

SPEECH OF THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION, MRS MATHABO LEETO, ON THE TABLING OF THE BUDGET VOTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION, 18 MARCH 2015, FOURTH RAADSZAAL, Bloemfontein.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Premier

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Legislature

Executive Mayors, Mayors and Councilors present

Representatives of House of Traditional Leaders

Representatives of Sport Federations as well as Arts and Culture Councils

Management and Officials of the Department

Baahi ba Foreistata

Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades

Honourable Speaker

Three days from today we will be commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the brutal history of the Apartheid of the Sharpeville Massacre, where our liberation heroes and heroines were brutally murdered by Apartheid colonialists, who embraced our shores in the form of Drommedaris, Reiger and Goodehoop in 1652 right here in beloved country of our forefathers and foremothers. The reason why we will not forget the painful history, it is because the social, psychological and geographic elements of apartheid continue to shape the outlook of the people of the Free State and the country in general. We will forgive but not forget.

Honourable Speaker our hearts were filled with joy and our eyes with tears when the mortal remains of the longest serving General Secretary of the South African Communist Party, Comrade Moses Kotane, were reburied in his birth village of Pella in the North West province. On the 22 March 2015 a day before what would have been comrade JB Marks's birthday, comrade JB Marks 's remains will be re - buried at his hometown.

Once again the country has lost a gallant fighter, a revolutionary, a leader a minister of Public Service and Administration Comrade Collins Chabane. Let their souls rest in peace, the struggle will continue. The department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation will continue to use Sport Arts Culture and Recreation to spearhead the struggle for fundamental political, social and economic change.

Honourable Speaker 2015 is the year in which we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. Throughout all our programs we will continue to be guided by the spirit of and letter of this revolutionary document of our movement. The 2015/16 Budget of R 679 605 00 will fund the following programs

- 1) Administration and Financial Management: R77 041 000
- 2) Cultural Affairs: R125 182 000
- 3) Library and Archives Services: R238 182 000
- 4) Sport and Recreation: R239 944 000

1. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: R77 041 000

A clarion call has been made by the honourable Premier Mr. Ace Magashule for all of us to strive for clean audits. We are proud to report that the department has achieved a clean audit report for two consecutive years, and we are committed to stay on this course.

It is our firm view that to maintain the status quo we need to have personnel with relevant qualifications and knowledge. The department has filled vacant posts. In adhering to National Skills Development Strategy and the directive to use 1% of personnel budget for training and development, we have trained 168 employees.

2. CULTURAL AFFAIRS: R125 182 000

Honourable Speaker

The People Shall Govern:

On the 26 June 1955 South Africans who met in Kliptown declared that “The People Shall Govern”.

The department has established statutory bodies which are governed by people nominated by the communities. These bodies are the following,

- * The Free State Arts and Culture Council
- * The Free State Heritage Resource Authority
- * The Provincial Geographical Names Committee
- * The Provincial Language Committee
- * The Free State Archives Council
- * The Free State Sports Confederation
- * District and Local Sport Councils
- * School Codes Committees

The department has supported these peoples organs of power and in 2014/15 we have spent R 45 236 000 and we will continue to support them in 2015/16. Indeed people are governing and they will continue to govern led by the African National Congress. In 2015/16 we will spent R33 356 000 to strengthen the participation of citizens in the programs of the department. Indeed people shall govern.

THERE SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND FOSTERING CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES.

The National Development Plan calls upon ourselves to ensure that by 2030 South Africans should be more conscious of the things they have in common than their differences , their lived experiences should progressively undermine and cut across the divisions of race , gender , space and class , the nation should be accepting of the peoples multiple identities. There should be broad- based knowledge about and support for as set of values shared by all the people including values contained in the constitution. There should be increased interaction between the people of different racial and social groups.

It further direct us that by 2030 all citizens must feel that they belong. As part of our efforts to realise the nation building goals of the NDP in 2014/15 financial year we rolled out the National Symbols Awareness Campaign. 100 Flag poles with National Flags have been installed in 100 schools in the Province. The Department conducted lectures on the lyrics of the National Anthem and handed out National Flags of the Republic of South Africa.

As part of creating a sense of belonging in 2015/16 we will partner with the department of Social Development to

- * Have a competition for **ECD learners in poetry and puppetry** focusing on the liberation history, national symbols, colours and hoisting of the South African Flag. This program will also be implemented from grade R to grade 12 learners working together with the department of Basic Education in the province.

- * We will also run a **Debate program on social cohesion and patriotism**. A manual will be to be used will be developed working together with the Institutions of Higher Learning in South Africa.

- * We will distribute **National Flags** and affix **plates of the Preamble** at assemblies, distribute posters of the National Anthem, the Anthem of the African Union, National Symbols and the Coat of Arms at schools in Fezile Dabi district.

- * We will produce a **CD containing the National Anthem, the African Union Anthem , the Preamble of the Constitution** to be distributed at schools in the province.

- * A **booklet** containing the information on our symbols will be developed and distributed to households in the province.

