

## **Empty promises from government hampers transformation in Sports, Arts and Culture**

*By Veronica van Dyk MP – DA Deputy Shadow Minister for Sports, Arts and Culture*

Honourable Chairperson,

Members of the House,

Minister Mthetwa, I want to start by asking; how serious are you really about transformation in sport in South Africa?

When last did you meet with the Minister of Basic Education to discuss the MOU between the two Departments on school sport, which was intended to implement 'An Integrated School Sport Framework'? This MOU was signed in 2011 and reviewed in 2017, but 11 years later SA still has a dysfunctional school sports system.

We need to get the basics right.

The 2018/2019 EPG Sport Federation Transformation Status Report reflects that less than 10% of schools in the country are doing sports. Transformation on grass root level will not happen without the implementation of the MOU, proper budget allocation, or addressing the lack of sports infrastructure at the school level.

Armoede en ongelykheid as gevolg van 'n korrupte regering wat uit voeling is met die mense op grondvlak, het sleutelkwessies geword wat billike toegang tot deelname aan sport raak. Daar is geen behoorlike ondersteuning vir atlete in histories benadeelde agtergronde en landelike gebiede nie – 'n probleem wat ons gereeld in Noord-Kaap, met sy lang afstande, ervaar.

SASCOC yearly receives only R110 million for all 80 federations. This should be considered before setting targets for transformation. This money is not enough and is the reason why many federations are dysfunctional. How does this even support elite athletes for the Olympics?

This allocation further does not go to athletes, but rather to the administration. Smaller federations fending for themselves, like basketball and softball, have to rely on volunteers. How are national federations, especially the smaller ones, required to implement transformation in sport, given that they receive less than 2% of the Department's budget? The budget for Programme 2: Recreation Development and Sport Promotion has been reduced – not to the benefit of athletes.

Die 2020 Olimpiese Spele is nie prioriseer nie. SASKOK moes op Lottery befondsing staatmaak om te verseker dat SA na die Spele kon gaan. Die Verenigde Koninkryk het reeds £246 miljoen belê vir die volgende Olimpiese Spele wat oor twee jaar in Parys plaasvind. Wat het die departement tot dusver belê en watter ondersteuning ontvang ons atlete? Ook ons gestremde atlete. We can only hope that money has been ring fenced this time, including bonuses for winning athletes, which was previously only paid because of media pressure.

The DA wants to see our children be free to participate in sports in a healthy and safe environment, free of discrimination, abuse, or sexual violence. Safeguarding policies should be prioritised and implemented. Coaches need to be registered, like educators. An independent Sports Integrity Unit should be established to address safeguarding, SAIDS and match-fixing issues.

Volgens die ouditeur-generaal se aanbieding oor oudituitkomste van die portefeulje oor die tydperk 2019/20 – 2020/21, het vyf geouditeerde agteruitgegaan in hul oudituitskoms. Die Nasionale Kunsteraad, Oorlogsmuseum van die Boererepublieke en Suid-Afrikaanse Erfenishulpbronagentskap (SAHRA) het voorheen ongekwalifiseerde oudits met geen bevindinge (skoon) ontvang, maar moes nou met gekwalifiseerd met bevindings tevrede wees. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Staatsteater en Nasionale Film- en Videostigting het van gekwalifiseerd met bevindinge na gekwalifiseerd teruggesak.

The audit outcome does not necessarily provide an accurate indication of the prevailing climate within the organisation. The staff of Iziko Museums have been battling with management to correct several issues that have contributed to low staff morale, including parity in terms of salary and benefits.

By die Bloemfontein Museum, Robben Eiland-museum, sowel as die Nasionale Biblioteek van Suid-Afrika is daar ook ontevredenheid onder personeel. Die Nasionale Biblioteek se hofstryd speel al vir jare uit. Soortgelyke probleme is ondervind by ander entiteite insluitend SAHRA en PACOFS.

Alhoewel dit gesien kan word as kwessies wat verband hou met menslike hulpbronbestuur, wonder 'n mens tot watter mate dit dienslewering beïnvloed.

Die litigerende aard van die sektor as gevolg van disfunksionele entiteite en rade is kommerwekkend. Openbare fondse word gebruik om forensiese verslae te bekom en vir hofgevegte.

Die verdragings rondom die voltooiing van erfenisprojekte soos die Sarah Baartman Sentrum van Herinneringe en die Winnie Mandela-huis, is ook baie kommerwekkend. Bestuur moet streng projekmonitering en bestuursmaatreëls implimenteer om onnodige eskalasielaste en verliese te vermy. Die Ouditeur-Generaal het reflekteer dat 'n kultuur van gevolgebepaalde bestuur ontbreek.

Die OG het twee sleutelbevindings met betrekking tot die PESP gemaak, naamlik dat die Nasionale Kunsteraad in sommige van die aansoeke nie die regulasies toegepas het en die begroting oorskry het, wat tot onreëlmatige uitgawes gelei het.

The NAC needs to explain how they reached a confidential settlement with suspended CEO, Rosemary Mangope, who resigned amidst a disciplinary process, which involved maladministration of public funds at the height of Covid-19 difficulties.

The state of the economy along with the continued so-called “triple challenge” (poverty, inequality, and unemployment) hampers the arts from truly flourishing. The Department should address the ongoing plight of cultural and creative workers, which was worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The DA questions the matter of transformation of the Arts and Culture sector – one of the aims of the implementation of the White Paper. Transformation not only refers to the demographic transformation of staff and/or professionals but also audience development and -transformation. Improved arts education in public schools could partially address this. Oversight has however revealed that the Department's “Artists in Schools” programme in partnership with the DBE, is sometimes regarded as an extra-mural and not given the space, time, and energy that it is intended to get.

The Sports, Arts and Culture sectors in South Africa deserve a true commitment from the government to create an enabling environment for real transformation – not just empty promises for populist appeal.