

2021/2022 Budget Vote Speech by Gauteng MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Ms Mbali Hlophe Budget Vote

Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Premier David Makhura

Fellow members of the Executive Council

Chief Whip

Leaders of Political Parties

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Senior Government Officials

Representatives of sport, heritage, and creative industries

Distinguished guests

Comrades and Friends

Introduction

I am humbled by the opportunity to present the 2021/22 Budget Vote for the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation. In 2021 a year declared by the governing party 'Unity, Renewal and Reconstruction in the Year of Charlotte Maxeke' Charlotte Manyá-Maxeke who left South Africa with a choir to America. When the choir got stranded in America the American Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church came to their rescue making her one of the earliest cultural activists who stayed to study in America.

A distinguish and remarkable figure who came back and challenge patriarchy from its foundation by becoming the

first black women to obtain a BSc degree, participant of the Kings Council under King Sabata Dalindyebo of AbaThembu. She proceeded to earn the first titles as the first and the founder member of the AbaThembu Royal school, another school in Limpopo province and the renowned Wilberforce Institute in Evaton in Sedibeng.

Charlotte Many-Maxeke as a prolific and outstanding figure did not end there as the pathfinder and trailblazer as she proceed to be the first women to establish a church in South Africa, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The only women who attended the founding conference of the African National Congress in 1912 in Bloemfontein, organizer, initiator of the Women's March in 1913 in Bloemfontein. She became the founding President of the Bantu Women's League, the percussor of the governing party African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL). Malibongwe.

Understandably, as part of celebrating 27 years of our democracy, our department devoted this particular year to celebrating the life and intellectual contribution of Charlotte Maxeke to give the opportunity to the nation to reflect on her contributions to the nation building, social cohesion of a society.

Drawing from cultural heritage of Charlotte Maxeke perceived culture to revive respect and black consciousness. Hence, our embracing of our cultural heritage cannot obliterate the significance of women in society.

In the State of the Province Address the Premier has reaffirmed that our department is responsible for boosting the happiness index.

With your indulgence Madam Speaker, allow me to summarise a little our commitments in the last Budget Vote. We solemnly committed ourselves to the noble course of realizing the provincial imperatives of Growing Gauteng Together Vision 2030 and National Development Plan Vision 2030 through the implementation of among others the following key programmes; to address Charlotte Maxeke's concerns about social; justice.

- ❖ School Sport **Wednesday League**
- ❖ **Hanyani Wellness Programme** to promote active and healthy lifestyle
- ❖ Expand **sporting infrastructure**
- ❖ Support **Women's Football Leagues**

- ❖ Promotion of **Sports Bra**
- ❖ Support for the **Netball World Cup**;
- ❖ Develop **cultural and creative industries**
- ❖ Establishment of **soccer museum**
- ❖ Transform the **Gauteng heritage landscape**

Madam Speaker we will therefore not renege from our commitment to deliver the much-needed developmental **sport, arts, and culture programmes** in our communities. It gives me absolute pleasure, Madam Speaker we remain resolute as a department to conquer all sorts of challenges to maximise service delivery to our communities. This is evident in the significant progress we have achieved since we committed ourselves to the above course.

For 2021/2022, the overall budget for DSACR is **just over R1 billion**. Breaking it down to, **Equitable Share of R793 million** and **Conditional Grant of R273 million**. This marks a slight increase compared to our previous allocation.

Hereunder is the budget breakdown per programme:

- ❖ Programme 1: Administration; R166 Million.
- ❖ Programme 2: Cultural Affairs; R233 Million

- ❖ Programme 3: Libraries and Archive services; R320 Million
- ❖ Programme 4: Sport and Recreation; R347 Million.

Defeating the COVID-19 Pandemic

Madam Speaker, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has in a great measure impacted the business of sport, arts, heritage, and culture sector. The establishment of the **Gauteng Social Relief fund** to support athletes and artists during COVID -19 speaks volume of our unwavering commitment to the noble course of a caring government.

Honourable members, I am pleased to announce to this house that to date **3 126 artists and athletes** have benefitted from Gauteng Social Relief Fund.