- * The **National Symbols** program will run at libraries during school holidays and it will include workshops presented by Social Cohesion Ambassadors. Re ya Hlasela, re fana ka tsebo ho bana ba rona. Basotho bare thupa e kojwa e sale metsi. Ngoba Siyaqhuba , Freistata e hatetsepele.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano

Ke mosebetsi wa rona ho netefatsa hore menyetla e ya lekana ho bohle baahi ba Free State, le ho lokisa mapatso a entseng ke kgethollo. Re leboha le ho ananela ho thehwa ha mokgatlo wa Naha wa Bonono , Botaki , dipapadi tsa kalaneng le mmino Mona Afrika Borwa. Mokgatlo oona o bitswa CCFISA (Creative and Cultural Industries Federation of South Africa). Sepheyo sa mokgatlo oona ke

ho kopanya banna le basadi ba nkang karolo ho tsa Bonono , Botaki , dipapadi tsa kalaneng le ho mmimo. Nakong o fetileng ho ne ho le thata ho tshehetsa Batho ba nkang karolo ka ho lekalekana ha ho sena mokgatlo. Re ya ipiletsa ho Batho bohle ba nkang karolo ho tsa mmimo , Bonono , Botaki le dibapadi tsa kalaneng ho, ikamahanya le CCFISA hobane hoo ho tla etsa mosebetsi wa rona bonolo re le lefapha.

Sebaka sa mokgatlo oona se tla tshwara Ka di 23 and 24 March mane University of the Free State

ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS

In a quest to ensure the culture of human rights as called upon by the Freedom Charter the department will:

- Work together with the House of Traditional Leaders to ensure that previously oppressed cultures are restored.
- Ensure that previously marginalized languages are practiced as per the Constitution of the country.
- Ensure that the previously marginalized heritage is preserved.

2. EQUALIZING OPPORTUNITIES, PROMOTING INCLUSION AND REDRESS

As the Department we will continue to reduce the impact of poverty, unemployment and inequality through the following programmes:

A. PERFORMING ARTS

Under the Performing Arts Programme we have rolled out and we will continue to activate the following programmes:

Mangaung African Cultural Festival (MACUFE):

MACUFE is our annual Arts and Culture pilgrimage which has grown to be one of the biggest recognised brands in Africa and abroad. MACUFE continues to be one of the events that we pride ourselves with as Free Staters.

In 2014 the festival showed remarkable growth both in terms of patronage and revenue generation.

- In 2015/16 we will host the Pre-MACUFE build-up programmes in Welkom, Bethlehem, Kroonstad, and Trompsburg. District Municipalities will be approached to partner with us in this initiative in order to provide a wide variety of performers and artists from many towns with a platform to showcase their talent. These build-up events will also be used to sell tickets for the festival.

Film: New Vision Studios

The department has invested in the bankable feasibility study towards the creation of the state of the art New Vision Studios in the Matjhabeng area in line with the president's call for the revitalisation of former mining towns.

When completed, this initiative will add much needed economic rejuvenation of the area but also house an on-site film school that will be crucial for the establishment of a film sector in the province.

My Stage - My World Programme

Honourable speaker we will officially launch our performing arts programme called "**MY STAGE – MY WORLD**" where frequent opportunities will be created for artists to perform in popular places that enjoy high patronage.

The objective is to create a regular arts ecosystem and talent identification programme while in the process creating jobs for artists. To this end we have approached popular areas in the township and towns where groups cross the color line will be scheduled to perform on a more frequent basis. It must be stated here that this is not a commercial activation but a platform for artists to showcase their talent though they will be remuneration at no cost to the owners of these places.

A dance programme involving in the main the Mapantsula Dance/Jive Competitions will be held across the province culminating into the provincial finals to afford young people in the sector to participate in this dance to compete. This dance was very popular in the townships but it has since scaled down.

Performing and Theatre Houses:

Local Theatres in various municipalities will be used for arts and culture performances in 2015/16. The Bloemfontein Civic Theatre has been a beehive of

activities since its re-opening hosting over 45 development shows during the 2014/2015 financial year. These include amongst others:

- Youth Explosion Concert;
- Gospel Explosion Concert;
- Nothing but the Truth theatre by John Kani;
- Auditions for X-Factor SA and Clash of the Choirs;
- Several productions by schools and independent producers.

This facility is for the benefit of local artists. As we stated before, the main purpose is to create spaces for community arts and create opportunities for producers and directors in line with Mzansi's golden economy and ensure that it is used as a springboard for the creation of touring ventures.

- The Civic Theatre, positioned as a development orientated community theatre has launched a 2015/16 artistic programme that showcases local talent by actors, producers, writers and artists across the performing arts genres. A dance and drama school for children has recently been established. These artistic programmes initiatives are funded by external funders and not by the department.

Choral Music Programme:

Following the commitment we made to revive and advance choral music in the Free State I am happy to announce that 150 choirs were identified and a database of all these choirs was integrated in the central database of all artists in the Province. The following choral music events were staged:

- In collaboration with Lengau Choral Music Association (LECMA) the 4th Provincial Choral Music Competition was staged on 29 November 2014. This competition attracted more than 58 choirs in the province.
- In collaboration with Old Mutual the Provincial Old Mutual Choir Championships were staged. Choirs that took part at this Old Mutual Provincial Choir Championship included: Maseru City Choral Choir; Free State Choristers Choir; Thabong Serenade Choir; Voice of Joy Choir; Belcanto Voices Choir; Ben Macato Choir; Mangaung Metropolitan Choir; Motheo FET Choir; Kutlwanong Serenade Choir and many more.
- The Choral Music Indaba was staged on 12 July 2014 to develop a roadmap with regard to Choral Music in the province. All provincial structures of choral music, church choirs, community choirs and all in the choral music fraternity were invited to this Indaba.

