



# **GAUTENG PROVINCE**

**SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **SPEECH**

**Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation budget vote**

**delivered by MEC Matome Chiloane**

**Gauteng Provincial Legislature**

**31 July 2024**

**Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**Premier Panyaza Lesufi**

**Fellow Members of the Executive Council**

**Chief Whip**

**Leaders of Political Parties**

**Members of the Provincial Legislature**

**Representatives of Business, Organised Labour, and Civil**

**Society**

**Distinguished guests,**

I rise today with a profound sense of duty and privilege to stand here as the Member of Executive Council responsible for Sports, Arts, Culture, and Recreation in our province.

It is with great humility and determination that I undertake the responsibility of nurturing the soul of our nation through the vibrant tapestry of sports, arts, culture, and recreation. As I assumed this new role, I did so acutely aware of the transformative power that

these realms hold in shaping our society, fostering unity, inspiring creativity, and instilling a sense of pride in our shared heritage.

Sports has the ability to transcend boundaries, instill discipline, and promote physical well-being. The arts spark imagination, provoke thought, and reflect the beauty and complexity of our human experience. Culture binds us together, celebrating our diversity and heritage, while recreation rejuvenates our spirits and enhances our quality of life.

For this reason, almost every time when addressing the officials of this department, I do not forget to remind them that this department is responsible for ensuring that this province climbs up the ranks of the “happiness index”.

As a province, our greatness is not solely measured by our economic prosperity or history, but by the richness of the cultural tapestry and the vibrancy of our creative spirit.

As the custodian of these vital sectors, I am committed to fostering an environment where every individual has the opportunity to participate, excel, and contribute to our collective journey towards a more inclusive, innovative, and harmonious society. I stand before you today not just as an MEC but as a staunch advocate for the power of sports, arts, culture, and recreation to shape minds, touch hearts, and inspire greatness.

Madam Speaker, it is my singular honor and privilege to present the 2024/25 budget for the Department of Sport, Arts Culture, and Recreation. Our department is firmly committed to improving the lives of our people through the promotion and development of sports, arts, culture, and recreation as well as through our library services initiatives.

Madam Speaker, the 2024/25 budget allocated to the department amounts to **R1 090 billion**. This budget appropriation embodies our commitment to responding to the needs of the communities we serve with pride. It is noteworthy that the budget increases marginally from the previous financial year due to adjustments in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI) projection inflation.

Hereunder is the budget breakdown per program:

**Program 1: Administration; R170 137 million**

**Program 2: Cultural Affairs; R244 278 million**

**Program 3: Library and Archival Services; R335 446 million**

**Program 4: Sport and Recreation; R340 139 million**

Frank Sonnenberg states ***“If everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority.”*** Madam Speaker, I could not agree more with this quotation. Therefore, as a responsive and caring government, we have linked our budget to programs and projects that focus on changing the lives of our people through our core programs, thereby ensuring that we continue to support and grow the vibrant cultural and sporting life of our province.

We note with great concern the financial pressure of the budget that we are outlining having strained by R40,5 million accruals and the substantial budget cut of R34 million from Equitable Share and a further R11 million from the Conditional Grant. Undoubtedly, Madam Speaker, our commitment to deliver on our constitutional mandate will be severely affected.

### **Programme 1: Administration**

To capacitate the state to improve communication and the work of the government, the department has acquired four Gig Trucks. This initiative will not only help save the government money by not outsourcing this service but also professionalize the hosting of provincial major events, and improve community coverage and impact of programs.

### **Programme 2: Cultural Affairs**

Madam Speaker, our Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) remain a cornerstone of Gauteng's cultural identity and economic development. Therefore, this year, we have allocated R6 million to capacitate our emerging artists, enabling them to develop their skills, and gain exposure.

Madam Speaker, we are exploring the potential increment of CCI funding instruments such as Bidding and Hosting, Major Events, and Grant-in-Aid in the next MTEF.

This investment will resolve the demand for funding experienced in the last financial year and will also gear us towards the implementation of the Gauteng Creative Industries Growth

Strategy. We aim to enhance access to cultural hubs and creative spaces, particularly in under-served communities, to foster artistic expression and innovation. A total of R8,7 million has been prioritized to implement the Premier's Social Cohesion Integrated Holiday Programme to keep our youth from the streets and further promote a cohesive and united society.

Madam Speaker, the Creative Industries Growth Strategy also highlights sector-based infrastructure and talks about Infrastructure development for the promotion of the Arts. I have duly been instructed by the Premier to make community arts centres, community halls and community recreation centres the nerve of community cohesion in the province. Gone will be the days when this department will be only events-driven without substantive and sustainable impactful solutions.

In this regard, the department aims to provide infrastructure maintenance and programs to Rabasotho Community Hall in Tembisa; ensure the renovation of Mphahlalatsane Theatre in Sebokeng (Vaal); capacitate and program the Moses Molelekwa Arts Centre; Uncle Toms Hall and many other community halls that have now been hijacked.

Madam Speaker

There is a glimmer of hope, we appreciate the national contribution to the Community Arts Centres grant that injected R4 million into the artistic programming of 24 Community Arts Centres across the province. The department must enhance this work, and this year, a further increase of R800 000.00 to include the Gauteng Music

Academy and the Funda Arts Centre that were left out in the Provincial Programme since its inception.