Madam Speaker, accordingly, we will implement **Hanyani Wellness Programme** in all the five corridors in Gauteng to keep communities active and healthy. In this context, we will be contributing towards reducing Gauteng health bill and inculcating the health lifestyle to the people of Gauteng.

Reigniting the Gauteng economy

Cultural and Creative industries is one of the most vulnerable industries, as artists are highly fragmented and experiencing contractual exploitation. As a caring government, we will use the allocated **R173 million in Cultural Affairs** for the development of Cultural and Creative Industries economy. I am pleased to announce that we will continue to support Gauteng artists to venture into a new market of digital business and platforms.

Earlier this month, the department launched the first ever Gauteng Pop-up Art Gallery at the Newtown Precinct of Newtown Junction creating a market access opportunity for 28 Pacific Data Images Visual artists in a commercial space to curate and showcase their work. We will not withdraw our energy and focus to locate market access initiatives at the pinnacle of creative industries.

Mme Charlotte Maxeke was bound by the spirit of empowering women, the founding of the Bantu Women's League was inspired by creating society that is inclusive of women. In partnership with Gauteng Film Commission, our budget allocations will continue to support the **Basetsana Film Scriptwriting programme in honour of Charlotte Many-Maxeke**, empower young women for upcoming film

makers and variety of production houses to ensure the promotion of patriotism and national consciousness.

In pursuit of an increased market share and creation of job opportunities in sport, cultural and creative industries, the department will invest in signature, major community and local by providing financial support to the local events. To this end, we will strengthen our partnerships with the private sector and other social partners on bidding and hosting.

Madam Speaker,

In the occasion of the opening of the 6th Administration, the Premier mandated us to lead the **transformation of Gauteng heritage landscape project**. For this course, R37.6 million in 2021/22 is therefore allocated to provide financial support to the three **Heritage Monuments** to continue with the transformation agenda of the heritage landscape.

The project to transform our public open spaces, workspaces, office spaces and living spaces into thriving socio-economic and cultural hubs has ensued. We will be placing plagues in the statues of disgrace and mounting the new statues that speaks to our history of liberation.

In addition, R20 million has been ear marked for the **declaration of heritage sites, provincial resistance and liberation routes** and support to **economically viable heritage routes**.

In return, this will boost economic nodes mainly in the Southern and Western Corridors and job opportunities will be created too.

The **commemoration of national and significant days** will be at the centre of the 2021/22 financial year. The hosting of these historic events significantly contributes and support local and emerging entrepreneurs and boost township economies in the Gauteng City Region (GCR). We will therefore invest in these programmes. We use these commemoratives to invoke the history and cultural perspective from our descendants who fought colonisation and apartheid system.

We will through the R38.2 million in 2021/22 allocated to the Bidding and Hosting Strategy continue to bid for and host national and international sport, arts and culture events and thereby growing the Gauteng City Region economy and improve the livelihoods of Gauteng people.

Under the normal circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic free society, our upcoming British- Irish Lion games supposed to contribute R3.5 billion with 100 percent spectators. Due to the unwavering third wave of COVID-19 with no spectators the contribution of this games will be R463 million.

Our infrastructure portfolio includes Museums, Monuments & Heritage Routes, Libraries, Archive Centre, and Sports facilities. Our community libraries are institutions that symbolise hope of social transformation in our society.

To this end three new libraries will be constructed in the 2021/2022 financial year. Two libraries and one sports facility are in the process of being handed over to the relevant municipalities. The new libraries will embrace our conception of the libraries of the future embedded in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

We will continue to invest in upgrading of the existing facilities for public benefit and the development of ten Sport and Recreation facilities to supports sports and recreation programs such as the Wednesday League.

The development of the Provincial Soccer Museum as an anchor for the business of sports pronounced by the Premier in the last State of the Province Address is at collecting of data and data analysis of the history of soccer museum. The construction will commence in the 2022.

Our Province will be implementing the Netball legacy programme which will encompass the following: increasing the number of girls and women playing netball in structured leagues by assisting the regional structures to establish new clubs. As part of the year of Charlotte Maxeke, the Province will be hosting netball leagues and mini tournaments in her honour. This will be hosted in partnership with netball structures and local government. Our effort will also support the 2023 Netball World Cup.