- Honourable Speaker, in fostering social cohesion and nation building, choirs play a vital role in disseminating messages of unity and national pride. All provincial choral competitions shall add the national anthem and the anthem of the African Union.
- Together with Mangaung Metro we will host the **Old Mutual Choral Competitions** from 2015 to 2017. These competitions on average attract in excess of 200 choirs thus assisting with the growth of the local economy with the retail, accommodation, SMMEs and transport sectors benefiting.

The Mine Dance Festival:

Through the Mines Dance Festival, the Department aims to popularise the unique traditional dances as practiced in the different mines of the Free State by providing regular workshops, providing a representative platform for mineworkers to showcase their talents.

This initiative also complements the Department's objective to promote social cohesion through the arts. The Mine Dance Festival involves the following categories/genres of cultural dances: Huphe; Mohobelo; Ntlamo; Ndlamu (Swazi, AmaZulu) Setapo; Baca; Isingile; Mokgibo; Tswana Dance and Famo.

Other attractions within this Mine Dance festival is a local community traditional dance competition and a Sesotho Hip Hop Concert.

B. VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT

Through the Visual Arts and Craft Programme the following **Platforms for Crafters and Visual Artists** were created and **Support to Festivals** provided:

Boertjie Fees: Boertjie Fees was staged from 04 – 07 September 2014 and for the first time the Department provided financial support to this festival. This was the first collaboration with the Boertjie Kontreifees. Visual Arts and Crafts Exhibition stalls as well as the Gospel Festival were staged by the Department at the festival.

- The second collaboration with the Boertjie Kontreifees will happen from 03 – 06 September 2015.

Bloemshow: The Department occupied an exhibition hall at the 2014 Bloemshow, where the department showcased all its services and programmes. The department also sponsored the performances of local artists at the Pepsi informal stage.

- In 2015 the Department will again occupy the Iris Hall with a larger exhibition of services and programmes. 11 Performing Arts groups will be performing during the show.

Cherry Festival: Annually the Department supports the Cherry Jazz Festival (15 November 2014) with a financial contribution to ensure that local entrepreneurs are also supported by Government. This event brings value to the Thabo Mofutsanyane district and creates work opportunities for locals and Free State artists.

Vryfees: The Department presented “The Plot” at the 2014 Vryfees. “The Plot” is a locally written and produced play featuring local artists. The department also had Visual Arts Exhibition and Crafts Exhibition stalls

National Arts Festival: In an effort to promote local talent, and as part of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation’s ongoing talent development programs, several of the Free State performers and artists took part in the Grahamstown National Arts Festival. “The Plot” won the “Standard Bank Ovation Award” at the festival.

Furthermore, the Department collected the works of Visual Artists and 10 Crafters from across the province to exhibit them at the festival. These works include art works, paintings and pottery

- We will continue to support these initiatives and add the numbers of beneficiaries to ensure that we create job opportunities and new markets for crafters and artists.

C. ARTS EDUCATION:

Through the **Arts in Schools Programme**, in 2014/15 we have deployed:

95 Artists in 127 schools on various Arts and Culture programmes. The programme has greatly assisted learners in developing appreciation for the arts and culture sector and **5 Artists in five (5) Correctional Service Centers** in the

province offering arts and culture programmes. (These facilities include Kroonstad Correctional Facility, Virginia Correctional Facility, Groenpunt Correctional Facility in Deneysville, Bethlehem Correctional Facility and Grootvlei Correctional Facility near Bloemfontein).

Learners and inmates are taught about the practicalities of a Music Production, Drama Production, Dance Production and how to do Visual Arts with specific reference to paper mache, drawing and painting. The MUSICON music outreach programme teaches learners in schools how to play various instruments.

- This year we will continue to strengthen the programme and ensure that we introduce the **curriculum based manuals** to formalise the programme as a step towards elevating it to curriculum level. These artists will further play a vital role in implementing the national symbols programme in schools.
- In 2015/16 the programme shall culminate into a **Schools Festival** of top performing schools.
- Honourable Speaker: this year we will integrate groups from the correctional facilities, **Secure Centres** and **Juvenile Centres** in the mainstream programmes and projects of the department including MACUFE.

Mangaung Strings Programme: The Mangaung String Program is a development program initiated by the Department through MUSICON. The children are from the greater Bloemfontein area, predominately Mangaung. The Mangaung Strings Program has broadened its impact to include children from Kroonstad, Trompsburg, Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu.

The Bochabela String Orchestra, which is made up of the best young performers from the Mangaung String Program, performed to full houses and standing ovations during their December - January Concert tour of Europe. Former members of the program who are currently studying or working in Pretoria, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Kwa Zulu-Natal Philharmonic, Bloemfontein, Brussels, Austria and New York joined the current orchestra to set a professional standard for concerts overseas. They performed in Bremen, Hannover, Berlin, Salzburg, Vienna, Feldkirch and Zurich.