Madam Speaker, the year 2024 marks a huge milestone in the history of our nation as we mark 30 years of democracy. The diversity of our province finds expression through nation-building initiatives and social cohesion programmes such as the preservation of our memory through Significant days (Alexander, Winterveldt, Boipatong, Sharpeville, and Munsieville Massacres) and the recently celebrated International Mandela Day and commemorative days. It is rather unfortunate that the allocation and classification of the current financial year has omitted funding for this constitutional mandate.

To this effect, the department needs R25 million in the current financial year and R42 million in the outer years. These are crucial programmes that have been commemorated in Gauteng for the past 30 years of our freedom and contributed immensely to a socially cohesive society with a common national identity. We will therefore, Madam Speaker, continue to engage the Gauteng Provincial Treasury (GPT) for the funding of these important programmes.

### **Gauteng Film Commission**

About the Gauteng Film Commission, Madam Speaker, I am happy to announce that the handover session between us (yourself as the former MEC of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture, and Recreation) ushering in the 7<sup>th</sup> administration, the department that I have the honor to lead has hit the ground running by ensuring that the onboarding briefing sessions and the

walkabout at the GFC offices have appraised on the urgent need to pace the business of audio-visual sector on my urgent dashboard.

It is for this reason that the most urgent task on my to-do list is the regularisation of GFC funding and listing as a Public Entity to enable compliance with regulations for the aim of not only considering the increment of their funding model but increasing their competitive edge to profile and position Gauteng's locations as a preferred film destination of choice to attract foreign direct investment envisaged to come from the Western-African Region particularly Ghana, Nigeria most importantly the Northern Hemisphere of Europe and the United States of America markets. There is a need for the GFC to benchmark and collaborate with our BRICS partners in the Southern Hemisphere with an emphasis on China and India.

Our mandate as it relates to the GFC is to enhance the little that we have in meaningful partnership with the National Film and Video Foundation, and the IDC Film incentives to focus on developmental film and audio-visual initiatives such as digital marketing, music video productions as well as storytelling to provide opportunities for those in Townships, Informal Settlements and Hostels (TISH) who have ambitions and aspirations to become sustainable, thriving content providers to the mainstream of broadcast.

For us to achieve this, GFC governance and ethical ambition must be at the center of this vision in the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration. This governance framework will be encored by the support of our sister

department in the economic sector, the Department of Economic Development as well as the GPT. A consideration of the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration will be to consider a merger of the tourism mandate and the film mandate to create a bespoke solution in keeping up with the best practices as we have seen in other provinces and, countries.

Part of the innovation in this sector is the driving of film industry growth and development through high-impact Summit events and the revitalisation of SkyRink Studios to support skills mentorship and local government content development media hub. These centers will be dedicated to preserving our audio-visual heritage, the AVC will safeguard motion pictures, television shows, and other audio-visual treasures for future generations by mobilizing and empowering communities to produce, distribute, and exhibit their content through films.

To this regard, Honourable Speaker, the GFC needs a capital investment of just R38 million in the year under review.

### **Program 3: Library and Archival Services**

Our libraries and archives are vital resources for education, research, and community engagement. In this financial year, we aim to expand Library Infrastructure by building and upgrading libraries particularly in the underserved South and West Corridor areas, to ensure equitable access to information and resources. R31 million has been allocated to continue enhancing digital library services by investing in digital infrastructure to improve access to online resources, e-books, and digital archives, making information more accessible to all. In fostering the culture of reading among all



age groups, the department will implement literacy programs and initiatives aimed at promoting literacy and lifelong learning. An allocation of R68 million has been allocated and will be transferred to Municipalities to support the delivery of library services.

We have allocated R34 million for the preservation and digitization of archival materials and our historical and cultural records for future generations.

#### **Program 4: Sport and Recreation**

Madam Speaker, Sport and recreation are essential for promoting health, unity, and social cohesion. We have increased funding for school sports programs, ensuring that young athletes have access to quality training, facilities, and competitions through the renewal of the Wednesday League School Programme.

In partnership with the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE), we have identified multipurpose sporting facilities (Combi Courts) to be refurbished and utilized by learners participating in this program. Through this collaboration, we will ensure that all learners participate in extra mural activities and are assessed accordingly. In this regard, we have allocated R21 million to continue our focus on enhancing School Sport Programmes.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, a total of R1,9 million was allocated to the Learn to Swim and the Water Safety programs which are implemented in partnership with the GDE. We want to see an increase in both programs for the Gauteng citizenry. Through the

Bidding and Hosting Committee, we will be hosting an inaugural IberCup which is pitting the Gauteng Youth in schools against other youth in the other eight provinces, European youth, and youth from the African continent on 12 – 16 December 2024.

It is our unwavering commitment to position Gauteng as the Home of Champions. To this end, we have allocated approximately R40 million to bid for and host major sporting events that put Gauteng on the map, stimulate the local economy and inspire our youth. Local tournaments play a crucial role in nurturing talent at the grassroots level, we have therefore allocated R8 million to provide funding and logistical support for local sports competitions mainly in TISH areas.

In closing, this budget reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic Gauteng. Through strategic investments in cultural affairs, library and archival services, and sport and recreation, we aim to create opportunities, build communities, and celebrate our shared heritage. I urge this House to support this budget, which is a testament to our dedication to enriching the lives of all our people.

On this note, Honourable Speaker, I submit this budget for the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture, and Recreation for your consideration. Together, let us harness the transformative potential of these domains to build a more resilient, empathetic, and culturally enriched nation for generations to come.

I Thank you.