the Paralympics.

The Department is committed to supporting district and community structures that provide support for people with disability and the implementation of district games for people with disability in seven codes of sport. These District Games will culminate in the **Provincial Disability Games** which will be held in November to coincide with Disability Month.

In addition, the school sport programmes cater for learners with special educational needs. Goalball, a sport for the visually impaired, is one of the priority codes of the Department and forms part of the school sport championships.

The Department will support disability sport to the value of **R7,5 million** through goods and services in the 2024/25 financial year.

Conclusion

Over the next few years, the KZN Department of Sport, Arts and Culture plans to develop and transform sport, arts and culture at all levels and harness their socio-economic contribution towards creating a better life for the people of KwaZulu Natal. Ours is to lead the aspirations of a transformed, active, creative, and winning nation, whose pride in being South African is inspired by excellence of the country's athletes and artists. The Department has realised the potential that sport, arts and culture must have to sustain elite performance, create jobs, uplift communities and have major socio-economic impact in local communities.

In conclusion I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Premier, Honourable AT Ntuli, for entrusting me with this huge responsibility to lead this Department. Let me also appreciate the support and cooperation from the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon. Sizophila Mkhize and members of the committee.

Let me also appreciate all stakeholders in the sport, arts and culture sectors for welcoming us as partners. I also wish to extend my appreciation to Team DSAC, led by Head of Department, Dr Thobile Sifunda, which has become family to me. Our dedicated employees whose passion for the development of sport and the well-being of the cultural and creative industry gives me confidence that the next five years will deliver a winning, socially cohesive and thriving province through sport, arts and culture. I remain indebted to my political home, the Inkatha Freedom Party for the trust and continued support.

Last but not least, thank you to my wife Nompumelelo and my family for allowing me to serve the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Chairperson, it is my pleasure to table the Budget Vote for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (Vote 10) to the august house.

PROGRAMME	AMOUNT
Programme 1	R 299 662
Programme 2	R 341 609
Programme 3	R 512 258
Programme 4	R 383 893
TOTAL BUDGET	R1 537 422

I thank you.