- In 2015 the programme shall be expanded to Parys and Bethlehem to ensure greater participation by youth in classical music.

Schools Choral Music Competitions: It is our considered view that Choral music not only plays a critical role in moral regeneration and spiritual upliftment, but that it also has an intellectually stimulating role.

It is for this reason that Schools Choral Music has been introduced as part of our Choral Music programme. During our Provincial Choral Music competition hosted in November 2014 schools from across the Province participated in the Development Section.

- In 2015/16, we will partner with the Department of Basic Education to ensure that schools include the singing of the National Anthem and Anthem of the African Union as score able standards.

ARTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Thabo Mofutsanyane Arts and Culture Centre: Work is underway to refurbish the Old Industrial Court in Qwa Qwa to convert it into an Arts and Culture Centre.

D. SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING

Social Cohesion Dialogues:

As part of the programme of building a non-racial, non- sexist and prosperous Free State the District Social Cohesion Dialogues and Provincial Social Cohesion Summit were staged in 2014. By hosting these Dialogues, the Department mobilized the society, especially minority groups and vulnerable groups (Women, Youth and Children) in its totality, to work together towards building a caring and proud society. These dialogues and summit were attended by delegates from all walks of life, ranging from minority groups, church leaders, political parties, non-governmental organizations, business entities and so on.

- This year we will upscale the training of our staff to rollout social cohesion, nation building and patriotism programmes as a tool to educate our communities and school children on our history, national symbols and unity.

Days of National Significance and other Calendar Days:

Through the Cultural Programme the following Days of National Significance and other Calendar Days were and continue to be celebrated: Basotho New Year's Celebration (1 August), Heritage Day (24 September), International Museums Day (18 May), Freedom Day (27 April), Mandela Day (18 July) and Heritage Day celebration (24 September).

Freedom Day was successfully hosted in Sasolburg through a music festival that attracted thousands of local communities.

We celebrated the 2014 Mandela Day celebration through cleaning campaigns at the Parys Hospital (Parys) and Fezi Ngubentombi Hospital (Sasolburg).

The 2014 Heritage Day celebration took a special character as a Heritage Week celebration programme was staged serving as a build-up towards the Provincial Heritage Day Celebration that was staged on the 24th September. Thousands of Free State citizens celebrated Heritage Day in style, led in the traditional reverie by the Premier of the Free State, Mr Ace Magashule, as well as other Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Free State Legislature, Mayors and Traditional Leadership. Thousands of Free State citizens descended into the Ficksburg Showgrounds on the morning of the 24th September for the main celebration. Proudly dressed in their different traditional attires these citizens danced for the better part of the day to traditional music presented by artists such as Appollo Ntabanyane, Puseletso Seema, Phuzekhemisi, Xoli Nosenga, Rumo la Koebe and several others.

On 2 August 2014 the Department hosted the Basotho New Year celebration at the world renowned Basotho Culture Village just outside QwaQwa. The day was made special by a parade into the BCV, led by cultural practitioners, men on horseback as well as drum majorettes, followed by cultural performances from cultural groups from Fouriesburg, Clarens, Bethlehem, Kestell, Harrismith and Qwaqwa.

International Museum Day was celebrated on 18 May 2014 to enhance public awareness on the importance of museums within our communities. The 2014 International Museum Day was staged under the theme "Museum collections make connections". World Museum Day has been observed around the world on May 18 since 1977.

As honourable Premier Magashule stated, celebration of these days "endeavor to deliver cultural values, create a sense of belonging and honour those who shaped our history".

The Department has contributed to **Language Development** in the Free State and has committed itself to the development and promotion of the Provincial Language policy as custodians of language services. The Free State Provincial Government Language Policy was adopted by the Cabinet on 26 March 2014 and is currently being rolled out by, amongst others, assisting municipalities to develop and implement their language policies. The Free State Government Departments are also being assisted to understand the implications of the language policy for the purposes of compliance. The “Use of Free State Languages” bill will soon be tabled at the Free State Legislature. Upon its passing into law, the Free State will be fully compliant in as far as the dictates of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is concerned.

The Department looks after the literary practitioners in the Free State by:

- Supporting the Free State Writers Forum which is a body representative of all literary practitioners in the province.
- In 2014 the Department took 20 writers to Grahamstown to experience the Wordfest and to launch their books. Three books from the Free State were launched.
- The Department also exposed our authors to the annual international book fair that took place in Cape Town in June 2014. The Department secured a stall for Free State writers and six (6) writers exhibited their books.
- Five (5) Sesotho Literature Museum (SLM) in Dialogues were staged in 2014. In attendance at some of the Dialogues were Free State Writers Organizations, individual writers, and our literary icon, Dr KPD Maphalla.

Pan African Language Awards: The Department in partnership with Imbongi Yesizwe Trust and Metsimaholo Local Municipality staged the inaugural Pan African Languages Awards (PALA) in Sasolburg on 12 December 2014. The Pan African Languages Awards recognize people and institutions in South Africa and Africa at large for their outstanding contribution in society through their advancement and development of African languages by making use of them in their production work by employing natural talents and acquired attributes and skills.

The awards take place in the context of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation having taken initiatives to ensure language development in the Free State.