Recalibrating Social Policy

According to the Eminent Persons Group 2020 report on transformation of South African sport “***the biggest problem with transformation in South African sport, or the lack of it, is found at the roots as opposed to the leaves and branches. The roots, in this case, being school sport***” For Gauteng to remain competitive in the

global sport arena, we need to champion the transformation agenda.

It is against this background, Madam Speaker, that as a department we will continue to invest our resources to the development of school sport programme through the **Wednesday League** for sport, arts, and culture.

The apartheid system created a stark disparity in the treatment of population groups in per capita spending, according to class size and teaching quality. In this case, for every R4 spent on white learner, only R3 was spent on an Indian learner, R2 on coloured learner and R1 on a black child. Our Arts and Culture Integrated Wednesday League will address the disparities created by the apartheid system.

On Premier Social cohesion games, we have allocated budget in the 2021/2022 because of the contribution of the program in building a socially cohesive society. We have reinvited the Premier Social Cohesion games due to prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have included Chess which seeks participation locally and internationally.

In this connection, we must write and re-write our own history; however, the articulation of our history can be

orated and choreographed through dance and theatres. During colonial and apartheid epoch, black theatres embody the struggle of resistance. We have allocated **R1 million Gauteng Community Theatre Awards**. This programme supports the production of local content and building patriotic actors to take charge of the creative industries to promote South Africa's brand and profiling of our community theatre.

We will not wait for people to come knocking at our door, we will search for them at robots on road intersections. We will do so not as an act of endowment, but exploring the economic potential of the arts sector, hence, **we have allocated R1million to the Andrew Makhanya Street Echoes**.

The Andrew Makhanya Street Echoes is our conceptual program madam speaker, we conceptualised it in 2019 as we saw the need to scout talent in our streets and revive the hope of our brothers and sisters who are deem invisible in our intersections.

Improving Governance

Madam Speaker, we have brought to an abrupt to a legacy and culture of impunity in the department, and reestablished a culture of consequent management, accountability, and responsibility. The reduction and ultimately elimination of irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure remains on track, with plans to recover state funds. We have made an undertaking to improve the turnaround time of paying valid invoices within 15 days from the day of rendering a service and submission of invoices

The recent developments in our department speaks volume of our commitment to administer chemotherapy to the cancerous disease of corruption which deprives our society of service delivery. Hence, we are intolerant towards any corruption and lack of performance as this is intractably linked to the disservice to our people.

During this financial year, the department set a total of 105 targets and achieved 73 (70%) of them. Most targets not achieved were due to the onset of COVID-19.

Madam Speaker, the department is working very hard to develop and implement strategies and measures to turn around the adverse audit findings of both the department and its entity. The reduction and ultimately elimination of

irregular, fruitless and wasteful spending remains at the core of our operations. We have made an undertaking to improve the turnaround time of paying valid invoices within 30 days of invoicing.

We are here once again Madam Speaker to assure the people of Gauteng that we are still highly committed to using these scarce resources in an **efficient, economic, and effective manner** to fast-tracking service delivery to the people of Gauteng City Region. As guided by the **Gender Response Planning and Budgeting Framework**, we will ring fence budget to support businesses owned by designated groups namely, ***Youth, Women, Military Veterans, and People Living with Disabilities.***

Worth repeating what Former President Thabo Mbeki said during his inaugurations of the President of the Republic in 1999. He used the metaphor of the Comrades Marathon, he contended that;

Those who complete the course will do so only because they do not, as fatigue sets in, convince themselves that the road ahead is still too long, the

*inclines too steep, the loneliness impossible to bear
and the prize itself of doubtful value.*

We have elected to serve people of Gauteng and we will do so with diligence and we will complete the course of improving the lives of people of Gauteng. As we celebrate the vision, mission and a value system espoused by Charlotte Manyamaxeke as we rededicate ourselves to selfless service, uprooting corruption to place the country back to a developmental trajectory.

Malibongwe!!! I Thank You!