- This financial year we will host the awards in November 2015

The **Naming and Renaming of Geographical Names** programme is unfolding. The Department in collaboration with the Free State Provincial Geographical Names Committee (PGNC) and the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (PHRA) conducted public hearings for name changes for the proposed changing of 37 names. More names are under consideration for changing.

The liberation heritage of our country and Province will also be captured through a launch of **Free State 100 Years Chapter of the Liberation struggle book**.

Acting Speaker, during the 2014/2015 Budget Vote we made an undertaking to the effect that, I quote, *“We will officially open the Wesleyan Church, which is the founding venue of the ANC 103 years ago and also part of the liberation heritage route of South Africa”*, close quote. We remain committed to this undertaking. The restoration process of this historical founding venue of the African National Congress has been completed and the official opening will take place this year. The extension of this Church within the area of Waaihoek will commence in 2016 with a view to creating a broader precinct in partnership with Mangaung Metro.

The Department has embarked on a process of declaring the following **Heritage Sites**: Namoha battle site in Qwaqwa; Witsie's Cave in Qwaqwa; Walter Matita's Well/Spring in Qwaqwa; Mantsopa's Cave and Spring in Ladybrand; Fezile Abraham Dabi's grave; Teboho Stanley "Rhyder" Mofokeng's grave in Edenburg; Lehlohonolo 'Luckyboy' Cambridge Maloisane's grave in Mangaung; Nkoe/Sefate/Poqong tree in Verkykerskop near Harrismith.

- In line with the Premier's directive in the 2015 State of the Province Address we will be planning and designing a **Heroes Park** at the Regional Park in Thaba Nchu whose objective will be to, in the words of Premier Magashule, “preserve and celebrate the heritage of our forbearers and those who sacrificed for the freedom we enjoy today”.
- Honourable Speaker in line with the ANC Manifesto that we must promote a **Liberation Heritage Route** that honours the heroes and heroines of our struggle, we are in the process of developing and submitting to the Department of Arts and Culture, three routes for approval of our Liberation Heritage Routes. Once approved a vigorous marketing and communications

exercise shall be embarked upon to popularise them together with the Free State Tourism Authority.

- The statue of the stalwart of our liberation struggle, comrade Oliver Manyane Tambo will be erected at Lebohang building in line with the renaming of this building after him.

The above new Heritage Sites are part of a quest by government to transform the Free State Heritage landscape and to build unity and cohesion amongst our people.

3. THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES SERVICES

Honourable Speaker, last year we articulated a position that, I quote, *“Libraries and Archives are at the centre of promoting active citizenship and broad-based leadership through information dissemination, promotion of reading and global competitiveness”*, close quote. In an effort to realize this vision we rolled out several Library and Archives programmes across the Province. These included the following:

- 1) A re Ithute Reading Programme:** This is one of the programmes to promote a culture of reading which is presented for communities in the libraries. The programme also improves children’s functional reading skills.
- 2) Library Reading Corners:** Library Reading Corners are located within most libraries in the Province. The Reading Corners promote the culture of reading.
- 3) Library Week:** Library Week is celebrated with the theme “Connecting @ your library” from 14 – 21 March. During this week the range of services, programmes and projects available at libraries such as study facilities, Internet access, toy library services, story hours and social cohesion programmes, are presented to communities. This initiative is geared towards making libraries centres of community life and development.
- 4) World Book Day:** Celebrated on the 23rd April of every year, World Book Day creates awareness on the importance of reading and writing. In 2014 World Book Day was celebrated in Zastron with Free State authors exhibiting their books and reading from them to the community.
- 5) National Book Week and International Literacy Day:** International Literacy Day and National Book Week were celebrated during the first week of September 2014 with the Reading Festival in partnership with the South African Book Development Council (SABDC). The celebration included

1200 school children participating in competitions at three levels: library level, district level and provincial level. The competitions took place in the following categories:

- Reading Quiz for learners in Grades 3, 4 and 9
- Spelling Bee for learners in Grades 3 and 4
- Reading-aloud Sessions for learners in Grades 3 and 4
- Public Speaking competitions for Grade 9 learners, municipality councillors and adult learners.

6) Archives Week: Archives Week was celebrated during May 2014 with outreach programmes to schools and an interesting programme at the Archives Repository.

7) Libraries Online (IT and Internet Connectivity): Access to up-dated electronic information is a requirement for survival in the global village with its information and knowledge driven dynamics. Since 2007 the department has provided more than 171 libraries with an Information Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure. A virtual library service enables users to download and read books in electronic format. E-book readers are provided at libraries. During 2014 35 libraries were provided with tablet computers and were Wi-Fi enabled. This access to ICT services enhances government's goal of expansion of broadband in our country.

8) Library Services for the Visually Impaired: To improve access to library and information services, a service for the visually impaired has been established in some libraries and is continuously extended to. The service consists of the provision of audio-books and the digital readers to use these books as well as computers with special software for use by visually impaired persons.

9) Radio Frequency Identification Technology: Progress has been made towards the migration from a bar-coded system to a Radio Frequency Identification Technology. The Bid adjudication process for the appointment of a contractor for this technology has been finalized. This technology will assist us in accounting for our library books which have since been declared as assets. Our audit performance will thus be consolidated by this technology.

- Honourable Speaker, in this financial year we will work together with the Department of Education to roll out Spelling BEE Competitions and Debates to encourage the culture of reading. We will however also expand the programmes to youth and adults out of schools in order to further get the community to read and help to eradicate illiteracy.

In a quest to ensure that there is meaningful radical economic transformation in the library services, black publishers shall be prioritized in the procurement of books and library collections.

The above Library Services projects implemented were budgeted as follows in 2014/2015:

- Projects to promote culture of reading: R500 000
- Public Libraries maintenance: R50 million
- Enhancement of ICT infrastructure: R400 000
- Designs of three (3) new library buildings: R26 million
- Establishment of six (6) school libraries: R11 million
- Establishment of six (6) toy libraries: R300 000

LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE

Honourable Speaker, our Library infrastructure continues to expand with the construction of the Qibing Library in the Naledi Municipality that will be completed in June 2015. Construction of new library buildings also started in the following communities: Dipalaneng (Hobhouse) and Oranjeville.

Libraries planned over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) cycle are: Khubetswana (Clarens); Luckhoff; Zamane (Memel); Leratswana (Arlington); Botshabelo; Tshepang (Verkeerdevlei); Bolokanang (Petrusburg); Ikgomoteng and Mofulatshepe.

In addition to the Community Libraries the Department is establishing school libraries at 10 schools over the MTEF. Six (6) School libraries will open before end of March 2015, two (2) will open in 2015/16 and two (2) more in 2016/17. These new libraries will be additional to the already existing 171 library facilities. Of these 171 libraries, 140 are fully fledged services while the rest consist of services at institutions like prisons and hospitals.

A total number of six (6) **Toy Libraries** were established to add to the 39 that are already in place. The new Toy Libraries were established at the following Public Libraries: Zamdela; Phomolong; Albert Nzula; Mashaeng; Thabong II and Dealesville. Toy libraries play an important role in the early childhood de-

velopment of children. As part of the programme, training on the effective use of educational toys is provided to caretakers of young children.

4. USING SPORT AND RECREATION TO PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION

Honourable Speaker, the last mandate we derive from the NDP as the Department relates to using sport and recreation to promote social cohesion. Honourable Speaker, with regard to Sport and recreation programme we declared during the 2014/2015 Budget Vote Speech that, I quote, “*Ten Mass Participation Events will be hosted and these include Dlala Mantombazana, O.R Tambo Games, Indigenous Games, Golden Games and others*”, close quote. We committed ourselves to implementing various sporting programmes as part of the initiative to ensure healthy lifestyles amongst our communities and thus contributing to government’s priority of health. I am glad to report to this house and to the people of the Free State that indeed these sport Mass Participation Events, as well as other Sport and Recreation programmes were implemented across the length and breadth of our Province. These programmes and events are the following:

SA Schools Championships: Following the Inter-Schools Competitions Team Free State finally represented the Province at the SA Schools Championships held in Pretoria in December 2014. 832 learners participated in those games. I am happy to announce that our team represented us very well as they came out in position three (3) during this competitions. For the Province, this is the best ever position since the inception of the games.

- In the new financial year we will further provide financial and sport science support to participating schools but also increase the number of the participating learners and codes to ensure that we better our position.

Sipho Mutsi Games: The Games are dedicated to the hero of the liberation struggle from Kutlwanong/Odendaalsrus who was brutally killed at a tender age by the security forces during the height of the liberation struggle. The Games are a multi-coded sport tournament involving schools in the Province. This is one of the programmes that form part of the School Sport programme in the Department. The Games are an annual event with the finals held in Kutlwanong/Odendaalsrus and Welkom.

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation in collaboration with Department of Education, Matjhabeng Local Municipality and Lovelife hosted

the Provincial Siphos Mutsi Top Schools Finals as one of the ten (10) Mass Participation Sport Events in Welkom and Odendaalsrus. The Games staged eight (8) different sporting codes (Rugby, Basketball, Table Tennis, Chess, Football, Volleyball, Netball and Gymnastics) from schools that emerged as District School Sport Competition winners. All four (4) Districts and Mangaung Metro Municipality converged in Odendaalsrus and Welkom to compete in eight (8) different sporting codes for U/13, U/14, U/15, U/17 and U/19 age groups. The Provincial Winners of all codes per age group represented the Province at the South African Schools Championships.

Sport Equipment and Attire Distribution: Sport equipment and attire were handed over to 136 schools and 70 sport clubs at an event held at Phamisanang Primary School in Meloding township, Virginia on 13 November 2014. The 136 Schools were identified by Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation and Department of Education based on the following criteria:

- Quintile 1, 2 and 3 Schools in the province
- Previously disadvantaged schools.
- Top Schools 2013 Provincial competitions winners
- Schools that are currently actively participating in sport.
- Proximity to one another to facilitate league running.
- Willing principal, willing school and willing SGB and
- Schools that are currently actively participating in sport.

Since the inception of this programme, to date 1064 schools benefited from Sport Equipment and Playing attire distributed by the Department.

- More schools will be provided with sports equipment and attire in this financial year after the needs analysis has been agreed upon between the Department and the Department of Education.

Mobile Sport Science Service: The Department, in partnership with the Department of Education, embarked on the “Sport Science Fitness Programme” for schools. The Department of Education identified five (5) Secondary Schools in each District. These Schools received a Sport Science Fitness DVD and exercise equipment. Training on how to use the equipment was provided by the Elite Sport Scientists at the Department’s Free State Sport Science Institute to sport trainers and coaches at the identified schools. This training included a power point presentation, Sport Science Fitness Programme DVD viewing with interactive discussions as well as practical sessions. The following schools were

trained during the financial year: AHS in Sasolburg; Landboudal Agriculture School in Xhariep District and Tsoseletso High School in Mangaung.

- In the true spirit of taking sport science to the people we will expand our services to more schools and federations to ensure that we broaden access to sport science and support to ensure that our athletes have a competitive advantage in competitions.

O.R. Tambo Games: The Games are dedicated to the stalwart of the liberation struggle, Comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo. They are a multi-coded sport tournament staged annually with the finals staged in Thabong/Welkom in October. The Free State Department of Sport, Art, Culture and Recreation in collaboration with the Lejweleputswa District Municipality and Matjhabeng Local Municipality hosted the tenth (10th) anniversary of the Provincial O.R Tambo Games under the theme “Celebrating the spirit of OR Tambo through sport” as one of the ten (10) Mass Participation Sport Events. O.R Tambo Games started at the level of the 82 Free State towns, contesting in a league format. Athletes of different ages taking part in the O.R Tambo Games participated in the following sport codes: Netball; Rural Football; Table Tennis; Road Race; Amateur Boxing; Physically Disabled Football and Volleyball.

From town level all winning teams progressed to Local Municipality level and, subsequently, to District Municipality level. The pinnacle stage of the Games is the provincial competitions where all the districts and Mangaung Metro Municipality battle it out for the coveted prizes. Mangaung Metro emerged as the overall winner of the 2014 O.R Tambo Games.

Golden Games: The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, in partnership with the Department of Social Development, Department of Health and Department of the Premier, has over the past four (4) years staged the Golden Games, otherwise known as Senior Citizens Games as one of the ten (10) Mass Participation Sport Events. The 2014 Games were staged from 10 – 11 September 2014 at Tikwane Stadium in Hoopstad. The games are in honour of elderly persons who are 60 years and older. Teams from across the province are made up of men and women older than 60 years, with many participants being older than 70 years, and even reaching the ripe old age of 90 years. Elderly persons from across the spectrum of society are participating in these games.

About 500 elderly persons showcased their sport talent and athletic agility. The elderly persons participating in the Golden Games are the best of the best from their districts. The sporting codes that are involved in this tournament are: Duck walk; Dress-Up; Passing the Ball; Athletics; Rugby Ball Throw; Jukskei; Ring

the Stick; Ball Pass and Kick; Ball Relay; Goal Shooting and Pegging Washing Pegs.

Participants who were involved at the provincial level were selected from the various district competitions that took place between July and September 2014.

Indigenous Games: The Department in partnership with the Lejweleputswa District Sport and Recreation Council hosted Indigenous Games as one of the ten (10) Mass Participation Sport Events in Bothaville in May 2014 culminating in the National Games in September 2014. All five (5) Municipalities of the District participated in nine (9) codes. These codes were: Dibeke; Morabaraba; Ncuva; Intonga; Drie Stokkies; Khokho; Jukskei; Diketo and Diketo. Indigenous Games provide a window for the expression and showcasing of African values and talent. Participation in Indigenous Games emphasizes physical development, skill training and maintenance, reinforcement of the community's values and interaction between communities.

Women's Month Boxing Tournament: As part of the Women's month celebration, the Department staged the Women's Boxing Tournament in partnership with Mabuya Boxing Promotions in Thabong/Welkom on 31 August 2014. As part of celebrating women the tournament involved mainly female boxers, female judges and female referees. Two categories of championship belts for national and provincial were showcased. Six (6) bounds were staged during the tournament.

Boxers from across the country took part in the tournament and these included: Ester Mashiya (Alexandra) v/s Mapule Ngubane (Soweto); Babalwa Nonqhonqhotho (East London) v/s Melisa Mitler (Gauteng); Matshidiso Mokebisi (Kroonstad) v/s Raider Molepa (Springs); Sisanda Tikipeni (Welkom) v/s Nolubabalo Nonqhonqhotho (East London) and others.

Half Marathon: A 21.1 km Half Marathon, together with the Big Walk and Seniors Walk were staged as part of the annual MACUFE activities as an inaugural Marathon on 4 October 2014. The Half Marathon and Big Walk were aimed at: encouraging a healthy life style; enhancing and promoting social cohesion and promoting nation building and national identity.

The Half Marathon and Big walk attracted communities as well as local and national athletes. The Department partnered with Mangaung Metro Municipality, Zig Zag Athletics Club, Free State Athletics and the Free State Sport Confederation in staging this event. Cash Prizes, as well as medals were up for grabs in different categories.

- In line with the Premier’s policy directive in the 2015 State of the Province Address we will introduce the **Free State OR Tambo Marathon** this year “as a premium event on the annual sporting calendar”.

Nelson Mandela Walk: On the 1st year anniversary of the passing on of the father of our democracy, Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the Department commemorated his life by staging a Big Walk in Parys on 13 December 2014. In the pursuit of an active and healthy lifestyle, this walk served the purpose of promoting healthy activities within the community as a mandate of the Department. There were two categories of the walk: a Brisk Walk and a Big Walk, with cash prizes up for grabs ranging from R1 500.00 to R8 000.00.

International Volleyball Championships: The Department partnered with Mangaung Metro, SASCOC, and the Volleyball Federation to host the International Volleyball Championship in Mangaung in December 2014. 139 Countries participated in this Championship. The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) Mangaung Open International Beach Volleyball was launched on 3 December 2014 at Free State Rugby Stadium. The international event ran from 09 to 14 December 2014 at the Rose Garden and attracted the best beach volleyball stars in the world.

Other Sport and Recreation programmes and events that were staged by the Department are the following: Sanlam-Kay Motsepe Games; Motlalepule Ntsala Games and Mass Mobilization Magnificent Fridays.

Support of our provincial sporting codes will also continue unabated. As honourable Premier directed in the State of the Province Address, this support will include Free State Rugby, Free State Cricket, Bloemfontein Celtic, Free State Stars and the Free State Crinums Netball Team.

- This year we will host the **Reconciliation Challenge** tournament which will feature Soccer, Rugby and the Reconciliation Walk.
- We will also stage the **Provincial Sport Awards**,
- We will introduce a **Learn to Swim Programme** and **Drum Majorettes programme**.
- The **Elijah Barayi soccer tournament** will be hosted in the Lejweleputwa district in honour of his legacy and the sterling work as a trade unionist.

- The **82 Towns League** shall continue in all towns of the Free State. We will cascade all programmes to ward level.
- Revive the **Boxing League programme** that would culminate into a national boxing tournament
- We will identify **soccer legends** and use their experience and knowledge *rentshetse pele tsebo ya bona ho re thusa ka school sport le di hubs*. Former soccer legends will assist with Talent scouting and further arrange for trials and placing with professional teams.
- We will revive the **Magnificent Fridays programme** through which we will continue to rally support behind our national sport teams.

During 2014/2015 the budget for the above sport and recreation programmes was as follows:

- Sport Science: R25 million
- School Sport: R18 935.510
- Community Sport: R16 million

Conditional Grant for mass participation was R40 318.000.

SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Acting Speaker, in terms of **Sport and Recreation facilities** during the 2014/2015 financial year we rolled up our sleeves to in our quest to continue to transform Sport and Recreation infrastructure landscape in our Province. The following sport facilities are being rolled out in the province:

- Siphon Mutsi Indoor Sport Centre at Kutlwanong/Odendaalsrus and
- Tumahole Indoor Sport Centre at Tumahole/Parys.

Various stadiums across the Province have and continue to be upgraded. These include the following:

- Seisa Ramabodu Stadium at Mangaung/Bloemfontein the construction of which is almost complete. We are going to add a roof to this stadium;
- Siphon Mutsi Stadium at Kutlwanong/Odendaalsrus;
- Kaizer Sebothelo Stadium at Botshabelo where we have completed the installation of new seats;

- Fezile Dabi Stadium at Tumahole/Parys which will also see further up-grades;
- Construction of a tartan track at Charles Mopeli stadium in Qwa Qwa and
- Expansion of the National Training Centre in Bloemfontein.
- A Multi-Purpose Outdoor Sport Centre will be built at the Dr Reginald Cingo High School, and another one in Allanridge.
- The replenishment of the top structure of the Multi -Purpose Sport Court at Makholokweng will also take place this year.
- Recreational Parks and Community Gyms will also be established and constructed. These projects will be completed this year.

The total budget for sport infrastructure in 2014/2015 was R152 080. 000

Honourable Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Amajimbos, the under 17 soccer team for qualifying for the Youth World Cup championship under our Welkom born coach Mr Molefi Motseki. This follows thier good performance in the 2015 CAF Under-17 African Youth Championships. May I also congratulate the Proteas for reaching the quarter finals of the 2015 Cricket World Cup and wish them well in todays match against Sri Lanka.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to challenge our sister Departments to assist us in the establishmernt of Departmental Choirs as well as Sport Clubs. As government we should set an example for our communities to follow suit. The Department will coordinate this process to ensure that civil servants are actively involved in a choral music programme as well as sport leagues.

Honourable Speaker, all the above milestones have been laid only during the first year of the term of this current administration. This speaks volumes about what more can still be achieved in the remaining four (4) years of this administration if given a chance. There are certainly actions that serve as setbacks in our quest to deliver complete quality services that we have committed ourselves to as the ANC government. Such actions as burning or vandalism of public institutions and facilities such as libraries and sport grounds, particularly during the so-called service delivery protests, really set us back as a nation.

Let me take this opportunity to thank honourable Premier, comrade Ace Magashule for continuing to lead us with astuteness in carrying out our mandates. My gratitude goes to the Free State communities and our stakeholders for continuing to give us the necessary support in the implementation of our various programmes. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the men and women in the Department, led by the able administrative leadership of the Head of the Department, Advocate Tsoarelo Malakoane, for their hard work and dedication.

I thank you.